



October—December 2021

## Updates from the Director

Greetings WakeMed Volunteers,

We hope this edition of the newsletter finds you healthy and enjoying the cooler weather as much as possible. Unfortunately, we are managing another variant with Omicron and its impact to our community. Our dedicated team of WakeMed caregivers are continuing to show their resilience and creativity with the current situation.

We have learned a lot over the last two years and will continue to ensure we provide the highest level of care possible despite the challenges we face. Please note the details in the articles included in this publication as we work to keep you up to date with our operations and outcomes.

We hope everyone continues to follow safety guidelines to protect yourself, friends, and family. We are in this together and proud to be a part of the WakeMed team!

Thank you,

Chris Perry, MBA

Director

Guest, Retail, & Volunteer Services

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### Quote of the Quarter

**Volunteers are not paid—not because they are worthless, but because they are PRICELESS!**

Anonymous

## Raleigh's Chair Report



As we move into the new year, the Raleigh Volunteer Board is hard at work! In November, we held a planning session to discuss our efforts as a board and how we can support our volunteers at Raleigh and North Hospitals. As a result, we will be developing strategies to improve communication with and among our volunteers. I appreciate the efforts of Ken Harrison, Susie Legatowicz, Jimmy Gibbs and Chris Perry as they work on the details.

With the cooperation of Belk and Macy's, we had two successful fundraisers. During these fundraisers, we used the new CBORD point-of-sale system to automate employee payroll deductions. We appreciate the work of Chris Perry, Jackie Kennedy and Donna James in rolling out this new process, not only at our sales, but throughout the WakeMed system. These funds raised at these sales will be used throughout the year for grants for various departments throughout WakeMed. For example, the Board recently approved funding for items for the Rehab Hospital Clothes Closet. Thank you to all who came to help with the payroll deduction process.

Many thanks to the volunteers who came out in support of the Children's Hospital Toy Drive in December! It was great to see so many of you helping out with this fun event! We received hundreds of donations from various community organizations, companies and individuals. Not only were the toys used to provide holiday gifts for our patients, but they will also be used throughout the year as birthday gifts, incentives, prizes and diversionary activities in the Children's Hospital, Emergency Department, Pediatric Urgent Care, WakeMed Primary Care and WakeMed Specialty clinics.

We are still in need of two or more people to work with us on our Education Committee for the Raleigh and North Hospital campuses. This committee promotes continuing education among volunteers and oversees the course reimbursement process. Please contact Ann Brown at [asbrownapex@gmail.com](mailto:asbrownapex@gmail.com) if you can help.

Thank you all so much for your continued support of WakeMed. The past couple of years have been difficult for everyone and I appreciate how each of you have freely given your time and talent to our patients and staff. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help you in your volunteer endeavors.

Stay well,

Ann Brown, Chair

WakeMed Raleigh Volunteers

## Cary's Chair Report



Dear Friends,

I am honored to represent WakeMed Cary as the new Volunteer Board Chair. I was “recruited” to the Board three years ago by our former, long-time beloved chairwoman the late Susan Alvey, who left me with a strong vision for the future. I believe she is sitting on my shoulder, whispering in my ear now and again to remind me of her hopes for this group! I also am stepping into huge footprints left behind by our leader of the past three years, Beth Turner. Beth did an outstanding job leading this Board and representing us throughout the Hospital system.

Her attention to detail and mastery of organization is sorely missed. My first experience with hospital volunteers was nearly 30 years ago. Diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer, I received treatment, including a year of experimental chemotherapy, at a small hospital in Florida. I was terrified most of the time and very alone. The hospital had a small group of very active volunteers – Pink Ladies – so named for their salmon colored smocks. Mostly septuagenarians, octogenarians (and older!) the Pink Ladies took me under their wings, were with me for every surgery, held my hand and often wiped my tears. I would not have made it through the ordeal without them.

Hospital volunteers have evolved over the years but our mission remains pretty much the same as those Pink Ladies of the past. Our commitment to WakeMed Cary, the patients and staff, as well as our Cary community, even throughout these difficult times of COVID, remains strong.

The number of volunteers in the hospital certainly has changed over the past two years as COVID has kept many of our men and women from entering the hospital and taking up their tasks. I am so proud that our volunteers continue to serve throughout this crisis in many other ways.

Hundreds of facemasks, made by community volunteers, were collected and distributed to hospital staff, affiliates and community charities. Throughout the COVID crisis, our Threads Committee and the community crafters have continued to create an endless number of comfort items such as quilts, afghans, baby hats, etc. to be distributed to patients.

