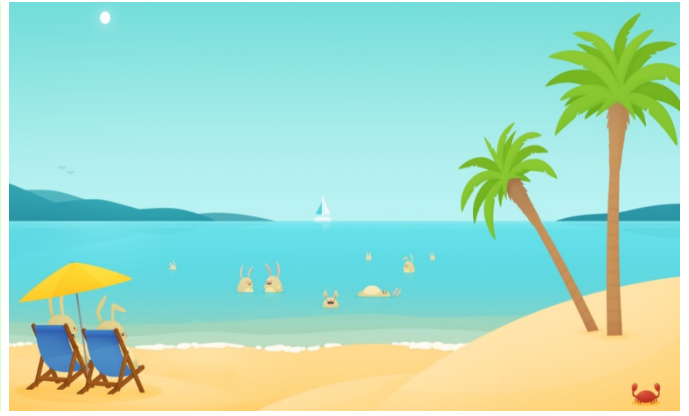


Aspirus Volunteer Newsletter

Summer 2022



Update From Yo Voigt Director of Volunteer & Guest Services

Happy summer to all Aspirus volunteers! I love all four seasons of Wisconsin, but the summer always goes by the fastest.

When thinking about how fast “time flies”, I am always especially thankful for all our volunteers who help out. When I visit with each of you – you always share how glad you are to be back volunteering.

So are we thankful for you jumping right back in and many of you are also helping out in new areas.

This quote from Margaret Thatcher, former Prime Minister of the UK, reminds me of how each of you so happily give of your time to help out.

“Look at a day when you are supremely satisfied at the end. It’s not a day when you lounge around doing nothing; it’s a day you’ve had everything to do and you’ve done it.”

Our volunteers are always telling me, “I like to be busy!” And I know you are because you tell me of all the other areas you also help in.

When my kids were in school and they had a good quiz grade or a certain accomplishment, I would share that with my mom, Anita. She would always say, “Grandma is so proud, my buttons are popping!” I feel that same way when I see all of you helping in so many ways.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS for giving your time to help patients, staff and families at Aspirus.

Yo



In This Issue:

- Update from Yo
- Update from the Volunteer Coordinator
- Update from Lifeline
- Volunteer Experiences
- In Memoriam
- Pet Therapy Volunteers
- Update from Coffee & Gift Shops
- Welcome back EZ Riders
- Family House Needs
- Hospice House & Seasons of Life Update
- Volunteers in Action
- Volunteer Needs
- ...and More!

Update From Holly Hospice Volunteer Coordinator

Hello Hospice Volunteers!

Not sure where this summer has gone, but I hope you are enjoying time with your friends and family. My husband and I have been camping a bit this summer in our RV with friends. I have been very busy gardening and figuring out how to can pickles recently!

I am pleased to announce we have 3 new volunteers who have started over the last few weeks. Susan will be at Seasons of Life in Woodruff and doing homecare volunteering, Debra will be at the Hospice House in Wausau, and Nancy will be a homecare volunteer in Merrill/Marshfield once she moves.

Thank you all for being an incredible asset to Aspirus and our hospice program!

Holly Aschbrenner

Holly.Aschbrenner@aspirus.org

715-581-0315



Update From Susan Lifeline Coordinator

Volunteers are once again able to go into homes to install units and swap out old equipment for new. 28 units are currently being updated.

If you or someone you know is in need of Lifeline in Marathon County, please call Aspirus Lifeline at 715-847-2781; outside of Marathon County, call Aspirus Health Lifeline at 1-800-533-8954, X 54592.

Susan Prah, Lifeline Coordinator
Aspirus Wausau Hospital
Susan.Prah@Aspirus.org
715-847-2781



Curtis Barthel helping to switch out old Lifeline equipment to new

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS **WE WANT YOUR STORIES!!**

Tell Us More! We love to share stories from our volunteers.

Could you tell us what you love about volunteering at Aspirus?

Do you have a volunteer experience you would like to share?

Perhaps a note about what you miss or missed about volunteering during Covid?

Maybe you would like to give a high five to one of your volunteer teammates or departments.

Let's get these great stories published in our newsletter!

Aspirus Wausau Hospital Volunteer Lounge

The Volunteer Lounge is now locked. Volunteers should enter through the front door of the Volunteer office to enter the lounge. If you are volunteering on the weekend, please email your hours to Yo.

Sorry for any inconvenience!

Office Hours: 7am-4:30pm



Student Art is now being displayed in the hallway near Entrance B (by Women's Health and Radiology). Please check out the talented student artwork!

