

# FOCUS

TVBH

## IN FOCUS • IN FOCUS

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TWIN VALLEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE

Winter 2015

## Focus on Mission, Core Values and Commitment Statement



**Veronica Lofton**  
TVBH CEO

As 2015 begins we need to take time to reflect on the many accomplishments of 2014. We often think about the number of admissions, discharges and assessments as a measure of work performed. However in addition, this past year we hired 85 new staff members, restarted our census meetings with the Franklin County ADAMHS Board, implemented the DAWN Kit, established telemedicine with the non-Franklin County providers, continued the promotion of Trauma Informed Care and welcomed the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) to document the Forensic Services at TVBH. In September we began our process for a strategic plan by developing a Mission, Core Values and Commitment Statement with input from all levels of staff and other stakeholders. A Mission is needed to direct TVBH's purpose and to provide a pathway towards our strategic plan goals. Thanks to feedback from staff the Mission, Core Values and Commitment Statements are:

❁ ❁ ❁  
**Mission Statement**  
*Promote healing in a behavioral healthcare environment built on hope, respect and compassion.*



### CORE VALUES

**Hope**– An optimism that our patients have the ability to overcome the challenges they face  
**Respect**– An appreciation for the diverse perspectives and backgrounds of our patients and staff  
**Compassion**– The desire to understand the suffering of others and to respond with caring and kindness

### COMMITMENTS

- Assure access to our services for all who need them
- Support recovery in a safe therapeutic environment
- Enrich lives through effective individualized care
- Partner with community agencies to foster sustained recovery

We have now turned our efforts towards identifying our Strategic Plan Priorities to ensure that TVBH fulfills its Mission. Three priorities have been identified and will be shared in more detail with all staff in a variety of forums.

- Develop a community of respectful engagement
- Promote community collaboration to optimize resource use
- Establish a learning community for patients and staff

A number of forums are taking place to identify the staff that will be the leads on each of these priorities and the team members to move TVBH towards accomplishing the priorities. We will announce the leads in a future e-News and I encourage any member of TVBH that has interest in participating to contact the Priority Team Lead.

As we move forward into 2015 you will hear more about the need for TVBH to be a community where we are a leader in patient centered innovative treatment, trauma informed care and safety.

Respectfully,

Veronica Lofton, Chief Executive Officer

## Reaching Safety Together 2015 Update

Reaching Safety Together is Twin Valley's approach to building several evidence-based practices into the cultural fabric of our hospital. These practices include the Recovery Model, Integrated Dual Diagnosis Treatment and perhaps most notably, Trauma Informed Care. By working thoughtfully and strategically to build this integrated model, we have set a course to embody a culture of compassionate professional care that makes the environment as safe as it can be for patients and staff.

As was introduced in the last *Focus* issue, five strategic goals formed the body of work related to Reaching Safety Together during 2014. Significant progress was made in each area and is highlighted below.

### Goal 1: Establish an RST-informed Disciplinary Process

**Progress:** Several meetings were held with TVBH and OhioMHAS leadership to explore improvement opportunities. Active involvement and participation from TVBH human resources and department heads has re-established supervisory counseling as a useful tool in addressing concerns where appropriate. TVBH human resources has also conducted training for supervisors on proper disciplinary investigation procedures.

*Reaching Safety Together 2015 Update continued on page 3.*

## New Faces & Leadership Appointments

### The Adjunctive Therapy Department Welcomes



**Lesley Holub**, MA, CTRS

joined the Adjunctive Therapy department in October 2014 as a Treatment Team Lead on the Acute Care/K7 Unit. Lesley received her Bachelor of Science in Recreational Therapy and her Master of Arts in Recreation Administration from The University of Toledo and is a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Therapist (CTRS.) Lesley has several years of experience working with the inpatient psychiatric population through Mercy Hospitals in Toledo prior to coming to Twin Valley. Welcome Leslie!



