

Volunteer Updates



Froedtert
West Bend Hospital

March/April 2023 Issue

Director's Letter

Hello Volunteers!

As is typical this time of year, our weather is making sure we remember that it is still definitely winter. My hope is you all made it through these past couple of weeks of snow and wintry mix we've been seeing, safe and sound.

We have some **great news** to share from our Well Wisher Gift Shop that you will want to make sure you check out that section of this newsletter. We are so grateful for all of our volunteers but I need to share a special thank you to our gift shop volunteers for continuing to keep the doors open. Twelve volunteers (yes, only 12!) are handling all of the shifts in the shop which is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Their generous gift of time allows the shop to stay open each week, which is a big piece to the great news I mentioned. If interested in a volunteer area where you get to interact with a variety of people and get sneak peeks of unique merchandise as it comes in, all while providing a welcoming space for our patients, visitors and staff, please reach out to Keri Schwartz. This continues to be an area in need of additional volunteers.

Mark your calendars! **We are returning to an in-person Spring Recognition Luncheon on Thursday, April 20th.** Yippee, Yay, Wahoo! The luncheon will be held at the beautiful West Bend Country Club and invitations will be sent out in the next week or two. We are VERY EXCITED to be back in-person to gather for a delicious lunch, good conversation and friendship, and to award volunteer hour recognition pins and milestone gifts. The luncheon is open to ALL active volunteers and we would love to see everyone together again. Please make sure to plan to attend so we can share our appreciation for however you support the Partner Volunteers, whether it be in-person or from home.

A couple of reminders about two upcoming state level Partner Volunteer meetings through the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA). These meetings are open to all active volunteers, whether you volunteer in person or from your home. Please consider attending to learn more about the impact health care volunteers have throughout the state.

- *WHA's annual Partner Volunteer Advocacy Day will take place on April 19th from 8:30-11:45 a.m. and will be held at Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison.*
- *WHA Spring Tour and Southeastern District Meeting will be held in-person on May 1st from 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and is being hosted by Elmbrook Memorial Hospital Auxiliary.*

Transportation to both meetings would be provided. If interested in attending either meeting, please reach out to Kayla Weninger to get registered.

Slowly but surely we truly are inching closer to spring and a sure sign of that is when St. Patrick's Day comes around. Wishing you a pot o'gold and all the joy your heart can hold (and maybe a green beer!).

Thank you for your continued service. Whether in-person or from home, you truly make a difference!

Ann Johnson

Volunteer Services Director
Froedtert West Bend Hospital

Volunteer Updates



Froedtert
West Bend Hospital

Volunteer Updates



Froedtert
West Bend Hospital

March/April 2023 Issue

Membership

- Adults = 63
- Teens = 2

Volunteers Needed

Volunteer Shifts Available:

- Volunteer Membership Chairperson- responsibilities include creating a positive volunteer onboarding experience by acting as a resource to potential volunteers, conducting telephone interviews as well as guiding applicants through the onboarding process.
- Hospital Ambassadors Desk- responsibilities include welcoming and assisting patients, families and visitors entering the hospital. Hospital Ambassadors will provide some patient transporting.
- Pleasant Valley Health Center Greeter- responsibilities include welcoming and assisting patients, families and visitors entering the health center.
- West Bend Health Center Ambassador Desk (Located on Paradise Drive)-responsibilities include welcoming and assisting patients, families and visitors entering the hospital. Hospital Ambassadors will provide some patient transporting.
- Patient Companion- Provide companionship to inpatients through comfort rounding, reading, playing cards and doing activities as well as communicating patient needs to nursing staff as necessary.
- Gift Shop Cashier-responsibilities include providing customer service including cashiering, restocking and pricing.

Fundraising

- **Nutman Sale (Froedtert West Bend Hospital)**-March 1st-2nd (7:30AM-4:30PM both days)
- **Cookie Sale**-March 7th (8:00AM-12:00PM)
- **Milwaukee Pretzel Company Sale**- April 11th (12:00PM-1:30PM)
- **Cookie Sale**-April 18th (8:00AM-12:00PM)

To sign up, or if questions, please contact Kayla Weninger at 262-836-8075 or kayla.weninger@froedtert.com.

Volunteer Updates



Froedtert
West Bend Hospital

March/April 2023 Issue

Gift Shop

Well Wisher Transfers \$32,000 to Volunteers!

Thank you to our very dedicated team of gift shop volunteers who kept our doors open during a very busy holiday season! Your amazing efforts throughout the year made it possible to transfer \$32,000 to Volunteer Services to help fund the Partner Wish List and support scholarships to local youth pursuing health careers.

In addition, thanks to all volunteers for your support of the gift shop! Your purchases and word of mouth promotion are very important to our success and we are extremely grateful for your support!

Well Wisher receives merchandise daily so stop by to see what is new.

Well Wisher is welcoming new volunteers. The cash register is very user friendly and no prior experience needed. Stop in to the gift shop, or contact Keri Schwartz to join the team

Team Lead Updates

Mailroom -Patient Folder Totals for Froedtert West Bend Hospital

- January 2023- **509** folders assembled
- February 2023- **357** folders assembled

Birth Center- Folders and Baby Packets

- January 2023-Folders= **60** and Baby Packets= **40**

Cancer Center-

- January 2023-Folders= **50** and Binders= **36**

WHA Partner Updates

- WHA Advocacy Day, April 19 at Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison. If you are interested in attending, please email Kayla Weninger.

