



OUTLOOK

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Pet Therapy

By **Pat O'Toole**, President PMH Auxiliary
TAHV Board Member, District 2

At the beginning of 2013, the volunteers at **Providence Memorial Hospital**, in El Paso, TX, revitalized the **Pet Therapy Team** visits to various units of the hospital. Volunteers act as escorts for the teams, introducing them into the patient's rooms. Prior to this, staff members were escorting the teams, but it had become inconvenient for them to



leave their positions. We now have three pet therapy teams at Providence - **Sofia and "Gary Cooper"**, a black standard poodle who is just a "love bug"; **Elaine and "Rusty"**, a cocker spaniel mix who knows his tricks, and **Colleen and "Brandy"**, a cocker spaniel - lab mix who is very soft and

cuddly. It is so rewarding to see the happiness and delight on the faces of the patients when we do our visits. On a recent visit to the GBU (Geriatric Behavioral Unit), it was the birthday of one of the patients, and she was sure the dog was her gift. We all sang Happy Birthday to her and wished her well.



Wreaths Across America – Auxiliary Winter Project

By **Judy Hollis**, President, Texas Health
Huguley Hospital Ft Worth South

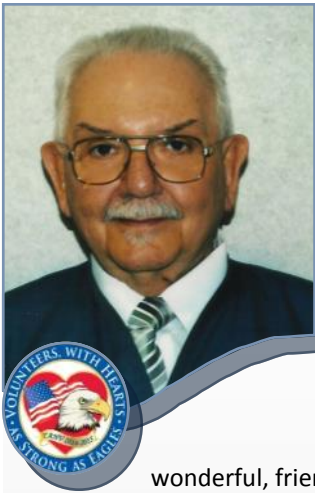


"Wreaths Across America" is an organization that puts together a variety of events including international veteran's tributes, ceremonies at State Houses and a week-long "Veteran's Parade" between Maine and Virginia, where they stop along the way to spread their message about the importance of **remembering** our fallen heroes, **honoring** those who serve, and **teaching** our children about the sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve our freedoms. Thus their mission is to **Remember, Honor, and Teach**, and is carried out in part by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and over 20 nations internationally. This week of events is made possible by thousands of volunteers who organize local ceremonies to honor deceased military personnel, raise funds to sponsor wreaths, and participate in the events. Individual wreaths sponsors, corporate donors and volunteer truckers pay for the cost of this program.



Volunteers at **Texas Health Huguley Hospital Ft Worth South** chose to participate in Wreaths Across America by sponsoring wreaths to be placed on graves at the DFW National Cemetery and to participate in the events. They collected \$615.00 toward sponsoring wreaths, which the cost of sponsoring one wreath is \$15.00. Wreaths Across America offered a special program where for every 2 wreaths

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President's Message

What a fantastic Travelling Trio trip we had driving over two thousand miles through parts of Texas I had never seen before; attending ten district meetings; and meeting so many

wonderful, friendly and dedicated volunteers each and every day for

twenty-five straight days. My two travelling companions and I were truly blessed to be able to make this tour for the TAHV and its fantastic members! We were overwhelmed with the graciousness, the caring and the dedication of each and every volunteer auxiliary. We cannot explain the feeling of pride that overwhelmed us as we arrived at each of the District gatherings, as we were welcomed, introduced, and shown around the member hospitals and their locations. As a result, I now have a fabulous collection of Eagles, our national bird. These Eagles have now taken "pride of place" in my home and I thank everyone for their kind thoughts and generosity throughout this tour. Volunteers are definitely keeping America strong!!

At each meeting we heard wonderful and informative speakers. We learned many new things about Heart and Stroke Prevention for Senior's, my theme for this TAHV year. We also listened to many of you, answering questions and hopefully clearing up some "grey areas". The only discouragement on the entire trip was the unfamiliarity with this publication, "the Outlook", and the scholarship program offered through the Gifts and Memorials branch of TAHV. So, please, after you have read this issue of the Outlook, please share it with another volunteer. Show it off with volunteers from other hospitals and/or hospices in your area that are not TAHV members and let them see the benefits of sharing what you and your colleagues are accomplishing, and the fun you have doing volunteer work. Encourage them to become members of our great organization. And having mentioned hospices, they are not as greatly represented in volunteer activities, yet they provide such light in the dark world of death and dying. They allow so many Americans the opportunity to die with love, compassion, and dignity and provide such support for their families and loved ones. As an integral part of our healthcare system, they can benefit from volunteer

services! Let us be supportive of their volunteer needs as well. It would be really great to sign up new member hospital and hospice-based auxiliaries this year and have them join us in our mission to be the best that we can be!!

