SPRING’S THE THING ... for Vets, Volunteers & Staff

RUN FOR THE WALL—In mid-May, some 450 bikers rolled into the Harley Davidson shop in Asheville on their way across country from LA to the national mall in Washington, DC. Dozens of residents got to eat, greet and meet with these daredevils who make the ride each year to raise awareness for our POWs and MIAs. Area churches donated BBQ and “fixins;” church members and our volunteers served.

2K WALK N ROLL—Also in mid-May, patients, employees and volunteers laced up walking shoes and hit the trails around our campus. Not only did they step up their own fitness levels, but they also raised $350 for homeless vets in our area.

HOT DOG HEAVEN—In June, some 450 vets, staff and volunteers braved the summer heat to enjoy hot dogs, chips and drinks on the front porch of CGVAMC. Residents were accompanied by family and staff; food came from community donations; and serving lines were manned by our volunteers.

Jimmy Russell, CLC resident and Retired Army, takes it all in.

Melissa Parton, Nursing Service and Dawn Cotton, Health Admin enjoy their 2k morning jaunt.

Lining up to serve, mother-daughter team and Red Cross volunteers Suzanne and Helen Nelon; Youth Volunteer Rebecca Broughton; and VFW Post 891 Ladies Auxiliary member, Barbara Boyd.
NOTES from THE OFFICE

THIS NEW SUMMER has already brought extremely warm weather, the smell of grilled hotdogs and hamburgers, and students interested in volunteering at CGVAMC.

Summer of Service 2015 has nearly 60 students offering their energy, time and enthusiasm in service to Veterans. Students bring a breath of fresh air, along with generational newness that keeps us thinking young. It is my goal that each student will take their assignment seriously and perhaps make this the beginning of what will become a Lifetime of Service.

Some who returned have volunteered 2, 3, 4 and yes, even 5 years—all at the CGVAMC. It is my sincere hope that they continue their “volunteer careers” throughout their entire lives, realizing that their efforts truly have made a lasting difference.

We all look forward to this summer’s youth volunteers surprising and delighting us with their many talents and their inspiring commitment to caring, the heart of the matter here at CGVAMC.

With a grateful heart, Darlene

OCTOBER 2
SAFETY FAIR
Charles George VA Medical Center

General Safety
Life, Fire, Radiation and Patient Safety
Hazardous Materials & Waste (GHS)
Emergency Management, Family Preparedness
Medical Equipment
Utilities
Violence in the Workplace
Infection Control, Incl Blood Pathogens
OWCP
GEMS
Compliance & Business Integrity
Integrated Ethics Program
Palliative and Patient Centered Care
Safety Management System Awareness—NEW
Slip/Trip/Fall Prevention—NEW

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

AUGUST 15
CBA MOTORCYCLE ( and AUTO)
FUND RUN & FIELD DAY
Raising funds to meet CGVAMC hospital needs.
Time & Place: starts at 9am at Tractor Supply Co, 14 Monticello Road in Weaverville AND ends here on Tunnel Road.
CALL TO SIGN UP, WE NEED YOUR HELP
On June 17 the first wave of student volunteers fanned out over our campus lending eager hands and hearts in every department from the canteen to PACU. They come from all walks of life with two things in common: the natural curiosity of youth and a sincere desire to serve.

NIRBHAY SUTARIA is a rising junior headed for the NC School of Math & Science in Durham this fall. His parents are Drs. Leena and Kalpesh Sutaria, primary care physicians at CGVA. He has attended the online Code Academy and hopes someday to make his living in programming.

MAGGIE MEHAFFEY is another self-starter with her sights set on a career in neurology (or “maybe cardiology”). She is a rising 9th grader at Tuscola High School. Her mom, Melissa, is a surgical nurse in PACU. Her goal this summer: to learn all that she can learn.

JOSH LINO is working his 4th summer as a Youth Volunteer and is a member of the newly formed Volunteer Service Youth Council. A rising senior at Odyssey, he says he’s torn between careers in marine biology and animation. His mom, Lizzie, is a nurse in our CLC.

KENNETH WILKES is the youngest member of the Youth Volunteers group and a rising 8th grader at Erwin Middle School. Someday he hopes to attend NC State or Western Carolina. His mom, Maria, works in CLC1.

