



## Message from President Linda Holloway

*Greetings* to all our hospital volunteers! I hope you are continuing to “bring a fresh and caring spirit to those you serve,”

even with the temperatures soaring in this summer weather. One of the coolest ways I’ve found to beat the heat is volunteering at my hospital, where the thermostat is kept on COOL. I have heard that some hospital groups are still not up to previous involvement in their hospitals, and many are not up to the previous numbers in membership. At our July Board of Management meeting, some ideas were shared. One suggestion was to diversify your membership. Instead of looking to the same source of acquiring volunteers, consider reaching out to other groups: churches with various ethnic and cultural membership, civic organizations in the community, retired educators, retired hospital employees, etc. Colquitt Regional Medical Center Auxiliary in Moultrie was given the challenge by their CEO to increase membership by “23 in ’23.” The DVS and auxiliary held a brunch and invited community members to come and learn what it means to be a hospital volunteer. The DVS informed me a couple of days ago that they had gained **25** new members already and had 6 more pending. And as the Membership Chairperson in

my hospital is always reminding us, the best way is to share your own personal satisfaction. So be creative, look for new resources and recruitment methods, and stay positive. We also discussed finding people to hold offices at local, district, and state levels. Think about your strengths, what you have to offer, and what you are willing to learn to do for your team, as well as the state Council, and be willing to step forward. If you want to get more out of your volunteer group, you need to seek ways to put more into it.

Another topic of discussion at the BOM meeting was the annual state conference to be held in Macon on October 16-17. Beth Lewis has continued to work diligently to make this an enjoyable, educational, and rejuvenating experience. We have not had a state-wide meeting since 2019. I am so looking forward to seeing many of you. Your president should have received a registration packet by now, either from your district director or by mail. If not, please have him or her contact me via email as soon as possible.

Thank you over and over again for your service to your volunteer group, your hospital, and your community.

*Sincerely,*

*President Linda Holloway*



## Message from President-Elect Ida Byrd



Hello everyone,

What a wonderful time of the year! We have experienced a lot this year, winter is way gone, spring has sprung and gone, summer is here and so much fun to take in—fun with family and vacations. My most enjoyable time was vacation in May with family in Las Vegas, and a family reunion this July (first one since the pandemic). I've enjoyed my summer, even the hot and humid weather that comes with it. That's the kind of weather we get in Georgia, so I just roll with it and do all I can to stay cool and hydrated, so be careful everyone in this hot weather.

So on a cooler note, COVS had their BOM meeting July 18. Seeing everyone was like rays of sunshine. There was excitement in the atmosphere as everyone reported on what was going on in the hospitals in their district. There was some good take-aways that could be implemented in each hospital. A bright future is ahead.

On October 16-17, COVS will have their annual conference which I have attended for many

years and have always enjoyed. I am looking forward to seeing all the districts in the state represented, and I'm sure it will be fun fellowshipping with volunteers from all around the state. A number of different vendors will be there, along with great speakers, and great food. I am looking forward to seeing all. Continue to have a marvelous summer, and I will see you in October.

*Respectfully,*

*Ida Byrd, President-Elect*

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-For more information, go to [covsgeorgia.org](http://covsgeorgia.org).

On Thursday, June 22, Northwest District Directors Willie Robinson and Audrey Watts attended **Wellstar Cobb Medical Center's** (*Austell*) Installation Luncheon in order to install their incoming officers for the 2023/24 fiscal year. The luncheon was held at Bay Breeze Seafood Restaurant—a favorite among the volunteers. The installation service focused on the many parts of the Board and how each member does their own special thing that blends together to make the whole Board—much like the many ingredients of a cake. In fact Board members were given a souvenir of their special day. In the yellow bags in the picture below there was a flour sifter, a cake pan, measure spoons, spices, etc. Every item that needed to insure a delicious cake! Thank you Willie and Audrey for making this day very special to Cobb volunteers.



### South Georgia Medical Center

Auxiliary (*Valdosta*) is proud to be able to give \$40,000 to their Foundation in 2022/23. The money donated will be used for fetal monitor carts for women and infants.



