

Newsflash



JULY/AUGUST 2021

New Safety Precautions

With the recent uptick in COVID cases, due to the virulent Delta variant, the hospital has asked the Auxiliary to take extra precautions when in patient areas. When any volunteer goes into a patient area, not only is a mask required, but the hospital is now recommending that we wear an eye shield. These are available in the Escort Office, as well as in the Auxiliary Office. The eye shields may be worn alone, but they will also fit over glasses. This request is being made as an “abundance of caution” measure and does not reflect an actual increase of exposure.



President's Messages

Judy VanDyck

It is nice to see our volunteers back at ECH. The Nurses, other staff members and even the patients have commented on our return to service. There are not enough words to express how much you are thought of and appreciated.

A big warm WELCOME back to all of you.

Linda Heider

As the Auxiliary becomes more engaged with the hospital, we are motivated to find ways in which we might improve the service we provide. To that end, we hope that any volunteer, who has new ideas, will contact us personally, or to reach out to the Auxiliary Office. These are difficult times, and we welcome the opportunity to work with our fellow volunteers to ensure that the Auxiliary continues to move forward and thrive. I sincerely hope that every volunteer is as pleased, as am I, about volunteering once again.

As of today, this is the status of our services:
Active: Auxiliary Office, Endoscopy, Escort, Mother/Baby, Health Library, 4A Patient Care, Surgery Waiting Room, Hooks and Needles/Pinkies, Java Junction, and our Roadrunners,
Not Active: 4B, 2C, ED, Info Desk, PACU, Shuttle, Resource Pool

New Auxiliary Governance

A Note on our Co-Presidents

As you may have noticed, the Auxiliary has a new governing arrangement this year. For the first time in its history, we have co-Presidents. The Board of Directors felt this arrangement would greatly benefit the Auxiliary because of the challenges presented by the global pandemic. As an organization trying to resurrect its services to the hospital, many considerations must be addressed and new approaches to problem solving must be implemented. Our aim is to re-establish our Auxiliary as the thriving helpful organization it has always been. In order to achieve our goals this year, we are asking every member to please thoughtfully review your work as a volunteer at El Camino, and pass along any suggestions you may have for improvement to your Chair or to the Auxiliary Office. We will all work together to fulfill these aspirations.

Announcements

- **Junior Auxiliary Volunteering**

Citing safety concerns, the hospital's administration is still reluctant to have the junior auxiliaries back in the hospital at this time. We were optimistic for a return in September, but do not expect them to let us resume our Junior Program before January of next year. We will keep you posted if anything should change.

- **Masking Guidelines**

Please note that all persons, regardless of vaccination status, must continue to wear masks while inside El Camino healthcare facilities.

- **Service Openings**

If your service has not yet opened and you are interested in volunteering, please call Corky in Recruiting to be temporarily placed in a new or additional service

- **Angela Kendall Celebration of Life!**

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Saturday, August 28

11:00 AM

St Luke Lutheran Church

1025 The Dalles, Sunnyvale, CA

Guests are encouraged to wear **red** - Angela's favorite color.



A Service Spotlight

Kathie receives ECH Patient Safety Good Catch Award!

Last week at Los Gatos Information Desk, Kathie Small and Vanessa Binder were volunteering. We were busy folding Patient Belonging bags and making Eyeglass cases. Kathie saw what she thought was a patient leaving the hospital. This person had a hospital wristband. She said to me, "I think that's a patient leaving!"

Without a moment's hesitation, she got up and followed the person to the Bus Stop in front of the Hospital. After talking with the person, she came back in, went to Ortho, and had a nurse stop by the Bus stop to talk with this person. Sure enough, that person was a patient and had left without checking out or signing an AMA (against medical advice document). The patient was escorted back into the hospital.

The Nurse came back after getting the patient back to her Unit, and sincerely thanked Kathie for being so diligent in her responsibilities. It was a very big deal that this patient had walked out as she didn't seem cognizant of her surroundings. To me, this was an example of going above and beyond our daily duties at the Information Desk.

