

Connections

Newsletter for hospital volunteers, students & friends of Roper St. Francis Healthcare

April/May 2023

Happy National Volunteer Week!

Thank you, thank you! We are blessed with the most wonderful team of compassionate, hard-working and generous volunteers. You ease the work burden for the staff, improve the experience for countless patients and simply make work fun!

National Volunteer Week is April 16 - 22, 2023. Volunteer recognition week events are planned for each facility. Please touch base with your volunteer manager for details.

To Our Volunteers:

I am continuously amazed at the wonderful Volunteers we have throughout Roper St. Francis Healthcare who are living witnesses of our mission and help us in so many ways! These are indeed the very best people of our community and society as they realize the secret of life and happiness...to serve and help others in giving of themselves, sharing their time and talents to make a better world.

We are especially blessed at Roper St. Francis Healthcare for all our Volunteers who have responded to the needs of our system and community. They enhance our daily work and culture to help make us one of the best healthcare systems in the country!

Sincere thanks to each and every Volunteer as we celebrate National Volunteer Week! You make us so much better by your very presence and tender compassion. Please know you have our support and prayers always!

Mark Dickson
VP of Mission



Acts of Kindness Award

Roper Hospital Respiratory Therapist Josh Denton has been honored as our annual Acts of Kindness winner for the extraordinary compassion he showed to a dying patient.

The Acts of Kindness Award is sponsored by the volunteer department and honors teammates who have provided an extra measure of compassion and kindness to our patients. Teammates are recognized quarterly when nominated for the award and the annual award winner is picked from among these wonderful examples of teammates going above and beyond.

Denton was nominated by Selena Anderson, who shared the story of a patient who was in multisystem organ failure and not improving despite aggressive medical therapies.

As the patient continued to decline, the family made her a DNR and started to contemplate withdrawing care. The patient's husband asked Selena if the respiratory therapist was working but unfortunately it was his day off. The husband requested that the respiratory therapist be called and asked to come in to play a song on his ukulele for the patient.

The family proceeded to relate how gentle and caring the respiratory therapist was with the patient and how grateful they were for him. They said they had never seen a healthcare worker care so compassionately.

Selena sent Josh a text message and he responded that he already had plans for the night. Selena told the family that the respiratory therapist had prior engagements and they understood.

Thirty minutes later, the respiratory therapist showed up on his day off to provide emotional support to this dying patient and her family.

He cancelled his plans and came in to play a song on his ukulele for the family and the patient.

The teammate's manager says that he always puts patient care first. This is only one example of the love and happiness this teammate brings to all of his patient's lives, spreading joy everyday while he works.

We congratulate Josh on all his accomplishments, but most of all for demonstrating the mission of Roper St. Francis Healthcare through his Act of Kindness.

Congratulations Josh! You make us proud.



Mark Dickson & Josh Denton

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital** welcomes volunteers interested in serving as Lobby Ambassadors on morning from 8 a.m. - 12 noon. This role is a whirlwind of activity that includes grabbing an extra wheelchair, tidying magazines and escorting lost patients to their appointments. One of our current ambassadors says "It is very rewarding. Simply being available helps ease the anxiety people have of coming to a hospital. I offer a pleasant welcome and walk them towards their destination." Information Desk opportunities available.
- **Mt. Pleasant Hospital** welcomes Golf Cart Driver on Monday and Friday mornings, Information Desk on Thursday morning, Medical Office Building Greeter on Monday mornings, Pet Therapy, Guitarist and Piano Player.
- **Roper Hospital** welcomes volunteers interested in Information Desk; Lobby Ambassadors and Piano Player.

RSFH is growing! Berkeley Hospital to expand



State regulators issued the final green light for Roper St. Francis Berkeley Hospital to more than double in size within four years. Utility site work should start in spring of 2023 with groundbreaking of the expansion to occur by Q3. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by then end of 2025.