**Zach Sherman**, CTRS

joined the Adjunctive Therapy department in October 2014. Zach is assigned as primary therapist on the K3 Unit and will be providing recreation therapy services. Zach received his Bachelor of Science degree in Recreational Therapy from the University of Toledo and is a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS.) Zach completed his internship at The Ohio State University Harding Hospital for Behavioral Health and was hired upon completion. He brings to his position experience working with acute care patients ranging from child, adolescents and adults. Zach enjoys working in the field of mental health and facilitating new and creative ways to assist others in recovery.

### The Health & Information Management (HIM) Department



**Margaret Hennings**,  
MBA, RHIA

In October 2014, TVBH welcomed **Margaret Hennings**, MBA, RHIA as Director of Health Information Management. Margaret brings over twenty-five years of experience in the health information management field to her current position. Margaret earned her Master's in Business Administration from Northwood University's DeVoss Graduate School, Lansing, MI and is a Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA.) Margaret is a member of the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) and volunteers for the Privacy and Security Practice Council and the Consumer Engagement Practice Council. She has co-authored articles for the Journal of AHIMA as part of her volunteer work.

## Featured Department—Environmental Services

Our dedicated Environmental Services staff couldn't be more important to our hospital and we would like to recognize them for their high standards in caring for our hospital's physical environment. As part of their mission, Environmental Services strives to provide prompt responsive and proficient services to ensure a clean, comfortable, safe, therapeutic environment for clients, staff, and others on a continual twenty-four hour seven day a week basis. Services include daily sanitation of all areas of the hospital, provide clean linen, removal of soiled linen, removal of all trash and recyclables, providing cleaning supplies, floor care and maintenance of all hard surfaces and carpeting. Staff also responds to emergency requests as needed for additional cleaning and disinfection.

There are twenty-one members (nine are contracted through VGS) in the Environmental Service department of which two are supervisors. Jeffrey Messer is the Environmental Services Director and oversees the daily operations and supervision of the housekeeping staff. Our Moritz housekeepers are responsible for the whole complex Monday through Friday and include: Joe Kovacs, Unit A; Diana Hudson, Unit B; Ben Boyd, Unit C; and Shelly Robinson, Unit D. Our Kosar housekeepers include: Mike Evans, K2; Brandon Gordon, K3; Shinell Jeter, K4; Lewis Fox, K6; Marcus Sterling, K8 and Scott Dickerson, K9. The VGS staff include: Gerald Miller, Supervisor; Dusty Boggess, Crew Leader/Worker; Courtney Birdsong, Crew Leader/Worker; Mark Tolliver, Clinic; Robert Boyd, Northwing; Deione Golden, Administration; Jason Harlow, K5 and Mallway; Annabell Shippy, Linen; and David Ball, Weekends. Our VGS contract crew takes care of the hospital on the weekend and holidays with a crew of four. During the week, the VGS housekeepers clean additional areas in our Kosar facility. Congratulations and appreciations are extended to the Environmental Services staff for their outstanding service in providing a clean and therapeutic environment for the TVBH community.



Seated (left to right): **Scott Dickerson**, **Lewis Fox**, **Joe Kovacs**, **Jeffrey Messer**, **Mike Evans**, and **Mark Tolliver**. Standing (left to right): **Dusty Boggess**, **Annabell Shippy**, **Gerald Miller**, **Shelly Robinson**, **Marcus Sterling**, and **Brandon Gordon**.

### The Human Resource Department Welcomes



**Ed Flynn**

**Ed Flynn** started in July as the Labor Relations Officer. Ed received his bachelor degree from Franklin University and was formerly employed with Ohio Department of Transportation (20 years), Public Safety (6 years) and Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (interned 1.5 years.) Welcome Ed!

Twin Valley extends a warm welcome to our newly hired staff: **Erum Qayum**, Physician Specialist; **Frank Ward**, TPW; **Roseland Williams**, Telephone Operator; **Harriet**