**Wellstar Kennestone Hospital** (*Marietta*) hosted an OR Day experience for some of the summer VolunTeens. Students were given the opportunity to use the DaVinci Robot and learned how to cauterize vessels, practice sutures, and learn how to put pins in bones to stabilize breaks. The students had a great time, and they all agreed that the DaVinci Robot was the coolest!



### **Colquitt Regional Volunteers** (*Moultrie*)

**Did you Know...**that Colquitt Regional Medical Center (*Moultrie*) has a 24-hour gift vending machine?! The new location for this machine is across from the Red Owl Coffee Shop and the visitor's desk and will make it easier for visitors to access and to buy something for a loved one!



The *Courier* is published in **February, May, August, and November** of each year. The deadline for each of these issues is one month before each publication. Submit your newsletter articles to the editor, Anna Best, at [best.dewitt1968@gmail.com](mailto:best.dewitt1968@gmail.com). You are also welcome to submit your articles at any time, and they will be held until the next issue. For last minute submissions, please let Anna know as soon as possible, and she will do her best to see your article is published.



## Southeast Georgia Health System Remembers Volunteer Sharon Bowen

*(Brunswick and Camden)*

*(an excerpt from their June newsletter)*

Sadly, June started off with heartbreak and the loss of volunteer Sharon Bowen. She was a whirlwind of energy who enjoyed merchandising at our Camden Gift Shop each Thursday. She was also actively involved in her community and church, and you might remember her as a recent

Council on Volunteer Services Georgia district director followed by conference chair. The last photo I took of her is above, taken in April 2023. She was busy in the Brunswick Gift Shop helping receive merchandise, pausing only briefly for a photo and looking down her glasses at me as if to say “hurry up and take the picture, I’m busy.” She is already missed by many.



## Save the Date!

Annual State Conference 2023

Monday, October 16 - Tuesday, October 17

**Anderson Conference Center  
Macon, Georgia**

Registrations should be received by September 1—\$100 per person

Registrations received after September 1—\$130 per person

Come and enjoy a vendor show, raffle, silent auction, door prizes, and breakout sessions

Guest speaker is Georgia Supreme Court Justice John Ellington

**Theme—50s and 60s**

Music by Mike English

*(More information has been distributed to your local hospital.)*



## Colquitt Regional Volunteers (Moultrie) Bring Blessing Meals to Local Elementary Schools

Each year, Colquitt Regional Volunteer Services forms a committee to create a community service project. The 2022-2023 committee recommended "Blessing Meals" boxes to be distributed during different holidays throughout the year to families of students that are in need.

Committee members Carolyn Christie, Donna Lee, Annie Ruth Hall, Joyce Tye, Patsy Akridge, Laura Brooks, and Jimmy Heirs introduced the idea to the remainder of the membership during their monthly meeting. A plan was developed to partner with three local elementary schools to identify families that could benefit from Blessing Meals.

"Holidays are a hard time financially on many families," said Colquitt Regional Volunteer Services President Laura Brooks. "Our hope was to relieve some of that burden for the families of our local elementary school students in need."

With the help of local businesses, the volunteers were able to distribute 60 Blessing

Meals boxes to families of students at Doerun, Norman Park, and Odom Elementary Schools. Each Blessing Meal contained a large ham, a wide variety of non-perishable items, a large aluminum pan, a decoration for the holiday in which it was distributed, and an encouraging note from the Colquitt Regional Volunteers. A minimum of six servings was included in each meal box.

"We can't thank the staff of the Moultrie Piggly Wiggly enough for all of their help and generosity in

assisting us with assembling these boxes for this wonderful cause," said Committee Chairman Carolyn Christie. "They were essential to the success of this project and were incredibly helpful."

Each school was designated a holiday - Thanksgiving, Christmas, or Easter. The week before each designated holiday, the volunteers gathered supplies to assemble and distribute the Blessing Meal boxes. Sixteen boxes were delivered to Doerun Elementary during Thanksgiving, 20 were delivered to Norman Park Elementary during Christmas, and 24 were delivered to Odom Elementary during Easter.

