

VOLUNTEER VOICE

MARCH, 2023

FORT HEALTHCARE PARTNERS CO-PRESIDENTS REPORT



“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” –
Helen Keller

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Greetings from Jane and Kathy!

We are super excited to let everyone know that we have more of our services starting back up! The big one is getting the Hospitality Cart up and running. Jane is working on the volunteer list for this service. Discussions are being held regarding Ambulatory, ER, Magazine Program, and other services to be restarted in the near future. Those who volunteered in these services before Covid-19 will be getting a call soon.

The Cookie sales are already running and all seem very happy to have them back!

We need more volunteers to help get all of our service areas going again! If any of you have friends that might be interested, (maybe even your spouse/partner?), please have them call Kari at 920-568-5276 for information.

We have also discussed

getting some of our vendors back in house, starting with the Nutman Sale in April.

Our Love Lights Program did very well this year. We did have a nice turnout, and the addition of cookies and hot chocolate served outside was well-received!

The welcome message and Pledge of Allegiance was done by former President/CEO, Mike Wallace. The music was performed by the Kids Konnection accompanied by Jason Lynk on guitar. Jane and I did the countdown with Mike Wallace doing the honor of lighting the trees. A thank you goes out to Cloute Inc. Services for installing the tree lights. We look forward to seeing our volunteers back and hopefully meeting new volunteers!

Till next time,
Jane Winiarski
Kathy Kakuschke
Co-Presidents



ON-SITE SALES ARE BACK!

Scheduled sales to date include:

COOKIE SALES:

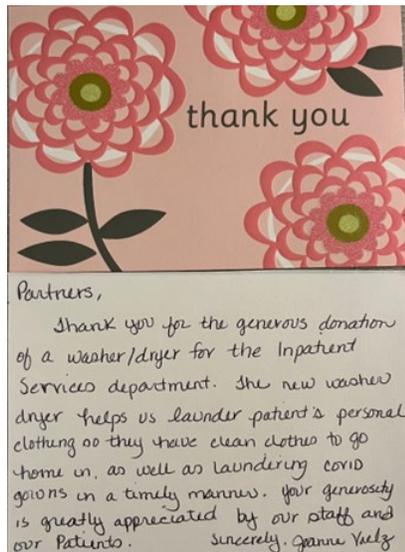
9 a.m.— 1 p.m.

- ◆ March 14
- ◆ May 2
- ◆ June 13
- ◆ July 11
- ◆ August 8
- ◆ Sept. 12
- ◆ Oct. 10
- ◆ Nov. 14
- ◆ Dec. 12

NUTMAN SALES

- ◆ April 12 & 13
- ◆ June 26 & 27
- ◆ Sept. 28 & 29
- ◆ Nov. 20 & 21

GIFT SHOP NEWS



Partners recently purchased a new washer & dryer for Inpatient Services out of our Gift Shop proceeds!

We are very excited to announce that fresh flowers are back in the Gift Shop!

We need to make room for spring clothing so fall and winter clothing are on sale now.

Spring is coming soon! It's time to put away the snowman decorations and put out some

fresh spring décor. Partners Gift Shop has lots to choose from! Easter Bunnies, Gnomes, Spring Florals, Wall Décor, and more.

Don't forget the Gift Shop has OTC medications for sale to employees and volunteers. Most children's medications are back in stock.

Gift Shop hours are 9a.m.—4 p.m., Monday—Friday. Inventory is always changing, so stop in often!

NEW PARTNERS BOARD MEMBERS

We are pleased to announce that the Partners Board of Directors has two new members.

Jane Fischer is our new Health Education Chair, and **Beth Wendt** is our new Member at Large.

Jane resides in Jefferson and worked for 30 years in nursing for the State of WI. She started volunteering in August of 2021 as a Patient Escort for Ambulatory Services. In November of 2021 she also became an employee of FHC serving as a part time receptionist at the Information Desk.

Jane says, "Volunteering is a passion for me!" She has been active in many volunteer organizations in Jefferson Co., including the Rock River Free Clinic, Food Pantry, Christmas Neighbors, Optimist Club, and more.

Jane and her husband have 3 children, and 7 grandchildren. They love to travel, especially to visit their son in Hong Kong and their daughter in Budapest. Hobbies include mostly outdoor activities such as biking, hiking, and skiing, and crafts.

Beth and her husband Dennis are originally from Illinois, but they "transferred" to Fort Atkinson about four years ago. Together they have a blended family of 4 children, and 6 grandchildren.

Beth has been involved in health care for more than 50 years, having been a nurses aide, an RN, and a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator. In the later years of her career, Beth worked for Hospice and says "I developed a powerful desire to

work with the elderly and others facing end of life decisions."

Beth also volunteers for her church in Janesville, serving on the Caring Ministry committee. Beth stated that "given my background, it seemed natural that I give back. Volunteering at Fort HealthCare fulfills this desire."



Jane Fischer
 Health
 Education
 Chair



Beth Wendt
 Board
 Member
 at Large

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Fort HealthCare has cautiously made the decision to bring the majority of our Volunteer Service areas back to the hospital.

We hope that many of you will be able to come back!

