



**Association of Volunteers**  
1000 Mineral Point Ave.  
Janesville, WI 53548

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# Helping Hands

A newsletter for the Mercyhealth Association of Volunteers

Fall 2017



## inside this issue

words from our manager



castaways kindness



the more the merrier



upcoming events



and much more



# From our manager

Fall into Enthusiasm



**Jill Ayres**  
Manager, Mercyhealth Association of Volunteers

With another Wisconsin summer coming to an end, I hope all of you were able to enjoy a special event over the summer months. The frenzy of cramming a LOT of fun into every moment of summer has become a fall filled with enthusiasm as dropping leaves and changing colors are enjoyed. The pace slows just a bit, but the enthusiasm stays as strong as ever from the talented Mercyhealth volunteers.

This past spring and summer we were very busy holding in-services. Part of these in-services is attending Critical Moments of Service training. I appreciate the continued enthusiasm you all show by completing this training. If you have not attended the in-services, please call the Volunteer Office at (608) 756-6713.

Your enthusiasm is contagious to others. Share that enthusiasm and open the doors of volunteer opportunities with your friends and neighbors. Invite them to learn more about our ongoing volunteer needs and how they could bring their own enthusiasm to the mix.

Also adding enthusiasm into the mix, let's offer a warm welcome for some new programs.

**Healing Tones**, a live music program recently started. Mitch Gaver, with over 40 years of experience, is our inaugural musician sharing his singing and guitar talents with patients and staff. Please consider adding your musical talents to this new program. It has been very well received and quick growth is anticipated.

I am pleased to introduce the new volunteer **WOW! Award** program. My thanks to Rosalie England, Volunteer Manager at the Mercyhealth Rockford Campus, for her service with this program and introducing it to us. Visit [www.MercyHealthSystem.org/Wow-Award](http://www.MercyHealthSystem.org/Wow-Award) to recognize a partner or volunteer who goes above and beyond in providing exceptional service to our patients, physicians, customers, and co-workers.

Please welcome The Joint Commission to Mercyhealth this fall with the same gracious enthusiasm you welcome all our guests. The Joint Commission provides the accreditation process for more than 22,000 health care organizations. Accreditation means the organizations are recognized for compliance with required standards and continuous improvement initiatives.

A Joint Commission team member may ask you questions. A folder will be provided in volunteer workstations in Mercyhealth Hospital and Trauma Center—Janesville with Joint Commission information. It is VERY IMPORTANT to remember your name badge when you report for your volunteer services. This may seem a minor thing, but it is a big compliance item.

Thank you, volunteers, for sharing your enthusiasm and energy with each other, the Volunteer Association Board of Directors, and the staff in the volunteer offices in Janesville, Lake Geneva (Walworth) and Harvard. You are bright spirits, valuable partners, and treasured team members.

Finally, thank you to Heather Weberpal, for all she added to the volunteer department for the past three years. Read more about her new adventure in the staff feature article in this edition. Mercyhealth is a fortunate recipient of her talents—now just in a new office! Wishes of great success go with Heather! She will be missed.

Happy Fall to you all, and I wish you and your families a wonderful and peaceful Holiday Season!

Regards,

Jill Ayres  
Manager, Mercyhealth Association of Volunteers  
Mercyhealth Hospital and Trauma Center—Janesville  
(608) 756-6713



## Mercyhealth Association of Volunteers 17<sup>th</sup> Annual **Holiday Market**

**Mercyhealth Hospital and Trauma Center-Janesville**  
1000 Mineral Point Ave., Janesville  
Mercyhealth Conference Center, north entrance

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**Sunday, November 5**  
10 am-4 pm

**Monday, November 6**  
7:30 am-6 pm

**Tuesday, November 7**  
8 am-3 pm

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Proceeds fund important projects like the House of Mercy Homeless Center, scholarships and purchases for Mercyhealth Hospital and Trauma Center.