I hope everyone is planning to attend our 2015 TAHV Convention in Dallas next May 31 and June 1, 2, and 3rd. Not only will there be educational and motivational speakers, hands-on classes, and lots of networking, but there will be "tons of fun" for everyone at the President's Party on June 1st. It will be a "sit-down" meal with the 17 piece "Singapore Slingers" Orchestra playing music from the 30's, 40's era for your enjoyment. Ladies, you can wear your nice frocks and gentlemen, you can dress up if you wish, or come in your jeans. I will not be fussy. I just want everyone to have a fantastic and enjoyable time. Please keep your eyes on our website, tahv.org, for details on this fantastic conference. Your TAHV convention co-chairs are working hard on a daily basis, to make sure this convention is a "winner" for everyone! When your packet arrives, don't hesitate to make your room reservations right away and register as many members as can come.

Don't forget the purpose and goals of the TAHV! We want to encourage and assist in the organization of new auxiliaries to serve hospitals and other healthcare delivery systems. We want to present new horizons and challenges to members through educational opportunities at District Meetings and Annual Convention. We hope to keep members informed on pertinent health care matters and sponsor scholarships for students in the healthcare field. We can only accomplish these things with the help of each and every one of you and your auxiliaries. Additionally, we need each of you to help recruit new member healthcare delivery systems. Be positive; don't assume that facilities don't want to be members! Walk in, telephone them, inquire and explain. An untapped source of membership are your local hospices. Everyone needs to know that a hospice is not just a place to go and pass away!! Volunteer auxiliaries' can bring this information to their local communities and they can work in these arenas providing much needed and wanted assistance.

Lastly, due to personal and health reasons, occasional Board Members find it necessary to step down leaving openings in some districts. At present we are most in need of representation in District 1 (area around Lubbock, Amarillo, Dalhart, Dumas, Childress). If you would be interested in serving on the Board and truly making a difference, please contact me and let's talk. Your TAHV Board needs your input.. your innovative thoughts and ideas!! Don't be bashful. What you have to offer is BIG, needed, and wanted.

On behalf of the entire TAHV Board, we thank you for your hard work, your dedication, your loyalty, and most of all your caring for your communities. We hope you had a very Blessed and Merry Christmas, and wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year!! We look forward to working and improving our organization on a daily basis.

DON NEWLAND, TAHV President 2014-2015
"Volunteers Keeping America Strong"

"Volunteering is at the very core of being a human. No one has made it through life without someone else's help."—Heather French Henry



Mixing Fun with Education

by **Elsa Humphries and Pat Symmank**, MRMC Auxiliary District 9 Co-Coordinators

The TAHV District 9 meeting was hosted by the Matagorda Regional Medical Center volunteers in Bay City, TX on September 17th. The tables were beautifully appointed using a red, white, and blue theme in keeping with the color scheme of TAHV President Don Newland's emblem and pin. Approximately 120 guests, including local dignitaries, MRMC officers, and TAHV volunteers, enjoyed both informative presentations and entertainment looking on the lighter side of the "Heart and Stroke Prevention for Seniors" theme for the year selected by President Newland. The program included a slide presentation entitled "Heart Health Nutrition" by Carol Butler, MSLD (Licensed Dietitian), and an educational presentation entitled "Heart Attack and Stroke: Signs, Symptoms and Emergency Treatment" presented by Dr. George Hanna, MD, FACC, Internal Medicine and Cardiology. Guests were very generous with their compliments and described the program as dynamic, informative and quite humorous.

The short entertainment piece of the program definitely added to the humorous part of the description!! The local Spare Change Men's Quartet doffed their traditional Barbershop vests for scrubs, entered pushing a gurney with a heart "patient" aboard, and performed with each of their songs including some reference to heart. The group shared great barbershop music ending with "Goodnight Sweet 'heart', Well, it's time to go"....

Guests were delighted, upon leaving, to be presented with "goody bags" filled with items from the Matagorda Regional Medical Center and the Matagorda Regional Medical Center Foundation. "Since most member hospitals would have traveled at least an hour, we wanted the meeting to be worth their time and travel. I believe from the response that it was!" commented Elsa Humphries, event coordinator.



