You Won’t Believe Who Is Invited To This Year’s ‘Hearts for Our Hospital’ Gala  Virtually Everyone!

Join us for our 15th Annual Hearts for Our Hospital Gala
Saturday, Feb. 13, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.—Live Stream

Hosted by

This year’s theme is “Believe!” because in trying times hope is America’s greatest asset. We must Believe that together we can persevere and overcome the adversity life has thrown our way, and in doing so bring hope to so many in need.  

There is no doubt about it, COVID-19 has changed the face of the world we live in. Moving forward we must accept what is, let go of what was, and Believe in what can be and how we can make a difference!

We Believe … and we want you to be a believer too.

During this spectacular event, specialists from UF Health and local doctors will present exciting new information on various topics. Also, the hospital’s new relationship with UF Health will be highlighted. In addition to these presentations, there will be a panel discussion, 10 virtual “House Parties” and an online auction.

How can volunteers and friends be involved?
Keep on reading—we have all the information in this issue.

https://www.tvhfoundationgala.com/auction-info/
News & Updates From Lou

Lou Emmert
Volunteer Coordinator

Last year, 2020, was a year no one minds seeing leave.

We are all looking forward to 2021 and the hope that COVID-19 will be a thing of the past! Not! It will still be with us until all have an opportunity to be vaccinated. Typically with vaccinations, not all people will elect to take them. Therefore, we must continue to be patient and follow the CDC/State guidelines even if we have received the vaccine. Being patient is very hard for me. Have you heard the saying "Lord, give me patience and give it to me right now”? That has been my mantra over the years. I think I’m a little better now since I’m older but my impatience is still around.

While 2020 was a very challenging year I am extremely proud of our volunteers. We have over 46 percent of them back volunteering right now. Volunteers have returned in all departments except emergency room and the waiting area, patient care, East Campus reception and patient survey group. While we have all other departments open for volunteers, most of them are not staffed at the same hours as before. We need more volunteers to return the shifts to the normal times. The hospital and I are very grateful to those volunteers for the help they have provided to the staff during very difficult times. If you have not yet returned to volunteering please reconsider and give your department chair a call.

There is an opportunity for volunteering for a special event on Feb. 6. The Villages Rotary Club will be holding its Home & Garden Show at and Lake Sumter that day. If you would like to volunteer to staff our booth, please give me a call at 352-751-8871, or send me an email, lemmert@centflhealth.org. Remember that you receive double hours for working a special event and your name goes into a drawing at the end of the year for special prizes.

This coming year provides new opportunities to grow individually, grow the Auxiliary Foundation, help the hospital and serve our churches, synagogue and other religious organizations. My hope is that we each look forward to the new year with hope and anticipation of good things to come.

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR
FULL OF BLESSINGS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

An email went out to volunteers on Thursday, Dec. 31, that they could now sign up for the COVID-19 vaccine. I hope each of you saw that email and have made an appointment to get it. Please remember that this is being offered to you since you are a volunteer for The Villages Hospital. Spouses and family members are not included in this scheduling unless they too are a volunteer for our hospital so please do not bring them with you to your appointment. They will need to watch the news and schedule an appointment at one of the local vaccination sites.

We are extremely fortunate to be included with the hospital staff for these vaccinations. My thanks go to the entire Administrative team of The Villages Hospital for including volunteers so quickly. This is just another way that they treat volunteers as “team members”.

(See Page 6 for some photos)
A Message From Jeannie

2021 has got to be a better year

I hope this note finds each and every one of you happy and smiling. I know that many of us were disappointed that we had to cancel our visits to our loved ones, but I hope that 2021 will be a better year for all.

I cannot believe what we’ve experienced these last 10 months. I know I’ve prayed for everyone, done a lot of reading and created pencil artwork. I should have cleaned out closets and drawers, but did not!

I was happy to be able to work in the Foundation Office, and I even learned how to use the cash register in our Café. I have to say that was different but enjoyable.

The light at the end of the tunnel has become brighter just knowing that the COVID-19 vaccine has arrived. True, we may have to wait to receive it, but I’m sure the waiting will be worthwhile.

I hope that 2021 will bring us all back together again, and I wish you all a very HAPPY, HEALTHY and BLESSED NEW YEAR.

Jeannie Rogale
Auxiliary President

4th Quarter 2020 Milestone Hours

13,000 Rogale, Jeannie
4,000 Kasprzak, Penny
3,000 Halb, Jo Ann
Reedy, JoAnn
2,000 Grusenski, Katherine
Wydeveld, Karen
1,000 Bassett, Bob
Brown, Alison
Cassesse, Janet
Douglas, Peggy
Fuller, Sam
500 Evenski, Edward
LaLonde, Pam

McVeigh III, Thomas
Waite, Anita
Weber, Kathleen
Akers, Roger
Horrmann, Dorothy
Park, Margaret
Durant, Beth
Gibson, Anne
Keicher, Bob
LaFramboise, Doug
Lyle, Gary
McMorrow, Joanne
Williams, Becky

And Counting ....

