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Junior Volunteers rocking it!

Last month, 23 new Junior Volunteers joined our hospital and it’s making a difference! We have a total of 30 Junior Volunteers helping us out in all areas including:

- NICU
- Bookmobile
- Snacks on the Go (selling snacks to our staff)
- Art Therapy for patients
- Making “Get Well” & “Congratulations cards for patients
- Helping organize and stock the ED closet
- Attending knitting classes to learn to make blankets for patients

In the image:
- A group of Junior Volunteers are sitting around a table, engaged in crafting activities.
- Two volunteers are standing next to a bookshelf, likely involved in library-related activities or organizing books.
Junior Volunteers at work

SNACKS ON THE GO

Need an afternoon snack? Our Jr Volunteers visit all floors every afternoon between 1:30-2:30pm selling snacks to those that have a tough time leaving their workstations. We take cash and have a wide variety of snacks and drinks!
All proceeds benefit the Auxiliary.

Make sure to say Hi and Welcome our newest Volunteers. They have been very busy learning about Kern Medical while assisting us. All our Junior Volunteers are interested in the healthcare field and have aspirations of becoming a Nurse, Physician, or other healthcare related position.
This is our future Healthcare team!
One wag at a time...

Channel 17 News wanted to learn about our Pet Therapy services at Kern Medical and discovered a very special lady - June Garbell. Her dream is to help others, one wag at a time.

Our Volunteer June has spent 15 years volunteering at different medical facilities to bring comfort to patients. She has been volunteering at Kern Medical for 4 years and she brings along her trusty companions Gideon and Charlotte, who can light up a room and put a big smile on everyone's faces.

“I never felt so good in my life doing this. It's very important to give because when you give you get back.” June Garbell

Do you know anyone that's interested in Pet Therapy, we could use their help?

Please apply at: www.KernMedical.com, Careers and Contact Sylvia.Walker@KernMedical.com or call at (661) 489-5254 with any questions.
Welcome New Jr Volunteers

Jenna Alawdi Jr Volunteer
Virisa Brock Jr Volunteer
Paola Caballero Jr Volunteer
Katelyn Cardenas Jr Volunteer
Marisa Fonseca Jr Volunteer
Nayeli Fonseca Jr Volunteer
Alytza Garcia Jr Volunteer
Frida Garin Jr Volunteer
Kylee George Jr Volunteer
Austin Lee Jr Volunteer
Biola Makinde Jr Volunteer
Luis Martin Jr Volunteer
Emily Morrison Jr Volunteer
Arpita Padhy Jr Volunteer
Nicholas Ramirez Jr Volunteer
Maximilian Roldan Jr Volunteer
Amy Sanchez Jr Volunteer
Grace Smith Jr Volunteer
Patrick Sweeney Jr Volunteer
Kim Vo Jr Volunteer
Cicilia Walker Jr Volunteer
Sophia Zaninovich Jr Volunteer

New Volunteers

Maria Calderon Emergency
Ireland Eckard Nutrition Services
Seanne Facho Emergency
Isabel Fuentes Patient Care
Shannon Howlett Gift Shop
Francisco Munoz Pharmacy
Stephanie Moncada ED/Gift Shop
Luis Ramirez Epilepsy Study
Mariana Roldan Patient Care
Bryce Thygerson Clerical
Briseyda Torres ED/Gift Shop
Megan Vickery Pharmacy
Margarita Towe Surgery Waiting

We love donations!

Most needed items:
- Men’s sweats & t-shirts size large & up for 3B & ED closets
- Books and magazines in Spanish
- Monetary donations for undergarments

Questions: Contact Sylvia.Walker@KernMedical.com
Super Hero Volunteer Robbin Weege has been volunteering at Kern Medical for 9 years in nearly all areas of the hospital making hot dogs, organizing closets, shopping for clothes, handing out candy, working at the Gift Shop and rocking babies.

It’s all because she wants Kern Medical to have happy patients and ensure their simplest needs are met. Currently, Robbin is a Cuddler and the Emergency Department Volunteer Lead overseeing all training and scheduling. She does an especially great job with our college students!

Robbin started donating blood to our Bakersfield blood bank when she was 16 years old because she knew someone would need it to live. She is now a 19-gallon member and she is still healthy enough to continue on that journey! She has volunteered in Central America, Eastern Europe, Mexico and all over Bakersfield! She volunteers because it’s in her DNA. She loves to see someone feel good and loves to see people smile.

Robbin lives by these 2 mottos: Always .... try and leave people better than you found them! Hug the Hurt! Kiss the broken! Befriend the lost! and Love the lonely!

AND...people will not remember what you said! People will not remember what you did! But they will always remember how you made them feel!

She asks everyone to please take the time if possible to change your life by helping someone else! THANK YOU ROBBIN for your outstanding volunteer service!! We so appreciate you.

**Auxiliary Members:** We are looking for a new name for our Gift Shop and would like your ideas?

Please submit your Gift Shop name to me and we'll vote on it at our September Auxiliary meeting.

If you would like to contribute content to the Pineapple Press, please contact me at Sylvia.Walker@KernMedical.com or call (661) 489-5254.
Meet our Contributing Junior Writers!

Emily Morrison
I am a writer, an artist and love to read. I am a student at Centennial High School and I am on the swim team. I love spending time with friends and family. I have done many different volunteer jobs, but this is my first year volunteering at Kern Medical.

Patrick Sweeney
"A senior from Valley Oaks in Tehachapi with an interest in neuroscience and medicine.

Sophia Zaninovich
A sophomore from Centennial High School. "I would describe myself as dedicated and fun. I love learning and experiencing new things."

