

Communiqué

Summer 2016

A newsletter for Aspirus Volunteers

From the President

by Lyn Krohn, President



SUMMER! To me that word means a time for change! Change can be one of the best things AND one of the worst things! It depends on how you look at it!

To me it means many good things! The grass will turn green and the tulips and daffodils will bloom. Some people will be starting seedlings for their gardens. The robins have returned. (It also is a time to pack away that down coat that was rated for -20 degrees!)

Summer is a busy time for Volunteers also. The 'snowbirds' will be returning! There will be district meetings and convention planning meetings.

It is also a time to celebrate and thank ALL the wonderful Volunteers at Aspirus during Volunteer Week and at our Annual Banquet! At the banquet we had the opportunity to elect new officers. With that happening, this will be my last article as your Volunteer President! It has been an amazing experience to be able to see the inner workings of this organization and work closely with the Volunteer and Foundation staff. Without all of their hard work, we wouldn't be the organization we are!

The next time you see ANY staff member, please thank them for all they do for US!

Rainbow's End



Plans have started for Rainbow's End Day Camp in July 2016. Each year we look for exceptional youth volunteers to pair with the campers who need

assistance to be at Camp. Contact the Volunteers office about filling out an application for this year's camps which run July 18-22 and July 25-29. You need to be at least 14 years old by June 1st, 2016 to apply. Eligible applicants will be interviewed. For applicants entering their senior year, hours volunteered at Rainbow's End count toward the hourly requirement for the Aspirus scholarships.

Advocacy Day

The Aspirus Volunteers attended the Wisconsin Hospital Association's Advocacy Day on Wednesday, March 30. Advocacy Day is an annual event designed to educate and motivate health care employees, trustees, and volunteers on important health care related issues and to encourage grassroots advocacy opportunities. Speakers give timely insight to state and federal health care issues, and participating in legislative visits allows attendees to speak up on behalf of their hospitals.



Passion for excellence. Compassion for people.

our mission

The Aspirus Volunteers is an inclusive organization through which people individually, or as a group, volunteer time, talent, and resources to improve the spiritual and physical health and well-being of the residents of north and central Wisconsin, fostering the mission of Aspirus and its subsidiaries.

Governor Walker Signs Assembly Bills 658 and 366 into Law at Aspirus Wausau Hospital

Governor Scott Walker signed Assembly Bill 658 and Assembly Bill 366 into law March 17 at Aspirus Wausau Hospital as part of his Heroin, Opiate Prevention and Education (H.O.P.E.) tour. During the H.O.P.E. tour, Governor Walker discussed the impact this legislation will have on Wisconsinites who struggle with opiate abuse and addiction.

“Wisconsin, like many other states across the country, is noticing a dangerous trend – an escalating number of cases involving heroin and opiate use, addiction and overdose,” Governor Walker said. “The legislation we’re signing into law today as a part of our H.O.P.E. tour works to combat this trend by putting in place consistent guidelines and closely monitoring pain management clinics in Wisconsin.”

Aspirus and community leaders were on hand to support Gov. Walker and Rep. John Nygren, author of the bills. A former Wausau resident, Rep. Nygren said he was happy to be back at the hospital in which one of his daughters was born.

Aspirus CEO, Matt Heywood, said that prescription drug abuse is a problem that plagues cities throughout Wisconsin, including the rural communities Aspirus serves.

“The strength of this legislation lies in its collaborative approach to a devastating social issue,” Heywood said. “As a health care system, we see the effects of heroin and prescription drug abuse, but it will take a team of partners to address the problem.”

In 2013, more Wisconsinites died as a result of drug overdose than from motor vehicle crashes, suicide, breast cancer, colon cancer, firearms, influenza, or HIV, according to a report released in September of 2015 by the Department of Health Services (DHS). Drug overdose deaths in Wisconsin doubled from 2004 to 2013 and opioid pain relievers such as oxycodone, hydrocodone and methadone contributed to 45 percent of the 843 drug overdose deaths in 2013, while heroin contributed to about 27 percent.



Assembly Bill 658 – criminalizes the use, possession, manufacture, distribution, and advertisement of any substance or device intended to defraud, circumvent, interfere with, or provide a substitute for a bodily fluid in conjunction with a lawfully administered drug test.

Assembly Bill 366 – with the new discovery of so-called “pill mills” that prescribe highly addictive pain killers without demonstrable patient need, this legislation aims to prevent their spread into Wisconsin. The bill also creates a state pain clinic registry by requiring legitimate pain clinics to be certified by the DHS in order to operate. This will put additional safeguards in place that protect against prescription drug abuse while ensuring legitimate clinics are able to continue to serve patients in need.

