

AUXILIARIES IN ACTION

A Publication of the Arkansas Hospital Auxiliary Association

January/February 2016

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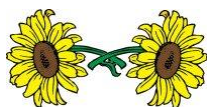
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**From
the
President**



To all my AHAA Friends:

I trust everyone had a wonderful holiday season spent with family and friends. I told my family the best present I received this Christmas was having all of us together again. Now that the grandchildren are grown and getting married, we don't know how many years we will still be able to spend Christmas together. Our family is growing....this Christmas we were blessed to have another great-grandbaby with us. This brings the number to three now and I understand why they are called "Great"!!

As we enter into a new year, I want to take this opportunity to encourage each of us to make a renewed effort to do even more for our hospitals and communities than we have in the past. AHAA has some great "State Projects" and I hope each auxiliary is utilizing them to the fullest extent. If we could be instrumental in saving just one child's life by preventing them from being locked in an unattended vehicle or by encouraging the wearing of a helmet, all our efforts would be worth it.

This is the time that we are always saying "Happy New Year", so I would like to leave you with the "Secret of Happiness":

If you want to be happy for an hour – take a nap.
If you want to be happy for a day – go shopping.
If you want to be happy for a week – take a trip.
If you want to be happy for a year – inherit money.
If you want to be happy for a lifetime – serve others, be a volunteer!!

Remember "Volunteers are a Ray of Sunlight on a Cloudy Day" and "The sun always shines a little brighter and hearts feel a little warmer when you care enough to volunteer"!!

Happiness and best wishes in 2016:

Dorothy Berley
AHAA President



AHAA Outstanding Achievement Awards – 2015 *

In-Hospital Service

100 beds and under
101 beds and over

Ouachita County Medical Center
CHI St. Vincent

Camden
Hot Springs



* These were omitted in the last issue.

Handbook Change

Page 9

New email address for Darthy Tyrity: dtyrity@outlook.com

Darthy is Auxiliary's Gift Shop Consultant. Contact her for help with your gift shop issues!

New Endowment

At its January 14, 2016 board meeting, the AHAA Board approved a new Endowed Scholarship in the amount of \$25,000. Payments will be made over a two year period to the UAMS College of Health Professions.

Calendar

2015-2016 Calendar AHAA Board Meetings

March 10, 2016
May 12, 2016
July 14, 2016
September 8, 2016

2016 Spring District Meetings

April 11th Johnson Regional Medical Center - Clarksville
April 12th Washington Regional Medical Center - Fayetteville
April 13th National Park Medical Center - Hot Springs
April 14th CHI St. Vincent Morrilton - Morrilton
April 19th Unity Health-Harris Medical Center - Newport
April 20th Chicot Memorial Hospital - Lake Village
April 21st SMC Regional Medical Center - Osceola

SE Healthcare Volunteer Leaders (SHVL) Conference

April 24-26, 2016 Jacksonville, FL

National Volunteer Week
National Hospital Week

April 10-16, 2016
May 8-14, 2016



In Remembrance

Joyce Rogers	Stone County	North Central
Sandra Bennett	Baxter Regional Medical Center	North Central
Patricia Ann Fate	Baxter Regional Medical Center	North Central
Buell Crider	St Bernards Jonesboro	Northeast
Dr. Harold Stensby, MD.	Mercy Hospital Berryville	Northwest



Photo Link

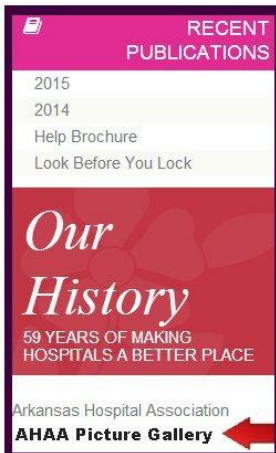


Photo Buffs: The pictures from state convention can now be found online at <http://arhaa.org/>.

To find the AHAA picture gallery, go to the Auxiliary page. Scroll down the right side of the screen. The link is under the red Our-History box and below the AHA link. You can view the photos by clicking the link.

