Imagine arriving at the Carol G. Simon Cancer Center on a cold and snowy winter morning or on a scorching hot summer morning with a long day ahead of you. If it happens to be the first or third Thursday of the month, you will be greeted by two smiling Auxiliary volunteers offering you hot coffee and tea or iced tea along with muffins and biscotti. In September of 2012 the Auxiliary Board was approached with a request to host a tea in the Oncology Lobby for caregivers and patients awaiting treatment in the Infusion Center, as a once a month event. The Auxiliary Board agreed and the program got off to a slow start. As many of the patients returned on a regular schedule, they began to look forward to that special Thursday and enjoyed the interaction with our volunteers. As volunteers we got to know the dedicated staff in the Infusion Room as they would stop by for coffee and a brief chat, a moment away from the stresses of the day. Like the postman of times past, neither snow, nor rain nor gloom of day stay these dedicated nurses and support staff from their appointed duties, always done with a smile and a warm greeting.

While patients waited, it was an opportunity for them to get to know some of the many programs available to them and their caregivers alike. There was time to socialize and listen to music and to interact with the volunteers who cheerfully served “tea and biscotti”. Often, a patient or a person accompanying a patient will remark how very much these teas mean to them. Some patients have been known to ask about a specific Auxiliary volunteer that they have become acquainted with. MANY ask why we don’t host MORE Teas!  With the ever increasing popularity of the “Tea” the program was expanded to two Thursdays each month. The teas are currently hosted by various Twig members, each group being responsible for a month or two at a time. Although Twig members have taken the lead with the teas, we really encourage our Auxiliary General Members to join along to help bring a smile to someone facing a tough day. Think of how many people we could reach with THREE teas each month! Total time spent serving is two hours from 10 a.m. to Noon...total reward - PRICELESS!! This a program that gives back to the volunteer in countless ways.

Amanda Ford would love to have you join the team. Please contact her at fordclan@verizon.net or call the Auxiliary Office at 908-522-2004. Help us to add a third Thursday each month.
Welcome back everyone. We hope you had a relaxing summer...time to read that novel, time to hike a trail or just time to kick off your shoes and relax. It was an unusual summer; cool with some plants and flowers blooming two weeks late and the lack of squirrels and chipmunks in our backyards seemed odd. Now we find ourselves gearing up for another busy year. Because Labor Day was early this year all our September activities seemed to arrive quickly.

As 2015 advances we will begin to celebrate our 100th Anniversary. In that regard we ask that you SAVE THE DATE of May 14, 2015 for our Annual Spring Luncheon which will be held at Canoe Brook Country Club. The luncheon will be our “official” kick-off for our year-long 100th Celebration.

Planning ahead, the 2015 Kitchen Tour will take place on October 22, 2015. Laura Bojanowski and Christine Goulding, members of CH Twig #6 have taken on the massive responsibility of Co-Chairing this much anticipated event.

The year ahead will be filled with lots of activity. The Holiday Boutique and the Holiday Reception for Employees, Staff & Volunteers will be here before long. There will be various vendor sales and 100th Anniversary projects. This is a special and exciting time for your Auxiliary. Without all the support and effort over the years from our members, we would not be celebrating 100 years of serving the Overlook Community. Thank you one and all!

Elsa elab2141@aol.com
Diane djswett@comcast.net

OVERLOOK I.D. BADGE UPDATE

Continuing with the new regulations regarding assignment of NEW I.D. badges for Auxiliary members: only volunteers working a minimum of five (5) in-hospital hours per week will qualify for an I.D. badge. There is a cost to the Auxiliary of $500 per badge. The Auxiliary cannot absorb this cost nor take on the liability/responsibility that go along. As the badges are primarily used for parking, paid stickers will be available for in-hospital Twig events (i.e. vendor sales, holiday decorating, Holiday Reception, etc.). Contact Madonna Lee in the Business Office 908-522-2004 if you are working an event and need a parking sticker.

AUXILIARY OFFICE STAFF

AFTER HOURS FUN AT SUMMIT’S JULY COMMUNITY NIGHT

The Gift Shop is in need of help with register sales and travelling gift cart!
The Information Desk seeks friendly volunteers to welcome guests and offer information/direction.
Messenger Room Volunteers are needed daily to run errands throughout the medical center.
Overlook Store – seeks friendly volunteers to distribute pre-ordered lunches to hospital staff.

BEDSIDE COMPANION PROGRAM

If you are caring and compassionate with a fondness for older adults, this may be the perfect volunteer experience for you! You can touch someone’s life just by being there to listen and provide brief companion visits! Training will be provided to prepare you to comfortably perform this volunteer role.

