

VSP Newsletter November 2017



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Learning – Connecting - Serving

2017 Employee Holiday Program

You are cordially invited to the 57th Annual Employee Holiday Program on Friday, Dec. 15, at Operational HQ in Fridley, MN.

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.- Lunch

1 – 1:30 p.m. - Pre-show music by the Medtronomes Choir

1:30 p.m. - Holiday Program hosted by Chairman and CEO Omar Ishrak

If you plan to attend, please RSVP via email to

rs.medtronicemployeesholidayprogram@medtronic.com by Dec. 8.

If you plan to bring a guest, be sure to include their name in your RSVP email. We look forward to seeing you there!

Annual VSP Holiday Social

Retirees and their guest are invited to attend the Annual VSP Holiday Social on Wednesday, Dec. 6, from 4-6 pm in the Coral Ballroom at The Mermaid in Mounds View. See flyer/registration information at the end of this newsletter. Please RSVP by Dec. 1.

MDT VSP Project Warm Hearts Volunteer Opportunity

Project Warm Hearts is a group of Medtronic retirees and spouses that knit, crochet or sew items for community donation. At our last meeting, members donated 267 items and logged a total of 934 volunteer hours. Organizations identified to receive the handcrafted items include Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, Bridging, People Serving People, Life Haven, Salvation Army, Bundles of Love, Alexandra House, American Cancer Society (Hope Lodge) and Stepping Stone Emergency Housing. Once a retiree volunteers 25 hours creating items for any of these charitable organizations, a \$500 annual Medtronic Philanthropy Grant can be sent in their name. Please contact Karen Kutzner at kutznk@msn.com or 763-560-7995 if you would like to join the group, for additional information, or to contribute yarn, cotton or flannel fabric to the Project Warm Hearts volunteer group. The next meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Friday, November 17, at Medtronic Operational HQ in the Education Center Guest Dining Room.

PUTTING YOUR SKILLS INTO ACTION & BE ENTERED IN MEDTRONIC HOLIDAY GIVEAWAY DRAWING

We've partnered with the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) online volunteer program. Through UNV, you can search for online projects that fit your skills and your schedule while helping to build the capacity of a nonprofit. It's fast, easy, and effective! The program was started to contribute to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide. Online volunteering allows organizations and volunteers to team up to address sustainable development challenges—anywhere in the world, from any device.

Create a United Nations Volunteers account by November 17, 2017 and be entered to win two- reserved VIP seats at the 2017 Medtronic Employee Holiday Program at Operational Headquarters in Minneapolis on Friday, December 15 with travel arrangements included.

To enter the drawing, complete the steps below then email Katie Troyer at katie.troyer@medtronic.com to confirm that you created an account and/or completed a UNV project.

[Sign up and learn more \(www.onlinevolunteering.org\)](http://www.onlinevolunteering.org)

Instructions to sign up on United Nations Volunteers (UNV):

1. Visit www.onlinevolunteering.org;
2. Click "sign up now";
3. Scroll to bottom of page and click "I want to volunteer" under the New User section;
4. Enter your personal email address and create a password;
5. Follow the prompts to complete your account profile (You are only required to respond to the field with a red asterisks);
6. You will receive an email to activate your user account. Access your email and click "Activate my account".
7. You can now search for volunteer opportunities on the UNV site.

Amplify Your Impact Through Disaster Relief Support

The Medtronic Foundation is committed to supporting communities affected and threatened by record-breaking severe weather events for the weeks and months to come. We continue to monitor these disasters and are working with our internal and external partners to determine the short and long term needs and how we can help.

Retirees can support those impacted by Hurricane Harvey, Irma and Maria and the earthquakes in Mexico in two ways: volunteerism and giving. Consider donating to All Hands Volunteers (AHV), Americares, the American Red Cross, Direct Relief, and/or the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The Medtronic Foundation matches retiree donations of USD \$10 and above to eligible organizations providing disaster relief through the "Recent Global Disasters" page on [Mission in Motion](#).