PHILLIP MORRIS is a rising 10th grader at Owen High School with plans to attend Duke or Western Carolina. His dad, Phillip II, was in the Army Reserves. Phillip says he hopes this experience will help hone his leadership skills.
Dear Staff and Volunteers --

I am happy to announce that the Charles George VAMC team has maintained our 5-Star facility status and our #1 ranking in Patient Satisfaction for the second quarter of FY15. Congratulations!

When we first earned our 5-Star Quality rating, I emphasized the importance of not resting on our laurels and continuously striving to improve the care we provide to our patients. I thank each and every one of you for doing just that and honoring our commitment to "care for those who have borne the battle." I am so proud to work with you and be a part of this great team.

Again, thank you for all you do on behalf of America’s heroes and thank you for ensuring that our Veterans receive the high quality of care they’ve earned through their sacrifice for our Nation.

CYNTHIA BREYFOGLE, FACHE
Medical Center Director

The Veterans Choice Program (VCP) is a new temporary benefit that allows Veterans to access care in their own communities.

We are pleased to announce that program criteria have changed. Rather than straight line distance, the VA will now use driving distance from the nearest VA medical facility to the Veteran’s place of residence to determine eligibility.

**Who is eligible for the program?**

A Veteran must have been enrolled in VA health care on or before August 1, 2014, or be eligible to enroll as a combat Veteran. Additional criteria also must be met.

Veterans must call the Choice Program Call Center at 866-606-8198 to verify eligibility and set up an appointment.

**What is the Veterans Choice Card?**

VA mailed all enrolled Veterans a Veterans’ Choice Card and information about the program. If a Veteran is satisfied and wishes to continue with his/her current VA care, there is nothing they need to do at this time. Veterans should save their Choice Cards in case they would like to use the Program in the future.

**Who can help Veterans with questions?**

Gene Morris - Gene.morris@va.gov
828-298-7911 ext. 4003
UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 2
SUMMER OF SERVICE RESOURCE DAY
Information and fellowship for Volunteers & Staff
Time: 11 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.
Place: CGVAMC, Lower Atrium

AUGUST 1
AGENT ORANGE TOWN HALL
Veterans’ Eligibility, Benefits, Applications
Time: 12-6 p.m.
Place: Cherokee County Fairgrounds Expo Hall

AUGUST 4
LISTENING SESSION
Veteran’s Concerns Raised & Discussed
Time: 5-7 p.m.
Place: American Legion Post 47, for Waynesville, Haywood & Jackson counties

SEPTEMBER 16
LISTENING SESSION
Veteran’s Concerns Raised & Discussed
Time: 5-7 p.m.
Place: American Legion Post 77, for Henderson, Transylvania & Polk counties

OCTOBER 2
2015 SAFETY FAIR
Annual Training for Staff and Volunteers
Time: 6 a.m. until 6 p.m.
Place: Charles George VA Medical Center

HOSPITAL NEEDS

- DVD movies and music CD's for Oncology, Recreation Therapy, and Comfort Cart (general audience ratings)
- Wii (new or used, golf games preferred)
- Model kits (ships, planes, autos)
- Unlined journals for writing, drawing
- Xbox games for Psychiatric Unit, rated E for Everyone
- Personal listening devices like iPods for diversional therapeutic needs
- New magazines and new-to-gently used paperback books
- Coffee, cream and sugar to support out-patient waiting areas
- Arts and crafts supplies (acrylic and water color paint; sketch pads, colored pencils, markers, brushes, chalks)
- Tickets for wheelchair-bound Veterans (and helpers) to go to a golf course
- Gift cards to community restaurants for clients served through Hospice
- Annual passes to Biltmore House, NC Arboretum, Wolfe Museum, Carl Sandburg Home
- $75 Sponsorships for bi-monthly Memorial Services (to cover cost of programs, refreshments, flowers)

Please Note: All materials donated must be smoke, mildew and mold free. We must refuse items that don’t meet this standard.
DONATIONS & GIFTS

MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAMS
BUNCOMBE COUNTY VETS

VA 2K WALK
Shelly Wheeler  GPF 1249
Joseph Antinori  GPF 1249
Elizabeth Lima  GPF 1249
Deborah Moore  GPF 1249
Dave Przestrzelski  GPF 1249
Angela Pentecost  GPF 1249
Kathy Daley  GPF 1249
Bonita Wiedenhaupt  GPF 1249
Pamela Rogers  GPF 1249
Debbie Swayngim  GPF 1249

