Volunteer Services Spotlight

As we wrap up the holiday season and 2019 comes to end, we would like to thank all of you for helping create a welcoming environment for patients and families at University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics. Because of you, the following programs and events were possible:

The Angel Tree

Inpatients Ashlei (left) and Mackenzie (right) were very grateful for the Angel Tree gifts they received.

Volunteer cut out every angel on the Angel Tree. Each angel represented an inpatient at UIHC over the holidays as identified by members of our Rehabilitation Therapy team. This year, over 250 gifts were donated and distributed.
Warm the Sole Sock Drive
After just a few weeks, 150 pairs of socks have been collected. These socks will be donated to the United Way of Johnson & Washington Counties for distribution to individuals in need through local non-profits. There is still time to contribute! The sock drive will continue through January 31 (Elevator E, Level 1).

Tokens of the Season

Left: Naomi received a holiday cactus on December 23 and says it has added color and cheer to her room ever since!
Right: (L-R) Volunteers Lan Nguyen, Joyce Kral, Janet Vincent, and Jaison Marks were just a few of the volunteers who helped deliver Tokens of the Season to inpatients.

On Monday, December 23, over 430 European pine trees and holiday cacti and more than 340 pairs of warm fuzzy socks were delivered by hospital volunteers to every inpatient at UIHC and SFCH to spread a bit of cheer on behalf of the staff and volunteer of UI Health Care.

Fourth Floor Salon
Our Fourth Floor Salon had two Holiday Fairs in the Fountain Lobby this holiday season. These events generated thousands of dollars to support programs and services benefitting our patients and their patients. Without our volunteers, these fundraising events wouldn’t be possible!

2020 Calendars
Hospital volunteers delivered over 800 donated calendars to inpatient units this month. These are posted bedside for patients to reference throughout the year.
Volunteer Services is able to make a significant impact on the patient and family experience at UIHC and SFCH because of YOU, our amazing volunteers! But...are you aware of all the programs and services made possible because of you? For 2019, $331,395 in funding was approved to benefit our patients and families. Requests funded through the Contributions and Donations process have now been posted on the Volunteer Services website.

In 2018, the Volunteer Services Advisory Board approved $900 to the Center for Disabilities and Development to create a Caregiver Corner, a space for caregivers to go while the patient receives therapy or is evaluated. A massage chair and relaxing sound machine help create a calm environment during a potentially stressful appointment.
Reflecting on 2019

Two of the biggest headlines from the past year:

**UI Hospitals & Clinics Announces Free Parking for Patients**
On Tuesday, December 3, UIHC began providing all patients a pass for free parking on our main Iowa City campus. Read the full story here.

**Annual TB Testing is Going Away**
Earlier this year, UI Health Care, in consultation with Hospital Epidemiology and the University Employee Health Clinic, decided to stop annual TB testing. Read the full story here.

**Volunteer Events**
Helen K. Rossi Guest House Lodging Program will be accepting donations during the month of January. They will be accepting donations of household items, toiletries, non-perishable food items, and new or gently used clothing. For a full list of items or if you have questions, please contact Concierge Services at 319-356-1900. Items can be brought to Concierge Services during regular business hours.

**We Want to Hear From YOU!**
The First Friday Newsletter is created by staff in Volunteer Services for you, our wonderful volunteers. Is there something you would like to see more of in the newsletter? Do you have suggestions or ideas? Please let us know! You can email us directly at volunteerservices@uiowa.edu or give us a call at 319-356-2515.