

**Volunteer
CONNECTION**

SUMMER 2022

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“Alone we can do so little, together so much” -Helen Keller The above photo by Suzanne Rose shows the hands of many volunteers at Ascension Mercy

Moving Forward

A year ago, July of 2021, we were able to start bringing volunteers back in phases after their suspension at the onset of COVID-19. I am happy to report that most volunteer assignment areas are back up and running. While many positions are filling up, there’s still room for new volunteers. Please spread the word to anyone you know age 16 or older who would be a good fit as a Mercy volunteer.

We will continue to provide updates and happenings mainly via email. If you haven’t shared your email address with volunteer services and you would like to, please email us at MHVolun@ascension.org. Kristal, Laura and myself want to thank you for your continued support of Ascension Mercy Hospital.

Sincerely, Amy

Amy Brownson, Manager
Volunteer Services

Volunteer Spotlight — Maureen Paffenroth

Volunteer Spotlight – Maureen Paffenroth

Maureen is a retired registered nurse who volunteers at Ascension Mercy Hospital at the Information Desk. Maureen started volunteering in June 2022. In her spare time, she enjoys biking, golfing, walking, reading, gardening, snowshoeing, and working out at the local YMCA. She has also been a Mary Kay consultant for 26 years.

In 1964 Maureen applied to nursing school at Mercy Hospital School of Nursing and she received a \$500 scholarship from the Mercy Auxiliary. To receive the scholarship, she had to agree to work at Mercy for one year. Maureen went on to work at Mercy for 44 years! We are so glad to see her come full circle and be back at Mercy as a volunteer.

When asked what three words she would use to describe herself, Maureen chose dependable, outgoing, and friendly. Maureen also volunteers outside of the Hospital. Maureen has volunteered at her church, for United Way, EAA, and at Oshkosh Senior Center. Maureen’s favorite part about volunteering is meeting new people and making a positive impact within the community.

One piece of advice that Maureen wants everyone to know is: “Volunteering is a good way to meet new people, prevent loneliness, and contribute to your community”.

Kelsey Potratz
Field Placement Student Volunteer
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh



Maureen volunteering at the Information Desk

Timely News

Project SEARCH Updates



Left to Right: Dana Zander; Instructor, Richard Stickney, Nicholas Pettibone, Isabella Jolin, Ryan Moon, Ryan Delfosse, Mike Schneider; Skills Trainer, Ellie Fried, Jamie Koplitz, Skills Trainer, not pictured, Aline Havyarimana

Congratulations to the seven Project SEARCH spring graduates pictured above. A new class of interns will be starting at Ascension Mercy this fall. Please welcome our interns for the 2022-23 school year listed below:

Sam Anderson
Asah Hoddell-Pierce
Logan Hunter
Jenna Huth
Natalie Lelinski
Leroy Lofton
Alex Schrenk
Austin Smith
Devin Sullivan

Please also welcome back the Project SEARCH staff; Dana Zander, Jamie Koplitz, Kalli Pethan, and Mary Connors. Project SEARCH is a high school transition program; a unique, business led, one-year school-to-work program that takes place entirely at the workplace. The focus is on helping youth with disabilities make successful transitions from school to adult life. Ascension Mercy and Franciscan Courts partner with the Oshkosh Area School District, Goodwill Industries, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and other agency support services for the benefit of the interns. Ascension Mercy has participated in the program since 2016, hosting 73 interns. Ascension Mercy/Franciscan Courts have employed nine interns over the years.

Amy Brownson

Patient Experience



You're a Sales Representative (No Matter What You Do)

“Every employee (and volunteer) is a salesperson.” It’s a motto in many companies. Phrases like “Answer the phone with a smile” may sound tiresome but delve more deeply. These are attitude adjusters. They help manage stress. Any position could, someday, somehow, come directly in contact with a customer. Most employees know this and respond accordingly but living with a positive attitude is an acquired life skill. One distasteful or less-than-stellar customer experience is sometimes all it takes to set in motion stressful communication and a bad day, so it makes sense to put your best attitude forward. Try it for a day. You may discover that a purposeful and positive engaging style is a key to enjoying your job more.

