

Volunteer View

A publication for the volunteers of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute and UPMC Cancer Centers

In the Spotlight: *Marcy Halpin*

How did you get involved with UPMC Cancer Centers and UPCI?

As a patient, I noticed the baskets in different locations at Hillman with hats, or pillows, or reading materials labeled, "courtesy



Healing Power of the Arts Volunteers Ashley Clutter with Marcy Halpin

of Volunteer Services." When I received notice of my remission, and felt strong enough, I decided that I wanted to volunteer. After some investigation, I found the volunteer office in Hillman.

Why do you volunteer?

In the beginning, volunteering really was an opportunity for me to give back to the community that gave so much to me when I was really, very ill. While volunteering still is a way to give back, it is so much more than that. I truly enjoy the time I spend at crafts on Monday nights, interacting with the patients, their families, as well as the other volunteers. When I'm at arts and crafts working with patients, every

ounce of craziness in my life vanishes from my mind because it is no longer important. The smiles from and the conversations with the patients are enough to make my worries melt away, at least for a few hours. An evening with cancer patients and their families reminds one of what really matters, and is often a very humbling experience.

What do you do as a volunteer?

With fellow volunteer, Ashley Clutter, I hold an arts and crafts class on Monday evenings on Shadyside's 7 Posner Inpatient Unit. Ashley and I come up with project

ideas, gather supplies, set up materials for the evening's project, knock on doors to invite patients to the activity and when everyone is

"I truly enjoy the time I spend at crafts on Monday nights, interacting with the patients, their families, as well as the other volunteers."

done crafting for the evening, clean up the mess. Of course, through

Continued on the back



In Memory of **Dee Davis**

Patient and Family Support
February 24, 1931 – August 19, 2007



In Memory of **Evan Doerr** Administrative

June 28, 1949 – November 10, 2007



In Memory of **Evelyn P. Parker**

African American Self Help Cancer Support
January 8, 1921 – January 2, 2008

Continues on reverse side

Marcy Halpin, Continued
 crafts comes conversation. Often, we lend an ear to a patient or family member who wants to talk.

Any special memories from volunteering?

There was a patient who was kindly nicknamed the “Mayor” of the floor because of the length of his stay. He and his wife would come out to crafts when no one else would, and when we were just starting to hold crafts on Monday nights. Both he and his wife were wonderful, wonderful individuals whose spirit and jokes and laughter still hold a very warm place in my heart.

“As a patient, I was truly inspired by the general kindness of strangers.”

Also, I will never forget the wonderful mother of five small, very well-behaved children, all of whom had spent several hours in a hospital room visiting their father who was receiving treatment. I recall the mom telling us how grateful she was for the crafts activity, because although “she loved her children, they were driving her crazy.” It was heartwarming to see each of these kids want to draw their own unique picture, and complete their own project for their dad.

June Blood Drive

A blood drive is scheduled for Tuesday, June 17, 2008 from 7:30 am – 2 pm in the Hillman Cancer Center, ground floor, atrium. Call Lisa Huntley at 412-623-4636 to register. Registration preferred, walk-ins welcome.

19th Annual Volunteer Luncheon

The 2008 Volunteer Luncheon was held on May 8 in the Herberman Conference Center. More than 100 attendees enjoyed a “wild” schedule of events including the chance



Wild Guest: A Blue-tongued Skink

to touch a chinchilla (the

animal with the second softest fur after the otter) and the opportunity to hear Healing Power of the Arts Volunteer and cancer survivor, Marcy Halpin, speak and inspire us all. Lisa Huntley (aka Zookeeper Huntley), Director, Volunteer &



Left to Right, Bottom Row: Administrative Volunteers Shaswati Maity and Reshmi Ray Top Row: Supervisors Karen Tondera and Lynda Tunon

Following a delicious lunch, Dr. Marks presented the five, ten and fifteen Years of Service awards to six volunteers (see below).

The affair ended with a raffle of fabulous prizes awarded to our volunteer staff. Stay tuned for details as our hosts prepare another exciting event for 2009!

15 Years of Service



Administrative Volunteer Joseph McGrath

10 Years of Service



Administrative Volunteer Elissa Illuminati

Community Services and Zuleikha Bjork (aka Zookeeper Bjork), Assistant Program Coordinator, were hosts for the event and amazed everyone with a skit about their complex working relationship

and the value of our volunteers. Also participating in the program were Ronald Herberman, MD, Stanley Marks, MD, and Lyn Robertson, RN, MSN, Dr.PH.



Patient and Family Support Volunteer Stephanie Samalovich

5 Years of Service



Patient and Family Support Volunteer Clarice Horne



Patient and Family Support Volunteer Wilma Novogradac



Administrative Volunteer Olga Ozhogina



Patient and Family Support Volunteer Edith Smith