

FRIENDS *of* STRONG VOLUNTEER UPDATE

Spring 2024

News & Updates for Strong
Memorial Hospital Volunteers

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Dear Friends of Strong Volunteers,

We continue to be amazed by the dedication and selflessness of you—our dedicated volunteers. We deeply appreciate all of you for going above and beyond our expectations.

Our volunteers are the heart of our operations— demonstrating exceptional bravery, compassion, and commitment to the health of our community as a whole. You continue to provide unparalleled service and comfort to our patients, their families, and our caregivers in many ways.

You all remain important to us and continue to add a much-appreciated element of personal service and comradery for our patients and their families.

Our sincere thanks and admiration for being a vital part of our Friends of Strong Team.

Sandy Arbasak
Director, Friends of Strong



Every day. Every year. Every way you support Friends of Strong helps enhance patient- and family-centered care initiatives at Strong Memorial Hospital. Since 1975, we've given more than \$21 million to programs and initiatives throughout the hospital.

Here's what some of our Volunteer Supervisors are saying!



Visit fos.urmc.edu for the full blog post!

When we officially started the program in August 2014, these individuals were the very first to sign-up. They played a huge role in the success of not only the Volunteer program here, but also the success of Strong West. In 2014, they helped to welcome the community in to this new ambulatory care facility. They made sure our patients felt valued and cared for, and they greeted the staff, both returning (from Lakeside) and new, with open arms. These Volunteers continue to serve in the same way today. They are so invested and dedicated to their community, it's truly been inspiring to be a part of.

*Jill Paladino and the
Strong West Team*

Each of these volunteers goes above and beyond each and every day. They are often our calm in the midst of our busy days meeting the play, emotional, and educational needs of our patients. They are willing to help with absolutely anything we need from cleaning toys, to sitting with a lonely, bored, or fearful baby, child, or teen. They are reliable, flexible, compassionate, and tireless.

*Chris Tryon and Toshiko Nonaka
and the Child Life Team*

Both volunteers are very pleasant to be around. They are always willing to help. They love helping when the order comes in and making deliveries to patients. They work wonderful together and if one leaves the other picks right up. It is like having one person.

*Doreen Edwards
and the Gift Shop Team*

Our volunteers arrive as scheduled with a smile. They greet our patients making them feel welcomed and help them way find. They are a huge asset to our patient experiences at SG and WE APPRECIATE THEM!

*Stacey Makubire and the
Sawgrass Surgical Center Team*

Anne Riley-Hill: "She is so bright and bubbly and just all around happy to be helping."
Judy Whitney: "She is always smiling and welcoming everyone, she always looking to help wherever the need is."

*Teaira Pittman and the
Orthopedic Guest Services Team*

Kristy volunteers on a regular basis, always consistently arriving in a timely manner with an eagerness to help. She greets each team member with a warm smile and a welcome hello. During her time with us, she restocks supplies, discharges patients safely, talks with families and is always willing to help in all areas of need. When Kristy is on the unit...we as nurses are able to give more patient-centered care at the bedside knowing other patients are coming and leaving safely and their comfort needs are met while in our care. Kristy is a kind person and her gentle manner give our patients security and confidence when leaving to go home.

Sandra Price and the 23 Hour Surgical Center Team





Summer Recruitment

Registration for Summer College Volunteering will be opening on April 23

Registration for Summer High School Volunteering will be opening on May 7

Visit the [FOS Volunteering Homepage](#) for more information

Volunteer Program

Fun Facts

- Over 400 Current Volunteers (Highest number since COVID!)
- Over 30 Hosting Departments including several offsite
- Close to 100 summer high school volunteers

Upcoming Events

5K River Run | Transplant Program
Fundraiser
April 21

Celebrity Bartender Fundraiser
September 19

Texas Barbecue Joint BBQ Lunch
May 10

'Friends in Good Taste' Beer Tasting
October 19

Ice Cream Party with Bruster's of
Webster
August 7

Holiday Market
November 22

Friends of Strong

Contact Information

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FOS Office will be closed on:

- Memorial Day: 5/29
- Juneteenth: 6/19
- July 4th: 7/4
- Labor Day: 9/4