**Door prizes! Shop early!**  
**Save 25% on everything!**

- Many made in USA items
- Gourmet foods
- Holiday textiles
- Home décor and framed art
- Women's boutique
- Jewelry
- Gifts for babies and children
- And much more ...

# Community Education Health Report



Opioid use is nothing new. People in the US have been taking, smoking, or injecting opioids in various forms since at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Today, opioid abuse is a community issue. It has become a complex and chronic issue affecting thousands of families each day. One in seven Americans face substance addiction, according to the Surgeon General's 2016 report. Toddlers are dying of drug overdosing ... children are left without parents, brothers, sisters, and friends; parents are left without their children. Although experts say they know treatment works, people aren't able to access the help they need, when they need it.

What can you do?

- Lock up opioids, especially keeping them out of the hands of children and teens
- Discuss safe use of pain medications with your physician. Know what has been prescribed and how to take it safely.
- Discuss alternate methods of pain relief with your practitioner.
- Dispose of medications safely by utilizing law enforcement agency medication collection boxes or participating in "take back" events

\*This article has been excerpted and edited from Sherry Jelic's original publication, the Community Health Education Report. Sherry Jelic, Community Health Education Chair of Partners of WHA (Wisconsin Hospital Association), lives in Sun Prairie, WI. She can be reached at [sjelic@msn.com](mailto:sjelic@msn.com).

# Fabulous Fall, Season of Change

Arlene Knudson, President



**Arlene Knudson**  
President, Mercyhealth  
Association of Volunteers  
Board of Directors

We've turned the corner from sticky humidity and busy vacation schedules to crisp temperatures and a pace that takes time to enjoy the leaf colors. Ah, the seasons of change! We love it when things stay the same, but we rely on the tradition of change.

Fall is a great season of change for the Mercyhealth volunteers.

A welcome and fun change has been a mini facelift of the Janesville volunteer office inside Mercyhealth Hospital and Trauma Center. New wall colors are both soothing and invigorating. Our new workstations now match, look fantastic, and have created more space efficiencies.

Most importantly, the volunteers have a space to call their own, a place where they don't have to wait until a staff member is out of the office to find a spot to get their tasks done! Stop by and see what we're so excited about! A little nip and tuck was just what the doctor ordered!

We've also changed another page on the calendar, remarking on how time flies as we settle into a less-frantic routine. Grab your pen for some key dates:

- **Fall Membership Luncheon**—Thursday, November 16, Janesville Country Club, 2615 W. Memorial Dr., Janesville. Watch your mailbox for speaker details and RSVP information for this not-to-be-missed event!
- **Holiday Markets** and Mercyhealth Hospitals Janesville and Walworth—See p.8 and fliers in the Volunteer Services office for specifics.
- **Love Light Tree Lighting Ceremonies**—See p. 9 and fliers in the Volunteer Services office for specifics.

As you embrace this season of change, take a few moments to reflect on the changes in your life because of your volunteer activities at Mercyhealth. Have you enjoyed meeting new people? Have you experienced a sense of accomplishment knowing you have helped others? Have you increased your social and friendship circle through your volunteer activities? Have you found a renewed sense of purpose? Have you met personal goals by giving back to your community? If you were able to say "yes" to some of those questions, could you see yourself inviting someone you know to experience those same things as a volunteer?

Challenge yourself to look into your circle of friends and extend an invitation to become a Mercyhealth volunteer. You could be an agent of change in someone else's life, like someone was in yours!

Truly,

Arlene Knudson  
President, Mercyhealth Association of Volunteers Board of Directors

# Castways Kindness

Several separate shoppers recently visited the Castaways Thrift Shop. While preparing to pay for her items, one of those customers discovered she only had payment in the form of a large bill. Our policy is to accept only bill denominations of \$20 or less. Another customer waiting in line took note of the dilemma and paid for her purchase plus her own purchase, and then donated her change to Castaways in a pay-it-forward act of kindness.

