

ASANTE® News

ASANTE ASHLAND COMMUNITY HOSPITAL | ASANTE PHYSICIAN PARTNERS | ASANTE ROGUE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER | ASANTE THREE RIVERS MEDICAL CENTER

Tis the Season for Asante Three Rivers Med/Surg Units

Each of the families has had a rough go of it. One or more members of most have had recent hospital visits, and have been burdened by the bills that followed. One young mother in a “Thanksgiving family” recently lost her husband. A young man served several roles in one of the “Christmas families” – father, brother, uncle and son – before his untimely death from heart disease.



Members of E Unit staff with Christmas gifts

Eight families disadvantaged in one way or another, spread evenly over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

And one Asante family – the entire Third Floor of Asante Three Rivers Medical Center – doing what it can to brighten the season just a bit.

“Resource management (staff members) did it last year, then the three medical/surgical units followed suit this year,” said Leslie Ayhens, the units’ director of nursing and one of the leaders of this year’s holiday charity projects. “The entire Third Floor of (Asante Three Rivers) is involved, making it even bigger and better.”

The generous group relied on resource management and social services staff members from the hospital to identify four Josephine County families that each needed some help to celebrate Thanksgiving. The families had a

combined 27 members, including 16 children. There was the young, widowed mother, and there were a couple families that had been identified because members had been recent patients.

Third Floor staffers – from Asante Three Rivers’ A/B, C/D, E and resource management units – donated non-perishable items in break room drop boxes prior to the holiday, and contributed money for the purchase of Safeway and Fred Meyer gift cards so the families could buy perishable Thanksgiving foods such as turkey, ham, pies and fruit.

Leslie said the chosen Thanksgiving families were thrilled with the boxes of food, and were “surprised to see a card signed by all of the staff” that accompanied the gift cards.

“We have (selected) different families for Christmas,” she said.

Each of those was chosen because members have been recent hospital patients. There’s the family of a woman expecting a baby boy in January. And there’s the family of the young man who died recently due to heart disease.

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“When we let (his) family know that we were going to help them with Christmas gifts, the sister responded, ‘I just still can’t even believe this,’” Leslie said.

The woman told her, “You know, my family has never been upper class, but we haven’t been poor, either. This year, though, it’s been rough. In any other time, I could legitimately say that another family would need it more than ours, but we are really struggling right now.”

The donation drop boxes have been out again in the hospital’s Third Floor break rooms. They’re filling with clothing, shoes and toys.

“We’re expecting more donations as we approach the week before Christmas,” Leslie said. “Each unit has been given a check-off list to keep track of what items have been gifted and what items still need to be picked up.”

All members of the Third Floor units are participating, whether by donating, wrapping or delivering. The gifts will be given to the four families on Dec. 21 and 22.

Leslie said her colleagues are determined “to try and do what they can to meet the needs of these families during the holidays.”

The holiday charity project at Asante Three Rivers is just one example of seasonal giving at Asante. Both of the organization’s other hospitals also offer assistance programs for employees in hardship situations.

The Employee Food Pantry – which has replaced Asante Rogue Regional’s Employee Angel Team – provides temporary assistance to Asante employees throughout Jackson County who are going through periods of need. Those who need food – or those who want to donate food – can contact the pantry by email at employeefoodpantry@asante.org, or by phone at (541) 789-5875.

Asante Rogue Regional also has an Emergency Employee Financial Assistance program that offers as much as \$250 for employees with emergency needs ranging from car repairs to evictions. A committee reviews each application for the funds, which come from employee donations. For more information, contact Julie Hale, the hospital’s director of support services, at Julie.Hale@asante.org, or by phone at (541) 789-5270.

Help for the Holidays is a one-time meal assistance program of the Employee Assistance Fund at Asante Ashland Community Hospital. It is intended to help employees through hardship situations by offering food vouchers to local markets, to purchase as much as \$50 worth of groceries.

The program began Nov. 15, and applications must be received by Dec. 15. Those seeking help through the program must [submit confidential applications](#) to the Employee Assistance Fund Committee, describing their employment status, earnings, dependents and hardship situations. Completed forms may be delivered to Asante Ashland’s human resources office or to the Ashland Community Hospital Foundation office.