

Johnson Memorial Hospital Honors Volunteers
14 Recognized Nationally



(STAFFORD SPRINGS, Conn. – May 4, 2017) Johnson Memorial Hospital honored 22 volunteers at a reception during National Volunteer Week and recognized 14 recipients of The President’s Volunteer Service Award which distinguishes individuals who have contributed more than 4,000 hours of service in their lifetime. The President’s awards program, a civil award bestowed by the President of the United States, encourages citizens to live a life of service through presidential gratitude and national recognition.

Along with the ultimate honor of presidential recognition, Lifetime Achievement Award recipients receive a personalized certificate, an official pin, medallion or coin and a congratulatory letter from the president of the United States.

“I am incredibly proud to be associated with such an outstanding group of volunteers,” said Johnson Memorial Hospital President Stuart E. Rosenberg, M.B.A. “The thousands of hours that these remarkable individuals provide to the hospital and its patients allow our health care team to focus on restoring our patients to good health.”

According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, over the past two decades there has been a growing body of research indicating that volunteering provides individual health benefits in addition to social ones. This research, which is presented by CNCS in a report titled “The Health Benefits of Volunteering: A Review of Recent Research,” has established a strong relationship between volunteering and health: those who volunteer have lower

mortality rates, greater functional ability, and lower rates of depression later in life than those who do not volunteer.

Comparisons of the health benefits of volunteering for different age groups have also shown that older volunteers are the most likely to receive greater benefits from volunteering, whether because they are more likely to face higher incidence of illness or because volunteering provides them with physical and social activity and a sense of purpose at a time when their social roles are changing.

Some of these findings also indicate that volunteers who devote a “considerable” amount of time to volunteer activities (about 100 hours per year) are most likely to exhibit positive health outcomes.

“Our volunteers are the backbone of our organization,” said Johnson Memorial Hospital Director, Volunteer Services and Auxiliary Liaison Lisa DeGray. “They provide vital services that make our patients’ experience at the hospital more pleasant at a difficult time. At the same time our volunteers get a great deal of joy out of the service they provide to others.

The President’s Volunteer Service Award winners are:

Mary Alsing: While most of her volunteer hours were on the Med/Surg floors, Mary also helped with health fairs, disaster drills, conferences, Joint Commission presentations, worked on a CQI team, screenings, tours, the childrens’ holiday party and countless projects of all types. The Somers resident is a long time Auxilian as well. Current hours are 11,000. She is the longest serving volunteer with 41 years.

Helen Austin: Gift Shop volunteer and Auxiliary Gift Shop Co-Chair. Her current hours are 10,500. The Somers resident signed on as a volunteer in August 2000.

Judith Burns: Emergency Department Registration volunteer with 5,527.50 hours of service. The Stafford Springs resident started in September 2005.

Florence Demurs: A Clinical Nutrition and Dietary volunteer and Auxilian with 4,080 hours. The Stafford Springs resident started in September 1988.

Mary Guglielmo: Emergency Department volunteer. Current hours: 24,000. The Stafford Springs resident has been with JMH for 35 years and is one of two of the longest serving volunteers.

Charlotte Kulas: Charlotte works in the Gift Shop where she serves as Auxiliary President and Gift Shop Co-Chair with Helen Austin. The Stafford Springs resident worked for JMH for 27 years before retiring in July of 2008 and becoming a volunteer in November of 2008. She currently has 8,000 hours.

Diane Lerz: Diane became a volunteer February 1982 and helped run the Gift Shop for over 20 years. Diane came to JMH when her husband Alfred Lerz came to this area to be Johnson's new Administrator. Her current hours are 9,500 and the Somers resident celebrated 35 years with JMH in 2017.

Lillian Lynch: An ED volunteer since 2001, Lillian started in Admitting and Healthview. The Somers resident spoils her department with her delicious baking and currently has 5,305.50 hours.

Antoinette Rabideau: "Tony" as she is better known, has volunteered in Dietary, Accounting, Medical Records, and now works in ED Patient Registration. Her current hours are 4,430.50. The Stafford Springs resident signed on in December of 1986.

Alan Silver: Alan signed on as a volunteer March 24, 1997. The Enfield resident helps the Gift Shop and the Volunteer Services Department. His current hours are 8,837.

Shirley Smith: Shirley is currently a Same Day Surgery volunteer and joined the team in September 2005. The Tolland resident currently has 8,967.75 hours of service.

Pat Tiziani: Pat is a Same Day Surgery volunteer with 4,000 hours. The Stafford Springs resident joined the group in May of 2009.

Cynthia Violette: A Health Information Services volunteer with 4,138 hours. The Enfield resident started at JMH in July of 1990.

Cindy Works: Clinical Nutrition and Dietary volunteer. Current hours are 12,669.25. The Stafford Springs resident has been with JMH since April 2007.

About Johnson Memorial Hospital

Johnson Memorial Hospital and Home & Community Health Services provide a continuum of health care services to those living and working in north central Connecticut and western Massachusetts. In 2016, Johnson Memorial Hospital became part of Trinity Health - New England, an integrated health care delivery system that is a member of Trinity Health, Livonia, MI, one of the largest multi-institutional Catholic health care delivery systems in the nation. The 92-bed hospital has been an anchor institution in north central Connecticut for 105 years.