Like this first customer, you may have been the recipient of a spontaneous act of kindness. Like this second customer, you may have been the person performing the act of kindness. Volunteers throughout Mercyhealth frequently are recognized for their extra efforts and their pay-it-forward kind acts.

Extra efforts deserve extra thanks. This is a thank you shout out to volunteers, Sherry Dux and Heidi Huettl, for their training on cash register operations at Castaways. This improvement offers an additional level of efficiency and customer service excellence.

The Castaways design team, led by Shirley Larson, has the best of fall fashions and décor on display. Stop by often, as new items hit the sales floor in preparation for the fall and upcoming winter holidays.

Your items are especially welcome during this time, too. Home furnishings, home décor, toys, children's equipment and fall or winter holiday seasonal items are perfect. All donations should be clean and in good or excellent condition. (For a variety of reasons, please do not leave your donation outside, unattended or left during nonbusiness hours). If you have a question about the appropriateness of your donation, please contact the helpful Castaways staff at (608) 754-5133.

Speaking of the staff, if you are outgoing, enjoy a retail environment, merchandising, customer service, and are good with cash handling skills, consider volunteering at Castaways. Find out about openings by contacting the Volunteer Department at (608) 756-6713.

Proceeds from the sale of items at Castaways support hospital equipment purchases, and fund programs including, but not completely limited to, scholarships, Wigs for Patients and the House of Mercy Homeless Center.

## Castaways Thrift Shop

922 Milton Ave., Janesville

Phone: (608) 754-5133

Hours: Monday–Saturday . . . . 9 am to 4 pm

Sunday . . . . . Closed

# Fall 2017 Events Snapshot:

## Site key:

HVD: Mercyhealth Hospital and Medical Center–Harvard, 901 Grant St., Harvard

JVL: Mercyhealth Hospital and Trauma Center, 1000 Mineral Point Ave., Janesville

MCB: MercyCare Building, 580 N. Washington St. Janesville

North: Mercyhealth North, 3400 Deerfield Dr., Janesville

WAL: Mercyhealth Hospital and Medical Center–Walworth, N2950 State Rd., Lake Geneva

## October

18 – Nutman Sale, WAL , Time to be posted

## November

5 – Holiday Market, JVL - 1128A and B, 10 am-4 pm

6 – Holiday Market, JVL - 1128A and B, 7:30 am-6 pm

7 – Holiday Market, JVL - 1128A and B, 8 am-3 pm

16 – Fall Membership Luncheon, 2615 W. Memorial Dr., JVL, 11 am  
(watch your mail for information)

14 – Braving the Holidays, North, 6 pm (see p. 6)

21 – Braving the Holidays, WAL, 6 pm (see p.6)

28 – Collective Goods Book Sale, JVL - MCB, 9 am-1 pm

29 – Collective Goods Book Sale, JVL - 1128B, 9 am-4 pm

30 – Collective Goods Book Sale, JVL - 1128B, 9 am-4 pm

## December

4 – Love Light Ceremony, JVL and WAL, 6 pm

4 – Love Light Ceremony, HVD, 5 pm

4 – Nutman Sale - WAL, Time to be posted

7 – Holiday Market and Silent Auction, WAL, 9 am-4 pm

8 – Holiday Market and Silent Auction, WAL, 9 am-4 pm

13 – Nutman Sale, JVL - MCB, 9:30 am-1 pm

13 – Nutman Sale, JVL - G206, 9:30 am-2:30 pm

14 – Nutman Sale, JVL - G206, 9:30 am-3 pm

15 – Nutman Sale, JVL - G206, 9 am-2 pm





Jackie Lee  
Volunteer Coordinator

### Oh WOW!

It is safe to say that Mercyhealth staff and volunteers are very skilled at balance as they attend to one patient, while recognizing that someone else may also be waiting and in need. Prioritizing and troubleshooting go hand in hand with that care and attention.

