Two Auxiliaries Receive Ilena Aslin Service Award

The SoutheastHEALTH Auxiliary honored Auxiliaries Mary Lee Bishop and Winston Hartline with the Ilena Aslin Service Award during the Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet October 1. The awards were presented by Mary Gerlach, chairperson of the Auxiliary’s Awards Committee, and Ilena Aslin as President Nancy Bray read about their records of dedicated service.

MARY LEE BISHOP began volunteering at Southeast in 1991 and now has 5,905 hours of service to her credit. Mary Lee has demonstrated in every Volunteer role she has capably and cheerfully fulfilled her willingness to help patients, families, visitors and staff in any way possible. Her areas of service have included the ICU Waiting Room, Education, the Foundation, Marketing, Home Health, the Volunteer office and the Lobby Desk. One of Mary Lee’s favorite duties for years at the Lobby Desk has been delivering flowers to patient rooms throughout the Hospital. Quite an accomplishment for someone 93 years young!

In addition, Mary Lee has helped with crafts, sewing, Auxiliary fundraising and Hospital special events. A most notable and much appreciated gift of her time and talents are the approximately 1040 baby caps she has made since 2001 for a total of almost 2100 hours.

WINSTON HARTLINE became a Southeast Volunteer in September, 2009 after he retired from Food Giant. Almost everyone who enters the Lobby doors of Southeast Hospital has been blessed by Winston’s contagious smile, positive attitude and helping hands. As a Lobby greeter, usually four days a week, Winston stands ready to assist everyone with the doors, provide a wheelchair when needed, give directions or just offer a friendly greeting. At Christmas he does all that while wearing a Santa hat!

Winston began volunteering in order to help others, and he chose Southeast because in the 1960s he had been a Southeast employee in various areas. As a Volunteer, before finding his real calling as a greeter, he served in the CTU Waiting Room, Education and at fundraising events. In the past six years, Winston has donated 5,065 hours of service.

Auxiliary Awards Recognize Outstanding Service

SoutheastHEALTH Auxiliary has established two named awards to honor outstanding service. These are not necessarily given out annually. In 2003, the Margaret Foster Roberts Spirit Award was established in honor of Mrs. Roberts who was an inspiring, dedicated Auxiliary President, exceptional fundraiser and innovative leader. She died in February, 2004.

The Ilena Aslin Service Award was established in 2004 to honor Ilena for her continuous, faithful service as a Volunteer at the Hospital and throughout the region and state. A past President of our Auxiliary, Ilena was honored as Missouri’s Auxilian of the Year in 2002, and from 2008 to 2009 she served as President of the Missouri Association of Hospital Auxiliaries.
“Volunteers Are a Treasure” was the theme of this year’s Appreciation Banquet hosted by SoutheastHEALTH Administration and Volunteer Services on Thursday, October 1, at Drury Lodge. Proof that Southeast has a treasure chest overflowing with Volunteer service was the “check” presented to SoutheastHEALTH President and CEO Ken Bateman for 39,990 hours of Volunteer service since last year’s banquet. The dollar value of those hours was computed to be $922,569. Mr. Bateman expressed his deep appreciation to all Southeast Volunteers for their individual donations of time and service and to the Auxiliary for its service and fundraising support.

Guests enjoyed the keyboard music of Southeast Volunteer Geri Beussink before and during a delicious dinner of herb-grilled chicken, twice-baked mashed potatoes, garden salad, green beans and cake.

Attending were 119 Volunteers/Auxiliaries, their guests and Southeast staff.

Guest of honor was Naomi Glassey, president of the Missouri Association of Hospital Auxiliaries (MAHA), about Southeast’s financial support of this year’s MAHA project of Epilepsy awareness.

Aslin Service Award to Mary Lee Bishop and Winston Hartline. Nominating Committee Chairperson Judy Brown announced the following slate: Julie Cook as President, Gary Gaines as Vice President/President-elect, Linda Burns as Recording Secretary and Betty Cord and Jeanné Poe as Nominating Committee members-at-large. All were elected and will be installed January 14 at the Auxiliary Luncheon Meeting.

Following the Business Meeting, Volunteer Services Director Cathy Goodman recognized and presented pins to those 53 Volunteers who had achieved new levels of service hours with special attention called to Bob Matthews and Shirley Waterman, each of whom had reached over 10,000 hours of Volunteer service at Southeast.

Auxiliary Vice President Julie Cook visits with Naomi Glassey, president of MO Association of Hospital Auxiliaries (MAHA), about Southeast’s financial support of this year’s MAHA project of Epilepsy awareness.