**Wisseh**, TPW; **Ashley Hudyk**, Psych/MR Nurse; **Angela Cooper**, Psych/MR Nurse; **Krystal Da Silva**, PAT; **Admire Sankoh**, PSYCH/MR Nurse; **Bryan Dartak**, Maintenance Repair; **Derek Watts**, TPW; **Brandon Gordon**, Custodial Worker; **Brittany Jeter**, TPW; **Sarah Myers**, Psych/MR Nurse; **Lisa Stevens**, TPW; **Brandon Harris**, TPW; **Christian Dummermuth**, PAT; **Lauren Hines**, TPW; **Timothy Linard**, TPW; **Joseph Toukan**, Psych/MR Nurse; **Coral Cogar**, TPW; **Mariela Ruiz**, Psych/MR Nurse; **Tekya Woods**, Police Officer; **Shadira Davis**, TPW; **Adisa Amadu**, PAT; **George Coasta**, TPW; **Denise Colbert**, PAT; **John Hitchcock**, Air Quality Tech; **Eboni Jackson**, TPW; **Laurette Massey**, TPW; and **Timothy Neloms**, PAT.

Reaching Safety Together 2015 Update continued from page 1.

## Goal 2: Create a system for values based staff recognition

**Progress:** Multiple staff appreciation/recognition events have been held, including a staff cookout over the summer and staff service time recognition ceremony in the fall. Work continues to identify processes that support additional means of values-based individual and team recognition.

## Goal 3: Support injured or affected staff in their physical and mental needs

**Progress:** A revised process and checklist for use after a staff injury is currently in the pilot stage. The revised process provides improved coordination and information flow to support the injured employee both immediately following the injury as well as when the employee returns to work.

## Goal 4: Incorporate RST into the TVBH culture utilizing staff, peers and patients

**Progress:** A new Trauma Informed Care training that is targeted towards all staff is nearing completion and will be rolled out soon. This training builds on successful curricula adapted from materials provided by SAMHSA and national trauma informed care training initiatives.

## Goal 5: Develop coping toolkits for lifelong recovery

**Progress:** A toolkit of materials geared towards patients' recovery needs has been completed and is ready to be piloted. This packet of materials can be used by multiple disciplines to support patients in any stage of recovery.

Looking forward, Reaching Safety Together at TVBH will continue to evolve. As we finalize our strategic plan in the coming months, these concepts will be embedded throughout. Much of the current work will continue, along with new goals and objectives that further advance our safety culture. As we evolve, the connecting concepts of trust, hope, respect, engagement, empowerment and a focus on everyone's individual strengths will remain at the core of this important effort.



**Dr. Joliot, PhD**

**Dr. Joliot, PhD** joined the Psychology-SAMI Behavior Therapy department in November 2014 and is assigned to the K2 Unit. She transferred from ODRC - ORW where she worked for ten years with incarcerated women. Prior to her state employment she worked in private practice and completed her post-doctorate at the Juvenile Court in Dayton. Dr. Joliot graduated from The Union Institute with her doctorate in clinical psychology and has a Master's degree in Labor Management/Human Resources from The Ohio State University. She is fluent in Spanish, French and Portuguese.

## The Psychology-SAMI Behavior Therapy Department Welcomes

New Faces & Leadership Appointments continued from page 2.

### Medical Department Welcomes

**Carlos Andarsio, MD** relocating from Seattle to be closer to family, joined TVBH in October 2014. Dr. Andarsio graduated from the American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine with a Doctor of Medicine and honors in Internal Medicine, Cardiology, Cardiac Intensive Care, Neurology, and Clinical Neurology in 1988. From July 1989 - June 1991, he was a Psychiatric Resident, PGY-II at MSU/Fairlawn Center, Pontiac, MI, and PGY-III, at Wayne State University/Fairlawn Center, Pontiac, MI; from July 1991- June 1992, he was a Psychiatric Resident, PGY-IV, Wayne State University/Sinai Hospital, Detroit, MI. He is board certified in Psychiatry and Neurology. Over the years, Dr. Andarsio served in many roles in Arizona and Washington, but most recently, he comes to us from NAVOS in Seattle, WA, where he was Chief Medical Officer. Dr. Andarsio is currently assigned to the K6 Unit. Please join us in welcoming him to TVBH.



