

comments or suggestions may be emailed to
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V.I.P. Volunteers in Print

Coming Events

* **Monthly Volunteer Inservice – “State of the Health Care System Address”**, presented by Stan Davis, VP Operations. Stan will update everyone about the construction, future plans for the new buildings, and more. **Monday, November 2, 12pm-1pm, Pavilion Classroom 4.** Please RSVP by Friday, October 30th if you plan to attend. Lunch provided.

* **Book Fair Fundraiser, Thursday & Friday, November 5th & 6th, 10am-5pm & 7am-3pm**, in the atrium of the medical center. You won't want to miss this opportunity to do some early holiday shopping!

* **Annual Thanksgiving Potluck Feast – Wednesday, November 11th, 11:30am – 1pm, Decker Board Room.** It's time to talk turkey! You and a friend are invited to attend our annual potluck Thanksgiving Feast. Volunteer Services will provide the meats and beverages. Please bring your favorite holiday side dish or dessert to share. RSVP to Christy Beck, 682.885.4590 if you plan to attend.

Office Closed

The Volunteer Services office will be closed on **Thursday, November 26th** for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Please check with the staff in the area where you volunteer for their holiday schedule.

Remember to let your supervisor know if you plan to be away for a Thanksgiving vacation.

Thank You!

A huge thank you to every volunteer who has stepped up to help during the recent critical weeks and months since the flu pandemic struck. The ED set a new record of over 800 patients seen in one day during that time! Numbers have dropped significantly but they remain very busy. We appreciate you all, from those who helped with mass flu vaccination events, to those who came in to assist the emergency department staff, to you who immediately offered help when you saw the need, to you who are busier than ever meeting the increased patient and family needs. What a difference you make every day!

New Adventures

Elena Frasco, who has so cheerfully, energetically, and professionally manned the information desk for nearly five years, is moving on to new adventures at Cook Children's. Elena's last day at the information desk as the “face” of Cook Children's was October 23rd. Her new adventure as Patient Advocate, take her to the ED Lite. We wish her great success in her new role!

Volunteer Opportunity

ED Lite Escort – The Emergency Department is seeing double the amount of patients during this flu season. As the H1N1 flu lessens, the seasonal flu begins. Volunteers are needed late afternoons, evenings, and weekends to help escort patients and families from ED waiting areas to the ED Lite which is located in the north hallway of the first floor, where rehab used to be. Volunteers must have received the seasonal flu vaccination and wear a mask while working. The ED staff are stretched to their limits so any time you can give is helpful whether one shift, several, or weekly. Please contact Marie in the volunteer office for more information and scheduling, 682-885-7452.

Cook Children's, Nancy Cychol earns top honors nationally for organ donation program

For the fifth consecutive year, Cook Children's organ donation program received special recognition from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration.

Cook Children's was selected as one of the Nation's Organ Donation and Transplantation gold medal of honor winners during the Fifth Annual Medal of Honor Awards Ceremony on Sept. 30, at the Gaylord Texan Hotel in Grapevine, Texas. The ceremony took place in conjunction with the Fifth Annual National Learning Congress.



Cook Children's was the only hospital in Texas and one of two pediatric hospitals in the nation, along with St. Louis Children's, to be named a Gold Medal Hospital.

Cook Children's was the leader in its region by achieving 100 percent successful conversion of eligible donors to actual donors for three consecutive years. The national goal is 75 percent conversion rate.

Cook Children's also achieved the national goal of 3.75 organs transplanted per donor and 10 percent of organ donors being recovered through donation after cardiac death.

Along with the organization taking the top prize, Cook Children's Medical Center President Nancy Cychol was one of only 11 recipients from throughout the United States to be named a Regional Champion. Cychol was the Region 4 Regional Champion for Texas and Oklahoma.

As a Regional Champion, Cychol was recognized for making a difference and creating a positive impact on the field of organ, tissue and cornea donation and transplantation. Cychol is a strong advocate of organ donation. She speaks to several groups during the course of the year about why organ donation is important. This year she was the key note speaker at the Pediatric Summit in Chicago and addressed creating a culture of organ donation at the American College of Health Care Executives also in Chicago.

Cychol was honored for her leadership in helping Cook Children's reach or exceed the national goals, as well as for her "dedication, energy and leadership" to "provide a direct and lasting benefit to donor families, people in need of transplantation and transplant recipients."

The cause is a special one for Cychol. She is the mother of a child who donated his organs after his death. "The death of a child is one of the toughest challenges a parent can face," Cychol said. "For me, donation helped turn a tragic experience into a positive one – and something that has brought comfort to me and my family through the years."

As the first free-standing children's hospital in the state of Texas that does donation after cardiac death (DCD), Cook Children's has embraced its important role of helping blaze a trail for organ donation at children's hospitals, both regionally and nationally. Each donor can help up to eight people through organ donation and up to 50 people through tissue donation. Championing the benefits of donation allows Cook Children's to reach and heal the lives of more patients.

The Annual Organ Donation and Transplantation National Learning Congress was started for the country's top hospitals to share the best practices of their donor programs. Through this meeting, Cook Children's is able to contribute to the dialogue and relate what works for us to our peers.

(Article from Cook Children's Focus)

A-B-C-D Award

Congratulations to volunteer **Antonia Kennedy**, our Above and Beyond the Call of Duty



honoree for October. Her supervisor writes, "I don't know what I would do without Toni volunteering on Thursday nights! Toni shows up to volunteer every Thursday with a smile on her face. She is eager to help, has a positive attitude and always makes the patients smile. She will volunteer to do anything...and I mean anything...A couple Thursdays ago, I found the siblings of a patient in isolation playing in the playroom. While I escorted them back to their room, Toni got to work cleaning. Evenings are always busy, but this Thursday in particular had me running. Toni volunteered to clean the entire playroom for me and when I say clean, I don't mean just wiping the tables and putting the toys away. Toni opened up every single drawer and cleaned all of their contents! She cleaned and disinfected every inch of the playroom without hesitating." Toni has been a Cook Children's volunteer for two years with over 230 hours! She recently took on an additional volunteer role as a Spanish language translator and greeter for the safety seat check events. We congratulate and thank Toni for her uncommon initiative and always going above and beyond the call of duty in her volunteer work!



*“Happy Thanksgiving to You
and Yours”*

Jill ~ Marie ~ Michelle ~ Christy ~ Laura