

Four-Legged Happiness

HABIT volunteers offer pet visitation to patients

Fort Sanders Regional's family of volunteers possess a wide range of talents and experience. Whether they are greeting visitors, escorting patients, comforting a family in time of need or helping in the gift shop, our volunteers are known for their devotion to others.

While each of our volunteers is different from the next, one particular group stands out. These volunteers have wagging tails, wet noses and furry paws, and their job is to provide animal-assisted therapy to our patients. Fort Sanders Regional works with with HABIT (Human-Animal Bond in Tennessee) to provide pet visitation to several departments in the hospital. HABIT pets and their owners bring joy to patients and their families while undergoing treatment.

"Our HABIT volunteers and their pets make so many of our patients happy during what is often a difficult time in their life. Something as simple as petting an animal can make a big impact on a patient's day," said Paula Minhinnett, manager of volunteer services.

Eleven dogs and one cat visit Fort Sanders Regional on a regular basis, and we are happy to introduce you to a few of our most-loved four-legged volunteers and their owners.

years and have volunteered with Annie for three years.

3. What do you enjoy most about volunteering with your pet?

The joy Annie brings to everyone she meets and all the people I have the opportunity to meet as well.

4. Can you share something special about your dog?

People often recognize her as the type of dog Presidents Roosevelt and Bush had. Annie knows how to "turn on the charm" when she meets patients.



Elaine Rhodes and Fancy

1. What is your dog's name and what breed is she?

Fancy is a pug.

2. How long have you volunteered at Fort Sanders Regional?

I have volunteered with Fancy for three years.

3. What do you enjoy most about volunteering with your pet?

I love watching the patients react to Fancy. They are always so happy to see her.

4. Can you share something special about your dog?

Fancy rules our home. She is the "Queen Bee" at the Rhodes home.



Vicky Anderson and Annie

1. What is your dog's name and what breed is she?

Annie is a Scottish terrier.

2. How long have you volunteered at Fort Sanders Regional?

I have served as a liaison between HABIT and Fort Sanders Regional for 10



Tom Mullin and Gracie

1. What is your dog's name and what breed is she?

Gracie is a golden retriever.

2. How long have you volunteered at Fort Sanders Regional?

I have volunteered with Gracie for two years.

3. What do you enjoy most about volunteering with your pet?

I enjoy seeing the joy in the eyes of patients and staff members when Gracie is around.

4. Can you share something special about your dog?

Gracie is meant to do this work.

Daisy Mae is a golden-doodle.

2. How long have you volunteered at Fort Sanders Regional?

I have volunteered with Daisy Mae for six years.

3. What do you enjoy most about volunteering with your pet?

I enjoy the sincere pleasure Daisy Mae brings to the patients, patient's family and staff. Daisy Mae enjoys it too!

4. Can you share something special about your dog?

Daisy Mae can be a dog - play hard, swim in the lake, bark, run and jump. However, when I put on her harness and name badge - she goes into therapy mode. All the rough and rugged dog stuff shuts off and she focuses on the people. I love that about her.



Shawn Boles and Bear

1. What is your dog's name and what breed of dog is she?

Bear is a standard poodle.

2. How long have you volunteered at Fort Sanders Regional?

I have volunteered with Bear for two years.

3. What do you enjoy most about volunteering with your pet?

I enjoy seeing the patients smile and enjoy some puppy-loving.

4. Can you share something special about your dog?

Bear has the uncanny ability to know what each patient, family member or staff member seems to need.



In memory of
OLIVER
2016-2019

Owner:
Deanna Richeson

*Always
in our
Hearts*

Volunteer opportunities abound at FSRMC



From musicians to knitters, pets to pastors, and receptionists to former patients, Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center has many volunteers with caring hearts and a wide range of talents and experience.

If you would like to offer your talents and time to help others, check out the many volunteer opportunities listed below:

Ask Me: This program stations volunteers throughout the hospital to direct and escort visitors to the right place. "Everybody who comes into the building needs help getting where they are going. You actually see all of the worry drain from people's faces because they are so grateful for someone to help them," said Paula Minhinnett, manager of volunteer services.

Auxiliary: Volunteers assist with duties in a number of places, including the surgery lounge, front desks, gift shop and administration.

Fellowship Center: Volunteers assist guests of the Fellowship Center, Fort Sanders Regional's hospitality house for patients and families from outside the region.

Heartstrings: This volunteer musical group provides music therapy and entertains patients and visitors each month.

HABIT (Human Animal Bond in Tennessee): HABIT volunteers and their pets provide animal-assisted therapy.

NODA (No One Dies Alone): Volunteers act as compassionate companions to patients in their last moments of life.

PEER: Former stroke, spinal cord and brain injury patients mentor and encourage current patients about life after their illness. This role includes reading to patients, assisting with letter writing, or simply providing conversation and friendly company.

PEER Bariatric: Former bariatric patients mentor and encourage current bariatric patients to live a healthy lifestyle.

Stephen Ministry: Stephen ministers are lay ministers trained to provide spiritual support to patients and caregivers.

Student Volunteers: Student volunteers (18 and older) share their special gifts and energy with hospital patients and staff.

Thompson Cancer Survival Center (TCSC): Cancer survivors mentor and assist current cancer patients. These volunteers also assemble baskets for each new chemo patient.

Interested in becoming a volunteer? For more information about opportunities at Fort Sanders Regional, contact the Fort Sanders Volunteer Auxiliary at (865) 331-1249 or click the "Apply Online" link at fsregional.com/volunteers.



To ALL of Our Volunteers: Thank You!

For more than 50 years, members of the Fort Sanders Regional Volunteer Auxiliary have helped support the mission of Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center.

Want to learn more about volunteering at Fort Sanders Regional?

Call (865) 331-1249 or go to fsregional.com/volunteers.