February 2014

Tahoe Forest Hospital District Auxiliary Newsletter

The Pulse

Happy New Year!

Presidents Message – David Nahrvar

I attended a couple of meetings initiated by Irene King, our treasurer, about Gift Tree operations. The first meeting was on the proposed new procedures attended by Irene Garvey. The second meeting was more of a brainstorming session with Gift Tree volunteers where we talked about overall Gift Tree operations and shared ideas. I believe the meeting was very productive and I enjoyed our session. THANK YOU Irene for organizing the meetings.

It was nice to see many of our volunteers attending the HIPAA session in early December despite the challenging weather conditions. Some very important information was shared. THANK YOU Ann for organizing the event. Again our Pat Hemig was kind enough to let us have our Auxiliary Holiday Party be hosted at her beautiful place. THANK YOU Pat for your kindness again. THANK YOU Criss Rojas for taking care of the logistics.

Planning was started on some new proposals for 2014 Auxiliary fundraising events. More information will be shared as we work on the details with concerned parties.

I believe it is important to have a mission statement to establish what it is we hope to represent, achieve or deliver. One suggestion is “To provide exceptional volunteer services and support to others with passion and understanding.” What do you believe is important? Any and all suggestions will be considered and appreciated. Please place your ideas or comments in my mailbox in the Auxiliary Office.

Information from Ann Mazzini

• The decision to activate the surgical mask requirement for flu unvaccinated HCWs was based on:
  o Reports of influenza-like illness (ILI) in outpatients and inpatients
  o TFHS Lab reports of (+) Rapid Flu tests
  o Public Health Officer order

The 2013-14 flu vaccine is designed to protect against 3 or 4 flu viruses depending on which vaccine you get. Although many forms of flu vaccine are available, the CDC doesn’t preferentially recommend one type of vaccine over another. All flu vaccines for 2013-14 are designed to protect against H1N1 which is currently the predominant flu virus. It is not too late to be vaccinated. Flu season typically continues until Spring. People at high risk for serious flu complications include: those with underlying chronic medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease, or neurological conditions, pregnant women or those younger than 5 years, older than 65 years of age or anyone with a weakened immune system. It takes 2 weeks for the flu vaccine to become fully effective, so please continue to wear a surgical mask during volunteer hours if you have not been vaccinated with a 2013-14 flu vaccine. You will be notified when the mask requirement is suspended. Get your free flu vaccine @ OccHealth or bring proof of vaccination to Occupational Health if you receive a flu vaccine elsewhere.

Besides vaccination, hand hygiene, cover etiquette & “T” zone awareness reduce germ transmission.

Thank you for doing your part as a germ buster! Article by Laurel Holmer, ICP, can be reached at 582-8231 with questions.
Department Reports

Ambulatory Surgery Report - Isabella Auten

New volunteers: Bette and Connie. Both are a great addition to our team! December happens to be one of our busiest months of the year. People want to get their surgeries done before their deductible runs out. We all love to be busy making folders for the doctors’ offices, packets for the nurses, and most important making sure the patients get to the right place at the right time!! We also help the family members keep in touch with the patient. Everything is running smoothly in our department.

LTC/ECC Report – Marie Clukey

The residents of LTC/ECC have welcomed new volunteer Cynthia Lara and look forward to meeting Guadalupe Herrera Aguilar and Maribel Herrera Aguilar. The residents are most appreciative of the Bingo substitutes in December, David Nahrvar, Rita Holtebeck, and Juanita Schneider. The residents are looking forward to Bingo caller extraordinaire Patrick Betson’s return; they miss the two quacks for 22.

The residents and staff wish to express their gratitude and deepest appreciation to Rita Holtebeck, Christine Marsh, and Susie Zweigle for their work in preparing various items for LTC/ECC’s annual bake sale.

The residents would also like to thank Ginny Topol, Ann Mazzini and an anonymous donor for their extremely generous gifts donated for the Bingo Prize Cart.

Women’s & Family Center/OB Report – Ginny Topol

Our OB department has had a busy winter with December and January already having higher than average number of estimated deliveries. Babies Born: October – 39, November – 31.

The biggest change in our department is the change of leadership which I mentioned in my October report. Missy Purcel has been an employee of TFH for over 15 years in our department alone. She has agreed to take on the position of Interim Nurse Supervisor with the assistance of Jim Sturtevant, Director of Inpatient Services. Missy was overwhelmingly approved by our staff as the most competent and effective person to take on the additional duties and responsibilities of this position.

The storage area across the hall from the O.B. department where the volunteers assemble their work has been moved to the Hospice building. I will be going to the new space to reorganize the area they have cleared for us. We will do our best to make this transition as easy as possible. The move for the entire department to the Med/Surg area has now been delayed until March 2014.