Summer with Your Junior Volunteers
By Emily Morrison

During summer break the Jr. Volunteers at Kern Medical spend their summers helping out in the hospital, but they also enjoy hanging out with friends, going to the beach, seeing family and doing much more on their time off. After asking the volunteers how they spend their summers 42% of them said that they go to the beach or travel, 28% spend their time with friends, 14% spend time with family and 7% spend time working another job.

When asked how long Volunteer Austin Lee vacations out of town, he stated that he spends 2-3 weeks, while others, like Sophia Zaninovich, only spend from a weekend up to a week on a trip. However, summer break was not always so relaxing. Many volunteers asked their family members how they spent their summer vacation, “My great aunt worked in potato fields and the carrot farms during summer for money.” shared Cicilia Walker. Sophia Zaninovich states, “My dad worked for his father’s company and helped out.” When asked, my own father he said that he has been working since he was 15, and on his few days off he would always be seen with friends and “…Wouldn’t come home until the street lights came on.” Many plans have changed over the years, going from hard working and hardly relaxing to working hard and relaxing hard.
First Impressions with the Junior Volunteers

By Sophia Zaninovich

First impressions are crucial to how people perceive an encounter. Most of the junior volunteers are attracted to the idea of working in the medical field. Volunteering at Kern Medical gives high school students a chance to experience the effort and the responsibilities of working in medical care.

According to one of the volunteers, her first experience was energetic and enjoyable. "When I first arrived to volunteer at Kern Medical, it was under construction. Due to construction, many patients and families found it more confusing to get to their destinations and appointments on time. In addition, the construction also affected the shortcuts and elevators that the patients would regularly use. As a greeter, I often felt concerned about giving the wrong directions to patients because of the change with construction. On the bright side, as a greeter. I enjoyed helping people get their appointments or visits even under such a chaotic environment.

- Lizeth Caballero

All of the junior volunteers found that working at Kern Medical was interesting. “My first impression of the hospital was very exciting! I was really happy to start my first day as a junior volunteer. My first shift was Snacks on the Go and I got to see every floor of the hospital. I also got to meet a lot of interesting people who work at the hospital. Overall, my experience with the hospital is amazing!” -Marissa Fonseca

The junior volunteer program is full of great experiences for the students to have and to keep for the future.
Future Careers
By Patrick Sweeney

The Junior Volunteers of Kern are an intellectually diverse group of high schoolers looking to become our nation's next generation of healthcare professionals and humanitarians. The poll proposed which field of medicine the volunteers would be most interested in and 43 votes were casted, the volunteers were allowed to vote for multiple fields to the intersectionality of medicine. The two most popular professions in medicine were nursing and pediatrics at 15.6% (7 votes). Followed by neurosurgery, cardiovascular surgery, neurology, psychiatry, general surgery, cardiology, pulmonology, traumatology, research, psychology, internal medicine, dentistry, medical law, endocrinology, orthopedics, geriatrics, radiology, and not listed.

This data is congruous with both the statement that “The Junior Volunteers of Kern are an intellectually diverse group of high schoolers” and data from the Department of Labor Statistics that show that 1 out of 100 Americans works in nursing, making it one of the most popular career. The popularity of pediatrics can also be explained by pediatrics being the third most popular residency according AAMC data from 2011.

July Birthdays:
- Caitlin Hill 7/5
- Diane Schuetz 7/6
- Robbin Weege 7/7
- Samantha Toussaint 7/6
- David Kadel 7/11
- Julian Gaspar 7/12
- Suzanne Brierley 7/18
- Judy Keolker 7/20
- Susie Kadel 7/23
- Anna Dobrzanski 7/28

August Birthdays:
- Sue Thomas 8/5
- Mariela Torres 8/6
- Linda Arnold 8/9
- Gabriela Espinoza 8/9
- Paola Caballero 8/10
- Margarita Towe 8/14
- Jenna Alawdi 8/21
- Eileen Smith 8/23
- Paulina Le 8/24
- Alejandra Ramirez 8/31
What's new at Kern Medical?

**CARE WEAR UNIFORMS**

Fundraiser for Kern Medical Auxiliary

**SCRUB EVENT**

Pants & Solid Tops, Printed Tops, Jackets, Shoes & More!!

Credit cards (post-dated up to 6 paydays), Checks (post-dated up to 6 paydays), & Cash!!

- **July 31st** 7:00am – 4:00pm
- **August 1st** 7:00am – 2:00pm

Kern Medical – D Wing Lobby

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**INFORMATION & EVENTS**

Kern Medical goes back to the Kern County Fair

**Friends for Life**

Kern Medical’s Day of the Fair is Saturday, September 29th from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM. This year’s theme of the Kern County Fair is “Fair Friends Forever” and our theme will be “Friends for Life.”

Like last year, our exhibit will be in the Font Pavilion located just inside the main entrance on P Street. This is the last Saturday of the fair and historically it has always been the busiest day, so we will need your help.

We are seeking volunteers who would like to donate their time to represent Kern Medical that day. All volunteers will receive:

- A Kern Medical Polo
- Parking Pass to the fair
- 2 tickets to the fair that can be used any day

Interested in volunteering? Email Marketing@KernMedical.com to put your name on the list. Sylvia Walker will be the point of contact for volunteers this year. Please note all staff choosing to volunteer will not be compensated for their time for assisting at the Kern Medical exhibit.

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**Visit the Gift Shop!**

We have flowers, balloons, jewelry, drinks and treats!

Located at the front D-Wing Lobby

**Hours of Operations:**

- Mon thru Fri 10:00 am – 5:00pm
- Sat/Sun Noon – 4:00 pm

**Enjoy Your Summer**