

Helping Hands

A newsletter for the Mercyhealth Association of Volunteers

Fall 2019

If you know someone who may want to join our amazing team and share their passion for helping others, please encourage them to apply online at mercyhealthsystem.org/volunteer or call (608) 756-6739.



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Mercyhealth®

A passion for
making lives better.

New volunteers January to June 2019

We are so grateful for our new volunteers and appreciate every bit of time you have to offer! Although this list may look large, we still are in need of **50-75** volunteers to fill a variety of positions throughout Mercyhealth.

Jessie Anderson
Macie Armstrong
Lynn Bandt
Alex Bean
John Bigelow
Julie Bradley
Karen Brunsell
Julie Bushaw
Richardo Carrillo
Garrett Chamberlain
Donna Chamberlain
Ava Cismoski
Dillon Corwin
Jarrett Costella
Sarah Curley
Zander Davila

Bailee Eaton
Richard Eddings
Tammy Esskew
Savannah Ferkins
John Fugate
David Gabbey
Britta Gagner
Holly Garey
Elizabeth (Buffy) Getzen
Christine Gooding-Farley
Jessica Griswold
Cassandra Guist
Ashley Hartwig
Zachary Heacox
Jessica Hernandez
Mary Hirst

Tonya Jackson
Serena Johnson
Steve Larrabee
Jenna Linsley
Marcella Lopez
Rudolph Lothary
Dawn Manley
Jeremy Manley
Arlene Mansky
Amanda O'Kane
Talia Olsen
Merri Oxley
Monica Phillips
Jerry Rabbach
Tammy Rabbach
Gloria Renly-Brown

Patricia Renteria
Penny Richards
Lois Richmond
Brett Roberts
Sara Roeling
Michelle Sanders
Gwen Schaeffer
Jill Thayer
Rebecca Tisler
Linda Trakelis
Michelle Vechinsky
Eli Walker
Carol Williams
James Wojcik



From our manager Happy Fall!

The most significant difference between ordinary and extraordinary is the *extra* you put into what you do.

Thank you, volunteers. You are a reflection of extraordinary. On behalf of Mercyhealth, please know how much we appreciate the services that you perform while volunteering. You provide passion, pride and pleasure to all you serve. Fall is a wonderful time to reflect on all for which we are thankful. All of us at Mercyhealth are thankful for the extraordinary volunteers we have as part of our team.

Our trip to Chicago in June to see the musical, Hamilton, was a big success. Please watch for more trips being planned.

We have a new volunteer service, Exploring Your Health, for pre-school aged children. We will be having different stations for the children to explore. This will be held September through May. Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering for this new service.

Please make sure you read through your newsletter. We have many upcoming events that should catch your interest.

I wish all of you and your families a wonderful holiday season.

Jill Ayres

From your president



The Mercyhealth Association of Volunteers started off the spring and summer with a generous donation of \$155,655 to Mercyhealth. This is in addition to our \$25,000

donation to the Charity Ball that supports the House of Mercy Homeless Center, and \$14,000 toward scholarships we awarded to students. Congratulations to all of you who so graciously give of your time and energy to work in all the areas we provide volunteer services. You really do exemplify the fruits of our labors.

As mentioned on the front cover—we need YOU. We are asking for your help to bring forth more volunteers to continue the support of our volunteer services that we provide every day for Mercyhealth.

Please submit names to Jackie or Jill in the volunteer office or bring in individuals who have expressed an interest in volunteering. Remember, personal connections bring about the best results.

Blessings to all of you as we enter the holiday season.

Judy Jaggard

News from Mercyhealth at Home



May 1, 2019 would have been the 100-year anniversary of the Janesville General Motors (GM) plant. When volunteers and staff at Mercyhealth Hospice heard about the GM brick distribution happening on May 4, we knew that our patients and their families would not be able to go due to the long lines, but we knew this piece of this history would mean so much to our patients who were long-time employees of GM.