In addition, the WakeMed Volunteer Board identified needs of overworked hospital staff members and provided a needed break with an ice cream truck with treats. Some physical relief was provided with professional chair massages for the hospital staff.

In October, our Halloween Trunk or Treat returned after a year’s hiatus. Nurses, community groups, Cary Fire Department, Police, and friends of the Hospital decorated vehicles. They came out costumed in the rain and cold and passed out candy and treats to some-1000 community children. This was an overwhelming turnout and a tribute to the hard work of event-creator Lois Dziedzic and her fellow board members who helped organize and carry out this tremendously successful annual board event.

While we’re still working our Adult and Junior volunteers back into hospital positions, we continue to spread good will for WakeMed Cary at community events. I so look forward to the coming year and helping to keep that angel sitting on my shoulder proud of her WakeMed Cary Board and volunteers.

Joyce Aschenbrenner, Chair  
WakeMed Cary Volunteers

## WakeMed Health & Hospitals 2021 Annual Impact Report

# THANK YOU!

|  |  |   |   |                               |
|--|--|---|---|-------------------------------|
| 155,135.75<br>Volunteer Hours<br>System-wide | 84,851.75<br>Volunteer Hours<br>Raleigh Campus | 69,282.50<br>Volunteer Hours<br>Cary Hospital | 1,001.50<br>Volunteer Hours<br>North Hospital | 70<br>Departments<br>Suported |
|--|--|---|---|-------------------------------|

Please click the link below to read the 2021 Annual Report. Thank you to **all** of our WakeMed Volunteers for an **amazing past year!**

[Annual Report, WakeMed Health & Hospitals, Raleigh & Wake County, NC](#)



## Shining the light on SERVICE

FY21 Annual Volunteer Services Impact Report

The volunteer program continues to shine and provide amazing support to our patients, families, visitors and staff. With the reinstatement of key areas of the hospital based volunteer program in July and the continued support of our community sewers and other community volunteers, we are united and dedicated in our support of WakeMed Aspirational Goals.

Thank you to our volunteers and to the Volunteer Services staff for your service and support during the ongoing pandemic and the challenges it brings. It is exciting to see our on-campus volunteers again now that all service areas are active. The continued contributions of our sewing and community volunteers are very much appreciated by our patients, families and WakeMed staff. Together we provided 155,136 hours with an average of 283 volunteers per month serving in various roles throughout the system. We look forward to seeing what this next year will bring. Together, we make a difference!

Ann Brown & Beth Turner  
Chair Raleigh & Cary  
Volunteer Board of Directors

*"The amazing therapy dog, Tia, came to visit and all of the patients enjoyed her. A patient that has been very withdrawn and paranoid especially enjoyed the group. Patients and Tia's handler all sat on the floor and told stories of animals in their lives!"*

*"Our unit is not the same without volunteers! They bring such a positive spirit and help us out in ways we don't even know we needed!"*

*"I would like to thank the Volunteers for the wonderful shawls, blankets and activity mats that they make for our patients. I love seeing their smiling faces when the patients receive something individually chosen for them. Thanks a million for all your hard work."*

*"Today one of our patients was just not in a good mood at all. Frustrated, anxious, antsy, then Volunteer Adah came. Adah and our patient really seemed to bond, there was a lot of laughing and giggling coming from the dining room. Bracelets were made, paintings were painted, smiles were seen. I cannot thank Adah and you all enough for creating this opportunity for our patients. She's a good egg and makes our weekends better!"*

WakeMed  
Volunteer Services

# Volunteer Services "LOVES TO KNOW"



Congrats to our Raleigh Volunteer, Sally Perdue and Dudley Stallings on their marriage November 6th, 2021. We wish you the best!



To Volunteer Mike Schuler's wife,

Susan...We wish you a speedy recovery and hope you get well soon!

We also wish Donna James, our Raleigh Volunteer Development Specialist, continued success in her recovery after knee surgery. Keep up the good work Donna!



To Volunteers Grace Perey, Sally Perdue and Sally Stallings ...with our deepest sympathy for your loss,

Look who showed up on the WakeMed Instagram page! Karen Livingston's pet therapy dog, Tia. We brought our pet therapy program back just for staff only. **Isn't she beautiful!**



# Volunteer Services Updates

The Volunteers at WakeMed Cary Hospital hosted the Annual Trunk or Treat, Friday, October 29, 2021. More than 1,000 people attended this FREE community event!



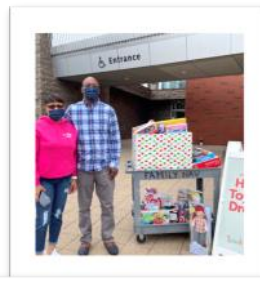
## WakeMed Cary Hospital Ice Cream Appreciation!

