

GRAND ROUNDS

Volunteers are the heart of the community and they are undoubtedly the heart and soul of our hospital.

Every year, we take time to salute these kind men and women who donate their expertise and time to benefit our patients and their families as part of National Volunteer Week celebrations.

Our annual RVH Volunteer Luncheon held on Tuesday, April 23, is just a small gesture to show how much we appreciate the dedicated roster of volunteers who lend a helping hand in nearly every aspect of the hospital—from ministerial services, RVH Foundation and the board of directors to various hospital units.

“The oncology unit is blessed to have so many generous volunteers,” notes Rhonda Normandeau, Clinical Nurse Manager of the unit. They provide comfort items for patients undergoing treatment, including hats for both cold and warmer weather, wigs, blankets and quilts.

“The time and skill spent making these items, including beautiful full-size quilts, is amazing, and patients are always very appreciative.” Volunteers also donate their time within the unit, offering coffee, tea, juice and cookies to patients, she adds.

Volunteers give the recreation department an extra set of hands, which enables the recreation staff to focus on individuals who need more attention, comments Roxanne Nolan, RVH Recreationist.

“The volunteers may lead a class, help prepare treats, tea/coffee for events, help decorate for events, engage patients in the program being run, be a friendly visitor to patients and provide entertainment for programs.”

These wonderful people are extremely valuable to our patients—they are an added friendly smile, an added listening ear, an added soothing touch, and an added caring soul, which makes a big difference in the lives of our patients, adds Nolan. “The volunteers choose to make the patients an important part of their lives simply by the act of volunteering.”

In dialysis, we have a committed group of quilting grannies, who have been providing a personalized quilt to every hemodialysis patient for years.

As the social worker with the RVH nephrology program, Meghan Lance is responsible for notifying the quilters about

the arrival of a new patient; “Within the week our new patients receive their quilts with their names hand-sewn into the material.”

Approximately 130 people deliver Meals on Wheels throughout the community. The program began in 1976 and currently can accommodate up to 16 people, plus nearly 100 meals each month delivered to Hospice Renfrew patients.

RVH Dietary Director Pam Cranfield explains that “most of the clients are long-term recipients, but they occasionally will have people requesting meals while they recuperate from surgery.” Various community organizations—the Rotarians, Community Living, the RVH Auxiliary, Knights of Columbus and members of Trinity St. Andrew’s United

Church—are involved to make the program run like a well-oiled machine.

Our Auxiliary provides ongoing financial support to RVH by organizing various fundraisers and events. At the luncheon, the ladies donated \$32,000—\$15,500 will complete their \$150,000 five-year pledge to the CT fund and the remaining \$16,500 will be directed toward their new pledge commitment.

**From the bottom of
our hearts, thanks once
again to all of our
incredible volunteers!**



Auxiliary members Mae Craig (President), Ruth Steward and Marilyn York (First Vice-President) present a cheque to Randy Penney, RVH President and CEO at the hospital’s annual volunteer appreciation luncheon.