



## A Word from Your Volunteer Coordinator Kathy Coombes

When I moved to Washington, I left a wonderful group of volunteers in Payson, Arizona. In many ways the parting was sad as we had become a family. When I began serving in my new position, I had all of the insecurities one might expect from starting a new job. It soon became very clear that the volunteers serving Olympic Medical Center are a wonderful group of people and I was welcomed warmly. For that I will forever be grateful. It's amazing how quickly I adapted to my environment and new friends.

Presently we have a base of over 80 volunteers. To fully understand the impact our volunteers have on OMC, I would like to share some statistics. In 2009, our volunteers logged a very impressive 9,805 service hours. When these hours are converted to a dollar amount, the total contribution is \$202,247.35. This clearly shows the positive impact volunteers have on supporting hospital staff which ultimately improves the quality of patient care. OMC's vision is "to be the community's first choice for quality, compassionate health care." Our volunteers help make this happen.

### Highlights since October 2009:

- Twenty new volunteers
- Added a third shift of runners/information desk at OMC
- Implemented the information desk with two full shifts at the Sequim Medical Services Building
- Purchased a desk for Sequim Medical Services Building volunteers

- Added three new volunteers at the Olympic Medical Center at Cancer Center in Sequim
- Added positions in human resources, Sequim physical therapy office, med/surg/peds, diagnostic imaging
- Presented the Pet Therapy volunteers at the December Board of Commissioner's meeting
- Developed a gift shop committee to research implementing Point of Sale
- Added volunteer program information to the OMC Website
- Developed volunteer brochures
- Revised the volunteer handbook
- Implemented quarterly newsletter

In April we will be showcase our appreciation to volunteers, including those who are new and those who have been loyal to OMC for many years. Your acts of kindness do not go unnoticed.

*There are those whose lives affect all others around them. Quietly touching one heart, who in turn, touches another. Reaching out to ends further than they would ever know. - William Bradford-*

## About the OMC Auxiliary

The name of our non-profit charitable organization is the Olympic Medical Center Auxiliary. The Auxiliary was formed when the hospital (Olympic Memorial Hospital) was erected in early 1952. Mrs. Andrew Smith was the first president.

The purpose in the beginning is the same today; to promote and advance the welfare of Olympic Medical Center through fund raising, in a manner satisfactory to the medical center's governing Board.

Membership in the Auxiliary shall be open to any individual with an interest in benefiting Public Hospital District #2 of Clallam County, doing business as Olympic Medical Center, regardless of age, creed, color, lifestyle, economic status or sex. We encourage all volunteers to join the Auxiliary and become a part of this wonderful organization.

#### Auxiliary Facts:

- In 2009 the Auxiliary raised money through the gift Shop, the gift shop holiday sale and the arts and crafts fair. The Auxiliary was responsible for generating more than \$21,500 donated to OMC for the purchase of medical equipment, Lifeline and college scholarships.
- Since 1980, contributions have totaled over \$340,000.



**Auxiliary President Patty McCarty** has been a volunteer since 2005 and was elected as president of the OMC Auxiliary in 2008. Patty has graciously accepted another two - year term. Her work experience in technical consulting serves her well in running this dynamic program.

She is passionate about volunteering and has worked with Canine Assistants, Meals-on-Wheels and served with Stephen Ministry – one-on-one. Patty puts in hours and hours behind the scenes to make sure the OMC Auxiliary moves forward on projects and fund raisers. Recently Patty was able to recruit her husband, Mike McCarty, as a volunteer and what a team they make. As we move forward this year, we expect her second term to be as successful as her first, as she continues to make a positive impact. Thanks Patty for all you do!



**Auxiliary Vice President Linda Flegel** has been a volunteer since January 2005. In addition to serving as Auxiliary Board Vice President, she volunteers weekly as a runner and assistant in materials management. Linda does a great job of finding interesting speakers for the Auxiliary

monthly meetings. She has an impressive list of other volunteer organizations she has served, and we are very fortunate to have such a dynamic and kind volunteer on our team. Her contagious, positive attitude and beautiful smile light up patients, staff and anyone else who has the pleasure of her company. Thanks Linda!

## A Day in the Life of a Volunteer

**(This hero asked to remain anonymous)**

On my second day of volunteering at the Sequim Medical Services Building information desk, I was an hour into my shift when a gentleman came in the sliding glass front doors.

I first noticed he was having trouble walking and then realized he was gasping for air. I immediately jumped up and asked if I could help him. He then slumped in to the chair next to my desk.

He asked me to get him to his doctor. I found a wheelchair for him but by then he said his chest was heavy and he could hardly breathe. I then went to his doctor's office and informed the nurse what was happening. She notified the doctor and then ran downstairs with me to help. Her office called 911. ***This gentleman was having a heart attack.*** Thanks to the immediate medical assistance he received, he is recovering nicely. I often wonder what would have happened if I hadn't been there.

The following week, I was once again on my shift when a couple came through the front door and asked if I had worked the previous Friday. The couple said they wanted to thank me and everyone involved for saving his life. This gentleman received three stents and looked great.

It felt so good to be just a small part of his ordeal. I thank God for the staff and the quick actions of the response team.

You just never know what's going to happen in a day in the life of a volunteer

## Pets at Olympic Medical Center

"Pets at Olympic Medical Center" is a very vital part of our volunteer program. Every other Friday the pet handlers and their canines visit patients on the second floor and provide them the opportunity to interact with these beautiful animals. It has been scientifically proven that when people and animals bond, the oxytocin (the chemical responsible for social and bonding in humans) doubles. Some patients miss their own pets and this cheers them up. Our next newsletter will showcase these beautiful canines and their handlers.