Greetings from your volunteer managers and hospital staff! The hospital isn’t the same without volunteer energy. We are communicating with RSFH leaders and volunteer managers all over the country to determine best plans, and at the moment, it seems wisest to know you are safely at home. Our hospitals are gradually resuming elective procedures and surgery and babies continue to arrive. We have limited entry doors and tables are set up to ask screening questions. Inpatients are allowed one support person who stays in the room with them, but there is no visitor flow yet, so public spaces are quiet. Everyone in our facilities wears a mask at all times and frequently touched areas are wiped down repeatedly. All staff complete a health questionnaire daily before reporting to work.

In the midst of these unusual times, the generosity of volunteers and support of the community continues to amaze us. Pictured right, the nurses on the Birth Suite were delighted by gifts of baby bonnets from Gretchen Tremann, Solveig Bracy and Colleen Turick. Shawnda Poynter and her team at Your Time Personal Assistants worried about hospital patients alone in rooms without the usual flow of attentive visitors. They spread the word and went shopping, delivering puzzle books, cards, reading glasses, coloring pencils, pens, even quality chocolate for those who can enjoy them.

Christine Allgood, Carol Seavey and Colleen Turick keep the crochet mask extenders coming and Joan Perry’s son Cameron made 120-3d printed ones.

Stay tuned with Roper St. Francis Healthcare activities and progress through Vital Signs, which is updated daily. Stay home, stay healthy. We love you. 

Joan * Lynne * Laurie * Rebecca

RSFH System News

We anticipate welcoming Brian White as President and CEO for Roper St. Francis Healthcare. He looks forward to becoming an active member in the community. Brian White and his family love the Lowcountry and have enjoyed vacations at Folly Beach, Isle of Palms and downtown Charleston. He is married to Marlene, and they have four children - Jake, 25; Brady, 23; Marlee, 20; and Ella, 16.

Dr. Chris McLain has been named chief physician officer for Roper St. Francis Healthcare. Dr. McLain has been serving as interim chief physician officer since November, steering our clinical response to the pandemic and positioning RSFH as the leading healthcare system in the area caring for COVID-19 patients.

When This is Over

When this is over, may we never again take for granted a handshake with a stranger, conversations with neighbors, a crowded theater, Friday night out, the taste of Communion, a routine checkup the school rush each morning, coffee with a friend, the stadium roaring, each deep breath, a boring Tuesday, life itself. When this ends, may we find that we have become more like the people we wanted to be, we were called to be, we hoped to be. And may we stay that way – better for each other because of the worst.

Laura Kelly Fanucci
Happy Pandemic Birthday!
6/24 Dorothy Clinton, Elizabeth Shuster
6/25 Josephine Harrington
6/26 Francis Young, Suzanne Halasz
6/27 Martha Stuart
6/30 Emi Baustista
7/3 Barb Kellner
7/4 Penny Major
7/6 Kathleen Fitzgerald, Judith Dreyfus
7/7 Virginia Howard
7/8 Dora Long
7/9 Billy Hilton, Betsy Cappelmann
    Albertha Mazyck
7/10 Priscilla Watkins
7/12 Bob Nadobny, Linda White
7/13 Beth Ulmer, Linda Baker
7/14 Geraldine Rafa, Lulah Devine
7/15 Elizaveta Romanova
7/17 John Crocker, Sally Rager
    Betty Rourk
7/20 Raj Multani
7/23 Noel Johnson
7/25 Joyce Fleming
7/26 Alissa Carnaggio
7/27 Donna Bensen Kennedy
7/30 Charlotte Sullivan
7/23 Nancy Schwanke

Honoring Military with Bracelets
Patriotic bracelets are an idea system leaders have to elevate recognition of service members. Charleston has a strong military presence, and it makes sense to highlight their contributions, said Pennie Peralta, vice president of nursing for Roper St. Francis Healthcare.

“It’s a demonstration of how grateful we are for their service, and it’s a gesture of respect,” Peralta said. “We want to do our part to recognize them and serve their needs.”

RSFH COVID-19 Heroes
RSFH has featured weekly Covid Heroes, recognizing front line healthcare providers, administrative staff and teammates who work directly with COVID-19 patients, or who have contributed greatly to the project. We were delighted to see one of our own volunteers included!

Her nomination read: “Colleen is a volunteer on PCU and the West Ashley Cancer Center. Frustrated at not being able to help out during the pandemic, she learned that wearing masks for 12-hour shifts hurt the staff’s ears. She got to work crocheting mask extenders with buttons to take the pressure off the ears. Luckily she had just bought a supply of large buttons and felt it was meant to be!”