**Kristi Maroni, MD**

**Kristi Maroni, MD** joined TVBH in December 2014. Dr. Maroni returned to Columbus where she did her residency at The Ohio State University and was Chief Resident 2009 - 2010. She was also a Chief Fellow 2010 - 2011 at Nationwide Children's Hospital. Her graduate degree was earned from St. Matthews University School of Medicine in Grand Cayman, BWI. Her undergraduate was completed at the Nazareth College of Rochester in Rochester, NY. She is board eligible in General Psychiatry and in Child/Adolescent Psychiatry. She comes to us from CaroMont Regional Medical Center in Gastonia, NC, where she was Director of Child/Adolescent Psychiatry, but was in private practice in general psychiatry at the Columbus Psychological Center in Dublin, Ohio, from March 2010-June 2012. During that time, she also contracted with MedCentral in Mansfield, OH. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Maroni to TVBH where she is a unit psychiatrist on K-7.

### The Department of Nursing Welcomes



**Gwen Janeczek, BSN**  
Assistant Director of Nursing

Nursing Management welcomes **Gwen Janeczek, BSN** to serve as TVBH's new Assistant Director of Nursing. Gwen brings with her twenty-eight years of management experience, twelve of which are related to psychiatric and mental health inpatient care of adults and adolescents, the other years related to medical surgical, cardiovascular and public health services. Welcome Gwen!



**Dr. Janice Vidic, PhD**

**Dr. Janice Vidic, PhD** joined the Psychology-SAMI Behavior Therapy department in January 2015 and is currently assigned to the K3 Unit. Dr. Vidic received a PhD in developmental psychology from the University of Toledo. She was a tenured psychology professor at the University of Rio Grande until 2014. While at URG, she specialized in clinical psychology through Fielding Graduate University and became a licensed psychologist. Before licensure, she trained under Dr. Stinson and Dr. Gordish at TVBH. She worked full-time as a psychologist in a residential treatment unit of ODRC prior to returning to TVBH. Welcome back Dr. Vidic!

New Faces & Leadership Appointments continued on page 7.

## The Adjunctive Therapy Holiday Show 2014 "A Christmas Dilemma"



Adjunctive Therapists enjoying the festive town setting after the show!  
Left to right: **Brandon Mace**, MT-BC; **Amy Wysocki**, MA, ATR-BC, **Chrissy Havach**, MA, CTRS; **Katy Capestrani**, MT-BC; **Laura Clevenger**, MA, ATR-BC, LSW; **Janetta Graves**, MA, ATR-BC; **Laura Hauser**, MT-BC, **Lindsey Holmes**, MT-BC; **Nicole Dadey**, Music Therapy Intern; **Lesley Holub**, MA, CTRS (standing); **Lois Vanfossen**, MA, ATR-BC; **Heidi Wagner**, MA, ATR-BC, LSW; **Isaac Jefferson**, AT; and **Zach Sherman**, CTRS.

*The Adjunctive Therapy Department would like to thank the following departments and individuals for their help in making the Holiday Show a success.*

TVBH Maintenance Department	Kimsue English – Maintenance Department
TVBH Staff Choir	Dave Keck – Education Department
TVBH Volunteer Services Department	Roberta Moore – QA-PI
Aaron Bush – Inventory Control	Randy Thomas – Maintenance Department

Patients and staff came together on December 18th for the Adjunctive Therapy department's annual holiday show titled *A Christmas Dilemma* – a performance infused with music, drama and art. After the crowd was welcomed with some tunes performed by the CSN band Trial and Error, the performance began with the Kosar patient and staff choirs cast as community carolers. They sang traditional holiday songs as well as modern favorites such as Faith Hill's *Where are you Christmas*. Instrumental and choral renditions of Sara Bareilles' achingly beautiful song *Love is Christmas* could be heard throughout the show, punctuating the drama club's depiction of a man initially sad and disconnected from the hustle and bustle around him. With nothing to lose, the main character joins his enthusiastic neighbor on a walk through town where he experiences a series of mishaps amidst acts of kindness and generosity. By the time the unlikely duo arrive at a local grocery store, the protagonist has opened his heart and mind to an entirely new perspective, hopeful and gracious. He and his friend are able to savor the joyful sounds expressed by Serendipity, the Kosar band. Posing as a Salvation Army band, Serendipity enlivened the crowd with some rocking renditions of *Run Run Rudolph* and *Jingle Bell Rock*. The main character and his traveling companion then proceeded to the community center where they joined new friends made along the way for food, fellowship, and laughter. Instilled with a sense of possibility, the main character's transformation was apparent as he celebrated along with the carolers who joined together in song just outside the community center.

