



HEARTBEAT

NEWSLETTER OF THE VOLUNTEERS OF ASCENSION
EAGLE RIVER HOSPITAL

December 2018

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 4

THRIFT SHOP

Thrift Shop Facelift

The newly developed thrift shop leadership team tackled the lay out and overcrowding of the building recently. The shop was closed for a week, everything removed, professionally cleaned, new shelving installed, and re-designed. After finishing the store front, they tackled the back storage/sorting room. Both areas now look clean, clutter free and safe for the volunteers.

If you have not stopped by the shop in the past few weeks, stop by and check it out.

Thank You to the volunteers who gave of their time and talents to make the shop safe and clean.

Kathy Viergutz, Volunteer Coordinator



Membership Update

By Pam Circa

I will continue to act as the “membership chair” for our volunteer program. That means that I will still log the hours of service that you provide and turn in to either Marlys or Sally. And please continue to record those!! The hours are critical to the hospital administration – securing grant dollars (it is used as “in-kind” match), demonstrating community support for the hospital continuing to operate in the area and showing the contributions of community members (our volunteers) to the operation of the hospital. Those hours are assigned a monetary value that is incredibly important for Ascension to have.

I will also send out the TB forms in your birthday month to be filled out and returned to me. Once a year you will get a safety review booklet with a form to sign and a half-sheet form to indicate your volunteer preferences. Please be sure to sign and return both of those forms to me. Those forms and booklet will be coming to you in December to cover our current year, 2018-2019, and again in July to cover the 2019-2020 year. So you will receive the forms two times in the next seven months but only once a year after that.

We just had orientation for a new volunteer (yay!!) and another one is expected next month. So please let folks who may be interested know that, even though we are no longer an auxiliary, we welcome new volunteers. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 715-479-5485 or at pamcirca@yahoo.com.



*May your holidays be blessed with the gift of time.
The best gift that anyone can give and receive is time enjoying
friends and family.*

*If circumstances do not allow for time together
reflect on and hang on to memories of holidays past.
Thank You for your understanding, patience and dedication in 2018.*

Sincerely, Kathy Viergutz, Volunteer Coordinator

Transition of LifeDirect Program

Contributed by Pam Cira and Kathy Viergutz

The Volunteers of Eagle River Hospital have worked in partnership with Critical Signal Technologies, Inc. (CST) to be the co-service providers of Life Direct, personal emergency response systems in the Eagle River area for many years. Effective November 30, 2018, the volunteers will have transitioned their installation and service call responsibilities for the personal emergency response to CST. This means that all subscribers of CST will be fully and directly served by CST. We have made all the current subscribers aware that, moving forward, nothing will change for them except for contacting CST directly for all service, support and billing needs. Current subscribers now call 1-888-557-4462 if they need any equipment replacements, batteries or have any service/equipment changes, questions or concerns. Anyone interested in new service now calls 1-800-301-9525 and needs to mention that they got this number from Eagle River Hospital volunteers and CST will hook them up with the equipment they want.

We are finishing packing up our office and will be vacating it as soon as we are able. We are grateful to have been a part of this program for so long and, while sad to be ending our participation, we are relieved that the service will continue to benefit those members of our communities that rely on it. The volunteers and leadership will do their best to assure that the current subscribers have a safe and seamless transition to CST as their sole provider of their personal emergency response program.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the dedicated volunteers, past and present, who have provided installation and support for this valuable service to the Eagle River community for many years.

VOLUNTEERS ARE SUPER HEROES

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the Super Heroes that I have had the pleasure to lead and get to know. If you look up the word superhero in the Webster dictionary, one example it gives is: "The people who do this dangerous work are real-life *superheroes* who deserve our gratitude"

While the work you do may not be dangerous, you are truly superheroes in my eyes and deserve my/our gratitude.

On January 1, Pam Berdal will take over as the volunteer coordinator for the Eagle River volunteers to provide the group with more consistent presence and support. I will remain in the role as volunteer coordinator for the Howard Young volunteers and will also assist Pam as needed. I hope to see the Eagle River members when visiting Eagle River to assist Pam.



Best wishes,
Kathy Viergutz, Volunteer Coordinator



Christmas Tree Project

By Diana Sell



It's that time of the year again to call upon the generosity of our volunteers to trim the Christmas tree in the lobby of the Ascension Eagle River Hospital with new or lightly used hats, mittens, and scarves. We have had much success in the past few years thanks to all of you. The items collected will be given to the Salvation Army to be distributed to the needy. Items can be dropped off at any time and put in a box in the lobby which will be designated for them. The tree will go up the first Tuesday in December.

Thank you for adding color to our tree and warmth to members of our community.



Last Edition of the *Heartbeat* Newsletter

This December edition of the Heartbeat Newsletter will be the final Heartbeat for Eagle River Volunteers. The Heartbeat will be replaced by another form of communication which will be determined by Pam Berdal as she takes the lead as the volunteer coordinator for Eagle River.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Katie Grundy for giving of her time and talents to provide the Eagle River Volunteers with a source of communication after the retirement of Pat Vanacker who was newsletter editor for many years. Thank you also Pat.

Kathy Viergutz, Volunteer Coordinator

Join us for Ringing and Singing

By Diana Sell

A group of volunteers has been getting together each year to volunteer for the Salvation Army's Bell Ringing Kettle Drive. We will be ringing bells and singing Christmas Carols to fill the bucket this year at Trigs on Tuesday, December 11th from 11:00 until 1:00 p.m. We would like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to join us. Bells, water, and songbooks will be provided. It is a great way to get into the Christmas spirit and help out our community.





Birthday Greetings!

Karla Lokker 2/6

Janey Libby 3/10

Karn Arnold 3/14

Pat Kohler 3/15

Kathleen Greif 3/16

Anita Fritz 3/24

Shirley Spiess 1/5

Pam Cira 1/6

Susan Halyburton 1/7

Donna Brand 1/10

Marlys Lee 1/14

Barbara Mattes 1/15

Clarida (Teri) Morton 1/18

Patricia Hasenberg 1/29



Celebrate!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, January 10, Post-Holiday Gathering & Annual Meeting, Dessert Buffet, Coffee and Tea Provided, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Eagle Waters Resort

Thursday, April 4, North Central District Meeting
Hosted by Aspirus Riverview Hospital Auxiliary, Wisconsin Rapids

Wednesday, April 17, Advocacy Day, Join your fellow healthcare volunteers in Madison to learn about and affect Public Policy.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES COME AND WORK WITH US

Thrift Store Volunteers

HELP Program Volunteers

Out-Patient Surgery Volunteers



If interested, please contact
Kathy Viergutz, Volunteer Coordinator,
at 715-356-8677

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Editor Katie Grundy
Email: eagleheartbeat@gmail.com



Merry Christmas