Volunteer
Association
to Norfolk
General
Hospital
and Norfolk
Hospital
Nursing
Home



Wishing
Everyone
a Happy
and Healthy
Holiday
Season
And
Prosperous
New Year





Vitality

Winter 2023

President Report

Where has the time gone? I can't believe I have been through so much in the past few months. It has definitely been a learning experience with so many new things happening in the NGH/NHNH Volunteer Association.

Our fundraising has been fantastic! Our annual spaghetti supper was once again enjoyed by many people in our community. Thanks goes to Iris Smith and her team for all the hard work involved to make this successful.

Sadly, we held our FINAL Treasure Mart in November, and again it was a successful event. We are sorry to see this fundraiser end after many years, but lack of volunteers has caused us to say good-bye to a very large successful event. I can only express my gratitude by saying "Thank You" to all our dedicated volunteers, who have spent many tireless hours over the years to make this event as successful as it has been. I will not mention names, as I am sure I would offend someone by omitting their name. However, this has opened our way to new adventures.

We are also sorry to advise that the Delhi branch

had their last golf tournament this year, due to the closing of the Delhi Golf Course. Thanks to Judy Boughner for all the years of dedication to this event as well. We also had much success with our new Norfolk Countywide 50/50 draw. Thanks to Liz Rotherham and Bonnie Harris for organizing this event and to all the branch chairs who took charge of distributing

Our next fundraiser will be gift wrapping at Canadian Tire from December 9th to 24th. Wrapping shifts will be organized in the time frame of 10 a.m. until closing. Many thanks to Iris and Linda for organizing this event.

and recording all the tickets. A job well done!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who have been there to assist in any way to achieve these great results. Without all of you, we would not be able to make these commitments to the hospital, and to help purchase the equipment that is so vitally needed.

I would like to wish you all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Stay safe and enjoy this blessed season with your family and friends.

Lois Craig

Director's Message

As we close out the year, it is worthy of noting the many accomplishments achieved by our incredible team of volunteers over the past 11 months.

- *New board of directors sworn in
- *Successful fundraising including the Delhi music concert, bakeless bake sales, tag days, summer and fall festivals, craft sales, the spaghetti dinner, the golf tournament, Treasure Mart, and the new 50/50 fundraiser
- *The growth and success of the association's four businesses (gift shop, coffee kiosk, craft group and H.E.L.P.P. lottery)
- *The return of inpatient volunteers, nursing home volunteers, palliative care volunteers
- *Over 55 new volunteers
- *As of November 9, 2023, over 13,000 hours of volunteer service, 2000 hours above this period in 2022

All of these accomplishments are attributed to an amazing team of volunteers who live the mission to help people live healthier lives. Your contributions make a difference in the lives of those throughout our communities and we thank you!

Kerri Emberlin

Page 2 Vitality

Simcoe

Another year is rapidly coming to a close! We were almost lulled into believing it was still September with the summer-like weather we were having.

Sadly, as I write this, the upcoming weekend will be the last Treasure Mart we will be holding. With that being said, there are not enough pages to list and thank the many volunteers who have sorted, priced, trucked goods, set up, taken down and stored what remained each year - hours and hours of volunteer help. Thank you, one and all.

Simcoe branch's tag day was a great success and once again our volunteers stepped up. The weather was perfect - not too hot.

In August we began a new journey for fundraising with 50/50 lottery tickets which were given to branches to sell, with all of us working towards the same goal - selling all our tickets! I set up a table at the Farmers' Market with thanks to Steve Meidema from Townsend Butchers. My branch volunteers were so great with excellent selling skills. Now we wait until Nov. 18th when the winning ticket will be drawn at Treasure Mart. This new endeavor was a big job to set up and manage. Somehow thank you doesn't seem enough to say to Liz Rotherham, Bonnie Harris and Kerri Emberlin for their hard work. Half the winnings go to the ticket winner and half to our hospital.

In October, with Iris Smith's organising skills, we held our spaghetti dinner once again at NG & CC. It was a grand success with a record 131 guests! Many compliments were given to chefs from Serafina's and to volunteers for setting up and serving two sittings.

I am delighted that we will be having our Christmas lunch and a brief meeting on Nov. 30th at Riversyde83. This is a lovely venue indeed.

New volunteers are slowly being added to our roster but it is a journey. We are hopeful that we can continue to serve our hospital for many years.

Please be safe and stay well.

Lyn Fraser, Branch Chair

Delhi

The hustle and bustle of the holiday season will soon be upon us. Hopefully, everyone will get a chance to spend some cherished time with family and friends and enjoy all of the deliciousness of the season. Delhi members enjoyed selling 50/50 tickets at Crompton Home Building Centre on Friday October 20th and at Your Independent Grocer on Saturday October 21st. Members volunteered their time at Treasure Mart, making it a memorable final event.