Volunteer Updates



Froedtert
West Bend Hospital

March/April 2023 Issue

Health Education

POLIO

POLIO (Poliomyelitis) is caused by the poliovirus that attacks the nervous system, specifically the spinal cord. It can cause paralysis that is life-long or life-threatening (when it affects the respiratory muscles used for breathing). There are 3 types, of which Types 2 & 3 have been eradicated in 2015 and 2018. Since 1988, Polio's footprint has shrunk dramatically. It is only considered endemic in 3 countries – Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Nigeria. Last year there were only 22 cases reported. The virus is highly contagious and lives in the throat and intestines. Food and water can become contaminated through an infected person's stool. The poliovirus is transmitted through ingestion of contaminated water and food, sharing food and utensils, children putting contaminated objects (such as toys) in their mouth. Droplets from a cough or sneeze from an infected person can be a source of transmission but is not very common. The disease can spread just before or up to two weeks after symptoms appear. Polio is rare in the US due to vaccination but can be acquired through travel. The disease mainly affects children under age 5 years. However, any age can get polio if they are unvaccinated or travel/live in areas where there is polio. Some individuals who do not experience symptoms can still spread the disease. Those who are symptomatic may complain of a sore throat, fever, fatigue, nausea, headache, and stomach pain lasting 2 – 5 days, then recovering on their own. Diagnosis is made by a healthcare provider completing a physical exam and taking a medical and vaccination history. Body fluid samples may be tested and an MRI of the spine done. Complications include meningitis, occurring in 1-5 out of 100 people. Paralysis or weakness, also known as Post-Polio Syndrome (PPS) show up later in life, even anywhere from 15 – 40 years later. These symptoms include muscle weakness, muscle atrophy, loss of muscle function, mental and physical fatigue, joint pain, and scoliosis. There is no cure for PPS, only symptom management and lifestyle changes. Prevention is primarily through vaccination. There are 2 types of vaccine: IPV (Inactive Poliovirus Vaccine) and OPV (Oral Poliovirus Vaccine). IPV is the only vaccine used in the US. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers do not kill the polio virus. A one-time booster may be given to those traveling to high risk areas and healthcare workers caring for polio patients or handling lab specimens. Another effective means of prevention is proper handwashing with soap and water.

**Submitted by Joanne Shirkey,
Community Health Education Lead**

Volunteer Updates



Froedtert
West Bend Hospital

March/April 2023 Issue

Public Policy

Governor Ever's Annual State of the State Address

During his annual State of the State Address on Jan. 24, Gov. Tony Evers previewed hundreds of millions of dollars of proposed investments that he plans for the biennial budget bill and declared 2023 “the Year of Mental Health.”

Gov. Evers outlined a \$500 million investment in mental health services, citing reports by the Wisconsin Population Health Institute that indicates 55 of 72 Wisconsin counties have significant shortages of psychiatrists. These investments focused on expanding Medicaid-covered services for psychosocial rehab, residential intoxication management and withdrawal services, and room/board costs for residential substance use disorder treatment. The Governor also proposes a \$17 million increase in various outpatient Medicaid behavioral health services rate increases.

WHA President/CEO Eric Borgerding applauded Partners of WHA for the foresight in making “Mental Health” their initiative the next two (2) years. This initiative was chosen in collaboration between Partners of WHA State President, Sharon Scott and Partners State Community Health Education Chair, Cindy Hermel.

Gov. Evers is expected to release his full biennial budget proposal on Feb. 15 during his budget address to the Legislature. Following the proposal of his budget, the Legislature will amend the budget bill and send it back to the Governor for his approval, partial-approval or veto targeting a completion date of June 30, 2023, which aligns with the end of the current fiscal year.

WHA Advocacy Day

Advocacy Day will be held Wednesday, April 19th in Madison at Monona Terrace Convention Center. Registration is now open. Registration is free, but pre-registration is required. To register go to www.partnersofwha.org.

Advocacy Day is designed to educate and motivate both health-care staff and volunteers on important health-care related issues and encourage grassroots advocacy opportunities. Speakers give insight into both State and Federal health-care issues, a keynote speaker will be announced the week of February 13 and a Bipartisan State Legislative panel will discuss current agenda items.

Reminder: Tuesday, February 21 is Spring Primary Election Day for several key positions. Do your part in making your “voice” heard....in-person absentee voting available through Friday, February 17th.

Submitted by Sharon Scott, Public Policy Chair

Volunteer Updates



Froedtert
West Bend Hospital

March/April 2023 Issue

Parnter Volunteer Highlights:

Valentine's Day Bake Sale-

- We had the first Bake Sale in two years, yahoo!! Thank you to all the volunteers who donated a wide variety of sweet treats! We had a \$269.50 profit from the sale and we look forward to many more Bake Sales to come 😊



Froedtert West Bend Hospital Volunteer Services Department

Ann Johnson
Volunteer Services Director
ann.johnson@froedtert.com
262-836-7828

Keri Schwartz
Volunteer & Gift Shop Coordinator
keri.schwartz@froedtert.com
262-836-8063

Kayla Weninger
Volunteer Administrative Assistant
kayla.weninger@froedtert.com
262-836-8075