Boxes were distributed to students' families during morning drop off and afternoon pick up.

The volunteers wrapped up the 2022-2023 project during the Easter holiday and will soon select the 2023-2024 community service project.

"The volunteers at Colquitt Regional are the embodiment of servant's hearts," said Colquitt Regional President and CEO

Jim Matney. "They have served our hospital and community for decades, always looking for ways they can help and give benevolently."

The special project committee is formed each year to identify a need in the community and form an annual community service project to contribute to that need. Previously, the volunteers delivered 1,880 socks to children at Cox and Stringfellow Elementary schools for the "Happy Feet" community service project. Previous community service



*Each year, Colquitt Regional Volunteer Services forms a committee to create a community service project. The 2022-2023 committee recommended "Blessing Meals" boxes to be distributed during different holidays throughout the year to families of students that are in need. Pictured are Colquitt Regional Volunteers Connie McCoy, Laura Brooks, Jimmy and Julia Hiers and Carolyn Christie delivering "Blessing Meals" to a local school.*

On June 29, the **Wellstar Cobb Medical Center (Austell)** Council on Volunteer Services was pleased to present the Wellstar Foundation with a check for \$75,000 for the 2022/23 fiscal year. Volunteers have raised these funds through the sales at our two gift shops and revenues from outside vendor sales. Over the past 30 years, Cobb's Council on Volunteer Services has provided an amazing \$5.8 million to the Foundation. They have touched many areas at Cobb Hospital including the NICU, Tranquility, Healthy Futures, Angel Fund, and Cobb General Fund.



*Pictured left to right: Felix Soto Izaguirre, Chief Financial Officer; Kathy Campbell, Acting Chief Nursing Officer; Eliese Bernard, Hospital President; Anna Best, Council on Volunteer Services President; Nathan Causey, Volunteer Manager; Pamela Kramer, Regional Development Officer; and Katlyn Watford, Patient Experience Director*

Recently at the Annual Awards Banquet, the **Houston Medical Center Auxiliary (Warner Robins)** awarded high schoolers their scholarships. Below are the names of the Scholarship Award Winners for 2023:

- Mary Rowland
- Anna Thomas
- Molly Brown
- Gebriel Gibb
- Marcus Major
- Ethan Bulharowski



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projects include a donation and aid in promotion of the National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMH) and the delivery of 120 gift bags to three Colquitt County senior care facilities for residents.

"We are excited to see what the 2023-2024 community service project committee chooses for next year's special project," said Brooks. "I know it will be for a great cause and will greatly benefit the Colquitt County community."

These annual community service contributions are made possible through the proceeds of The Pink Pearl Gift Shop, located in the main lobby of the hospital. The Pink Pearl carries a variety of gift items, apparel, jewelry, flowers, and candies. The earnings of the gift shop allow volunteers to purchase necessary equipment for the hospital, donate annually to hospital improvement projects, and contribute to the community through many community service projects.

## Memorial Satilla Health Auxiliary (Waycross)



In a surprise presentation, COO Chris Kovacs and Greg O'Quinn of **Memorial Satilla Health** recognized Volunteer Linder Harris with the Sunflower Award! The Sunflower Award recognizes non-nurse team members for delivering compassionate and remarkable experiences for our patients and visitors. Along with the award, Linder received a bouquet of beautiful sunflowers, sunflower cupcakes, a reserved "Sunflower" parking space and other 'goodies.'

Linder's willingness to help others is evident in all that she does, whether manning the information desk or guiding guests to their desired destinations. Linder has been a valued member of the Memorial Auxiliary for eight years.



### Dedicated Hearts

*Dedicated hearts like yours  
Are not so easy to find.  
It takes a special person to be  
So generous and kind.*

*To care so much for your fellow man  
Is a quality all too rare.  
Yet you give of your time and talents,  
For all in need to share.*

*So thank you for being a volunteer,  
We're privileged to work with you.  
We want you to know how appreciated you are,  
Not just today, but the whole year through.*