Lovell FHCC Volunteer Services
Fall/Early Winter 2015 Newsletter

Volunteer Update

3001 Green Bay Road, North Chicago, IL 60064
Telephone: 224-610-3714

FHCC celebrates Veterans Day

Our Veteran and military patients had a wonderful Veterans Day at the Lovell FHCC thanks to so many groups and individuals who sponsored special activities or donated many wonderful items, and many who made lots of beautiful cards.

It all started with the annual Veterans Day Ceremony, highlighted by Marine Air Group 48's Marine Corps Birthday cake-cutting ceremony, the Marine Corps League Lake County Detachment 801 Color Guard and the Navy Brass Quintet. Volunteers from the American Red Cross, CHN Industrial, Hewlett-Packard and Rustoleum helped bring our Veterans from our Community Living Center.

The USO sponsored an event at the FHCC called "Bears with Teens," where 50 children from military families worked on art projects with 50 of our Veterans and some Chicago Bears, including Alshon Jeffery. It was very moving to see them all enjoying creating art together. One girl really loved the painting one of our Veterans did, so he signed it and gave it to her. The Bears organization even filmed the event and aired a short story about it during the Bears game Nov. 22!

Seventy kids from the Gurnee Christian School gave a great concert on Veterans Day, and ABBVIE once again brought their awesome jazz band to a social they hosted. So many volunteer groups hosted bingos and parties, including HP as part of their Home of the Brave project.

We also received many wonderful donations, many from community collection drives and gift trees from Allstate, the Knights of Columbus and Rockland Elementary in Libertyville, Ayco, the QSD Culture Club, the Kindness Connection, the Morton Grove Women's Club and the Daughters of the American Revolution. There were so many beautiful cards made by several area schools including Holy Family Catholic School in Bensenville, Elmwood School in Zion, Countryside Elementary in Barrington, Hilltop School in McHenry, Carmel Catholic High School, First Baptist in Waukegan and Woodview School in Grayslake, and the Women's Fellowship Group from St. Andrew Lutheran Church.

We want to thank all of you for a very special Veterans Day!

Kenny List

Chief, Community Affairs

Upcoming Events

Ongoing until Jan. 19
Flu vaccinations

Visit your primary care doctor if you are a FHCC patient, or go to Occupational Health, Bldg. 133CA, Room 2D-135; call 224-610- 4215 for information. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Bring your ID .

Jan. 28, 2016
Lovell FHCC/Veterans Benefits Administration joint Town Hall

1 p.m., Thurs., Jan. 28

Bourke Hall, Bldg. 4, West campus

Purple Heart monument dedicated in November

Lovell FHCC held a Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) monument ceremony Nov. 5, near the entrance to Building 133-EF. The Purple Heart Patriots Chapters 142, 144, 323, 575 and Dept. of Illinois unveiled the monument in front of a diverse crowd of Veterans, military personnel and civilian staff.

"This monument dedication is fitting because the Purple Heart is the oldest United States Armed Forces award. It is strictly for the courageous service members who have earned it and never based upon recommendation," said Daniel Finn, MOPH-IL Dept. Commander.

Finn said he and his fellow Purple Heart members were grateful to FHCC leadership for allowing the monument to be placed on FHCC grounds. "We wanted it to be placed at the Lovell FHCC because this facility is such a great place," Finn said. "We are happy Veterans, patients and active duty members can see the monument and learn about the history behind the Purple Heart."

Finn read a brief history of the Purple Heart, which dates back to 1917 and is the oldest military decoration. Finn explained that the Purple Heart is available to all service members who are injured in battle, regardless or rank, position or branch, "but it is desired by none."

Finn's wife Christina Finn, state director of the Ladies Auxiliary Military Order of the Purple Heart, spoke about her respect for Purple Heart recipients. "I am an immigrant. I'm thankful for the sacrifices of the honorable men and women who have made this country what it is today."

FHCC Commanding Officer and Deputy Director Capt. Robert Buckley spoke about his gratitude for the Purple Heart Patriot members, who worked two years to bring the monument to the FHCC. "It means a lot that we can continue to honor Purple Heart recipients with this monument."

