Spotlight on Ruby Sarver, Gift Shop Manager

Ruby Sarver is Gwinnett Medical Center’s outstanding Gift Shop Manager. She purchases and displays merchandise for all seasons. Ruby demonstrates to each person that enters the gift shop her bright smile and friendly manner. She always takes time to catch up with Associates and Volunteers and extends warmth to patients that need uplifting. Ruby strives to bring exceptional merchandise to the shop to portray the feeling of an upscale boutique, it is much more than a hospital gift shop. Thank you Ruby for your dedication in bringing excellence to Gwinnett Medical Center!

Everyone who supports the gift shop makes it possible for the Auxiliary to fund various medical needs and equipment for the hospital. When you shop for a gift, holiday decoration or even candy, you have helped the Auxiliary to fund various medical needs and equipment for the hospital. When you shop for a gift, holiday decoration or even candy, you have helped the Auxiliary to fund various medical needs and equipment for the hospital. When you shop for a gift, holiday decoration or even candy, you have helped the Auxiliary to fund various medical needs and equipment for the hospital. When you shop for a gift, holiday decoration or even candy, you have helped the Auxiliary to fund various medical needs and equipment for the hospital.

Special Sales Help Raise Funds for GMC Projects

We have started the fiscal year with good sales so far. We have three sales behind us with many more to come. We will be having Collective Goods in November, Masquerade in December, both of these are great sales to get those last minute gifts for Christmas. We will also have Nothing Bundt Cakes on Nov 20th for Thankgiving and also Dec 21st for Christmas. Plan to save your time and energy by purchasing cakes or cupcakes from them. We will start the New Year in January with our One Touch Linen sale. In February, we will have our scrub sale again. We will also have another cake sale for Valentine’s Day. Once again we thank you for helping with our sales, we could not do this without you!

Patty Davis
Chairman of Special Sales

From the President’s Desk

I am so excited to welcome Fall and the change of weather! Pumpkins, colorful leaves and cooler mornings. Though the seasons change, our commitment to volunteering at Gwinnett Medical Center remains consistently strong.

Heart health: Pumpkin seeds contain phytosterols, a plant-based compound that supports healthy cholesterol levels. In fact, phytosterols can lower the levels of LDL, the bad cholesterol, by about 10 percent. So, consider enjoying pumpkin seeds to strengthen your heart!

I’d like to thank our Auxiliary members for your continued service and I appreciate all of you uniting. Please share with your friends the opportunities that our hospital provides. When we put on our navy uniform, we become a part of something special. Whether you deliver needed equipment to a patient’s room, ring up a sale at the gift shop, give directions to a visitor, or walk a patient to a testing area, your contributions are appreciated. Each action contributes to making GMC the best and most welcoming hospital in Atlanta.

As we ease into the coming holiday season, let us be examples of those who keep spirits bright. Some patients and visitors may be missing their hearth and home and may need your bright smiles as we need theirs too. United we smile and serve!

Best wishes to each of you, and most importantly, Thank You!

Carrie Sheehan
Auxiliary President

Auxiliary Supports Paint Gwinnett Pink as $1,000 Sponsor

Gwinnett Medical Center presented Paint Gwinnett Pink 5K Walk/Run on Saturday, October 27, 2018 at Coolray Field. Over 1,600 participants took part in the third annual event to support breast cancer patients. The $160,000 in funds that was raised from this event will go to funding the latest diagnostic technology for breast cancer, providing access to mammograms and surgical consultations and patient access to comfort items needed during cancer treatment. The funds from this event remain in our own community to assist individuals in need facing a breast cancer diagnosis.

Gloria had been prepped by Suzy, our Patient Liaison in Surgical Services for the survey. However, Suzy nor Gloria knew Suzy would be away from the desk when the surveyor stopped by. Gloria did an excellent job speaking to our process when a patient and his/her family arrive in our surgery waiting area. Gloria was able to confidently speak to HIPAA, patient/family updates and how to handle concerns in the waiting area. I was very proud of Gloria as she represented Volunteer Services and GMC! Thank you Gloria for all you do for our organization, our Surgical Services waiting room and for our patients and their families! You are very, very appreciated!

