

# “Wow! Another Outstanding Year for Pink Out!”

by Robin Spitznagle, Foundation Office Manager

We are continually amazed at the amount of support we receive from our annual Pink Out sponsors, our JEH employees and volunteers. This year’s proceeds from Pink Out activities added up to \$28,000! We sold 2,040 shirts and sweatshirts and generated \$22,500 in proceeds; Pinkercise generated \$1,500 and the Poker Run added \$4,000.



All of the proceeds go to provide mammograms to underinsured and uninsured patients. Early detection is key and Methodist Jennie Edmundson does what it can to help educate this fact.

In early 2021, a patient who had received a mammogram through the Pink Out program was diagnosed with breast cancer. This patient now has a treatment plan because a Pink Out supporter bought a pink shirt or attended a Pinkercise class or participated in the Poker Run. We are extremely grateful for the support of the JEH Auxiliary and for the difference your involvement is making in the lives of our patients.

Your kindness matters!

## Volunteer Coordinator Message

The life of a volunteer services coordinator does indeed include daily calls to fill certain needs of the hospital. Everyday, I'm on the phone calling you to fill open spots (some at the last minute, as you know) but the job is much more than that. From recruiting people to volunteer to facilitating orientation and training to volunteer program marketing and PR to writing newsletters...and more...it's a diverse position that's never boring. It's very fulfilling, to be honest.

As I continue to “learn the ropes,” I look to you to help guide me. You’ve been volunteering for years and I respect what I can learn from you. You have been welcoming and kind and I appreciate that. And, your commitment to Jennie is impressive. Thank you so much for your continued involvement. You make a difference and we need you!

A top priority for me in 2022 is to grow our volunteer family. Dealing with the pandemic will be challenging, but I'll do my best to bring new faces to our team. You can help, too, by sharing names of friends who you feel would be a great addition. I'd love to talk to them.

Lisa Dempsey, Volunteer Services Coordinator, (712) 396-6341



Lisa Dempsey

**Reminder!** If you received your COVID vaccination and/or a flu shot, please email a photo of the card(s) to Lisa at [lisa.dempsey@nmhs.org](mailto:lisa.dempsey@nmhs.org) or bring it in the next time you're at the hospital and a copy will be made and added to your file. Thank you.



# The Edmundsonian

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## Remember This:

“The people who make a difference are not the ones with credentials, but the ones with the concern.”

—Max Lucado



## Volunteer of the Month

Hey, Sharon, it's Lisa from Jennie Ed volunteer services. I have some good news to share. The Hospital Auxiliary Board would like to recognize you as Volunteer of the Month for December!

The response?

“That’s not the good news I thought I’d hear,” Sharon said, laughing. “I was expecting to hear Courtney had her baby!”

Shocked was Sharon’s initial reaction but then emotion hit her.

“I felt so honored and very pleased, she said. “It was a nice surprise.”

## Who is Sharon Manz?

Sharon was born at Jennie and so were her kids. Married to husband, Stephen, for 47 years, the couple has three grown boys and five grandchildren. After Sharon graduated from high school, she went to work in Jennie’s medical records department.

**The Edmundsonian:** Let’s go back a ways. How did you meet your husband?

**Sharon: (Laughing)** I met my husband in my late teen years. Groups of kids would cruise along Broadway. He drove a cool car, a silver Chevelle SuperSport and I watched him for a long time. I thought he was cute (I still think he’s cute!) but I hadn’t actually met him.

**The Edmundsonian:** How did you meet him?



Sharon Manz

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**Sharon:** I had a huge pimple on my forehead and was embarrassed by it. Who’d want to meet a girl with that on her head? It took a while but at the urging of my sister, I eventually introduced myself ...at a local Council Bluffs bar (it’s since been demolished). I became Mrs. Stephen Manz a little over a year later, in 1974.