- HN James Stewart

News Briefs

Master at Arms 1st Class Jessica Buffum receives national American Legion Auxiliary Award

MA1 Jessica Buffum was named Servicewoman of the Year by the American Legion Axillary. She received the award for being the coordinator of the *No Veteran Dies Alone* program at the FHCC. She trains and coordinates the volunteers who sit with, and comfort, Veterans who are actively passing away and may not have family. She does this all as a volunteer. Congrats Jessica and thanks!

Sign-in for VAVS reps and deputies

For those who serve as VAVS representatives and deputies and sign yourselves into the computer, please sign in the special category for "Reps and Deps," and use it only for attending the two-hour quarterly VAVS meetings. It is coded as 135A. For all other volunteer hours, you can sign in under your organization or Recreation. All VAVS Reps and Deps should have more than one choice when they sign in. If you have any questions, just ask Kenny, Wayne or Jennifer.

Reminder to include all volunteers at events

For those who sponsor recreational activities — there are other volunteers and companions who help escort our CLC Veterans, who would not be able to attend without them. Please include them in the activity and let them have food and drinks.

Volunteer Activity Spotlight

We are very grateful for the many, many hours our volunteers give , as well as the many donations we receive year round! Outside organizations help us tremendously. For example, we were fortunate to have Home Depot employees, in conjunction with Soldiers' Angels, conduct a work day at the FHCC to renovate the Bldg. 131 courtyard. They came bearing materials and supplies and will return in the spring to finish. Then the Chicago Bears sent Alshon Jeffrey and rookies over to paint with military children and our Veterans. What fun! Check out the video online:
http://www.chicagobears.com/multimedia/videos/ITB-Jeffery-rookies-visit-vets/f2dd3dff-ba77-4b71-a2bc-e759bcfefca5

Photos in this issue were taken by MC2 Darren Moore, HN James Stewart, Kenny List and Carla Nash.

Thanks to the Home Depot and Soldiers' Angels team that is improving the courtyard of Bldg. 131.

Chicago Bears rookie Khari Lee talks with Veterans during an event with patients and children of military members in November in Bourke Hall.

Thank you Bob Sittler (right), Judy Hass (center) and Carol Sittler (left), from Redeemer Lutheran Church for 30 quilts for Veterans!

Thank you American Legion Auxiliary #281, and American Legion, for hosting the annual Veterans Bowling Tournament!

Above, Chicago Bear Alshon Jeffery poses with a Veteran during the visit. Below, the Bears film crew shoots footage for a video that aired during the Nov. 22 game.

Veterans Canteen Service recognizes Veterans

The Veterans Canteen Service (VCS) at Lovell FHCC recognized a Veteran of each branch of military service for Veterans Day. Each received a certificate thanking them for their service. In the left photo, Cmdr. DuWayne Griepentrog provided opening remarks and presented the certificates with VCS Chief Chris Kotish. In the above right photo, volunteer Craig Reuse, Army Veteran, on the left, is presented a certificate from Kotish, center, and Griepentrog, on the right.

Volunteers, we need you!

ESCORT VOLUNTEERS – Volunteers are needed to help inpatient Veterans get to and from the wards to their clinic appointments.

HOLIDAY EVENTS – Volunteers are still needed for the remaining holiday parties and events for patients, including a luncheon (Dec. 19), children's play (Dec. 20) and concert/ social Dec. 22.

NO VETERAN DIES ALONE – Volunteers are needed to sit with and provide companionship to Veterans who are in their final days and who may or may not have family to be with them. Training will be provided.

VOLUNTEERS, please note beginning Jan. 1, the meal allowance for volunteering four hours or more will increase to $5.50.

For information about volunteering at Lovell FHCC, please contact the Volunteer Offices at:

224-610-3714

Donations and Financial Support are needed for the following programs:

Haircuts for indigent Veterans – each haircut costs $9 and some cannot afford it.

Funds for the Social Work indigent account, which helps indigent Veterans with their transportation from home to outside appointments or outside job interviews by bus or train.

Gift cards to area restaurants for inpatient community outings like Golden Coral, Denny's, Olive Garden, Cracker Barrel.

Gift cards to Walmart to purchase supplies for patient activities. Walmart has things we need for activities.