The show's themes of transformation and joining together echoed the efforts of those preparing for the show, as the behind the scenes process has become increasingly collaborative over the years. Work on the show began in September when forensic patients discussed personal holiday traditions and memories. Sharing stories both delightful and poignant, they spoke candidly about everything from favorite family meals and songs to the challenge of figuring out what to do on a holiday when family are not near, when money is tight, or when one does not share the same traditions of those around them. Patients contributed their stories to what became the outline

for this year's script. Participants in the patient choir and the band then met weekly to learn music and coordinate their sound. Meanwhile, set design groups on the forensic units worked non-stop to create elements of a small town. Later, patients from all four acute units joined the project by creating additional storefronts. Awesomely decorated, the window displays dazzled all those who attended this year's one of a kind performance.

— Laura Clevenger, MA, ATR-BC, LSW



The K4 and K3 Creative Expressions group created the Alpine Ski Shop window display - featuring a snowman skiing through glistening snow amidst floating paper snowballs and snowflakes! A String Art Balloon technique resulted in large lacy "snowballs" used to create the snowman.

*"Awesomely decorated, the window displays dazzled all those who attended this year's one of a kind performance."*



*The Adjunctive Therapy Holiday Show 2014 "A Christmas Dilemma" continued from page 4.*



Several K6 patients put in significant time and hard work over the course of weeks in creating the delicious displays for the Sweet Shoppe. All the items from the pastries to gingerbread house were handmade with care.



The 7th Street Toy Store came out of a discussion of favorite Holiday memories. Some talked about the excitement of Christmas morning and finding the presents around the tree, and others expressed how they had to grow-up so fast and didn't really get a childhood. K7 elves (left to right) **Lesley Holub**, MA, CTRS; and **Heidi Wagner**, MAT, ATR-BC, LSW.



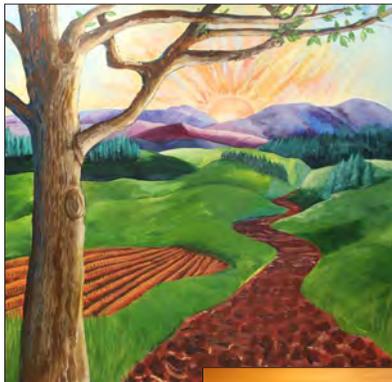
The K8 patients enjoyed creating a symphony of colors and instruments for the K-8th notes music store.



Patients from K9 discussed their favorite books and the importance of reading as a leisure skill. Many patients helped construct the "Chapter 9 Bookstore" by adding an artistic interpretation of their favorite book to the shelf. Shown in photo is the K9 music therapist **Brandon Mace**, MT-BC.

## The Kosar Mural Project

Facilitated by the members of the Adjunctive Therapy Department's Mural Committee, the Kosar Mural Project began in early 2014. After the design was chosen, it was introduced to a group of dedicated and talented artists from both acute and forensic units. Even though these



artists understood that their work could be changed or covered up, it was often a surprise when one would come back several days later and see a different picture. Nonetheless with compromise and respect all participants reached a satisfying end, each growing both artistically and personally. The next mural painting will commence in February.

Mural Committee members (left to right) **Janetta Jones**, MA, ATR-BC; **Amy Wysocki**, MA, ATR-BC; **Lois Vanfossen**, MA, ATR-BC; **Heidi Wagner**, MA, ATR-BC, LSW; **Kevin Cardoso**, MT-BC; **Chrissy Havach**, MA, CTRS; and **Laura Clevenger**, MA, ATR-BC, LSW.



