



## Lovell FHCC Volunteer Services Summer 2015 Newsletter

# Volunteer Update

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## “Summer of Service” highlights Lovell FHCC volunteers

Increasing volunteerism and partnerships is the central focus of the new nationwide VA initiative, “Summer of Service”. The Lovell FHCC has an outstanding volunteer program which we will be building upon this summer as we work to honor our mission of *Readying Warriors and Caring for Heroes*.

Local agencies, corporations, churches, schools and our Veteran Service Organizations are the backbone of the FHCC volunteer program, helping daily in various departments and sponsoring activities for our Veterans.

Lovell FHCC programs like No Veteran Dies Alone, Caregiver Support program, and the My HealthVet program depend on our dedicated volunteers.

Donated funds and supplies help

support essential programs at Lovell FHCC, as well as programs that do not have a budget like the Military Sexual Trauma program, the Homeless Veteran Drop-In Center and the Caregiver Support Center.

This summer our volunteers are providing wonderful activities for our Veterans, everything from the 67th Annual Patient Carnival, the 12th Annual Car Show for Veterans, picnics and baseball games to concerts at Ravinia such as Lady Gaga to make it a truly memorable summer.

We are committed to increasing the number of our volunteers we have during this “Summer of Service” as well as highlighting the importance of their service to Veterans.

*Kenny List*

*Chief, Community Affairs*

**Summer of Service FHCC Volunteer Spotlight:** Korean War Veteran Larry Crone served in the Air Force, where he was a B-29 tail-gunner and participated in 25 missions. He is a member of American Legion Post 264 in Lake Forest. Larry regularly leads patient bingo and helps at special events, such as the patient carnival and holiday parties. Mr. Crone recently received his 1,000-hour award for volunteerism. When he started volunteering in North Chicago in 1968, he remembers going to a special ward to visit Veteran patients exposed to chemical warfare during World War I.

## Upcoming Events

**July 18**

**Annual Care Show for Veterans**

12:30-2:30 p.m.

Parking Lot behind Bldg. 134

**July 29**

**Lovell FHCC Town Hall**

11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Bldg. 4, Room 102

**August 20**

**Employee/Volunteer  
Picnic**

11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Grassy area by Bldg. 148

**Coming This Fall  
Volunteer Training**

*To be Announced*



# Summer of Service: FHCC Volunteer Spotlight



**M**aster at Arms 1st Class (Aviation Warfare) Jessica Buffum has been selected as the Illinois Servicewoman of the

Year by the American Legion Auxiliary. At the Lovell FHCC, she is the co-coordinator for a hospice program called No Veteran Dies Alone (NVDA). She teaches training for new volunteers to the NVDA program, sends out updates of the status of the Veterans, and she also sits with the Veterans in their time of need. She said that it is one of the most rewarding experiences of her life.

The NVDA program is a national program with the VA. Volunteers sit with actively dying Veterans who may not have any family members. The volunteer who helped start the program at Lovell FHCC and kept it going moved away. Without a

coordinator, the NVDA program was in jeopardy. Out of the blue one day, MA1 Buffum walked in and volunteered to be the coordinator. She trains the volunteers, maintains a Google calendar to schedule volunteers and texts them when a Veteran is dying. It is quite a huge task. Many times, there are several Veterans passing away at the same time.

MA1 Buffum has been a police officer in the Navy for 12 years, and she currently works in the Police and Security Service here at the Lovell FHCC in North Chicago. She was recently promoted and completed the VA Police Academy. Congratulations MA1!

## News Briefs

### ***The Annual Car Show for Veterans***

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Classic Car Show for Veterans will be held at Lovell FHCC on Saturday, July 18, behind Building 134. Last year, we had more than 240 cars ranging from the 1930's to the 1980's. It is one of the most unique car shows with the widest variety of cars that you will see. It is done solely for our patients. Come and enjoy the cars.

