

VSP Newsletter November 2014



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Learning – Connecting - Serving

Annual VSP Holiday Social

The Annual VSP Holiday Social is scheduled for Wednesday, December 10, from 4-6 pm in the Coral Ballroom at The Mermaid in Mounds View. See flyer/registration at the end of this newsletter. Please RSVP by Wed., December 3.

Medtronic Children's Holiday Party

As the upcoming holiday season approaches, mark your calendars to attend the 2014 Medtronic Children's Holiday Party on December 6 in the World Headquarters Conservatory. All Medtronic employees, badged contractors and retirees are invited to bring their children and grandchildren to enjoy this special annual Medtronic tradition. Enjoy holiday music, dancing, crafts, games and prizes. Each family will receive one complimentary photo with Santa, with the option to purchase additional prints. Upon departure, children ages 11 and younger will receive a special gift to take home. This event truly offers something for everyone, so please mark your calendar and register today at

<http://medtronic.cvent.com/2014ChildrensHolidayParty>.

Please note that retirees should register as an employee and all registrations/payments need to be completed electronically.

Registrations are non-refundable/non-transferrable and all attendees must be pre-registered.

Interested in volunteering at this festive event? Your help would be greatly appreciated and you can register to volunteer to help set-up, clean up or help at the event itself by going to the same registration site.

Deadline to register is Friday, November 21! See flyer at the end of this Newsletter.

Medtronic Benefit Reminders

- Medtronic, through WageWorks, will be issuing 2015 health insurance rates for 2015 in mid-November.

- There is no open enrollment for health insurance for retirees this year. This does not impact your current coverage; Medtronic will continue to provide coverage for you under your existing retiree medical, dental, vision, and/or life insurance.

- The Medtronic retiree website (www.medtronicretiree.com) has been updated to include 2015 plan summaries.

Retiree Assistance Program

- The Medtronic Retiree Assistance Program is now available to all Medtronic retirees and their family members. It can be accessed at the website (www.medtronicretireeassistance.com). It has information on multiple subjects including Retiree Healthcare, Financial Advice, Life Insurance, and Retirement Library. Call Center support is also available. This service is provided at no cost to the retiree.

Medtronic/Covidien Deal

- Omar Ishrak sent a letter to all employees on October 30, 2014 that identifies that the merger of the two companies will now occur in early 2015. The complete memo can be viewed at www.medtronicretiree.com.

- AYCO Tax Support

AYCO AnswerLine tax planning services are available to all Medtronic employees and retirees beginning September 15, 2014 through May 1, 2015. While the financial education webinars are completed, one-on-one phone counseling is still available. Complete information on this service can be located on www.medtronicretiree.com under the Covidien banner.

Lunch & Learn Update Plus

Not a typical Lunch & Learn event, but 100 Medtronic retirees and significant others attended the **November 5 Planning Opportunities and Challenges for Medtronic Shareholders** presentation, primarily aimed at addressing the Medtronic acquisition of Covidien inversion deal. The presenters were from *Wells Fargo* bank (*Chad Bester*, Financial Advisor and *Kelli Hill*, Wealth Planning Strategist) and *Gray Plant Mooty* law firm (*Matt Shea*, Planning Attorney). Although scheduled by the VSP group, these firms graciously sponsored the event off-site (required by Medtronic policy) from Medtronic. The information shared was very helpful, including answers to many questions. Tasty hors d'oeuvre and beverages, connections to expert advisors and chatting with retiree friends were appreciated and enjoyed by all.

Mark your calendars for the **next scheduled Lunch & Learn** event on **Wednesday, February 5, 2015** on the Medtronic Headquarters Campus. The event title is *Inside Scoop on the Bakken Museum and Earl's Newest Book*. Plan to attend to chat with friends and be an "insider". See the January 2015 *VSP Newsletter* for details.

Winter Outing

A Winter outing to the Plymouth Playhouse is being planned for Thursday, February 12th to see the matinee performance of *Pop Up Musical*. Watch for more information in the December Newsletter.