## Volunteer Services 2014 Holiday Program

The Volunteer Services department extends a heartfelt thank you to our many contributors and volunteers for making this year's holiday program a huge success. The support of the central Ohio community is vital in our ability to provide not only personalized gifts but to offer a holiday program that is meaningful and engaging for the patients and clients in our care. This year we held eleven holiday events and filled over 370 wish lists with name brand gift items. The events included holiday dinners, deejay celebrations, hot chocolate and cookie receptions and unit parties. Each wrapped gift includes three items selected by the recipient. It is through the generosity and ongoing support of our community that we are able to provide such a individualized offering. A special thank you to the AEC, Adjunctive Therapy department, Corrections department, Maintenance department, Nursing department, Protective Services, our Switchboard Operators and the many staff members whose assistance with the 2014 Holiday Program made the holidays a little brighter for the patients and clients of TVBH!

— Maureen Fahy, Volunteer Program Administrator

*Gift items and monetary donations were provided from our Remembered Patient Program Sponsors:*

- |                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Beverly Holmes            | Betty Nye           |
| Cindy McCracken           | Ohio Tops Club #629 |
| Patty McLoughlin          | Elaine Overholt     |
| Steve and Judi McLoughlin | Marti Powers        |
| Rosetta Mertz             | Jeanne Teele        |

*Volunteer Services 2014 Holiday Program continued on page 6.*

Volunteer Services 2014 Holiday Program continued from page 5.



**Brandi Rubel, MA, LPC** and **Maggie Hallett, EdS, LPC** of Mental Health America of Franklin County presents **Maureen Fahy** (center) with their 2014 Holiday Magic monetary and gift collection.

*Wish lists and gift items were generously contributed by:*

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Daughters of Scotland                    | Patti McLoughlin          |
| Knights of Columbus Council #4603        | Steve and Judi McLoughlin |
| Mental Health America of Franklin County | Roberta Moore             |
| Pilot Club of Columbus                   | Jamie Nichols             |
| NAMI of Franklin County                  | Connie Nightwine          |
| Northland Kiwanis Club                   | Marti Powers              |
| St. Margaret of Cortona Church           | Jan Rond                  |
| TVBH AEC                                 | Ingrid Silvian            |
| TVBH Payroll Department                  | Melinda Simonds           |
| Jenny Campbell- Roux                     | Laura Theilbar            |
| Katie Feick                              | Aynn Titchenal            |
| Jennifer Kuhlwein                        | Diane Tomlinson           |
| Mariam and Martin Linsey                 | Sharon Todd               |
| Lisa Masters                             | Sally Weimer              |
| Cindy McCracken                          | Susan Williams            |
| Marcia McKeen                            |                           |

*Organizations/individuals who generously contributed monetary donations were:*

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Daughters of Scotland                    | Kathy Jenkins               |
| Mental Health America of Franklin County | Maisha Jones                |
| Millennium Pilot Club                    | Diane Kelley                |
| NAMI of Franklin County                  | Dave and Ruth Kirkland      |
| Mary and Al Acierno                      | Valerie Liggins             |
| Daniel Ansel                             | Lisa Lubkeman-Smith         |
| Craig Auge                               | Cynthia McCracken           |
| Jeanne Bonomo                            | Steve and Judi McLoughlin   |
| Gary Carter                              | Nancy and Michael Moore     |
| Bonnavera Carr                           | Renee O'Carroll             |
| Janet Caster                             | Sharon Parker               |
| Lisa and Thomas Courtice                 | Yvonne Patterson            |
| Marlo Cain                               | Tonia Peterson              |
| Angela Cain Crawford                     | Jane Rousculp               |
| Charles and Judy Cupp                    | Brenda Russell              |
| Mildred Cushman                          | James and Margie Sanfillipo |
| Shelley Davis                            | Dave Schoettmer             |
| Maureen Delphia and Steve Mellor         | Ann Seren                   |
| Benny and Deborah Eisenstein             | Ingrid L. Silvian           |
| Katie Feick                              | Shirley Sowards             |
| Pat Fulakis                              | Adrienne Stanley            |
| Karen and Larry Fournier                 | Dawn Stanley                |
| Judy Frye                                | Rita and Steve Starr        |
| Kristen Herrmann                         | Michelle Vinglas            |
| Betty Hersch                             | Diane Weaver                |
| John and Nancy Howison                   | Sally Weimer                |
| Steven and Pauline Jacobs                | Mary Wells                  |
| Jeff and Helen Hill                      | Toya White                  |



**Holly Swanagin** and **Bill Cline** with Volunteer Service Council members **Patti Mettle** and **Michel Coconis** assembled the trays of cookies and fruit packages for each unit.

