



The Courier

Anna Best, Editor

Quarterly Newsletter Council on Volunteer Services
Georgia Health Care, Inc.

February 1, 2023



Message from President Linda Holloway

How quickly time goes by these days! We are already into a new year, and I wish each of you a happy 2023. (I've almost quit writing 2022 on checks and memos!) I am excited about the ways the Council is opening the year to more opportunities to interact, not only in your communities, but also with other hospital volunteers.

The Board of Management met in person in January. This Board is made up of your elected officers, state committee chairs, and your District Directors. It was a joy to listen to each member share what is happening in their hospitals and districts, to learn that more and more volunteers are returning to their places of service, and to hear of plans to get more people involved. District Directors shared the plans that are already underway to have Spring District meetings. I especially want to thank them for the work they have done and to express gratitude to the hospitals that have stepped up to offer to host meetings. It takes a lot of work to get

these organized, and they are doing a super job. Most of you have probably already received registration information about the one in your district. Please plan to attend if at all possible; I think you will be glad you did. Informative programs are being planned, and the interaction with other groups is priceless.

Another goal we have this year is to reimplement the Annual Conference. It is planned for October 16-17. Beth Lewis, Vice President/Conference Chair, has been busily planning for that already, trying to make it affordable for you. So, keep that in mind as you plan for the year, too.

In closing, remember the theme for this year, "Volunteers bring a fresh, caring spirit to those we serve." I share again this quote from the auxiliary liaison at my hospital: "A person's most valuable asset is not a head full of knowledge, but a heart full of love, an ear ready to listen, and a hand willing to help others." Thanks to each of you, as a hospital volunteer, for being that kind of person.



Message from President-Elect Ida Byrd



Hello everyone, what a wonderful time of the year. The hustle and bustle of the holidays are over. I hope all enjoyed

Christmas with family and friends. Now as the new year begins, COVS has had their 1st BOM meeting on January 17. It was an awesome meeting! I was excited to hear what was going on in each hospital,

and the District Directors are planning their District Spring meetings. It was a great gathering of the BOM. The fellowship was awesome. I am so grateful for being a part of this COVS organization and a volunteer with TMC. There's a joy in helping others and making them joyful. I am grateful that I have been on both ends of the spectrum and am loving what I do. Helping others helps me!

Our Volunteers Around Georgia



The **Putnam General Hospital** Auxiliary (Eatonton) donated \$7,000 to their hospital this year. Those monies were used to help pay for flu shots. The auxiliary raised \$595 on their quilt raffle and \$671.50 on their October bake sale. Putnam General is a 25-bed hospital.

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Memorial Hospital Auxiliary (Waycross) distributed hygiene supplies to **Memorial Satilla Health Hospital** patients: shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, Fixodent, and lotion to areas: 2 and 3 Main and the emergency department. The birthing center received 1,000 feeding spoons for new moms as a keepsake for the birth of their babies. And, hospital clergy received religious and inspiring cards to hand out to the patients, visitors, and staff.

Northside Hospital Forsyth Auxiliary volunteers currently have 183 people on their Blue Jacket Connection roster and are receiving applications weekly. A group of those volunteers enjoyed dinner at Marie's Deli followed by the play "Barefoot in the Park." More volunteer get togethers are planned! What a great idea!

Our Volunteers Around Georgia



Colquitt Regional Hospital Auxiliary

(Moultrie) received seven new members this year which brings their membership total to 56 volunteers.

The following is a year-end recap:

- The hospital acquired Cobblestone Nursing Home.
- They had a food bank drive where 464 pounds of food was collected.
- They gave out 120 goodie bags of personal items and blankets for two nursing homes and the newly acquired Colquitt Regional Care and Rehabilitation Center.
- They held a Christmas in July toy drive.
- They gave PACU \$360 for toys for children coming into same-day surgery.
- The Pink Pearl had a clearance sale in the summer and was successful with over \$3,700 in sales.
- They are planning to bring back daily flower delivery to the hospital patients.
- Hospice is making flowers arrangements to be put in local restaurants on their tables with a devotional cards attached to each. They are also providing weekly devotionals to local nursing homes and hosting quarterly birthday parties for one state-run nursing home.

Upton Regional Medical Center

auxiliary members had a great time riding in the Thomaston Christmas Light Parade downtown.

