



# HEARTBEAT

NEWSLETTER OF THE AUXILIARY - PARTNERS OF MERMH

Ministry Eagle River Memorial Hospital

September 2017

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## Healthcare Hero 2017

For the past five years the Auxiliary has awarded an employee of Ministry Eagle River Memorial Hospital the Healthcare Hero award. The award is presented to someone who is nominated as “dedicated to being the best”. This person is judged on how he or she exemplifies the mission and values of the hospital. Last year’s winner was Tim Adamovich, RN from the outpatient department. This year the nominees were Lori Kramer, Kathy Viergutz, Cate Wilson, and Vicky Van Skyhawk. It was a difficult decision because all of the nominees were strong contenders.

This year’s award went to Cate Wilson who is well known by everyone who has ever been at Eagle River Hospital. She has been described as being a “fearless leader” and the “heart and soul” of the hospital. It is obvious that she loves her work. It is not uncommon to see her helping the staff to pass trays and offering assistance or a helping hand no matter what the situation. She is excellent with patients and staff. She is kind, compassionate, caring, full of boundless energy, and constantly has a positive calming attitude. Under her leadership a strong sense of family persists despite multiple organizational changes and challenges. Her laughter is infectious. She is a true hero and a blessing to all of us at MERMH. Congratulations, Cate!

She received the award at the Annual Recognition Luncheon on May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Whitetail Inn in St. Germain. We are blessed to have so many heroes among us!

Respectfully submitted by Diana Sell

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## Community Health Education

Elizabeth Purtell and Judy Block

Our 8th Day of Renewal will be Tuesday, September 19th at Moon Beach Camp in St. Germain. The event will begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 3:30 p.m. A complimentary 'Brain/Heart' healthy lunch will be served at no charge to participants.

Invitations are in the mail and please note: 'first come, first served'. We are limited to 100 people. This is a Community Health Education Program. All members of the Auxiliary as well as visitors to the Northwoods are invited. For further information call Elizabeth Purtell at [\(715\) 891-5805](tel:7158915805). Deadline for registration is September 9th.

The theme for this year's Day of Renewal is "Live Better, Live Longer: Challenges". In the morning there will be a panel discussion with health care professionals with Deacon Rick as moderator. Discussion will center on various challenges such as: suicide, opioids, increasing cost of prescription drugs, self diagnosis, self medication and nutrition as well as the value of supplements.

In the afternoon, Dr.Greg Gremban D.D.S. and Jaimie and Jess Kaster will be discussing both dental and hearing challenges facing all participants at this Day of Renewal. Hope to see you on September 19th!

## In-Service, Sept., 2017

As care givers in a hospital atmosphere, whether we are Administrators, Doctors, Nurses, Staff, or Volunteers we all need to not just look at our patients, but "SEE" them!

Mickey Jensen, Co-chair, Out Patient Surgery Volunteer coordinator, Heart Beat articles, trainer.

Marly Lee, Co-chair, Board Representative, trainer.

Call to volunteer – 715-479-7504 or 715-479-5443

This one is a real tear-jerker, I'll certainly think again when I get impatient with an older person who's too slow for me!! This also reminds me once again of something I heard Barry Humphries say in an interview once – "the tragedy of growing old is that you don't" – inside we're all still kids at heart no matter how many aches and pains we have. Pass this one on, it's simply too good to hide away from anyone who scoffs at "oldies."

### **Cranky Old Man**

When an old man died in the geriatric ward of a nursing home in an Australian country town, it was believed that he had nothing left of any value.

Later, when the nurses were going through his meager possessions, they found this poem. Its quality and content so impressed the staff that copies were made and distributed to every nurse in the hospital. One nurse took her copy to Melbourne. The old man's sole bequest to posterity has since appeared in the Christmas editions of magazines around the country and appeared in magazines for Mental Health. A slide presentation has also been made based on his simple, but eloquent, poem. And this old man, with nothing left to give to the world, is now the author of this 'anonymous' poem winging across the Internet.