We assembled a team to obtain enough GM bricks to give to our hospice patients. Sue Piette, hospice volunteer, and Cherie Scholz-Baker, hospice social worker, waited in line to pick up bricks, two at a time, to ensure that we had enough to provide to our patients as a tangible reminder of their days at GM.

When the event finished, only a few bricks remained. This is when Sue Piette, and Blackhawk Legacy Center Director, Dona Dutcher, talked about how many Mercyhealth Hospice patients had long careers at GM and that the bricks were being collected for them. Dona was touched and generously donated the bricks to ensure the GM workers receiving hospice care would have this tangible reminder of their time at GM.

Recently, we presented the bricks to our wonderful patients and wow, were they amazed and thankful. Both Wayne and Francis (pictured here) are forever grateful.

Volunteer Updates by Area

Harvard area



Judy Luttrell
Volunteer Coordinator

There are currently 20 volunteers at Mercyhealth Hospital and Medical Center–Harvard. I’ve never seen more dedicated, hardworking and dependable people. We have folks who deliver Meals on Wheels. We have volunteers who crochet shawls and prayer shawl squares. We have ladies who knit beautiful baby hats for our Mercyhealth Birthing Centers. We have a gentleman who installs and troubleshoots our Safe Connect equipment and escorts patients from the Care Center to the on-site salon every week to get their hair done.

Just recently, one of our volunteers started helping out at the medical/surgical desk answering phones, stocking linens and gloves, checking expiration dates on supplies, etc. The nurses love having her there!

I am in the process of getting more volunteers on board to help out at the front desk and in our Care Center.

Our volunteers are invaluable assets and I can’t begin to say how proud I am of them. It’s a pleasure to work with such caring and giving people.

Walworth area



Carol Gilhooley
Volunteer Coordinator

There are currently 31 active volunteers at Mercyhealth Hospital and Medical Center–Walworth in Lake Geneva. Many volunteers work in the Gift Shop displaying and selling merchandise. Funds raised benefit the House of Mercy Homeless Center and provide funds for scholarships and medical equipment for Mercyhealth. Volunteers are also busy preparing for our Annual Silent Auction and Holiday sale on November 11 and 12. You’ll find small decorated trees, gift baskets and wreaths at the silent auction. Christmas merchandise in the gift shop will be 25% off those two days. Cookies will be available for all guests, so stop by!

Volunteers working at the Information Desk assist by providing directions, transporting wheelchair bound patients and delivering flowers and gifts to our inpatients. Volunteers support our oncology patients by serving them lunch while they are here for treatment.

We have added new volunteer activities this year. One of our very talented volunteers, a former instrumental music educator, plays the grand piano in our lobby. She plays seasonal, secular and sacred piano arrangements on Tuesday and Thursday during the lunchtime hours. One of our two male volunteers assists with our cancer support group. And finally, we have a volunteer who helps with duties in the outpatient surgery department.

Thank you for all you do!

News from the House of Mercy Homeless Center

Youth Volunteers Make a Big Impact



Recently, members of the Love Begins Here missionary team spent the day volunteering at the House of Mercy. Love Begins Here was established in 2009 and focuses on local, life-changing mission trips for middle- and high-school aged kids. Along with chaperones, the kids go out into their communities and provide acts of kindness for the people in their neighborhood and surrounding areas.

Last year we provided 8,874 shelter nights to kids and families. More than 60% of those were under 12 years

of age. With the growing level of homelessness in our community those numbers will continue to drastically increase while volunteerism across the country declines. We're so happy that these young people chose the House of Mercy! They are energetic, kind-hearted youth who could be doing anything they want this summer, yet they opt to spend their time sorting through donations, organizing rooms and bringing smiles to the children who reside at our emergency shelter.

Volunteer Spotlight:

Mary Ann Venable



Mary Ann is entering her ninth decade of life and should be a role model for all of us with the contributions she has made both to Mercyhealth and to our community.

According to Sherry Dux, if you need somebody to do something, look for a busy person and that would be Mary Ann Venable. Mary Ann is a faithful volunteer at Castaways. She volunteers for seven or eight shifts a month (that calculates to about 28 hours) at Castaways!