You need a yahoo account to use the best features of flickr, the host of our photo page. You can sign up for a free account at <https://overview.mail.yahoo.com/>.

If you have an account, click the photo you want to download, then click the down-arrow on the lower right of the screen. Choose size, etc. If you don't have - or want - a yahoo account, ask a friend with a yahoo account to download for you.

Sorry about the delay on the photos. Contributing factors were busy people, new territory, misunderstandings between web site techs and Auxiliary.



AHAA District Scholarships

Three students have been selected to receive the first AHAA \$500 scholarships designated for each of the seven districts. They are

Southeast District: Linley Ann Powell, Jefferson Regional Medical Center School of Nursing, Pine Bluff.

Northwest District: Janice Michelle Barnard North Arkansas College, Harrison.

North Central District: Ashton Glenn, Chamberlain College of Nursing, Chicago.

Linley Powell has worked many years in physicians' offices. She is a single parent and is currently city clerk for Grady, Arkansas. She is also a student.

Janice Barnard is a senior nursing student, and a single parent who holds an associate degree in surgical technology.

Ashton Glenn is pursuing a Master's degree in Nursing while working at Stone County Medical Center in Mountain View. She and her husband have two children.

Local chapter scholarship committees, inform your applicants of the district opportunity. Your district could be claiming this money. Talk to your district chair for more information.

AHAA District News

Baptist Health – Little Rock

Submitted by Jim Gibbons

A major construction project is underway on the Baptist Health Medical Center –Little Rock campus- and many of our traditional pathways into the building are closed due to the work being done. The volunteer office on the hospital mezzanine will still be accessible, but the remainder of the mezzanine's north wing will be closed due to the construction. The entry points for the foreseeable future will be at Medical Towers I Building and at a new entrance directly in front of the corporate office. Call the volunteer office at (501) 202-2192 if you need more information.

Metropolitan

CHI ST. VINCENT – LITTLE ROCK

Submitted by Karen Baldrige, Auxiliary President

The Auxiliary had a board meeting and general meeting and luncheon on November 13. Steve Straessel, Principal of Catholic High School was our guest speaker. Everyone enjoyed his enthusiastic presentation. We had a delicious thanksgiving meal.

The Auxiliary sponsored a Dillard's Sale, November 19-20 at CHI St. Vincent. It was a huge success.

The Annual Christmas Awards Luncheon was held on Friday, December 11 at the Country Club of Little Rock. Everyone had a fabulous time.

The Auxiliary will sponsor a Sheets Galore Sale, January 21-22 at CHI St. Vincent.

Auxiliary will have a board meeting, a general meeting and luncheon on January 8 at CHI St. Vincent North.

Metropolitan

Ozark Health Auxiliary Pulse-North Central District

Submitted by Bobbye Bennett, Vice President

2015 ends! Seems like only yesterday we were getting accustomed to writing 2015. A Happy and Blessed New Year to all.

During the year, the Country Store was opened for the residents of the Ozark Nursing Home. Donations are always welcome to help "stock" the Store. The residents like jewelry, knickknacks of any kinds and of course purses!

At the Hospital Auxiliary meeting in October, Ozark Health Auxiliary received the Four Star Award. (Next year we will work to attain the five stars.) We also received the "Fundraising Award" for hospitals with less than 100 beds. And at the District Meeting our Auxiliary received the Community Service Award for our "Adopt a Resident" program.

For Thanksgiving, the Auxiliary helped serve Thanksgiving Dinner to the residents in the Nursing Center.

At the December meeting all the members received copies of the By-Laws for the Auxiliary. The updated By-Laws will be approved at the January meeting on Monday, January 4, 2016.

In 2016, we are putting more emphasis on "recruiting" new members. In March, around St. Patrick's Day, we will have a recruitment day "SPUD PARTY". The exact day is to be announced.

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest complement, or the smallest act of caring all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

The World is hugged by the faithful arms of Volunteers!

North Central

Stone County Medical Center - Mountain View

Submitted by: Elsie Grozis, Newsletter Editor

We are saddened by the loss of our member, Joyce Rogers. She will be greatly missed.

