

Teen volunteers log thousands of hours

By SUSAN TAUBER

Eighteen-year-old Janet Saxon has donated one day a week for the last three years to Crittenton Hospital.

As a Crittenton, the Adams High School senior has spent more than 350 hours at the hospital, working in the medical surgical pediatrics department.

Wearing her pin-stripe outfit, she's helped a lot of people in her three years of work in the volunteer program sponsored by Crittenton Hospital Auxiliary.

She's helped nurses, doctors and patients — carrying things to and from labs, taking flowers to different rooms, helping where needed.

In return, Miss Saxon has received many benefits.

The daughter of Donald and Eleanor Saxon talked to hospital medical technicians during slow times. These discussions confirmed her ambitions to go to college and become a medical technician, specializing in hematology.

Her hours of cheerfully-donated time also won her a \$1,000 scholarship from the Crittenton Hospital Auxiliary.

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"I was really excited about the news," said the vivacious teenager. "I went for an interview about the scholarship at 8 p.m. And at 10 p.m. I got a telephone call asking if I wanted the scholarship," she said.

THERE WAS A committee made up of Crittenton Hospital Auxiliary members, headed by Helen Morgan. They had several eligible Crittentons on the list.

To be eligible, a Crittenton has to have worked one year or 100 hours and be accepted to a college with the intent to study in a field of medicine.

This is the second year the Crittenton Hospital Auxiliary has given a scholarship to a Crittenton. The first recipient of the award was David Hunstad.

"I've loved being a Crittenton," said Miss Saxon, whose volunteer days are over.

"I got to know the people, the hospital routine, got used to life and death situations patients would sometimes tell me about."

She was honored at the Crittenton Hospital Auxiliary spring luncheon Thursday, May 24, at Oxford Hills Golf and Country Club.

There are 23 other Crittentons who are as dedicated and hard-working as Miss Saxon, said Crittenton supervisor Joan Jacobson.

Last year, the teenagers volunteered 2,619 hours of their time to the hospital.

The Crittentons are Donna Aretakis, Mary Atkinson, Jeanine Berube, Patti Chatterton, Lisa Cragen, Colleen Hickey, Chris Kress, Lori Lauinger, Margaret Lewis, Dawn Mordis, Lisa Mordis, Linda Murish, Andrea Murray, Debbie Nimer, Rochelle Swengras and Jackie Taggart, all from Rochester.

Those from other cities are Debbie Bombard and Patty Maceroni of Romeo, Kathy Curtis and Dawn Wilstermann of Utica, Dianna Dery and Michelle Peacock of Washington and Vicki Rawlings of Oxford.

FOR DAWN WILSTERMANN, being a Crittenton was also a good experience.

"I learned alot during my 200 hours of volunteer time," said the 17-year-old senior at Eisenhower High School.

"I had no idea how a hospital works. When I wasn't too busy, I got to talk to doctors. They confirmed my plans to be a doctor."

The daughter of William and Helen Wilstermann, Miss Wilstermann has al-

ready been accepted to Wayne State University, where she may continue for medical school. She's the alternate for the scholarship.

Not just any teenager between the ages of 15 and 18 can become a Crittenton.

"I tell them if they can't promise me one year of their time, it's not fair for me to train them," said Mrs. Jacobson.

"It's not fair to either their parents who buy their uniforms, shoes and often have to transport them and from the hospital. A good share of them become Crittentons because they are interested in medicine or think they're interested."

"Some are interested in physical therapy. They can go and watch the physical therapists when they're not needed by the nurses or doctors. Crittentons can really do anything except transport patients and carry hard drugs," Mrs. Jacobson said.

"I'm REAL IMPRESSED with the Crittentons I've worked with over the last 1 1/2 years."

"In January, during the bad weather, there was only one day when a Crittenton couldn't make it. That's dedication," Mrs. Jacobson said.

The teens are given two training sessions for two hours each. If they still

feel uncomfortable, Mrs. Jacobson works with them more.

Then she assigns them to floors. They work the same floors and the same stations each day they volunteer.

"They're shy at first," said the auxiliary supervisor. "It's interesting watching them become more aggressive the longer they're here," she said.

Though not all of the Crittentons were eligible for this year's scholarship, many are getting other awards.

They'll get awards at the June picnic for the amount of hours they've worked as volunteers.

Seven will receive caps for completing 150 hours of work. They are Dawn Aretakis, Mary Atkinson, Chris Kress, Lori Lauinger, Margaret Lewis, Lisa Mordis and Linda Murish.

Miss Wilstermann will receive a stripe for her 200 hours of work.

Other awards are a certificate and stripe for the Crittenton uniform for 50 hours; another stripe for 100 hours; a pin to replace the stripe for 250 hours; a charm and nurse's hat for 300 hours and a medalion for 500 hours.

ONLY ONE CRITTENTON has ever received a medalion. The hard worker was Patti Chatterton, who is no longer a Crittenton.

Right now Mrs. Jacobson said she is training 10 more teenagers as Crittentons.

The delight on Miss Saxon's face and the pride on her father's face would have inspired those teens to overlook missing many parties to become exceptional volunteers.

Residents graduate from Mercy College

Eight Farmington residents received their degrees during the 38th Annual Commencement exercises at Mercy College of Detroit on May 5.

John Joseph Truitt and Lynne O'Day Moffitt received magna cum laude honors and Martha Ann Flaherty graduated cum laude.

Truitt earned a bachelor's degree in Law Enforcement and Psychology, while Moffitt received hers in Nursing and Flaherty as a Physician's Assistant.

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He's president.

Robert B. Lewis of Farmington Hills was elected president of the Adrian College Alumni Association at the board of directors annual spring meeting. A 1965 graduate of Adrian, Lewis is a partner at Price Waterhouse & Co. in Detroit. He is past vice president of the board of directors and served as chairman of the finance committee.

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