If you can volunteer, opportunities are currently available in Louisiana, Florida, Texas, and the US Virgin Islands. Volunteering in Puerto Rico is not encouraged at this time due to the complexity of the relief operations. This is consistent with guidance we are receiving from major relief organizations. To learn about current volunteer opportunities and how to register, access [Mission in Motion](#), click on the "Groups" tab.

Retiree Interview: Participation in All Hands Volunteers Disaster Relief Efforts in Louisiana

Medtronic retiree Marladene Mohr recently spent three days in September volunteering in Baton Rouge, Louisiana with the Medtronic Foundation's key disaster relief partner All Hands Volunteers. She later shared about her experience with Medtronic Foundation team members Katie Troyer and Noi Keothammakhoun.:

Katie Troyer: What type of work did you do while volunteering in Baton Rouge?

Marladene Mohr: I was originally assigned to rip down a ceiling, but I told them that I could not do it, so I was assigned to cut drywall and use an electric screwdriver.

Katie: How many people were on your team and where were other volunteers from?

Marladene: There were nine people on each of the teams I worked on. One of the things that impressed me about All Hands was that there were many people volunteering who came from around the world and gave up their time to be a part of this disaster relief mission.

Katie: Were you able to meet any of the owners of the homes you worked on?

Marladene: The last day that I was there I met the daughter of the owner of the home I worked on. I got to hear her story of rescue and to compare it to the stories that I heard about (Hurricane) Katrina. She shared about the fears she had as she waited all day with her mother in a wheelchair for the rescue kayak. The daughter recalled her experience with (Hurricane) Katrina and was fearful of being separated from her mother again.

Katie: Why was now the time that you chose to participate in an All Hands Volunteer trip?

Marladene: I have the time, I have done disaster relief work in the past, and because of the recent Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. There were so many things that were coming together. I have done other disasters, but I was not aware of the flooding that occurred in Louisiana in August 2016. I knew with the more recent disasters it will be quite some time before they start recovery work. This was a chance for me to do disaster relief work this fall.

Also, I am an adventurer! You must be willing to get out of your comfort zone. You are not going to have everything that you have at home, but All Hands Volunteers was so wonderful.

And part of it was that I was not familiar with this organization and I wanted to see what they were like and if I would like to volunteer with this organization again in the future. And I would!

Katie: What was the highlight of your trip to Baton Rouge?

Marladene: I appreciated the meeting the All Hands staff held every evening to celebrate their successes and discuss any issues that came up. I felt like I really understood everything that was going on in each of the homes I worked on. I spoke to the All Hands Baton Rouge leader and he shared that he continues to follow through on the activities that are needed in the homes that they are assigned to until the homes are completed. That impressed me. It isn't a different group or organization coming through all the time.

Both groups that I worked on I could not have found nicer people. On one of the days, my team leader took the time to show me how to use an electric screwdriver. It was shared that this leader is a master drywall. I really appreciated that he was willing to take the time to teach me. All the team leaders that I met seemed to have that same spirit; they had the knowledge, but we were the workers and they were willing to teach us how to do it correctly.

I was so amazed at the other volunteers that were there and the companionship that they offered throughout the trip. I felt a part of the team. I was reaffirmed about the youth in America, that sounds like such an old woman thing! Everyone was so accommodating.

Katie: Would you recommend other Medtronic retirees participate in an All Hands Volunteer project?

Marladene: I would, but again, they need to realize that you're going into a disaster and you're just part of a team.



Give to the Max Day – November 16

Give to the Max day is Thursday, November 16. Your gift can be doubled thanks to matching funds provided by generous corporate and private donors. There are three ways to give:

- Go to GiveMN.org. You can donate to multiple organizations and print off your tax receipt in one location. Upload your receipts into the Medtronic Mission in Motion website to get the Medtronic match.
- Go to the website of the specific organization you want to donate to. Print off your tax receipt and upload into the Medtronic Mission in Motion website to get the Medtronic match.
- Go to Medtronic's Mission in Motion website <https://medtronic.yourcause.com/basic> to donate and Medtronic will match your donation.

