



# Volunteer Update

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## Tree of Remembrance keeps alive Memory of AIDS victims



Join the Kansas City Free Health Clinic in observance of **World AIDS Day.**

### What is the Tree of Remembrance?

*We remember those we have lost to AIDS by dedicating a red ribbon to be placed on the tree and displayed this year as well as years to come. Each season new names are added, but each year all names are remembered.*

Visit the Tree of Remembrance in the

KC Free foyer at the Midtown location at 3515 Broadway, KCMO.

HIV Case Managers will be available to assist those wishing to dedicate a ribbon with a name between December 1 and 29  
Dedication is free of charge.

All ribbons dedicated in preceding years have already been placed on the tree.

The Kansas City Free Health Clinic has observed World AIDS Day by hanging ribbons on a tree since the tradition started in 1992. The Tree of Remembrance was at City Hall until the Clinic moved to its current location in 2001.

## SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to these volunteers who have service anniversaries in November and December. Thank you for your dedicated service.

### November

#### 8 Years

Laura Foley, RN, Gen Med Clinic, BOD  
Vinod Velakaturi, MD, Gen Med Clinic

#### 3 Years

Otto Spurny, MD, Gen Med Clinic  
Maureen Pedrotti, RN, Gen Med Clinic



## CLINIC HOLIDAY HOURS

The Clinic will be closed on the following dates:

- \*Wednesday, December 24th
- \*Thursday, December 25th
- \*Friday, December 26th
- \*Thursday, January 1st
- \*Friday, January 2nd



## SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES CONTINUED...

### December 19 Years

Carl Myers, MD, Gen Med  
Clinic

### 12 Years

Andrea Arvan, MD, Gen  
Med Clinic

### 5 Years

Beth Andes, MD, Gen Med  
Clinic  
Belinda Galloway, Patient  
Asst., Gen Med Clinic

### A word of Thanks

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I would like to thank you for giving me this incredible opportunity to help out at the Free Health Clinic. The past year has taught me a lot about my professional goals and how to achieve them, and I must give credit to the clinic for helping me get my motivation to get into medical school back! I have also learned quite a bit about medicine from both the doctors and the patients, and it really helps me keep going to hear words of encouragement from everyone at the clinic.

~Jason A

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“People who volunteer are 42% more likely than people who don’t to say they are VERY HAPPY with their lives.” OPRAH Magazine

## Meet Norma Spear, Volunteer, RN

After spending a year working in a fast paced, get-them-in get-them-out cardiology office, Norma Spear was ready for a change. During a conversation with a friend, she was told that working at KC Free Health Clinic “is what nursing is all about.” Norma decided she had to check it out.

In November of 2003 Norma began volunteering here as an R.N. and after volunteering more than 1,100 hours she has no regrets. In fact, she stated she wants to “keep doing this until I’m 80 or until they make me quit.” Norma volunteers on Monday mornings with Dr Dietz, Dr Parvin, and FNP Obie Austin, and on Friday mornings with Drs. Hall, Spurny, and Willsie. If you don’t get to meet Norma in the Clinic, you can meet her on the dance floor at Bloom!

When not volunteering here, she volunteers as a Docent at the Nelson-Atkins Museum. During her free time she enjoys walking her dogs, exercising, and reading historical fiction and nonfiction. She also has a passion for shopping at Costco.

Norma’s favorite moments at the Clinic are after the patients’ first visits. During the visits she gets to know and connects with the patients. At the end of their first visits, the patients express how appreciative they are about finding KC Free, getting help, and having someone listen and care about them.

Thanks, Norma, for 5 years of dedicated service to the patients of Kansas City Free Health Clinic.

### Norma and her brother, Richard, who volunteers at the Clinic as an Interpreter

