

Contact:

Jane Hooper, director of community relations
Elizabethtown Community Hospital
75 Park Street
Elizabethtown, NY 12932
873-3003
jhooper@ech.org

Elizabethtown Community Hospital Volunteers Give Over 2,700 Hours of Service

Elizabethtown, N.Y. (January 18, 2010) – Elizabethtown Community Hospital volunteers gave over 2,700 hours of service to the hospital in 2009.

Volunteers work throughout the hospital, in a variety of departments including radiology, administration, laboratory, and ER. They support the administrative functions of each department in which they work; often answering telephones, directing patients and visitors, preparing surveys and filing.

Many of the volunteers have been contributing their time for a number of years. Jeanne Luppy began volunteering at the hospital 18 years ago, and Betty Jane Light has volunteered for over 15 years. Many of the hospital's volunteer staff give approximately 100 hours each year, while a few give over 200 hours. Warren Baker, who donates his time to the VA Clinic, has given over 1,000 hours of his time this year.

Hospital Administrator Rod Boula is proud of the volunteer staff and credits them with helping to ensure the hospital's smooth operation. "Our volunteers perform a variety of essential tasks", he said proudly. "They direct patients and family members throughout the facility, provide support to the hospital staff and help wherever needed. Their collective years of experience and compassion for patients make them incredibly valuable to our organization. 2,700 hours is a significant milestone, and we are very proud of their commitment to the hospital."

Volunteers must receive a similar general orientation as paid employees in order to understand the hospital's various functions and departmental requirements. They are also held to the same standards in terms of ensuring patient confidentiality and trust.

Jane Hooper, director of community relations, who manages the volunteer staff, recognizes the importance of the volunteer program. "These men and women form a wonderful group", she said. "They make things easier on the staff, easier on visitors to the hospital and easier on the patients. We can't thank them enough for all they do."