A recent patient required a lot of extra attention, at times interrupting staff members' priority to another patient. Additionally, this person struggled with mobility, which was especially troublesome while moving around the facility to attend frequent appointments or grab a meal.

This was brought to the attention of Volunteer Coordinator, Jackie Lee. Jackie felt that assisting this patient would be a great opportunity for the high school student volunteers interested in the medical field. With a perfect opening for intergenerational pairing, Jackie engaged the young volunteers to select preferred shift times through a computer-based program, and quickly filled spots to assist this patient.

Jackie identified a need, engaged an eager team, used efficient technology—and became the recipient of a partner WOW! Award.

“Shocked,” is how Jackie describes her response to this recognition. “I saw a way to engage some of our teen volunteers at a higher level. The students probably didn’t even realize the skills they were building—communication, care, compassion and above all, listening. I appreciate the WOW! Award recognition, but the real winners in this case are the patient and the teen volunteers.”

Nominate a partner or a volunteer for a WOW! Award by visiting [www.mercyhealthsystem.org/wow-award](http://www.mercyhealthsystem.org/wow-award).



### The More the Merrier at the House of Mercy

It’s hard to believe that summer has ended and fall landed on our doorsteps! Lemonade became pumpkin-spice lattes, backyard baseball turned into Monday night football, and summer thunderstorms led the way for crisp autumn mornings.

What better way to usher in a new season than a picnic? The House of Mercy was pleased to welcome past, present and future volunteers on Saturday, September 23 at a picnic. This event celebrated all the good things volunteers bring to the House of Mercy, which serves locals and their families using this temporary shelter.

Did you know that the House of Mercy relies on volunteers to keep the doors open? Did you know that the goal is to have volunteers on-site 24 hours a day, seven days a week? That’s 8,760 hours of annual payroll savings! Those

savings allow money to be spent for rental assistance and transportation costs for the residents—and that’s pretty awesome!

Did you catch that part about 8,670 hours? Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week? It bears repeating because the House of Mercy can ALWAYS use more volunteers on the roster. The more the merrier! And the easier it is to cover shifts when someone is ill, on vacation, or has another conflict.

Stop by our Open Houses on the third Tuesday of any month, 5:30 pm, 320 Lincoln St., Janesville, to tour the facility, learn more about the House of Mercy, and to introduce yourself (and a pal or two), to the volunteers and staff. Or call (608) 754-0045 to schedule an individual appointment. The doors are always wide open to you!



Reejeena Deviana  
Interim Manager  
House of Mercy Homeless Center

*Help your neighbors in need ...*

### House of Mercy Homeless Center Volunteer Open House

Third Tuesday of each month, 5:30 pm  
320 Lincoln St., Janesville

# Holidays, Hope, and Heart: Braving the Holidays



Mercyhealth at Home Hospice volunteers and staff recognize that people look toward upcoming holidays with mixed emotions. Festive excitement can swing into moments of sadness, flooded with memories of those who no longer celebrate with us. Being equipped to anticipate those moments and intense feelings helps cope with the loss and find pockets of joy throughout the holidays.

Mark your calendar now for our workshop, **Braving the Holidays**. We host this event to help you find the support of others facing similar challenges and learn what preparations you can make to bring yourself peace and comfort.

**Held at two locations:**  
**Tuesday, November 14, 6 pm**  
**Mercyhealth North community room**  
**3400 Deerfield Dr., Janesville, WI**

**Tuesday, November 21, 6 pm**  
**Mercyhealth Hospital and Medical Center–Walworth**  
**lower-level community room**  
**N2950 State Road 67, Lake Geneva, WI**

These events are free and open to everyone. Please RSVP for **Braving the Holidays** by calling (888) 396-3729.

While putting holiday decorations on your tree, mantle, or table, you reminisce about trips, events, and of course, people. Visual reminders, held from year to year, and often passed from one person to another, keep memories of loved ones near to our hearts.