Volunteer Reminders

The Joint Commission, an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the safety and quality of health care through standards development, accreditation, and certification, requires hospitals to conduct individual performance evaluations of their volunteers every three years. Aspirus volunteer evaluations will take place later this year. Stay tuned for more information.



Volunteer Spotlight

Pre-School Hands

Since 1997, a dedicated group of Aspirus volunteers have been going out into the school system to educate children on the importance of hand washing. Volunteers provide information to children in their classrooms about germs and how they are spread, and about the purpose, and correct method of hand washing. This year, 48 classes with 876 four- and five-year-olds have been educated on proper hand washing.

Kudos to our Pre-School Hands volunteers: Kathy Schuette (coordinator), Paula Hauber, Sheree Schaefer, Mary Schaeffler, Linda Soenksen, and Jan Wieman.



For Aspirus Volunteers

**25% off One Regular Priced Item
at the Aspirus Gift Shop**

Excludes: Cards, Candy, Balloons, Flowers, Movie Tickets, Stamps, DoTerra and Sale Merchandise

Original coupon must be surrendered at time of purchase. Duplicates not valid.

Expires July 31, 2016

Volunteer signature: _____

In Memoriam

DONALD JACKSON

Donald Jackson volunteered for over 15 years at Aspirus Wausau Hospital in the Cancer Center as well as brought joy to patients as a NUF clown. Don passed away on Friday, November 20th, 2015. He will be deeply missed.

LUCILLE HAHN

Lucille Hahn, a long-time volunteer in the Aspirus Wausau Hospital Gift Shop, passed away on April 9th. During her time as an Aspirus Volunteer, she also enjoyed helping with the Pre-School Hands program. Lucille generously gave over 4,100 hours of service to Aspirus.

NELDA GIBBS

Nelda Gibbs loved to entertain patients and staff as a NUF clown. She was well-known for her wit and outgoing personality. Nelda volunteered at Aspirus Wausau Hospital from 2005 to 2010. She passed away on May 22nd.

CAROL VERHASSELT

Carol volunteered over 8 years with Aspirus, serving in Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services, Festival of Trees, Gift Shop, and Starbucks. She passed away on June 24th.

Direct from Yo

This spring, 202 volunteers completed a volunteer satisfaction survey. The survey asked volunteers to rate several areas, such as time and attendance, willingness to recommend Aspirus Volunteers to others, leadership perceptions, and opportunities for improvement.

Here are some of the highlights:

- 90% of volunteers said they'd recommend Aspirus Volunteer Services to others
- 83% of volunteers described Volunteers leadership as "Excellent"
- 192 out of 194 volunteers indicated their positions are interesting/rewarding
- 189 out of 194 volunteers feel appreciated and recognized
- 154 out of 186 feel their work is challenging

We are always open to feedback about how to help improve your volunteer experience.

We are particularly interested in learning more about what "challenging" means to you and about how we can make your volunteer roles more challenging and rewarding.

A suggestion box has been placed in the Volunteer Lounge, and we also welcome your comments via email to volunteers@aspirus.org. We look forward to reviewing your suggestions and input.

Thank you for all you do - for sharing your passion for excellence and compassion for people each time you help out as an Aspirus Volunteer.



Yo

Student Talent Art Review STAR

The Aspirus Volunteers sponsor the Student Talent Art Review (STAR) program for area high school student art. Each fall, letters are sent to high school art teachers inviting students to submit artwork.

The submitted artwork is judged in early May by members of the Aspirus Aesthetics Committee. Selected items are framed and on display in the hospital for one year with a plaque containing the artist's name and high school. The top three winners receive a cash prize. This year 13 pieces of artwork were selected. Congratulations to all!



Volunteers Online

Did you know that you can record your volunteer hours, check and even change your volunteer schedule from the convenience of your own home? Visit us online at www.aspirus.org/volunteers, then click on: Aspirus Wausau Hospital and Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services. From this page you are able to check out some general Aspirus Volunteers information and log into your Aspirus Volunteers account.

To login, simply click on "Volunteer Login" located toward the bottom of the page. Your login name is the email address we have on file. Your password is your volunteer number.

From your Aspirus Volunteers account, you are able to view your total volunteer hours, update contact information, check out new volunteer opportunities, access the Aspirus Volunteers' event calendar, and view or change your schedule for most assignments.

Generosity in Action

Aspirus Volunteers' funds provided 36-hour Day Books for the Aspirus Memory Clinic to help those who care for someone with memory loss, and pill boxes for high-risk patients to organize their medications. Carrie Murray and Jenny Pagel are pictured with the memory books and pill boxes.