In November we participated in the Health Fair, donated three helmets for a drawing and put HELP stickers with each helmet. Gave away many HELP stickers and pamphlets for "Look Before you Lock" and HELP. We used this time as a recruiting tool and gave out information about the Auxiliary. We had face painting for the young at heart.

We had a gift shop inventory reduction sale during November with the first day of sale for our hospital employees. The second day was open to the public. Very good prices and quite pleased with the results. We have new managers for our gift shop and they are working very hard reorganizing and ordering new supplies.

During December we had our Gift Shop Open House, serving punch and cookies. The sale in the Gift Shop was well received. On the next evening, we served cookies and hot chocolate at the annual Christmas Tree Lighting on the square. This is always a fun time for us. Leftover cookies were taken to law enforcement facilities, women's shelter, nursing home, residential care facility, and to hospital employees working the night shift

With money donated by our Auxiliary members, we were able to purchase gifts for several names on the "Angel Tree", helping some children have a better Christmas.

Upcoming events are still in the works with no plans for January. We plan for a No Bake Bake Sale for February. We wish all a happy and healthy 2016

Northeast

CrossRidge Community Hospital Auxiliary - Wynne, AR

Submitted by George Anne Draper, vice-president

CrossRidge Community Hospital Auxiliary had a successful sheet sale December 8 at the hospital in Wynne. The company, Geneva, had wonderful throws and blankets as well as the sheets. The hospital employees supported the sale and so did the community. We are interested in doing this in December 2017 and hope we can get more hospitals in NE Arkansas to participate. We became acquainted with the company at the Little Rock meeting in October and are pleased with the quality of the products.

The annual employee gift wrapping event was held in the hospital lobby this year. Many Auxilians showed up to wrap packages for the staff members who brought gifts for friends and family members. It is a way to give back to the staff by giving them more time to spend with their families.

Northeast

Arkansas Methodist Medical Center - Paragould

Submitted by Lynda Perry

Christmas Activities: President Lynda Perry goes high to decorate the 16 foot tree. Linda Hoppe and Phyllis Hamblen work the Goodfellows desk. Auxilian Clella Horrell plays the piano for the tree Lighting .

Northeast

Northeast Arkansas Baptist Memorial Hospital - Jonesboro

Submitted by Faye Haney, VP of Communication

The end of the year is full of memories and activities!

Our Auxiliary was excited to take part in the AHAA state convention and be a part of the winning cheerleading team at the final tailgate party! Members of the team were Shirl Kersey from Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, Carol Hinck from St. Bernard's, Pud Thomas from SMC Regional Medical Center, Faye Haney, Evelyn Glisson, and Ginny Presgrove from NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital. Our Auxiliary was also excited to receive the 5- Star Award at the convention.

The fall district meeting was hosted by our Auxiliary at the Northeast Arkansas Baptist Memorial Hospital conference rooms. We had a wonderful turnout from Northeast District Auxiliaries and were privileged to have Dorothy Berley, the new AHAA President, as our guest. The rooms were decorated with sunflowers in recognition of Dorothy's chosen emblem. A huge "thank you" goes out to the Auxiliary members who helped with the planning and execution of a successful conference.

The NEA Baptist Auxiliary took part in the open house and ribbon cutting in the recent opening of the new inpatient rehabilitation unit, the celebration and lighting of the Christmas trees at the hospital, and providing going-home stockings for those babies born in the month of December. Thank you to Evelyn Glisson for making the stockings. Ginny Presgrove and Judy Lee also helped deliver gifts to children in the hospital as Santa visited each one!

Thank you to the administration of NEA Baptist for the appreciation and Christmas luncheon for all Auxiliary members at Fat City Grill. We each received an ornament from the administration. CEO President, Brad Parsons greets Auxiliary member, Patsy Cliff, and our two newest members , Rose Nelson and Carol Sharp.



Fall Northeast Arkansas District Meeting hosted by NEA Baptist.