Mary Ann has been a volunteer in many areas at Mercyhealth, including our cookie sales and the former bake sale at our Holiday Market. She combined all her volunteering along with raising seven children and her work as a nurse. Mary Ann has also been the Meals on Wheels Coordinator for her church.

At Castaways, Mary Ann has a special connection with many of the customers. Because she works there so often, she knows the people who shop there, and she is always concerned about them and hopes they are okay. She's also well known as the "candy treat lady" at Castaways.

Volunteer, Shop or Donate:

Castaways Thrift Shop

Not only are prices great every day at Castaways, but there are also regular weekly sales to help you save even more! Whether you need to pinch pennies, or just love a bargain, Castaways is your spot to shop for clothing, housewares, bedding, toys, books and more.

Castaways is run by a dedicated, all-volunteer staff. We are looking for over a dozen additional volunteers. All funds

raised are used toward operating costs for the House of Mercy Homeless Center, to purchase medical equipment, fund scholarships for students pursuing a health care degree, and support the Wigs for Patients program.

Castaways Thrift Shop

922 Milton Ave., Janesville

Hours: Monday-Saturday, 9 am-4 pm

New Fundraisers

Day Trip to Taliesin and Nothing Bundt Cakes

Enjoy a trip to Taliesin, the home, studio, school and 800-acre estate of Frank Lloyd Wright located near Spring Green. The two-hour house tour showcases the landscaped grounds, furnishings, and the building itself. We will enjoy lunch onsite at Riverview Terrace Café. The tour requires a significant amount of standing, stair climbing and walking on uneven terrain. Unfortunately, this trip is not wheelchair accessible.

More information to come, but if you are interested in being added to our waitlist, contact Jackie Lee at (608) 756-6739.

Taliesin

Next trip!

Friday, October 25
Taliesin Home Tour
Spring Green, WI

Cost: \$125 (includes transportation, tour, gratuities and lunch)

Depart: Mercyhealth Mall at 8 am

Return: Mercyhealth Mall at 5:30 pm



You may have heard that we are now offering day trip fundraisers. We started with a Broadway production of Hamilton in Chicago in June. We had an overwhelming response and filled the buses with 100 people. The trip included transportation, the show and a wonderful lunch at Gibson's Steakhouse. The experience was top notch from beginning to the end!

Nothing Bundt Cakes fundraiser

Nothing Bundt Cakes is also a new fundraising project for 2019. We saw great success in our first sale on May 8. Hopefully, you were able to shop the August sale, but if not, look for our next sale on Wednesday, October 23, 9 am-2:30 pm, G206 at Mercyhealth Hospital and Trauma Center-Janesville.

Flavors typically include Chocolate, Chocolate Chip, White Chocolate, Raspberry, Lemon, Red Velvet, Confetti, Carrot, and Gluten-Free Chocolate Chip Cookie.

You'll be guaranteed to find one or two flavors that you absolutely love.



Community Health Education (CHE)

Each year, Partners of the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) selects one health issue to focus on. The focus for 2019 is:

“Not All Wounds Are Visible—a Journey For Mental Health”

With many of today’s news reports, it is evident that we are in the midst of an ongoing mental health crisis. Everybody has mental health. And, just like physical health, a person’s mental health may need attention.

With a population of approximately 5.8 million people, nearly 1.45 million people in Wisconsin live with a mental or behavioral health issue, such as anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, addiction, or substance abuse. Wisconsin ranks 4th in the nation for mental health issues.

Lack of access to mental health services strains not only the individual, but also his or her family, coworkers, caretakers, and the community.

Addressing provider shortage is one vital step to improving treatment.

■ ■ ■

Public Policy Education (PPE)

HEAT is ...Hospitals Education and Advocacy Team

We have encouraged all Mercyhealth Association of Volunteers board members to join, but would welcome any volunteer who desires to stay on top of legislative issues affecting our hospitals to become a member. It’s easy and it’s free!

