



Thanks a **million!**

Mercy Auxiliary - Berryville





Letter from the President

On behalf of the Mercy Hospital board of directors, Mercy physicians and fellow co-workers, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to each member, both past and present, of our wonderful hospital auxiliary. These volunteers have served as our backbone through the years, and I am honored to recognize them for this \$1 million milestone.

Auxiliary members, wearing their blue vests adorned by service pins, not only greet arriving patients and visitors to our hospital, but they also volunteer in numerous other capacities. Many times, they are hard at work behind the scenes. From raising funds for purchasing state-of-the-art equipment to renovating patient rooms, our auxiliary members always stand ready to assist. No project is ever too large or too small. In addition to supporting the hospital, they are also good partners within the community. They work closely with our schools, the local food bank, the Alzheimer's Association and many other organizations. They have been recognized with five-star awards and accolades from the Arkansas Hospital Auxiliary Association and Community Blood Center of the Ozarks, just to name a few.

Join us as we celebrate our hospital's auxiliary for its one millionth dollar contributed. Please take a few moments to read some of their amazing stories and accomplishments. We think you too will be humbled by their tireless efforts and compassionate service to others.

Mercy is kicking off its "Million Reasons to Say Thank You" campaign. For a hospital of our size, we have one of the largest and most active auxiliaries in the entire state. We would also love for you to consider becoming a volunteer with Mercy Auxiliary-Berryville. The benefits will be rewarding.

Help us celebrate this \$1 million milestone by thanking the next Mercy Auxiliary-Berryville member you see. More than likely, he or she will be a friend, neighbor or relative.

This year, and for many years to come, we will continue to have a million reasons to say 'thank you.'

Sincerely yours,

Kristy Estrem, FACHE
President, Mercy Hospital Berryville



A Million Reasons to Say "Thank You"

\$1 million raised, half a million hours given

546,263 hours - that's a pretty close estimation of the hours that volunteers have collectively given to Mercy Hospital Berryville since their auxiliary reorganized in 1982. With duties ranging from manning the information desk to running a thrift store and gift shop, the hospital just wouldn't function like it does without its many volunteers.

This year is extra special at Mercy - the auxiliary reached a very big goal in October 2013, raising its one millionth dollar for the benefit of patients and their families at Mercy Hospital Berryville.

Raising Money to Benefit the Hospital and Community, One Dollar at a Time

Eighty-two year old Jonnie Lindt is well familiar with the ways they've raised funds - last year, Jonnie celebrated her 20th year as a volunteer.

Through the years, she has given more than 11,000 hours, doing things like managing the hospital's gift shop, maintaining the scrapbooks and serving as treasurer, president-elect and president.

The hospital currently has 292 members - Jonnie is one of about 99 members who continue to stay active with our auxiliary.

"I donate my time because it helps the community, and I enjoy being around people and helping wherever I can," she added. "The hospital is a worthwhile place to volunteer because what we do benefits a lot of people."



The Legacy of Blanche and Ross Flake

While asking others to give in support of the hospital, Blanche and her husband, Ross, contributed from their own pocketbook, as well. Thanks to a sizable donation from the Flake family, the hospital was able to renovate its surgery waiting area, which was dedicated in 2008 in their honor as the Ross and Blanche Flake Surgery Waiting Area. Upon its completion, the Flake family donated a collection of Blanche's artwork, which is on display and rotated frequently in the surgery waiting area for visitors to enjoy. Blanche was a talented artist.



Auxiliary Formation Years



“The rewards for doing things for other people are far better than they are doing things for yourself.”
- Ron Flake

The “Early Years”

What started in 1969 as the Carroll General Hospital Auxiliary became Carroll Regional Medical Center Auxiliary in the 1990s. Now, it's known as Mercy Auxiliary-Berryville.

The first date in the auxiliary's history was February 17, 1969, when a group of residents met to discuss the new Carroll General Hospital that was under construction in Berryville. A volunteer organization would be needed to support the new facility, they agreed, and so the auxiliary was officially organized six months later.

Among its first 22 members were Jane Cooper, chairman and Mrs. F. E. Taylor, vice chairman. Other elected officers included Hazel Owens, president; Betty Greeson, vice president; Iva McKinney, secretary; and Dixie Payne, treasurer. There were 49 charter members.

Dues were - and still are today - just \$2 per year for active members and \$5 per year for those who work and don't have time to volunteer. In addition, there is a \$25 lifetime membership.

In its early years, the auxiliary volunteers fed the patients and sewed the hospital gowns and pajamas. They also made gowns and blankets for the nursery, as well as booties for newborns.

In time, the auxiliary became inactive and eventually disbanded until 1981, when a group

of nine women reorganized. Among them was Blanche Flake (now deceased), who served as one of the first presidents.

“Mom recognized our area's need for more and better medical care,” explained Blanche's son, Ron. “That's why she and her friends worked so hard to reorganize the auxiliary.”

From bazaars to bake sales to thrift stores and gift carts, Blanche and her fellow auxiliaries' money-making projects met many of their rural hospital's needs, making it possible for residents to receive quality care and medical services close to home.