MAHA President Naomi Glassey renews her friendship with Ilena Aslin and Dolly Jewel. Both Dolly and Ilena are past MAHA presidents; Dolly in 2007 and Ilena in 2008.
Administrative Liaison for the Auxiliary To Change

Patricia (Patti) Ranzini, who is Executive Director of the SoutheastHEALTH Foundation, has been appointed to replace Lincoln Scott, Vice President of Human Resources, as the Auxiliary’s Liaison with Administration. Lincoln has been serving in that capacity this past year. Patti will also assume Lincoln’s administrative role with Cathy Goodman and the Volunteer Services Department. However, she is not taking his place over Human Resources. That will be Erin Pfeifer.

Patti attended her first Auxiliary Board of Directors meeting November 17 and became a valuable resource right away. If you have not yet met Patti, you will have that opportunity at the Auxiliary Luncheon Meeting at the Hospital on Thursday, January 14. Please welcome her to our Auxiliary family. Patti has experience in previous hospital and not-for-profit organizations working with volunteers and auxiliaries.

As we welcome Patti, please wish Lincoln Scott well in his retirement. We thank Lincoln for his support and for attending our Board meetings to keep us informed about the Hospital. We are especially grateful for the role he played in obtaining the services of Accountant Tom Higgins to take over the Auxiliary’s complex accounting work after the Hospital Accounting Department could no longer assist us.

Auxiliary To Donate Funds for Employee and Patient Assistance

At the November meeting of the Auxiliary Board of Directors, following a review of the Auxiliary’s financials for the year and budget projections for 2016, the Board unanimously approved a $30,000 donation to the Employee Helping Hands Giving Campaign of the SoutheastHEALTH Foundation for both 2015 and 2016. The donations are designated for two funds for which the Foundation raises money but which Social Services at Southeast administers. These are the Employee Assistance Fund and the Patient Care Fund. This year our Auxiliary is specifying $20,000 go to the Employee Assistance Fund where the need is greatest and $10,000 to the Patient Care Fund.

Foundation Executive Director Patti Ranzini explained to the Auxiliary Board that since 2012, over 600 Southeast employees have been helped by the Employee Assistance Fund with emergency housing, food needs, utility bills, bereavement costs and other urgent, unexpected needs. The Patient Care Fund assists Southeast patients with similar needs as well as with expenses related to their medical condition and treatment. She praised Southeast employees, over 40% of them, who raised $15,000 for the Employee Assistance Fund and $35,000 for the Patient Care Fund during this year’s recent Helping Hands Giving Campaign. In support of the employees’ generosity, the Auxiliary Board of Directors chose to follow their example and also use some Auxiliary resources for those two funds this year and next.

At the January 14 luncheon meeting of the Auxiliary membership, you will learn more about how our donations will help with employee and patient needs.

5,000 – 10,000 Hours!

Volunteers with over 5,000 milestone hours who were present at the Appreciation Banquet included (seated, left to right): Mary Lee Bishop (5,500 hours), Bob Mathews (10,000 hours), Alene Mathews (9,000 hours), Shirley Waterman (10,000 hours), Dolly Jewel (6,500 hours). Also honored were (standing, left to right): Ilena Aslin (9,000 hours), Carolyn Brant (5,500 hours), Jeanette Patterson (5,500 hours), Sue Balsamo, (6,500 hours), Barbara Campbell (7,000 hours), and Judy Brown (9,000 hours). Six of these Volunteers pictured are past Southeast Auxiliary Presidents (Jewel, Aslin, Patterson, Balsamo, Campbell and Brown).
The Gift Shop does a lovely business making small floral arrangements for patient rooms. Please remember to bring to the Gift Shop small decorative containers that you no longer need. Small cups and saucers, mugs, seasonal containers – all these can be used!

And while we are thinking of flowers – don’t forget to order your centerpiece for whatever occasion you are celebrating from the Gift Shop. Our flower arrangers are Grade A Plus – all you have to do is pick up your arrangement and enjoy!

Let’s Travel
On October 9, 2016, an excited group will leave Cape Girardeau bound for San Francisco for a week of sightseeing, eating, and, of course, some shopping! The Auxiliary is sponsoring this trip as a fund raiser. On Sunday, January 24, 2016, at 2:00 p.m., there will be an informational meeting about the trip at HealthPoint Fitness in Cape. If you are interested, please mark your calendar and bring a friend – or several! This will be a fun trip, staying the whole time in one hotel, lots of things to see and do.

Cookie Cart
The Cookie Cart will be out and about on Tuesday, December 22. The Auxiliary makes about $200 each time we do the Cookie Cart and the employees love it! The cookies are good, too – baked by our own Helen Farrar.