1st Place: Lilly Thao of Wausau West

2nd Place: Gabriel Ramos of Wausau West

3rd Place: Kaydee Rennie of Wausau West

Plus many Honorable Mentions

What volunteers are saying about their experience:

"This is the third area where I have volunteered over the years. Joint Replacement, Day Surgery, and EZ Rider (2x). All have been pleasant and learning experiences. When EZ Rider was re-started, I was very happy. I meet the most interesting people as an EZ Rider Driver and get acquainted in a short 15-minute trip. It's amazing the distance some people travel for their health. I always ask where place they call home but never what ailment brings them to Aspirus. The only problem I have is the narrowness of some of the halls on which we travel. I just stop and let a bed or x-ray equipment go by." Duane Askew

"Everyone seems to look forward to retirement. There are definitely some benefits. Just sitting at home is not one of them. Volunteering is social, physical, educational, and even spiritual. It is a choice, not a must. Interacting with staff, patients, visitors, or other volunteers helps keeps your mind, body and spirit on an upward beat. Volunteering gives you purpose. After working 45 years plus in health care, the hospital is like a second home. The areas I have volunteered in have staff that regularly thank me for being there." Mary Jo Literski

"I'm an EZ rider driver on Thursday mornings and a Surgery waiting room attendant on Monday mornings. The surgery room gig is fairly new since the volunteers started to open up. I enjoy visiting with families and hearing of where they're from, and enjoy listening about the town they live in. At times they share about themselves, about why they are at Aspirus and it can be very humbling when they tell their story. It is also very rewarding when they share that they might be cancer free, or their new hip is working wonderful. This volunteer gig is priceless in many ways!" Clark Loeffel

"It is my sincere privilege to be an Aspirus Hospice Volunteer. I believe there are so many who need a warm smile, a listening ear, a comforting hand, a prayer. No one is meant to walk this path alone and I am very blessed to share a small part of the journey with the patients. I feel I am the recipient of this gift of getting to know the patient and hearing their stories; the love they have for their family, the blessings they have received in their life and the hardships they have endured. Sharing in the memories of what shaped them into who they are.

I also enjoyed making lap robes and prayer shawls during Covid as it was a way to feel connected to the patients even though I did not know who might receive them. I was able to be with them in thought and that the Lord would bless them." Trish Woller

In Memory Thomas Gilbreath Jr.

Tom volunteered at AWH as a Pet Therapy Volunteer with his dog, *Veeta*, a Golden Retriever. He was also going to start bringing in *Lettie*, a long-haired Chihuahua. But sadly, Tom passed away suddenly on June 30th.



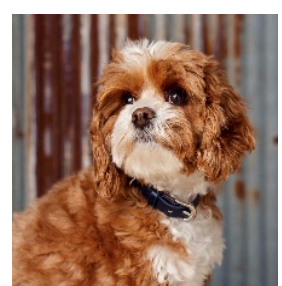
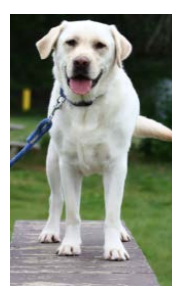
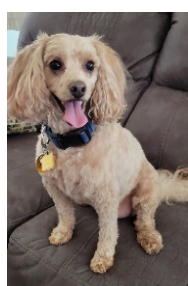
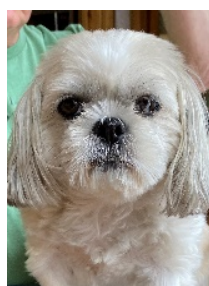
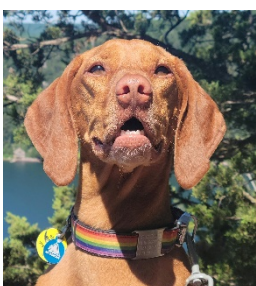
Many of you may have celebrated a birthday during the pandemic and received a birthday card with a Gift Shop coupon. Please know that when the Gift Shop remodel is done, those coupons will still be honored past the expiration date!

Happy Birthday to you all!



Welcome Pet Therapy!

(Pictured left to right: Scout, Colby, Arthur, Finley & Whisper)



Update From Sammie Coffee and Gift Shop Supervisor

Gift Shop:

- Sales are going well at the gift shop! We are averaging about \$80-\$200 a day in sales, with one day at \$420 in sales!
- Online gift shop – We are in the final approval stages hoping to finalize with Marketing soon
- Although our mini gift shop might be “mini”, we have new items arriving weekly! Not to mention a 60% off section!
- Aspirus Langlade Hospital will no longer have a gift shop. Sammie & Mary Fochs will be working on getting some inventory from their shop to sell at our gift shop.
- Construction on the new and improved Gift Shop to start any day!