The Volunteers at WakeMed Cary Hospital showed their appreciation to WakeMed Cary staff members by serving free ice cream on October 13 and October 16, 2021.



## Volunteer Services Updates

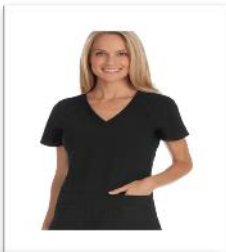
**A BIG thanks to all of the volunteers who came out to support WakeMed's Toy Drives on December 11th and December 18th. We couldn't do it without you!**



### Volunteer Services Upcoming Event and 1st Quarter Contributions

**Upcoming Uniform & Shoe Sale**

Shop online at  
[www.FirstUniform.com](http://www.FirstUniform.com)  
 Friday, February 11th through Tuesday, February 22nd



***Proceeds from the sales allow the Volunteer Boards to provide funding to support programs and services at WakeMed***

**Contributions**

**Macy's Sale (October 17, 2021):**  
 Raleigh \$3,819  
 Cary \$1,674

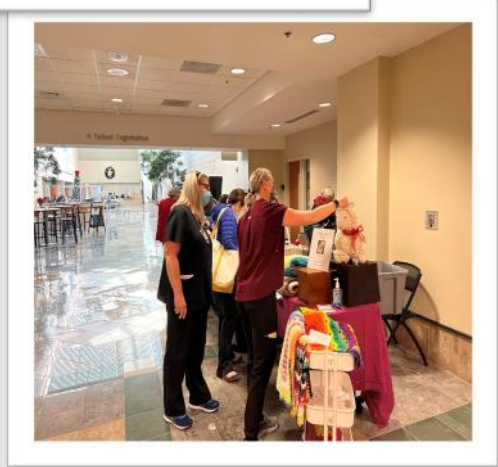
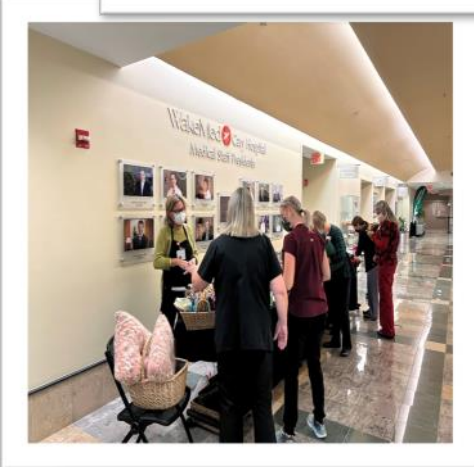
**Belk Sale (December 3, 10 and 15, 2021):**  
 Raleigh \$7,892  
 North \$1,471  
 Cary \$2,938

**Macy's Extravaganza Sale (December 19, 2021):**  
 Raleigh \$2,890  
 Cary \$1,270

**Grand total contributions this quarter \$21,954**

# Cary's Threads Committee Pop Up Sale—December 1st, 2021

All handmade items were made with "Love" by the WakeMed Cary Hospital sewing volunteers! With their beautiful handmade items, Threads was able to raise a total of \$3,357.68 and it will go directly towards supporting the Cary Hospital—Community Sewers. The money provides reimbursement for supplies purchased to make blankets, baby hats, afghans and more for our patients and families!





## Raleigh Community Sewing Spotlight

Amigurumi is the Japanese word which describes **small knitted or crocheted stuffed toys**, often in the shape of characters, animals, mini foods, household objects and scenery. It comes from the two root words ami, meaning crocheted or knitted, and nuigurumi which means stuffed doll.

**Glenda Poulter**, a Community Sewing Volunteer since 2016, is celebrating 5 years as a WakeMed volunteer this quarter and has donated nearly 2,500 hours of service. Glenda has been crocheting since the age of nine. She loves to crochet, and it became a passion when she was diagnosed with cancer. Glenda began with crocheting hats for cancer patients. This launched her work into making comfort items. She crochets baby hats, shawls, and blankets. Admittedly, her favorite and some of her most beautiful work came from her group, Random Acts of Crocheted Kindness, Amigurumi Huggables. These precious Bears, Worry Worts and Fiddle Worms are some of the most sought-after creations due to their soft and cozy feel.



**Thank you, Glenda, for the many comfort items you have given to WakeMed's patients!**



Glenda's Amigurumi Creations



## Raleigh - 2021 Christmas Gifts for Patients—2D Rehab

Dear Volunteers,

Thank you so much for the beautiful handmade sewing items that were shared with our unit during the month of December.

