April is — Volunteer Appreciation Month

A Ye Olde Thrift Shoppe Manager’s Perspective

~ ~ By Nancy Cummings

For the second year, the annual celebration of volunteers by The Villages® Hospital Auxiliary Foundation will not be possible due to continued COVID-19 restrictions. It is hopeful we can gather together later in the year to celebrate.

I have always loved this annual luncheon. In my early years with the Auxiliary it included all volunteers; in 2019 Ye Olde Thrift Shoppe celebrated as a separate group due to our size and unique mission. The gathering was a wonderful opportunity to socialize within our department and celebrate the accomplishments of individuals with awards.

We were all invited to take part by nominating a fellow worker or team in any of six categories and I enjoyed this chance to recognize commitment and contributions.

Because I substitute on different shifts and work with many volunteers at YOTS, I have observed a variety of efforts that benefit our store.

In the past, I’ve jotted these names down and put them in my apron pocket for consideration in April. I’ve decided I can still appreciate them on my own—this year I will be sending notecards to several individuals on shifts where I have subbed and give my thanks for what I have seen them do to further our store’s mission.

On my regular shifts, I’ll make it a point to tell my coworkers what I like about how they add to our team. I’ll enjoy telling them how they make a difference!

If you agree, please appreciate a fellow volunteer with the gift of a handwritten card or a few words in person.
News & Updates from Lou

"Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others." ~ Booker T. Washington

It is so good to see more and more volunteers returning to the hospital. By April 15 we plan to bring volunteers back to the Emergency Department, Patient Care and Patient Survey, and as Emergency Department Ambassadors. We are very excited to see this happening.

Special kudos go to the volunteers who have been helping at the COVID-19 vaccine clinics in Leesburg. I’m constantly amazed and appreciative to all of you who are so willing to help at these special events.

Another exciting thing happening is that Lobby Sales are being scheduled again. On April 14 and 15, Express Fundraising—Linens and More will be in the main lobby with great things to sell. Then in May, Read’s Uniforms will be holding a lobby sale.

A big welcome is extended to the team of volunteer hospital chaplains and their Lead Chaplain Joe Maher as they are now a part of the Auxiliary. Chaplain Joe is in the hospital every day and his 16 volunteer chaplains are each assigned a day or multiple days each month to help provide spiritual care services to the patients, their families and the hospital staff. A listing of the chaplains is included in this Hummingbird on Page 5.

Thank You to all our volunteers during this National Volunteer Month! We are so grateful to each of you for the time you give to support the hospital. While we can’t have our annual appreciation lunch yet, planning is underway for a get-together in August. Watch your email.

Twenty-five beautiful lap blankets, handmade by a group at the First Baptist Church at The Villages, were donated to the Auxiliary Foundation. Those blankets were given to the Acute Rehab Hospital on the fifth floor for all the patients there. The editor of the Hummingbird is involved with this group and we are so appreciative of them thinking of us. It has been an inspiration to see the many donations that have been given to us for the hospital over the last year and we are so grateful to be part of a very caring community.

Another thank you goes to the hospital administration for continuing to include the volunteers in opportunities to get their vaccine during the additional clinics. The volunteers really feel part of the hospital team!

Please feel free to email (lemmert@centflhealth.org) or call me (352-751-8871) with any questions or concerns. I enjoy hearing from you! Have a great April.

John McGinnis, Shuttle Driver
Gift Gallery’s New Manager Unwraps Some Plans

UF Health The Villages® Hospital Auxiliary Foundation is excited to have Linda Crane join us as the manager of the hospital’s Gift Gallery.

Linda started on March 1 and has already identified several plans and ideas to help the Gift Gallery become even more efficient. She is working on getting the news out about the amazing sales that the Gift Gallery will be having. There are nice items available for purchase by both patients and employees.

Linda brings with her a wealth of experience in the retail industry. Prior to joining the Foundation, Linda was manager at the Leesburg Hospital thrift shop.

She has had 20-plus years running online stores selling products and merchandise using platforms such as eBay and Etsy. Linda says, “I love the open communication and transparency here at The Villages® Foundation” and “I would like to see more traffic from customers coming through the gift shop because there are so many great things here.”

