

News Release

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Bridgeport Hospital Salutes Volunteers

BRIDGEPORT, CT (April 19, 2019) – Bridgeport Hospital honored its volunteers and auxiliary members during an April 8 Volunteer Recognition Luncheon at Vazzano’s Four Seasons Restaurant in Stratford. The theme of the luncheon, which took place during National Volunteer Appreciation Week, was “Enhancing the Patient Experience.”

The nearly 250 hospital volunteers contributed more than 20,000 hours during the past year in a variety of patient care and support areas. Nearly 30 volunteers were cited for achieving career service milestones from 100 to 15,500 hours. These included Stratford residents Anne Lussen of Stratford (15,500), Mary Ann Peterson (14,500) and Arlene Battistelli (8,000).

“Without you, we would not be the hospital we are,” said Mike Ivy, MD, interim CEO. “You make an enormous difference every day to patients, families and employees, whether you’re in the OR, ER, on patient floors, in the lobby, everywhere in the hospital. There’s a sense of community in the hospital that you care about each other and about the patients.”

Bridgeport Hospital’s volunteer corps includes adult and junior volunteers from throughout the hospital service area as well as the all-volunteer Bridgeport Hospital Auxiliary, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. Auxiliary volunteers alone logged over 5,500 service hours during the past year.

“Never underestimate the power of volunteers,” said Linda Antignani of Stratford, auxiliary president. “Hospitals can be scary places for our patients but having a person with a warm smile and a caring words can make a frightening experience so much more manageable.”

To date, the auxiliary has raised over \$8.5 million for Bridgeport Hospital programs, services, facility improvements and scholarships. The 60th anniversary celebration on May 2 will support the \$100,000 auxiliary pledge to the hospital's REACH psychiatric outpatient programs.

“Whether you’re a new volunteer who’s been with us for just a few months or one who has many years of service, whether you’re working at the bedside or in a more behind the scenes roll, you all share the desire to make a difference and you do,” added Elizabeth Locke, manager of Volunteer Services. “When we talk about patient experience, it includes all interactions a patient has with the organization, from parking their car in the garage or arriving by ambulance until they are discharged home.”

Bridgeport Hospital, part of Yale New Haven Health, is a 383-bed acute care hospital (plus 42 beds licensed to Yale New Haven Children’s Hospital) serving parts of Fairfield and New Haven counties. The hospital admits more than 21,000 patients and receives over 315,000 outpatient treatments annually. The Connecticut Burn Center at Bridgeport Hospital is the only burn center in the state and one of only 65 verified burn centers in the United States.

Photo caption: Among the volunteers and auxiliary members recognized for service milestones at the Bridgeport Hospital Volunteer Luncheon were (l-r) Samantha Rodriguez, Kwaku Ofori-Atta, Jeanne Ryan, Linda Antignani, Mark Ryan (rear) and Anna Marie Valites.