Bakken Museum Buzz

As the holidays approach, there are lots of electrifying things to see and do at The Bakken Museum on Lake Calhoun. The next Free Second Saturday on December 13 features fun "Art and Science" activities for families. The current exhibit in the Great Hall, Absolutely Horseless: Advertising the First Wave of Electric Vehicles, closes on January 31, so be sure to get over to see it. In January, the Museum is releasing a new book, Dreaming On With Earl Bakken; to receive further information on the book and all Bakken activities, please sign up for their newsletter: thebakken.org/newsletter-sign-up. Volunteering as individuals or groups is a great way to be part of The Bakken. John Pawloski would love to help you: Pawloski@thebakken.org; 612.926.3878, ext. 220. Please also consider supporting The Bakken's mission of "inspiring a passion for science" by donating, either through the Medtronic portal or at their website: <http://www.thebakken.org/help-us/donate>.

Donor Advised Funds

As has been previously communicated, the Covidien Acquisition will trigger a taxable event for all Medtronic employees and retirees who own Medtronic shares. While this event will present employees and retirees with a number of things to consider, hopefully one of them will be philanthropy. One possible strategy to both off-set some of the taxable event you may experience and to advance your charitable objectives is through the establishment of a Donor Advised Fund.

Donor Advised Funds are wonderfully flexible charitable giving vehicles. They can accomplish many objectives and are well-positioned for exactly this type of circumstance. With a Donor Advised Fund, you are able to make a charitable contribution, maybe more than you would normally plan on giving at one time or during one year, and then utilize the fund to do your grantmaking for multiple years, the rest of your life, or even multiple lifetimes.

One organization quite familiar with this process is Minnesota Philanthropy Partners. They have great experience in helping both individuals and families navigate this opportunity and have already worked with a large number of Medtronic employees and retirees to set up these funds. For more information, please contact Jeremy Wells, vice president of philanthropic services, at 651-325-4263

or Jeremy.Wells@MNPartners.org.

Minnesota Philanthropy Partners represent The St. Paul Foundation, the Minnesota Community Foundation, and some private foundations. As there are multiple foundations that are able to establish a Donor Advised Fund, please contact your financial planner or tax advisor for their input.

VSP VOLUNTEER REPORT

Give to the Max Day – Thursday, November 13

It is Give to the Max Day EVERYDAY at Medtronic! When you make your charitable donations through Medtronic Philanthropy's Matching Grant program, you can double your impact for the organization(s) that mean a lot to you. Log into Your Cause using the below link to give to your favorite organization(s). <https://medtronic.yourcause.com/yourcause-sso/contractorlogin.aspx?subdomain=medtronic>

If you need help with Your Cause, please contact, Alison Stinar at astinar@yourcause.com or Cory Gregory at cory.gregory@medtronic.com.

FUTURE VSP TEAM VOLUNTEER EVENTS:

- **Feed My Starving Children – November 11, 9:30 – 11:30**
- **Medtronic/Red Cross Blood Drive – December 1 – 4, 9:00 – 3:00**
- **Phone callers for CDA Dinner Delivery – December 12 - 18**

Feed My Starving Children – Coon Rapids – November 11 – 9:30 – 11:30

Registration is open!* We will be volunteering at the Coon Rapids location, 401 93rd Avenue NW from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

To register, please log into Your Cause using the below link and search for the event Retiree – Feed My Starving Children: <https://medtronic.yourcause.com/yourcause-sso/contractorlogin.aspx?subdomain=medtronic>

If you do not have computer access, please call Judy Bergman at 651-295-4507 to register. If you need help with Your Cause, please contact, Alison Stinar at astinar@yourcause.com or Cory Gregory at cory.gregory@medtronic.com.