2017 Medtronic Children's Holiday Party – Volunteer help needed!

The annual 2017 Medtronic Children's Holiday Party is quickly approaching on Saturday, 12/2, in the Operational Headquarters Conservatory. To make this a successful event, many volunteers are needed to help set up Friday afternoon, 12/1, and for the Saturday 9am-12noon and 1-4pm holiday party sessions. Activities include crafts, games, assistance with Santa photos, check-in and snack distribution. Contact Kim Daninger, 763-505-2868 or kim.daninger@medtronic.com to help make wonderful holiday memories for the kids!

VSP VOLUNTEER REPORT

Thank you to the following individuals for volunteering at Bundles of Love on October 26th: Mary Bauman, Carol Baumgartner, Judy Bergman, Ann Cafferty, April Emerson, Susan Fowler, Deborah Kuntson, Karen Kutzner, and Edie Pearson. The group put together 73 gown kits, 12 sleeper kits and sewed 7 quilt tops.

FUTURE VSP TEAM VOLUNTEER EVENTS:

- **Catholic Charities – November 13**
- **The Link – November 29**
- **Feed My Starving Children – December 14**
- **Second Harvest Heartland – January 11**

Catholic Charities – St. Paul, Monday, November 13

Registration is open*! One more volunteer needed. We will be volunteering at their distribution center located at 341 Chester Street, St. Paul from 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. To register, please log into the Mission in Motion website using the below link and search for the event Retiree – Catholic Charities. <https://medtronic.yourcause.com/basic>

If you do not have computer access, please call Judy Bergman at 651-295-4507 to register. If you need help with the website, please contact the YourCause Customer Advocacy Team at 866-751-6031 or medtronic-support@yourcause.com.

The Link – Minneapolis, Wednesday, November 29

Registration is open*! 4 more volunteers needed. The Link was founded in 1991 by former Minnesota Vikings players, Jim Marshall and Oscar Reed. Their mission is to work with youth and families to overcome the impacts of poverty and social injustice. We will be making breakfast burritos and breakfast sandwiches for their clients at their Minneapolis location at 1210 Glenwood Avenue, from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. To register, please log into the Mission in Motion website using the below link and search for the event Retiree – The Link.

<https://medtronic.yourcause.com/basic>

If you do not have computer access, please call Judy Bergman at 651-295-4507 to register. If you need help with the website, please contact the YourCause Customer Advocacy Team at 866-751-6031 or medtronic-support@yourcause.com.

Feed My Starving Children – Coon Rapids, Thursday, December 14

Registration is open*! We will be volunteering at their Coon Rapids location at 401 93rd Avenue NW from Noon – 2:00 p.m. To register, please log into the Mission in Motion website using the below link and search for the event Retiree – FMSC.

<https://medtronic.yourcause.com/basic>

If you do not have computer access, please call Judy Bergman at 651-295-4507 to register. If you need help with the website, please contact the YourCause Customer Advocacy Team at 866-751-6031 or medtronic-support@yourcause.com.

Second Harvest Heartland – Maplewood, Thursday, January 11

Registration is open*! We will be volunteering at their Maplewood location at 1140 Gervais Avenue from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. To register, please log into the Mission in Motion website using the below link and search for the event Retiree – 2HH - Maplewood.

<https://medtronic.yourcause.com/basic>

If you do not have computer access, please call Judy Bergman at 651-295-4507 to register. If you need help with the website, please contact the YourCause Customer Advocacy Team at 866-751-6031 or medtronic-support@yourcause.com.

OTHER COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERS:

The Food Group

The Food Group has individual volunteer shifts available on select Tuesday's (see below for dates) from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Please RSVP online www.thefoodgroupmn.org/tuesdays or contact Don Johnson djohnson@thefoodgroupmn.or or (763) 450-3889.

November 14

November 28

December 12

Student Educational Support - Twin Cities and surrounding areas

Help students achieve their best.

Classroom Assistant - With direction from a classroom teacher, provide academic support to students in a K - 12 classroom setting.