Cooper A. Baker, BSN, RN, CAPA
Clinical Manager, Pre-op, Surgical Services

Volunteer Experiences Honor Flight
Volunteer Services Conference
Auxiliary Supports Paint Gwinnett Pink
Board Members Attend 59th Annual Council on Volunteer Services Conference

The Annual Conference of Volunteer Services was held on October 22-24 in Augusta, GA. Cynthia Chandler, Carrie Sheehan, Sara Lundy and Betty Walls attended workshops and visited vendors that support Gwinnett Medical Center Auxiliary. Many educational sessions were held, including:

- How to set up a meaningful training program to motivate volunteers
- Hospital Volunteers: Beyond the Five Senses
- Infection Control and how we need to protect ourselves while we are volunteering
- What to do in an Active Shooter situation
- How to maintain health and longevity for our brains and bodies
- Presenting ourselves to the public as volunteers

At one of the General Sessions, we learned valuable information as it relates to Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia from Theresa Bayman, Director of Program and Services of the Alzheimer's Association. She spoke about Knowing the Ten Signs of Alzheimer's/Dementia which include:

1. Memory loss that disrupts daily life
2. Challenges in planning or solving problems
3. Difficulty completing familiar tasks at home, at work or at leisure
4. Confusion with time or place
5. Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships
6. New problems with words in speaking or writing
7. Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps
8. Decreased or poor judgement
9. Withdrawal from work or social activities
10. Changes in mood and personality

The Conference helps our Board members bring pertinent information back to our hospital. Some of these important topics are shared with our Auxiliary Membership at our General Meetings.

Volunteer Harold Deets Experiences Honor Flight

In May of 2005, the first flight to Washington DC for WWII veterans was taken. Now there are 45 hubs across the US and 200,000 veterans have been flown free of charge to DC to see the memorials along with assigned volunteer companions. WWII, Korean and now, Vietnam veterans are getting the change to go on this trip.

September 19, 2018 I had the great privilege of being one of 25 veterans from the Conyers hub who were flown to Washington, DC. What a thrilling experience!

We met at 4:30 in the morning. We got our t-shirts and other items supplied by the honor flight organization, met with our companions, were given some instructions, met our veteran motorcycle escort group and having heard Revele played, we went on a bus to Hartsfield Jackson Airport. We were accompanied not only by motorcycles but 25 police cars as well. They blocked on-ramps until we passed. We were fed breakfast on the bus.

Arriving at the airport we were ushered through special security set up. We were greeted by many people, some with signs thanking us for our service. A far cry from the reception we Vietnam veterans received when we returned from Vietnam. This outpouring of appreciation brought tears to most of our eyes.

On board the plane, the pilot acknowledged our honor group. By 8:30 a.m. we arrived at Reagan International Airport in DC. We were again met with people welcoming us. We were boarded onto another special bus and started our police escorted tour of the memorials. We had lunch on the grounds. The last stop was Arlington to watch the changing of the guard. The bus driver told us that the guards scuff their heel on the sidewalk as they are leaving their post as a greeting to the honor flight veterans.

We returned to Regan International Airport where we were treated to a buffet supper in a conference room. There we each received a packet of cards and notes from kids and adults thanking us for our service. We boarded our plane back to Atlanta and were again escorted by motorcycles and police cars. At every overpass along I-85, there were fire trucks with all their lights flashing.

We arrived back at Conyers American Legion Post where we were again greeted with a fire truck and its boom extended and American flag waving where we said our goodbyes to new friends as Taps was played. A perfect ending to a perfect day!

Any WWII, Korean or Vietnam veteran interested in going on a future flight can download and complete and application form at http://www.honorflightconyers.com. You won’t be sorry! The trip and the attention to every detail was amazing. It was a memorable day!

Harold Deets, GMC Cart Driver

Breakfast with Santa Scheduled for Saturday, December 8th!

Breakfast With Santa will be held this year on Saturday, December 8th. We welcome all associate’s and volunteer’s children and grandchildren to attend this wonderful holiday gathering! Tickets will go on sale in mid November in the Gift Shop. Mark your calendars to attend!

Brenda Falkler & Carrie Sheehan Co-Chairs, Breakfast with Santa