### ***Town Hall Scheduled for July 29***

You are invited to a town hall meeting on Thursday, July 29 at 11 a.m. in Bourke Hall in Building 4. It will be an open forum and an opportunity to voice any questions, comments or concerns. Hope to see you there!

### ***The Annual Employee/Volunteer Picnic Scheduled***

The Annual Employee-Volunteer picnic will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 20, east of

Building 4 and parking lot T. Come in the Buckley Road entrance and turn left.

### ***Re-Creation performs at Lovell FHCC***

The fabulous singing and dancing sensation Re-Creation performed "40 years of Entertainment" at the Lovell FHCC. Re-Creation began this amazing traveling variety show 40 years ago, and they now present more than 320 shows a year. Half of those shows are staged at fairs, banquets, conventions, schools, churches ... which in turn, funds the other half – more than 150 shows annually in VA medical centers and state Veterans homes in all 50 states. The young people in Re-Creation are not paid for their service. They give up at least a year of their lives to travel the country entertaining the men and women in our VA medical centers. It is the finest live entertainment that our Veterans enjoy once a year at the FHCC.

# Summer of Service: FHCC Volunteers Spotlight

We are very grateful for the stained glass windows and a tabernacle given by the Catholic War Veterans of Waukegan and relocated from the old Blessed Sacrament Room, and we thank volunteer Mrs. Monica Ply and her late husband, Robert, for a generous monetary donation. The donations made the creation of a new Blessed Sacrament Room possible at Lovell FHCC.

The new space in Building 134-1C, Room 117, was dedicated in May and features a quiet prayer "corner," where a Veteran or military member with PTSD can pray without being startled by another person entering the room. It is also spacious enough to allow room for wheelchairs and scooters.



Thanks to Verna Schlegel and Catherine Viau and more than 20 women from the Redeemer Lutheran Church of Waukegan Women's Lutheran Missionary League for the blankets for hospitalized Veterans. Robert Sittler, Lovell FHCC volunteer and also member of the Redeemer Lutheran Church, helped deliver to the Vets.



The singing and dancing sensation Re-Creation performs for Veterans at Lovell FHCC



Independent volunteer Diane Churchill and Recreation Therapist Karen Fleming help Veteran David Brown plant flowers.



Random Acts of Flowers volunteers Brooke MacLean, Andrea Lutz, Lisa Dufey and Melissa Kirk brought dozens of bunches of fresh flowers to patients.



The VFW from Highland Park grilled hot dogs for the 67th Annual Patient Carnival.

# Recognition Corner

For FY15 (thru June), we received approximately \$300,000 in donations which includes activities, monetary and non-monetary items. 26% supported various activities such as holiday parties, picnics, etc. 17% was monetary which covered various programs such as DOM/Bldg. 66; Carnival; wheelchair games; chapel; audiology/speech; women vet; MST; ceramic program, etc. The remaining 57% was non-monetary that covers clothing, books,

wheelchairs, Captain Lovell memorabilia, etc.

Special recognition goes to a few anonymous donors, who donated for the veterans and did not want any type of recognition. In addition, thanks goes to out to our other wonderful organizations like Lake County Veterans Assistance Commission, American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, AMVETS, AMVET Auxiliary, Elks, DAV, Jewish War Vets of USA, Marine Corps League, Military

Order, the Cooties, Polish Legion of Amer. Vet, DAR, VFW, VFW Ladies Auxiliary and all the individual donors.



## Volunteers, we need you!

### **ESCORT VOLUNTEERS** –

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

### **VETERAN POINTS OF SERVICE**

– There are six new kiosks in Bldgs. 133CA and 133EF where Veterans can pre-check in for their appointments to save themselves a lot of time.

Volunteers are needed to move between the kiosks and help

Veterans who need assistance. Training will be provided.

### **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** are also needed for the **Canteen**, the **Hydration**

### **Team, and Front Entrance Greeters.**

To become a **volunteer** in any of these areas, or for more information about volunteering at Lovell FHCC, please contact the Volunteer Offices at:

224-610-3714

224-610-3145

224-610-3139

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## 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.

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