“Mom put such a tremendous number of hours and energy into the auxiliary. Even after her knee replacement, she was on that cart as soon as she could walk.”

Ron is a member of the auxiliary board along with his wife, Joy, who is the current auxiliary president. He also has a younger brother, Dr. William “Bill” Flake, general surgeon, who moved to Berryville from a surgical practice in Phoenix in 1982, bringing with him two family practice doctors. Bill established a clinic in Berryville in which he had a family and surgical practice, now known as Mercy Clinic - Berryville.

“We were raised to believe that you do what you can for other people,” Ron said. “The rewards for doing things for other people are far better than they are doing things for yourself.”

Auxiliary Thrift Shop

Great selection at affordable prices

Soon after the auxiliary was reorganized, the elected board members established a thrift shop in downtown Green Forest, thanks to the First National Bank of Green Forest, which generously donated the building rent-free, as well as numerous area businesses that donated materials to help fix up the store.



Since its first year, the store has relied on clothing and other donated items to resell. In its first year, the thrift store netted \$5,500. Proceeds steadily increased, especially after 1989 when the auxiliary expanded, purchasing the building in which the store is currently located at 218 Public Square in Green Forest. Since then, it has become the auxiliary's main money-making project. In fact, it accounts for 80 percent of the auxiliary's fundraising efforts with many months raising more than \$4,000 in sales. That's a lot of merchandise that has to be unpacked, sorted, cleaned and priced before it goes on display. If you're looking for a particular item, you can call ahead to see if it's in stock. That phone number is 870-438-5033.

“There's a lot to find on the shelves besides clothing,” explains Connie Lascano, the thrift store chair. “We have books and magazines, records and DVDs. We get a lot of small appliances, electronics and kids' toys,” she added.



Those donations are the key to keeping the shelves stocked, and Mercy's volunteers are the key to organizing donations and keeping the business running. “We need the help, because we turn over the merchandise the same as a retail store would,” Connie said. “Since we always have something new, people come back frequently.”

If you have items to donate, they're accepted at two drop box locations - one is at Mercy Hospital Berryville, and the other is just outside the thrift store, which was built in 2002 by members in order to keep donated items from the weather during the hours the store isn't open. Donations of clothing, linens, kitchen items, books, and most usable household items except furniture may be placed in the box on evenings and weekends when the store is closed. They ask that any items donated be clean and worthy of resale.

If you're interested in volunteering at the thrift store, you can work mornings or afternoons, volunteering four to eight hours a day, and you can choose the type of work you'd enjoy most. For instance, some work as cashiers while others sort, price, launder and mend. They also put items out for sale, keep counters and racks organized and assist customers when needed.

Auxiliary Presidents 1981-2013

- Edith Robert**
1981-1983
- Blanche Flake**
1983-1985
- Phyllis Davis**
1985-1987
- Louise Williams**
1987-1988
- Marcie York**
1988
- Louise Williams**
1988-1989
- Shirley Pyron**
1989-1991
- Frances Emmett**
1991-1993
- Barbara Wilhelm**
1993-1994
- Jonnie Lindt**
1994-1996
- Kristy Noble**
1996-1997
- Frances Emmett**
1997-2000
- Neta Sue Stamps**
2000-2001
- John Harris**
2001
- William Dettwiller**
2001-2002
- Mary Jo Warner**
2002-2004
- Patty Clark**
2004-2006
- Joyce McMullen**
2006-2009
- Shelba Miller**
2009-2011
- Anita Spearman**
2011-2013
- Joy Flake**
2013 - present



Humble Beginnings for Mercy Gift Shop

From Cart to Storefront

In the early days, members, comprised mainly of women were affectionately known as "Pink Ladies." They raised money for the hospital by selling items from a gift cart they pushed from room to room.



They offered most anything patients – young and old – needed during their stay, from stuffed animals to magazines, books and cosmetics. Items on the cart were either donated by merchants and individuals or purchased at wholesale prices. Then in May 1985, the auxiliary opened its Gift Shop inside the hospital.

Did You Know

In 1982, the Carroll General Hospital Auxiliary put their new gift cart into operation at the hospital with the goal of raising enough money to purchase a new Emergency Room bed.

Dollars at Work

One dollar at a time, members have raised money over the years in a multitude of other ways, from style shows and bazaars to bake sales and other kinds of sales for specialties like home accessories and jewelry. Every fundraising effort they coordinate makes another purchase possible for Mercy patients.

It all began in 1982 with a stretcher – the first of many items that Mercy Auxiliary-Berryville donated to the hospital – and since then, it has continued with numerous other big-ticket items. Thanks to a very active auxiliary at Mercy Hospital Berryville, these kinds of items – and much more – are available to our hospital and community.



