

## **MCLAREN PORT HURON IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

We have approximately 185 active volunteers. These volunteers range in age from high school students who participate in our teen volunteer program, to volunteers in their 90s who help with office work and sewing projects. Last year, our volunteers served more than 30,000 hours, and donated more than \$60,000 back to the hospital community with funds made through very active fundraising and proceeds from operating a gift shop and café. Over the last several years, I've added an oncology massage program, patient transport, a hospitality cart which provides complimentary newspapers, coffee, water, and other complementary items like extra tissue, hand lotion, lip balm, etc. The patients enjoy a little visit from our volunteers, and the family members appreciate the service because they don't have to leave the bedside of a loved one when they need something. Right before Christmas, I received approval to start a therapy dog program; we currently have 10 dogs certified through Therapy Dogs International, and their handlers are reporting that they are enjoying the experience, and I've had fantastic feedback from both staff and patients. We are also excited about the prospect of having volunteers in our new Karmanos Cancer Center, when it opens later this year. Our volunteers are a special and dedicated group. Everywhere I go, people tell me stories of how our volunteers have helped them, whether through something as simple as a smile and warm greeting, to offers for wheelchairs and directions for patients and visitors, to even the handmade baby hats each newborn receives. It is a privilege to work with such a diverse and compassionate group of people who are committed to making a difference in the lives of all they encounter, from staff to patients and their families.

Darcy Macke  
Volunteer Coordinator  
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