## Volunteer Views

**Masonicare Health Center**

### Jill of All Trades

This year’s Community Volunteer who has accumulated the most hours is Jill Doody with 882. Quite an accomplishment.

You’ll find Jill in the Pharmacy Department Monday and Wednesday mornings. She packages medications. Accuracy is essential. To perform this volunteer job, Jill had to have a thorough background check as well as a CT license as a “technician.” Pharm is a pretty busy department and there is plenty for Jill to do.

Two mornings a month she hides out in the basement where she enters completed Work Orders into the computer system for Support Services. Her third volunteer position is in the Gift Shop. She stocks candies, chips, cookies and other sweets, doing her best to squeeze them onto already packed shelves. There are times she shops for some of the basics. Importantly, she is the customer relations person on Tuesday afternoons. Jill enjoys helping and assisting residents and visitors who come in to the store. She’s always willing to help in other ways, too.

Jill is a Massachusetts native. After attending Bryant College, she moved to Connecticut and worked at Aetna and State Farm Insurance. In her free time she helps out her friend at Alyssa’s Cakery. Yum, what could be sweeter than that! She even finds time for workouts at a local health center. Jill appreciates and collects Swarovski crystal. She feels keeping active mentally and physically helps avoid many of the problems we see in older adults.

Jill’s philosophy about her Volunteer work is that it is a 50/50 experience. Fifty percent is the appreciation from people on the receiving end. The other fifty is the personal satisfaction from giving, contributing and caring.

### Volunteer Recognition Brunch

More than 170 community and internal volunteers will be honored on April 7 at Ashlar Village for their exemplary service throughout the volunteer year. Invitations were extended to those with at least 25 hours as of Jan. 31. What a fantastic group!
No worms for Lenny Nevins, but at 4 a.m. he is picking up newspapers to organize and deliver to the Library and Ramage communities. With the exception of staff, he finds few people up that early. Lenny is our “in house” Volunteer with the most hours this year, 1,232.

As a boy Lenny had a paper route in Bridgeport. Those were the days when a carrier had to both deliver daily and then collect weekly from subscribers. A few customers even tipped with a few extra coins. He trudged through all types of weather with two mail sacks of papers over his shoulders to earn money for a bicycle, Saturday movies or a treat. His father was a firm believer that if Leonard or any of his brothers wanted anything, they must find a way to pay for it themselves. Lenny has always been an early riser and thinks of his Masonic paper deliveries as his morning exercise walk.

Aside from his paper route, Lenny drives the jitney two mornings each week, bringing residents from Wright to the bank, beauty parlor and in house appointments. Maneuvering that cart in and out of the elevator is no easy task. He takes pride in making sure his passengers arrive at their desired location, sometimes escorting them to locations the jitney can’t travel.

Lenny and his wife live in Wells Apt. They are looking forward to the end of winter and their annual summer vacation week in Wells, Maine. As for the 1,232 volunteer hours? Lenny says he does not volunteer with hours in mind. It is more a matter of giving and caring for others, something his mother instilled in him.

**The Early Bird**

No Pedals, No Push”. Another perfect month. Thanks for keeping our residents safe.

**“Thanks for the Memories” program**

On April 7 Shirley Simmons will present a program on the Boston Red Sox. It is a mystery how a girl growing up in the Lancaster, PA area became such a Sox fan. She’ll share that passion with us discussing old favorite players as well as hopes for a good season in 2017.

**Pet Visits**

To make it a little easier to identify which residents would enjoy pet visits, we have placed tiny paw print symbols on the door frames by residents’ names, just outside their doors. The paw prints are for pet lovers. If there is no paw print by a resident’s name, that resident does not want a pet visit.

The “A” on the paw print refers to the resident by the door, while the “B” refers to the resident by the window. Pet visitors are finding this really helpful in connecting with the right residents.

**Easter Flower & Ceramics Sale**

April 12 & 13, we’ll have beautiful tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths for sale in the lobby. On April 13, ceramics will also be for sale. Don’t miss out.

**Roger Larson Honored**

On March 23, volunteer Roger Larson was honored with the Pierpont Edward Medal in Bronze by the Grand Master and Past Grand Master. This was presented to him in front of his brothers from Washington Lodge 81 of Cromwell for his outstanding service to the lodge and to his community, including several churches, a fire department, and MHC. He was astonished at receiving this honor.

Roger has volunteered for 11 years at MHC, repairing and delivering wheelchairs to start, and then finding his true calling—transporting residents to and from appointments in the Beauty Shop. They really keep him hustling. Neither bad weather nor bad knees have stopped him from making sure that his customers get to their appointments on time. Roger said that “this is the only place I can push ladies around and not get in trouble for it.”

**CURRENT OPENINGS**

- Wheelchair Transporters: bring residents by wheelchair to appointments within facility. Clinic, Tuesdays for PT, Beauty Shop (1-3).
- Recreation Ass’t: for Grandma’s Kitchen (Monday afternoons), Oil Painting class (alternate Wednes.), yoga class (Fri. a.m.) & bingo.
- Jitney drivers: bring residents by golf cart from Wright to Ramage.

**Volunteers New**

Contact Volunteer Services.

**Ceramics Sale**

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**HELP!**

If you know of anyone with a collection of Barnum & Bailey circus memorabilia or any circus collection, please let us know. We are planning a special program commemorating the Barnum and Bailey Circus in July with our junior volunteers and Recreation, so we would love to have some circus photos or collectibles to display.