A scrumptious Christmas dinner and meeting was held Wednesday November 22nd. We were pleased to have both Sarah Muntz-Flowerday and Emma Rogers from the Foundation attending to share information about what it is that they do. Len Lasko challenged us again with his annual Christmas quiz. Many members were lucky to depart with a door prize. We had a poinsettia from Delhi Flowers and a grocery gift card from Your Independent Grocer among the prizes.

Posters will be going up and tickets are now available for our musical event, A Valentine Ensemble featuring The Soenen Sisters. Tickets will be available for purchase from the gift shop starting the week of November 27 or from Marg Saunders 519-582-0796 or Judy Boughner 519-582-3892. The performance will be on Sunday February 18 and tickets are \$35.

On Friday December 1st and 8th we will be promoting the TruEarth and EcoCollective products and selling TruEarth Laundry sample packages. These are great stocking stuffers for that environmentally-conscious person on your Christmas list. Packages are just \$3. You can also check our links on the Volunteer page under Association Events to make purchases from a wide selection of products.

Ang Grant, Branch Chair



Port Dover

I'm looking out the window and seeing that all the leaves have finally fallen from the trees. Thanksgiving is in the past, and I'm excited to get ready for the Christmas season. Looking back over the past year, I'm proud of what our branch has achieved. We had a very successful tag day, bakeless bake sale, and sold the NGH 50/50 tickets at our Summer Festival, the Friday the 13th event, and twice at our local market. We are thankful for the generosity of the public and for the hours devoted by our members who volunteered at these events. I must recognize time spent by our members who volunteer at the hospital and assist our sister branches' functions. Of course, we have our dedicated group who attend our branch meetings and share their thoughts and fellowship. We are very lucky folks. After reading this, give yourself a hearty pat on the back; you deserve it!

We are looking forward to our Christmas luncheon/meeting at the Erie Beach on Tuesday December 5th starting at 11 a.m. Gifts that will be shared are items for the food bank; we won't have to fuss wrapping them up!

Fundraisers in 2024 are in the planning stages. In June, for the young and not-so-young, we will have Lucas Wilson, the illusionist. In November, our fall fashion show will be coming back. Dates and times will be confirmed later.

Mark these dates on your 2024 calendar. Our first branch meeting will be on Wednesday April 24th for a potluck/AGM at 5 p.m., followed by meetings on Tuesday June 18th at 9:30 a.m. and Tuesday September 24th at 9:30 a.m. These three meetings will be held at the Lions Club market building. We will finish off the year with our Christmas luncheon/meeting on Tuesday December 3rd at 11 a.m. at the Erie Beach Hotel.

I wish you a healthy, safe and happy holiday season with family and friends

Drenise Cowlard, Branch Chair

Waterford

November has been a busy time for our volunteers at NGH. Treasure Mart was a great success and it was awesome to see so many volunteers working together. The Waterford branch thanks everyone who made our 50/50 ticket sales so very successful! Our town came out with full support and generosity. Thanks again!

We have a new member joining our team - Cinda Sonnenberg. We are all looking forward to volunteering with you and introducing you to our branch.

Our Christmas social meeting will be December 12 in Waterford. The holiday season is approaching and all the Waterford branch volunteers wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Renee Owen, Branch Chair

Judy Boughner Delhi Branch

Judy was born in Norfolk General Hospital and has lived all her life in Delhi. She is the eldest of five children and has three daughters and five

grandchildren. Her father taught her to golf when she was twelve and she has been golfing ever since; in fact, that is where she met her husband, Rick. He passed away in 2007 after nearly thirty-four years of marriage. Judy went to high school in Delhi and worked thirty-one years for the Township of Delhi, now Norfolk County, retiring in 2008.

Wanting to keep busy and knowing people who volunteered at the hospital, Judy joined the volunteers in 2008 where she began as an office helper, a job she still does. Donnie Bodajla got her involved in Treasure Mart that same year, and she has worked in that fund-raising event ever since as secretary of the committee and convenor of the silent auction. She has been the Delhi branch chair, and helped with Grade 1 tours, tag days, September socials, served as secretary of the volunteer board and the recognition committee as well as being active in training and leadership. She is co-convenor of the Delhi Golf Tournament. Judy finds the hospital an interesting and fulfilling place to work and has met so many wonderful volunteers whose friendship she will always cherish.

Judy spent nine years as the director of Delhi Community Health Centre.

She likes to golf and to read, and enjoys travel. A special trip to Europe in 2016 took her to Belgium and the Netherlands. She got to meet cousins in Belgium for the first time and attended a concert of Andre Rieu in Maastricht NL.

Judy has received two Certificates of Appreciation, two Outstanding Service Pins, a Leadership Award, is a local Life Member and has received her 3000 hour service award.