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Volunteer positions are available immediately in our Emergency Department at the Summit and the Union campus. Please make a commitment to change the experience of Emergency Department patients through kindness and human contact. Personalized orientation and training will be provided. If you are a retired healthcare professional who is comfortable in a clinical setting, this experience may be perfect for you.

VOLUNTEER MUSICIANS

Bring healing to our patient visitors and staff with the soothing sounds of music! Pianists, vocalists, violinists, harpists and guitarists are all in great demand! Piano music in our atrium lobby creates a healing and welcoming environment! But, we hope to bring music to our patient care areas as well. Please volunteer to help us! Music creates a calm and healing environment!

If you are interested in learning more about any of our volunteer opportunities, please contact Sue Thomas, Manager of the Patient Experience and Volunteer Services. 908-522-2841 Sue.thomas@atlantichealth.org.
VOLUNTEER SERVICES

“What the heart gives away is never gone. It is is kept in the hearts of others.”
Robin St. John

AUTUMN IS A TIME OF THANKSGIVING

As the leaves begin to turn and the chill of autumn approaches, we are reminded of our gratitude for the warmth and spirit of our volunteers that touch so many lives every day here at Overlook.

Our volunteers come to Overlook with kindness in their hearts and the selfless desire to make this day better for someone else, be it visitor, patient, hospital employee, physician or fellow volunteer. In this year of gratitude, we are thankful for the energy and passion that our volunteers bring to their volunteer roles...and the comfort that they leave behind through the many lives that they touch!

Our dedicated Overlook volunteers are truly a blessing and we are grateful for all that they do to support our healing culture at Overlook.

WISHING EACH OF YOU A VERY HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

“May happiness touch your life today as warmly as you have touched the lives of others.”
Rebecca Forsythe

DARE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

All Volunteers make a meaningful difference... More volunteers can make even a greater difference!

If you have the time, skills and interest to volunteer...we want to speak with you!

Becoming a volunteer brings great satisfaction and a wonderful sense of fulfillment and appreciation.

We have so many unique and specialized volunteer opportunities, we know that we can match your skills and interest for a great and meaningful assignment. Overlook welcomes all new volunteers! Making a commitment to help others will surely change your life in the process! If you are interested in becoming a Overlook Medical Center volunteer, please call Gwen Dabney, Administrative Assistant, Volunteer Services to request an application! 908-522-2099 Gwendolyn.dabney@atlantichealth.org

AUSTRALIAN HAPPenings

Please like our page "Overlook Auxiliary". This will help promote the Auxiliary and remind the community of our events. It may also help us recruit new members and Twigs!

What's TREnding at THE GIFT SHOP & BLOOM?

Once again, Charlie Paige fashions are fabulous! Wool-blend sweater capes and cardigans in autumnal hues over shimmer tops, accented with either a fun ultra-soft infinity knit scarf or a sheer leopard print reversible scarf have been popular sellers this season. Capes and ponchos are in style for the cooler months and The Gift Shop has them in several colors to compliment your wardrobe. Hats, scarves, and gloves in fun patterns and colors are a must-have! The Gift Shop also has scarves for men!

Those of you who attended the September Board Meeting tasted the delicious sweets from JT’s Confections. Hand-made in small batches, always fresh, JT’s caramels are the best you will ever taste! The Gift Shop has JT’s fine chocolate products ~ chocolate covered Oreos, chocolate Turtles, chocolate/caramel pretzels …individually wrapped or presented in a fine gift box. Please visit JT’s website www.jtsconfections.com to learn more about his delicious caramels and chocolate. Not available just anywhere, but definitely can be found at The Gift Shop & Bloom!

When you visit The Gift Shop, you will notice a new display catering to “pampering yourself!”. The shelves are stocked with new products, such as the Simply Life Well line of vegetable based/paraben free honey soaps, made from only the finest organic ingredients. Body Wash contains gentle cleansers derived from Organic Coconut and Sunflower oils and no harsh Sodium Lauryl Sulphates are ever used. The Body Wash is available in Fragrance Free, Lavender Vanilla, Pomegranate, and Rosemary Mint fragrances.

“If nothing ever changed there’d be no butterflies!” If you love the beach even though your life doesn’t always feel like a day at one, and celebrate life and everything it has to offer – there’s now a nail polish that celebrates you. Ruby Wing® is every free-spirit's dream: color changing nail polish that transforms in sunlight. The color changing technology lets you switch your style from day to night, indoors to outdoors. Each one of the shades dramatically change in direct sunlight and then back again once inside.

