

# Connections

Newsletter for hospital volunteers, students & friends of Roper St. Francis Healthcare

Feb/Mar 2024

## Happy New Year 2024

### Volunteers knit holiday baby hats and craft fleece blankets

Roper St. Francis Berkeley Hospital volunteers knit newborn hats and crafted fleece blankets for the hospital's patients during the holidays.

Serenitymarie, a 14-year-old volunteer, knitted over 100 hats for the hospital's newborns. She included sparkly New Year's Eve hats as well.

Tia and her husband Nathan worked with their church members to make blankets for every patient who would be in-house on Christmas Day. They also hand-quilted newborn blankets to be given to the hospital's Christmas baby.



## American Heart Month

Support American Heart Association and Heart Health Month! The Lowcountry Heart Walk is on Saturday, February 24 at Joe Riley Stadium (Charleston Riverdogs) in Charleston. For more information go to [LowcountrySCHeartWalk.org](http://LowcountrySCHeartWalk.org) and join Roper St. Francis Team!

## Annual Safety Review

At the beginning of each year volunteers and students complete a mandatory annual safety review and quiz. This is a yearly requirement along with our flu shots. It is important that every person within a healthcare facility is able to recognize and act quickly in case of an emergency to protect the lives of the vulnerable patients who trust us for their care. Please complete the safety review and quiz. We welcome your comments, positive as well as suggestions for improvement.

## Wash Your Paws!

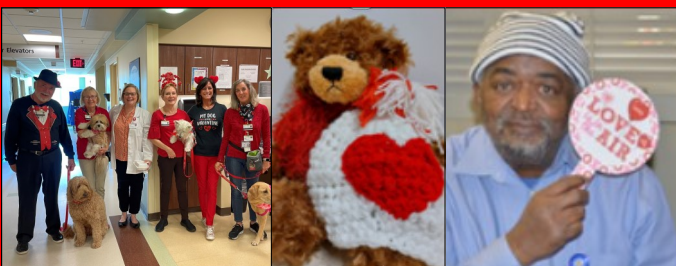
It's been a rough flu season and we hope you have stayed healthy. Our infection prevention staff reminds us to wash our hands when starting work, before going home, before and after any personal activity like eating and going to the bathroom and on entering or leaving any patient room or patient contact. Wipe down surface areas and wheelchairs. We do hand hygiene everyday but it is something the Joint Commission surveyors will be particularly looking for.

## Dr. Megan Baker named Interim President and CEO of RSFH

Dr. Megan Baker, an emerging leader and highly respected breast health specialist, will serve as the interim president and CEO.

While we continue our national search for the next, full-time president and CEO, it is important that we have continuity and strong leadership, and Dr. Baker provides that. We are grateful for her relentless support of Roper St. Francis Healthcare.

Written by Brian G. Cuddy, MD



## Happy Valentine's Day!

Love is a canvas furnished by Nature and embroidered by imagination.  
Voltaire

If I had a single flower for every time I think of you, I could walk forever in my garden.  
Claudia Adrienne Grandi

Love puts the fun in together, the sad in apart, and the joy in a heart.  
Author Unknown

## Upcoming Events

### Uniform/Scrub Sale

Roper Hospital : 3/5, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

RSF Mt. Pleasant Hospital: 3/6, 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

BSSF: 3/7, 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

RSF Berkeley Hospital: 3/8, 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

### Blood Drive

RSFH is proud to partner with the Blood Connection to host blood drives. The Blood Connection is the exclusive blood supplier for RSFH, and all products donated locally are used locally.

Bon Secours St. Francis: 3/5, 10am -3pm

RSF Berkeley Hospital: 3/6, 10am-3pm

RSF Mt. Pleasant: 3/6, 10am - 3pm

Roper Hospital: 3/8, 10am-3pm

## Getting to Know You

When Front Desk Greeter Gail Kelly welcomes newcomers to the Cancer Center, she radiates a friendly, upbeat attitude—exactly what is needed in that specialized area of the Bon Secours St. Francis campus. What those newcomers probably don't suspect, though, is that Gail is a lifetime fitness enthusiast—from summer camp in the Adirondacks in her youth to exercise and yoga in the present.



How does she come to be sitting behind a desk? It's a long story. Gail grew up in Woodmere, New York, and moved to the Charleston area twelve years ago. After enrolling in a medical coding program, she was employed at Bon Secours St. Francis until the coding operations moved to Ladson. She continued her career as a medical coder, working remotely from home. After retirement, wanting to give back, she signed up as a volunteer at Bon Secours St. Francis. The Cancer Center was a natural fit for Gail; her father died of lung cancer, and her mother is a 2x cancer survivor. Here was the ideal place for her to serve. She has now been greeting patients and families at the front desk for a few months, helping to calm anxieties the moment people come through the door. Walking into a cancer center can be at best intimidating, at worst terrifying for anyone. Gail is the first line of defense for these patients, offering a friendly smile and the reassurance that they need.

Currently, Gail is also training to work in the Infusion Center itself. There she will talk to patients and their companions, fetch blankets, provide snacks, and help out in general. This is a demanding job which calls for sensitivity, warmth, and considerable energy.

