



The Courier

Anna Best, Editor

Quarterly Newsletter Council on Volunteer Services
Georgia Health Care, Inc.

November 1, 2022



Message from President Linda Holloway

Welcome to the new 2022-2023 year for Council on Volunteer Services/Georgia Healthcare! I

am so excited to see hospitals and volunteers working to make our communities a better place to live. You will be seeing lots of daisies around to go with the theme chosen for this year, "Hospital Volunteers bring a fresh feeling of happiness to others." Daisies are such simple yet beautiful flowers. As volunteers, you may feel that what you do is so simple, but those you serve see it as a beautiful gift of your time and energy. So be like a daisy this year. Your word of empathy or encouragement to a patient or one of their visitors may be what gets them through the stressful time in your hospital. A word of thanks and appreciation to a staff member/employee may be just what they needed to lift them up when dealing with a patient or just trying to make it through the last hours of a long shift.

We are also looking to have a fresh new start to re-opening meetings for our members. The pandemic closed much of the personal touch with other

members for the past three years. Our presidents who served during that time (Betty Anne Foran, Martha Greene Tucker, and Cathy Heffner) worked diligently to keep COVS going. Cathy and her conference chairs (Sharon Bowen and Donna Doersch) began to move toward in-person gatherings with the Spring District Conferences, which were a big success. Our plans are to continue and expand that move this year by holding in-person meetings for president/president-elect training, spring district meetings, and an annual conference. The District Directors in each district are already making plans and contacts to get these underway. They are working to make each event as cost-conservative as possible. Our conference chair Beth Lewis has been busy planning an annual conference packed with information and fun. So please make every effort to attend as many of these events as possible.

In closing, my challenge to each of you again is to be like a daisy-- fresh, simple but beautiful, and representative of the caring spirit. Please call on

me if I can be of service to you in any way.





First I would like to thank God for the opportunity to serve on the COVS BOM, and I embrace the inspiration I've received from this board. The baton has been passed, and I receive it with great honor. I am grateful to have served as District Director for the past two years. It was a great experience and opportunity to serve the NW district. As I embark upon the position of

President-elect, I want to thank Linda Holloway and the BOM for the opportunity to serve as President-elect. I will do my best to serve with honor and gratitude and to do what is asked of me, always ready to assist the President in whatever way I can and serve in a way that will be pleasing to God, BOM, and the COVS organization.

Our Volunteers Around Georgia



Wellstar Kennestone Hospital (Marietta) volunteers on weekday evenings or during the day on weekends, may see 15 to 18 year-olds wearing khaki pants and Wellstar blue t-shirts with ***Student Volunteer*** on the sleeve. These are the Wellstar Volunteens! Adult volunteers are asked to help train them in their assignment or invite them to a meal in the cafeteria. These young

people perform many of the same duties as adult volunteers for 12 to 16 weeks between August and November, as well as, February to May. They transport patients to discharge, help hospital visitors find their way, complete clerical tasks, stock supplies, or complete other adult volunteer activities. Because many of them are interested in careers in medicine, during the summer they have special programs such as ***OR Day*** or ***Trauma Day***. They are assigned to work with department nurses, unit secretaries, and care partners. Volunteer Services shares information about the program with school counselors across the county, via postings on their website, and by word of mouth. Kennestone is very proud of their VolunTeens!

In this Issue

Page 1, Message from
Linda Holloway, President

Page 2, Message from
Ida Byrd, President-Elect
Wellstar Kennestone VolunTeens

Page 3, Our Volunteers Around Georgia
- Wellstar Kennestone Hospital Annual Donation
- Wellstar Kennestone Mix and Mingle Week
- Awards Announced for 2021-2022

Page 4, Our Volunteers Around Georgia
- St. Mary's Auxiliary Thrift Store

Page 5, Our Volunteers Around Georgia
- Wellstar Cobb Announces New Manager of Volunteer Services
- Wellstar Cobb Vendor Sale
- Wellstar Cobb Adopt-a-Department Program

Page 6-7
- Pictures of Board of Management Meeting and Installation of New Officers

-For more information, go to covsgeorgia.org.



The **Wellstar Kennestone Hospital (Marietta)** volunteers annual donation to the Foundation this year was \$300,000. This donation funded Kennestone's Outpatient Habitation's Kitchen remodeling, the Inpatient Department's Therapeutic Intervention Kits, a NICU-GI shuttle, CVICU's Heart Pillows, Atherton Place's Benevolence Fund, and a Dialysis Expansion from 9 to 15 bays. Way to go Kennestone volunteers!

