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Haven Hospice shows appreciation to volunteers



Some of the many volunteers are seen shortly before the start of the program on Friday.

Story and Photos By Jeff M. Hardison © April 2, 2016 @ 4:07 p.m.

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(PLEASE SCROLL DOWN TO SEE THE NEW PHOTOS)

CHIEFLAND -- Haven Hospice held its annual luncheon to honor volunteers on Friday afternoon (April 1).

Volunteers for Haven Hospice received a meal, gifts and thanks from the administration and staff of the institution during the yearly special and fun event.



Volunteer Coordinator Vondla Sullivan organized the event, which included the presentation of many honors to the volunteers. There were many door prizes awarded randomly to volunteers at the luncheon, which was held in the Haven Hospice Community Building.

Haven Hospice Administrator Anita Howard (left) and Volunteer Coordinator Vondla Sullivan

As Sullivan opened the program this year, she mentioned the excellent PowerPoint presentation created last year and presented by Eirlys Rawcliffe in honor of some of the then

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recently passed extraordinary volunteers.

Haven Hospice Administrator Anita Howard welcomed all of the volunteers and she told them that they are vital to the company providing for people. Howard said she hopes everyone enjoys the luncheon because they all deserve it.

Haven Hospice Chaplain Janice Kirk was unable to attend, because she was helping a family in need at that time.



Haven Hospice Administrator Anita Howard expresses appreciation on behalf of other Haven Hospice leaders who were unable to attend Friday's luncheon.

Interim President
Jim Poole and

Community Advisory Board member D. Ray Harrison Jr. were unable to attend the luncheon due to a conflict with other meetings. On their behalf, Administrator Howard extended heartfelt thanks to the volunteers for the services the volunteers give.

Haven Hospice Director of Volunteer Services Courtney Quirie said part of the requirement for Medicare reimbursement is that Haven utilizes at least 5 percent volunteer services.

Thanks to the volunteers at the Chiefland Care Center and The Attic, they helped the company exceed the mandatory minimum by more than another 100 percent.

And using a company to determine value from that time donated by people to help Haven Hospice in 2015, Quirie said the volunteers gave the organization enough to equal \$2.5 million. In fact, Quirie said, Haven Hospice could not have to pay for all of the service provided by the volunteers.

All five locations of The Attic, Quirie said, had 58,000 combined hours of volunteer service. The Chiefland location, which is next to Save-A-Lot and the College of Central Florida's classrooms, had 12,000 volunteer service hours in 2015, she said.

There were 770 volunteers companywide for Haven Hospice in 2015, Quirie said.

For all patient care hours throughout the company, 10 percent came from volunteers, which is twice the mandatory minimum that is required, Quirie said.

Patient care volunteers in Chiefland donated 7,000 hours in 2015, she said. While the whole service area of percentage of volunteer service for patient care was 10 percent, Quirie said, the people who give of themselves in Chiefland equaled 12 percent.

The Chiefland volunteers make an average of 200 "tuck in calls" a month. A "tuck in call," Quirie explained, is made to homebound patients to make sure they have everything they need –

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like oxygen tanks – to get through the weekend.

Quirie said “Thank you!” to all of the volunteers. Her mother died in November, and there were volunteers who helped her family in that time of need.

Several awards were given for volunteers who reached certain milestones in hours donated.



There were seven special awards presented during the whole luncheon – which was named in honor of Harry Coleman and Arnold Dittenber, who both died in June of 2015.

**The Dr.
Raymond
Fitzpatrick
Volunteer of
the Year
Award
Rita Wealing
accepts the top
award of the year
– the Raymond**

Fitzpatrick Volunteer of the Year Award as it is presented by Volunteer Coordinator Vondla Sullivan and Anita Chiefland Administrator Howard.
Photo Courtesy of Haven Hospice.

The Dr. Fitzpatrick Volunteer of the Year Award, named after the founder of Haven Hospice, was awarded to Rita Wealing for her work in 2015.

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**Harry Coleman Attic Award
Manager of Retail Sales Stormy
Palmer-Porter (left) presents
the Harry Coleman Attic Award
to Linda Kuczer.**

Photo by Vondla Sullivan

The Harry Coleman Attic Award
went to Linda Kuczer.

**Arnold Dittenber Community
Outreach Award
Muriel Ellison (left) accepts the
Arnold Dittenber Community
Outreach Award from Chiefland
Administrator Anita Howard.
Previously known only as the
Community Outreach Award,
this was named in memory of
the man who was 'Mr. Public
Relations' for Haven Hospice,
everywhere he went, especially
at The Attic in Chiefland.**

Photo by Vondla Sullivan

The Arnold Dittenber Community
Outreach Award went to Muriel
Ellison.

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Patient and Caregiver Award
Volunteer Liaisons Rita Wealing (left) and Norene Cooper (right) present the Patient and Caregiver award to Johnnie Phillips (center).

Photo by Vondla Sullivan

The Patient Caregiver Award went to Johnnie Phillips.



Administrative Award
Norene Cooper (left) accepts the Administrative Award from Chiefland Administrator Anita Howard.

Photo by Vondla Sullivan

The Administrative Award went to Norene Cooper.

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Service Recognitions

The two volunteers present for the award ceremony who earned the top number of years were Christy Sullivan - 15 years (right) and Muriel Ellison 20 years. Not present for the luncheon Isabel Smith – 20 years.

Photo by Vondla Sullivan

Some other significant winners who are not pictured are for The Mike Harrell Special Programs Award. The winner of that is Shellie Shelton, who is a leader in the Haven on Wheels Program. This program transports patients and families to appointments, errands, etc. Shelton was unable to attend the luncheon because she was travelling to North Carolina to see her mother who was being admitted to Hospice Care.

At Haven Hospice, the staff and volunteers make a difference for people who need care at the end of their lives. Haven especially recognizes volunteers for their hard work and dedication during the month of April.

Volunteers are a vital part of the Hospice Care Team. They provide companionship, support and assistance to patients residing at home, in assisted living facilities, nursing homes, hospitals and any of Haven's five, free-standing care centers.

Volunteers also reach out to grieving families, help staff The Attic resale stores and serve on special events committees.

The annual luncheon was a big success and a good time was had by all.