Fantastic Year for Auxiliary Special Sales

What an absolutely wonderful year we had with our special sales! When we added up the commission of our eleven sales throughout the year, we made over $65,000 for the Auxiliary! It definitely is a joint venture, with many of you helping by volunteering at the sales or making purchases. Patty Davis (Co-Chairman) and I would like to extend a special thank you to all of you!

Unfortunately, the new year didn’t start off well because of a cancellation of our first sale (Jewelry is Fun) in August, due to problems at the corporate level. However, our Uniforms and Scrubs sale in September was a success and, hopefully, our future sales will continue to be.

Our next sale is Your Silver Connection on October 10th & 11th in Duluth and October 12th, 13th and 14th in Lawrenceville. In November, we are having an Electronics sale in Duluth on the 7th & 8th and in Lawrenceville on the 9th & 10th. Of course, we will bring back Masquerade in December for their $5 jewelry just in time for Christmas.

Thank you all again!

Diane Darrow
Co-Chairman Special Sales

Volunteers and friends enjoyed a wonderful afternoon at Dorothy’s retirement party at the home of GMC-Duluth volunteer, Barbara Barber.

DVS Cynthia Chandler congratulates retiring Auxiliary member, Dorothy Rainey on her 32 years of service to Joan Glancy Memorial Hospital and GMC-Duluth.

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Our theme this year is “Waves of Change, Oceans of Opportunity”. Change is a constant in life. Just as waves can range from gentle to crashing, some change is barely noticeable, and others transformational. We have experienced the growth and expansion of our hospital and services that have truly been “Transforming Healthcare”.

Looking forward, as our merger with Northside Hospital progresses, we will see change. With those changes, we will find opportunities to combine our respective strengths to improve, expand, or re-invent the ways in which the Auxiliary can be of service to our hospital and the community. I see an exciting year ahead.

Thank you for making a difference. For the neighbors coming through our doors, you make the hospital experience more positive by giving them time, energy, bright smiles, calming words, and a caring attitude. The positive impact you have, not only within the hospital, but out into the community is immeasurable. Volunteers leave their fingerprints on the lives of others.

Seize the opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to join us as volunteers and consider the opportunities for you to increase your contribution. One significant way is by signing up to help at a Special Sale. Look for sign-up sheets before each sale. Our regular activities at GECC such as birthday parties, shopping cart, and Miss GECC are all opportunities to improve the days of the very special residents there.

I welcome communication from you – questions, ideas, suggestions, emerging opportunities. You can email me at: dianne@pikesonline.net

“No how wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” Anne Frank

Dianne Pike
President

From the President’s Desk

Dorothy Rainey retires after 32 years of Service

On Saturday, September 17th, GMC-Duluth volunteer Dorothy Rainey was joined by many of her fellow volunteers as well as members of the Duluth community for a retirement celebration hosted by GMC-Duluth volunteer, Barbara Barber at her beautiful home in Sugarloaf Country Club. With wonderful food and fellowship, everyone enjoyed celebrating with Dorothy as she visited with each and every person who attended.

As Dorothy spoke to her well-wishers, the underlying theme that resonated was no matter how the buildings changed, the wonderful care and compassion from everyone stayed constant during those 32 years.

As DVS, Cynthia Chandler noted, “Needless to say, Dorothy has seen many changes over the past 32 years as the hospital system has changed and grown and Dorothy embraced that change with every turn. To Dorothy, volunteering is like breathing…it is constant. It brings her great joy to help others, whether it is at the hospital, her church or in the community, volunteering is a way of life for Dorothy Rainey!”

You will probably still see Dorothy on Mondays at GMC-Duluth as she meets the Monday regulars for lunch in the cafeteria. She may not be volunteering per se, but her heart will always belong at GMC-Duluth! As Dorothy has noted on more than one occasion, she sees the GMC heart logo as her family crest, therefore, we are all her family!

Thank you Dorothy! You are truly an inspiration and a treasure to many!

Many thanks to each and every one of you for your love, care, concern and prayers during the illness and death of my daughter, Kathy. All of you helped me face each day knowing others cared.

Ruth Ann Chapin

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Thank you all again!
The world hates change, yet it is the only thing that has brought progress – Charles Kettering

The long hot days of summer have now passed … and as we change into the Fall season, I’d like to reflect on some changes that have taken place during the past few months, particularly at GMC-Duluth.

