

EMORY JOHNS CREEK HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

STREAMLINES FALL 2024

EDITOR: Barb Kuester



It is with great honor and pride that I take over the role of President of the EJCH Auxiliary for 2024-2026.

It's a pleasure to take the helm from the expertise and assistance of Walt Van Winkle & the Auxiliary Board. My entire career background has been focused on making a positive difference in healthcare. I am very passionate about it and look forward to the opportunity to preside with the Board over the Auxiliary. One of my favorite beliefs is that most things in life take the effort of a "village." I truly believe that the volunteer organization exemplifies this idea. We are a "village" and even though our membership numbers have dwindled somewhat since Covid, we are very mighty, amazingly dedicated & fully committed to making a difference at EJCH. Even with our smaller membership we have continued to exceed expectations. As a major goal of growing our membership in the next few years, it's unlimited in what we can provide to this community.

I thank each & every one of you in advance for your time & effort to make our auxiliary one of the best in Georgia. Together, I believe we can do great things in the coming term. When you have the right people around you, anything is possible! I'm so glad we are all a part of this "village" we call EJCH Auxiliary and I look so forward to working with each of you!

Margery Jones, President

Emory Johns Creek Hospital Auxiliary



Meet Lakisha Hudson-Benbow, Manager of Volunteer Services

Our Auxiliary now has its own manager! Lakisha was born and raised in Yonkers, NY and graduated from Hampton University with a BA in Psychology. Lakisha has been married fourteen years, is a mom of four. The family adopts dogs that need to be rehomed. Lakisha loves helping people and we are already experiencing that with her interaction with us in the few short weeks she's been at Emory Johns Creek.

Professionally, Lakisha has been in healthcare for over 20 years, starting her career as a summer intern at Montefiore Medical Center in Bronx, NY. Lakisha created the role of customer service in the Emergency Room; we can appreciate the need for patients having an advocate who will listen and help. Lakisha went on to create the Customer Service Department for The Hebrew Home at Riverdale Rehab Center and was Executive Director for the MSK Experience – My Sister's Keeper initiative.

Lakisha's been part of Emory Healthcare for ten years. Her Emory journey started with Patient Access and then Patient Experience. Considered to be kind, generous, a hard worker, a problem solver, transparent and honest she will be a significant and welcomed addition to Emory Johns Creek.

EMORY JOHNS CREEK HOSPITAL AUXILIARY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Heather Redrick, COO and Lakisha Hudson-Benbow, the Auxiliary's new manager of Volunteer Services opened the meeting with thanks to all the volunteers for our contribution to the patient experience at the hospital. Full Minutes of the meeting can be found on our website at www.ejcha.org and then sign in to VicNet. Some highlights are in this newsletter. Lakisha officially installed the members of the Board.



Front Row: Sarah Gai Hytowitz, Cathy Waite, Lakisha Hudson-Benbow

Second Row: Cheryl Pressly, Margery Jones, Barb Kuester, Ed Holt, Rich Diggelmann,
Debbie Quinn, Ted Lynam Eileen Parsons, Walt VanWinkle



The Atlanta Falcons have caught baby fever. Georgia's pro football team is partnering with Emory Healthcare to bring goodies to new families. It's called the [Falcons Friday Baby Program](#), and it's all about welcoming the hospital system's newborns with official swag.

Families whose babies are born on Fridays at Emory Midtown, Emory Johns Creek Hospital and Emory Decatur during this year's NFL season will receive Falcons baby bundles.

"The Falcons Friday Baby Program embodies the spirit of community and celebration that defines our organization," Nana-Yaw Asamoah, senior vice president and chief commercial officer of [Atlanta Falcons parent company](#) AMB Sports and Entertainment, said in a news release. "We're honored to partner with Emory Healthcare to welcome the newest members of our Falcons family."

The baby bundle includes a Falcons/Emory Healthcare onesie, cotton baby cap and wash cloth, a "Dirty Birds Birth Certificate" and a note to the family signed by Atlanta Falcons president Greg Beadles. Parents will also be automatically entered for a chance to win an appearance by Freddie Falcon at their baby's first birthday party. The program officially started on September 13, 2024.

A Day in the life of.....