Below: **Lucetta Holbert, Louise Reeds**, Council member **Roshawnda Briggs, Ava Briggs** and **Connie Briggs** helped gift wrap the many presents distributed on December 25th!



**Holiday Magic Program**  
 Thank you Mental Health America of Franklin County, who through their Holiday Magic program, collected individual monetary donations and individual gift items valued at \$1,390.

**Holiday Hope**  
 Our friends at NAMI of Franklin County, through their Holiday Hope program, collected individual monetary donations and gift items valued at \$404. Thank you!

**Holiday Cookie Donations**  
 This year, we collected close to 100 dozen cookies from caring individuals, families and organizations. Thank you for providing a wonderful variety of traditional holiday cookies as well as incorporating healthier ingredients when possible.

## Culturally Speaking

As its theme for the final calendar quarter of 2014, the Cultural Competency Council selected "The Human-Animal Connection: Building a Culture of Compassion." This was a stellar choice.

Mindful of the recent introduction of Pet Therapy to TVBH we noted that every autumn, there are special occasions highlighting the importance of being humane stewards for the non-human lives that inhabit this planet. The Feast Day of St. Francis honors the kindly Patron Saint of the Animals; the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, celebrates the Birthday of the World and all of Creation; World Animal Day, commemorated in a growing list of countries pays tribute to non-human animals everywhere; and the birthday of Mohandas Gandhi, famous ethical vegetarian and proponent of non-violence, also graces the calendar. This seemed the perfect time for us to convey the viewpoint that cruelty, neglect, and indifference toward animals can easily metastasize into savagery and apathy toward our fellow human beings; conversely, we posited the notion that a caring, sympathetic attitude toward other people can be developed and enhanced by actively exercising compassion for those beasts who speak to us in a language different from our own.

As always, the TVBH staff rose to the challenge in a variety of ways. Music groups considered melodies and lyrics that were inspired by the animal kingdom; art groups undertook projects that depicted animals in remarkably diverse visual styles; chapel services focused on Scriptural passages that advocate kindness to animals and on the animal imagery that enriches both the Psalms and the Proverbs; and a board in the Employee Break Room was designated for photos of staff members and their pets. Two pertinent documentary films ("Buck" and "The Parrots of Telegraph Hill") will be screened in the coming weeks. All

*Culturally Speaking continued on page 8.*

*Volunteer Services 2014 Holiday Program continued from page 6.*

*Thank you to the groups who contributed to the numerous holiday celebrations held throughout the holidays. The facility wide parties, CSN dinners, unit parties and patient receptions were sponsored and/or assisted by the following volunteers.*

The Diosa Club  
The Holiday Project People  
Immaculate Conception Church Women's Club  
Parkview United Methodist Church  
St. Philip Lutheran Church  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
Telecom Pioneers – John D. Burlie Club  
The West Columbus Civitan Club  
The Volunteer Service Council of TVBH

*Leading up to the holidays and throughout the month of December, the following groups and individuals helped with the shopping, sorting of gift items and gift wrapping of 380 gift packages.*

ADAMH CFAC	Bill Cline	Joanne Krimm
Home Depot	Michel Coconis	Marty & Miriam Linsey
Elizabeth Aino	Mary Fahy	Cathy Llana
Maggie Beggs	Patrick Fahy	Megan Lonsdale
Abby Blahnik	Katie Feick	Heidi Mallory
Amy Bradshaw	Mandy Gillespie	Patti Mettle
Ava Briggs	Kristen Herrmann	Louise Reed
Connie Briggs	Vivian Hodges	Holly Swanagin
Roshawnda Briggs	Lucetta Holbert	

*New Faces & Leadership Appointments continued from page 3.*

### The Social Work Department Welcomes

**Dr. Aracelis Rivera** is a clinical and forensic psychologist. Before pursuing her doctorate studies in psychology, she worked as a social worker and maintains her Licensed Independent Social Worker-Supervisor licensure. She also works as a psychological consultant for Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities and as an independent forensic examiner at the Netcare Forensic Center. Dr. Rivera is a past president of the Central Ohio Psychological Association and a member of the clinical faculty at Wright State University School of Professional Psychology. She joined the TVBH Psychology-SAMI Behavior Therapy department in September 2014 and works across all units focusing on forensic evaluations and court reports.



