

East Dallas Times

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[Doctors Hospital Fetes Volunteers](#)

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Doctors Hospital CEO Scott Manis lunches with volunteer Carmen Banks. — Courtesy Photo

Special Contributor

Patients in need of a wheelchair at Doctors Hospital at White Rock Lake might thank volunteer Hal Davenport for ensuring that they have one when they need it regardless of the floor or time of day.

He created a plan to ensure that each floor of the hospital has the wheelchairs it needs for patients.

The veteran volunteer at the hospital created a proposal to guarantee there are always sufficient wheelchairs available on each floor. While it wasn't Davenport's idea that was ultimately implemented at Doctors Hospital, his desire to solve the problem of wheelchair availability sparked the idea to find a solution.

More than 150 people volunteer at Doctors Hospital. In addition to coming up with innovative ideas for hospital operations, these volunteers dedicate themselves to assisting with patient care and administrative

tasks. In 2009, those volunteers logged 21,568 hours of time across the hospital's departments.

The hospital put on its annual volunteer luncheon last week at The Point at C.C. Young to celebrate the commitment of its volunteers. Volunteers were given service pins to denote their hours of service completed.

"Our volunteers provide a tangible impact on the hospital and its patients," Doctors Hospital CEO Scott Manis said. "With their incredible responsiveness and selfless attitude, our volunteers provide an extra comfort to the people who work and receive care here."

Shirley Christensen began to volunteer with Doctors Hospital more than 40 years ago, the longest tenure of any of the volunteers recognized in 2010. Every Tuesday she volunteers in the recovery room.

"Volunteering at Doctors Hospital is just a part of my life," Christensen said. "The recovery room is a job [that] is very rewarding to me personally. I don't have the amazing number of hours that many people have reached, but I truly admire them. That's dedication."

LouAnne Smith, director of volunteers at the hospital, said the volunteers provide a valuable service in departments across the hospital, assisting with clerical support, pastoral care, and social visits.

"We have volunteers in 'high-touch' areas where we know people would benefit from talking and interacting," Smith said. "We make sure the service to patients and their families is as personal as possible."

Volunteers from the community take a vested interest in the success of the hospital. Over the past year, 24 people have joined the volunteer force.

If you are interested in volunteering with Doctors Hospital, call LouAnne Smith at 214-324-5497.

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