Northeast

SMC Regional Medical Center - Osceola*Submitted by Dorothy Crockett, Secretary*

The Osceola Auxiliary presented the hospital x-ray department with a wheelchair on January 5th. Pictured is President Mary "Pud" Thomas, President Elect, Lovonda Carter, Eddie Ezell, Radiology System Director, William Foster Radiology Technician, Adele Black, Ann Wallace, and Dena Bortis, Radiology Technician.



Northeast

St Bernards Hospital – Jonesboro
Submitted by Dean Rossa

At the November Awards meeting, St Bernards volunteers heard Dr. Shane Speights speak about New York Institute of Technology's decision to open a campus at Arkansas State University in August 2016. It is Ark.'s first osteopathic medical school.

Volunteers were recognized for hours worked and enjoyed a fashion show during the luncheon.

Former presidents of St Bernards Auxiliary line up at the November Awards Lunch: Maxine Drury, Cathy Mulhollen, Mary Jane Nash, Nettie Whitehead, Nancy McFarland, Mary Shaver, and Jo Yocum.



St Bernards volunteers who have worked more than 5000 hours each.



Front: Nettie Whitehead, Pat Surbaugh, Mary McCray, Mary N. Masterson, Dot Clark, Mary Jane Nash, Rosalie Barber. **Back:** Nancy McFarland, Katherine McCracken, Mary Shaver, Ann Ford, Sandra Ackeret.

Northeast

Northwest Medical Center – Bentonville

Submitted by Pat Meier

The Northwest Medical Center Bentonville Auxiliary newsletter contains a new series entitled 'Did You Know?' We are always striving to keep our volunteers informed on rules, regulations, changes, etc. This will be an additional way to let our volunteers keep up to date and to be made aware of policy changes, etc.



Did you know?



If you see a yellow rose on a patient's room door, do not enter. The yellow rose indicates the patient has died and the family may still be in the room.

Northwest

Eureka Springs Hospital - Eureka Springs

Submitted by Mary Lou Martin

Eureka Springs Hospital Guild held its Christmas luncheon at the Inn of the Ozarks in Eureka Springs, Arkansas on December 1, 2015. After a savory luncheon, the 42 attendees were entertained by the Holiday Island Singers performing their Christmas music to start off our Christmas season. That was followed by Dr. Christopher Baranyk D.O, a new doctor in Eureka Springs, telling about his medical education and his service in Alaska, Afghanistan and other areas in the states. He also outlined his hopes for serving Eureka Springs and surrounding area. After Dr. Baranyk's talk, the 2016 officers for the Guild were installed by Northwest District Chair, Neta Sue Stamps. They are President Mary Lou Martin, Vice President Shirley Jetske, Secretary Catherine Pappas, and Treasurer Nancy Werbitsky.



Northwest

Siloam Springs Hospital Auxiliary - Siloam Springs
Submitted by Diane Winder, President

Siloam Springs Hospital Auxiliary, Inc. is feeling a little down right now. For several years we have been making rice bags which could be heated in the microwave and placed on the tummies of new mothers. We have been told we can not longer make rice bags because of germs from the microwave. We also had a team that served the lunch tray to the patients. Joint Commission said we can not longer deliver the lunch trays. Now only employees can deliver the meal trays. This team loved what they did and the nurses loved having the help.

We have several folks that want to continue to volunteer but we have nothing for them to do. We are feeling rather un-loved right now. Is this sort of think happening any where else?

Northwest

Washington Regional Medical Center Auxiliary - Fayetteville
Submitted by Jimmie Beauchamp, Director of Volunteer Services

The Auxiliary made profits in the following fundraising areas: Gift shop \$11,347, Flowers & Balloons \$1,723. We hosted a Blood Drive on December 29th and collected 18 units for the Community Blood Center of the Ozarks. We hosted a Books Are Fun Sale. Profit for the Auxiliary: \$1,636.

For the 2nd year we joined forces with Dillard's Dept Store from the NWA Mall.

The sale held in our main lobby December 8-9 proved to be a huge success. \$90,809 was sold. The Auxiliary will get \$9,081 as commission.

