

Good Deeds: Nov. 14

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* I want to thank the people of Springfield for their generosity this Halloween.

I was captain of a team of students from the University of Illinois Springfield that spread throughout the city on Halloween collecting canned goods for the Central Illinois Foodbank. There were 14 teams total, and together UIS collected more than 4,000 pounds of food!

A big thank you to the residents for being so friendly and supportive, and another to the police department for making this a safe and secure event. This is our second year with this event at UIS and it keeps getting bigger. Look out for us again next year!

*Jaleesa Earthely
Springfield*

* On behalf of the Phoenix Center board of directors, staff and those we serve, we would like to thank everyone who donated to and/or attended our ninth annual Fall Fundraiser Dinner & Auction, making it a huge success.

The money raised will allow us to better serve our clients, including homeless men and women who are HIV positive, gay, lesbian and transgender youth and young adults, and to continue free HIV testing and other HIV prevention education services.

A special thanks to those who worked so hard getting donations and selling tickets, to M.T. Vann for another fantastic year of auctioneering, and to the Hoogland for a great venue! In this year of budget cuts, we appreciate your support more than ever.

*Robin L. Sullinger
Jonna J. Cooley, Ph.D.
Phoenix Center
Springfield*

* The members of the Sgt. Caleb Hopkins Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution would like to raise awareness of National American Indian Heritage Month.

This observance began as Native American Awareness Week in 1976. Recognition was expanded by Congress and approved in 1990 by President George H.W. Bush, who designated November as National American Indian Heritage Month.

DAR members locally and across the nation work diligently to raise funds for American Indian scholarships; provide strong support to American Indian schools; promote the Indian Youth of America Summer Camp program through donations; recognize American Indian prehistory, history and current issues at chapter programs; and educate others about National American Indian Heritage Month.

Let us remember that the rich history and culture of our nation have been significantly influenced by American Indians. Their customs and traditions should be respected, as well as celebrated.

*Beth Shea
American Indian Committee chair
Sgt. Caleb Hopkins Chapter NSDAR
Springfield*

* St. John's Hospital is proud to be recognized by various national organizations for our clinical excellence and our efforts to efficiently and effectively provide health care to the community. However, the recognition that we cherish the most comes from the patients we have the privilege of serving.

Recently, we reviewed our scores from the Federal Government's HCAHPS (Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems) program, which summarizes a hospital's performance on 10 leading indicators of patient satisfaction.

Under this program, our patients were asked by the federal government to summarize their satisfaction with their stay at St. John's Hospital. Hospitals across the country participate in this survey process. Our patients rated the hospital's patient satisfaction very high for all 10 indicators. In fact, the HCAHPS survey results placed St. John's above the state and national averages for all hospitals and the highest in the region.

I want to personally thank my colleagues at St. John's for their efforts to make our patients as comfortable as possible during their time with us. While we continue to work to ensure every patient experience is the best it can be, our HCAHPS survey results verify that the spirit of compassion and caring that each of the 3,200 members of St. John's family strives to achieve is alive in our organization.

As St. John's continues to transform health care, we are committed to ensuring the patient is at the center of everything we do. I'm pleased that the

latest HCAHPS survey results indicate that we're headed in the right direction.

Please congratulate your neighbor, friend or relative who is part of the St. John's family for achieving these high levels of patient satisfaction scores.

*Bob Ritz
President and CEO
St. John's Hospital
Springfield*

* I wanted to thank all the people involved at Rochester Middle School for honoring all veterans in an all-school assembly on Nov. 5.

My husband is a Vietnam veteran. Unlike the welcome home parades they now have for veterans — which they deserve — my husband was spit on when he came home after a very unpopular war. Yes, it has been many years but the scars are still there.

However, on this day at Rochester Middle School, he stood with his very proud granddaughter, Brooke Kane, to receive the appreciation he so deserved. Thank you, everyone involved, for this recognition to all our veterans.

*Pat Howie
Springfield*

* The Rochester Lady Rocket golf team wants to thank Jim Sutzer and the great staff at Lincoln Greens and also to Lance Flury and his outstanding staff at Pasfield Golf Course.

Both of these gentlemen are so wonderful to allow these young ladies the opportunity to play golf at these very nice courses. Jim and Lance go out of their way to accommodate the girls to play and practice. Many coaches commented on the quality conditions of the course when we played matches.

The Lady Rockets completed another solid and successful golf season and these two men are a big reason why the program in Rochester is flourishing!

*Jeff Hill
Rochester Rockets varsity golf coach*

* I just have to tell you how thrilled I am with the "Springfield Memories" book. If one is at all interested in the history of our city, they will want this book.

The value of this book is much more than the price and is available right now. Thank you for the gift of the rich history of our city in pictures.

*Jan Schmidt
Springfield*

* On Sunday, Oct. 25, my family and I went to the Apple Barn in Chatham to take some family pictures in front of their great pumpkin display.

We were able to take a few of our 3-month-old twins ourselves, but we wanted a family photo of the four of us. We came alone, so we were going to have to rely on a stranger to take some pictures for us.

We were very fortunate — we found someone who not only took a picture, but took several and even helped us to get the twins to look at the camera. Thanks to Jack, his mom and dad and grandparents, we now have a wonderful family photo of the four of us that we can share with our families who live in far away places like California and Chicago.

Thank you again for being so kind and patient — 3-month-olds aren't the easiest of subjects! Also thanks to the Apple Barn for their great backdrop!

*Dr. Kristofer and Melissa Mitchell and twins Kristian and Vivienne
Springfield*

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