“It just doesn’t seem possible,” said Jeannie Rogale when she was told she has done over 13,000 hours of volunteer work at our hospital. Jeannie joined the Auxiliary in November 2003 volunteering one day a week in Surgical Waiting working with Barb Lovett and before she knew it, she was helping as a Day Captain.

Since then she has worked all over the place—Front Desk, Café, Infusion and the Foundation Office. In addition to serving as the president of the Auxiliary, Jeannie is the chair for both Infusion and the Foundation Office.

Jeannie grew up in Brooklyn, New York, and worked as a registration secretary for the high school district. She has two children—both living in Florida so she can see them occasionally. She and her husband moved to The Villages in 1992 and they started volunteering at Cornerstone Hospice.

Jeannie is only the first person to reach this incredible number of hours—the previous record of 12,000 hours was held by Theresa McFadden who served as president in 2006 and then again from 2009 to 2011.

So why does she spend so much of her time volunteering? She says it gives her a great deal of satisfaction when she helps others because she enjoys people of all types.

What we need is more of HER type!
Mask Policy Still in Place

Given the widespread transmission of COVID-19, UF Health Central Florida remains committed to providing high quality, compassionate and safe patient care while ensuring the safety of our workforce.

To this end, all team members are required to wear a mask while on a UF Health Central Florida campus. We also want to remind you that physical distancing also—staying 6 feet away from others—is an important tool to reduce the transmission of the virus.

- Team members must also continue to wear face masks in all UF Health Central Florida facilities.
- Physical distancing can reduce transmission of COVID-19. Please sit at least six feet apart when eating together in the hospital cafeterias.

More About the Gala—and How You Can Participate

For the first time, UF Health The Villages® Hospital Auxiliary Foundation is partnering with The Villages Homeowners Advocates (VHA) to host the Gala.

The VHA initiatives include Partnering for Preparedness with UF Health The Villages® Hospital Auxiliary Foundation, providing vital community education and other philanthropic endeavors.

Bid on a variety of amazing items in our online auction from the comfort of your home PC or your mobile device by registering your mobile device at Qtego! Be sure to check back often between now and the event, as new items are constantly being added. Bidding opens Thursday, Feb. 11, at 9 a.m. and will remain open until 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13.

The net proceeds of the online auction will be shared equally between the two organizations. UF Health The Villages® Hospital Auxiliary Foundation is assigning its proceeds to the Pandemic Preparedness Fund to be used for personal protective equipment such as N95 respirator masks, isolation gowns, surgical masks and other much needed supplies for our courageous front line healthcare workers.

https://www.tvhfoundationgala.com/auction-info/

How to Register for the Gala and Bid at Our Silent Auction

Register your mobile phone number by clicking the link above. This website will provide you with detailed instructions to get into Qtego, the fundraising website where you can get registered. You can view all the items that are offered and place your bids.

Some of the bidding options include gift cards to your favorite shops and restaurants. Keep checking the website as we are adding more items right up until the Gala. Visit the website at www.tvrhfoundation.org/believe for more information. (Although the event is offered at no cost, individuals are encouraged to register to bid and make donations.)

https://www.tvhfoundationgala.com/auction-info/
Nancy and Beth Partner to Help the Gala

Beth Malak and I had always looked forward to the Hearts for Our Hospital Gala held every February to benefit the Hospital Auxiliary Foundation. Beginning with our being paired for the 2017 Gala, “Everyone Is a Star,” we discovered that we “clicked” as co-chairs responsible for the décor in the Silent Auction room at the Savannah Center. 2021 was to be no exception; it would have been our fifth year together, we were proud of our organizational refinements, and we eagerly awaited the announcement of the theme which, would set our committee of 20 volunteers into action.

Our Gala, as we knew it, was not to be. However, we are excited that everyone can attend this year’s black-tie virtual Gala and that this turn of events is leading us in a new direction. We are planning a “House Party” for a very small group, and are encouraging our friends, families and fellow volunteers to join us in bidding and donating to make a difference—we Believe we can!

Beth (left) and Nancy working together on previous galas.

The Gala committee has planned 10 remote “House Parties.” House Captains will be hosting small parties in homes throughout The Villages that will each be participating in the event. We will feature the various House Party locations in our live stream the night of the event, via Zoom.

~~By Nancy Cummings

Expert Speakers and Panel Discussion Participants

Specialists from UF Health and local physicians will present information on relevant topics such as COVID-19. There will also be panel discussions.