Excerpted from the Ascension Employee Assistance Program’s Newsletter - Ascension Frontline | April 2022

Laura Hensel – Volunteer Coordinator

Health Care Advocacy

Borgerding: “Health Care Workers Are Better Protected Under New Law”

Governor Tony Evers recently signed into law Assembly Bill 960, which was led by Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester), Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu (R-Oostburg), Representative Gae Magnafici (R-Dresser) and Senator Van Wanggaard (R-Racine), making threats of violence towards a health care worker a Class H felony.

“Health care workers are better protected under this new law,” said the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) President and CEO Eric Borgerding. “WHA’s members across the state express appreciation to Speaker Vos and Senate Majority Leader LeMahieu for authoring this important law and making passage of Assembly Bill 960 a priority at the end of session.” “WHA is also grateful to Governor Evers for signing Assembly Bill 960 into law, showing health care workers that they are vital to our state and important to protect,” continued Borgerding.

Excerpted from WHA The Valued Voice Vol 6 4, Issue 26 <https://www.wha.org/Release-Health-Care-Workers-Better-Protected-Under-New-Law>

Laura Hensel – Volunteer Coordinator



FY 2023 MHV Board and Meeting Schedule (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)

BOARD MEETINGS

Mondays 9:30 am – 11:00 am in the Volunteer Services Multi-Purpose Room

August 15, 2022

November 21, 2022

February 20, 2023

May 15, 2023

MHV Advisory Board

Executive Board

Chairman: Sue Boerschinger

Vice-Chairman: Sue Knobloch

Treasurer: Debbie Seekings

Secretary: Lisa Peters

Committee Chairmen

Bylaws: Sue Knobloch

Community Health Education & Public Relations: Tom Wollangk

Craft Projects: Karry VandenHeuvel

Fundraising: Pam Anderson, Peg Larson, Bev Hoffman, Karry VandenHeuvel & Sue Boerschinger

Gift Shop: Mimi Adam & Cheryl Curtin

Hospitality: Pam Anderson

Nominating: June Wiechman

Scholarship: Sue Boerschinger

Members at Large: Joan Bitter & Roger Grosnick



MHV Meeting

UW-Oshkosh Nursing Scholarships Awarded

The Ascension Mercy Hospital Volunteer (MHV) board is pleased to announce the recipients of the UWO Nursing MHV scholarships for the academic year 2022-2023. Two scholarships are awarded, and recipients are Marlena Strasser and Mara Connell. Each scholarship of \$1,000 is applied to the cost of tuition. Each student has demonstrated financial need and excellent academic achievement.

Marlena is from Marathon, WI and is a senior in the Nursing program at UW Oshkosh. She became interested in the medical field from experiences with her brother's health issues. Marlena said, "I would watch countless nurses care for my brother, and I have strived since then to be able to nurse someone back to good health the way they did."

Mara is from Reedsville, WI and is a junior in the Nursing Program at UW Oshkosh. She commented on helping her first COVID-19 patient who was hard of hearing and could not see well. Mara reflected, "I have been reassured of my calling multiple times and every time someone asks why I want to be a nurse, the answer changes with the new experience I get. I will admit however, that I did not understand what nursing was all about until I took care of my first COVID 19 patient."

Sue Boerschinger - Scholarship Chair



Marlena



Mara

Health Watch



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
**Winnebago County
Health Department**

FALLS DON'T HAVE TO HAPPEN

FALLS ARE COMMON BUT PREVENTABLE.
LET OUR TRAINED STAFF PROVIDE A **FREE**, IN HOME
VISIT TO CONDUCT A **FALLS RISK ASSESSMENT**.



WHAT IS INCLUDED IN A FALLS RISK ASSESSMENT?