Northwest

Mercy Hospital - Berryville
Submitted by Neta Sue Stamps, president-elect, newsletter editor

On November 7th, volunteers were treated to a luncheon provided by the Auxiliary Board. Our guests included our new hospital administrator and state officers.



(Left to right) Norma Stroemel, Mercy Hospital Berryville Administrator Douglas Stroemel, Auxiliary President-elect and Northwest District Chair Neta Sue Stamps, AHAA President Dorothy Berley and AHAA President-elect Margaret Underwood

125 Years of Mercy



On November 16th, Auxiliary members joined hospital employees in attending the 125th Anniversary Flag Raising Ceremony as we kicked off 125 years of Mercy in the Springfield Communities. Due to rain, the ceremony was held in the cafeteria. Pictured above are In-service Chair - Ann Coleman (left) and Auxiliary President - Anita Spearman.

Auxiliary members and hospital employees joined the family of an employee in a memorial to her on Nov. 23rd.

“Nuts” and Bake Sale

7:00 a.m. was the start time for the pre-Thanksgiving Bake and Nut Sale on November 24th. Pictured are (left to right) Secretary/Special Projects Chair Leoria Brewer, all round volunteer Michael Rissler and Gift Shop/Blood Drive Chair Joy Flake. A “Nuts Only” Sale was scheduled for December 30th.

“Sheets and Sweets”



Pictured are (left to right) Secretary/Special Projects Chair- Leoria Brewer, Scrapbook Chair Anita Rissler and Gift Shop/Blood Drive Chair- Joy Flake. They were three busy people December 10th with great “Sheets” sales – not many “Sweets” left either! The hospital employees do seem to enjoy these sales.

The Auxiliary furnished over 50 toys to Autumn Hill Nursing Home for the Christmas Party on December 10th. Our busy Gift Shop/Blood Drive Chair Joy Flake was Santa’s helper to distribute the toys.

There are no sales events scheduled for January or February.

We wish all a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year!

We regret to end the year with the death of lifetime member Dr. Harold Stensby, MD.

Northwest

Mercy Hospital NWA - Rogers
Christy Blackshear, President



Photos on the left are from the Christmas luncheon held on December 10th from the Auxiliary at Mercy Hospital in Rogers.

The following is a summary of some of this past year's activities at Mercy Hospital Auxiliary in Rogers:

* There are currently 245 active volunteers. Over the summer Mercy welcomed 78 Summer Volunteers. Volunteers served 40,500 hours and the value of that service is over \$913,000. The value is established nationally at approximately \$22 an hour.

* We have had some great fundraisers this past year. They included a shoe and accessory sale, a linen sale and Books Are Fun. Our largest fundraiser was with Dillards and Wire and Rings Jewelry. Another special fundraiser was on behalf of the Literacy Bags that were donated to Bonnie Grimes Elementary. A bake sale was held at the hospital. Fund raising included Volunteer donations at our Spring Volunteer Appreciation Event.

* The Auxiliary sponsored some wonderful projects this year. For example, \$8,500 was donated for books in support of the Reach Out and Read Literacy program at our Bentonville Pediatric Clinic. In addition, the Auxiliary donated \$2,500 in support of the renovation of the House of Mercy in Dublin, Ireland. This is a mission house that Catherine McAuley opened for women in 1827. It is still there today and serves as an international Center for the Sisters of Mercy. Over \$14,000 was donated in scholarships to Mercy Co-workers who are continuing their education, and for high school students who are entering their first year of college. All



of those students also served as Mercy Volunteers.

* We have had some new projects including a Dog Therapy Program at the hospital and have welcomed 7 new volunteers and their puppies to Mercy. Moreover, there are volunteers helping us create Super Hero Capes for children coming into the Emergency Department. This gives our co-workers a great tool to encourage children to be brave while they are in the Emergency Department. Also, there are volunteers creating bereavement gowns for babies who do not survive childbirth. Finally, Mercy has a new Mobile Health Van. Our volunteer nurses are going out on the mobile unit with Sr. Lisa Atkins and Dr. Lisa Low to offer flu shots in underserved areas in Northwest Arkansas. The van will continue to be a great outreach to the community. We are excited to have our volunteer nurses participating in this ministry.



