

HealthCare

Volunteers

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Nicholas Liberatore, a retired watchmaker, had triple bypass surgery at Arnot Ogden Medical Center in Elmira, and then met an old friend from his elementary school days who was helping him through physical therapy at St. Joseph's.

"We were talking about getting bored, and she said she did volunteer work and suggested I try it," he recalled.

Liberatore currently works between two-and-four days a week in St. Joseph's business office conducting billing inquiries.

Although he discovered the hospital's volunteer opportunities when he was a patient, like many volunteers Liberatore is a retired worker looking to give back to his community.

Koskie pointed out that the desire to help other people and the need to keep busy often go hand-in-hand to motivate a retired person to work at the hospital, a point echoed by Patricia Ferree, one of his volunteers at St. James.

"What else can I do?" said Ferree, a widow whose children live out of town. "At least you're doing something to help."

A devoted parishioner at St. Joachim Church in Canisteo, Ferree helps out in St. James' human resources office. A retired secretary who worked at Canisteo Junior/Senior High for 24 years, Ferree spends four-and-a-half hours in the office three-to-four days a week.

"I love the contact with the girls that are already employed there," she said. "I just like to type and work on the computer and all the office work."

Liberatore shared Ferree's enjoyment for activity, and pointed out the deeper motivation that underlies every volunteer's work.

"It gives you peace of mind, it gives you something to do, he said.

"It's done more for me than I've done for them," Liberatore added.

EDITORS' NOTE: To learn more about volunteering at the diocese's three Catholic hospitals, call the following numbers:

- St. Mary's, 716/464-3000.
- St. Joseph's, 607/733-6541.
- St. James' Mercy, 607/324-3900.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Bill Boone volunteers to help patients with physical therapy at St. James Mercy Hospital. A sophomore at Finger Lakes Community College, Boone is planning to study physical therapy.



Nick Gangemi, a retired service station owner, has volunteered the past three years in St. James Mercy Hospital's radiology department. Gangemi monitors all incoming and outgoing X-rays for the department.

St. James' Mercy clinic serves kids' dental needs

HORNELL — Although it has only been open since May 31, Southern Tier Dental Services of St. James' Mercy Hospital has already seen plenty of patients and has slated more than 960 appointments, according to hospital spokeswoman Judy Sheppard.

Sheppard said those numbers are "astounding" considering the clinic opened a short time ago. "It seems to indicate how much needed this service is."

The dental clinic, located at 17 Seneca St., is targeting the needs of children who are underinsured or have no insurance. The clinic is being directed by Dr. James C. Volger, who most recently worked at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester.

Sponsored by St. James' Mercy Foundation, the clinic has benefited from the fundraising efforts of several hospital units. Recent fundraising activities have included a bake sale by the Dialysis Unit; a craft/bake sale and quilt raffle by Accounting, Billing and Information Systems; a card party by Respiratory Therapy, Radiology and the School of Radiology; a 50/50 raffle and craft/bake sale by Nursing Services; and a 50/50 raffle by the hospital's laboratory.

In addition to those fundraising efforts, the Materials Management unit sponsored a skating party and sock hop in May.

Fundraisers raise monies for the purchase of equipment.

For information, call the clinic at 607/324-1655.

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