

AUXILIARY NEWS



From Our President



Dear Auxilians,

As we reflect on the past few months, I am filled with pride and gratitude for everything our Hospital Auxiliary has accomplished. Your energy, creativity, and dedication continue to make a meaningful impact on our hospital and the community we serve.

This spring was especially active and exciting! We hosted our popular Purse Bingo, which brought together a fantastic crowd and raised important funds - all while having a great time. We also partnered with the local law enforcement for Drug Take Back Day, helping to promote safety and wellness by properly disposing of unused medications. In addition, we held a successful Plant Sale just in time for Mother's Day, offering beautiful flowers and ferns while supporting our hospital mission.

I'm especially thrilled to highlight our brand-new signature fundraiser: The Derby. This inaugural event was a resounding success, blending fun, fashion, and philanthropy in the spirit of the Kentucky Derby. Thank you to all who attended, volunteered, and donated. The Derby is poised to become a beloved annual tradition, and we look forward to growing it even more in the years to come.

As always none of this would be possible without the commitment of our Auxiliary members. Your support allows us to continue our mission of enhancing patient care and strengthen the ties between our hospital and the community.

Warmest regards, Bethann Gamponia

Spring Workshop at Stonewall Resort



The winner of Mon Health's Gift Basket, Marsha Asher, from Cabell Huntington, Southern District Chair

The Mon Health Auxiliary Executive Board recently attended the WV Hospital Association Auxiliary meeting at Stonewall Resort. It was a great opportunity to connect with volunteers from across the state, share our successes, and bring home fresh ideas to support our mission.

Interested in getting involved at the state level? Email us at MHS.Auxiliary@VandaliaHealth.org — we'd love to hear from you!



Bethann, Aimee and Kim playing BINGO



The Derby

By: Sarah Loughry

The first weekend in May, and after only a few months of planning, the auxiliary proudly hosted our new signature event—The Derby. Committee Chair and auxiliary member, Sarah Loughry set out to create an event that is fun,

exciting, and different from anything our community has experienced. “Everyone thought we were crazy when we asked to order 3,000 sq.ft. of turf. And probably even crazier when we spent 3 hours rolling it out,” said Sarah with a laugh.

The idea of The Derby came from a meeting in early 2024. Knowing the auxiliary would no longer host the annual Ball of the Year after 2024, the committee was eager to create something new and, most importantly, host an event that everyone in the community could attend.

Auxiliary President, Bethann Gamponia, and Manager of Volunteer Services, Jacob Mulder, worked closely with Sarah to spearhead event planning, sponsorship acquisition, and marketing efforts all in the span of 3 short months. “Sarah,” Bethann proudly said, “did an excellent job leading, planning and executing her vision for The Derby. Our new signature event exceeded all expectations, it brought a fresh energy to our mission. The Derby was a real turning point for our future.”

The result was exactly what we’d hoped—a fun, exciting event that anyone can attend. Whether you’re a couple, a group of friends, or just want to come hang out solo, there is something for everyone.

The auxiliary is already in the early stages of planning next year’s Derby to make it bigger and better. Save the date now! May 2, 2026.



A Day at the Derby



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Spring Mother's Day Flower Sale Blooms with Success

Another successful year is in the books for our Spring Flower Sale! Even with Mother's Day arriving early — and many still recovering from the excitement of The Derby — the Mon Health Auxiliary sold over 300 plants in under 24 hours.

We're so grateful to the Fairmont State nursing students who helped unload the flowers, and to Mon Health's Housekeeping and Maintenance teams for their support.

The vibrant plants, supplied by Darrell Norris and Son Greenhouse, brought color, cheer, and maybe a few sneezes to staff, patients, and visitors.

This is one of our favorite and most successful fundraisers each year, and it's always more fun with extra hands.

Interested in helping next year or at upcoming events? Reach out to Chris Battin at MHS.Auxiliary@VandaliaHealth.org

And don't forget to check out our Volunteer Corner for other opportunities!



Our youngest volunteer Miles Mulder with Jacob Mulder
Manager of Volunteer Services



One of our Housekeepers
buying flowers for a patient



Drug Take Back Day

Mary Lew Boyce and Donna Pifer once again represented Mon Health during National Drug Take Back Day, collecting expired and unwanted medications at the Mon Health Medical Center main entrance. Additional drop-off locations were available at The Village at Heritage Point and Suncrest Kroger, helping make safe disposal accessible across the community. They were joined by Seth Figueroa of the Monongalia County Sheriff's Department, who ensured safe handling and transport of collected medications.