Linda wants to make people more aware that when they shop at the Gift Gallery not only are they buying great items but they are also supporting the hospital. We know she will be a great asset to the Foundation. Welcome to the team!

~By Angelina T. Cooper

A Note From Don Henderson, VP of UF Health

On Friday, March 19, 2020, one year ago—UF Health Central Florida received its first confirmed COVID-19 patient at UF Health Leesburg Hospital, marking the arrival of the pandemic in our area.

At each step, we took the necessary — and sometimes extraordinary — steps to be a leader in COVID-19 testing, treatment and safety measures. It is because of our amazing team members that we continue to provide hope to so many residents in Lake, Sumter and Marion counties.

A commemorative timeline for the UF Health system, “COVID-19 Reflections,” has been published online. I am pleased to share that the number of positive COVID-19 cases in our facilities continues to decline with 33 patients, as of March 19, 2021, between both UF Health Central Florida hospitals. Plus, there is more hope in sight as the vaccine continues to be more widely available to area residents.

Thank you for all you have done and for all you continue to do. We would not be able to see this light at the end of the tunnel without your daily dedication and diligence.

~Excerpt from “Friday Update” March 19, 2021
On the Lighter Side …

Why do some foods, such as spaghetti and lasagna, always taste better when left over a day or two? I actually Googled it. It is due to ingredients such as garlic, onion and herbs that produce the flavors and aromas that continue improving, with time spent in the refrigerator overnight, as they react with the proteins and starches.

One could say it’s an example of how good things often take time, and that requires patience. You know, as Cassandra Clare famously quoted, “Patience, grasshopper, good things come to those who wait.”

We often struggle with patience, but evidently that’s a part of human nature. “How much longer?” we ask. “WHAT is the problem? I am running out of patience!” Oops, I’m yelling.

How did it happen that we seem to expect instant gratification? Well, that Amazon package will arrive the next day ... the dinner I ordered will be here at 6 p.m. ... so WHY is it taking so long to lose five pounds when I go to the gym every other day?! Patience, grasshopper; control thyself.

I find myself twiddling my thumbs, waiting for somebody to hop in the shuttle to be taken to the lot. Traffic at UF Health The Villages® Hospital is still not up to normal speed (yet) and there are down times. Like the other shuttle drivers and all volunteers, we want to be busy, actively doing what we’re there to do. And when that doesn’t happen ... I park under the trees in the lot and peek at a crossword puzzle to keep my mind alert and hope the boss doesn’t appear out of nowhere. Keep your calm, Pam.

I’m also convinced that focusing on one task at a time will be more productive as well as give rise to a calm mind and spirit with less stress and strain. Unlike what happens when I open an encyclopedia and get distracted with so much juicy information that I forget what it was I opened it for in the first place. Stay focused.

Whenever someone asks my husband what he does, he tells them, “I wake up in the morning with nothing to do and by the end of the day I’m only half done.”

That’s how I feel when flitting from one task to another and another and another, without ever finishing any of them. I’m not even half done. If that’s considered “multi-tasking,” I’m convinced it only works for the younger generations ... ya think?

I hope 2021 will reward us the benefits of being patient, calm and focused, and help us to make better decisions and to preserve our relationships with those we care about. Now go visit your favorite pasta place and pick up a lasagna or two and be sure to get enough for leftovers.

No “fooling,” April is humor month, so laugh it up. It’s also time for Christians to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, hunt for colorful eggs, and bask in beautiful spring weather. We have so much to be thankful for; be blessed.

~~By Pam Smothers

Pictures on the Go

with Pam Smothers

Nikki Walker (left), a new hospital volunteer, assists Bennie Exum at the Advanced Surgery Center. Having been a registered nurse for about 45 years, Nikki says, “My main role now is to allay apprehension and tension. Anybody who is having a surgical procedure comes in with a lot of anxiety and concerns, so you want to have a light manner and make them comfortable, and answer any questions they may have.” Nikki also will take families into registration if needed and to the post-op area after their loved one’s surgery is completed.
I Don’t Believe I Can Take Much More!