Thank you, Judy, for your contribution and commitment to the hospital.

Marion Rathwell

Page 4 Vitality



Welcome to our newest volunteers – thanks for joining the team!

Port Dover

Lee MacDonald

Simcoe

Lynn White Bonnie Hazell Vicki Davey

Jennifer Stronach

Waterford

Cinda Sonnenberg Terry Allison Ronald Layman Ryan Layman **Junior**

Emily Knowles Olivia Helmsley

College/University

Dami Lasisi Tessa Lebrun Shane McCartney Kim Schlaht

> No Branch Doris Kienitz

50/50 Winner!!

A huge thank you to our volunteers and communities for the success of our first county-wide 50/50 fundraiser.

Our winner was Nancy Easdown, a retired nurse from Norfolk General Hospital. Nancy won \$12,358 and in turn made a significant donation back to the association. She is a strong supporter of the volunteers and knows first-hand the positive impact they have on the hospital and nursing home.

Congratulations Nancy!



L-R: Elizabeth Rotherham (50/50 co-chair), Lois Craig (President, Volunteer Association), winner Nancy Easdown, Bonnie Harris (50/50 co-chair)

Branch Amalgamation Update

At this time, the volunteer association continues to look at the possibility of consolidation of the four branches in an effort to relieve the pressures of recruiting executive leadership to manage each of those branches while continuing to strengthen the association's board of directors. The association is committed to maintaining its goals as outlined in the constitution, especially with a focus on service to the hospital, fundraising, and public relations.

At the branches' fall meetings, members were asked for their feedback so that the branch chair could bring that information to the association's board of directors. The themes of that feedback were consistent.

- 1. What would the revised organization look like?
- 2. How would we have representation from our area on the board?
- 3. How would we fundraise and be recognized for our contributions to fundraising?
- 4. How would we continue the relationships that we have built with fellow members if we do not have meetings? Kerri has spent time over the past few months reaching out to her colleagues at other hospitals across Ontario asking how their volunteer associations are structured and if any of them have gone through the process of consolidating branches. Norfolk is quite unique as there are very few other associations with branches/chapters. Currently, to our knowledge, the only other association with this structure is in the Kingston area.

1. Structure ideas

#1 #2

President President Past President Vice President Vice President Vice President Secretary Secretary

Treasurer Treasurer

Director Communications Director Communications

Member at Large (up to 5) Director Fundraising

Director Social

Director of Recognition

Member at Large (2 positions)

In each of these options, Members at Large would be responsible for supporting committees created to manage fundraising, social gatherings and other ad hoc committees as deemed necessary by the board.

2. Representation on the board

It is top of mind for us all that we include representation from all areas as we transition to a new structure. We are committed to ensuring that positions are held to meet the interest/opportunity. Member at large positions will be available to ensure representation.

Continued....

Page 6 Vitality

3. Fundraising

Fundraising remains one of the three pillars of the association. To continue with fundraising, we will require a committee that reaches out to community connections to engage in festivals, seek permissions and schedule volunteers to participate. Some examples have already been realized with collaborations for tag days, Port Dover summer fest and Friday the 13th events that included members from other communities participating in collecting donations and selling 50/50 tickets. For those communities that are interested in maintaining their particular events, you will be recognized and promoted by the association and NGH/NHNH.

4. Continued relationships

The social aspect of our branch meetings has been an integral part of building trust, relationships and opportunities for our members. For those volunteers who are not serving in the hospital or nursing home, the loss of branch meetings creates a disconnect and one of our biggest priorities is to maintain relationships with all volunteers and to support continued engagement. This challenge is currently a priority as we experience the last Treasure Mart event. There are dozens of volunteers who participate only in this event and we do not want to lose their enthusiasm and support.

It is our goal to create a social committee/role within a new structure to continue to connect with those who participate in alternate ways in supporting the association. This could be a formal committee or an ad hoc committee.

Please continue to communicate any ideas, suggestions, feedback regarding the consolidation of the branches with your branch chairs. At this time, the board of directors has not made any decisions as we continue to look for opportunities and ideas. Our goal is to formalize a decision and develop a transition plan if warranted.

It is important that all of our members understand that the consolidation of the branches is a legal and formal decision that is voted upon by the membership. The association's constitution and by-laws would be amended and policies would be revised. This action, should it be approved, will take close to two years to finalize.



Thank You

I would like to thank all the volunteers and patrons for their help in our very successful spaghetti dinner fundraiser. A special thank you goes out to Marg Drummelsmith, Lyn Fraser, Dave Baldock and Nancy Baldock for helping to set up; Karen and Bill Baskerville for manning the bar sales and picking up the ice cream from Unilever; and Liz Rotherham and Vicki Fritzley for manning the door. Also I'd like to extend a thank you to Serafina and staff for cooking the delicious dinner and to Unilever for the donation of the Magnum bars. There were 131 adults and 3 three children for dinner resulting in a profit of \$1,152.85.