The Auxiliary board members at Mercy Hospital attended the annual Mercy Foundation Charity ball on December 5th at the John Q Hammonds Convention Center. Pictured are Bob and Kathy Hardy. Kathy is the President Elect of the Mercy Hospital Auxiliary.

Northwest

National Park Medical Center - Hot Springs

Submitted by Dorothy Stringer, Newsletter Editor

We had a successful fundraiser with Wire N Rings November 19th, in the hospital cafeteria from 7:00-3:00. Jim Cox- Hot Springs Village – has been creating custom jewelry for the last fourteen years. Each custom piece is hand made with a lifetime warranty. The fundraiser sold \$2,780 and our commission was \$556.00.

We had several new volunteers join National Park Medical Center Auxiliary in the last few months. They are Joanne Bokash, Jini Bangert, Karen Feckler, Ron Gilliam, Freda Lucas, Thomas Miller, Mike Millwood, and Josephine Reddick. We want to welcome them as we begin the new year.

Our Spring scholarship recipients have been chosen. Each person will receive a \$600.00 scholarship to help with their educational advancement in the medical field. They are Mageana Pendarvis, Jennifer Jones, Linda Neaville, Davis York, Chris Duncan, and Erin Lawrence.

The Southwest Fall District Meeting was held Tuesday, October 27th, 2015. It was hosted by CHI St. Vincent-Hot Springs at St. Mary's Church. We had six people attend the meeting from NPMC, Sylvia Griffin, Hilda Elkins, Joyce Walters, Maxine Norman, Dona McKewen, and Dorothy Stringer.

The National Park Medical Center Auxiliary will host the Southwest Spring District Meeting Wednesday, April 13th, 2016. We hope to see many friends and volunteers from other hospitals. Our Auxiliary looks forward to visiting with everyone.

National Park Medical Center now has a Sunshine Chair. Rose Kukuk has agreed to take on the task. She will send cards to volunteers who are ill, had a loss, surgery, etc. We certainly appreciate her doing this.

Get Well Wishes-Evelyn Geyer had eye surgery and is back helping in the lab. Sue McLaughlin had shoulder surgery November 5th and we look forward to seeing her back in the gift shop, Maxine Norman had a stint put in and returned on her regular Wednesday afternoon. You can't keep our volunteers down. We look forward to having them all back with us at NPMC.

For the last twelve years, Lou English has been sewing the stockings for our December babies and the first one born on New Year's Day. She makes around eighty every year by herself. Each stocking has a unique style of it's own. Every baby born at NPMC in December will get one.

The Auxiliary Christmas luncheon was held at the Hot Springs Country Club December 1st, 2015 at 11:30. The menu was a traditional Christmas buffet with all the trimmings. Gene Forsyth was the scheduled entertainment. He is a noted storyteller who volunteers at the pocket theater. The table decorations were the door prizes. A big THANKS to Rose Kukuk for arranging the luncheon and decorations for the Auxiliary.

The National Park Medical Center Auxiliary picked a family from the hospital Angel Tree. We got a single mother with three children. By signing up for store programs, cashing in on reward points, using discount cards, and hitting sales, Dorothy Stringer and Maxine Norman found three outfits, a jacket or fleece, and three games/toys for each of the children and a gift card for the mother with the allotted dollar amount given.

NPMC had their Christmas celebration Friday December 18th and invited the Auxiliary to join in on the fun. It started at 7:00 AM with breakfast and continued to 3:00 PM with lunch. They served food catered by Smokin' In Style, with additional food provided by the cafeteria. Everything was delicious.

The rehab dept. is currently remodeling and asked the Auxiliary to supply pictures for patient rooms and the rehab therapy room. An idea was presented that we submit snapshots of our beautiful state and during our travels. We are currently gathering pictures that will be blown up and hung in the remodeled dept.

