

January 11, 2012

CCMH Auxilians give throughout the year **For More Information, Contact:**
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For Immediate Release

ATLANTIC – Every year, from Thanksgiving to December, many people focus on giving and doing for others. Food bank donations spike, adopt-a-family programs flourish, people are focused on doing for others during the holiday season. For the members of the Cass County Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, it's just another month – their giving goes on throughout the year.

Auxiliary members are a critical part of the healthcare team at CCMH. In 2011 142 active CCMH Auxilians donated 11,247 hours of time, the equivalent of 5.41 full-time staff. In addition there are 196 inactive Auxiliary volunteers, who support the group with their dues but don't have time to volunteer.

There are many ways for volunteers to make a difference at the hospital. Auxilians transport inpatients to the Rehabilitation and Radiology Departments for care as needed. Others staff the Information Desk, assisting patients and visitors in finding their way around the hospital facility. The CCMH Coffee and Gift Shop are managed and staffed by the Auxiliary members, too. Telecare volunteers make daily phone calls to people who need someone to just check in with them on a daily basis. There are some people who want to help, but prefer to work from home. Some crochet caps for every baby born at the hospital, while others sew walker bags for people to carry things when using a walker.

“Our members are a diverse group, but the one thing they have in common is their desire to serve,” noted Norma Reed, Auxiliary President. “We have all kinds of opportunities – there's something for everyone! Some of our members work just a couple hours a month and others choose to several times a week. We appreciate them all!”

In addition to providing services, the Auxiliary also raises funds for the hospital. Through their coffee, gift shop and vending machine sales, funds grow throughout the

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year. The Auxiliary also hosts a couple fundraisers each year, including a “Bakeless Bake Sale” and a salad luncheon during National Administrative Assistant Week each spring. All of the monies raised are donated to the hospital for equipment and services, or for educational scholarships for area residents pursuing medical careers. In 2010, the Aux donated \$37,904.50 to purchase needed equipment. Some of the items purchased included:

- Fluid and Blanket Warmer, Emergency Department - \$7212.74
- Quinton Stress Test Upgrade, Cardiac Rehab - \$6345.00
- Powered Exam Table, Wound/Ostomy/Continence - \$4825.00
- Four SCD Machines and holders, Outpatient Clinics - \$3,371.75
- 37” Television with cart and Wii System, Medical/Surgical Unit - \$1306.52
- Digital Bariatric Scale, Outpatient Clinics - \$1,555.44
- EKG Machine and Cart, Respiratory Care - \$11,288.05

They also awarded four \$500 scholarships to area students. This year, the Auxiliary members made a three-year commitment to fund new floor coverings and furnishings for the hospital atrium area and new televisions for the patient rooms and waiting areas for the new addition. The total gift will amount to \$90,000.

“We are so fortunate to have such an outstanding group of Auxilians,” said Don Johnson, Assistant Administrator for Human Resources. “Their dedication to service and this hospital is unsurpassed!”

To become a member of the CCMH Auxiliary, call Darlene McConnell, Membership Chairman, at 243-3025 or stop by the CCMH Coffee & Gift Shop. New members are able to indicate any specific areas of interest and how many hours per month they are available to volunteer.