Tutor/Mentor - Be matched 1:1 with a student in an after-school program setting, and with training, support the student's social and academic growth through:

- literacy tutoring
- homework help
- relationship-building
- enrichment activities

Opportunities are available with partner agencies in multiple locations including Minneapolis, Bloomington Public Schools, Robbinsdale Area Schools and Osseo Area Schools.

For more information, contact Corie at 612-704-6114 or cori.custer@voamn.org.

Veteran and Military Family Support - Twin Cities and surrounding areas

Honor a veteran!

- **Veteran Story Collection Project**- Visit wartime veterans and record their stories for the Veterans' History Project (VHP) at the Library of Congress.
 - Time commitment: 2 -3 months
 - Locations: Hopkins, Minneapolis, Apple Valley
 - Training provided
- **VA Medical Center** - Make a veteran's visit to the VAMC more comfortable by providing hospitality and escorting the veteran around the facility.
 - Time commitment: on-going
 - Location: Minneapolis

For more information, contact Corie at 612-704-6114 or cori.custer@voamn.org.

Habitat for Humanity - ReStore

Volunteers needed to help run ReStore, the Habitat building supply consignment shop. Building supplies are donated to Habitat by local construction companies. There are two locations – New Brighton and South Minneapolis. Hours of work are flexible to the volunteer's schedule. For more information or to volunteer go to the following website: <http://www.habitat.org/restores>

American Cancer Society – Road to Recovery

Donate your passenger seat to help save lives. Volunteer to drive cancer patients to treatment. One of the biggest roadblocks to cancer care is transportation. That's why the American Cancer Society Road to Recovery program helps provide patients with free rides to treatment. For more information or to register go to <http://www.cancer.org> or call 1-800-227-2345.

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 FOUNDATION 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 Foundation's Matching Grants program, go to the Mission in Motion website at <https://medtronic.yourcause.com/basic>. 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 Noi Keothammakhoun at noi.keothammakhoun@medtronic.com or *the YourCause Customer Advocacy Team* at 866-751-6031 or medtronic-support@yourcause.com.



Medtronic VSP Group Holiday Social

When

Wednesday, December 6, 2017
4:00-6:00 pm

Who's Invited

All Medtronic retirees and their guest.

Where

The Mermaid
2200 Highway 10, Mounds View
Coral Ballroom

Donations

Throughout the many years of the VSP organization, charitable giving of our time, talents, and treasure has been a foundation for retirees to participate in living the mission of Medtronic to support our communities. While this social is free of charge to all participants, as in the past, we are accepting free will donations to support worthy charities.

This year we will be routing these donations to two organizations; **Alexandra House in Blaine, MN** and the **Medtronic Employee Emergency Assistance Fund**. See second page for additional information and how you can have your donation matched through the Medtronic Foundation.

Hors D'oeuvres Provided

Cash Bar

Retiree & Guest Name Attending:

Contact Jan Miskowic by e-mail: miskojan@hotmail.com or
Phone: (763) 425-0508 or

RSVP by Thursday, December 1st

Fund Recipients:

1. Alexandra House in Blaine, MN-The mission of Alexandra House is to empower victims of domestic and sexual violence, and inspire social change, through education, support, and advocacy.
2. Medtronic Employee Emergency Assistance Fund-Directly support Medtronic employees impacted by Hurricane Maria and other natural disasters.

The Medtronic Employee Emergency Assistance Fund was created to help employees who are facing financial hardship immediately after a large scale natural disaster. Every contribution helps and when combined with the donations of others can provide a tax-free grant (USA) to help a fellow employee in need when they are facing the unexpected.

Matching Funds: Funds donated to both organizations are eligible to be matched through the Medtronic Foundation using the information below. If you just want to donate today, we will split and forward funds to both charities.

MEDTRONIC FOUNDATION 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 Foundation's Matching Grants program, go to the Mission in Motion website at <https://medtronic.yourcause.com/basic>.

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 Noi Keothammakhoun at noi.keothammakhoun@medtronic.com or the YourCause Customer Advocacy Team at 866-751-6031 or medtronic-support@yourcause.com.