Volunteers in Action Volunteer Hours

Please join us in congratulating the following volunteers for their milestone hours of service.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 Hours • ROGER J. AHO • GAIL BAUMANN • KAREY BAYBA • BARBARA BETTS • BONNIE BEVERSTOCK • LINDA BEYER • KATHLEEN BORSKI-GABRIELSKI • KAREN BRIGGS • KAY BYCHINSKI • KAY DIEPENBROCK • MARY ANN DYKES • KERRY FEHRMAN • MARTY FERRIS • GALE GILGE • ANN GOETSCH • JUDY GORSKI • LARRY GORSKI • GREGORY GRESENS • RHONDA HALLAM • JOHN HATTENHAUER • PAM JACOBY • GREGORY JANICEK • LOIS JAROSZ • CAROL KNAPP • ELAINA KOSCHIK • CATHY LIVINGSTON • AMITA LOFGREN • DANIEL MALM • LISA MARQUARDT • DAVID MARTIN • KARIE MCAULIFFE • CONNIE MICHIG • KEN MOLASKA • MARY NOLTEMAYER • ROSALIE PETERSON • CAROL RAY • WILLIAM REICHE • LAURIE REINHART • SUE RICKLEFS • REBECCA RIST • JEAN RUSCH • MICHELLE SCHAEFER • SANDRA SCHULZ • GLORIA SETTERMAN • NETTIE SOSNOSKI • BARBARA ST. CLAIR • JARLS ST. CLAIR • SARAH STUBBE • PEGGY TESSMER • CASSANDRA THOMAS • ROXANNE THOMAS • LYNN TREMBAT • JOAN WAHLQUIST • KATHRYN (KAY) WALKOWICZ • KAREN WINDORSKI | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BEVERLY ZIEGEL • DANI ZURAKOWSKI • 200 Hours • JANE E. BLICK • SHERRI BRAGER • PATTI BRIQUELET • PAUL DOBBRATZ • KATHY GARVEY • MADELINE GASSNER • THOMAS GILBREATH • JULIE HESS • HESSEL • SISTER CAROL HLAVA, OP • DELWIN HOFFMAN • EDWARD HUMPAL • GAYLE KLEIN • ANNA KOEPKE • RACHAEL LANGE • RACHEL LITZER • SHANNEN LITZER • CHRISTINE MARIEN • STEVEN MOREL • RUTH NAEF • TANYA PASCHKE • KAREN PETERSON • CHRISTINE POLEBITSKI • DINA RASMUSSEN • JEANNIE RUSSELL • SUSAN SCHAEFER • DAN SCHAUT • JILL SCHLUETER • KATHERINE SCHNEIDER • MARGARET SCHNEIDER • ALEXYSS SCHULZ • KATHRYN SOUTHWORTH • JOHN THOMAS • JEFFREY TIFFANY • MILES VAN SLYKE • MARY VENTZKE • AARON WEAVER • ANN WICKLUND • 300 Hours • MARY ANN BIENO • MINDY BRANNING • BARB BREESE • SALLY BURGNER • CATHY BURNETT • MAUREEN COTTER • JEAN DEHN • MICHELLE GROH • ELLEN HARTWIG • ART KIMBEL • MARGARET (PEGGY) KLOSINSKI • BRIN LAWRENCE • BRIN NELSON | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANITA NORTON-HEIL • MADDIE PETERS • GERALD RAY • SYLVIA ROTHWEILER • MARY SCHAEFFLER • LYNNAE SCHULZ • JACI SELIGER • JEFFREY TIFFANY • MILT WISLER • DONNA ZIBTON • 400 Hours • KAY BIZJAK • JOHN DANIELS • SAMANTHA DEBROUX • CATHERINE DICKINSON • JULIE DULEY • BENITA FLORA • SUE GANTNER • JANICE GRESENS • LYNETTE HEIL • JACQUELINE JOHNSON • RUSSELL KITSEMBEL • DANIELLE KOLLPAINTER • SUZANNE LEWITZKE • MICHELE MOYER • DONNA RULE • RAE SANDERS • AMELIA STRANZ • MARY SWANSON • BERNADETTE TESSMER • BERNADETTE VIEGUT • BARB VOIGT • JOHN WEBB • 500 Hours • MARLIN BLOCK • CASEY BRODHAGEN • RUSHNEE CHANTREE-LANDOWSKI • WARREN FABEL • SALLY HATTENHAUER • DIANNE HENDRICKSON • SUSAN HENNING • SARA KOHLHEPP • JO ANNE LAPINSKE • VICKI LAPORTE • PATRICIA LOY • KAREN MAIER • LYNN MILLER • FRED NIEMEYER • KAREN RESCH • TOM ROCHELEAU • MARY ANNE ROSE • BETTY SADOGIERSKI • BETTY STAHNKE • JANE STOTMEISTER • RON ZAHRT |
|--|---|---|

Please turn in your hours every month to the Volunteer Office to keep your records up to date. Thanks for all you do!