#### "Cranky Old Man"

*What do you see nurses? . . . . What do you see?  
What are you thinking . . . . . when you're looking at me?  
A cranky old man, . . . . .not very wise,  
Uncertain of habit . . . . . with faraway eyes?*

*Who dribbles his food . . . . . and makes no reply.  
When you say in a loud voice . . . . . 'I do wish you'd try!'  
Who seems not to notice . . . . .the things that you do.  
And forever is losing . . . . . A sock or shoe?*

*Who, resisting or not . . . . . lets you do as you will,  
With bathing and feeding . . . . .The long day to fill?  
Is that what you're thinking? . . . . . Is that what you see?  
Then open your eyes, nurse . . . . you're not looking at me.*

*I'll tell you who I am . . . . . As I sit here so still,  
As I do at your bidding, . . . . . as I eat at your will.  
I'm a small child of Ten . . . . . with a father and mother,  
Brothers and sisters . . . . . who love one another*

*A young boy of Sixteen . . . . . with wings on his feet  
Dreaming that soon now . . . . . a lover he'll meet.  
A groom soon at Twenty . . . . . my heart gives a leap.  
Remembering, the vows . . . . . that I promised to keep.*

*At Twenty-Five, now . . . . . I have young of my own.  
Who need me to guide . . . . And a secure happy home.  
A man of Thirty . . . . . My young now grown fast,  
Bound to each other . . . . . With ties that should last.*

*At Forty, my young sons . . . . . have grown and are gone,  
But my woman is beside me . . . . . to see I don't mourn.  
At Fifty, once more, . . . . . Babies play 'round my knee,  
Again, we know children . . . . . My loved one and me.*

*Dark days are upon me . . . . . My wife is now dead.  
I look at the future . . . . . I shudder with dread.  
For my young are all rearing . . . . . young of their own.  
And I think of the years . . . . . And the love that I've known.*

*I'm now an old man . . . . . and nature is cruel.  
It's jest to make old age . . . . . look like a fool.  
The body, it crumbles . . . . . grace and vigor, depart.  
There is now a stone . . . . . where I once had a heart.*

*But inside this old carcass . . . . A young man still dwells,  
And now and again . . . . . my battered heart swells  
I remember the joys . . . . . I remember the pain.  
And I'm loving and living . . . . . life over again.*

*I think of the years, all too few . . . . . gone too fast.  
And accept the stark fact . . . . . that nothing can last.  
So open your eyes, people . . . . . open and see.  
Not a cranky old man . . . . . Look closer . . . . . see . . . . . ME!!*

Remember this poem when you next meet an older person who you might brush aside without looking at the young soul within .

We will all, one day, be there, too!

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## **New Volunteer Uniforms**

I emailed or we spoke to almost everyone to get a choice and size for uniforms. If I was not able to reach you, I did order extras of each style and size. The new uniforms are navy blue and will have the Ascension logo, the name of the facility and say Volunteer. I will let everyone know when they arrive and ask that you bring your old uniform in to exchange for your new one. If anyone has any ideas of organizations that might be able to utilize the old uniforms, please let me know. Kathy Viergutz



## THRIFT SHOP NEWS

Joan Holdmann , Chair Person

# THRIFT SHOP

Here we all are again winding down to the end of summer. Fall is an exciting time at the Thrift Shop. It is an amazing challenge, let me tell you, as we are moving out the summer items and trying to get out some of the winter coats and jackets. With the cold nights we are having, it just spurs us on knowing we have to keep moving. We have had some amazing sales in the shop. People everywhere and they are buying. No sale going on right now, but soon.

I would like to remind our membership that many of our gals will be flying in different directions and we will need some of you to please come into the shop and help us out. WE NEED YOU. It's been wonderful to have all you summer gals come in to work while you are up here. We thank you so much. You have blessed us with your faithful service. The front desk workers have worked out so well. They are always there on their day. It has given our winter crew a nice rest. We will be happy to see our winter crew's smiling faces back at work.

