

Mur—Mur



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President's Message:

Hello! It is SO nice to be able to touch base with you once again! As I write this, both gift shops are still closed and volunteers have not yet been permitted to return to the hospital, but I do have some good news! Emily and Nancy have returned to the auxiliary office and our new volunteer manager — Monica Heshmat started on July 20 and is busy learning about, well – everything! Welcome Monica; we are so excited to have you here! Hopefully, there will be more good news soon!



Susan
Bowers

I also wanted to let you know that Dianne Hubbard will be stepping down as Vice President due to personal reasons. Dianne — I sincerely want to thank you for all of your support this past year. You will be sorely missed!

Like many of you, I've had plenty of time to think during these past few months while spending more time at home. I started thinking about the past and what our ancestors may have dealt with that is similar to what we're going through now. I learned through a search on the website History.com that our prehistoric hunter-gatherer ancestors also had to deal with communicable diseases. And it didn't surprise me to learn that as people began to create communities, the transfer of infectious diseases, epidemics and eventually pandemics became a reality.

The earliest recorded pandemic occurred in and around Athens (in ancient Greece) in 430 B.C. The list of recorded pandemics goes forward in time from there until we reach the entry for the pandemic we're probably all most familiar with — COVID-19.

We've been dealing with COVID-19 as a global nation since 2019, but some days, it feels like much longer! I know that my emotions fluctuate daily and sometimes it's easy to be filled with despair. However, as I continued to read about pandemics and the havoc they've wreaked, something interesting caught my eye. It was a link to a story about five advances that followed pandemics. This sounded interesting, so I clicked the link and what I read was both fascinating and uplifting. You can read the story for yourself on History.com, but suffice it to say that many things have been inspired by pandemics — better conditions for the poor, improved patient care, changes and upgrades to protective equipment and housing, improvements to public health and even great works of art.

While I know we're still in the midst of COVID-19, I was inspired by reading these stories about the best of humanity coming together during times of crises. Serving as an auxilian for Memorial Hospital allowed me to quickly relate to the work for improved patient care.



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It made me realize that much of what we have today is because of some potentially tough lessons fought and learned by our predecessors. As an auxiliary, we are where we are today because of past struggles others before us had to endure — and I'm thankful for the great foundation they provided.

I believe that now it's our turn. We must not only persevere, but we must look for ways to make things better for those who will come after us. We don't have those answers, not yet — but I'm hopeful that as we continue to connect as an auxiliary, we'll continue to bolster one another and we'll find the calm within the chaos and turmoil we've faced as a result of COVID-19 and we'll embrace the lessons learned.

My guess is that you may be a bit tired and that's okay — truthfully, I'm tired too. But I don't want us to lose hope because I honestly believe that better things can and will eventually come. Thomas Fuller, an English theologian and historian, once said, 'the darkest hour is just before the dawn.' Thank you all for your continued service and support, especially during this time of uncertainty.

Susan Bowers, Auxiliary President



Welcome Monica Heshmat

Monica is a service-oriented leader that cultivates a relationship-based approach to volunteer services. She believes developing strong relationships with staff, volunteers and community members is the foundation of a successful volunteer program.



Monica Heshmat

She has 20 years of experience working with volunteers in both non-profit and private sectors including hospice, healthcare and education.

Throughout her career she has managed volunteers, their programs and processes in addition to coordinating special fund-raising events. Her career started in education but her desire and commitment to raising funds to advance the needs for Hospital employees, visitors, families and those they care for validates her passion working with volunteers in the HealthCare industry.

Before joining Memorial Hospital as the Auxiliary and Foundation Development Manager, she held the position as the Director of Volunteer Services and Guest Relations, at SSM Health in Mount Vernon, IL. She also held positions with Celtic HealthCare (Hospice) in Centralia, Illinois; Ball Chatham School District, Scholastic Book Fairs, in Chatham, Illinois; Butler Funeral Home and The Regional Office of Education, in Springfield, Illinois.

Monica holds a BA in Health Services Administration from the University of Illinois at Springfield.

Understanding leadership and volunteer perspectives comes from experience as she has been an active volunteer the majority of her life



and continues to participate in both one-time and on-going opportunities with various organizations.

She currently is a commissioner with the Preservation Committee for the City of Centralia and serves as a committee member for the Children's Halloween Parade/Fall Festival and the Historical Locus Street Fair.

In her spare time, she enjoys being outside, live theater, musicals, the symphony and spending time with family and friends.

Monica grew up in Carrollton, Illinois and raised her children in Chatham, Illinois. Both her son and daughter are young professionals making their own mark on the world. She is relocating to the O'Fallon area and is excited to be a part of the community along with joining the BJC Memorial Hospital Family.

Plans for the future; and bring back volunteers during covid-19.

I'm excited for the future of the Auxiliary. Our plans will be to continue to support Memorial through community outreach, in-service and fundraising.

Covid-19 has challenged us with new norms in these unprecedented times, we should expect new approaches for volunteers as they slowly get back in the field. While change is not always easy to accept, despite its necessity, it allows us to reevaluate our procedures, our way of doing things and helps guide us into making improvements to better serve our employees, visitors, families and those in our care. As volunteers' transition into a new norm with Covid-19, keeping everyone safe including our volunteers, staff, visitors, and those we serve will be our top priority.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee was sorry to hear that Dianne Hubbard stepped down as Vice President due to personal reasons. We will miss her and we thank her for her service.

For anyone not familiar with the process, the Auxiliary Bylaws state:

A vacancy in an officer's position shall be filled by appointment by the Nominating Committee with the approval of the Board.

The Nominating Committee thought it would be best to consider someone for the vacancy created by Dianne's leave of absence with someone that had experience and knowledge of the Hospital and Auxiliary. The committee nominated Jean Joseph to fill the VP vacancy and move into the role of President for 2021. She has accepted the position and was approved by the Executive Board.

Welcome Jean!



Community of Character
Word of the Month

Caring

Being compassionate and showing others you care.



Quilts

There are two baby quilt available in the Auxiliary Office. One is light green with animals embroidered on the patches and is priced at \$75. The second has a Winnie the Pooh print front with gold backing and orange points and is priced at \$35. We also have one baby blanket made of flannel patches and is machine stitched and the edges are hand clipped. It is also priced at \$35. The “loops of love” baby items are available for \$8 each.



Photo Contest

Photo contest entries must be received in the Communications and Marketing at MHB no later than Friday, August 20, 2020. For more information call ext 5649



Gift Shop

Until the Gift Shops have been given the okay to reopen, a limited inventory of merchandise is being sold in the Auxiliary Office. Items include gift items, purses, Cardinal jewelry, t-shirts, caps, snacks, candy and toiletries.

