

# The Volunteer Voice

## Novato Community Hospital

Fall 2007



*Novato Community  
Hospital*

A Sutter Health Affiliate

*With You. For Life.*

### NOVATO COMMUNITY HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER BOARD

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### Newsletter Staff:

Beverly Cowan, Editor  
Emily Heller, Publisher

Volunteers Add Value



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## President's Message

I hope your summer has been enjoyable. We are nearing our fall general meeting and I wanted to discuss the results of our recent survey. But, before I do that, I would like to thank everyone for the heartfelt thoughts, cards and prayers to me and my family on the passing of my mother, and NCH volunteer, Bettye Richards. As most of you know she was very ill these past two years and her brave fight came to an end on July 16. Everyone involved in her care at both NCH and MGH gave her such wonderful care, and my family and I are so very grateful.

Now, let's move on to the business at hand. In preparation for our "decoupling" from MGH, when we will no longer have the services of Kathy Meyer & Regina Thomas, I sent out a questionnaire to all volunteers to see who was interested in a variety of leadership and fundraising positions within the organization. I received 20 responses. Of these responses, only one person was willing to serve in a leadership position, and no new volunteers were willing to participate in fundraising activities. As

a result of this survey, our Volunteer Board met with NCH administration on August 14 to make recommendations for the future management of the NCH Volunteers. We agreed to disband the Board as of mid April 2008. We hope to have a new NCH staff person to manage the volunteers. Our current Board will remain in place until mid April in order to provide continuity during the transition.

The Board also agreed to transfer management of current and future fundraising activities to Fund Development. Those of you who are currently working with one of our fundraising branches will continue to do so, just under the direction of Fund Development. This decision should ease some of the pressure on volunteers to raise money.

The Board agreed that the gift shop should remain under the NCH Volunteers. The volunteers and hopefully the new staff person will manage the gift shop. The proceeds from the gift shop will be used to fund our scholarship program. I want to stress to all of you that we are and will



*2007 Volunteer Board  
President Jeanne Holden*

continue to be a vital organization within Novato Community Hospital. Our in-service volunteers will continue to provide assistance where they are needed within the hospital and our fundraising branches will continue to provide their expertise under the Foundation. I believe as the hospital grows we will need to recruit new volunteers and develop new ways to assist this great facility.

I hope you will all join the Board in making this transition a smooth one. Please don't hesitate to contact me or any of the Board members.

## Director's Message by Kathy Meyer, Director of Volunteer Services



Director Kathy Meyer

Summer is drawing to a close and fall is in the air. I remember as a young girl that this was the time we went shopping for our back-to-school outfits and school supplies. I think it made it easier for us to transition from summer to fall. This was always a new beginning with new classes, new teachers and new friends.

This is such an exciting time as NCH volunteer committees meet and the holiday events start to take shape. This year will see a change in the timing of the Floral Event. Last year the fall floral was held at StoneTree Country Club, which was a spectacular setting. Ed Bocke, the floral designer, was so taken with the location he suggested a December Holiday Event for 2007 at the same location. Those of us who have attended the floral events in the past will be anxiously awaiting his creative designs this year. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

As I again look back to my youth I'm reminded of the annual tree lighting ceremony that took place at the end of our block. All the neighbors would sing Christmas carols and Santa would arrive on the fire truck. Of course as we got older and wiser we realized Santa was Mr. Bellew from the community center.

The Tree of Lights is a beautiful tradition at Novato Community Hospital. Community spirit is shown each year as NCH volunteers welcome the people of Novato who come to NCH to view the spectacular holiday tree. The tree is decorated with angels and stars, each one commemorating a loved one, friend, or co-worker. The volunteers serve refreshments and carolers stroll throughout the hospital visiting patients and spreading holiday cheer. This year's ceremony will be held Tuesday evening, December 11, 2007.

We welcome each of you to participate in these wonderful events and invite your family, friends, and neighbors. All profits benefit patient care. Catch the excitement of the second half of 2007.



## Message from the Coordinator

In October, we will be introducing our Dog Therapy Program at NCH. Our volunteer, Etta Allen, is our Dog Therapy Facilitator, and she will handle all orientation and training of our new volunteers. Etta has many years affiliation with Marin Guide Dogs for the Blind, serving on their Board of Directors, and it is through her efforts to bring this program to NCH by our partnering with Guide Dogs that we can be assured our new program will be a tremendous success. All of our "career-change" guide dogs are very friendly and disciplined, and have received training in working with others.

Studies have shown that the act of stroking a dog not only lowers blood pressure and heart rate, but also provides a happy diversion and lifts the spirits; important elements in the aid of the healing process and the reduction of stress. Our partnership with Guide Dogs will contribute to our patient's health and overall satisfaction with their healthcare setting here at NCH, and our staff and volunteers will be recipients of these stress-reducing benefits, as well.

We will begin Therapy Dog visits approximately three mornings a week, and you will know the dogs by their volunteer uniforms, teal-colored vests, and Photo ID badges.