Here are some examples of the grassroots advocacy activities that supported WHA’s direct lobbying efforts in the capitol:

- 2,500 HEAT member emails to local legislators and Governor Tony Evers
- Nearly 1,000 advocates from across the state attended WHA’s Advocacy Day in Madison in April

Wisconsin hospitals are actively engaged in actions that will improve our ratings in mental health treatment, so that Wisconsin can be top rated for quality and access, not only for physical health, but mental health as well.

There is NO health without mental health. We must ask ourselves, our communities, and our legislators not what we CAN do, but what we ARE going to do to address mental health issues.

Excerpted from State CHE chair:

Sherry Jelic
(608) 235-9526
sjelic@msn.com

HealthNet of Rock County will be holding its Southern Wisconsin Conference on Mental Health on Tuesday, October 15, 8 am-4:30 pm at Pontiac Convention Center in Janesville. For more information, visit healthnet-rock.org or call (608) 756-4638.

- More than 500 Advocacy Day attendees met with 130 state legislators in the capitol
- Follow-up letters from Advocacy Day attendees to their legislators and the Governor
- 10 HEAT Roundtables with state legislators at a hospital in their district
- In-person testimony from hospital leaders at all four Joint Finance Committee public hearings
- Over 100 hospital leaders signed onto written budget committee testimony

As the state legislative session continues, we move beyond the state budget to address other priorities important to our members, such as telemedicine, team-based care, workers’ compensation, transparency AND surprise billing, and behavioral health.

For information about HEAT, contact Kari Hofer at wha_heatadvocacy@wha.org.

Fundraising Updates

Scholarship recipients

The Scholarship Committee awarded \$14,000 in scholarships to students in high school and college, who excelled in their education, are pursuing careers in the medical field, have financial need, and gave of themselves within their community.



In May, we held a Scholarship Night for the recipients and their families. We congratulate recipients on their high school and college successes. It is a wonderful night for them to meet each other and learn about each other's path to getting where they are today.

From left to right: Alexys Olson, Emma Wade, Erin Greschner, Betsy Borgwardt, Emma Fox, Chelsea Naber, Grace Filpi, Tatiana March, Cailyn Austin, Morgan Demrow (not pictured: Gabrielle Richardson, Trevor Signorini, Lizette Calixto, Jane Toberman, Emily Goodger)

Our scholarship funds are raised through various fundraisers that we host here at Mercyhealth. These include cookie sales, linen sales, jewelry sales, and a few others along the way. Thank you to those of you who have supported these sales!

Mercyhealth and Project SEARCH Graduation

Mercyhealth hosted a graduation in May with 150 guests, including many of you, to celebrate the wonderful accomplishments of our Project SEARCH Class of 2019 interns.

Mercyhealth Association of Volunteers is a strong supporter of Project SEARCH, which is an internship program that helps students with disabilities with their employment goals, gives them workplace experience, and helps support their transition from school to work.

This year, the volunteers gave a donation of \$19,500 to purchase laptops for the program.

With an expected increase in participation in the program next year, we are excited to announce that we will have several interns working with us in the volunteer office from September 2019 to May 2020.



Spring Luncheon Recap

Our spring luncheon was May 9 at the Janesville Country Club. It was a beautiful event where we celebrated you and all that you do. Our guest speaker was former volunteer, **Karleen McBride, PA-C**, now a Physician Assistant at the Mercyhealth Cancer Center in Janesville. She talked about the impact volunteering made on her and how it began her journey into the medical field.



Simulation Lab Purchase at Mercyhealth Hospital and Medical Center–Walworth

Recently, funds raised by the Mercyhealth Association of Volunteers were used by Mercyhealth Hospital and Medical Center–Walworth to purchase the Apollo Metiman. The Apollo is a patient simulator with a wide range of features to offer realistic, simulation-based health care training in both emergency or patient care scenarios.

Mercyhealth Cardiac Rehabilitation Center Receives New Equipment

Volunteer funds helped the Center in Janesville replace three treadmills and install a new elliptical machine. The new elliptical will provide patients a safer experience by allowing them to step onto the unit from the back versus from the side. This feature allows it to be used by more patients. The new treadmills provide more cushion and can accommodate 450 pounds (100 pounds more than the treadmills they are replacing).