As you all know, 10-year Volunteer Coordinator, Sunny Ramsay retired and Angela Hamlet from Learning Resources (another 10-year associate) was hired as the new Volunteer Coordinator in Duluth.

Angela has been challenged with the task to recruit dedicated volunteers to place throughout the Duluth and Glancy campuses, with several new placements being established. Because of this, you will not see her in the gift shop as you did with Sunny, but she will be sure to stop by and check on the gift shop volunteers as she does with all other placements throughout the hospital.

For those of you who would like to help recruit new volunteers, one area that we are looking for people is in the gift shop. Because Angela will not be in the gift shop to assist on a regular basis, these volunteers will need good computer skills and must be confident working alone in the shop without assistance.

We are also recruiting volunteers for our yet to be established “volunteer on-call” placement. This placement is similar to our volunteer on-call in Lawrenceville. These volunteers need to be in good physical health as they will be discharging patients, retrieving medical records, patient equipment and delivering newspapers. So, if you know someone who is good with people, has a good sense of direction, have them call Angela and she’ll discuss in more detail with them.

Another area that is being recruited for in Duluth is for the Front Desk. These volunteers also need good computer skills as well as computer skills as they will be looking up patient names on the computer. They will also be banding visitors as they come in the door and giving directions to various locations throughout the hospital.

Angela will be out recruiting at a few events in October, but YOU, the hospital.

Waves of Change, Oceans of Opportunities

The Gwinnett Medical Center Auxiliary held its General Meeting and Installation of Officers on Thursday, July 21, 2016 at 12:00 noon. The theme for the upcoming year is Waves of Change, Oceans of Opportunities. Special guests in attendance were Steve Nadeau, Senior Vice President of Human Resources, Dr. Kimberly Bates, Program Director of Internal Medicine Residency, and Tamey Stith, Administrator at Gwinnett Extended Care Center. Jone Angell and Bruce Wagar, Northeast District Directors of the Council on Auxiliaries/Volunteers of GHA, were in attendance as well.

A welcome was given by President Bill Muller, followed by a wonderful lunch. Cynthia Chandler, Director of Volunteer Services, then presented information about the substantial gifts distributed by the Auxiliary in 2015-2016. Those gifts included:

Aquarium Maintenance at GECC, $2,556; Conference Costs, District Meetings, GHA Meeting, $3,900; Courtesy Cart Supplies/Maintenance, $2,200; Foundation Gala Sponsorship, $10,000; Foundation Golf Tournament (Concussion Institute), $3,000; 3 Wheelchairs for Volunteer on Call at GMC-Lawrenceville, $3,000; 1 Wheelchair for Admissions at GMC-Lawrenceville, $1,000; 8 Wheelchair Cushions and Maintenance, $2,660; 8 IV Pumps, $10,600; Ultra Sound Machine for Simulation Lab, $25,000; GECC Dining Room/Lobby Renovation, $50,000. The total of these gifts is $116,000. In addition to the $116,000 in gifts to the hospital, the Auxiliary also pays for the salary of the Gift Shop Manager.

We are very proud of the time and effort of our volunteers which allowed these gifts to be possible! Thanks to you all for all you do!

The 2015-2016 Auxiliary Board was recognized for their outstanding service by Bill Muller. Sheila Herren then presented information regarding the election of the 2016-2017 Officers. The incoming officers are: Dianne Pike, President; Patti Garrett, President-Elect; Vice-President, Kay Bredder; Recording Secretary, Carrie Sheehan; Corresponding Secretary, Pat Collum; Treasurer, Toni Pitt; and Parliamentarian, Bill Muller. These officers were then installed by Jone Angell and Bruce Wagar.

After pinning of the incoming President and past President, the meeting was adjourned by Dianne Pike.

Patti Garrett
Newsletter Editor

Auxiliary Donates Funds to Help Fall Prevention Team at GMC

Last month, activity boxes arrived at our EDs, medical units at both hospitals, GECC and Glancy Rehabilitation Center. Full of everything from baby dolls, puzzles and beading projects, the activity boxes are designed to give patients with dementia or a confused mental state additional ways to occupy their minds. In addition to adding to patient satisfaction, activity boxes also help reduce the need for restraints as well as the risk of falls.

Not only are patients likely to be less agitated, they are also less likely to get out of bed. The idea for the activity boxes came from the Falls Prevention Committee, and the GMC Auxiliary agreed to fund the project. Thanks to everyone involved in making the activity boxes available to patients. This is a great example of compassion care and keeping patients safe!