Immediate needs are:

Hospitality Cart: Monday—Friday afternoon shifts. This service involves pushing a cart around the hospital to pass out snacks, beverages, newspapers, and more to patients, visitors and staff.

Ambulatory Dept. Assistant: Monday—Friday, morning and afternoon shifts available. Volunteers in this role will offer reassurance and refreshments to Ambulatory Services families and patients. Volunteers will also provide support services to staff such as folding gowns and towels, and chart stickering.

Materials Management: Morning shifts to help deliver supplies to various departments though-out the hospital.

NEW—Laundry Service: Flexible days/hours to help our Environmental Services Department with in-house laundry. Volunteers will use the hospital's commercial laundry equipment to wash, dry, and fold towels, scrub caps, gowns, curtains, and crib sheets. This would be a great activity for two Volunteers to work together on. Ask a friend to join you as a Volunteer! Other opportunities are also available. **Call Kari at 920-568-5276 for more info.**

HEALTH EDUCATION What's Happening with Covid?

The end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) is planned to end May 11, 2023. Federal officials believe the pandemic has moved into a new, less dire phase. Affects to the public:

- ◆ No more free testing
- ◆ No free medication such as the anti-viral pill Paxlovid®
- ◆ Private insurance companies, Medicare, and Medicaid will now be responsible

At the three-year mark, the virus is no longer upending everyday life to the extent it once did, partly because the population has at least some protection against the virus from vaccinations and prior infections.

More than 500 people daily in the US are still dying from Covid. This is about twice the number of deaths per day during a bad flu season.

Globally as of February 2, 2023, Japan remains in the lead for countries with the highest number of new cases. Taiwan is 2nd, followed by the US as third, then South Korea, and Germany. 69.4% of the world has received at least one dose of the Covid 19 vaccine, and in the US 81% have received at least one dose.

The FDA proposes to include Covid 19 vaccine once a year on a schedule like the flu shot.

As of February 1, 2023 there are 11 variants of Omicron. The first vaccines were monovalent vaccines which provided protection against one strain of the virus. The updated bivalent boosters for multiple strains became available in September, 2022. *Jane Fischer, HE Chair*

Sourced: New York Times

COVID UPDATES AT FHC

Masking will now be optional in **Non-patient encounter areas.**

Examples of **Non-patient Encounter Areas:** Break rooms, meeting rooms, some nurse's stations, offices, Pharmacy, Volunteer Services, Gift Shop, etc.

Patient Encounter Areas: Are defined as indoor areas where you could encounter patients, including public hallways.

What's not Changing?

Screening at the front entrance of the hospital will remain. Patient's & visitors need to stay masked because **MOST** hallways in the hospital are patient encounter areas.

Employee/Volunteer testing for symptoms and exposures remains. Large group community use at FHC, in person classes, and the hall walking program are still restricted.

COVID Positive patient's & visitors will still be restricted, but may be allowed on a case-by-case situation.

CARELINE MEDICAL ALARM SERVICE

Fort HealthCare Partners has provided a Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) since 1984; that's 39 years!

The equipment has changed a lot over the years, but our personal service has not. Our clients can call or come right to our hospital and talk to a "real person" to get their questions or concerns answered easily and quickly.

Our CareLine Program has everything that the National companies you see advertised have. This includes personal help buttons that detect falls without having to press the button, and GPS location service.

We can serve people with any type of phone service, or NO phone service!



All of our personal help buttons are as lightweight as possible and waterproof.

There is no contract to purchase any equipment or sign-up for a long-term commitment. Our clients lease the equipment, and we provide the service on a month-to-month basis.

More information including pricing, and an application are available online at

<https://www.forthhealthcare.com/patient-info/careline/>.

Our main objective with the CareLine Program is to improve the health and well-being of our community. CareLine Service can extend the ability for individuals to remain in their own homes, avoiding the loss of their independence. It also brings peace of mind to both the client and their family.

Call **920-568-5275** or stop in at Volunteer Services for more information.

ADVOCAY DAY

APRIL 19, 2023 AT THE
MONONA TERRACE
FREE ADMISSION.

Lunch is included.
Call Volunteer Services by
4/12/23
to get registered to attend.

SAVE THE DATE:

PARTNERS SPRING

GENERAL MEETING

AND AWARDS BANQUET

May 9, 2023

**MEMBERSHIP DUES
AND 4-YEAR BACK
GROUND CHECKS
ARE DUE**

PARTNERS MEMBERSHIP PERKS

(* Active Members Only)

- ◆ **FREE use of the CardioPulmonary Exercise Gym***
- ◆ **20% Discount in Partners Gift Shop, and Purchase your OTC Meds at a savings in the Gift Shop**
- ◆ **Purchase Prescription Drugs at the Hospital Pharmacy (Must adhere to hours posted & Patients always come first)***
- ◆ **Half Off the Installation Fee for the CareLine Medical Alarm Program**
- ◆ **FREE Beverage when Volunteering***
- ◆ **FREE Flu & Covid Vaccinations (If in supply)**
- ◆ **Receive the Volunteer Voice Newsletter**
- ◆ **FREE Admission to Partners General Meetings/Dinners**

**INVITE A FRIEND
TO GIVE
VOLUNTEERING WITH FHC A TRY!**