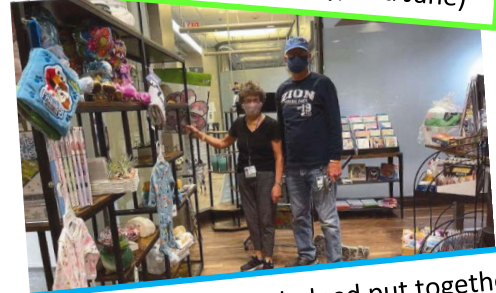
Coffee Shop:

- Sue's last day with us was 7/28. We will miss her dearly!
- 0.6 FTE & 0.8 FTE positions are open
- New employee (as of June), Maddy – she will be switching to occasional status once she goes back to school in September.
- New volunteer, Kristin, to start at the coffee shop in September.
- New Point of Sale system at the coffee shop – went live on 7/20!

Sammie Giese
715-847-2739



Welcome Maddy!
(Maddy, Susan, Sammy, and Jane)



Mary and Jerry Fochs helped put together displays, mark products, and organize the mini gift shop in the coffee shop.



“We Knew Her When”

Grace Stanke won Miss Wisconsin and will be competing in December for Miss America. Grace was a former volunteer who served for 3 years during high school helping in the gift shop. She also played violin at Festival of Trees and during Holiday Tea.

Welcome Back EZ Riders!

(Pictured: Clark Loeffel, Miles Van Slyke, Dawn Merriam, & Duane Askew)



Aspirus Family House Update

The Aspirus Family House is looking for volunteers to make meals/soups during the week (everyday but Wednesday night). The only request is the volunteer bring the ingredients and make it at the House. This has been a big hit at the House for families to grab a warm meal after visiting loved ones in the hospital. If you have questions or wish to sign up, please call the Family House.

In addition, as you can imagine, keeping the Family House stocked with basic necessities requires a lot of donated supplies and support from the community. Right now, there is a need for toilet paper, hand soap, Lysol spray disinfectant, individual snacks, and coffee K-cups for the Keurig machine.

**For health and safety concerns, we ask that all donated items be new, unopened, and unexpired.*

GIFT CARDS: The Family House also requests the following Wausau area gift cards: grocery stores, gas stations & department stores. For more information about the family house or to make a donation online, visit aspirus.org/familyhouse or email ahf@aspirus.org

In lieu of items, you can also make a tax-deductible financial donation. Please make checks payable to the Aspirus Health Foundation & simply put 'Family House wish list' on memo line.



Hospice House/Seasons of Life Update

What a busy spring it has been at both Hospice Houses!

Wausau Hospice House patients are now able to order meals off The Mint menu. Patients get to pick out their meal and once a week we are looking for a volunteer to go pick these meals up at The Mint and deliver to the House. We are also looking for a volunteer to dust the higher places that housekeeping is unable to do. There is a duster being ordered for this task; this duty would be twice a month. If you are interested, please reach out for more information. As always you can go visit with patients at any time to chat, take them outside, or play a game.

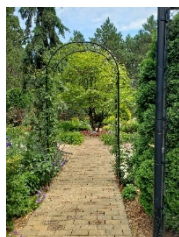
The Seasons of Life house sure has one beautiful flower garden! Below are pictures from the garden. I am excited we have added a new volunteer who will be visiting at the house and seeing patient in the homecare setting. The house has four patients currently and are hoping sometime in the near future to expand to eight patients.

I have quoted two volunteers from each house and their volunteer experience:

"Volunteering at Seasons of Life is very special time and I feel called by God to be there. The many acts of kindness and sincere love that I see the staff freely giving to the patients is beautiful. Pam, Chris, and Hillary are so compassionate and caring! It is God who provides these opportunities to share love; especially for those nearing the end of their earthly life. I find peace and feel blessed after each visit with the staff and patients."

Jim Carlson

"It has been such a wonderful experience for me!" Erica Maleski



Thank you Knitters/Quilters!

A very heartfelt thank you to all the Volunteer Knitters/Quilters/Crocheters/Sewers and our community! The Aspirus Birthing Center, NICU, Palliative Care Unit, and Hospice departments appreciate the time and talent that goes into making caps, booties, critters, prayer shawls, and blankets. For new parents, this is a very special touch of compassion and care. The nursing staff enjoy presenting patients with these gifts. It is Aspirus Volunteers that make that possible. Happy knitting, quilting, crocheting, and sewing to all!