Allison Batson, a NICU nurse shared a heartwarming story about a mom, her baby and one of our volunteers, Amy Gamble.



Allison was caring for a mom who had delivered her baby girl earlier in the day and mentioned that this day was the day she and the baby's dad had planned to get married but she'd gone into labor instead. Allison and the L&D team along with our volunteer, Amy Gamble went into action to make a wedding ceremony happen fashioning a wedding gown out of sheets. She planned for one of our Chaplains to come upstairs to perform the ceremony and then called the Gift Shop searching for a bouquet for the bride. Amy was working that day and called her husband who happened to be shopping nearby at Kroger. He bought roses and baby breath, got it to Amy who made a bouquet for the bride and the wedding happened! A sweet side note is that a special outfit for the baby was given and the baby got to be her mom's flower girl!

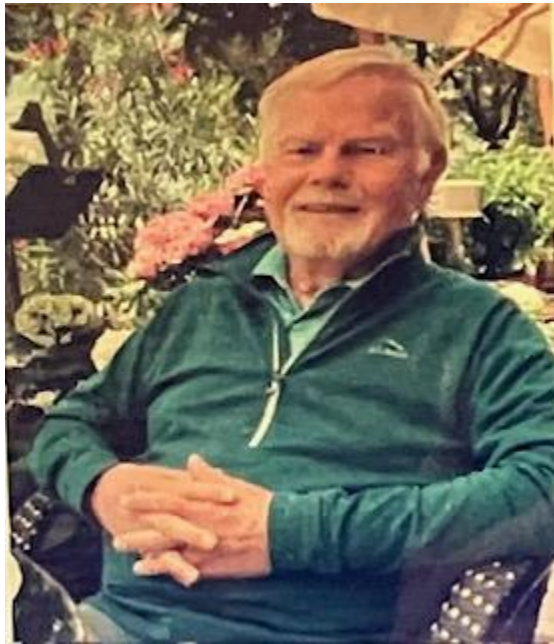
In addition to the birth of this precious baby, **in August L&D broke a record for babies born -350!** From January 1st, the staff has delivered 1477 babies all the more extraordinary that time and effort was further exerted to create a memorable day for one of our moms!



HONORING JANE AND DON RADMAN

Emory Johns Creek opened in February 2007. Two of the first volunteers were Jane and Don Radman who are still volunteering. Don works at Guest Services on Sundays and Jane has been with the Dietary Group all seventeen years. One of the first awards given to any volunteer was the Frist Achievement Award which Jane received. The Auxiliary presented them with an inscribed crystal vase recognizing their seventeen years (and counting) of dedicated service.

IN MEMORIAM



BILL MERRIGAN

Born on March 7, 1945, in Troy, NY, to William and Irma Merrigan, Bill lived a life filled with passion, dedication, and love. He was a respected professional, retiring as Senior Vice President at Westrock, where he made a lasting impact on everyone fortunate enough to know him. His career was not just a job; it was a testament to his commitment to excellence and his desire to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Beyond his professional life, Bill enjoyed following the New York Giants and playing golf. Known for “never meeting a stranger,” Bill’s warmth and friendliness left a lasting impression on everyone he encountered. He was also a member of Perimeter Church and volunteered at Emory Johns Creek Hospital, where he transported patients and their families in his golf cart and worked in the gift shop. Bill was a devoted husband and a caring father, remembered for his kindness and his ability to bring smiles to the faces of everyone he met.

In addition to his wife Kelly, Bill is survived by his daughter, Brooke Donovan; his brother, Donnie Merrigan; his stepmother, Janet Merrigan; his stepchildren, Justin, Jarrod, and Eden; and his nine beloved grandchildren. His memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

John & Cathy Waite, Ed and Joan Holt, Marty and Al Fellers, Peggy Gudger and Rich Diggelmann represented the Auxiliary.

