From the President’s Desk

This year's theme for the Auxiliary is “Seeds of Kindness; Flowers of Hope”. I have personally witnessed many volunteers planting seeds of kindness by their actions toward others at GMC. These acts have the potential to change attitudes, and even lives. Many people who come into Gwinnett Medical Center have anxiety and stress because of their situations. Our kindness to them can help relieve this stress. It can change the course of their day or even their outlook on life, even if for a short time, and give them hope for the future. So let’s all continue on our path of kindness and, hopefully, influence others to be kind as well! Here are some ways that I see you all spreading kindness and inspiring hope:

1. Smiling and greeting others with enthusiasm.
2. Showing genuine interest in others and their situations.
3. Going out of your way to assist someone with a problem and helping them solve it.
4. Striking up a conversation to establish communication.

You all are amazing so keep up the good work!

We recently held our February General Meeting and Luncheon and it was such an enjoyable and informative time. I want to express a special thanks to Dr. Leslie Leigh, GMC Neonatologist, for taking the time to give us such a wonderful presentation about our NICU. He is truly a treasured employee of Gwinnett Medical Center.

We are so fortunate to have Cynthia Chandler, Angela Hamlet and Jill Morris as our leaders here at GMC. They all are compassionate professionals who work very hard to support us in everything we do. It is obvious that they enjoy their jobs and their enthusiasm motivates us to be the best that we can be!!

Ruby Sarver, the “gift shop queen”, is also someone special to us. With her smile and kind heart, she brings joy to the volunteers around her and those entering the shops. We are grateful to have her! Remember, you all DO make a difference!

“Do your little bit of good where you are, it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.” – Desmond Tutu

Patti Garrett,
President

Departmental Highlight:
GMC-Duluth Endoscopy

While an Endoscopy procedure may be non-surgical, simple and low risk, it still may cause uncertainty and anxiety in patients. GMC-Duluth typically sees 10 or sometimes as many as 16 endoscopy procedures on any given day. It can be hectic and fast-paced. Volunteers in the department from Monday through Friday help to transport patients, prepare rooms, stock supplies and often just sit with patients and their loved ones.

Jackie Ha is one of those seasoned volunteers who absolutely loves serving in Endoscopy and that sentiment is mutual. He believes his purpose is bigger than a task. His purpose is “to provide all patients with the best possible experience”. I’m happy to be here – to be a part of something bigger than me."

Kay Bredder is also a veteran volunteer in Endoscopy. She says, “I realize the nurses are seeing to all the immediate and important needs. If I can help them with other duties, with warm blankets, cleanup and stocking supplies contributing to the department’s efficiency, then I’m there for them."

Jayden Pak is a new volunteer and has the advantage of speaking fluent Korean. He serves on Thursdays which is a high volume day for procedures from the Korean community. Recently, the charge nurse shared that one day Jayden overheard a family discussing how they would drive home after the procedure. Jayden communicated that conversation with the nurses. The nurses were able to get the hospital interpreter and clarify their questions; alleviating their fears.

Gurpreet Nokwal volunteers two times per week while accumulating credit hours towards requirements for nursing school. “I have learned many valuable skills while volunteering in this department”, he shared. “Wendy and all the staff treat me as part of their team and I feel valued.”

Each one of our volunteers experience a shift from “me centered” to “we centered” when walking down these hospital halls. They give their time, experience, attention and heart to their tasks and to our patients.
Special Sales Report

We’ve been having a great year with our sales, thanks to all of you who volunteer your time to work at the sales. We still have several sales coming up including our popular Sparkle Life Jewelry sale, May 8-10. We also have a new vendor on May 10 only with cakes for sale just in time for Mother’s Day. June 12-14 will end this year’s sales with Adorn Jewelry.

Please let your friends know so they can help support our great hospital system.

Patty Davis
Chairman, Special Sales

GMC Neonatal Intensive Care Highlighted at Auxiliary General Meeting & Luncheon

The GMC Auxiliary General Meeting and Luncheon was held on Thursday, February 22nd at the GMC Resource Center.

Patti Garrett, Auxiliary President opened the meeting and introduced special guests in attendance, including: Steve Nadeau, Senior Vice President of Human Resources, Sandy Booth, GMC Chaplaincy, Kathryn Leach and Carla Summers, Northeast District Directors of the Georgia Hospital Association Council on Volunteer Services and Dr. Leslie Leigh, Neonatologist, our guest speaker.

The program presented by Dr. Leigh highlighted GMC’s Level III Neonatology Intensive Care Unit. Dr. Leigh pointed out that in fiscal year 2016, the Gwinnett Women’s Pavilion had 5,532 deliveries and the NICU had 603 admissions with an average daily census of 37 babies.

One of the main reasons a baby is admitted to the NICU is due to prematurity. Babies born early (less than 37 completed weeks) is the most common reason for a NICU admission. Premature babies aren’t quite physically and developmentally developed and are unable to transition to the outside environment as well as full-term babies. They can’t control their body temperature and often have excessive weight loss and unstable vital signs, which all affect long-term neurological outcome. These babies need to remain in a controlled, enclosed environment known as an isolette or incubator, which provides heat to keep a constant body temperature and mimics the uterine environment. Higher caloric food is given to these delicate patients, along with IV hydration and other evidence-based therapies. Other reasons for admissions include: anemia, breathing problems, congenital heart defects, feeding issues, hypoglycemia, jaundice, and sepsis.

With a collaborative team of specialists to ensure that each patient receives the individualized care they need, the NICU Team consists of experts including: Six Board Certified Neonatologists, Nine Neonatologist Nurse Practitioners, 110 neonatal nurses, 25 respiratory therapists, and one social worker.

In 2016, the Gwinnett Women’s Pavilion introduced a state-of-the-art NICU ambulance to provide quick, customized and safe transportation for premature babies. The dedicated ambulance allows for our transport team to move critically ill babies from smaller community hospitals unable to provide the specialized care of our NICU.

GMC Hosts Council on Volunteer Services Spring District Meeting

The Northeast District of the Council on Volunteer Services of the Georgia Hospital Association held their Annual Spring Meeting at the GMC Resource Center on Wednesday, March 28th. The theme of the luncheon was “Volunteering…Something to Crow About”!

The room was decorated with ceramic roosters and the tables were adorned with spring plants with rooster stakes. After a short meeting and delicious lunch, guest speaker, Dr. Mark Darrow gave an informative presentation on age related changes to our health. Dr. Darrow is the Director of the GMC Residency Program and specializes in Internal and Geriatric Medicine. He encouraged all of us to get flu, tetanus, shingles and pneumonia shots and to exercise 20 to 30 minutes a day, four to five days a week to stay healthy.

GMC Auxiliary President Patti Garrett and the board did an outstanding job and our own Betty Walls was elected Membership Chairman and will chair the nominating committee at the State Conference in October.

Volunteers Judy and John Fletcher are just two of the many volunteers who assist at our Special Sales.

Dr. Leslie Leigh, GMC Neonatologist

Dr. Mark Darrow, GMC Residency Director

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