The Department continues to provide services to mothers with breastfeeding issues with Thursday classes at the Wellness Center as well as daily lactation nursing support. We have made a change to our gift bags that our mothers receive. These new bags are about the same size as the older black and white ones but are more colorful – white with lime green trim and have a snap top rather than a zipper and can be used again and again. They will still have our TFH logo on them and could even be used as a shopping bag.

Spotlight on Pat Hemig

Pat Hemig joined the Auxiliary in June of 2009 and is a volunteer in Women & Family. Pat and husband Ron have been Truckee residents since 1992 and will celebrate their 49th wedding anniversary in October of this year.

Pat has used her many talents to bless various auxiliary activities. She sews large stockings during Christmas and Easter for babies to be taken home in and quilts for the New Year’s Baby basket.

Pat has graciously opened her beautiful home for both the Auxiliary’s Installation Luncheon and Holiday Party. Talk about creativity, not only does Pat sew, she bakes and beautifully decorates cakes, and designs and produces her own Christmas cards. The interior of the Hemig home has a true designer’s touch and changes with the seasons. The garden has been designed so as to highlight various Truckee landmarks. So great is the garden, it has been previously featured on the Lake of the Sky Garden Tour.

Welcome New Members

Jennifer Bohlman
Andrew Dennis
Connie Gast
Guadalupe Herrera Aguilar
Maribel Herrera Aguilar
Cynthia Lara
Laura Ledwith
Jean Lipscombe
Sandra Wiederkehr
Birthdays
2/10 – Sandra Wiederkehr
2/14 – Irene King
2/19 – Karen Terry
2/27 – Al Noyes
2/27 – Maryellen Wilson
3/02 – Samara Kemp
3/03 – Sandy Hughes
3/08 – Haley Long
3/11 – Phyllis Steele
3/17 – Isabella Auten
3/22 – Karen Johns
3/28 – Bert Guerra
3/31 – Richard Rohlf
4/03 – Jody Zirelli
4/13 – Brad Noel
4/16 – Judy Mayorga
4/20 – Moriah McGraw
4/22 – Judy Lingle
4/24 – Grace Norgard

More Information from Ann Mazzini
Be on the lookout for your annual compliance packet. It will be mailed to you in the next few weeks! Every year Tahoe Forest Hospital District (TFHD) volunteers and employees must complete an educational training packet of compliance material. This is a mandatory program for TFHD to meet State and Federal regulations. Once you complete the training, you can either return the packet forms in the enclosed return envelop, put it in my box in the Auxiliary office or drop it off at the Human Resources Department.

The hospital will purchase a new refrigerator for the Gift Tree with hospital funds. Individuals completing the required 30 volunteer hours to become active members are Patrick Betson, Lori Nauman, and Elizabeth Nash.

Volunteer Hours & Number of Active Volunteers Who Contributed Each Month

October 2013 – 1079 with 66 contributing
November 2013 – 872 with 61 contributing
December 2013 – 910 with 59 contributing

CONGRATULATIONS A 辅助成员
Thank you for your continued support and service! 2013 was a banner year for your service hours exceeding both 2011 and 2012! 2013 total service hours were 11,898!

Treasurer Report
The Profit and Loss Statement (P&L) was reviewed. At the next meeting, for comparison purpose, the last 2 years will be added to the P&L. The Board of Equalization gave notice it will be visiting the Gift Tree to audit their processes. The following areas need further research: determine if it is possible to decrease the Credit Card Fees expenses, determine if See’s Candies income could be categorized as a fund raiser, and determine the status of the Student Special Education expense.

If you have any suggestions regarding what financial information you would like to see or know about, please feel free to send an email to Irene King at aiking@comcast.net

Gift Tree Report
Tuesday, February 11 mark your calendars for a special 1 day jewelry sale in the main lobby. The Gift Tree lobby sale will have lovely and clever things for you or for your Valentine. New merchandise for spring is arriving later in February. The Gift Tree is a great and convenient place to shop with good prices. We have gifts for children and adults, all ages and sizes. Come by and see us!

The Gift Tree’s annual 12 Days of Christmas Sale was a success. There were new things and familiar things and many new scarves.
Inspirational Quotes

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.
**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

The greatest wealth is to live with little.
**Plato**

Progress is impossible without change, and those that cannot change their minds cannot change anything.
**George Bernard Shaw**

A costume is something you put on and pretend that you are what you are wearing. A uniform, on the other hand, reminds you that you are, in fact, what you wear.
**Eunice McGarrahan**

What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.
**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant with the weak and the strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these.
**George Washington Carver**

We make a living by what we get.
We make a life by what we give.
**Winston Churchill**

Nothing endures but change.
**Heraclitus**

The Pulse welcomes volunteer submissions for our newsletter. If you have an item for submission, please forward it to Marie Clukey, Auxiliary Secretary.

Deadlines for submissions are: January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15.
We’d love to hear from you!