Volunteers, 300 miles to Convention

By: **Sherry Simmons**, President, Texoma Medical Center Volunteers (TMCV), from Dennison, TX

Once upon a time, it was the practice of Texoma Medical Center Volunteers (TMCV) to send only the president, president-elect, and perhaps one or two others to convention. Most of the membership had no idea what convention was. Volunteers were happy to do their shifts, but getting leaders was a problem.

Several years ago, the TMCV Board decided to hold a spring fundraiser and use the proceeds to send any volunteer, whether in a leadership position or not, who wanted to go to convention. Transportation, hotel accommodations (two nights for the distant Galveston convention; one night for the others), meals at convention, and the registration fee were all included.

While most of the approximately 100 volunteers choose not to attend convention, many do. For the 2014 convention, 23 TMC Volunteers traveled 360 miles by bus from the Oklahoma border to Galveston. Those who attended got to know each other better. They attended breakout sessions, talked to volunteers from other hospitals, gained fundraising ideas, had fun, and were anxious to take their new-found knowledge back home to share with others.

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Working for You!

With 10 Districts represented in the Texas Association of Healthcare Volunteers (TAHV), members are occasionally rotating off at the end of their terms or sometimes for health related issues. Those who enthusiastically apply for Board positions are typically committed and talented individuals, interested in furthering their own auxiliaries and helping others. In the past year, two such qualified individuals joined the Board – one from District 2 and one from District 4.

From District 2:

Roz Shinn comes to us from **Odessa, TX** and she's a relative newcomer to the **MCHS Auxiliary of Odessa, Inc.**, however she's obviously a servant at heart. In her community she serves as a Cancer Center Volunteer, a Farmer's Market Volunteer, a



Church Volunteer as well as assisting with **Meals on Wheels** and working the **Children's Miracle Network** telethons. In her 3 years as an Auxiliary member, she has served as Vice President, President, Chairperson of AM Reception, Patient Services, Pre-op Lab and Day Surgery Reception. She's also a Junior Volunteer Leader. She has been chosen as **Faye Smith Spirit Volunteer of the Year Award** and received the **Jim O'Leary Award for Patient Safety**, and **JVTL Department Award** (Junior Volunteers), and **Top Overall Department Most Engaged - Patient Services**. And now, as a TAHV Board Member, her experience and enthusiasm will further the goals and purposes of this organization as well as benefit her home auxiliary.



From District 4:

Dana McGinnis, from **Nacogdoches, TX** is even newer to the Auxiliary and very enthusiastic to access pertinent information to share with her organization, **Nacogdoches Medical Center Auxiliary**, as well as to benefit her district.

She joined the Auxiliary in September 2012 and within her first year

became Secretary and Cancer Center Chairman. She embodies some wonderful strengths: conflict resolution, flexibility, compassion, character, honesty, dependability and a willingness to learn and teach others. She has great people skills! In her former life she became competent in bookkeeping/accounting, teaching, public speaking, event planning and has computer skills. In her home community, she enjoys helping the **Lamp-Lite Community Theatre** in the sales office and coordination of finances. She is also involved in **IMPACT** – "Imagine Many People All Coming Together" which involves working with foster children.

The TAHV has already benefitted from Dana's communication/computer skills. During the absence of our webmeister, Dana jumped in as interim "web-mistress" until his return.

Christmas Comes to Metroplex Hospital

by **Suzi Chapman**, Editor, MET Volunteer Newsletter

The Volunteers of **Metroplex (MET) Hospital** are busy throughout the year serving the patients and guests of Metroplex Hospital, in Killeen, but never busier than during the Christmas holidays. We use this time of the year to showcase our gift shop, **The Eclectic**, and raise additional funds for our projects and scholarships, while offering shoppers affordable gift options.

