UF Health The Villages® Hospital

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Join us for our 15th Annual Hearts for our Hospital Gala
Saturday Feb. 13, 2021 | 6:30pm – Live Stream

Make a difference, one bid at a time.
Our online auction is fast, easy, and fun!

Register in 3 easy steps at
www.tvhfoundationgala.com/auction-info/

1. Register your device  2. Receive your confirmation text  3. Sign in using your PIN

Bidding opens Thursday, Feb. 11 at 9:00AM and will remain open until Saturday, Feb. 13 at 9:00PM

Did you forget?
IT'S NOT TOO LATE to pick up your ham or turkey from Honey Baked Ham.
The vouchers state they must be redeemed by Jan. 31. But now they have extended the deadline to Feb. 28.

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News & Updates From Lou

“Sometimes we are tested NOT to show our weaknesses, but to DISCOVER our strengths.”

January 2021 has been an exciting month because the vaccine arrived at UF Health The Villages® Hospital and so many volunteers were able to get their first dose.

Many of you have written to me expressing your gratitude to the hospital management for including volunteers in this project. I have forwarded some of these emails to the executives so they will know how much we appreciate being included as part of the team.

It was disappointing that some of our volunteers disregarded the information that this was an offer for only volunteers, not family members or neighbors. The information was forwarded and as a result this caused some sign-up confusion. It would not be good for a few to spoil future offerings for all.

With the availability of the vaccine for volunteers I’m hopeful that more volunteers will be comfortable returning to the hospital and Ye Olde Thrift Shoppe.

Two emails have been sent giving the information on what is necessary for volunteers to do if they want to return. If you have questions:

• Please contact your department chair first.
• If you do not have a department chair, you may also contact me at 352-751-8761 or lemmert@centflhealth.org or Gloria Counselman at 352-751-8176 or glcounselman@centflhealth.org.

We must assign you a position prior to determining what testing is necessary and when it can be done. See Pages 3 and 4 in this issue for more details on this process.

This is the month of the Auxiliary Foundation’s biggest fundraiser of the year—Hearts for Our Hospital gala. This event will be virtual. Our theme is “Believe” and during the past year it has been more important than ever to “believe” that things will get better. We are excited about this opportunity to reach more people than ever before and have them be a part of our event.

(There is more information on this event on Page 1 of this issue of The Hummingbird.) I encourage you to be a part of it by registering your phone and reviewing and bidding on the great auction items that are offered.

Happy Valentine’s Day to you!

It is an honor to work with all of you to support the patients, hospital and Auxiliary Foundation.

Please remember: Even if you’ve had your COVID-19 vaccine you will need to continue to wear your mask, social distance and wash your hands frequently.

Jeannie Shares a Prayer

Merciful God, give the comfort of your presence to those who are affected by the coronavirus. Protect and guide those who are seeking a cure. May this disease be conquered, and our communities restored. During this time may your Church be a source of hope, comfort and love to all. Grant peace. Grant solace. Grant healing.

Be with us, Lord. Amen.
Are You Ready ...

It has been miserable not to be able to volunteer during this COVID-19 pandemic. We have missed our co-workers, the hospital personnel, and the feeling of satisfaction we get from making a positive difference. Now that some of the risk is beginning to be minimized with the distribution of vaccines, perhaps you are raring to get back to volunteering.

Usually after a 10-month absence (no volunteer hours) you would need to start all over; however, we have worked with Joe Weyker, Director of Employee Health at UFH The Villages, to establish a process whereby volunteers who have been unable to work due to COVID-19 concerns can be recertified to start volunteering again.

Volunteers who have not worked in over 10 months, but worked in 2020, can be cleared once they sign the liability waiver (if not already done), take a TB test and take their Annual Regulatory Compliance Education (ARCE) for 2021. The first step is to contact your Department Chair and see if there is a shift that you can work. Once this is done, you need to call the Membership Office (352-751-8061) and make an appointment for the TB screening and any other missing items. Appointments will be made every Tuesday from 7:30 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. on the third floor of the East Campus. This must be done before June 1, 2021.

If your department is not currently open, or if there is not an opening on the shift you want, you can work with the Volunteer Placement Office (VPO) to find another suitable position—we still have lots of openings! You cannot make an appointment until you are confirmed in a specific department and shift.

