

VSP Newsletter November 2023

VSP Board

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Donna Bailey

Patrick Johnson

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Website:

<http://mdtirees.org/>



Learning – Connecting – Serving

RECENT VSP TEAM VOLUNTEER EVENTS

A Look Back at the Fall Informal Gathering

Fall was in the air on Thursday, October 12th for the informal VSP get together. Approximately 40 retirees, including many new faces gathered at Edinburgh in Brooklyn Park. Those attending went from table to table visiting, catching up and sharing stories from the past. Many enjoyed the Happy Hour drink and food menu too. It was a great location for an informal gathering and Edinburgh welcomes us back!

The FOOD GROUP in New Hope – October 18

Thanks to the great group of volunteers who participated along with the community volunteers. In less than 2 hours, the group packed enough food for 3000 meals!



UPCOMING VSP ACTIVITIES AND VOLUNTEER EVENTS

Feed My Starving Children in Coon Rapids – November 15 – Registration is open!

WHEN AND WHERE IS THE PROJECT?

Date: Wednesday, November 15

Project Time: 9 – 10:30 am

of volunteers: 12

Location: 401 93 rd Ave NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433

WHAT WILL I BE DOING?

Volunteers will pack meals as a team in a fun and energetic environment.

To register:

1. Sign into the Retiree Medtronic Foundation Volunteer and Giving Website:
<https://medtronic.yourcause.com/auth/basic>
2. Click on Volunteer and search for “Medtronic Retiree Event – Feed My Starving Children
3. Click “Sign Up” and choose your session

Note: If you would like to volunteer and have trouble accessing the Your Cause Site, please contact Anne Coldwell at amc57@comcast.net

Medtronic VSP Project Warm Hearts Volunteer Opportunity

Project Warm Hearts is a group of Medtronic retirees or spouses that knit, crochet or sew items for community donation. At our last meeting in October, members donated 127 items and logged a total of 672 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 and Stepping Stone Emergency Housing. Once a retiree volunteers a minimum of 10 hours creating items for any of these charitable organizations, a Medtronic Philanthropy Grant can be sent in their name. Please contact Karen Kutzner at kutznk@msn.com or 612-999-8569 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.



Medtronic VSP Holiday Social

When

**Wednesday, December 6, 2023
4:00-6:00 pm**

Who's Invited

All Medtronic retirees and their guest.

Where

**The Mermaid
2200 Highway 10, Mounds View
Coral Ballroom**

Enter Event Center on the west side of the Mermaid. The Coral Ballroom is located on the main floor opposite side of the bar.

What's Included

**Hors D'oeuvres Provided
Cash Bar**

Free Will Offering

For many years there has been No Charge for this event and the VSP Group provided the Hors D'oeuvres. As we all know, prices have increased for everything. This year we are asking for a free will offering to help defray the cost of the room rental and food.

When you email or call to RSVP, please include your full name and name of your guest.

To RSVP contact Jan Miskowic by e-mail: miskojan@hotmail.com or

Phone: (763) 425-0508.

You will receive confirmation of your RSVP.

RSVP by Wednesday, November 22nd

In Memoriam

- Robert (Bob) Christenson
- Rose Dutton
- Karen Orr
- Tammy (Peick) Pittman

Robert (Bob) Christenson, 77, passed away peacefully surrounded by family in Bloomington, MN on Sunday, October 15th, 2023.

Bob is preceded in death by his parents, Clifford and Irene Christenson, Mother and Father in law, Floyd and Peggy Sanner, Sister Helen, Brothers Jim and Joel, and son Jeff. Bob is survived by his Wife, Susan Christenson of St. Paul, Children; Christopher (Katie) Christenson of Minnetrista, Matthew (Sarah) Christenson of Blaine, Daughter-in-law, Bridget Christenson of St. Paul, John (Heather) Christenson of Eagan. Siblings; Sheila Eastman, Muriel Dykhuis, Dick Christenson, Carmel Stone, Crystal Stein, Jean Anderson, Russ Christenson, and Carol Davis. Grandchildren; Paige (Elliott), Kyla, Aspen, Hannah, Cecelia, Leah, Margaret, Rebecca, Connor, and Henrik – and many nieces and nephews.