Our Volunteers and their Therapy Dogs look forward to meeting all of you as they come through the hospital on their visiting rounds, and we hope you will get an opportunity to welcome our new volunteers with a smile and a pat on the head for our furry friends!



Volunteer Coordinator  
Regina Thomas

## Gift Shop News

By Beverly Cowan

Upcoming Events:

Our **Leather Sale** will take place on Wednesday, **September 5th**. Watch for the flyer announcing the time and location of this event, offering jackets, handbags, purses, wallets and more.

Once again we are pleased to announce the return of the fabulous **Masquerade \$5.00 Jewelry Sale** on **October 8th and 9th**. Posters and flyers will be displayed to announce the time and location of this great event.

The NCH Gift Shop will be reaping the veggie harvest with gifts to define the season....Ceramic kitchenware, kitchen linens, home decor and casual wear aglow in the colors of autumn.

## Welcome New Volunteers

### APRIL 2007

Pam Pansini – Branch

### MAY

Judy Jarcik – Gift Shop

### JUNE

Anissa Amadea – ER

Yalda Ataie – SDS

Donna Cook – SDS

Olivia Fournier – ER

### July

Mark Barry – PCP

Roger Chang – ER

Jill Saia – PCP

Scott Walchli – ER

### August

Emma Cristofani – Gift Shop

Leeanna Hicks – PCP

Heidy Knoles – Dog Therapy

Symone Magsombol – PCP

## In Sympathy

On a sad note, this July saw the passing of

- **Leia Giovannini**, a devoted NCH Volunteer for 9 years.
- **Bettye Richards**, a dear lady who began volunteering at NCH over six years ago. Bettye was the mother of Jeanne Holden, president of the NCH Volunteer Board.
- **Rosemary Derry**, the wife of Jim Derry, a dedicated volunteer at NCH.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to their families.

## Summer Trips & Other News

**Randi Collins** recently bought a cottage in Port Henry, N.Y. to be close to her daughter and grandchildren during the summers. She is having great fun gathering treasures from consignment shops and flea markets to furnish the little house located on a lake 7 miles from Vermont. She tells a funny story how she and her husband drove across country in an old van filled with furnishings. Driving past Reno, they looked for a scenic spot to have a picnic – and ended up inadvertently at the gated entrance to Mustang Ranch!

**Marilyn Smith** loves to spend time at her second home on Whidbey Island near Seattle. But she still manages to help the volunteers. She was able to contribute \$1000 to the NCH Volunteers from a cruise she organized, and now she is busy with the plans for our Holiday Floral Design Show at Stone-Tree Country Club on December 2.

**Lorraine Priolo** is back on the job, after some good & bad news. In June, Lorraine left for Boston to be present for the birth of her twin grandchildren. The good news: the babies arrived – a boy and a girl, and everyone rejoiced. The bad news: while there Lorraine fell ill and was hospitalized for several days in Mass. General Hospital, followed by a long convalescence. Happily, she is now fully recuperated.

**Jeri Kruse** left for North Carolina to enjoy a visit with her family there.

**Diane Serchia**, together with her husband Luigi, is off to Italy to spend time with family.

## Birthdays

### JULY

3 Faye Willeford  
3 Olivia Fournier  
5 Kathryn Lazell  
6 Katarina Frudakis  
10 Ruth Gallagher  
11 Diane Serchia

### AUGUST

3 Bridget Gavin  
3 Mark Barry  
8 Jocelyn Marcus  
14 Mica Magsombol  
25 Roger Chang

### SEPTEMBER

3 Joan Sullivan  
4 Kathleen Jensen  
10 Kathy Hornsby  
11 Nancy Gervais  
26 Diana Kem

### OCTOBER

8 Amanda Anderson  
17 Caroline Richey  
18 Mimi Schilling  
21 Beverly Cowan  
23 Jill Saia  
25 Patti Hearne  
25 Amanda Dunn

# Calendar

## September

- 5 Leather Sale, Novato Community Hospital
- 12 Volunteer General Meeting, Wilkes-Weseman Conference Room, NCH, 10:00 a.m.

## October

- 8 & 9 Masquerade \$5 Jewelry Sale, Novato Community Hospital, 1st floor connector (dinning area)

## November

- 21 Holiday Open House Boutique, Wilkes-Weseman Conference Room, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 22 "Happy Thanksgiving!"

## December

- 2 Holiday Floral Design Luncheon, StoneTree Country Club
- 5 Volunteer Holiday Luncheon
- 11 Tree of Lights Ceremony, NCH Lobby



**Cruising for Dollars:** Marilyn Smith can organize your own personal cruise for any group of 16 (minimum of 2 per cabin). If you have a group of people you would like to sail with, and you would like to make up to \$1000 for the volunteers, just let her know. It's a great way to earn money for the Hospital and entails virtually no work for you!! You can reach Marilyn at 883-2534 or 613-3760 or email her at [marilynsmith@hotmail.com](mailto:marilynsmith@hotmail.com). Thank you Marilyn for this great opportunity!!

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