This spring, more than 620,000 pounds of medications were collected nationwide, according to the DEA website. Mon Health has proudly participated in this event for over five years, hosting collections twice annually; the fourth Saturday of April and October. "We're seeing more and more community members take advantage of this opportunity to safely dispose of medications," said Donna Pifer.

Why It Matters:

Proper disposal helps prevent accidental poisoning, drug misuse, and environmental contamination—and removes medications from homes before they can fall into the wrong hands.

2025 Junior Volunteer Scholarship

2025 Junior Volunteer Scholarship Winners

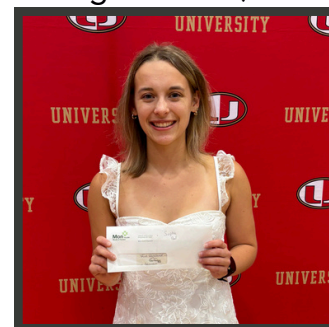
This year, the Auxiliary proudly awarded two \$2,000 Junior Volunteer Scholarships to outstanding students: Methag Abdalla from MHS, with a strong interest in neuroscience, and Sophia Bell from UHS, who plans to pursue medical school.

Methag earned the highest number of volunteer hours at Mon Health, while Sophia impressed with her community service, including work with the Girl Scouts. Denice Kirchoff, had the honor of presenting the awards in person at both schools' ceremonies this past month.

Congratulations to both students on their achievements!

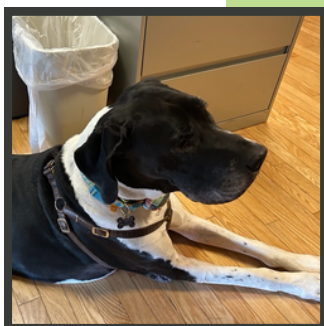


Methag Abdalla (above)



Sophie Bell (above)

Volunteer Corner

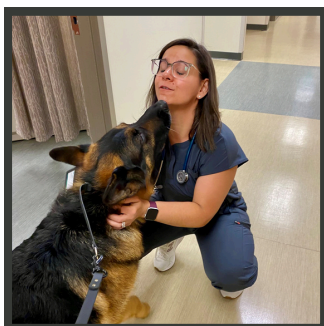


One of our newest volunteers, Haan, a certified pet therapy dog, made rounds through the hospital during Nurses Week, bringing comfort and joy to both patients and staff. Fellow therapy dog Voodoo also made a special appearance—both were met with plenty of smiles and tail wags!

Our pet therapy program continues to be a favorite among patients, visitors, and staff. If you or someone you know has a certified pet therapy dog, we'd love to hear from you—we're always looking to grow the program!

Looking for more ways to help? We also have volunteer opportunities at the lab desk, as a pathfinder, and in other key areas.

Email Jacob and Gretchen at MHMC.Volunteers@VandaliaHealth.org to get involved



Membership

We're excited to welcome Jenna Rabideau as the newest Lifetime Member of the Mon Health Auxiliary!

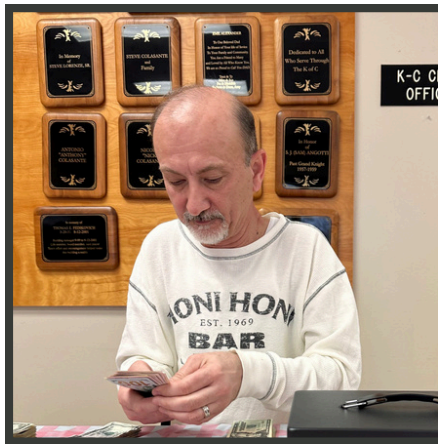
There's nothing more valuable than your time, and we're always looking for new members to get involved. Whether it's helping with hallway sales, football parking, or even serving on our Auxiliary Board, every role helps support important projects—like the Care Cottage.

Know someone interested in joining? Or want to get more involved yourself?

Email us at MHS.Auxiliary@VandaliaHealth.org

Or call Kathy Pompili at 304-685-2032 — we'd love to hear from you!

BINGO!



Each spring, the Auxiliary hosts its popular Designer Purse Bingo, drawing a crowd eager for a day of fun, prizes, and giving back. Attendees play for a chance to win stylish bags from brands like Coach, Michael Kors, Kate Spade, and more.

In addition to the main bingo rounds, guests can enter raffles to win even more fabulous prizes—including high-end handbags. This year's grand prize winner took home a Tory Burch purse and wallet sponsored by Halterman Landscaping Design.

The event's success is made possible thanks to Bingo Larry, our beloved number caller, our generous purse sponsors and dedicated volunteers, whose support ensures everything runs smoothly. We're grateful for all who made this event possible—and we hope to see you again next spring for more fun and fabulous prizes!