News:
- Thanks to Philip & Marilyn Cook for their appearance in the RSFH Back-to-Business TV spot.
- Thanks to Academic Magnet High School student Lily Lassiter. Lily gathered talented friends and created a video supporting front line healthcare providers that was shared on the Roper St. Francis Healthcare facebook page. You may click to view: heArts of Kindness 2020
- We extend our sympathy to friends and family of Betty LaRoche. Betty was a retired nurse and long term volunteer serving 4,000 hours at Roper Hospital. She worked the information desk as well as served as volunteer chaplain leading us in prayer before most event meals.
- In your absence, Lynne Steele and Judy Blewer will be on leave from Roper Hospital until August 31.

Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world,
All things break. And things can be mended.
Not with time, as they say, but with intention.
So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally.
The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you.

L. R. Knost

What is our Staff Doing?
Have you wondered what the Volunteer Department staff is doing without our energetic team? It is odd to picture us without all of the happy chaos. We thought we might share how we are spending our days.

In the Kitchen with Joan
I have been co-staffing the Information Desk at Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital with Kathleen Whitfield. Kathleen does the early shift, while I seem to be busy on webinars, conference calls, filling bulletin boards and delivering mail in the mornings. I cover the desk in the afternoons. Although the front entrance isn’t open, we have patients searching for MD offices and patient elevators and many concerned callers checking on their loved ones.

I go for my walk as soon as I get home and head to parks on weekends to get my exercise and look for scenic photo-ops. I miss my cafeteria salad bar and the companionship of our volunteer team! I looked forward to getting my daily plateful of fresh vegetables at the hospital salad bar. Even worse, the salad buffet at Whole Foods was my personal happy space. Without the usual restaurant offerings and frequent shopping trips, we all need to find ways to include fresh veggies in our menus. This is a recipe that works for me.

It comes in many variations and you can simply leave out any ingredient you don’t like. Do what you can to stay physically and mentally healthy during this time. It’s been a treat to see a few of you who are on campus for MD visits.

Joan Perry
RSFH Volunteer Director
Manager - Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital
Black Bean & Corn Salad

- 2 cans black beans drained and rinsed
- 1 1/2 cups corn kernels fresh, frozen or canned
- 1/4 cup red onion minced
- 1 red bell pepper diced
- 1 avocado peeled, pit removed and diced
- 1 jalapeno ribs and seeds removed, then minced
- 1/3 cup cilantro leaves chopped
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 1/4 cup lime juice
- 2 teaspoons honey
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- salt and pepper to taste

Place the black beans, corn, red onion, red bell pepper, avocado and jalapeno in a large bowl.

In a small bowl, whisk together the cilantro, olive oil, lime juice, honey, chili powder, cumin and salt and pepper.

Pour the dressing over the beans and vegetables and toss gently to coat. Serve.

At home with Lynne & Judy

Lynne Steele and Judy Blewer from Roper Hospital, took leave for the summer and look forward to returning when you do. They send their love.

Judy says she is comforted by listening to spiritual tv and radio shows and especially enjoys Pastor Charles Stanley.

On the Beach with Laurie

I have been lending a hand staffing the entry screening tables at RSF Mount Pleasant Hospital. Some days I am at the MOB entrance and others in the Emergency Department.

As many of you know, my favorite place in the world is the beach. Growing up on the east coast of Florida, my family lived at the beach. One of the high points of the beach reopening is that I have been able to get back to running and taking long walks with my husband. The air is fresh and I don’t have to wear a mask.

It’s good for my heart, soul and health. It is important to get outside. Get away from the constant news on TV and get moving.

Jim and Marty Merryman and Mary Hritz ride their bikes daily, Doris Miller walks through her neighborhood, Joe and Marg Sterling and Denise Roberts and Carol Diamond walk together in their neighborhoods as well. Linda Baker and Wendy Zettle met up for a walk with their dogs. The dogs enjoyed it as much as they did. Your mental health during this uncertain time is just as important as our physical health. Call a friend and make plans to get out in the fresh air and catch up, and share what you are doing to maintain a healthy mind, body and spirit.

Laurie Glass
Volunteer Manager, RSF Mount Pleasant Hospital

In the Garden with Rebecca

Hello sunshine! I’ve been staffing entry screening tables three of four days a week both at RSF Berkeley Hospital, the MOB and some medical practices. All the staff send their love to our Berkeley volunteer team.

When I am not at work, working in my garden has been what heals my soul. We’ve had a beautiful spring and getting my hands in the soil and enjoying the blossoms has been a pleasure. As much as I miss you, it comforts me to picture you safe at home.

Rebecca Buffum
Volunteer Manager, RSF Berkeley Hospital

Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital: Joan Perry: 843-402-1156
Roper Hospital: Lynne Steele: 843-724-2080
RSF Mount Pleasant Hospital: Laurie Glass: 843-606-7502
RSF Berkeley Hospital: Rebecca Buffum
Hospice Volunteering: Laurie Beckman: 843-402-3260
Lowcountry Senior Center: Kimberly Palmer: 843-990-5555
Waring Senior Center: Peggy Chausse: 843-402-1990