Roper Hospital relocating



Roper St. Francis Healthcare will make an unprecedented investment in Lowcountry patients by building a new Roper Hospital Medical Campus in North Charleston.

The campus will occupy 27-acres near Interstates 26 and 526 and be easily accessible for patients living in Berkeley, Charleston or Dorchester counties. growing areas in the country.

Volunteer News

- Our Valentine's Day baby at Berkeley Hospital received a snugly hand crocheted blanket and hat.
- We extended our condolences to Stephanie Wilson, MPH Mammography Suite Volunteer, on the passing of her mother.
- Our BSSF gardens need attention during the morning hours. Consider spending time in the coolness of our gardens while clearing the walkways. This is an ideal job for families looking for a place they can work together and provide a space outside in which others can meditate or sit quietly while their loved one is in the hospital.
- BSSF Volunteers be sure to check out the bulletin board in the volunteer office of for position openings, brief stories of success and answers to questions that occur.
- Get Well wishes from all of us to Eugene Lemmon, Nancy Schwanke, Lynn Witte, Gary Gardner, Charlotte Walker, Helen Allen. We miss you and wish you to be back to 100% soon.
- A group of off-campus volunteers get together twice a month to craft cheerful tray cards for Roper St. Francis Berkeley Hospital patients.



- Help us spread the word about the Volunteer Fair on Wednesday, May 17, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Waring Senior Center! A great event to link local organizations with volunteers in Charleston. We'll be there! Send a friend to find out more on volunteering with RSFH.



Volunteers spread St. Patrick's Day cheer! Everyone enjoyed dressing up and joining in the fun.

Welcome New RSFH Volunteers

RSFH Berkeley Hospital: Welcome our new volunteers, Steve Campbell, Tammy Jeffirs, Lisa Watkins, Amber Sharkey and Trevor.

Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital: Welcome our new volunteers, Liz Digiore, Infusion; Sara Campbell and Grayson Clontz, Golf Cart Drivers. Welcome back Barbara Brown, Mammography.

RSF Mount Pleasant Hospital: Welcome new volunteers, Olga Torrano, Mammography Suite and Erick Won, Medical/Surgical Floor Volunteer.

Roper Hospital: Welcome Kevin West, Pastoral Care.

Meet New Leaders



Matt Desmond is the regional president of Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital and RSF Mount Pleasant Hospital. In this role, he will have day-to-day administrative oversight of Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital in partnership with Chief Nursing Officer Tavia Buck and Chief Medical Officer Mitch Siegan. Matt also is our vice president operations.

Troy Powell is the regional president of Roper Hospital and RSF Berkeley Hospital. In this role, he will have day-to-day administrative oversight of Roper Hospital in partnership with Chief Nursing Officer Sue Bennett and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Stan Wilson. Troy also will continue his duties as vice president of continuing care.



Upcoming Events:

On **Wednesday, April 19**, Concert Pianist, Aiden Gramse, Senior at Ashley Ridge High School, will be performing classical music in the MPH lobby from **11a.m.—12 Noon**. Aiden has been playing piano since he was a small child.

Thank you to all presenters from recent events: Katie Dickson, Director of Horticulture at Boone Hall Plantation Gardens; Michelle Steinbrecher, RSFH RN Supervisor; Jackie Fritz-Roy, award winning impressionist artist; and The Wando Chorus for their recent performance at MPH.

Pick up your paintbrush: RSFH's new Arts in Medicine program is looking for volunteers. If you or someone you know might be interested in volunteering as an artist at a RSFH hospital, please contact Peg Hughes at peg.hughes@rsfh.com.



A group of off-duty Berkeley Hospital volunteers gathered to socialize at Agave restaurant for laughter, food and camaraderie.



Celebrate!

National Volunteer Week

April 16 - 22

National Nurses Week

May 6 - 12

National Hospital Week

May 7 - 13

Look for festivities at your facility.

Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital

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Roper Hospital

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RSF Berkeley Hospital

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"Life is not about having everything. It's about finding meaning in everything."
- Joel Randymar