The "Christmas team" descends on the gift shop one day in November—covering the windows to generate excitement, keeping the secrets of Christmas. (see flyer for schedule of holiday activities) The volunteers create a holiday wonderland of beautiful gifts and decorations that **The Eclectic** managers have purchased at market in Dallas, ordered from trusted vendors, or created themselves. The following Monday, volunteers arrive early to kick off the season by serving MET employees and guests coffee and homemade goodies which creates an ambiance and encourages them to shop. Through purchasing, shoppers earn opportunities to win special Christmas items such as custom-made wreaths. The Eclectic floral artists create exquisite Christmas wreaths and even offer custom-made wreaths for those who have specific color needs. On the first Wednesday of December, we enter "poinsettia panic." During this phase, volunteers "dress" poinsettias to be sold throughout the month of December. Last year, we dressed and sold as many as 85 poinsettias in one day! (see accompanying article on "A Poinsettia Extravaganza") Gift shop staff continuously replace Christmas stock as items are sold. They even hold back some secret stock just to ensure that shoppers keep coming back to check on new merchandise. It's lots of hard work, but it generates funds and offers fun-filled opportunities to work together. As if we aren't busy enough, we hold a Christmas Bake Sale in mid-December that is a huge hit with MET employees and guests. All items are homemade and packaged for Christmas. There are some really good cooks among the MET volunteers, but Marilyn Egberts' Chinese Chews were a biggest hit in 2013. We had so many requests that we had to publish her recipe in the Volunteer Newsletter.

We have a good turnout for all events because we design and send printed flyers to every doctor's office and post in every break room in the hospital. The Hospital Marketing Department helps by posting our event information on the intranet and including ads in the hospital newsletter.

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Christmas Traditions at Hendrick Medical Center

By **Janice Allen**, Hendrick Medical Center Auxiliary,
District 6 Board Member, Treasurer

Each year on the Monday before Thanksgiving, volunteers at Hendrick Medical Center, Abilene, TX gather to decorate Christmas trees throughout the hospital and hang garland and wreaths in the Lobby. These trees bring a bit of holiday cheer for patients, their families and the staff.



Then, beginning in December, musical groups from throughout the Abilene area, come and present musical programs in the Hendrick Lobby at noon each day. These groups include choral groups from area schools, a handbell choir, high school jazz band, church choruses and a choir made up of Hendrick staff. This entertainment, along with the beautiful decorations, help provide a bright spot in the days of those who find themselves in the hospital during the holiday season. One of the HMC Auxiliary officers is responsible for arranging for the entertainment.



A Poinsettia Extravaganza for Holiday Fundraising

Suzi Chapman

Editor, Metroplex Volunteer Newsletter

The volunteers of Metroplex Hospital, in Killeen, TX are constantly seeking new ways to generate money for our scholarships and funding projects. The Poinsettia Extravaganza is one of our most successful efforts—made so by the creativity and hard work of our gift shop volunteers and a few extra recruits.

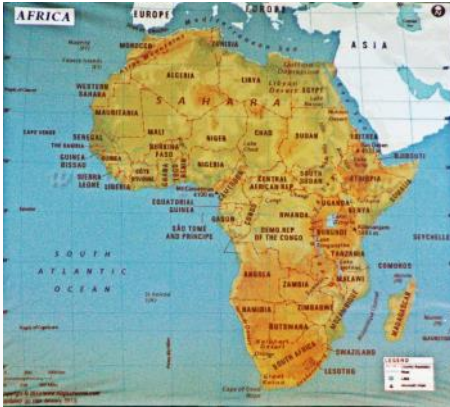
Beginning in November, the volunteers set the schedule for ordering and picking up the poinsettias. Shoppers can place orders beginning the last week of November through the week before Christmas and pick up their orders on specific Wednesdays in December. We advertise our sale through the hospital intranet, newsletter, and flyers posted and delivered throughout the hospital. We make it easy for buyers to order by providing order forms and delivery services. Then, when we're all set . . . let the madness begin!

The “naked” poinsettias are delivered early on Wednesday mornings and, sustained by coffee, the workers congregate waiting for instructions from our leader, Sue Dunlap. We use an assembly line approach in preparing the poinsettias—GMC's auto plants have nothing on us! Some of the preparation is done in advance, including cutting the cellophane to line the pot holders and making bows to grace each pot. Each Wednesday when poinsettias are received, the assembly line is set up in the hospital lobby with stations for each task—remove plastic covers, put flowers in cellophane and foil pots, hot glue ribbons and bows, add gold picks, spray with glitter, and organize for pick up.