Oh no, OH NO! What is that I see?
I see from afar, it is heading right toward me.
I think, it’s a Leprechaun, all dressed in green.
I don’t believe it, something I’ve never seen?
It just cannot be, as it is way too tall,
Having to duck as he comes down the hall.
What is he carrying? A pot of gold?
It must be, as that is how the story is told.

As that Leprechaun passed me by,
I couldn’t help but notice the twinkle in his eye.
I was sure mischief would be coming our way,
Instead, what I saw were smiles throughout the day!

Is a pot of gold at the end of every rainbow?
I don’t know if it’s true, but this I know.
Volunteers will tell you right from the start,
Whatever it is, is ever present in their Heart!

~~As seen by W. Roger Akers

Hospital Chaplains

Ralph Donohue  Shirl Edgerly
Bill Eggert  Kathy Peters
Linda Friedman  Bobby Clark
Mary Toler  Laura Jones
Larry Mueller  Tom Devlin
Lynn Mueller  Mike Kennedy
Bonnie Weaver  Nyla Mahood

When Should I Ask for a Chaplain?

- If you are fearful or anxious
- If you are asking “why me?”
- If you feel like crying
- If you are grieving a loss
- If you are trying to find meaning in the experience
- If you are experiencing distress related to spiritual or religious matters
- If you are experiencing family issues
- If you are feeling angry or frustrated
- If you would like to tell your story
- If you are feeling helpless or hopeless
- If prayer might be helpful
- If you do not know how to pray
- If you feel alone...and lonely
- If you need to forgive or be forgiven
- If you are struggling to make decisions
- If you would like to see a clergy person from your faith tradition
- If you want the rituals or sacraments from your faith tradition
- If you want to complete an Advance Directive
This and That

**KUDOS to the Brownwood Freestanding E.R.**

The following WOW story was submitted by a Sumter County EMS provider: “I was dispatched to a Baker Act for an 11-year-old and once we arrived on the scene it was apparent that this was a unique situation. The patient was a long-term foster child who had been moved several times. He requested to bring a torn stuffed animal with him to help him stay calm. The patient went to the Brownwood Freestanding E.R. where he met Josh. I can’t express how impressed I was with the E.R. staff and how much they did for our patient. They took the time to listen to my report and to see the uniqueness of the situation. They even sutured his torn stuffed animal! The child was back with his foster father that night thanks to the care of your team. Thank you to Dr. Strickland, Kristin, Josh and Kelly.”

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**DO YOUR MANDATORY ARCE TESTING**

Open every Tuesday — 7:30–11:00 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 COVID-19 inactivity.**

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**Pictures on the GO**

Top bird?

This is just one Great White Heron who thinks he is king of the road around here. He walks and poses, unencumbered and unafraid, around the hospital as though he owns it.

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**A WOW Story from President and CEO Don Henderson’s Central Florida Health Friday Update**

This is just one Great White Heron who thinks he is king of the road around here. He walks and poses, unencumbered and unafraid, around the hospital as though he owns it.

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**Linen Sale!**

A Fundraising Event Sponsored by UF Health and Auxiliary Foundation

**April 14 & 15**

**WED 7 am – 6 pm / THUR 7 am – 4 pm**

**TVH – Main Lobby**

**100’s of Styles**

Bed, Bath & Home...

Luxury Sheet Sets $39.99 or 3 for $99.99

Free $40 Sheet Set w/ Purchase of 7-pc Bed Set

WAKE-UP REFRESHED!

Infuse Cooling Gel Pillows plus MORE

Never Goes Flat!
Please Don’t Leave!

If that sounds like a heartfelt plea, you are correct! Ye Olde Thrift Shoppe has benefited from the addition of several volunteers who have been unable to participate in their usual duties at The Villages® Hospital because of COVID-19. They have transferred to YOTS from a variety of departments and are enjoying their foray into the resale world working in clothing to sort and price; as well as linens sorting and pricing; on the floor placing merchandise and assisting customers; and as a shift leader responsible for a group of volunteers on a daily shift. Two volunteers also trained as cashiers and one has agreed to help manage as clothing coordinator. When asked what they like most about YOTS, the answers are varied: “I love being busy and it’s a fun busy here”; “I like being around people and helping them any way I can”; “There’s lots to do here—you can find your niche.” If any of these reactions sound intriguing to you, please come by, shop with us and check us out. We are a friendly group and would love to share our store and have your help!

