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Random Acts of Flowers recycles and repurposes flowers by engaging dedicated volunteer teams to deliver beautiful bouquets and moments of kindness to individuals in healthcare facilities across the country.

As a recycling "green" organization run almost entirely by volunteers, Random Acts of Flowers is committed to nourishing the health of the environment, individuals, and the community.

Fulfilling the Mission

RAF is happy to share some of many cards, letters, emails and phone calls with offerings of thanks and feedback from our recipient patients, their families, and caregivers.

"Thanks Random Acts of Flowers for providing an outlet to transform our grief into smiles by sharing with others." – **Jack A.**

"Dear Friends, Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers you shared with me... This is a very meaningful thing you all do and I doubt if you'll ever know how much joy they bring to the lives of the people who receive something that would have been thrown away." – **Ann W.**

"During my chemo session today, I awoke to lay my eyes, first thing, on a small pretty green vase with live cut fall flowers just for me! It brought a smile to me after another stressful day! Thanks to all of you... God bless you all!" – **Dorothy V.**



"My mother is in a nursing home in Knoxville, and when I visited yesterday, there were flowers everywhere. It has been very difficult, but just seeing all of the flowers in every patient's room and the common areas was just wonderful and uplifting! My mom loves flowers... and it was something familiar to her, and she was all smiles." – **Darlene W.**

SHARE YOUR STORY @ www.RAFKnoxville.org

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IN BLOOM

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Random Acts of Flowers Knoxville Newsletter • Volume 4 • October 2014



"Investing in a Smile Can Deliver Hope"

It's hard to believe Random Acts of Flowers is approaching its 50,000th floral delivery nationwide. Since our first experience of the RAF mission, we've known our efforts and time were spent on a worthy cause.

Random Acts of Flowers is so much more than delivering flowers; it's a mission based on kindness and compassion, and the delivery of hope.



"Random Act of Flowers offers the local community a unique service that is vital to people sitting in a hospital bed, appreciation for our neighbor in their time of need. It is so easy for a community to rally during a major disaster but as individuals we have our own disasters that may go unnoticed to the masses. It's during those moments that we (the individual) search, feel lost, feel alone and reach out for hope. I believe that RAF fulfills that void on a weekly basis by delivering flowers to patients. It feels good to see a smile from an unsuspecting recipient but it feels better knowing you didn't just leave flowers. You left hope and provided a little peace of mind that no one is ever alone as long as you are in our community."

– Cecil Scarbrough (RAF Supporter and Knoxville Board Member)

Volunteers are the engine of Random Acts of Flowers, yet each year, members of the Staff and Board of Directors must reach out to the community to ask for financial support. As co-chairs of this year's Annual Fund drive, we are honored to lead the effort to ensure that Random Acts of Flowers can remain a vital part of our healthcare community and will continue to serve thousands of people each month.

If you believe in Random Acts of Flowers' mission and celebrate the impact this unique organization has on East Tennessee, we encourage you to review this newsletter and make a financial contribution to the Annual Fund. A gift of any amount will go a long way towards positively impacting the community with flowers and smiles, helping make thousands of lives a little brighter.

Sincerely,

Melissa Everett & Keith Ottaviano
Co-Chairs, 2014 Annual Fund



Melissa Everett



Keith Ottaviano

Did You Know?

To date, **RAF Knoxville** has:

Made 38,749 floral deliveries to patients in area healthcare facilities.

Recycled 43,478 vases that would otherwise end up in the landfill.

Served 8 area hospitals, 50 senior care facilities, 22 community health organizations and 11 hospice centers.

For her 11th birthday party, **Katherine Perkinson** collected over 50 vases for RAF! Hold your own vase drive & support RAF!



Want to learn more about RAF and see the impact of our charitable mission last fiscal year? The **FY'14 Annual Report** has just been released. Read it online!



40,000 Smiles Delivered... and Counting!

In June, RAF celebrated 40,000 bouquets delivered nationwide! The three branches (Knoxville, TN; Greeneville, TN; and Pinellas County, FL) each celebrated this wonderful landmark with special deliveries. For Knoxville, the celebration occurred where RAF began: UT Medical Center. Legendary UT football coach Phillip Fulmer and Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett joined RAF in delivering over 150 bouquets. Thank you to all who have contributed to helping RAF reach this incredible achievement, and we look forward to celebrating more milestones very soon.

Art in the Garden 2014

The 6th annual Art in the Garden was a fantastic success! Thank you to all sponsors who made this wonderful event possible.

We Appreciate Our Presenting Sponsors



Guests were treated to spectacular live demonstrations from local artisans, live music, artistic food, and signature cocktails.



This year's Art in the Garden was hosted by **Sherri Lee** in her beautiful gardens...thank you Sherri!



The funds from Art in the Garden go directly to support RAF Knoxville's operating budget.

We'd like to thank all who contributed: whether it be through sponsorship, ticket sales, or auction purchases.

Thank you for supporting RAF and our charitable mission.

"Recently I received a lovely arrangement of flowers from you. It made my day a happy day and my apartment alive! Thank you and God Bless all of you!" – Rose M., recipient



Members of the Akima Club excitedly accept the "Community Service Leadership Award"

On September 14th, RAF staff, supporters, and volunteers gathered at the gorgeous home of Hazen and Brittany Mirts to celebrate our volunteers and all they do.

Congratulations to our award recipients:

Dean Shiflett * Rosie Bumpus Award (*extraordinary volunteer spirit*)

Barbara Sharpe * Glen Baxmann Award (*most donated hours*)

Akima Club

Community Service Leadership Award

Corporate Support Spotlight

RAF wishes to thank these corporate partners who have invested their time and resources in support of the RAF charitable mission.



ADT Home Security Systems has been a great supporter of RAF Knoxville! Thanks to a generous grant, RAF was able to create a "cold room" with insulation and cooling to store donated flowers.



RAF Knoxville is excited to announce our newest provider partner, **Costco**! The wholesale retailer, located near Turkey Creek, has started donating flowers from their floral department every week.



Does your company or group want to get involved? Contact us today!

2014 Floral & Décor Workshops



presents

the final installment of the 2014 Floral and Décor Workshop Series:



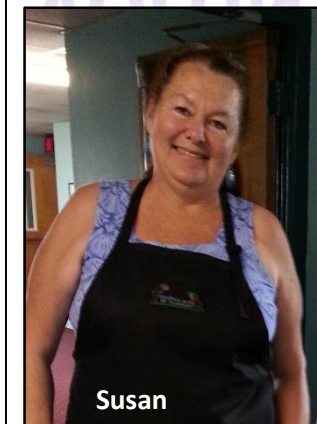
Tuesday, November 4th – 6:00pm

Join us for a fun and educational evening! Learn floral arranging and home décor tips from a floral designer while mingling and enjoying wine and appetizers!

Learn more and purchase tickets online @ www.RAFKnoxville.org or by calling (865) 633-9082

2015 Floral & Décor Workshops announced soon!

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



Susan

Susan Campbell has been volunteering for RAF Knoxville for several years. There is no volunteer job Susan won't take on: from delivering smiles, to washing vases, to filling out delivery cards, Susan does it all!



Robin

Robin Kiser is our go-to volunteer for floral design and techniques. She has shared her expertise with many other RAF Knoxville volunteers. Robin's volunteer spirit warms those around her!

Would you like to become a RAF Volunteer?

Learn more at www.RAFKnoxville.org or call (865) 633-9082