Building Blocks
The Building Blocks program will end 2015 with most areas exceeding national outcomes. Our nurses visit in more homes; we enroll our moms at an earlier date in their pregnancies; more of them carry their babies to term; and more of the children are up-to-date on their immunizations at 24 months.

Again this year our Building Blocks moms will be part of the Hospital Angel Tree. Each angel on the tree notes a need that YOU can fill. If you would like to take an angel off the tree – it is located in the Hospital Cafeteria the day after Thanksgiving. Be an angel for a Building Blocks mom or her child!!

Dolly’s Keys!!
As you have read, The Old Bag Sale was a great success! An unintended consequence of the sale was that someone found a set of keys in one of the “old bags” and – guess what – they were ones that Dolly Jewel had “lost!” She was so grateful to be reunited with her keys!!

Scholarships
The Auxiliary has received a number of “thank you” notes from scholarship recipients. They are all heartfelt expressions of gratitude for our help. Often they mention the relief that comes from having a little of the financial burden lifted. Every health care related program – be it degree or certification – is extremely costly. Many of our recipients are parents with families to care for and many have jobs – all the while going to school to enhance their futures.

A side effect of the scholarships is that the recipients often mention the desire each of them has to help others in the same way they are being helped!

Bits & Pieces by Sue Balsamo

Stop by the Auxiliary Gift Shop in the Southeast Hospital Lobby for some great gifts this holiday season. Don’t forget that purchases are tax exempt and most gift items are available to Volunteers at a 15% discount! Gift wrapping is available for a small fee.

Right now there are all kinds of delicious teas to choose from along with tea pots, diffusers, spoons and empty tea bags for loose leaf tea. These make lovely gifts for the person who has everything. There are also children’s tea sets available.

Unique jewelry and accessories, including shawls, ponchos, fur vests, rubber boots, gloves and boot socks are in abundance.

Your chance to win:
The Gift Shop is offering chances in three upcoming Monday drawings. Get your chance to win for $1 or 6 for $5. To be given away are a large teddy bear on Dec. 7, a fleece jacket on Dec. 14, and the red bench currently on display in the Lobby will be given away on Dec. 21.
As my two-year term serving as Auxiliary President comes to an end, my final thoughts are grateful ones and my final words are thankful ones for so many of you who helped me serve. It has been a team effort to look after, operate and move the SoutheastHEALTH Auxiliary forward. Yet, we have done so with respect and appreciation for our rich 78-year heritage and for the Auxiliary leadership who built the firm foundation on which we exist today.

It has been my personal pleasure and privilege to observe, work with and learn from 18 of the past Auxiliary Presidents beginning in 1980 when I became Southeast's Public Relations (later Marketing) Director. I am indeed honored to have followed in their footsteps with them guiding my way.

I am particularly grateful to the talented and devoted Auxilians who have served on the Board of Directors with me the past two years as advisors and morale boosters. I have been in awe of their passion for and commitment to their areas of responsibility! We have worked hard but also had a good time together.

The Directors have included the following who held offices: Judy Brown, Julie Cook, Jane Grimm, Betty Heisserer, Shirley Raines, Carolyn Goodin and Julie Parsons. Kudos to Judy Brown for her 24/7 Volunteer management of a revitalized and profitable Gift Shop, to Julie Cook for developing and overseeing successful new fundraisers (Festival of Holiday Trees and The Old Bag Sale) and to Betty Heisserer for her tireless efforts to monitor our finances and establish a smooth working relationship with the Auxiliary’s new accountant.

The Directors who chaired key Auxiliary committees or served as project liaisons included: Ilena Aslin, Sue Balsamo, Gary Gaines, Mary Gerlach, Dolly Jewel, Iffat Khan, Rhonda Parenteau, Pat Robert, Mel Schmidt and employee liaison Ellynn Barnicle. Awards for bravery go to Gary Gaines and Mel Schmidt who dared to join a board with 13 women!

Stars in her crown were earned by Ilena Aslin for leading us through a tedious Bylaws Review and Revision process and by Pat Robert for coordinating 40 Auxiliary sales in the past two years raising over $33,000. Also earning unsung hero awards were Sue Balsamo, chair of Scholarship Endowment, Rhonda Parenteau, chair of Building Blocks, and Dolly Jewel, Scholarship Committee chair for faithfully overseeing these Auxiliary projects so many years.

In reviewing the past two years of Auxiliary accomplishments, it is clear that all of you in the Auxiliary had a hand in making them possible, so be proud of them with me. Please know how grateful I am you have done your part to help the SoutheastHEALTH Auxiliary remain strong financially by supporting the Gift Shop and all fundraising special events and sales.