A bonus: As I interviewed our volunteers for this article, I discovered that most plan to stay at Ye Olde Thrift Shoppe even when they can return to the hospital; they plan to volunteer in both places!

Nancy Cummings
Ye Olde Thrift Shoppe

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.

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.
The month of March included a great deal of activity, both inside and out.

1 The façade on Lady Lake Boulevard received siding details on the grouping of four windows (which aren’t really all windows 😊).

2 Inside, the drywall hanging has been completed and the finishing has begun.

3 Workers are tying the roof systems of the two buildings together.

4 Outside, an underground retention system is being installed to manage water in the future parking lot. This infiltrator system includes orange baffles and concrete inlets being put in place by a track hoe operator. Many yards of earth are being moved for this effort; a glance south of the building shows huge mounds of dirt that will be returned after the system is put in place.

5 The large windows on the north and south elevations now have what are called eyebrow trusses; this is the framing for distinctive overhangs called ... what else but eyebrow roofs?

~~Photos and report by Nancy Cummings~~
Spotlight on
A Foundation Staff Member

Have you ever been to Danville, Illinois? Isn't that a city in one of those flyover states?

Well, here are some people who hail from Danville: Dick and Jerry Van Dyke, Gene Hackman, Bobby Short, and Donald O'Connor.

You may have heard of some of them but the most important of all is our own Cathy Reardon. I’m sure you have seen her; she is always around, in and out of the hospital and the East Campus taking care of business.

Cathy graduated from Eastern Illinois University where she majored in business. She followed that by attending the University of Wisconsin where she gained additional expertise in resource development, annual giving and major gifts.

We are lucky to have her here at UF Health The Villages® Hospital Auxiliary Foundation after her years involved in nonprofit fundraising. She would not commit to the number of years, but I can tell you from firsthand experience she is a pro. At the same time, she has raised four children. In addition, she has been a Rotarian for over 20 years (again not committing to the actual number) and is a member of The Villages® Rotary Club-Evening.

Cathy and her husband Bob moved to The Villages® in 2015 and she quickly engaged with the hospital Auxiliary Foundation in 2017 as senior development associate. With the Foundation she has served as the lead for the Hearts for Our Hospital Gala, the Original Cabaret and the Foundation’s Live @ 5 Seminars. She also assists with donor relations.

In our conversation we talked about any spare time she might have. Cathy was quick to point out that she loves helping people through the Foundation but that she engages in water volleyball, fitness classes, yoga, walking and reading. And of course, she saves a little time for her seven grandchildren.

I had two questions that I had to ask. The first was “Do you ever sleep?” Cathy just smiled, as usual. The second was “What drives you?” She quickly responded with a quote written by inspirational speaker and author Vivian Greene, “Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass, it’s about learning to dance in the rain.”

That says it ALL.

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.
How the Auxiliary Foundation Reaches ...  
Staff, Volunteers, the Community and the World  

Check Out the Communication Map

Communication explanation:  
Who sent this to me?

What does all this mean? Well ... you as an Auxiliary volunteer can be bombarded with information from a variety of sources via a variety of methods—all in hopes of making sure you know what is happening at all levels of your hospital, the Foundation, your department and within the Auxiliary membership.

The emails are sometimes sent through a program called Constant Contact and sometimes from the membership tracking software called Volgistics. Facebook is something you would have to seek-out online and join, and the newsletters come both printed and electronically.

You may be tempted to block or unsubscribe to some of these options, but if you do that you just might miss out on something important—like an opportunity to attend an educational lecture on a topic that impacts you or like the holiday gifts or COVID-19 vaccines. So, before you (or someone in your household who shares your email account) blocks or unsubscribes, see if the message is coming from one of the many possible accounts listed.
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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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