Autumn hues are now in abundance in Bloom. Autumn flowers are a favorite so treat yourself to a unique arrangement for your Thanksgiving table or send a gift to a friend or colleague. Many inspirational designs can be viewed on the Facebook page or the website gallery. Due to product availability and creative license, no two arrangements are alike (unless ordering for an event!). Choose Bloom for your next party and “WOW” your guests. Remember, curbside pickup or local delivery for a nominal fee makes your life easier. Complimentary delivery is offered to all Atlantic Health System locations and the Summit Medical Group.

Please “like” the Gift Shop & Bloom’s Facebook page, where you will find photos and information of happenings and current merchandise. Please share our page with your friends and family and spread the word about our fabulous shop. Word of mouth is the best advertising!
Atlantic Health’s 4th Annual Camp Clover was held on the beautiful grounds of Camp Riverbend in Warren, NJ from August 18th to August 21st. In all, 45 children participated in the week long bereavement camp with various activities designed to foster skills to teach the children to cope with their feelings of sadness and grief. New friendships were formed and sadness turned into laughter with the help of a magician, music therapist, a yoga instructor, swimming and crafts. The week long camp culminated in Family Night with a release of balloons at the end of the evening.

Thanks to our many generous donors, including the Overlook Auxiliary and numerous Auxiliary Twigs, Atlantic Hospice is able to offer this meaningful experience to these children free of cost.

Lenore Ford is a champion of volunteering, and everywhere she goes, she encourages people to become an organ donor. She also touches countless lives as an Overlook Auxiliary Board Member, a member of New Providence Twig #2 and an Overlook Medical Center Volunteer.

Few people are aware that Lenore has chosen to continue changing lives long after she has passed. Her estate plan now includes The Overlook Foundation. Lenore’s generosity to the Foundation now makes her a lifetime member of The Foundation’s Heritage Society.

You too can help Overlook create miracles by your gift. And you can designate your gift to support causes you have championed through the Auxiliary or your Twig. Choose to give a gift from your will or living trust or through a gift plan that pays you income for life.

To create your own Overlook miracle, call Kenneth Cole at 908.522.2181 or email Ken at kenneth.cole@atlantichealth.org.

Happenings

SU Twig 9

After 64 years of service, SU Twig #9 has decided it is time to bid a reluctant but fond adieu to the Overlook Auxiliary. Though this was a difficult decision, with only two active members remaining, the time has come.

SU Twig #9 was well known for its many fundraisers that were open to Auxiliary members and friends. Some of the memorable bus trip fundraisers include: The Duke Gardens, Winterthur, Longwood Gardens and of course horse racing at the Meadow Lands.

One of their most popular events for SU Twig #9 was the Jane Sale held twice a year in Bouras Auditorium. For 24 years they offered baby, children and adult quality clothing. It was a much looked forward to event. Every spring this Twig also brightened a specific day with their Annual Geranium Sale.

Jean Clutsum, a Founding Member of SU Twig #9 was also an Emergency Room volunteer. Jean soon realized that patients were uncomfortably cold while awaiting treatment and was the first to order blanket warmers for the Emergency Room. Jean’s idea quickly spread to other departments. This Twig was also the first to see the need for oversized wheel chairs.

We have only touched on a small smattering of the accomplishments of this devoted Twig in their many years of service to the Overlook Auxiliary and Overlook Medical Center. We bid a sad but fond farewell to one of our very special Twigs.

YOUR HELP IS REQUESTED

Holiday Employee, Staff & Volunteer Open House
Friday, December 12, 2014, 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Our annual Cookie Reception is sponsored by the Overlook Auxiliary to honor and thank all of our Overlook employees, staff and volunteers. Thank you to all our Twig members and General members who have helped in past years to make this such a popular party. We are asking again for your help in supplying cookies and treats for this annual HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE where we offer goodies to more than 250 guests in Bouras Auditorium.

Members are asked to provide as many dozens of homemade cookies/bars/treats as possible. Your participation in this event is vital so that we have plenty of treats for our guests and we encourage all members to participate in this enjoyable activity (some sampling allowed).

Please package your goodies in disposable containers, label with your Twig town and number if in a Twig or your name and phone number if a General Member. All treats should be delivered to the 5th Floor Auxiliary Co-Presidents’ Office on THURSDAY, December 11th, between 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. SU Twig 21 members host this event and arrange all of the serving platters the day of the party.

It is your HOME-MADE treats which our guests anticipate and enjoy so much. THANK YOU to all who assist in making this event such a success. Please stop by on December 12th and join us in the spirit of the Holidays.

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