That strength is necessary for the Auxiliary to remain strong philanthropically so we can continue to award dozens of healthcare scholarships, assist hundreds of first time, low income mothers and babies in the Building Blocks program, buy wheelchairs, support Reach Out and Read and MAHA State Projects and make possible the NICVIEW webcam system in Southeast’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Others for whom I am especially grateful are the entire ever-ready to help Volunteer Services staff, Kathy Mazzanti from the Foundation for her faithful assistance to our Scholarship Committee, Dan Berry, Vice President of Legal Affairs and his staff for their advisory and research support, and dear friends Sally Owen and Renee Shandy from Marketing who work their award-winning magic to publicize the Auxiliary and produce our newsletters, flyers, brochures, posters and invitations.

Thanks also to President & CEO Kenneth Bateman for his interest in and support of the Auxiliary beginning with his presence and remarks at our luncheon meeting last January his very first day on the job at Southeast.

Finally, I am also thankful for the many Southeast employees with whom I used to work who are still on staff and always warmly greet me in the halls assuring me “the Spirit of Southeast” is still at the heart of SoutheastHEALTH!

From Auxiliary President Nancy Bray . . .

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 14 Books Are Fun, 9 am – 5 pm
Dec. 15 Books Are Fun, 7 am – 3 pm
Dec. 22 Christmas Cookie Cart, 8 am– 10 am
Dec. 29 Blood Drive, (time to be announced)
Jan. 11 Scrubs & Beyond, 7 am – 4 pm
Jan. 12 Scrubs & Beyond, 7 am – 4 pm
Jan. 14 General Meeting & Luncheon, 11:30 am
Jan. 26 Board of Directors Meeting, 9 am

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Nancy Bray
It is hard to believe 2015 is coming to an end. Just as the seasons change, so do the activities in Volunteer Services. Research shows September is a prime month for recruiting volunteers, so this fall we added a recruitment event. On Sept. 3 we hosted a Recruitment/Informational breakfast for adult Volunteers, and seven interested individuals attended along with some of the Auxiliary Board members. Ken Bateman, CEO, and Judy Aslin, CNO, both addressed the group and discussed how appreciative they are of the Volunteers and what an asset they are to the Hospital. I am happy to say all seven of the attendees have filled out applications and are in the process of orienting to various positions.

Also, thanks go to Marketing for the featured articles on volunteering in the Healthier Look magazine. This also inspired some interested individuals to join our ranks. Since Sept. 1 our Volunteer force has grown by 12 adults and seven students. As you see these new faces in the Hospital, please make sure to introduce yourself and make them feel welcome.

I know many of you were unable to attend the Appreciation Dinner in October. We missed you. A big THANK YOU for all the hours and time you commit to SoutheastHEALTH. You all are truly a treasure to the organization. Congratulations to our Ilena Aslin Award recipients, Mary Lee Bishop and Winston Hartline, two very deserving individuals.

As flu season is fast approaching please remember to get your flu vaccines and your TB tests. Remember they are FREE! All employees and volunteers are required to get these done before December 1 or you will be unable to volunteer. (This is for the safety of you and our patients). If you have already received these somewhere else we need a copy for our records in Volunteer Services. I trust you but remember the regulatory agencies do not trust me. Also, if you do get sick with a cold or the flu please do not come in, just give us a call and let us know you will be out.

As winter approaches we never know what the weather may bring, if it is slick outside please do not risk an injury by coming to volunteer. Please do call and let us know you will not be in and you are safe at home. When we do not hear from you we worry about you.

I hope you and your families enjoyed a blessed Thanksgiving and have a Merry Christmas!

Cathy

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A Conversation with Cathy

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Cathy
Note from Pearla

It is so hard to believe that November is almost over. The next month is going to be filled with family, friends and fun for all of us. Please don’t forget your patient during the holidays.

Don’t worry about gifts for them, the smile on your face and the touch of your hand holding theirs will be a great Christmas gift. As you see the signs of Christmas around their rooms, flowers, gifts and treats – be sure to ask about them.

Try reading a devotional or the Christmas story from the Bible. Ask about Christmases from long ago, or share your plans for Christmas, your traditions. The patients and families appreciate you more than you know. No, they may not act like it sometimes, but let’s try on their shoes.

I have to say the team called Southeast Hospice Volunteers is the best around. Your caring shines just like that star we talk about each year.

Hospice Volunteer Banquet

The 20th Annual Southeast Hospice Volunteer Banquet was held Thursday, November 12 with the theme: “Thankful for ….”