MEDTRONIC RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE – Monday-Thursday, Dec. 1 – 4 – 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. *Registration is open*!* A total of 14 greeters will be needed. The locations are:

- Mounds View, Mon., December 1 through Thurs., December 4
- WHQ Tuesday, December 2
- Rice Creek, Wed., December 3 and Thurs., December 4

To register, please e-mail Judy Bergman at bergmanj3@comcast.net

CHRISTMAS DINNERS ANONYMOUS (CDA) – December 12 – 18

Registration is open!* The Medtronic Christmas Dinners Anonymous (CDA) planning committee are asking for retiree volunteers to contact dinner recipients to verify name, address and ages of children. The calls would be made from the comfort of your home using a script provided by CDA and is estimated to take 1 - 2 hours of your time. The calls would be made the week before the delivery of the meals, which is Saturday, December 20. Please email Judy Bergman at bergmanj3@comcast.net if you are interested in this volunteer opportunity.

CDA also needs help on Friday evening, December 19, sorting and bagging the toys that have been collected. If you are interested in helping, please contact Karena Smith at karena.s.smith@medtronic.com.

OTHER COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERS:

Sew, Knit, or Crochet from Home - St. Paul

Do you knit or sew or have a parent, friend, or neighbor who does? Marvelous Mitten Makers could use your help. Judy Bonnevier helps coordinate the creation, storage and distribution of over 15,000 hats, scarves and mittens for local youth in need and homeless adults. Drivers are also needed to pick up and deliver finished product. Call Judy, 651-739-5203, for more info.

Administrative Volunteer Needed - West St. Paul

Volunteer will be providing administrative support for the Manager of Home Services and Billing by assisting with monthly reports and billing beginning of each month. Volunteer hours can be flexible during the daytime. Office located in West St Paul. Call Jyni, 952-945-4162, for more info.

Telefriends Volunteer from Home

Telefriends is an intergenerational reading program that promotes literacy and self-confidence. A Telefriends volunteer is matched with one or more children age 6-12 as an out-of-school reading partner. The volunteer calls the child one or more days per week and together the volunteer and the child read a book. The books are provided to the volunteer and the child by RSVP. Time commitment: 1-2 days/week for 20-30 minutes. Orientation provided. Call Jyni, 952-945-4162 for more info.

Walk to End Hunger - Bloomington

This Thanksgiving at the Mall of America, join Team Second Harvest Heartland as we support our hungry neighbors at the Walk to End Hunger. Enjoy a morning of family-friendly fun at this indoor 5k walk with music, rides, prizes and more. It's a great way to give back before giving thanks. Please call Jyni, 952-945-4161, or [Email Jyni](mailto:Jyni@secondharvest.org) for more info.

Free Bikes 4 Kidz

Free Bikes 4 Kidz (FB4K) is a Twin Cities based non-profit comprised of a passionate group of cyclists who love giving as much as riding. We work with multiple kid-friendly organizations to distribute to children and adults in need and have become the largest bike giveaway program in the United States. This year, the bikes will be given away on December 6th and 7th with help from our sponsor, Allina Health. We are seeking volunteers to help us clean and refurbish nearly 5,000 bikes! Whether you'll be wiping cobwebs off a bike or wrenching, we need your help. Come join us and learn some new skills at our warehouse located at 5736 Main St. NE, Minneapolis, 55432. We are open 7 days a week between now and December 5th, except Thanksgiving Day. Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00am-9:00pm; Friday & Saturday 9:00am-6:00pm; Sunday 12:00pm-6:00pm. Shifts are scheduled in 3-hour blocks (9-12, 12-3, 3-6, 6-9) but we can be flexible to accommodate your schedule. We welcome individuals and groups of all ages (minimum 8 years old). Interested volunteers can sign up directly on our website as an Individual or Group [Click here to sign up](#). Questions? Contact Jennifer Vogel (Volunteer Coordinator) at volunteer@fb4k.org or by calling the FB4K main line at (612) 567-3245.

Volunteers needed at the VA - Minneapolis

Volunteers can work with patients or "behind the scenes" to help the VA run smoothly. Here are some things you can do! Spend time with Veterans - read to them; play cards or games; help with crafts; take patients on walks, or share your hobbies, Escort - push patients in wheelchairs to their appointments, Visit hospice patients and provide support to family members (training will be provided), Visit with homebound veterans providing respite to their caregiver and companionship to the Veteran. Call Molly, 612-704-6116, or Email Jyni for more info.