Volunteers skilled with a sewing machine turn a garment from a loved one into memory pillows—treasured mementos for a grieving family. These volunteers gather to create on Thursday mornings and would love to have you join them. If you can sew a straight seam, please consider joining this caring group to craft a little extra love into a thoughtful project.

#### **Additional Mercyhealth at Home volunteer openings:**

- Veterans for our **We Honor Veterans** program. From one veteran to another, a kindred spirit presents hospice patients with a special pin and ceremony (taking place in the patient's home) in recognition for their service
- Musicians for our **Music for the Heart** program. Powerful energy and soothing of the soul is evoked through vocal and instrumental music
- Animal lovers may stop by to walk a dog or take a cat to a veterinary appointment for a hospice patient under our **Pet Peace of Mind** program. Hospice patients and caregivers alike have less anxiety knowing their furry friends are cared for during times of health struggles
- **Visiting Friends** provides companionship, comfort and a caring presence

Contact Erika Shields, Mercyhealth at Home Hospice Volunteer Coordinator at (608) 754-2201 to become a memory pillow sewer, learn more about Mercyhealth at Home Hospice services, or become a volunteer for any of the specialty programs listed above.

## Full Circle: A Return to Roots



“When you give your best to the world, the world returns the favor,” said H. Jackson Brown Jr., American best-selling author of *Life’s Little Instruction Book*. This quote appropriately applies to staff member, Heather Weberpal, as she transitions to a new, and yet, not-so-new role within Mercyhealth.



**Heather Weberpal**

Heather brought strong leadership, organization, and financial skills to the volunteer team in Janesville, when she was hired in the spring of 2014. Those same skills, now stronger in nature, will serve well in Heather’s new Mercyhealth home, the finance department.

Heather, wife and parent of four children, including a college student and 15-year-old triplets, began her career with Mercyhealth in the finance department 23 years ago. As one can imagine, Heather and her husband were busy with a young family, which led to a 12-year career sabbatical.

When Heather returned to Mercyhealth, she worked with the former Lifeline program, and was the point person in implementing and transitioning Lifeline to the Mercyhealth Safe Connect program. She was also key in billing the Family Care Meals On Wheels program.

In a full-circle opportunity, the person who filled Heather’s shoes in the finance department after her departure, is set to retire. Those shoes look like the sparkle of Dorothy’s red shoes from the *Wizard of Oz*, with the heels clicked twice as she heads back home to her Mercyhealth roots.

On behalf of the volunteers and staff, thank you, Heather, for bringing your outgoing personality, wonderful spirit and warm smile to the patients, families, volunteers and the teams you interacted with.

While there is sadness because you will be sorely missed, you are wished the absolute best of success in your new, but familiar, role. Thank you for sharing all the goodness you shared with us!

Very truly,  
Jill Ayres, Jackie Lee, Colette Finn and your colleagues and friends at the Mercyhealth Association of Volunteers office

# An Answer to Prayer

by Nancy Leafblad, MDiv, Chaplain



Nancy Leafblad

You are an answer to my prayers! Has someone ever said that to you? Or have you said it to someone else? I have, and have meant the words literally.

Many years ago, before cell phones, I was driving home after completing some errands when I had a flat tire. It was a first for me. I was somewhat prepared for such an event, not in knowing how to change a tire, but with the phone number of a local service station in hand. I was able to pull off the road and into a parking lot. No one was around so I walked a couple blocks to find a phone I could use. There was no answer at the service station to my call and, after several attempts, I decided to walk back to the car. As I did, I prayed. I asked God if he would please bring someone along who would change the tire for me so I could go home.

When I came closer to my car, I could see a semi-truck parked behind it and two men waiting. "Is this your car, ma'am?" "It is!", I answered with some surprise. "We just need your spare tire and we'll get this fixed for you." They explained they were away from home four days out of the week, making deliveries for a national restaurant chain, and always worried this would happen to one of their wives when they were gone. Both men said they decided they would always help with a flat tire because they hoped someone would help their wives in the same way.