PARTIAL LISTING OF DONATED ITEMS SINCE 1982		
October 1982	Stretcher for ER	\$2,882
June 1983	Bassinet	\$530
June 1994	Furnished (1) ICU	\$9,000
May 1985	2-Telemetry Systems	\$11,249
August 1986	½ Sponsorship of ICU	\$23,831
February 1987	½ Sponsorship of ICU	\$23,831
November 1987	Colonoscope	\$11,000
September 1988	Birthing bed and accessories for OB	\$7,493
April 1989	Urology equipment	\$8,599
December 1989	Endoscope	\$10,200
February 1990	Fetal Monitor	\$11,945
December 1991	Fetal Heart Monitor and Two Infant Isolettes	\$6,400
September 1992	Mammography equipment	\$17,500
May 1994	Seven Hospital Beds	\$16,642
March 1995	Operating Room camera	\$12,612
September 1996	Two bicycles for Rehab	\$1,200
September 1997	Blood Gas Machine	\$15,080
August 1998	C-Arm cost \$84,908 (our pledge \$25,000)	\$25,000
July 1999	ICU Heart Monitoring System	\$61,000
July 2000	Versipower Plus drill and saw for orthopedic surgeries	\$5,084
August 2002	Ultrasound cost \$209,076 (our pledge \$75,000)	\$75,000
January 2003	Installed electric door openers at east hospital entrance	\$7,468
June 2004	Automatic doors on main entrances	\$7,371
September 2005	Used white '05 Chevy Silverado pickup	\$13,489
October 2005	'06 white Chevy van for Medical Equipment Dept.	\$23,129
October 2006	Three fetal monitors for OB	\$32,234
November 2007	Flag and flag pole with light	\$4,992
June 2008	Colonoscope (paid half of purchase price)	\$12,599
March 2009	Anesthesia machine	\$12,500
March 2010	Donation to Mercy Health Foundation for renovation of West Wing	\$25,000
July 2011	Donation to Mercy Health Foundation (Challenge Funds Renovation of West Wing)	\$25,000
July 2012	DEXA Scanner	\$30,000
March 2013	30 26' flat screen TVs and 30 tilt mounts	\$18,284
October 2013	Renovation of hospital Gift Shop	\$50,000



But They Haven't Stopped There

Since the auxiliary's beginning, its purpose has been two-fold: *not only to fundraise and provide other services to the hospital and its patients but also to assist the hospital in promoting the health and welfare of its community.*

Members take their community's needs seriously. In fact, last year, they've help start a program to tackle the growing number of students in the Berryville school system who don't have access to consistent, sufficient nutrition. Standing on the philosophy that better nutrition makes for better students, members joined with other community partners to start "Operation Food for Hungry Kids" program.

"We've donated more than \$3,000 to the program," said Joy Flake, auxiliary president. "It helps nourish kids over the weekend that otherwise may not have food at their home. We want to be as involved in our community as much as possible. We have so much to be thankful for here in Berryville. So many things start with the children, and if we can let the kids know that there are people out there who can help, it's a win-win for our auxiliary's mission."

The auxiliary also helps the Community Blood Center of the Ozarks, supporting at least six blood drives a year. It also hosts Alzheimer's seminars and is working to start a support group for area residents who have

family members dealing with dementia. Since sewing is a favorite hobby among many of its members, they also provide Activity Aprons for Mercy's Hospice Care and Home Health as part of therapy for its patients with dementia.

One stitch at a time, members make the aprons to help promote valuable activities like touching, counting and tying for patients. According to Neta Stamps, who coordinates the project, these aprons have one pocket that's plastic for favorite pictures or identification and another one that includes a variety of flash cards and can help improve the patients' memories. For comfort, a small stuffed animal is also included with the apron.



But the auxiliary isn't just focused on senior citizens in our area – each year, two Carroll County High School graduates receive a \$1,000 scholarship for expenses in college or an advanced training program in the medical field. The auxiliary sees this as an investment in the community's future since students selected for the scholarships will hopefully return to Carroll County after receiving their degrees or training.

Find Your Place in Mercy Auxiliary-Berryville

Here's How You Can Help!

Just ask any member and you'll find out there really is something for everyone! Even if you like sewing or baking projects, you can do that at home to benefit Mercy patients. Here are some ways you can help:

- Thrift Shop
- Gift Shop
- Knitting baby afghans for the Thrift Store
- Help at the hospital - Information Desk and Surgery Waiting
- Make items for auxiliary bake sales
- Make favors for patient lunch trays on holidays and other special days
- Callers for Telephone Committee

How do I join the auxiliary?

Talk to an auxiliary member or call Deana Davidson at 870-423-5230. You can also inquire at the hospital's Information Desk or Thrift Store.

Did You Know

Just as they've always been, dues are still just \$2 a year for active members (those who contribute at least 50 hours a year) or \$25 for a lifetime membership.



Mercy Auxiliary – Berryville Past and Present.

The backbone of Mercy Hospital Berryville and this community.

“There are so many things you can do within the Auxiliary. It is a great way to make friends and enjoy a wonderful group of people who all want the same thing. We want to make our community feel loved and special. We give our time to help others and hope to make everyone’s experience in our hospital a little bit more comfortable.”

– Joy Flake, president

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mercy.net/berryville

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