MICHAEL S. OKUN, M.D.
Title: Chair, Professor and Executive Director
College: University of Florida College of Medicine
Department: Division of Neurology Research
Interests: Alzheimer’s, Depression, Parkinson’s, Deep Brain Stimulation, Basal Ganglia Dysfunction, Chronic Motor Tic Disorder and Neuromodulation.

MICHAEL LAUZARDO, M.D./MSC
Title: Chief and Assistant Director
College: University of Florida College of Medicine
Department: Division of Infectious Diseases & Global Medicine
Research Interests: Pulmonary Medicine, Tuberculosis and Mycobacterial Infections.

JENNIFER HUNT, M.D.
Jennifer Hunt, M.D., a national leader in the field of pathology as well as leadership development. Jennifer is the new chair of the Department of Pathology, Immunology and Laboratory Medicine.

MAEN ABDELKARIM HUSSEIN, M.D.
Dr. Hussein joined Florida Cancer Specialists & Research Institute in 2011 and provides care to patients at three locations in Florida—Lady Lake, Leesburg and Tavares. He maintains privileges at four area hospitals. In 2013, he was awarded the Hope in Healing Humanitarian Award from the Leesburg Regional Medical Center Foundation.
**COVID-19 VACINATIONS HAVE BEGUN FOR VOLUNTEERS!**

*Much to our delight, volunteers are offered the opportunity to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. The first shots were given Dec. 30 with more given on Jan. 2.*

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**Hats On ... Bringing smiles during the holiday season**

If you haven’t seen these hats then you are really missing something. I have a collection of over 40 hats and do-rags that started when I was having cancer treatment five years ago. I accepted what it was and turned it into a new, fun part of my personality. My objective is to get at least one smile a day. If not wearing a hat, you will see me in the hospital with a do-rag on. These too, carry a theme.

This year it seems both volunteers and staff alike, were spreading extra holiday cheer to our patients’ delight. The Grinch gave directions to Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The Cat in the Hat made a visit just before Christmas and many of our patients did not want to miss this. It seemed the patients, staff and visitors all could not resist a smile, a chuckle or a comment to me.

On one occasion The Cat in the Hat delivered clothes to a patient. She commented as I was leaving, “You made me smile.” This made me smile. About 30 minutes later I received a call for a discharge and it so happened it was the same lady. After she got in her car she told me “Merry Christmas, you made my day.” And I told her, “No, you made my day.” That day I got more than a smile; my happy heart could be seen for over a mile.

‘Hats Off’ to all our volunteers. Thank you for your service throughout the hospital, meeting the needs of everyone, and making the visits of the patients and guests alike the best they can be.

~~By W. Roger Akens~~
Important Volunteer Business

We Are Now on Facebook!

The Foundation and Ye Olde Thrift Shoppe are excited to announce our new profiles on Facebook. We will be sharing a variety of useful content to keep our family of donors, friends and visitors up-to-date on all of the latest news, events, special promotions and more.

Please check out our pages and be sure to LIKE and FOLLOW us! You can find the Foundation at https://www.facebook.com/ufvillageshospitalfoundation and Ye Olde Thrift Shoppe at https://www.facebook.com/yeoldethriftshoppe.

DO YOUR MANDATORY ARCE TESTING

Come to the Third Floor of the East Campus.

We have reduced the number of terminals to ensure social distancing, and we have wipes and hand sanitizers available. We want to assure everyone that everything is being done to safeguard you in accordance with the hospital policies.

You MUST wear a mask, use the hand sanitizer, bring your own pen and practice social distancing. Needless to say, if you are not feeling well or have a fever you should wait before coming in.

The testing will be available for anyone who has not taken his or her ARCE this year and whose birthday month is January or earlier.

For questions or concerns, reply to: tvrhAuxiliaryOffice@centflhealth.com or call the Auxiliary Office at 352-751-8061. NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED!

Gala Entertainment

Clark Barrios, master of ceremonies accompanied by the Clark Barrios Band
Joe Beddia
Fine Tuned
Jon Saxx
Larry Rivellese
The Villages® High School Chambers Choir

Holiday Gift Vouchers

No gifts from the store will be distributed without the original voucher. All gifts must be picked up at the HoneyBaked Ham store as indicated on your original order and will be available through Jan. 31, 2021.

To pick up your voucher if you ordered at the hospital stop by the Day Captain’s Office from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If you ordered at Ye Olde Thrift Shop stop by YOTS and see Curt, Judy or Beth.
On the Lighter Side …

Promises to keep

Somebody wrote, “My goal in 2021 will be to fulfill the goals I set in 2020, which I should have done in 2019 because I made a promise in 2018 that I had planned in 2017.” Seriously, it got me thinking about actual resolutions, so …

#1. DON’T LOOK BACK. Like many of us, I’ve written pages about the year 2020 including but not limited to the brutal 34 degree weather that passed through in December threatening lawns and plants.