A public health registered nurse visits your home to:

- Discuss your health history (past falls, blood pressure, medication, vision)
- Assess physical home conditions (rugs, grab bars)
- Provide education (tips, resources, and available classes)
- Connection to community resources
- Telephone check-in one month after your visit

HOW CAN YOU BENEFIT FROM A FALLS RISK ASSESSMENT?

- Explore ways to build strength and balance
- Review potential risks in your home, to decrease the chance of falling
- Provide tips for improving the safety of your environment and lifestyle.
- Develop a plan for staying healthy and active.

ALL OF THIS IS INCLUDED IN YOUR **FREE** VISIT!



SCHEDULE YOUR VISIT:

Call (920)-232-3000 or (920) 727-2894

Email: health@co.winnebago.wi.us

Volunteer Opportunities

ENTRANCE DESKS

Ascension Mercy Hospital is looking for volunteer help at the Reception Desks. Your friendly smile and knowledge would be appreciated by our patients and visitors at the **Reception Desk, Information Desk or Oakwood Desk** to offer a kind word of greeting or help patients find their destination. Duties may also include computer entry and transport of patients in wheelchairs. Each area has unique benefits and responsibilities for a volunteer.

INPATIENT REHAB UNIT

Ascension Mercy Hospital is looking for volunteers interested in assisting nursing staff and patients on the Inpatient Rehabilitation unit. Volunteers visit and assist patients with requests, such as making telephone calls or selecting menu items as well as being involved with patient activities on the unit. Volunteers also perform general clerical duties for the staff - making copies, filing, faxing and stocking supplies.

UNIT VOLUNTEER – PATIENT CARE UNIT 2

Ascension Mercy Hospital could use your organizational skills on Patient Care Unit 2. Volunteer duties include set-up of surgical rooms for patients arriving the next morning, stocking patient servers and assist nursing staff with non-medical aspects of patient care. Volunteers are needed on Tuesday and Thursdays from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

If you or someone you know is interested in any of these openings, please call the Volunteer Services office at 223-0225 or email MHVolun@ascension.org. You can apply online at apply online at www.ascension.org/ascensionmercyvolunteer



Greg - Oakwood Desk



Ruth- Patient Care Unit 2

Welcome New Volunteers

4/1/22 – 7/31/22

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Joan Anthony | Bethany Bannister | Lisa Collins | Hannah Engeldinger |
| Beverly Evenson | Katherine Gassere | Sherri Haskins | Edward Jeziorny |
| Kayannah Luther | Laurie Pollack | Kelsey Portraz | Jane Sternerson |

Upcoming Calendar of Events

*TBD = to be determined

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| August 9 th & 10 th | Collective Goods Book Sale Fundraiser | Main Entrance Hallway |
| August 15 th | MHV Board Meeting 9:30AM | Volunteer Services Multipurpose Room |
| August TBD | Craft Night Fundraiser | Conference Room TBD |
| September 2 nd , 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd , & 30 th | Fun Scrubs and Jeans Friday Fundraiser | Wear your Fun Scrubs or Jeans, donate \$2 for each Friday to Volunteer Services or the Gift Shop |
| September TBD | Dine Out Fundraiser | Location TBD |
| September/October TBD | Volunteer Annual In-service | Annual In-Service Packets to be mailed out to volunteers. Complete and send all forms back to the office in the provided envelope. |
| October 24 th & 25 th | Nutman Company Fundraiser | Main Entrance Hallway |
| November 3 rd & 4 th | Gift Shop Holiday Open House | Visit the Gift Shop for our annual holiday open house and shop early discounts on holiday décor. Door prize to be drawn at end of event. |
| November 21 st | MHV Board Meeting 9:30AM | Volunteer Services Multipurpose Room |

Volunteers – in Action!



Alice – Outdoor Beautification



Pa Nou & Jessica – Magazine Distribution



Judy – Gift Shop



Barb – North Reception Desk



Kelsey - MHV Nutman Fundraising Sale



Bev – Geranium Sale