



Volunteer Newsletter

Summer 2008



It's Official!



The MUSC Children's Hospital License Plate is available through the DMV thanks to the efforts of Volunteer Advisory Chairman, John Brisini. John has worked tirelessly for 2 years to gain approval for the plate which actually benefits our program. Proceeds from the plate will be granted by the Volunteer Advisory Committee to support needs within the hospital. You can get your plate by going directly to your local DMV field office or by going online to <http://www.scdmvonline.com/DMVNew/forms.aspx> to download, complete and send in form MV-95 to the DMV with your check for \$50.00.

Volunteer Software Works for You!

Our new volunteer software, Volgistics, is up and running and making a tremendous difference in our office efficiency.

However, we aren't seeing many of you accessing VICNET, the component that allows you to view your volunteer record, service history, take yourself off the schedule if you are going to be absent or, schedule yourself for openings in the area you've been trained in all from your home computer! When you remove or schedule

yourself for a shift, the system automatically lets us know as well as your area supervisor. It's a great way to fill in if you have extra time and you don't have to worry about sending us emails or making a phone call if you aren't going to be here.

We will send out login names and passwords to everyone again. If you already use the system, please disregard the email. You can change your login and password once you get into the system.

Volunteer Advisory Committee in full swing

A group of volunteers has been working behind the scenes to create and implement new programs for the Volunteers at MUSC-Children's. MUSC-Children's Hospital Volunteer Advisory Committee (VAC) created in the Spring of 2006 is an organization of current and former MUSC-Children's Volunteers. The mission of the VAC is to develop and implement programs and activities which will build credibility and trust in the team of volunteers dedicated to supporting patients, families and staff. Several events in recent months were organized by the VAC to begin to uphold this Mission.

The VAC organized the first *InfoSocial*, which was held in February at the Storm Eye Institute Auditorium. Approximately 50 volunteers attended and enjoyed refreshments and mingled despite the inclement weather. During the event, Nurse Educator, Michelle Farthing provided an in-depth explanation of some of the machines volunteers see on individual units. Another InfoSocial is being planned for Fall, 2008.

The VAC has also proposed a mentoring program to pair rookie Volunteers with mentors who are experienced volunteers at MUSC-Children's.

Further, the mentors will act as liaisons between volunteers and each unit's staff members, providing a feedback loop to both parties and helping to ensure the volunteers are happy in their assignments. The program is being reviewed by MUSC-Children's management team and a pilot program is in the works.

The VAC is pleased to announce the addition of several new Committee members. The following volunteers comprise your VAC and those listed with an * are the newest members.

John Brisini, Chairman
Jen Pulsifer, Vice Chairman
Lee Batten *, Secretary

Deena Altman*	Samuel Cole McNair*
Alissa Beker*	George Pope
Claudia Cassell	Candy Romeo*
Sharon Drew	Bob Sauer*
Ainsley Glenn*	Laurie Stullenbarger
Dawn Infante*	Emily Wallace*
Jason Kempton*	Louis Yuhasz

The VAC will reconvene in August to discuss 2008-2009 goals and programs.



Many of you already know, but Trish Long has left us. She had difficulty balancing work, kids, a pending move and a traveling husband. Makes me tired just typing it! We wish her well in her hopes of getting closer to her family in California.

Healing Hands

We are excited to announce that we are now supporting our pediatric pain management team by offering healing hands (or massage therapy) through our office. Our first licensed volunteer massage therapist, Jennifer Mahanes, is providing comfort and relaxation to our patients through the Healing

Hands Program. The plan is to expand the program in the fall to create a more positive hospitalization experience for the children and their families.



Administrative Reminders

The **Standard of the Month** for the Medical Center is the dress code. Please remember to dress appropriately including wearing closed toe shoes (tough one in the summer months). Also, please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne.

Recording hours. If you volunteer off-site on a project or a satellite location, we need your hours. This includes folks who are making hats or blankets and people who serve in the clinics, the Medically Fragile Children's Program or the Volunteer Advisory Committee.

What's your status?

We need to start getting an idea of how many spots we'll have available for new volunteers in the fall. Right now, we have over 45 applications in the database and expect many more as college students return to Charleston. **Please let us know if you will be leaving at the end of the summer, returning in the fall, wishing to change your placement or staying put.** The sooner we know, the better we will be able to accommodate your requests.

Current and Upcoming Needs

Read and Romp

November 2, 2008



Read and Romp is a unique family event which allows young children to travel through the pages of their favorite children's books. The event is an afternoon of storybook stations with games, arts and crafts and other fun activities based on favorites such as *Where the Wild Things Are*, *Harry Potter* and *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*.

We will have our first Read and Romp event on Sunday, November 2, 2008. All proceeds will benefit our local Reach out and Read program which promotes early literacy by giving new books to children and advice to parents about the importance of reading aloud through our Emergency Room and Primary Care Clinics.

The planning committee is looking for volunteers to help in lots of different areas. If you are interested, please let us know.

Saturday Morning and Tuesday Evening Meals



For over a year and a half the Volunteer Office has been relieving one worry for our families by having small volunteer groups cater breakfast on Saturday mornings or dinner on Tuesday evenings. The meals allow families to get away and share some time with other families who are going through the heart ache of having a sick child in the hospital. We have some openings on Tuesdays and Saturdays if you are a member of a group that might want to be involved. For more information contact Christine at messickc@musc.edu or Erlene at howelle@musc.edu

Community Playground Build

Two childhood injury prevention programs here at MUSC, SAFE KIDS and the Injury Free Coalition have teamed up with the Allstate Foundation and the City of Charleston to build a playground in a downtown community where pedestrian injuries tend to be high.

The playground is a community build project which means that they need volunteers. The community building process is designed to invigorate community spirit and revitalize the neighborhood leaving a safe and vital community that emphasizes tolerance, inclusion, diversity and economic



Playground build in Buloxi

empowerment. You don't need to be a carpenter to participate. There are lots of things to do!

If you, your family, your sorority or fraternity, etc want to help please let us know so we can put you down and get back in touch with further details. The build is scheduled for Saturday, October 11 starting between 7:30 and 8am and probably going to 6pm. We are going to break the day up in to two shifts and food will be provided!

Travel Size Toiletries Needed

The demand is high for our comfort kits that are sewn out of place mats by the Pimlico Ladies Club and stuffed with toiletries donated by staff and volunteers. **We are always in need of travel size toiletries (mouthwash, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, lotion) and mints/gum.** If you would like to donate some of these items, you can drop them off at our office.