**Holli Hawk**, LISW

**Holli Hawk**, LISW joined the Social Work department in November 2014. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Oklahoma City University in Psychology and her Masters of Social Work from California State University, Sacramento. Holli's experience includes case management within the child welfare system, outpatient mental health, and intensive community based mental health/AOD. Holli is assigned as a float on the Acute Care K6/K7 Units.



**Melissa Lester**, MSW, LSW

**Melissa Lester**, MSW, LSW the TVBH Social Work department in December 2014. Melissa earned her Bachelors of Arts in Sociology and Masters of Science in Social Work both from The Ohio State University. Melissa completed her MSW II field placement at Twin Valley Behavioral Healthcare, and prior to TVBH she interned at North Central Ohio Rehabilitation Center (NCORC). Ms. Lester is assigned to Acute Care as a float social worker on K8 and K9 Units.



**Ty Stoffer**, MSW, LSW

**Ty Stoffer**, MSW, LSW joined the Social Work department in June 2014. Ty received both his Bachelor of Science and Masters of Social Work from The Ohio State University. Ty has worked with our population in many different capacities. Ty began at TVBH as an undergrad volunteer. Upon graduation from his bachelors program, Ty was employed as a Therapeutic Program Worker (TPW). During his MSW program, Ty did his second year internship here at TVBH. Mr. Stoffer is assigned to Acute Care/K7 Unit.



**Michael Wenthe**, MSW, LSW

**Michael Wenthe**, MSW, LSW recently transferred to TVBH from the Community Linkage Program at Central Office where he worked to link inmates living with severe and persistent mental illnesses to resources throughout the state. Michael receives both his Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Social Work degrees from The Ohio State University. He has previously worked as a Crisis Clinician at Netcare and Vocational Coordinator for disabled patients at Greeleaf Job Training Services. Michael joined the Social Work department in September 2014. Michael is assigned to the K8 Unit. Welcome Michael!

*Culturally Speaking continued from page 7.*

these endeavors supported our effort to study the manner in which the human-animal connection can help to promote a culture of compassion in our hospital community.



*Representatives from the Columbus Zoo presented on animals from different regions and their habitats.*

Clearly, the highlight of the Council's quarterly programming was the November visit of several wildlife ambassadors and their three caretakers from the Columbus Zoo. The TVBH gym was filled with patients and staff who were treated to close encounters with a penguin, a kangaroo, a palm civet, an armadillo, a cougar cub, a lynx, and a leopard tortoise. The Zoo spokesperson was knowledgeable and informative, and the handlers were patient and professional. The event was well received, and many employees and patients eagerly expressed their hope that we would sponsor the program again next year.

Like many of you, I admire the breathtaking array of non-human animal species for their power, grace, speed, intelligence,

and ingenious adaptations to their surroundings – wonderful skillsets that serve them well as they strive to perpetuate their kind. I often envy them for their simplicity, focus, clarity, and confident sense of belonging in this complicated world. It's fair to say that I love them as neighbors and forgotten kin who share space and time with us. Animals embody nations and cultures of their own. For me, all that has drawn breath is one Creation.

*Albert Einstein observed that  
"Our task must be to free ourselves by widening our  
circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures  
and the whole of nature and its beauty."*

Many famous leaders have had the sensitivity and insight to realize the need for civilization to develop an expanded ethical awareness about the value of ALL life on this earth. Gandhi, mentioned earlier, is quoted as saying that "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." The Dalai Lama reminds us that life is dear to ALL creatures, and that just as we want happiness and fulfillment, fear pain, seek life and not death, so do they. Albert Einstein observed that "Our task must be to free ourselves by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty."

My view is that kindness and affection don't require genius; what they do demand is a partnership between head and heart, an alliance between mind and spirit that will make compassion, sympathy, and sense second nature for us all.

— Chaplain Jack Schwarz