Claire Tiernan  shower essentials
Teresa Earley  kitchen & toilet items
17 lap robes
James Johnson  glassware
Christine Cooper  shower curtains
Jennifer Palumbo  kitchen & shower items
Laura Tugman  kitchen essentials
Stacey Bailey  canned, boxed food
Kim Crawley  socks
Dale Cloud  boxes of hand soap
Ashley Durbin  hot pot & peanuts
Suzanne Killian  bathroom essentials

LUNCHES & COOKOUTS
AMERICAN LEGION AUX, DEPT NC
ELKS NATIONAL, MORGANTON
VETS of FOREIGN WARS, AUX POST 891

RUN FOR THE WALL
UPWARD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
CHURCH, HENDERSONVILLE  meal

“RISKY BUSINESS”  music

HOT DOG COOKOUT

DAUGR of AMER REVOLUTION, RUTH DAVIDSON CHAPTER  onions
MASONIC LODGE 453  chili & ketchup
KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS, condiments
ASSEMBLY 781
AMVETS, POST 333  hot dogs
AM LEGION AUX, DEPT NC  chips
PEPSI COLA BOTTLING CO  drinks
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE 848  buns
VFW AUX, DEPT NC  hot dogs
DAV AUX 57  slaw
“SIMPLE FOLK”  music

BINGO
AMERICAN LEGION, POST 77
AMERICAN LEGION AUX, DEPT NC
AMERICAN LEGION AUX, UNIT 48
AMERICAN LEGION AUX, UNIT 77
ELKS NATIONAL, MORGANTON
ELKS DOES, HENDERSONVILLE
VETS of FOREIGN WARS & AUX, POST 4066
VETS of FOREIGN WARS, POST 5381
VIETNAM VETS of AMER, CHAPT 124

Thank you so very much!
more DONATIONS & GIFTS

CHRISTMAS
NAT SOC COL DAMES, PHILLIP LUDELL CHAPTER
DAU of AMER REV, RUTH DAVIDSON & HUGH ROGERS CHAPTs

HOSPICE CARE
Susan Cook
Nina Sheppard
Grace White
Beverly Pristas
MILITARY ORDER of the COOTIE

MISCELLANEOUS
VETS of FOREIGN WARS AUX POST 8013
heart pillows
VETS of FOREIGN WARS AUX POST 5198
handmade flags
VETS of FOREIGN WARS AUX, DEPT NC
soft drinks
VETS of FOREIGN WARS AUX POST 6812
butterfly Pillows
DAU of AMER REVOLUTION, JOHN HOYLE CHAPTER
books, socks, coffee, lap robes, misc
DISABLED AMERICAN VETS
books and magazines
GIRL SCOUTS of AMERICA, TROOP 1797
2 cases of cookies
NAT'L SOC COL DAMES, PHILLIP LUDWELL CHAPTER
personal care items, greeting cards
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Lap quilts

MISCELLANEOUS
UTD DAU of CONFEDERACY, #104,
#2005, #2603 and #2698
sodas, bottled water
DISABLED AMERICAN VETS, CHAPT 2
magazines and books
DISABLED AMERICAN VETS, AUX,
CHAPT 2
snacks, lap robes, fleece blanket, art & craft supplies
ELKS NATIONAL
barbeque, T-shirts, books and music
Keys Pendleton
blue ray DVD player
James Pucket
books
Barbara Sammons
digital photos/prints,
Lynn Vorys
lap robes
William DeHart
hardback books
Uniden V-tech cordless phones
David Herbert
laptop for CLC
Patricia Cole
GPF 1001
Natalie Parce
GPF 1001
VETS of FOREIGN WARS,
POST 9281
GPF 1000

Thank you so very much!

Voluntary Service News
Mountain News is published bi-monthly as a way of keeping our volunteers informed of activities, opportunities, and needs at the Charles George VA Medical Center.

If you receive a hard copy of this newsletter, PLEASE send your e-mail address to brian.walsh4@va.gov so that you can begin receiving this newsletter by email.

Our Privacy Policy: Your e-mail address will not be distributed to other parties. We will use it only to distribute the newsletter and/or other VA information.

Why e-mail? Using e-mail saves time, money AND trees. Thank You.

If you would like to volunteer, learn about current needs or make a financial contribution, please go to: http://www.asheville.va.gov/giving/index.asp

If you are not currently a volunteer, we invite your application.

Please contact Voluntary Services at (828)299-2514 for further information.

If you have a smart phone, you may scan this QR code to see the many opportunities for volunteering and donating now available at the Charles George VA Medical Center.