Southwest

Ouachita County Medical Center Auxiliary - Camden

Submitted by Daphne Bennett, Newsletter Editor

During our December meeting, we gave the hospital \$18,000--of this \$5,700 was for the purchase of a warming blanket for the Radiology Department and \$12,300 was applied toward our \$250,000 commitment for the purchase of a Central Monitoring System for our Emergency Room. We are excited that the Emergency Room is now being renovated and enlarged. * * * Uniforms 2U2 was here for a scrub sale on September 17-18. Total sales \$22,976.71--our commission \$5,169.76.


Southwest

Baptist Health Medical Center - Malvern

Submitted by Opal Morris, Secretary

In September we had 3 new members to join our Auxiliary.

In October four members attended the AHAA State convention in Little Rock. We participated in a "Team Cheer" contest and a Gift Shop "Style Show". We also accepted our "5 Star Award".

Five members attended the Southwest District meeting in Hot Springs.

At our monthly meeting, we voted to give monies for: Dr.'s sleep room, \$1,000.00, Physical Therapy bed, \$1,500.00 and Physical Therapy computer software for \$2,500.00.

Our 'pennies for socks' campaign netted us \$300.00.

On November 5th, we had our 'Extravaganza'. It was a huge success. Many vendors were set up in the hallway and our Gift Shop had extra items in the rehab dining room.

We have collected food for a Thanksgiving Basket to be given away for a donation.


Southwest

Johnson Regional Medical Center – Clarksville

Gift Shop News: It has been quite a year in the Gift Shop. We have gone in an entirely new direction with our merchandise and it is working out extremely well.

At the Christmas Party, we presented Mr. Anderson with a check for \$8000 and the Auxiliary with a check for \$2000.


Valley

Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center - Valley District

Diana Stensland, President

Our Auxiliary had our mandatory annual training on November 2. Volunteer Coordinators gave us updates on our hospital's policies and reminded us of the HIPAA rules and proper care of lab specimens. We also talked about how we can better serve our patients and visitors. A wonderful lunch was served.

Several volunteers sewed Christmas stockings to be provided to our Women's & Children's Department for the December babies and our first New Year's baby in 2016. A handmade knitted blanket and crocheted toy duck will be provided to the first baby of the new year. These are donated from our volunteers.

St. Mary's hosted our annual Volunteer Christmas Tea on December 7. The food was wonderful and our entertainment was Diane Maxil, one of our Volunteer Coordinators. Diane sang beautiful Christmas carols. Patsy Housdan received the Volunteer Excellence Award. This award is provided by our hospital and is given to the volunteer who has been most helpful to the staff, patients and visitors in 2015.



Patsy Housdan received Volunteer Excellence Award from Jim Davidson, CEO, St. Mary's Regional Medical Center.

Several of our volunteers helped in transporting Senior Santa presents to the holding area of the hospital to be wrapped.



John Pryzby, Shaunda Beldin, Jean Flowers and Dixie Cook assist in the transport of Senior Santa presents.

In January, our Auxiliary will begin preparations for our Balloons and Kisses Sale scheduled for February. Proceeds from this sale will be used for scholarships for employees in our hospital who are continuing their education in the medical field.

Valley

Sparks Reg. Med. Center, Ft. Smith

November was the beginning of our busy Holiday schedule Starting with our traditional Christmas season at our regular monthly luncheon, since we don't meet in December. Our luncheon and style show was a real success with many invited guests, including our sister hospital Auxiliary in Van Buren, sustaining members, Dr's. wives, and Hospital Administration. We had a really enjoyable day, wonderful food, and lovely ladies modeling beautiful clothing from the Dress Barn. I give thanks to our regular active members who so willingly give of their time and pull together to make the entire day a great success. Thanks especially to Glenda Brown who coordinated the entire thing including planning the menu and decorations. All our regular members were asked to bring household items like, blankets, quilts, (gently used), toilet tissue, toothpaste, etc. which we then donated to the Ft. Smith Rescue Mission. Thanks to Ann Burgess and Leslie Martin for their coordinating this activity. Toni Holohan from Volunteer Services also arranged large easels with many historical newspaper articles on poster board pertaining to all three ladies groups from the past. (we now have one, the Auxiliary). This was a very interesting bit of history we were so proud to display. Thank you Toni!! Lastly for Nov. we hosted an electronic sale which was our first and we did make a profit, so it was ok.