**Fast forward to...**

Sharon and Stephen raised three boys and in 1984, when she was ready, Sharon returned to Jennie—back to medical records, then on to transcriptions, eventually landing in administration until she retired in 2019.

After taking a little time to travel, Sharon completed orientation and training and was assigned to the gift shop. Just after a couple of months, the pandemic hit and hospital volunteer opportunities were put on hold.

“Everything came to halt,” she said. “Volunteers weren’t allowed in at the hospital. It was an uncertain time.”

But that didn’t stop Sharon from offering her seamstress services.

“The time away from the hospital gift shop was filled with sewing fabric masks at home. One of my hobbies is sewing, so it was a good fit and made me feel productive and helpful,” she said.

Months later, about the middle of summer 2021, volunteers were called back and those who were comfortable, did return. Vaccinations were available and required.

“Employees were thankful to have the volunteers back in the gift shop,” Sharon said. “Some employees were happy to have an ‘ear’ to talk to and I’m a good listener. I wanted to be there for the hospital staff.”

Sharon will tell you that volunteering and “being there” for visitors and staff is rewarding. That’s why she gets so much out of giving her time to Jennie.

Sharon simply enjoys being part of the caring Jennie family. **Thank you, Sharon, for your volunteer service! We look forward to seeing you in Jennie’s Gift Shop.**

# Skilled Seamstress to the Rescue

The Time Out room on the third floor of the F wing is frequented by hospital staff who need a break. It’s a special room set up with two massage chairs, essential oils and other items to encourage relaxation. Thanks to our unprecedented times, it’s seen it’s fair share of use...so much so, that the stirrup fabric on one of the massage chairs has torn.

Enter Yvonne Willadsen, a skilled seamstress and 15+ year Jennie volunteer. Yvonne responded cheerfully when she was called upon for the tedious task of repairing the fabric-enclosed stirrup.

“I’m glad I had my morning free to help,” Yvonne said. “I packed up my black stretchy thread, collection of various sewing needles and headed to Jennie.”



**Yvonne Willadsen, skilled seamstress and 15+ year Jennie volunteer.**

Sitting somewhat comfortably on a case of Gatorade padded with a blanket, Yvonne went to work.

“I assessed the whole project first, then gathered bits of the fabric to pin together to guide my sewing,” Yvonne said. “It was a simple task, but required patience and focus.”

The stirrup couldn’t be removed so Yvonne’s efforts were executed within about a six inch wide space that had to fit her two moving hands.

“I only stuck myself with the needle a few times,” she said with good-humored nature. “But the fabric on the stirrup is repaired and looks good.”

## West Lobby Volunteer Station: “A Day in the Life Of...”

West Lobby can often seem like ‘Grand Central Station.’ It’s a big hub of activity given that patient registration is in the area. And, it’s an area where volunteers are always on the move. Here’s what **Erick Alverio** says about a typical day when he comes in for his West Lobby volunteer shift:

“For the morning shift, I arrive and check for wheelchairs. Sometimes we have to round them up. Then I deliver newspapers. As always, West Lobby volunteers greet visitors and walk them to wherever they need to go.

I also sanitize wheelchairs after each use. And of course, I always make a point to be friendly!

Fellow West Lobby volunteer, **Dee Christiansen**, adds this: “West Lobby is definitely busy—we get our ‘steps in’. It’s good exercise. Being at West Lobby also offers a way to make new friends!”

**If you’re already a Jennie volunteer and interested in training for West Lobby or want to shadow for a few hours to see how it is, call Lisa in Volunteer Services at (712) 396-6341.**

## Welcome to Our Newest Volunteers

We are pleased to have two new volunteers join our volunteer team:

**Jean Roeder, Gift Shop.** Recruited by Joyce Horner. Thank you, Joyce!

**Tim Williams, Rx Annex.** Tim inquired about volunteering after experiencing a positive interaction with one of our volunteers but didn’t know who. We know it had to be one of you, so thank you!