Fall 2019 Calendar of Events



Site key:

MCB: MercyCare Building, Janesville

MHH: Mercyhealth Hospital and Medical Center–Harvard

MHTC: Mercyhealth Hospital and Trauma Center–Janesville

MHW: Mercyhealth Hospital and Medical Center–Walworth

October

- 2 Lionne Designs Jewelry Sale, MHTC G206, 9 am-5 pm
- 8 Cookie Sale, MHTC G206, 9 am-1 pm
- 15 Collective Goods, MHTC G206, 9 am-4 pm
- 15 Mental Health Conference Pontiac Convention Center (fee to attend), 8 am-4 pm
- 17 Fall Luncheon, Janesville Country Club, 11 am
- 23 Nothing Bundt Cake, MHTC G206, 9:30 am-1 pm

November

- 3 Holiday Market, MHTC 1128 A and B, 10 am-4 pm
- 4 Holiday Market, MHTC 1128 A and B, 7:30 am-6 pm
- 5 Holiday Market, MHTC 1128 A and B, 8 am-1 pm
- 11-12 Holiday Market, MHW Gift Shop, 8 am-4 pm
- 21 Linen Sale, MHTC 1128A, 9 am-4 pm
- 22 Linen Sale, MHTC 1128A, 8 am-3 pm

December

- 2 Love Light Tree Service, MHTC Main Lobby, 6 pm
- 2 Love Light Tree Service, MHW Main Lobby, 6 pm
- 2 Love Light Tree Service, MHH, Main Lobby, 6 pm
- 3 Jinja Jewelry Sale, MHTC G206, 9 am-2 pm
- 6 Thanks For Giving Meal, MHTC Conference Center
- 9-10 Nutman Sale, MHTC G206, 9:30 am-3 pm

Flu shot scheduling for volunteers

Flu shot dates

	Contact
September 30, 9 am-noon MHH conference room (near café)	Judy Luttrell
October 1, 9am-noon MHW conference room (near admin)	Christine Cihak
October 1, 8 am -4:30 pm MHTC Volunteer Board Room (G101F)	Jill Ayres
October 2, 8 am-4:30 pm MHTC Volunteer Board Room (G101F)	Jill Ayres
October 3, 8 am-4:30 pm MHTC Volunteer Board Room (G101F)	Jill Ayres
October 16, 8 am-4:30pm MHTC Volunteer Board Room (G101F)	Jill Ayres

Volunteer State Convention

Many of our board members will be representing the Mercyhealth Association of Volunteers at the State Convention in Appleton on October 1-3. Those attending always pick up wonderful ideas from other hospitals around the state and are excited to bring these ideas back to Mercyhealth.

We look forward to hosting the Southern District Meeting in the spring of 2020, with the tentative date of March 25, 2020.

FREE Blood Sugar and Blood Pressure Screenings

1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month

8:30-11:30 am

Mercyhealth Mall

1010 N. Washington St., Janesville

No appointment necessary

Cancer at Any Age Support Group

2nd and 4th Monday of every month

10-11 am

Mercyhealth Hospital and Medical Center–Walworth,
Hwys. 50 and 67, Lake Geneva

Room G380B

This group brings together anyone touched by cancer, at any stage in their journey. Our goal is to create an environment where everyone feels welcome, comfortable, encouraged and supported.

To register for this free group, please call (608) 756-6824.



Are you on Facebook?

Join our page [Mercyhealth Volunteers Southern WI.](#)

Mercyhealth Association of Volunteers

Holiday Market



Mercyhealth Hospital and Trauma Center–Janesville

Mercyhealth Conference Center, north entrance

25% off everything

Sunday, November 3

10 am-4 pm

Monday, November 4

7:30 am-6 pm

Tuesday, November 5

8 am-1 pm

Mercyhealth Hospital and Medical Center–Walworth

Gift Shop

25% off Christmas merchandise

• **Silent Auction**

Monday, November 11

8 am-4 pm

Tuesday, November 12

8 am-4 pm