(Information provided by Cromwell Brothers Funeral Home)

WAGGIN' WEDNESDAYS
and
Happy Tails Organization



Wagging tails and happy faces can be seen on Wednesdays at Emory Johns Creek Hospital. Two of the visiting furry friends above are Cara, an Irish-born “lass” and Wyatt. Happy Tails has been visiting Emory Johns Creek for years and are well-known and well loved by patients, visitors and staff. The mission of Happy Tails is to share connection, love and comfort in hospitals, assisted living, behavioral hospitals and schools throughout the Atlanta area. Their goal is to dedicate time with patients, caregivers, family and also student to improve their physical wellbeing and mental health. A visit with one of these special animals has shown a positive change in blood pressure, mood change for the better and a relaxed demeanor. Children with reading issues experience an ability to focus and read better. The power of pet therapy shows improvement in cognitive skills, memory, motor skills, stress relief, speech and communication, balance and coordination, mental health and heart health.



100 Hours Pin Awardees

Pamela Sue Fahey

Karen Hamilton

Cathy Waite

Ed Walker

Congratulations to all on your first milestone as a volunteer.

Also, recognition was given to Margery Jones and Jane Radman who were nominated as STARS at our hospital. They were honored at The Breakfast of Champions hosted by Heather Redrick, COO on July 30, 2024.

FUNDRAISING:



To our wonderful volunteers:

Thanks are in order for the generous donation of your time to help out with **the Uniforms for America scrub sale**. It is probably the most anticipated sale for the hospital staff all year, and it would be impossible to manage without you folks.

Our total sales compared to the Spring sale were off about 30%, likely due to the spiraling inflation. Nevertheless, we can **report total sales of \$14,013.84, a robust number. This yielded a commission of \$2,619.40. Payroll deduction sales were \$7,926.75, exceeding the cash and credit card sales of \$6087.09**, showing how important it is to offer this service to employees.

Again, our thanks to you for your participation. Check your calendars for the Silver Connection sale on October 28-29 and the ever popular, Pre-Christmas Masquerade \$5 sale on November 25-26 and be sure to sign up and tell you friends.

Rich Diggelmann

Folks,

I would be remiss in not recognizing some of the behind the scenes helpers who go a long way in tackling the logistic challenges of these sales.

Ed Holt for his willingness to come in the evening before the sale, help unload the truck and trailer and load up again at the end. He is always available to help with whatever the task may be. James and his Plant Ops department for their work clearing the sales area, bringing up tables and chairs and then reassembling the area. Charles Hart, the wind beneath our wings, for his generous support and “can do” attitude from the Public Safety side.

And last but certainly not least, Lakisha. This was her first rodeo with our brand of fundraising sales, and she pulled out all the stops to get us what we needed.

Rich

Talking With Your Health Care Providers About Complementary Approaches



If you use complementary health approaches, you may want to share this information with your health care providers. Keeping your providers fully informed helps you stay in control and effectively manage your health.

Telling your providers about the dietary supplements you use is especially important. Some supplements can interact in harmful ways with medicines. If your providers know what you're taking, they can help you avoid this problem.

Your health care providers may be able to help you find information about the safety and effectiveness of any complementary approaches you're considering. And if the approach involves seeing a practitioner, such as an acupuncturist, chiropractor, or massage therapist, they may be able to recommend someone in your area.

[Find out more](#)

(From NIH)



Total scholarships awarded 2023-24 were \$12,650. Recipients are as follows:

Ferris Abu-Ghosh, \$2500 to Emory University School of Medicine. Ferris is a volunteer and has logged over 300 volunteer hours.

Jong Min Cho, \$2500 to Georgia State University, Master of Science in Nursing. Jong is a full-time nurse at Emory Johns Creek.

Christy Eapen, \$2500 to Augusta University, Undergraduate class of Medical Scholars; she is the daughter of Silby Eapen, Case Manager at Emory Johns Creek.

Cameron Morgan, \$2500 to North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Bioengineering Program. Cameron is the son of Billie Morgan, Director of 6 Medical.

Callen Weaver, \$2500 (Renewal Scholarship) to Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene TX, Department of Physical Therapy and will graduate in 2025 as a Doctor of Physical Therapy. Callie is the granddaughter of Margery Jones, our newly elected Auxiliary President.

And an Advanced Skill Scholarship was awarded to **JoAnne Cummings**, RN, Endoscopy Department, \$150 to attend the Annual Georgia SGNA Educational Conference in Helen GA this November.



The Old Bridge, Blue Ridge GA

HAPPY FALL Y'ALL!