Fundraising

- The Festival of Trees was held November 23 - 29 and raised \$168,000 to support hospice care and the Aspirus Hospice House.
- The Volunteers linen sale held December 1 and 2 raised \$5,000. Proceeds will be used to fund various Volunteers projects including Rainbows End Day Camp, Medical Explorers, and high school scholarships.
- In February, the Red Event was supported by sponsors, donors, and volunteers who helped raise \$44,000 to assist patients and bring awareness to heart research and education.



Aspirus Lifeline – System Collaboration

Aspirus Lifeline programs in Antigo, Ironwood, Wausau and Wisconsin Rapids recently united as one system Aspirus Lifeline program. The uniting of these programs has already yielded efficiencies, including saving Aspirus Grand View \$26,000 in monitoring fees. The change also allowed Aspirus Grand View to donate 36 Lifeline units to Aspirus Wausau Hospital and 20 to Aspirus Riverview, saving each location from having to acquire new units at a cost of \$600+ each.

Staff involved with the Lifeline program at all locations can now more easily share trends, discuss volunteer usage, Aspirus social media, community, and other marketing opportunities while collaborating with senior health services. Additionally, the group can now negotiate one master agreement with Philips Lifeline to ensure the best pricing for equipment and monitoring fees. The system Lifeline program offers safety and peace of mind to nearly 1,800 subscribers throughout the Aspirus service area.

Medical Explorers



Medical Explorers is a career exploration program designed for area high school students interested in the medical field. It is held in partnership with the Boy Scouts' "Learning for Life" program. This year, 21 students participated in the four-month program. The group met every other Monday at Aspirus Wausau Hospital to learn about the many medical career opportunities available. Students listened to speakers and toured various areas of the hospital including Information Technology, Heart Institute, Emergency Department, Surgical Services, and Radiation Oncology. Students also toured the Medical College of Wisconsin. The program ended March 14th with an optional CPR certification class.

Volunteers Appreciation & Recognition Banquet

The Aspirus Volunteers celebrated National Volunteer week on April 13th with a recognition banquet, which 153 Aspirus volunteers attended. The event also included installation of officers.



Matt Heywood, President/CEO & Bev Smith, 36 years as an Aspirus Volunteer



Board Members: Lyn Krohn, Past President; Paul Dobbratz, President-Elect; Ann Wicklund, Vice President-Elect; Judy Ward, Secretary/Treasurer; Ron Zahrt, Health Education

Special Thanks

“Hi, I wondered if you guys could give a message to Rev and his dad that I really appreciated them being there. We came down from Michigan and received a cancer diagnosis and I had to stay two nights and get tested. We came around to Radiology and he was there. My doggie just died. I had a big German short-haired pointer, 100 pounds, you know - and just all that happening at the same time, and this testing. I got to give Rev a kiss – it just made my whole day. It really helped me out with everything else, the whole entire two days, surgery and everything. He helped me in two seconds more than anybody else. Thank you so much for the program and thank Rev. Thank you.”

Welcome New Aspirus Volunteer Board Members

Paul Dobbratz has been an active Aspirus volunteer for over 10 years. He has had two different therapy dogs. His dog Micado (Cado) still visits. Paul recently became a Lifeline installer with his wife Connie. He retired from Liberty Mutual after 41 years. He and his wife Connie have been married for 41 years and have two children. They enjoy traveling and spending time with their three grandchildren. Paul’s current project at home is to build an outdoor wood-fired pizza oven.



Paul Dobbratz

Ann Wicklund spent over 30 years working in Special Education as an educator and ending her career as the Director of Special Education. Ann loves being involved and helping people.



Ann Wicklund

She has been married to her husband Rick for 32 years and they have three grown daughters, two granddaughters, and one grandson. Ann loves volunteering and has been active as a deacon at the First Presbyterian church in Wausau, delivering meals for Mobile Meals, and joined Aspirus Volunteers in 2009. You will often find her helping with the cookie sale and various special projects.

Ann loves to spend time with family. She enjoys being active as well as reading.

Paul will start his term as President and Ann as Vice President on July 1st.

“Hi. This message is for the owner of the Therapy Dog, Chip. I wanted to thank him. I caught him on my way out of the hospital last Friday and he stopped to see my Dad. My Dad thoroughly enjoyed Chip and I just wanted to thank you. That’s a wonderful program and I hope you continue to do that for people.”





ASPIRUS™

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Communiqué

*Published quarterly by
Aspirus Volunteers*

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Calendar of Events

We hope to see you at some of the many upcoming Volunteer events!

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|------------------|--|
| July 4 | Independence Day - No volunteers scheduled |
| August 23 | Volunteers Board of Directors meeting |
| August 25 | Cookie Sale |