Gail's husband grew up in Lynbrook, NY. During Gail's work-from-home years of COVID-19, he developed quite an expertise as a chef, and he still enjoys cooking. The couple has two children (one in Tennessee, one back in Lynbrook) and two grandchildren, aged three and five. When not sitting behind that desk, Gail is, you guessed it, very active. In addition to yoga, Gail is studying for her upcoming Bat Mitzvah that will take place in June. In her spare time, she also enjoys crossword puzzles, biking and bird watching.

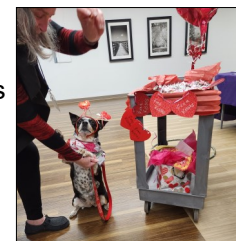
This was transcribed by Caroline Hunt as told by Gail Kelly

## Volunteer News

- Volunteers at Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital may get a call from Caroline Hunt who seeks stories of your volunteer experiences. Feel free to share the great and funny ones!
- New family: Susan Sutton, the Information Clerk at Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital has a new family member – named Pippi. Here is a picture of Pippi with big brother Forest. Welcome!
- Berkeley Hospital volunteers welcome Barbara Beckley and her "Therapy Dolls!" They make inspirational tent cards to be placed on our in-patient breakfast trays.
- Shout-out to the Lowcountry Senior Center Chorus and Olde Pipes Quartet for bringing holiday magic to Roper Hospital! They sang in the lobby. And they sang in the halls. Their songs filled the air, bringing smiles to all.
- Vice President of Mission Mark Dickson was spotted rockin' around the hospitals during the holidays. He played guitar, accompanying violinists, pianists and vocalists. They filled the halls with joyful music for the holidays—bringing cheer to teammates and patients.
- Be on the lookout for Valentine's Day festivities - Pet Therapy visits/parade, candy and Valentine's Day cards for our patients and teammates. Our BH Pet Therapy dog Loki is all ready to dress up and offer free



VP Mark Dickson, MPH volunteer Irene Holland, and Suzanne Coffman



## Holiday Craft Fairs

There was an incredible show of talent at our RSFH Holiday Craft Fairs. Thank you to all of the artists who participated.



## Welcome New RSFH Volunteers

**Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital:** We welcome the return of Steve Ash at our Cancer Center, and new volunteers Carl Fosseen and Adrian Anderson in Phlebotomy and Janet Price at the Cancer Center.

**RSF Berkeley Hospital:** We welcome Job D, Eileen W, Pam P, and Sue V.

**RSF Mount Pleasant Hospital:** Welcome Richard Felner, Greeter and Golf Cart Driver! Richard is a retired Fire Chief. We are glad to have you here.

## Volunteer Opportunities

- **RSF Berkeley Hospital** welcomes Courtesy Golf Cart driver, morning shift, 9 a.m. - 12 noon and afternoon shift, 12 noon - 3 p.m.
- **Mt. Pleasant Hospital** welcomes Greeter and Courtesy Golf Cart driver Friday morning shift, 8 a.m. -12 noon, Information Desk Thursday morning shift 8 a.m. -12 noon, Mammography Suite Tuesday morning 8 a.m. -12 noon shift and Friday, 12 noon - 4 p.m. afternoon shift, Medical Office Building Greeter weekday morning shifts 8 a.m. -12 noon, Pet Therapy, visual artists, and musicians.
- **Roper Hospital** welcomes volunteers interested in Information Desk, Lobby Ambassadors, Admitting/ Outpatient Escorts, musicians and offsite Infusion Center Support volunteers.
- **Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital** welcomes afternoon courtesy cart drivers. The shift lasts from noon to 3:30 pm. Mammography Department welcomes assistance in greeting patients and accompanying them to a specific location.
- **Roper Hospice** welcomes new volunteers. Whether you choose to work directly with patients and families or offer other support, you can make a difference in someone's life, even your own. For more information about Volunteering with Roper Hospice, please call (843) 402-3260.

## Volunteer Sews Walker Bags

Patti Kryder designed, sewed and donated beautiful cloth bags with handy pockets to attach to walkers to assist patients. The bags are beautiful and much appreciated.



## Arts in Medicine

Promoting Healing Through the Arts

RSFH's Arts in Medicine program offers regular art events at each hospital. This program is looking for visual artists of all kinds, musicians, performing artists, poets, writers and other creatives to volunteer their time.

### Upcoming Events:

1/16 - 2/20 - Charles DeAntonio, local master artist, will be in the lobby with an interactive painting project. Come put your brush stroke on the painting which will hang on the art wall when complete. (MPH)

2/13, from 10 a.m. until supplies last - Katie Dickson, Director of Horticulture at Boon Hall Plantation and Gardens, will have a flower demonstration and DIY flower arrangement opportunity for visitors and teammates just in time for Valentine's Day! (MPH)

### Ongoing Events:

Thursdays - Paula Printerpe, harpist (BSSF)

Second and Fourth Wednesdays - Art Klein, guitarist and singer (BSSF)

Third Wednesday - Kevin Kreamer, Guitarist in Residence, will stroll patient units to brighten our patients' and teammates' day. (MPH)

**Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital**

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**RSF Mount Pleasant Hospital**

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(843)606-7502

**Roper Hospital**

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(843)724-2080

**RSF Berkeley Hospital**

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“There is no better exercise for your heart than reaching down and helping to lift someone up.” – Bernard Meltzer