I told them they were my answer to prayer. "No, ma'am. We just happened on you." I replied back that I had prayed as I walked back to my car and there they were; ready to help me as I had asked. Then I think I scared them a bit when I said, "For all I know, you may be angels sent to help me!" You should have seen the look on their faces. I think they wanted to run, but they were too polite for that.

They quickly finished doing the work of fixing my tire and put everything back for me. I offered to pay them, but, gentlemen that they were, would take nothing. "We're just a couple guys who like to help." I thanked them several times and said again, at the very least, they were an answer to prayer, if not angels.

This incident reminds me that our God often uses us to be his answer. God instructs us to be ready to give a cup of cold water to those in need; to be aware of the needs of others and reach out in whatever way we can to help. This is living generously. These two men were ready. They watched for flat tires because they knew it can be a difficult task to complete.

The memory of their response to my need inspires me to respond to the needs of others. I watch for people who need meals brought to their home, clothes for warmth, or who may need shelter for a time. What about you? Do you watch for ways you can meet the needs of others? How is God asking you to respond?

No one will ever convince me that these two men were merely a coincidence and not a response to a prayer. I certainly will not say for sure they were angels, but it's kind of fun to think they may have been. I know for sure they had a good story to tell when they returned home.

Stay on good terms with each other, held together by love. Be ready with a meal or a bed when it's needed. Why, some have extended hospitality to angels without ever knowing it! ~Hebrews 13:2, The Message (MSG)

# Volunteer spotlight

Barbara Magierski



Barbara Magierski

## Harvard Helping Hands

"Comfort and care in every stitch" is what volunteer, Barbara Magierski of Harvard, creates in each of the handcrafted pocket prayer shawls she has crocheted for Mercyhealth—over 2,000 to date and counting! Barbara and other volunteers craft and distribute handmade items, including baby hats for the Mercyhealth Walworth Hospital nursery, Mercyhealth Care Center residents, and Mercyhealth Hospital patients.

Additionally, volunteers recently donated hats and mittens to the Back-to-School Supply Drive, spearheaded by the Mercyhealth Harvard Hospital Community Committee, a branch of the Nurse Practice Council.

In addition to the people who knit and crochet, volunteers are needed to fill a couple spots, as two high school students have returned to their studies following a summer assisting at the registration desk. The Meals On Wheels program recently welcomed two new volunteers, but additional drivers are always valued for substitutes, fill-ins, and regular delivery routes.

To donate yarn or pocket prayer shawls, become a Meals On Wheels driver, or to learn about other volunteer opportunities at Mercyhealth Harvard Hospital, call **Lorraine Nolan, Volunteer Coordinator at Harvard, at (815) 943-8361**.

## Walworth Works

Volunteers at Mercyhealth Hospital and Medical Center–Walworth have not let any grass grow under their feet this summer. They have been busy greeting patients and families at the information desk, ringing up sales in the gift shop, and assisting with meal service. Additionally, volunteer training has been conveniently held for participants who will be filling gaps left by the volunteers heading south for the winter.

Planning is underway for our Third Annual Silent Auction and Holiday Market. See p. 6 and the Volunteer Services office for specifics.

Find out about more volunteer opportunities here by calling Carol Gilhooley, Volunteer Coordinator at Mercyhealth Hospital and Medical Center–Walworth, at (262) 245-7155.

# O Starry Nights... The Holiday Market's So Bright

It wasn't too long ago when you were watering flowers on your deck and adjusting the air conditioner temperature. Now the flowerpots are put away, we're considering turning on the furnace, and looking for soup recipes.

We look forward to this special time of year—and it starts here at the Holiday Market. Actually, it started months ago, with lists in hand and new ideas in mind, as the shopping began before the snow had even completely melted last winter. The merchandise buyers are excited and cannot wait to see you in November.