Bob was born on May 31st, 1946 to Irene and Clifford Christenson in Roseau, Minnesota. He graduated from Lancaster High School in 1964, and went on to receive a Bachelor's Degree in Teaching with a focus in Chemistry from Bemidji State University in 1968. In 1969, he enlisted in the United States Coast Guard, where he served as an Electronic Technician until 1973. He then went on to work for Medtronic Inc. as a Manufacturing Engineer, for 32 years.

Bob always saw the best in people, and lived life with a pure and loving heart. He loved spending time with family, especially doing projects with his sons whether it was working on classic mustangs, building a playhouse for his grandchildren, or getting the boat ready for fishing season. He enjoyed spending time outdoors, hunting, and fishing – and Sunday dinners with his family. Bob leaves behind a wonderful, loving legacy.

His memorial service will be held at 1:00 on Friday, November 17th at Willwersheid Funeral Home. 1167 Grand Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55015. Visitation beginning 1 hour prior to service. Interment to follow in Lancaster, MN on date to be determined.

To [send flowers](#) to the family or [plant a tree](#) in memory of Robert Christenson, please visit [Tribute Store](#)

Dutton, Rosemary Jeanne Age 75, of Ramsey, passed away Sept. 24, 2023. Preceded in death by husband David, parents, 6 brothers, and 1 sister. Survived by children; Duane (Cathy) Dutton, Kelly (Sue) Dutton, Sande (Chad) Turner, Kat Davis. grandchildren; Charell Dutton, Nicole Dutton, Julia Dutton, Thomas Dutton, Daniel Dutton, Amanda Maxfield, Courtney Aanerud, David Sund, Kayla Sund, Drew Davis; 7 great-grandchildren; siblings Del (Jan) Rucks, Jackie Rucks, Lane (Patrick) Maloney, John (Patti) Combs, Cathy Combs; many other relatives and friends. Rosemary's family is honoring her request for no services.

Karen Orr, age 83, of Apache Junction, Arizona, passed away on May 27, 2023. After approximately 15 years Karen retired from Medtronic Neuro in 1996. No formal obituary was published.



Pittman (Peick), Tammy Age 65 of Crystal, passed away September 29th, 2023. Preceded in death by parents, Gerald & Mary Lou Pittman. Forever remembered and cherished by her loving family, husband, Jack Peick; daughters and granddaughters, Heidi Ocel (Marcus Hoffer), Heather, Hazley & Dillon Williams; father of her grandchildren,

Derek Williams; stepsons, Kevin Peick & Ryan Peick (Katie Walch); siblings, Tim (Linda) Pittman, Terry (Krystal) Pittman, Trudy (Mark) Weisenberger & Tracy (Joel) Overson; cousin, Cathy Peterlin; aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, extended family & dear friends. A Celebration of Tammy's life will be held at KOZLAK-RADULOVICH BLAINE CHAPEL (1385 - 107th Ave, NE) Saturday, October 28th from 2-5 PM with a Time of Remembrance at 3 PM for all who would like to share. In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to donor's choice. kozlakradulovich.com 763-783-1100

As a final note, The VSP Board gratefully honors the Veterans of all service branches, and we wish you a very peaceful and enjoyable Veterans' Day.

Thank you for your service!

Sources of Retiree Information

As VSP Board Members, we get many questions from retirees as to where they can obtain information on their benefits, how to get Medtronic Foundation grants and charitable giving matches, and who to contact if they have questions. Listed below are the key sources for that information.

A. Benefits:

1. Go to benefits.medtronic.com
2. Click on “retirees” on the top line of the page
3. If you have not done so, please register to create a username and password. This will give you access to the site and, also, your specific information.
4. Once you open the site, you will have access to multiple resources on retiring, health summaries, health plans, pre-65, post-65, etc. Specifically, if you open the “Retirement Planning Guide” (on left hand side of page, under Resources) and go to page 23, you will find a list of key phone numbers and websites for your use.

B. Medtronic Foundation -Volunteer and Giving Site:

Note: As a retiree, you will need a new login to access the Foundation Resources. Your employee login will no longer work after you retire. To do this, you must go to:

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

Once you login, you will have access to the volunteer grant and charitable matching site which is managed by YourCause for the foundation.

- ### C. You also can gain access to these and other sites by using the VSP website: mdtretirees.org and clicking on Benefits

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