Those gift shop volunteers are pros at “dressing” the poinsettias. They know just where to put the picks and can get those bows glued on in a flash. Then, there are the rest of us florally-challenged “extra recruits,” who, left unattended, might create a disaster. (Think preschoolers as floral artists!) Here's where that spray glitter comes in. If you are without talent (as I am), you are allowed to haul those mobile shelves full of poinsettias outside to be sprayed with glitter. (If anyone knows how to get spray glitter out of our vests, skin, hair, and eyeglasses, please, let me know.) Finally, the finished products are counted, organized, and labeled by buyer and the buyers are called to pick up their purchases. And, we're ready to start again on the next Wednesday.

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Volunteering Around the World—By *Judi Winslow*, Olney Hamilton Hospital Auxiliary District 6 Board Member, Communication Committee Chair



The island of Madagascar, off the African Coast

lives. Their volunteer crews of up to 400, volunteers from 35 countries, include physicians, dentists, nurses, anesthetists, PTs, cooks, dietitians, stewards, teachers, hairdressers, housekeepers, maintenance personnel, a carpenter, account managers and let's

At the **District 6 Meeting in Graham, TX**, the featured speaker was **Dean Hufstedler**, a local physical therapist of 36 years whose career includes 31 years as Director of Physical Therapy at **Graham Regional Medical Center**. God has given Dean a servant's heart to care for "the least of these" which brought him to a voluntary organization called **Mercy Ships**. He and his wife, Marcia, have served on 4 medical missions aboard Mercy Ships and are currently on their 5th African mission, this time to Madagascar.

Mercy Ships are hospital ships that follow the 2000 year old model of Jesus: bringing hope and healing to the world's forgotten poor. The African Mercy Ship has around 80 patient beds and performs facial and orthopedic procedures -- correcting deformities, removing tumors and improving function. They have performed over 67,000 operations, treated over 572,000 patients in village clinics, completed over 1,100 community development projects focusing on water, sanitation, education, and agriculture. They have truly changed many, many



The Africa Mercy Ship



Dean and Marcia Hufstedler

Before/after picture of a man with large facial tumor



not forget the ship's crew. They may volunteer for months or years and live aboard the ship. One family has raised their family completely aboard Mercy Ships. All volunteers are responsible for their own passage costs. They do seek sponsors to assist with their costs, but all the money donated directly to "Mercy Ships" goes directly toward helping the forgotten poor around the world. There are many corporate sponsors who help with mission costs and many generous companies that donate all kinds of equipment and supplies.

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Children with club feet-note little boy in blue 3rd from right



All new casts...waiting to dry.

On the road with the "Traveling Trio"

September 30, 2014
UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER AUXILIARY
 602 Indiana Avenue
 District 1 Meeting Coordinators: Bertie Tredaway, Linda Blome



Starting out



President Don with the District Coordinators



Serving with passion



Door prizes galore!

September 26, 2014
PECAS CO. MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUXILIARY
 First United Methodist Church
 District 2 Meeting Coordinators: Ludene Reeves, Dorothea Huelster



Jimmie Sue, Ludene Reeves, Don and Dorothea Huelster



Registration



Ludene, Jim Horton (CEO), Monty Beard, Jimmie Sue, Don, Liz Sanchez & Dorothea



Light refreshments before the program.

On the road with the "Traveling Trio"

September 19, 2014

DE TAR VOLUNTEER SERVICES, INC.

Hilton Garden Inn of Victoria

District 3 Meeting Coordinators: Virginia Sullivan, Margaret Becker, Yvette Peuttus



District Coordinators with Traveling Trio



Information Desk Volunteer



Gift Shop-Delivering Flowers



Ready for the Program

October 10, 2014

LUFKIN MEMORIAL HEALTH SYSTEM VOLUNTEERS

First Baptist Church, Lufkin

District 4 Meeting Coordinators: Jean Mizell-President, Floria Gregory



District 4 Coordinators



Attendees with Dana McGinnis and Don



Birdseye view of District Program



Social hour and Networking

October 6, 2014
NORTH HILLS HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER AUXILIARY
 4401 Booth Calloway Road
 District 5 Meeting Coordinators: Danny Stafford, Sherrie O'Pry



Welcome to North Hills Hospital



Don with the District Coordinators and CEO



The Traveling Trio with District 5 Board Members



Check out this Gift Shop



Soring like an eagle

October 02, 2014
GRAHAM REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
 Wildcatter Resort & Ranch
 District 6 Meeting Coordinators: Nancy Hayes, Nann Hale