I can't begin to tell you how thrilled our patients were on Thursday, December 23rd, when we loaded the beautiful handmade bed quilts and lap throws onto a large cart to begin caroling and making stops in each room. Santa was with us as well, eliciting many smiles and happy tears, from patients, family members, and yes, even from our staff members.

Although I've been blessed to have been a part of such Christmas offerings in the past, we had many new staff members this year who were amazed at the outpouring of emotion from such a simple act of love. Many of our Rehab patients, as you know, spend an extended length of time with us, and this occasion was the only gifting that some of them would receive during the Christmas season. Each blanket and throw were, and will be, cherished forever. Our staff members are already eagerly looking forward to our 2022 Christmas event!

Volunteers who generously give of their time and handiwork mean so much to patients who are sick, lonely, and often isolated from loved ones during family holiday events. Your selfless acts of giving could not be more appreciated. Thank-you again for sharing so many of these gifts with our unit.

Best regards,

Nancy Graybeal, RN,  
BSN, CRRN

2D Rehab



## 1st Quarter Sewing Donations

### Raleigh Campus

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Cynthia Jordan (St Matthew's Baptist Church) | The Comfort Project   |
| Chris Boyer                                  | Meghan Riddick        |
| Thad O'Briant                                | Sophie Davis          |
| Project Linus                                | Janet Jennings        |
| Olivia Sadowy                                | American Sewing Guild |
| Karen Kimrey                                 | Barbara Papp          |
| Michele Boyce                                | Charlotte Montillo    |
| Jan Holt                                     | Pearl Fowler          |
| Elli Wentzell                                | Mara Comas            |
| Susan Griffith                               | Ann Jagger            |
| Sion Chang                                   | Connie Ferguson       |
| Pam Stelmack                                 | Bonnie Howell         |
| Nancy Battiste                               | Elaine Hilker         |
| Patty Kribbs                                 | Julie Brown           |
| Atria Oak Ridge                              | 12 Oaks Boomers       |
| Sarah Thompson                               | Whitney Thomas        |
| Threads of Love                              | Charlene Melinsky     |
| Sujitra Martin                               | Cynthia Jordan        |
| Glenda Poulter                               | Cary Senior Center    |
| Christina Allen                              | Charlotte Duncan      |
| Kathy Stewart                                | Joy Young             |
| Pat Behrle                                   | Jan Holt              |
| Susan Breslin                                |                       |
| Dorothy Richards                             |                       |
| Kathy Turner                                 |                       |
| Johanna Rodriguez                            |                       |
| Patricia Crissman                            |                       |

***Raleigh Community Sewing Groups contact Dawn at [dsykes@wakemed.org](mailto:dsykes@wakemed.org) or 919-350-8293 to update member status***

### Cary Hospital

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Amie Masemore   | Linda Stander                         |
| Amy Johns   | Middle Creek High School Crochet Club |
| Ann Foster's Group                                      | Nancy Battiste                        |
| Anuradha Machiraju                                      | Nancy Ramano                          |
| Arya Pathare  | Pam Ayars                             |
| Campbell Baker  | Pam Stelmack                          |
| Carol Doyle   | Quilts for Kids                       |
| Carolina Preservers Yarn Spinners                       | Rose Byrd                             |
| Cary Blanketeers  | Shepherd's Church                     |
| Cary Quilting   | Sue Terjesen                          |
| Cary Stitchers  | Sumaiyah Shayed                       |
| Compassion-Knit Hearts                                  | Susan Trapp                           |
| Cornerstone Presbyterian                                | Templeton Threads                     |
| Deanna Babyak   | The Material Girls                    |
| Debbie Egbert   | Village Knitters & Crochet Group      |
| Elizabeth Albertson                                     | Windsor Point                         |
| Emma Shin   |                                       |
| First Reformed Church                                   |                                       |
| Future Women In Medicine Club – Green Level High School |                                       |
| Garner on the Mend                                      |                                       |
| HSNC Seniors  |                                       |
| Jan Sharber   |                                       |
| Janet Pawelek   |                                       |
| Jeanette Jones  |                                       |
| Jerralie Peterson                                       |                                       |
| Judy Latham   |                                       |
| Karen George  |                                       |
| Laya Nair   |                                       |

***Cary Community Sewing Groups contact Pennie at [pegrham@wakemed.org](mailto:pegrham@wakemed.org) or 919-350-2363 to update member status***



**Department of Volunteer Services**  
**3000 New Bern Avenue**  
**Raleigh, NC 27610-4465**