



The Pulse



Volunteer Services Newsletter

January 2022

PAWS Program

You've seen our furry volunteers in action, and we know many of you enjoy your time with them. We thought you may be interested in learning more about this great program which has been in existence for more than 18 years.

When someone considers joining our PAWS program, it is often an interesting conversation.

- We've had people call and think that we have dogs on the premises, and they can just come in and walk around with a dog that we supply for them.
- Sometimes they have another animal that they want to bring in such as a cat or a rabbit. While those animals may be certified for pet therapy, we only allow dogs in our program.
- We have calls from individuals who have their dogs certified through other agencies and we gently tell them that we only accept Pet Partners' registered dogs for our facility.

From doing the home study course to having their dog evaluated to shadowing and to be shadowed, there are many protocols before a handler and their dog become part of the program. We are grateful for all the steps that our handlers undergo to join this program and grateful for the dogs' demeanor that enables them to be a good fit for PAWS.

A shout out to one of our handlers, Debbie Zdanowicz who chose to pursue her evaluator's certification enabling us to do quarterly evaluations locally and on-site.



During the evaluation, many of our handlers assist in various exercises.



A new handler shadowing an existing team.

And then of course, the visits



Even though we are not yet allowing visits to patient rooms, the staff are benefiting greatly. This of course, translates into less stress for them and better care for our patients.

And, the visits throughout the lobby areas benefit many patients and visitors who are waiting for procedures, tests, etc.

The heartwarming stories are endless – here is a recent one that we captured:



Cynthia and Cali were finished visiting on their regularly scheduled shift. Cynthia shared that she always knows when Cali is getting tired and she honors those cues. As they were leaving the building, Cali pulled Cynthia over to a bench where a couple was seated. The couple immediately started hugging Cali and proceeded to tell their story about a loved one who was hospitalized. It was evident that Cali knew they needed support and even though she had shown signs of being tired, she was "there" for them and stayed an extra 20 minutes. As Cynthia was reflecting on this, she added, "It's never about Cali, it's always about other people."

You've heard the phrase, "You lucky dog," well, we think they are lucky since they are the only volunteers not required to wear masks!!!

Outpatient Services Building Update - West Campus

At the time of writing this article, some physician practices and out-patient services have moved into this new building; the remaining tenants are scheduled in January. Volunteers will be serving in their new roles very soon. With three floors of services, we will continue to need additional volunteers. If you are physically able to walk and transport significant distances and are interested in exploring this area of service, please contact us.



Some of the volunteers who are ready to begin their new role



Paul was explaining that it was time for Bruce to “take the con” in other words, it was his turn to sit by the computer. Not only was it his turn, but he left a warmed-up chair with good vibes!

Submit Your Nominations for the 2021 Volunteer of the Year!

Please see insert in this newsletter for additional information on how to nominate someone



*“Gratitude is the inward feeling of kindness received.
Thankfulness is the natural impulse to express that feeling.”
~ Henry Van Dyke*

How kind, how generous, how thoughtful – our sincere thank you to everyone who extended well wishes, cards and gifts – all were greatly appreciated!



Featuring a Few of the Volunteer Long-term Partnerships

The nation-wide trend of short-term volunteer commitments doesn't apply to most of our program and especially not to the volunteers featured below. These photos include a few of the partnerships who have been together for more than 5 years in their roles. The friendships that form, the ability to coordinate tasks, and the camaraderie is all a pleasure to observe.



Some of their comments:

- My partner was my trainer when I started at the Information Desk. She is a wonderful person who over the years has become family. I am the lucky one.
- Wow – 9 ½ years – Time flies when you are having fun. Working with my partner has been a terrific experience. We have become a support system in many ways. It is great to have him in charge!
- My partner is an absolute joy to work with – never a dull moment when she is around! And the reply to that ... “Shirley you jest, Shirley is the best!” Team player all the way around.
- Our 7 years working together has been a joy. We support and complement each other. We have fun while giving 100% to our duties.

Volunteer Uniforms

To address an often-asked question,
“Will we change uniforms with the Dignity affiliation?”
While the answer is yes, we do not know *when* this will occur.

Therefore, we'll proceed with the
Uniforms Exceptions for the 1st Quarter until further notice!



Super Bowl February 7 - February 13

Wear your favorite team's jersey even *if* they
aren't playing in the super bowl

Valentine's Day February 13 - 19

Wear pink or red



St. Patrick's Day March 13 - 19

Wear green



AWARDS LIST

Volunteers Awarded During

October, November, December 2021

100 Hour Pin

Diane Blakely
Jim Booth
Pat Bouchard
Broni Bruce
Chloe Daniels
Larry Gordon
Sharlia Hartness
Marie Ellen Lorenz
Rich Otto
Lorraine Owensby
Jo Poulsen
David Rusnock
Linda Jean Schiltz
Kathy Sischka

200 Hour Pin

Kathy Dulley
Chris Latta
Herdis Maclellan
Bill Markham
Gayle Scott

350 Hour Bar

Darryl Humphry
Lynette McCormick
Jim McKie
Veronica Mobley
Gloria Ramirez
Deirdre Rogers

500 Hour Bar

Joe Baker
Laura Meek
Phil Ritter
Amy Russell
Karin Schultz

850 Hour Bar

Debbie Behrends
Mary D'Angina
Wendell Emery
Gary Jenkins
Tammy Kempton
Debbie Putman
Diana Taylor

1000 Hour Bar

Bob Coyne
Sandra Coyne
Mary Kerper
Mary Kelly
Larry Neece

1500 Hour Bar

Philip Bird
Lana Fielding
Barbara Heeringa

2000 Hour Bar

Kim Haugen
Bob Herrick

2500 Hour Bar

Norm Delucchi

3000 Hour Bar

Constance Lyon

3500 Hour Bar

Larry Christensen
Kathy Avery

5000 Hour Bar

Rich Schoen

5 Year Pin

Kathy Avery
Fran Hattendorf
Oralia Kaufman
Michael Resnick

10 Year Pin

Bonnie Marshall
John J Peters

20 Year Pin

Mary Dunn
Phyllis Sylvester

**Congratulations
and Thank You!**



Making December Days Merry and Bright!

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