Book Club Facilitators Needed - East Central Minnesota and Metro

Join VOA-MN RSVP's Next Chapter Book Club. Facilitate a weekly reading club for adults with developmental disabilities. Groups meet weekly, read aloud together, and discuss books of their choosing. Anyone can participate; training provided; books provided! Join this fun program promoting lifelong learning, friendship, community inclusion, and fun! Located in Mora. Call Monique, 612-390-5218, or Email Monique for more info.

Hospice Volunteer Opportunities

If you are seeking a rewarding volunteer opportunity that allows you to share your time and unique gifts in a way that enriches the lives of others, please consider volunteering for St. Croix Hospice. For more information about volunteer opportunities with St. Croix Hospice, please contact Volunteer Coordinator: Karen Quammen at kquammen@stcroixhospice.com or call at 612-834-7232 to learn more about getting involved.

Second Harvest Heartland

For the third year, Second Harvest Heartland is teaming up with General Mills, Big Machine Label Group and Feeding America to Outnumber Hunger. By redeeming a special code from a General Mills participating product and including your zip code, you can provide meals in our community for those who might otherwise go without.

For every code entered before January 31, 2015, General Mills will donate 55.5 cents (the equivalent of five meals for area families) and up to \$1,200,000 dollars.

OTHER COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES: Please check the following websites for other individual and small group volunteer opportunities:

<http://www.volunteermatch.org/search/index.jsp?r=20.0&aff=&l=Minneapolis%2C+MN%2C+USA&o=recency&s=11>

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MEDTRONIC PHILANTHROPY GRANTS
(VOLUNTEER AND MATCHING DONATIONS)

To log your hours for the 25-hour annual Volunteer Grants *and* to match your monetary donations to qualifying charitable organizations dollar for dollar through Medtronic Philanthropy's Matching Grants program, go to the Mission in Motion website at <http://medtronic.yourcause.com/yourcause-ssso/contractorlogin.aspx?subdomain=medtronic>.

If you have never used the site before, fill out the Retiree Registration form here:

<https://medtronicfoundation.wufoo.com/forms/medtronic-retiree-registration/>. Submit your e-mail address. Within 48 hours, you will receive login credentials for the Mission in Motion community accessed above through Google, Chrome, Firefox, Safari, or Internet Explorer

For questions about this process or website, contact Alison Stinar at astinar@yourcause.com or Cory Gregory at cory.gregory@medtronic.com.



VSP Holiday Social

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

4:00-6:00 pm

Who's Invited

All Medtronic retirees and significant others

Please RSVP

Where

The Mermaid

2200 Highway 10, Mounds View

Coral Ballroom

Hors D'oeuvres Provided

Cash Bar

Freewill Offering

Christmas Dinner Anonymous is in need of toys (infant to 16 years old) to complete their gift baskets. If you wish, you can donate an unwrapped toy, write a check to CDA, or make a contribution through Medtronic Your Cause.

Member & Guest Name(s) Attending:

Contact Jan Miskowic by e-mail: miskojan@hotmail.com or

Phone: (763) 425-0508 or

Mail: 5245 107th Avenue North, Brooklyn Park, MN 55443

RSVP by Wednesday, December 3



All Medtronic employees/badged contractors are invited to bring their children and grandchildren to this special holiday tradition!

- ❄ *Enjoy holiday music, dancing, crafts, games & snacks*
- ❄ *Kids can shop for holiday gifts in the Kids Only Shop*
- ❄ *Each family will receive a complimentary holiday photo*
- ❄ *Children, 11 and under, will receive a gift to take home*

WHEN:

**Saturday, December 6, 2014
9am-12pm or 1- 4pm**

WHERE:

World Headquarters Conservatory

COST:

\$7.00 per person attending
(Volunteers may attend party at no cost)

REGISTER AT:

<http://medtronic.cvent.com/2014MedtronicChildrensHolidayParty>

Deadline to register is Friday, November 21 – register today!