Kennestone volunteers enjoy a *Mix and Mingle Social Week* on the second week of each month in the volunteer office from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Volunteers gather to eat, have fun, and fellowship with other volunteers.

Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."

- Sherry Anderson

Awards Announced for 2021-2022

CEO of the Year—Michael Burnett, Piedmont Athens Regional Hospital

DVS of the Year—Tammy Gilland, Piedmont Athens Regional Hospital

Community of Conscience Outreach Award

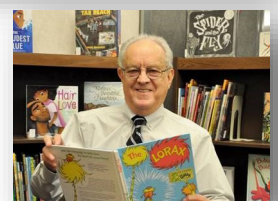
- **Large Hospital Category**—Southeast Georgia Health System, Brunswick Campus, SE District
- **Medium Hospital Category**—Phoebe Sumter Medical Center, SW District

The award came as a result of a submission from Phoebe Sumter's Auxiliary. Each year, our volunteers designate a project that will enhance the experience of patients and other stakeholders at PSMC. In their February meeting, PSMC OB Nurse Manager Katie Boley attended and spoke about the need of comfort pads for mothers after they have given birth. The pads help mothers feel more comfortable in the beds postpartum, and as a result increase their overall patient experience. The proposal was approved and our OB unit received 8 comfort pads, which are all currently in use and have been well received. On October 27, Phoebe Sumter Auxiliary President Janice Harris presented the award to Phoebe Sumter CEO Carlyle Walton in a ceremony that was held in the main lobby.



The **Frist Humanitarian Awards** are given in recognition of the caring spirit and philanthropic work of the late Dr. Thomas Frist, Sr. These awards

honor employees and volunteers for their exceptional humanitarian and volunteer activities. The South Atlantic Division winner of the HCA Healthcare Award of Distinction for a Volunteer in 2022 is: Charles Eames (Memorial Satilla, Waycross).





St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary (Athens) Upscale Thrift Store

Celebrates \$2 Million In Sales

The credit goes to all of our wonderful Auxiliary volunteers who make this store possible.

For a thrift store – even an upscale store that specializes in high-quality used goods – it takes a lot of sales to add up to \$2 million. But that's just what the volunteers who operate St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary Upscale Thrift Store have done since founding the store in 2008.

"The credit goes to all of our wonderful Auxiliary volunteers who make this store possible," said

Angie Patterson, manager of St. Mary's gift shop and thrift store. "We are blessed with a dedicated and hard-working group of volunteers who are committed to raising funds for St. Mary's and who were eager to reopen and staff the store after our 13-month COVID shutdown."

"I am in awe at what our volunteers do," St. Mary's President and CEO Montez Carter said. "We are forever grateful for their commitment and dedication to our health care ministry. On behalf of everyone at St. Mary's, it is my honor to say thank you."





Our Volunteers Around Georgia

Wellstar Cobb Hospital (Austell)

is thrilled to announce that Nathan

Causey has joined the Cobb Hospital team from Atlanta Medical Center and will serve as Manager of Volunteer Services. He is immensely excited to begin work with the volunteers!

Nathan started with Cobb Wellstar this October and has already had the pleasure of meeting board members and volunteers. Nathan is originally from Alabama and got his start in healthcare as a Certified Nursing Assistant 28 years ago. He has worked as a Respiratory Therapist across multiple states and has worked for Wellstar for 13 years in multiple roles. He even worked at Wellstar Cobb Hospital in the past, and we are so happy to welcome him home again. Nathan is married and has two sons.

In September, Cobb Auxiliary held their 2nd in person vendor sale since the beginning of the pandemic. The sales goal was set at \$6,000!

Everyone worked towards the goal together with multiple shifts, technical difficulties, and so many other hurdles but we did not let that stop us! We were so pleased to inform our volunteers that after all their hard work and dedication **we met our goal, and EXCEEDED it!** Our sales total ended at a whopping **\$14,026!** The hospital staff is happy to have the vendors back in the hospital!

Pictured here are President Anna Best; Past President, April Crawford; and Special Events and Hospitality Chair Mabel Olufelo delivering goodie bags to one of the many departments at Wellstar



Cobb to thank them for their service. The volunteers thank two departments each month of the year for all that they do for the hospital!



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.

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.

Board of Management Meeting and Installation of New Officers

October 18-19, 2022

Macon, Georgia



Board of Management Meeting and Installation of New Officers

October 18-19, 2022

Macon, Georgia

