

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF EVANSVILLE STATE HOSPITAL

Year End Reflection By Gene Schadler, L.C.S.W., Superintendent

As I am writing this, there are flurries blowing and below freezing temperatures. The coldness, short days, and starkness of winter is a time for the Earth to rest as it prepares for the seasons ahead. This is also a time for us to reflect on our next steps organizationally, as well as individually.

Last year the State Psychiatric Hospitals made history with the implementation of the first fully functional electronic medical records system – Cerner. Evansville State Hospital staff did a tremendous job integrating and adjusting to our new records program. This is a tribute to our staff, who work hard to do the best that they can within the realms of electronic medical records, patient care, maintenance of our facility, and quality treatment.

In addition, when there is a challenge, hardship, or need, our staff pull together to address the issue head on. In 2019 staff at Evansville State Hospital donated more than \$10,000 to those in need through the State Employees’ Community Campaign. When there is a situation with a fellow staff or within our community, teams of people pull together to donate money, provide food, or assist in any way possible to aid our fellow peers. Thank you for all that you do to build a better community. Your efforts are noticed and appreciated!

The 2020 Evansville State Hospital Strategic Plan has been developed to give direction to the hospital and set our priorities for the year to come. We will continue to strengthen patient care using continuous improvement concepts known as High Reliability. This will include ongoing education and projects in every department that will allow us to view our challenges as opportunities for growth. This helps us to strengthen our communication, collaboration, and environment as we work to provide Hope and Recovery to all of our patients.



Quilts

Thank you Elaine Smith for your time and talents! Elaine worked diligently for many months to finish the two quilt tops donated to the hospital by employee John Sakel. They’re beautiful and perfect for the winter season.

Music Ministry

The hospital provides worship services on Sundays and Wednesdays each week. We are looking to expand our musical offerings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday services from 4-5:00 p.m., and are looking for musicians/small choir groups to help with this on a quarterly basis. If you can help provide worship music, please contact the Community Services office at 812-469-6800, ext. 4208.



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Christmas Season Thanks

By Theresa Arvin, Community Services Director

What a joyful Christmas season we had! Approximately 140 volunteers visited the hospital in December to bring cheer to our patients. And more than 150 sponsors purchased gifts for our patients filling their wish lists. A special thanks goes out to each one of you for your efforts to plan fun holiday activities as well as hunt down the specific gift items requested.

With your generosity and fellowship, the patients celebrated the season with dancing, singing, and entertaining games and activities. Did I mention the good food and holiday treats? Yes, there was plenty of that as well. A unique activity this year was the making of prayer boxes that were in the shape of Santa's boot with small sheets of paper for individual blessings and prayers. Many wrote down their hope for peace, love, health and happiness for each other, for their families and friends, and for the world.

Many of our patients received music devices, mp3 players, that are utilized daily by patients for relaxation and wellness. Music soothes the soul, and can brighten one's mood. Music lyrics have been known to inspire and help reflect on life's journey. Personal care products are highly requested as practicing good body hygiene helps you feel good about yourself boosting your mental health. Those pleasant smelling body washes, lotions and sprays refreshes a person, generates feelings of self-confidence. Pleasant smells are known to de-stress and act as a distraction lifting one's mood and even reducing one's pain.

Sponsors sometimes worry about clothing preferences, colors and styles. The best gift is sometimes something you would normally not purchase for yourself. Dressing up and wearing bright colors does impact your mood. And what a rush it can be when someone compliments you on your appearance or new clothes.

Thank you for blessing the patients with your time, talents, and treasures. Your contributions made the Christmas holiday a special one!

Did You Know?

Donations of Amazon gift cards are accepted to download music onto the patients' mp3 players.

Other items wanted for recreation are a Wii system, karaoke machine, karaoke CD's, a throw and roll one-hole golf set, bowling sets, and playing cards (www.flaghouse.com).

Contact Community Services if you can help at 812-469-6800 ext. 4208.



Decorations in the gym were of a Candyland theme with large lollipops and gingerbread. Taffy ornaments adorned the two nine foot Christmas trees.



Above: Metro Ballroom Dance Club members warm up before the holiday party given by the Southwestern IN Building Trades Council. Clowns partook in the dancing and passed out stickers.

Years of Service Recognition

In November, employees were honored with a barbecue meal and many received certificates for their years of service anniversaries. This event was hosted by the Employee Recognition Committee.



Francian Clardy receives a certificate for 10 years of service by Superintendent Gene Schadler.

New Employees

Cari Brown, Switchboard
Shaileigh Crane, Environmental Services
Detrick Grant, Physical Plant
Ashley Reavis, Environmental Services
John Sakel, Nursing Service
Chelsey Schlumpf, Environmental Services
Toccarra Wilson, Environmental Services



Goodbye Employees

Sherry Breeden, Nursing Service
Leslie Davis, Nursing Service
Brianna Landstrom, Nursing Service
Lesley Shelton, Nursing Service
Karen Wathen, Nursing Service

In Loving Memory Cathy Brandenstein,
 Nursing Service

5 YEARS

Kristen Blikken
 Brandon Bretzinger
 Cassie Bretzinger
 Christy Disney
 Andrew Hartmann
 Dennis Hilderbrand
 Meagen Madison
 Carrie Marrett
 Stephen Mathis
 Sharon Mingus-Young
 Phyllis Phillips
 Donna Washington
 Kevin Weaver

10 YEARS

Francian Clardy
 Michelle Feast
 Amanda Gray
 Marsha Howell
 Steven Schiavone-LaRue
 Mary Summers
 Jeff Wedding
 Mary Jane Will

15 YEARS

Natalie Corum
 John Cowling
 Kathleen Dick
 Linda Hogan
 Benita Willett

20 YEARS

Shane Hickrod
 Melissa Williams

25 YEARS

Kim Bennett
 Vickie Hatcher
 Melody Kebortz
 Eula Wilson

30 YEARS

Charles Smith
 Macie Uplinger

35 YEARS

Sherrie Huffman
 Paula Hurst
 Terri Morris
 Debbie Wilson

Attention Visitors

Please utilize the lobby lockers to store personal belongings while visiting. Please no cell phones and cameras.



If you don't feel well, please stay at home. You should not visit if you have a presence of a cough and/or fever. The flu virus is contagious several days before signs and symptoms are seen which makes prevention challenging.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

COMMUNITY CONNECTION is published every other month for friends of Evansville State Hospital. News items are welcome and should be submitted to the Community Services Office.

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WWW.IN.GOV

SECC Breaks Records

The state achieved it's record setting goal of \$1.6 million in pledges to charities through the State Employees' Community Campaign. FSSA also broke a record with pledges over \$198,000. ESH employees pledged over \$10,200 to their favorite charities. The SECC events at ESH this year included a coffee and donut kick-off, photo contests, a picnic, and chili cook-off.

The "Together We Serve" photo contest was won by Asst. Superintendent Jeff Wedding with his photo depicting a gathering of scouts from St. John's Pack 330 after an environmental project at the riverfront. Other entries pictured are the ESH Management Team and Key family.