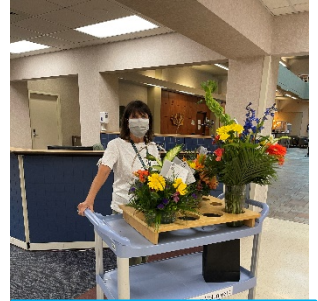
Bonnie Downey helping in Food Service with Mobile Meals



St. Mark's quilters donated 15 quilts to Hospice house



Stella Lonsdorf and Bernice Corsten performing at the Hospice House



Nettie Sosnowski delivering flowers to patient rooms



Daughter Emily Jacobson helping at the Day Surgery Volunteer desk, while mom Lisa Jacobson, helps at the Patient Registration Desk



Gary Spranger helping in the Cancer Center



Miles Van Slyke helping at the Cancer Center



Gerri Loy helping in the Volunteer Office making volunteer packets

Mary Jo Leterski helped train Carol Steidinger at the Day Surgery Volunteer desk



Denise Visconte is our new Chaplain and our main contact to work with the PACARS (Pastoral Care Representatives)



Michelle Schaefer helping at the first Aspirus Farmers Market on 6/16



Sylvia Erickson made "sleeping bags" that hold a beanie baby inside



Mary Ventzke helping at the Aspirus Farmers Market

Volunteer Needs

If you have completed your return packet and given proof of vaccine, please consider helping with the following needs:

Aspirus Wausau Hospital:

Food Service: Tuesday-Friday 11am-1:30pm

Palliative Care Unit (PCU): Monday-Friday 8am-12pm

Starbucks (HIGH NEED): Summer Monday-Friday (Ages 14 and up) 8:30am-12:30pm

Cancer Center: Monday, Tuesday, Thursdays 12-4pm, Fridays 8am-12pm & 12-4pm

EZ Rider: Mondays & Fridays 12-4pm, Tuesdays and Fridays 8am-12pm (*Some restrictions may apply)

Day Surgery Waiting Room (HIGH NEED):* Wednesdays & Thursdays 8am-12pm & 12-4pm,

Monday-Friday 4-6pm *Waiting room opportunities serve as the liaison for families waiting for surgery.

Mobile Meals: Sunday-Thursday afternoons/evenings after 2pm for about 1½ -2 hrs.

Transport: Monday-Friday 11:45am-2pm

Organizational Learning: Every Tuesday 9:30-11:30am



Hospice House - Wausau:

Every Thursday: Label and put away food truck order Noon-1pm

The Mint Meals: Picking up prepared meals from The Mint Café in Wausau weekly

Weekend Meal Help (HIGH NEED): Saturday and Sunday from 8-10am, noon-2pm, 4:30pm-6pm

Seasons Of Life - Woodruff:

Holidays: Prepare meal, decorate, and visit with patients on holidays

Aspirus Family House (HIGH NEED):

Mondays 12:00-2:00pm, 4-6pm, **Tuesdays** 12-2pm, 4-6pm, **Wednesdays** 12-2pm, 4-6pm,

Thursdays 12-2pm, 4-6pm, **Fridays** 12-2:00pm, 4-6pm, **Saturday and Sunday** 9:30-11:30am, 2-4pm

Bring in items to make meals/soup at the Family House during the week

Homecare Volunteers:

We're always looking for more homecare volunteers to sit with patients either at home or in facilities once a week for about an hour to socialize, read to, do activities with, or sit with so family can have a break. If you are interested in becoming a homecare visitor, please reach out to Holly Aschbrenner.

There will be a Vigil Volunteer training coming soon. If interested, contact Holly.

All volunteers, please continue to wear you masks while volunteering!



We look forward to seeing you!

Please call: Yo at 715-847-2846 or Holly at 715-581-0315





**Sunday,
October 9, 2022**

**5K Run/Walk
& pancake breakfast**

Dale's Weston Lanes
5902 Schofield Ave
Weston, WI 54476

RedWhiteBlue5k.org

HONOR OUR VETERANS

Packet Pickup 9:00 am-9:45 am

Race Starts 10:00 am

Breakfast 9:30 am to Noon

Adults: \$40 until Sept. 23

\$45 afterwards

Kids under 18 are \$30

Family Registration (2 Adults, 2 Kids) \$100

715-355-8788

Registration include T-shirt, Breakfast

Badger State Games event offers a
chance at Gold, Silver, Bronze medals

Register at RedWhiteBlue5k.org

Proceeds Benefit



Sponsored By

**Wausau
Harn's
Furniture**

Presented By

