

From The Auxiliary



By Dorothy Sieker

The Women's Auxiliary was able to close its books for 1958 with a definite sense of achievement. December 1st marked the "Grand Opening" of its new office and coffee counter. Moving supplies and equipment was a job, but we have some very able "movers" in our group . . . and they don't charge over-time for working holidays! Mr. David Henry of the Rehabilitation Department helped make the opening a gala occasion by sending baby mum corsages for each volunteer working in the new headquarters.

With the files in order, we did some checking, just for fun, to see how 1958 really "checked out."

Did you know our volunteers (with approximately 200 reporting) recorded 26,220 hours in '58?

The Coffee Counter serves between 1500 and 1800 cups of coffee on an average day. This does not include the many thermos bottles of coffee sent up to the wards almost daily for patients and their families.

The Book Cart checks out 40 to 50 books each week. With many best-sellers on the cart, its popularity is growing steadily.

The Magazine Cart distributes about 200 magazines a week. It is stocked with "used" but recent magazines donated by hospital staff, auxiliary members, and interested persons in the community.

The Children's Service purchased and distributed 50 Christmas stockings and gifts.

These are random figures that records can be kept on. But don't forget the many hard-to-write-down services and our many "unsung" volunteers:



(Duke Photo by Sparks)

Snack Bar in Auxiliary's new quarters feeds the hungry.

The Occupational Therapy group has collected bulging shopping bags full of discarded nylons, old kitchen utensils, and other items used for craft work in the patients' rehabilitation program.

The Shop Cart not only sells from its regular supply, but has "sent out" for such items as valentines, birthday presents, and a special razor for a patient who would otherwise have left Duke looking a little shaggy. Many of the Shop Cart volunteers helped Santa this year and took time from their own busy schedules to do special shopping for patients.

Remember the Country Fair and Carnival, staged by the Ways and Means Committee, with fun and frolic and even sunshine for all.

And don't forget the Guides and Receptionists. Probably the best goodwill ambassadors of the Auxiliary, these volunteers have walked countless miles through the hospital directing patients to clinics.

I suppose the one service in the Auxiliary that needs no facts or figures to prove its worth is the group

that serves with Mr. P. W. Aitken, Chaplain to the Medical Center. There are twelve regular volunteers on the Chaplain's Service who are on a 24-hour call list. The Medical Dames and the Divinity Dames also give their time to this service. These volunteers do provide something no money can buy: reassurance to a family, the writing of a letter, or just timely dropping-in to visit a patient.

All this fact finding points back to the main purpose of the Women's Auxiliary: to ease the strain of hospitalization for patients and their families and to foster an ever-growing fund of goodwill to be shared by all who come in contact with Duke Medical Center.

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The Auxiliary held a membership meeting February 3 in the Ambulatory Dining Room of the Hospital. Guest speaker was Charles A. Speed, Safety Director, State Highway Patrol. Major Speed discussed Highway Driving and Safety. Husbands of Auxiliary members were special guests for the evening.