District 6 Coordinators



A Pink Lady welcome to the Wildcatter



Welcoming Committee



Registration

On the road with the "Traveling Trio"

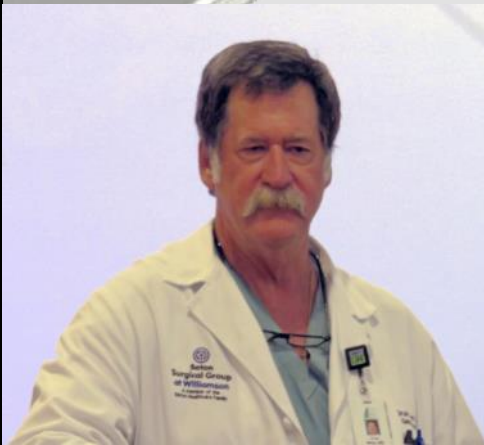
October 22, 2014
SETON MEDICAL CENTER WILLIAMSON
 District 7 Meeting Coordinators: Lupe Kavanuagh, Cathy Lovaas



Don and Jimmie Sue with the District Coordinators



Attendees with Dave Trzeciak



Dr. Drue Neel Ware, Director of Trauma Services



Touring the Gift Shop

September 24, 2014
SHANNON MEDICAL CENTER AUXILIARY
 Johnson Street Church of Christ Family Center
 District 8 Meeting Coordinators: Dot Harrod, Judy Waddell



District 8 Team



District 8 Pin Sales



Don and a couple of new friends



Jeanne's welcome to the Gift Shop

September 17, 2014
Matagorda Regional Medical Center Volunteers
 District 9 Meeting Coordinators: Elsa Humphries , Pat Symmank



Elsa Humphries-Coordinator, Faye Lewis-MRMC Auxiliary President, Don , Jimmie Sue, Pat Symmank-Coordinator, Jeanne



Trio with the District 9 Board Members



Enjoying the Speaker



Address by Auxiliary President



Touring the Hospital

October 8, 2014
MARSHALL GOOD SHEPHERD MEDICAL CENTER
 Cumberland Presbyterian Church
 District 10 Meeting Coordinators: Betty Carroll, Gerald Jackson



Don with District Coordinator Betty Carroll and Gerald Jackson



Exercising for Health



Heart Health Skit



ETMC Athens making front page headlines

TEAM WORK!!!!

By **Roz Shinn**, Medical Center Hospital Volunteer Services District 2 Board Member

On October 2, 2014, the **Medical Center Hospital Volunteer Services Department of Odessa, TX** held its quarterly training and orientation with volunteers. The theme of the session was "Team Work" so attendees were encouraged to wear their favorite team colors or t-shirts and bring a friend. There were games with prizes, speakers, and new learning experiences. Forget dry and boring lectures! We



were there to play "football" and have fun learning. Four teams were in competition being led by the coach, our DVS, Patricia Garcia, and Cheerleaders from the Volunteer services team, Jennifer Jones, Adina Crain, and Auxiliary president and TAHV District 2 Rep, Roz Shinn. There were volunteers from ages 18-92 working together for their teams. There were even a half dozen brand new recruits. We received our annual training, followed by lunch, and flu shots. Now we are ready to work as a team to serve the patients and families of the Permian Basin. **Go MCHS!!!**



"Fight Like a Texas Girl"

Reported by **Agnes Wright**,
NEMH Auxiliary
TAHV Board Member, District 8



Volunteers at the **Northeast Methodist Hospital in San Antonio** worked with NEMH staff at the hospital's recent **Breast Cancer Awareness Celebration**, entitled "Fight Like a Texas Girl". This outdoor evening community event featured booths sponsored by local cancer organizations, a booth manned by Hospital Volunteers selling pink t-shirts with the above logo, a very lucrative silent auction, and a parade of bras!!!! The hospital sponsored a bra decorating contest with entries from various departments as well as from hospital volunteers. In addition to the outside activities, a "Tree of Hope" was set up in the hospital lobby and decorated as volunteers sold "pink ribbon" tree decorations to honor cancer survivors.

The evening fundraising event was declared a great success as over \$2500.00 was donated to WINGS (Women in Nurturing, Giving, Sharing), a San Antonio non-profit charitable foundation dedicated to assisting with breast cancer care and support for residents who have no insurance or cannot afford the care. What a great example of Volunteers working with hospital employees to assist a non-profit organization for the good of the community!!!