Iris Smith, Coordinator

Gift Shop



Our gift shop is decorated for the season, featuring home decor and an array of cute Christmas tree ornaments. The cardinals are back by popular demand. The new LED cardinal lanterns will make unique gift items. We offer a wide range of afforda-

ble fashion accessories (capes, ponchos, shawls). Complete an outfit with a pretty scarf or sparkling necklace. Send Christmas greetings by selecting homemade cards by Marilyn. View a variety of beautiful knitted baby sets and blankets. Come in and browse; you might find the perfect Christmas gift!

Follow us on Facebook - search Norfolk General Hospital Volunteer Gift Shop.

Happy holidays!

Jane Hunter, Convenor

Help Wanted

Urgent need to fill!

As we continue to rebound from the loss of over 200 volunteers due to the pandemic and to resume all activities and programs, we are experiencing critical shortages in specific areas when scheduling for shifts.

Our biggest challenge is **Wednesdays**, both mornings and afternoons. This gap is a concern for several volunteer areas including our **coffee kiosk**, **information desk and gift shop**.

Additionally, we require an additional ten volunteers to expand the hours of the coffee kiosk. We are looking to add a third shift so that the kiosk can be open later into the afternoon seven days per week. If you or someone you know may be interested in volunteering regularly at the coffee kiosk, please contact Kerri at 519-426-0130 ext 2100



Page 8 Vitality

A Valentine Ensemble

Jeaturing The Soenen Sisters
Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 2:30 pm

at the Delhi United Church, 105 Church Street West, Delhi







HOLIDAY CRAFT SALE

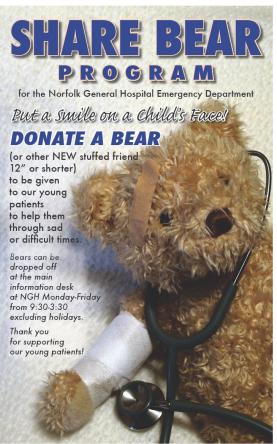
NGH RESOURCE ROOM



Thursday, December 14th 9:30 a.m. -1 p.m.

Decorations, gifts, and more!

Debit Payments Acco



Norfolk Hospital Nursing Home Christmas Gazaar!

LOCATION- NHNH ACTIVITY ROOM (ELGIN AVE. & ROBINSON ST.)

THURSDAY DECEMBER 7TH 9AM-1PM

SALE INCLUDES; RAFFLES, PENNY TABLE, GAMES, BAKED GOODS & VENDORS;

~BENJIE'S BITES~
~HAZELNUT HOSPITALITY~
~FOR THE LOVE OF OILS~
~MADE BY WAVES~
~PEBBLE ART~
~SENTSY~

-SPARKLE MY DAY~
~THIRTY-ONE~

*ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS
NHNH RESIDENTS COUNCIL. ACTIVITY DEPARTMENT*

~TUPPERWARE~



We are required to report the number of NGH/NHNH volunteers and staff who have received their shots to public health annually.

If you have received your flu shot, please send Judy Boughner an email or leave a message.

jboughner@ngh.on.ca or leave a message at the volunteer office – 519-426-0130 ext. 3100













All set to open the doors





The end

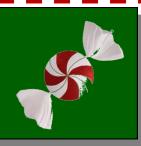


the memories!!!!

Page 12 Vitality



Dates To Remember



December

- 5 Port Dover meeting
- 7 -- NHNH bazaar
- 9 -- 24 Gift wrapping
- 12 Waterford meeting
- 13 Finance Committee meeting
- 14 Craft Group sale
- 18 Board meeting

January

12 – Deadline to report flu vaccinations to Kerri (by email)

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

February

- 14 Finance Committee
 - meeting
- 18 Delhi concert
- 19 Board meeting
- 21 Recognition Committee meeting

Please contact the volunteer office for change of address or other contact information.

519-426-0130 ext. 3101

Newsletter Contacts:

Editors Linda Novinka 519-429-9711

lnovinka@ngh.on.ca

Cara Blackwood 519-428-2001 acblackwood 1985@gmail.com

Contacts:

President Lois Craig 519-428-2164 46strongarms@gmail.com

Branch Chairs

Simcoe Lyn Fraser 519-428-4270 lynfraser4270@gmail.com Delhi angelamgrant@hotmail.com Angela Grant 519-582-3542 Port Dover **Drenise Cowlard** 226-290-4080 djcowland@gmail.com Waterford Renee Owen 519-443-7265 mynay2@hotmail.com

Next Submission Deadline: February 21st, 2024