Dec. has been a very busy month even though we omitted regular activity. Our Auxiliary had purchased a Christmas tree for our Hospital which we had planted and decorated with lights at the main entrance. It is very nice. We then sold cards, "In memory of" and "In honor of" in our gift shop, both having very special verses with beautiful Christmas/winter pictures.

Starting Dec. 7th, we started our Santa's Gift Wrap for 2 wks. - our 4th consecutive year. All gifts bought in our gift shop costing \$10.00 or above we wrap free, all others we charge for, depending on the size, determines the charge. This really boost's our shop sales so we benefit either way. While we don't make a lot of money, we provide a service for Hospital employees and they really appreciate it. We probably cleared a little over a \$1,000.00 this year.

Dec. 17th our gift shop hosted an employee appreciation day. We served apple cider, and numerous hand held snacks, i.e. Cheese balls, crackers, etc. This was very well attended, the employees really enjoy these special activities designated for them and they really are our best customers. We also offered a 25% off Christmas items that week.

January 2016 will start off with our shop donating a beautiful gift basket to the first baby born at Sparks, Ft. Smith. We will also resume our regular monthly meetings, but no special activity. Our gift shop manager and co-manager will be going to market.

Feb. 3rd and 4th we will be hosting a uniform sale, this is usually a very busy activity. We will also be hosting our 4th annual Valentine's Party. All Aux. members are asked to bake something, mostly chocolate, but home-made bread is very popular, and then the very delicious chocolate covered strawberries, which is so very popular. We sold over a \$1,000.00 worth of them alone last year. Judy Walls and her husband go above board with decorating these beautiful "goodies". My thanks to Barbara Griffith and Doris Fletcher for volunteering to head up this activity over-all. We always have a really good time and all members are so good to do the baking. Hospital employees are already talking about our party, looking forward to it.

One last note of interest to us. We were notified in November our "Nancy Orr Healing Garden" was made the River Valley Master Gardener Project of the year, this made us very proud. Thank you very much, Alice Swaim, President, Sparks Hospital Auxiliary, Ft. Smith



Sparks Medical Center-Van Buren

Submitted by Sue Walker, President

Four of us attended the State Convention in Little Rock on October 7th thru 9th where we received a 5 star award. We heard two very good speakers, Dr. Ronan Tynan, speaking on “Living Life to the Fullest” and Dr. Katherine Durham, a cardiologist.

On October 22nd, 8 of us attended the Fall District meeting in Danville at Chambers Memorial Hospital. I really want to commend the Auxiliary at that hospital for putting on such a nice meeting especially with so few volunteers. They only have 6 active volunteers. It seems that recruiting and keeping new volunteers is a problem at most of the state Auxiliaries.

In October we co-sponsored, along with the hospital, the Sparks Stampede, which is a relay race. The proceeds from the race go to the River Valley Ovarian Cancer Alliance and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

We held our annual wreath decorating contest and auction the first of November. Different departments in the hospital that wish to participate decorate wreaths provided by the Auxiliary. These are then auctioned off to the highest bidder. The department who won received a tray of gourmet cookies and the traveling trophy. The 2nd place winner received a box of Kopper Kettle candy. The prizes are provided by the Auxiliary.

Sparks Fort Smith Auxiliary invited us to attend their Holiday Luncheon on November 11th. We were treated to a delicious meal and a style show put on by Dress Barn. Twelve of us from the Van Buren Auxiliary attended. We really enjoyed it.

The first of December we held our cookie jar auction. Members of the Auxiliary bake cookies and then fill holiday cookie jars. These jars are then auctioned off to the highest bidders. We also sell cookies, candy and other holiday treats at this time. This seems to be a favorite fundraiser for the hospital employees. They enjoy competing for the cookie jars. We really appreciate their participation.

Our annual Auxiliary Christmas party was held at the home of one of the volunteers. We all had a good time.

I would like to wish everyone a “Happy New Year.”