Wreaths Across America – Auxiliary Winter Project—continued from page 1

purchased, a third wreath is donated. Through this program, they were able to donate 61.5 wreaths. In all, there are 20,000 veteran graves at the DFW National Cemetery that need wreaths, but only 8,000 wreaths were available.

Huguley Volunteers could also send 'Thanks-A-Million' cards to thank our veterans and active duty military personnel for their service. So, there are a number of ways for volunteers to get involved. Go to the **Wreaths Across America** website at www.wreathsassamerica.com to get all event information. Be sure and join us on December 12th, 2015 at our cemetery or one near you to help lay wreaths on the graves of the brave men and women that lost their lives while fighting for our country.

NEW YEAR...NEW OFFICERS?

Be sure to help us keep our database current by sending all **"Officer Change"** information to:

Sandra Pybus

9418 Hendon Lane; Houston, TX 77036

or by email to

stpybus@sbcglobal.net



Health Care in the 84th Texas Legislature

By **Ted Shaw**, President/CEO
Texas Hospital Association

The opening day of the 84th Texas Legislature was Jan. 13. That Tuesday kicked off 140 frenzied days of policy making and politicking. By June 1, the legislature will likely have considered more than 6,000 bills on any number of topics from water and education to fracking and

homeschooling.

It could choose to reject all of those bills, but one is a must pass. The Legislature is constitutionally required to send a balanced state budget to the governor. The budget lays out revenue and expenditures for state agency operations for the next two years.

A deceptively simple requirement, achieving a balanced state budget requires major work, negotiation and choices. Lawmakers have to make tough decisions about what to fund and at what level.

At more than one-third of the state's budget, health care is a significant presence in budget discussions. Keeping health care costs from consuming a larger share of the state budget is always a legislative priority. Texas hospitals and other health care providers, however, cannot sustain additional funding cuts. Since 2011, Medicaid reimbursement has been slashed by 10 percent. Rates are well below cost. For most hospitals, reimbursement for inpatient services is less than 50 percent of cost and for outpatient services is less than 72 percent. At the same time, the number of uninsured residents in Texas remains persistently high, leaving hospitals with a massive shortfall.

Adequate funding is critical for quality patient care. Without it, hospitals cannot continue to invest in patient safety and quality initiatives, hire sufficient staff to care for a growing population or prepare for emergencies, which, as the recent Ebola crisis has shown, is paramount for every hospital. In some communities, hospitals could be forced to close their doors, leaving residents without a local hospital.

As lawmakers debate the budget, Texas hospitals will be asking that they protect health care by reducing the number of uninsured and appropriating the required funds to adequately fund Medicaid payments.

One in four Texans has no health insurance. During the 84th legislative session, lawmakers have the opportunity to make a big dent in this number. They can develop a private health insurance program for Texans who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but too little to qualify for subsidized coverage through the Marketplace and who do not have access to insurance through their employers. Such a program would allow 1.1 million uninsured, low-wage working Texans to purchase affordable private health insurance.

The other priority is to secure the necessary state appropriations to adequately fund Medicaid hospital payments. This includes full state funding of supplemental payments and Medicaid reimbursement rates that more accurately reflect the cost of providing care.

Budgets are about choices. A healthy Texas depends on lawmakers making the right choices.

Get Involved in the Texas Way

The Texas Hospital Association, chambers of commerce, civic leaders and other medical and advocacy organizations are joining together to support the Texas Way. Our goal is to reduce the number of uninsured in Texas by encouraging state lawmakers to provide low-wage working Texans with access to affordable private health insurance.

Hospital volunteers know firsthand the difficulties people experience when they have no health insurance or the means to pay for needed health care. Hospitals provide charity care, but resources are not unlimited.

The Texas Way would make a big difference to many of uninsured patients and to Texas hospitals. There are a number of ways hospital volunteers can get involved:

Sign the [Texas Way petition](http://www.texasway.com/takeaction/) on the Texas Way website (<http://www.texasway.com/takeaction/>)

Add your name to the Texas Way [endorsement map](http://www.texasway.com/stories). (<http://www.texasway.com/stories>)

Like the Texas Way on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/thetexas) and follow on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/texasway). (<http://www.facebook.com/thetexas> way and <https://twitter.com/texasway>)

The Texas Way is one of THA's biggest priorities for 2015. Get involved so that it can be a success!