But our back room workers really need some help, especially on Tuesdays and Fridays. Please ladies, check your calendars and see if you could commit to a regular time on either of those days. Many hands make light work. Now that we no longer have the Gift Shop, maybe a few of you could come to the shop. Give us a try - you will love it.

Thanks everyone for a great summer!

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Teri Kressin, President

As I sit here writing this, it's the Dog Days of Summer. How fast summer has gone by and my favorite season, fall, is fast approaching. At our meeting in June we had an excellent turnout of twenty-five volunteers. It was wonderful seeing everyone there.

At our meeting in June we voted to buy a new ambulance and two patient lifts for the ambulances at the cost of \$255,000.00. Ascension had agreed to match funds for that ambulance. This will give the EMS a total of three ambulances. They have decided to donate their oldest ambulance to Lac Vieux Desert which is in need of an ambulance. We are going to have a plaque on the side of the ambulance and have been asked to decide what we would like that plaque to say. Any ideas from our volunteer group, please let me know.

The Recognition Luncheon was held in June and we want to thank Pam Berdal and Kathy Viergutz for all they did. The food was delicious and all had a great time.

Next on the calendar will be The Day of Renewal on Sept. 19, held at Moon Beach Camp. It's always a great event to attend and we hope to have a great turnout.

On October 3-5, the State Convention will be held in Green Bay. We are happy that we have five people attending from Eagle River Hospital Auxiliary. It will be an exciting event.

The last item discussed at our August meeting was not a happy one. I brought up all the current vacancies in our Auxiliary, including President-Elect, PPE, and Publicity/Historian. The current terms of President, Secretary, and Treasurer will all end next June 30. Without anyone to fill those executive offices, the Auxiliary would dissolve. What this means is that all money raised, primarily from the Thrift Shop, would go directly to the hospital without a say of where that money would go.

On a happier note, our last meeting of the year will be held on Oct. 17. See you there.

## The Fashion Show

Respectfully submitted, Pam Cira

The Fashion Show is done and it seems a great time was had by all. We do not have the financial info in yet so cannot declare it a complete success but people sure had a blast.

Thanks to the committee members for all their hard work to make this event a fun and fund-raising activity. Thanks to the models who looked fabulous and strutted that "catwalk" with an enthusiasm I marvel at! Thanks to the Howard Young Auxiliary for joining us once again in a partnership (sisterhood) that is humbling and inspiring! Thanks to all who attended and added their joyful spirits to the gala! Thanks to the Whitetail Inn for delicious food, beverages and an amazing wait staff! Jobs well done all around! I am so grateful to everyone involved since we really could not have this event without you.



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## Membership

Respectfully submitted, Pam Cira

The membership packets have been sent and your response has been amazing. Thanks to all who have returned the membership record, the safety review signature page and dues. If you have not yet gotten those items in to me, please do so as soon as possible. I will be contacting folks I have not heard from in order to find out if you still wish to be a part of the Auxiliary or not. If you have lost the safety review and/or the membership record, let me know and I will send out new ones to you. I can be reached at 715-479-5485.

Also, please continue to log your volunteer hours so that I can record those. If possible, please turn them in monthly so I don't have to take a lot of time going back over past months to see if they are in. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this.

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**October 3-5** - State Convention, Green Bay  
**September 19** - Day of Renewal, Moon Beach  
Camp

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**VOLUNTEERS!  
NEEDED!**

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES COME AND WORK WITH US

If interested, please contact Kathy Viergutz at 715-356-8677 for more information.

**Thrift Store Volunteers**

**HELP Program Volunteers**

**Office of President-Elect**

**Public Policy and Education Chair**

**Out-Patient Surgery Volunteers**

**'Heartbeat' Newsletter Editor, Training provided**