It was great to see so many of you at the banquet. The food and the entertainment were good; we hope you felt the same way. To be able to share what you have donated to Hospice was exciting. For those of you not there, the past year saw 12,573 hours and 3,224 miles donated by all of you.

We also acknowledged Helen Hunt, aka: The Pillow Lady, for her many hours of service. Since 2004, Helen has donated fabric, stuffing and time to the tune of 4,134 hours to making pillows for our patients. You are awesome, Helen.

Thanks again to McCombs Funeral Home and Cremation Center for sponsoring this celebration for 20 years. After a very fine meal prepared and served by Unidine Catering, from SoutheastHEALTH, those in attendance were entertained by the antics of Jason Wray, CEO and Owner of Creative Edge.

Award winners for the evening were:

- Cherub Award Winner – Joy Galentine
- Guardian Award Winner – Carolyn Pickens
- Gabriel Award Winner – Mark Kiblinger

Honored at this year’s banquet were (left to right)
Joy Galentine, Carolyn Pickens and Mark Kiblinger

Congratulations winners, you deserve the awards for all the time you have donated.

A big thank you goes out to all of you for everything you do for the hospice patients and their families.
Birthdays

December - Cindy Moore – 1
Judy Ruppel – 4
Jannet Ernst – 8
Mark Kiblinger – 15
Marla Cypert – 31

January - Dorothy Barry – 30

February - Carrie Skelton – 10
Phyllis Lee – 28

Retirement

Becomes Them
Congratulations and big hugs go out to Geneva Ruesler and Ann Amelunke who have retired from the Southeast Hospice workforce. During the Oct. 27 Inservice we celebrated their retirement with cake and coffee.

Geneva became a Hospice Volunteer in April of 2007. During her time as a volunteer, Geneva performed direct care duties, caring for many patients in their homes and in nursing homes. Geneva trained and spent many hours as an 11th Hour Volunteer. She also spent time performing indirect duties such as clerical, stuffing parties, etc. Geneva has always been proud of her work with Southeast Hospice and it was apparent in her nomination and in receiving the 2011 Volunteer Award from United Way/Volunteer Intergenerational Center.

Ann Amelunke started her career as a Southeast Hospice Volunteer in July, 2003. Over the years, Ann took on patients when requested, performed Careline phone calls and any special projects put together for the hospice patients. Ann shared her talent and hobby of painting canvas art by donating a winter landscape, pictured above, to the office some years ago. During her time as a Hospice Volunteer, Ann received a few well-deserved awards, including the Gabriel Award in 2004 and the Guardian Award in 2012. Ann also received the Lieutenant Governor’s Senior Service Award in 2008.

We will miss both Geneva and Ann and know the patients will, too.

Tax Time
Those of you interested in getting a record of your mileage to submit for taxes should give me until the end of January. By that time, all reports from 2015 should be logged in the computer system.

Gift Wrapping at Barnes & Noble
Once again Southeast Hospice Volunteers will be wrapping gifts at Barnes & Noble. Your help is needed since any donations offered by customers for gift wrapping will be added to the patient care fund.

This year we will be located at the mall outside entrance to Barnes and Noble where there will be very good exposure.

Dates and times we have committed to:

Saturday, December 19 –
9 am – 1 pm – need 2 volunteers
1 – 5 pm – covered
5 – 9 pm – need 2 volunteers

Sunday, December 20 –
10:30 am – 2 pm – need 2 volunteers
2 – 5:30 pm – covered
5:30 – 8:30 pm – need 1 volunteer

Thursday, December 24
8:30 – 11:30 am – need 2 volunteers
11:30 am – 2:30 pm – need 1 volunteer
2:30 – 5:30 pm – need 2 volunteers

Instructions for Gift-Wrap Volunteers
• Professional appearance and behavior is expected of volunteers at all times.
• A minimum of two members of the organization should be present at the table. Please follow the pre-arranged schedule.
• If minors are wrapping gifts, at least one adult should be present.
• The Barnes & Noble staff will direct customers to the gift-wrap table. Solicitation of customers is not allowed.
• Donations from customers for gift-wrapping are voluntary.
• Gift wrappers must check for a receipt before wrapping any items.
• Gift wrappers are only to wrap gifts purchased at Barnes & Noble.
• The gift-wrapping area should be kept neat and clean.
• Barnes & Noble will provide a sign for the table as well as a larger sign advertising the gift-wrap service. No other signs are allowed.
• The organization is responsible for all donations collected. Barnes & Noble will not be responsible for any funds left behind.
• Gift wrappers should arrive 15 minutes prior to their scheduled shift.
• Organizations are required to remain the gift-wrap table until the end of their scheduled shift.