Join in for a “Heart Walk”

by **Norma Burnside**,
TAHV Board Member (District 3)
Auxiliary President, CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital
South, Corpus Christi

This year CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital South, partnered up with the American Heart Association on their “5K Heart Walk” on October 25, 2014, which weather-wise turned out to be a beautiful fall day for walking.

CHRISTUS Spohn South Volunteers put together a small team and joined South’s associates in their walk to raise money. Though small, the team made up of Lynne Fleming, Arlean Williams and Norma Burnside were able to raise \$492! Karen Harris, another South volunteer walked with the team from Admitting (where she personally volunteers). Three of the four walked the whole 5K. CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital South volunteers are always ready and willing to support their associates. As volunteers, it's what we do!!!

And, how awesome is it to have family walking with you? Norma's daughter, Kathy, son, Tracey, and his wife, Barbara (pictured below), also participated in the walk. Tracey actually had 2 open heart surgeries, most recently in 2002.



Norma's family walking with her. (L-R) Kathy (daughter-in-law), Norma, Tracey (son) and Barbara (cousin)



Associates and Norma, (2nd from the right)



Associates who walked with Karen Harris (bottom right)

Volunteering Around the World—Continued from page 6



Surgical team at work.

The trip began with 8 days at sea viewing nothing but water. With no rehab responsibilities yet, Dean worked from 0445-1830 on a galley team of 6 serving about 350 people. Once in port, set up and organized, they screened over 2000 people to find those they could help. About 200 passed pre-screening. Unfortunately there were hundreds that they could not help. Some of the children with club feet could be helped with casting, others with surgery. Dean, as physical therapist, was greatly involved in the recovery process which involved frequently changing casts, gait-training, wedging casts, and taking x-rays are in order to assess progress. These people so appreciate the life-altering services they receive and form strong bonds with their care giving teams. Parting can be difficult. Dean and Marcia will be involved again next year as they may return to Madagascar again.

If you or your organization would be interesting is sponsoring a crewmember or donating to Mercy Ships, please visit their website:

www.mercyships.org for additional information.



Casting in process.

Christmas Comes to Metroplex Hospital

Continued from page 4

But, the most important aspect of our marketing strategy is that our volunteers treat every customer as a cherished friend. Although this is a lot of work, it is really a lot of fun. And we learn so much from our long-time volunteers—and, I mean loooong time like 30 years as a MET volunteer. Volunteers see how Christmas sales produce impressive income for funding programs and scholarships. The proceeds from these events, along with the proceeds from our gift shop and special sales, funded more than \$4000 in scholarships and \$20,000 in departmental requests in 2014. There's just no limit to what a group of dedicated individuals can accomplish. We also get



Holiday Decorators: (r-l) Sue Dunlap and Adelina Shelton

to know each other better while working together to the extent that we know each other's coffee preferences and how Sue Dunlap has perfected banana bread. We get to work together.... doing good.

Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Work-

Volunteers, 300 miles to Convention

Continued from page 3

Since convention attendance has opened to all volunteers, leadership positions have become easier to fill, and recent presidents have not had to serve a second term. The volunteers' first responsibility is to Texoma Medical Center, and they continue to serve the hospital and fund its requests. The hospital is fully supportive of their going to convention.

TMC Volunteers encourage others to consider following their example. For further information, contact TMCV President Sherry Simmons at 903-463-1559 or email at Capitalize@gmail.com.



A Poinsettia Extravaganza for Holiday Fundraising

Continued from page 5



Ready for a "poinsettia frenzy"

Every Wednesday in December, our poinsettia sale becomes a "poinsettia frenzy" with some shoppers buying as many as 35 poinsettias. Last year, we dressed and sold as many as 85 poinsettias in one day!



Gail Prestigiacomo with the finished product

If you'd like help in setting up your own Poinsettia Extravaganza, just call our gift shop, The Eclectic, at 254-519-8173.





**Texas Association of
Healthcare Volunteers, Inc.**
1108 Lavaca, Ste 700
Austin, Texas 78701-2180

Address Service Requested

D **REVISED SAVE THE DATE**

**Annual Convention
Texas Association
of Healthcare
Volunteers 2015**

May 31 - June 3

Omni Hotel in Dallas

