



Volunteers Tracy Kelly, Jason Cain, Jane Hunter, Pat Canale, Vicki Brown, John Brown and David "Paw" Fisher pose with James R. Downing, MD, St. Jude president and chief executive officer (center), at this year's Volunteer Appreciation Event.

[More Event Photos](#)

Volunteer Appreciation Event Highlights

On Thursday, May 3, over 250 volunteers, parent advisers and staff members gathered at the Racquet Club of Memphis to celebrate the past year's accomplishments. Attendees celebrated in style, showing off flapper dresses, suspenders and more at our 1920s-themed event.

Visit the link below to view a recap of the event, including the nominees and winners of 2017 volunteer and Patient Family-Centered Care awards.



[Event Recap](#)

2017 Annual Review Highlights

Volunteers and parent advisers made a huge impact at St. Jude in 2017:

45,411 hours were given – the equivalent of 21 full-time employees

3,428 volunteers gave to the hospital, housing facilities and Patient Family-Centered Care initiatives

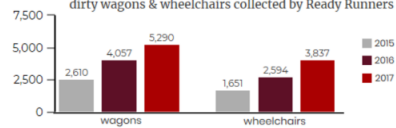
more than **30** departments utilized volunteers

1,187



patients and families

dirty wagons & wheelchairs collected by Ready Runners



were aided by helping hands
volunteers with respite care

1,193



families were helped by
volunteers in the Kay Kafe

480 volunteers assisted...



3,780

patients and families on
inpatient floors with
Happy Cart crafts & toys

7,744 hours



were given by
Child Life volunteers

3,065 hours



were given by
parent advisers

20 parent advisers
connected with



40 parents at
Coffee Talks

150



group enrichment
sessions were facilitated
by School Program tutors

[Read the Entire 2017 Annual Review](#)



Volunteer Engagement

In April, four volunteers shared their touching stories at Schwartz Rounds™, a program where colleagues from across St. Jude gather to listen to stories and discuss the social and emotional impact of interacting with and caring for patients. The purpose of this program is to promote compassionate care. Jennifer Pignolet (Tri Delta Place volunteer), Fannie Brown (Child Life volunteer), Gayatri Mamidanna (Helping Hands volunteer) and David "Paw" Fisher (Helping Hands volunteer) presented their stories in the session titled, "What Keeps You up at Night?- The Volunteer Perspective."

Emily Browne, the Director of Professional Development and Advanced Practice at St. Jude, considered this session important for both volunteers and staff members.

"Staff may see volunteers in action or work side-by-side them at times, but they may have never stopped to think about the psychosocial impact of the volunteer's work on the volunteer," Browne said. "This session was a wonderful reminder that, just like staff, volunteers need to engage in self-care to ensure they can maintain high levels of compassion for our patients and families."

PFCC Spotlight: Breakfast of Champions

On May 4, St. Jude staff and parent advisers gathered in the Kay Kafe Rotunda to honor six staff members who exemplify patient family-centered care values in their work and beyond.

Jennifer Fradella, Kimberly Michael, Brittney Newman, Diane Roberts, Christopher Thomas and Diane McGarry were the recipients of this award. Parent advisers Christopher Bridges, Debbie Higgins, Kelly Waddell, Jason Winkle and Katie Witsoe introduced each staff member by describing what makes them a champion for PFCC and sharing personal stories illustrating how they embody PFCC values.

We are pleased to celebrate these special Breakfast of Champions award recipients among their coworkers, supervisors, parent advisers and hospital leadership. Congratulations to these champions. We cannot wait to see what the future holds!



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Club Spotlight: The St. Jude Auxiliary

Auxiliary club members have made an exciting transition this spring to a new workspace as they gear up for their annual Bazaar. Their new space on

campus allows members to be near the donations warehouse for easier Bazaar pricing sessions. The annual Bazaar is an internal sale held in late fall, with all proceeds going back to the hospital. Items that were donated to the hospital that can't be used are sold at the annual sale and silent auction. This spring, club members began holding pricing sessions to prepare for the big event.

To read more about the Auxiliary and learn how to become a member, visit the link below.

[Learn More](#)

Staff at a Glance: Debbie Garrett



My name is Debbie Garrett, and I'm the rookie here in Family, Guest and Volunteer Services as the Volunteer and Special Events Coordinator. I am originally from Union City, Tennessee, so Tennessee is home. From May 2010 to December 2017, I lived in Denton, Texas, while working at a children's home for children in foster care. While there, I was blessed to experience many roles from direct care to volunteer coordinating to grant writing.

When the opportunity to work closer to home at St. Jude arose, I knew that this was the job for me. While I miss my friends in Texas, I am so happy to be here. Everyone has been so welcoming and helpful. I'm proud to be a part of this mission.

I am delighted to now call Memphis home. I live with my dog, Bella, and my hedgehog, Gertrude (Gertie for short). I did have a cat, but during my transition to Memphis, he stayed with my mom. He (Louie) has decided he likes her so much more than me, so, needless to say, my mom now has a cat. Stop by my office—I'll show you pictures!

Bella and I love doing all things outdoors and look forward to exploring Memphis this summer. I love traveling and going on new adventures. I am in a relationship of almost two years with my Jeep Wrangler, and I couldn't be happier! Ha! But seriously – I love my Wrangler and all of the fun we have experienced so far.

I continue to look forward to this new St. Jude journey, and I can't wait to get to know everyone. Come by my office, say hi, and tell me your favorite Memphis spots.