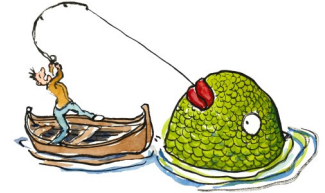


COMMUNITY CONNECTION

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF EVANSVILLE STATE HOSPITAL

Good Catch By Gene Schadler, L.C.S.W., Superintendent

One of the aspects of cultural change is shifting culture to focus on our strengths as the means to manage our weaknesses. It is important to know areas of needed improvement and steps to strengthen our weakness, but only focusing on our negatives leaves most of us frustrated and with a negative mindset. Good Catch is an initiative to recognize an employee for a situation that had the potential to cause an incident but did not due to the corrective action by the staff member. This is a chance to give a “shout out” to staff for those actions that promote safety and reduce our risk of negative occurrences. This is directly related to our High Reliability goals of avoiding disasters in an environment where normal accidents can be expected due to risk factors and complexity. Examples of Good Catches so far include:



- Reported swinging door in canteen hitting heels and lower body.
- Observed that the chalk for the pool tables in the gym is a safety risk and quickly removed them.
- Reported that a contractor left a vehicle running outside the warehouse.
- Found fluid on floor and stayed there until someone came to clean it up.
- Reported a safer way to conduct a CPI seated hold.
- Attempts by staff in calming a patient when emotionally intense so problem solving could take place for the best outcome to occur.



Good Catches will be listed on a “Swimming Upstream Towards Zero Harm” sign at the staff entrance each month. Likewise, let us continue on our quest to provide the safest environment that we can at ESH.

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New Employees

Kiona Alvis, Nursing Service
Lisa Filippes, Nursing Service
Denise Gross, Nursing Service
Larry Harvey, Jr., Security
Ebone Henderson, Nursing Service
Jason Hunter, Nursing Service



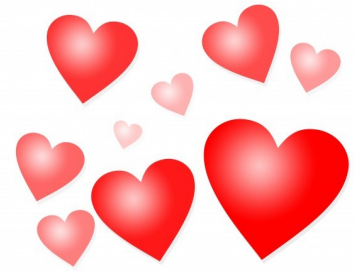
Goodbye Employees

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



Valentine Fun

Valentine activities leading up to the holiday were plentiful with writing poetry, distributing fortune teller origami Valentine's, weaving paper hearts, word games and the viewing of "Charlie Brown's Valentine Special" with snacks. A variety of leisure programming on Valentine's Day included bowling, nail care with heart designs, playing cards, table games, and karaoke love songs. A Valentine's party on one unit involved creating wall décor with paper hearts that listed one thing you love about yourself. Written on the hearts were "my smile", "my laugh", "I'm a caring person", and "I'm kind." As it should be, it was a wonderful week of love.



Spring Beach Bash

The Spring Event Committee is planning a variety of beach-themed activities for the morning of Friday, March 20th. Patients will be building sandcastles, throwing corn hole bags, participating in a scavenger hunt, races and relays, as well as playing versions of classic games such as Tic-Tac-Toe, Connect Four, and Jenga. The focus is on increasing skills of team building, communication and socialization to combat bullying.

Thank you!

Thank you for your generosity and contributions. We received the following donations over the past few months: yarn, greeting cards, shower gel, bath wash, lotion, body spray, magazines, coloring books, 2020 calendars, puzzle books, composition books, novels, jigsaw puzzles, lip balm, note pads, and funds for the Patient Indigent Fund to allow for canteen snacks for our patients with little or no resources.

Your donation of Amazon gift cards has allowed for specific genres of music to be downloaded onto personal mp3 players.

Your donation of Dairy Queen and Subway gift cards have allowed for several patients to participate in off campus lunch trips.

Your donation of Walmart and Shoe Carnival gift cards have allowed for patients to receive needed clothing and shoes.

Our current needs include ethnic hair care products, shampoo and conditioner, inexpensive men's watches, and alarm clock radios (cord must be affixed to unit and cannot be detachable). Contact Community Services if you can help at 812-469-6800 ext. 4208.



In Memory Of



A celebration of life in memory of Cathy Brandenstein took place for staff and patients on Thursday, January 16. An additional memorial service was held on January 21 for staff and retirees. Cathy was a long-time nursing employee working both day and night shifts for 22 years. She was remembered by both employees and patients as one who recognized birthdays with special surprise celebrations. She was like a mother to several, showing compassion and understanding in a genuine manner. Her humor and lively personality touched us all. A tree will be planted in the spring to honor Cathy's decades of serving people who have mental illness both at and outside of ESH.

Volunteer Service Celebration

190 individual and group volunteers logged in 1,101 hours of volunteer service during calendar year 2019. These volunteers will be honored at the annual Volunteer Service Celebration on Thursday, April 23 from 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the River Birch Dining Room. Certificates will recognize our dedicated volunteers for their sharing of their time, talents, and treasures. Several special honors will be awarded this year.



“Our volunteers have been coming out for many years with an enormous amount of longevity,” says Theresa Arvin, Community Services Director. Examples of this are members of the Southwestern IN Building Trades Council who have been visiting over the Christmas season for more than 60 years and have provided funding for a variety of educational, recreational, and program supplies. Another example of longevity is volunteer Ruth Wathen of the Southern IN Military Moms who has been visiting with veterans in the Friend to Friend program for over 22 years with her club sponsoring patients for more than 32 years. Ruth continues to recruit new club members to ensure the tradition is continued for many years to come. And serving as a volunteer advocate on the Human Rights Committee for more than 13 years, Doug Goeppner plays a vital role in reviewing patient complaints and ensuring patient rights are protected. His non-judgmental approach and impartiality is exemplary and evident in the review process. Lastly, holiday sponsors such as members of Holy Rosary Church, Zion Lippe United Church of Christ, Knights of St. John & St. Wendel, and students of the University of Southern Indiana’s Associate of Nursing Program, have been involved in the Christmas Gift Lift Program for 15 or more years filling wish lists to ensure that everyone is recognized with gifts at Christmas.

“Community support throughout the years has been remarkably constant and strong thanks to our loyal volunteers.”

a Heartfelt 



TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Invitations to the service celebration will be mailed out in early April. Hats off to our ESH volunteers as we celebrate National Volunteer Week April 19-25, 2020!

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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Governor's Award Recipients

Congratulations to Sherrie Huffman, Patient Clothing, and Carole Johnson, Nursing Service, recipients of the Governor's Award for years of state service. Sherrie was honored for 35 years of service, and Carole for 40 years.



Carole Johnson, R.N. is presented with the Governor's Award by Bev Robbins, Director of Nursing, and supervisor John Cowling, Associate Director of Nursing.



Assistant Superintendent Jeff Wedding congratulates Sherrie Huffman on her service award.



EVANSVILLE STATE HOSPITAL
since 1890