You should only return when you feel comfortable and safe with your return to active volunteering for our hospital. Safety is a primary concern and we follow all recommendations of the hospital and CDC including masks when in the hospital, frequent hand washing/sanitizing and social distancing.

If you wait to return past June 1, you will need to do the complete process starting with the application and including interview, background check, TB screening, placement and orientation.

The application can be done online at https://www.tvrhfoundation.org/volunteers/how-to-apply/

If you have any questions on what you need to do at this point, please send email to Lou at lemmert@centflhealth.org or call the Membership Office at 352-751-8061 or the Volunteer Placement Office at 352-751-8176.

(See Page 4 for a roadmap to help you navigate the process of returning.)
Process for Volunteers Returning to Work

All returning volunteers will fit one of these categories—there is NO DIFFERENCE of their department is working or not.

* if a department does not have an opening, contact VPO, 352-751-8176

DO YOUR MANDATORY ARCE TESTING Every Tuesday 7:30–10:45 a.m.

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 February or earlier.

For questions or concerns, reply to: tvrhAuxiliaryOffice@centflhealth.com or call the Auxiliary Office at 352-751-8061

APPOINTMENT NEEDED ONLY for volunteers returning from LOA or for COVID-19 inactivity for more than 10 months.
Spotlight on Our Volunteers

Have you met Ted Alexander? He works in our hospital’s Rehab Department two days a week and drives the shuttle on Saturday afternoons.

If you haven’t met him you’re missing a treat. He is personable, humorous and full of stories. And he was an orthopedic surgeon for 50-plus years!

Just as he was finishing his internship in Alexandria, Virginia, and preparing to start his residency, the Army saw his potential and sent an invitation he could not pass up. This was in 1967 and he had just three days to report to duty at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, where he was late reporting. To hear the rest of that story you’ll have to ask Ted himself.

Once the Army fully understood his medical capabilities he was assigned to the 7th Field Hospital in Irumagawa, Japan, then to Oji General Hospital and later to the 249th General Hospital. His tour in Japan was for three years and included general and orthopedic surgery for soldiers injured in the Vietnam War.

Ted returned to Virginia, got credit toward his residency for his 2,500 surgeries that equated to credit for one year and over the next three years completed his residency. Next came his practice as a surgeon for 40 years in the greater Washington, D.C., area. After retiring from private practice, he became senior civilian orthopedic surgeon at Walter Reed National Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, seeing patients and teaching students.

In 2010 he spent time in Haiti as a volunteer performing surgery on earthquake victims. In 2012 Ted moved to Oklahoma where he work as an orthopedic surgeon. He then moved to the Social Security Administration as a disability expert, later to Shiprock Indian Health Service hospital, in New Mexico, where he was the chief of orthopedic surgery, and finally to Dallas, Texas.

(Ted Alexander continues on Page 6.)
Ted feels he has been called to “assist others with their problems wherever I am needed.” This is evidenced by his volunteering at the USO at the Dallas/Forth Worth Military Entrance Processing Station—and at the Dallas Zoo.

This set the stage for his move to The Villages® in November 2019 when he immediately began volunteering here, at the hospital.

Look Ted up and thank him for his service and for volunteering!

A Positive Experience to Remember

“I arrived at UF Health The Villages® Hospital by ambulance and was given immediate attention from the medical staff and eventually received several transfusions. I spent Thanksgiving Day and the following weekend being cared for by excellent and professional nurses, nurse assistants and physicians. Everyone was cheerful and encouraging. I was always treated with respect and courtesy by all who entered my room. In most cases, everything that was happening was explained thoroughly to me. This was extremely important to my wife and me as we had never been in this kind of situation before. I have lived in The Villages for six years and have heard mixed reviews about the hospital. I was pleasantly surprised by my experience there, especially during such as stressful time for all health care facilities.

Your staff should be commended for their willingness to serve the patients in such a caring and pleasant manner. I will never forget it.”

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 – staying six feet away from others – is an important tool to reduce the transmission of the virus.

• Team members must 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.
On the Lighter Side …

We learned so much last year

We all seem to be saying good riddance to 2020. But wait just a minute.

It wasn't all bad.

I’m thinking in particular about one old saying: “You can’t teach an old dog new tricks.”

Really? If they’re talking about the stalwart folks in The Villages, I have news for them.