The Holiday Market is the perfect venue to start your shopping and decorating at. Trendy ideas and creative displays will inspire your festive touch. Sights and smells are sure to please, and the prices will make your pocket-book sing.

Gray and cream colors are easing into the traditional holiday palettes this year. The use of more metal and wood brings earth elements, while glass and sparkles add shimmer and shine for a wow factor.

For that first impression your entryway makes on your holiday guests, snap up the large Santa figurine (conveniently made smaller for easy after-season storage). Add a wooden deer, mini tree, or a sign to complete the transition from an outdoors to an indoors setting.

Holidays and food go together like Santa and reindeer. There is no shortage of any of those at the Holiday Market. While shopping, sample a wonderful tea that has been served in a famous New York City restaurant for many years. Which restaurant? That secret will be

revealed at the Holiday Market. You'll want to pick up a package for yourself, too!

For those rushed holiday dinnertimes, pick a soup from the selection that can be prepared within 30 minutes. Health conscious shoppers will appreciate the tasty dip choices, free of gluten and MSGs. New this year—beer bread in almost as many flavors as there are beers—a perfect pairing for the soup. These make great hostess gifts for those holiday gatherings, especially if that hostess is you!

Dropping temperatures invite layers of cozy sweaters, capes and shawls. Grab one for a sister and friend, plus one to ward off that chill in your office. Add the perfect finishing touch with a piece of jewelry, scarf, handbag, socks or gloves, all available in a wide selection of colors and textures.

Remember the wee ones with a special grouping of books. These are perfect for bedtime snuggles and reading at Grandma's house. A sure hit with the older kids will be the interactive items and drones made especially for them for outdoor use.

The best gift of all is the 25% savings you will enjoy while knowing the proceeds from your purchases benefit the programs supported by the Mercyhealth Association of Volunteers.

See p. 15 for details.

## Let Love Shine: Love Light Giving Opportunity and Ceremony

Mercyhealth celebrates the 32<sup>nd</sup> year of the Love Light illuminated memorial tree in Janesville. This year, in memory of Irene Hoague, the star on the Love Light tree in Janesville will shine brightly in recognition of her years of service at Castaways Thrift Shop, the Mercyhealth Hospital Janesville pediatrics department, and the Meals On Wheels program.

See p. 13 and the Volunteer Services office for specifics.



### Fall To-Do List: A Few Things to Cross Off

Mercyhealth requires all volunteers receive their free flu immunization between by Wednesday, November 15, 2017. Please check schedules in the Volunteer Services office for current times and dates to drop by and get this task crossed off your to-do list.

It is the policy of Mercyhealth that all employee partners are immunized against influenza on an annual basis. Influenza vaccination is a requirement for Affiliated Patient Care individuals. Individuals under this policy includes: all partners, all credentialed medical staff, students, residents, interns fellows, volunteers, contracted personnel and vendors who have contact with patients.

The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and safety of patients, health care personnel, patient and health care personnel family members, and the community as a whole, from influenza infection.

Mercyhealth will grant exemption to annual influenza vaccination for approved medical reasons or religious beliefs. Please contact the volunteer office if you feel you qualify for either of these exemptions by Monday, October 30.

When you receive your immunization, you will also receive acknowledgment of completion. Please bring the form to your volunteer office for a copy for your records, which is required of all volunteers' immunization records.

Janesville area volunteers—are you missing out on a great volunteer benefit? On the first and third Wednesday of each month, volunteers offer free blood pressure screenings, 8:30 am-11:30 am, at Mercyhealth Mall, 1010 N. Washington St., Janesville. These screenings are open to the public, so bring a friend!

#### Are you a volunteer who is also a veteran?

If so, please call Volunteer Services at (608) 756-6739, email Jackie Lee at [jlee@mhemail.org](mailto:jlee@mhemail.org) or stop by your volunteer office to update your volunteer record by Sunday, November 5.

*Thank you for your military service!*