Upton Regional Medical Center honored 38 individuals in December by placing ornaments on the Light for Life memorial tree.

Wellstar Cobb Hospital Volunteers enjoyed a Holiday

Luncheon in December in the hospital's auditorium.

The hospital volunteer staff did a great job of transforming the room into a cozy and festive atmosphere. We are so thankful to be able to meet like this once again!



- End of the year Vendor Sales with Dillards and Adorn were very successful, and sales exceeded our goal. We are looking forward to our next sale in January.
- In December the auxiliary board, along with staff and volunteers at-large, met at Sweetwater Mission in Austell to pack food for those less fortunate. The mission staff have a well thought-out process, and we were able to get quite a bit assembled. We also donated \$250.



Southeast Georgia Health System
(Brunswick/Camden)

We sure ended 2022 on a high note! In December we donated \$100,000 to the Brunswick Campus and \$30,000 to the Camden Campus, named two outstanding Volunteers of the Quarter, made several holiday donations to local organizations, received a Community of Conscience Award, and, perhaps most importantly, all gathered together at our respective campuses for the first time in nearly three years! The holiday luncheons were fabulous!



Northside Hospital Forsyth celebrates 20th birthday!

2002—Square footage—128,000

2002—Inpatient beds—41

2002—Number of ORs—3

2002—ED visits—25,000

2002—Inpatient admissions—2,800

2002—Surgeries—1,700

2002—Baby deliveries—0

2002—Physicians on Staff—212

2002—Employees—300

2023—Square footage—1,200,000

2023—Inpatient beds—396

2023—Number of ORs—25

2023—ED visits—63,000

2023—Inpatient admissions—16,000

2023—Surgeries—18,000

2023—Baby deliveries—3,750

2023—Physicians on Staff—800+

2023—Employees—3,600



Spotlight on **Northside Hospital**

Auxiliary volunteers (Atlanta)...Mary

Driskell, Mona Fletcher, and Nathan Singleton have been distributing treats to the nursing units for a while! They are assisted by Gayle Ryser and Emily Suber and occasionally others who work as subs. Their treat carts serve water, fresh fruit, and a snack like Pop Tarts or energy bars. The staff loves the treats provided by our Patient Relations Customer Service! Howard Shore gets a big thanks for coordinating pet visitations at the NH Benefit's Fairs. Sharlene Cowart, Marie Serafina, Linda Robinson, Colleen Lawrence and Chrystal Lily and their pets greet and visit at the fairs. We appreciate these wonderful people!

Our Volunteers Around Georgia



Wellstar Kennestone Volunteers (Marietta) collected winter clothing items in December to donate to MUST Ministries, a local organization, that serves homeless and financially-challenged families. The donation was taken to MUST December 21, and it was very timely because the freezing weather hit our area of Georgia just a few days later.

The donations included:

- 70 Hats
- 50 pairs of Gloves/Mittens
- 27 pairs of Socks
- 16 Scarves
- 218 Individual Packets of Hot Chocolate



The Women’s Shoppe at **Kennestone** held a successful holiday open house on December 1. The entire gift shop team wore matching Santa shirts, served customers cookies, played Christmas music, and helped everyone get into the holiday spirit. It was the highest grossing holiday open house we have ever had!!

Based on a survey sent out to all 144 active volunteers, the **Kennestone Volunteer Board** started an

initiative in December to have each member of the board deliver handwritten thank you notes to each active volunteer to let them know how much they’re appreciated for their volunteering efforts. The hope is that this initiative can be accomplished by the end of February 2023.



The *Courier* is published in **February, May, August, and November** of each year. The deadline for each of these issues is one month before each publication. Submit your newsletter articles to the editor, Anna Best, at best.dewitt1968@gmail.com. You are also welcome to submit your articles at any time, and they will be held until the next issue. For last minute submissions, please let Anna know as soon as possible, and she will do her best to see your article is published.


*Volunteers don't get paid,
 not because they're worthless,
 but because they're priceless.*
 - Sherry Anderson

Board of Management Meeting

January 17, 2023, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Bellevue Baptist Church, 5925 Price Road, Macon, Georgia



Your COVS Board of Management was busy on January 17 with the work of COVS but they also made time for fun and fellowship. One of their objectives was to plan for in-person Spring District Meetings this year.



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