OH YES YOU CAN. Maybe it was forced on us but still, we became experts in learning new tricks.

It didn’t take long to learn we had to figure out the Internet first and then how to click our way to The Villages Gourmet Club and find one of our 30-plus favorite restaurants. Next, we had to search through its menu, then pick up our mobile phone and ask the well-informed Siri to call the restaurant. Next, we placed our order, and it would be delivered to our door lickety-split. That’s a whole bunch of new tricks right there!

It wasn’t all bad.

What would it have been like if this pandemic had happened 10 or more years ago, and the airports had closed? We did not have FaceTime or Zoom—another new trick, by the way.

But there we were in 2020 when we could talk face-to-face with our loved ones without anyone leaving home, all because of FaceTime and Zoom.

We could see the new babies, puppies, kittens and goldfish while not worrying about playing host and hostess, dressing up, or having guests who stay beyond the three-day limit.

This modern Zoom technology also eliminated having to face going to the airport (if it was open) and sitting with other masked mortals in a crowded lounge waiting to board a plane with no food or even nuts, and flying high for however many hours with mask in place.

It wasn’t all bad.

I know little to nothing about medicines, vaccines and such but from what I read, the brilliant scientists had been planning for something like this for decades, having gone through all the other pandemics in the past.

However, if this had happened anytime earlier, we possibly would not have had the ability to develop the mRNA vaccine so quickly. It’s nothing short of a miracle; ‘nuff said.

Looking back over 2020 I think we can agree that COVID-19 brought a smorgasbord of side effects—some of them positive.

Have a blessed 2021, everyone!
Ye Olde Thrift Shoppe NEWS

Sun does Shine on Art Fest

A cold drizzly morning greeted 4 resolute volunteers from Ye Olde Thrift Shoppe on Saturday, January 23rd, as they worked with Jim Lemon to set up a tent for YOTS’ first appearance at Lady Lake’s Art in the Park. The weather never did improve, with the thermometer seemingly stuck at 64 degrees, so a table, 2 chairs for the volunteers and a dozen easels displaying artwork were tightly fit under the tent to avoid the occasional sprinkles. Only 8 sales were recorded on Saturday. The Marketing Committee decided to make the second day a 50% off sale on everything remaining.

Luckily, Sunday’s weather improved, the sun shone, the crowds came out, and all of the easels and displays were scattered outside the tent with plenty of space for the customers to browse. It was a very pleasant and successful day; only two pieces remained of the large framed art which had been in Ye Olde Thrift Shoppe storage units.

Thanks go to the volunteers who set up, cashiered, secured the tent overnight with tarps, set up again, then dismantled and moved everything back to the store on Sunday afternoon: Becky and Tom Williams, Curt Kroll, Nancy Cummings, Doug LaFramboise, Carol Young, Donna Hodge, Marge Ross, Kay Pallas, Janet Haffner, Beth Malak, Liz Bondie, Janice Johnson, Harriet Corgard, Bonnie Cohen, Sue Bundstein, Nancy Padden, and Gerry Stanley.

Ye Olde Thrift Shoppe is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is located at 110 W. Lady Lake Blvd. just two blocks south of the CR 466 and US Highway 441 intersection and facing the Lady Lake Historical Park.

For more information call us at 352-259-5853. We appreciate all your donations and can also pick up large pieces of furniture just call 352-571-9785.
Our Growth Gallery

*Columns and Beams Bring Strength*

Jan. 11 saw the arrival of a crane to set the structural steel for our new store. This system of columns and horizontal beams ensures strength, durability and flexibility. After the columns were set, the workmen harnessed the beams, one by one, which the crane operator then positioned on the columns to be bolted in place.

The remaining wall has now been framed, the roof trusses installed, and the plywood roof decking has been placed, awaiting a finished roof.

During a walk-through on Jan. 25, we experienced the spaciousness of our new resale area. The 20-foot ceilings give a great sense of space and the many window openings hint at how bright that space will be.

Our next big moment is “drying in” when the roof is complete and the windows are installed—we look forward to that milestone

*Photos by Nancy Cummings*
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- The Villages Golf Cars
- The Villages Homeowners Association
- The Villages Insurance
- Your Humane Society SPCA
- The Villages Property Owners Association

**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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**FOUNDATION NEWS**