Lots of men were searching everywhere for something warmer to wear other than shorts and sandals, while many women were trying to figure out how to set the thermostat on “heat.” But we are a hardy group of individuals and most of us made it through the storm.

Having said that, I think I’ll take Grampa Bill’s advice: “I will not spend 2020 and the valuable hours of life left to me in useless ‘I told you so’ misgivings.” FINI … resolution No. 1 accomplished.

#2. ROUTINES … they can be a good thing. For example, all of our Auxiliary volunteers wear pretty much the same thing—beige pants, white blouse or shirt with green smock or jacket, or green polo shirt. It becomes a routine each and every workday.

So I have really, I mean REALLY, come to like this routine of not having to think about what to wear. It’s a done deal as it sits on the valet rod ready and waiting.

Fact is, I like it so much I decided to pick an outfit to wear whenever I leave the house unless, of course, it’s a night on the town or a special event. That turned out to be the same white blouse with lace puff-sleeves and old blue jeans sans the green smock. So I bought three more of the same white blouse with lace puff-sleeves. It makes life so simple.

Now I also find that people who don’t know me seem to remember me. Haven’t decided yet if that’s a good or bad thing.

#3. KEEP BUSY. A busy person is a happy person. So I bought yarn, more yarn and still more yarn until I figured out how to find the end of the yarn that’s hidden inside the center of the ball. That’s when my husband started calling me “Knitwit” or “Oddball.” Bless their hearts, men don’t understand these things.

#4. REMEMBER TO SAY “I LOVE YOU” to your spouse, family and best friends. But not to the hairdresser, gardener, pickleball instructor, gym trainer, handyman or plumber.
Cookie Lovers Rejoice! Our Café Has Reopened

The Café operated by Auxiliary volunteers in our hospital reopened in October after shutting down because of COVID-19. It has been led by Penny and Chris Kasprzak (sisters-in-law) for the past three years. In addition, there are 15 volunteers who support its day-to-day operation.

There is a breakfast and lunch menu with new items added all the time. A big screen TV (provided by the Foundation) provides a rolling electronic menu.

You’ll be surprised at what has been recently added: charbroiled cheeseburger, country fried chicken sandwich and fresh Café-baked cranberry orange scones. Did you recognize the emojis used on the Welcome to the Café page of the menu? Can you identify who they are by name?

Café-baked Otis Spunkmeyer cookies are among customer favorites. As the cookies are baking the aroma is ... well, you figure it out. Oh, my! Did you know that in 2019 the Café sold over 11,000 cookies?

The Café is located on the hospital’s main floor next to the Gift Gallery and all you need to do to find it is follow your nose. It will take you directly to the Café where you can indulge your sweet tooth. The cookie choices are many—chocolate chip, macadamia nut, peanut butter, M&M or oatmeal raisin. To make it easier to choose just purchase one of each.

One customer asked, “Can I buy a bag of aroma to take back to work with me?” Amazing! And the cookies are even better than chips. It’s a promise, no one can eat just one!

At first when the Café reopened, its hours were limited but the hours are expanding as the number of volunteers increases.

CURRENT HOURS
The Café is open through Sunday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. There are two four-hour shifts—8 a.m. to noon and noon to 4 p.m.

The Café is looking for more volunteers to staff Saturday hours and evening hours 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

~~By W. Roger Akers

Why does Penny volunteer? “I love to cook and this is a fun way to bring comfort to those who are visiting family or friends.”
Ye Olde Thrift Shoppe NEWS

Wee Hours Task Covers Shoppe Expansion Basics

A milestone in our new Ye Olde Thrift Shoppe was reached at 3 a.m. on Dec. 10. You read that correctly—3 o’clock in the morning! Nine trucks delivered 83 yards of concrete for pouring the floor of our new building. Beginning this early ensured adequate time to “finish” the concrete. This involves using riding trowel machines, then machines maneuvered by a walking operator to make certain the finish is smooth and durable.

Underneath this finished floor is the plumbing, wiring, and wire mesh for strength. After the concrete sets up, control joints are cut to make sure there is no cracking.

The next step is block walls going up to a height of 20 feet. The block will be laid on the orange-topped rebar dowels which can be seen along the outline of the building. As the block goes up, more rebar dowels will be added, and concrete will be poured into the block around the dowels for additional strength. The block walls will be completed in approximately three weeks... and we’ll see the outline of our new building!

Many thanks to Craig Zinckgraf, project superintendent, and Mark Cook Builders for answering my questions about how a floor is poured.

--- By Nancy Cummings

(More pictures on the next page.)
Our Growth Gallery

On Dec. 22, we saw the walls going up.

At the end of the month, we have a great visual structure.

Here's the front of Ye Olde Thrift Shoppe before construction.

~~Photos by Nancy Cummings
Our Mission: To raise funds and create awareness of the services which our hospital provides to maintain and improve the quality of patient care.

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