

board profile



Connie Wallace

Connie Wallace has a heart for service. After spending years in the medical profession, she knows first-hand the difference an RAF bouquet can make in the lives of patients.

"Because I have spent my working life as a Registered Nurse in Med-Surgery, ICU, and the OR, I have a real understanding of the difference a patient's attitude can make on their sense of wellbeing and recovery. Studies have repeatedly proven this. A simple act of kindness such as we deliver with these Random

Acts of Flowers can literally change their world. I am proud of volunteering with an organization which makes such a difference within the lives of those most in need of being lifted up," said Connie.

Connie has given countless hours of service to the Historic Ramsey House and is an associate board member. She is also a power house of flower knowledge and serves as the Open Gardens Chairman for the Dogwoods Art Festival. She joined the RAF board in 2011 and has served faithfully.

Connie is married to John, and they have two grown children: Taylor (36) and Robert (33). ■

supporter profile

Sophie Pollock did something extraordinary. As she approached her Bat Mitzvah, she decided to forgo gifts and ask her friends and family to support RAF Knoxville instead. What followed was a flood of well-wishes and donations! To date, Sophie's selfless act has generated over \$3,000 in support of the RAF mission!

"For my mitzvah project I wanted to raise awareness for Random Acts of Flowers, a local organization that does many wonderful things. Random Acts of Flowers performs mitzvot every single day. Earlier this year we had a Shabbat service honoring their organization and we were fortunate to have the founder, Larsen Jay, speak to our congregation. There are many difficult lessons to understand in the Torah. However, the lesson in today's portion of caring for others and helping people –BLOSSOM on a daily basis through the work of Random Acts of Flowers."

- Sophie Pollock

In addition to the critical funding Sophie raised, she also donated all of the flowers from her special day to RAF. Thank you, Sophie, and congratulations on your Bat Mitzvah! ■



Sophie Pollock



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in bloom

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events

IN"VOL"VEMENT EVENT

November 12th - 5:30pm
Volunteer Training

LADIES NIGHT OUT

November 17th - 6:30pm
All Occasions Party Rentals

CHRISTMAS DELIVERY

December 24th - Time TBA
Deliver holiday joy!

holiday joy!

Of all of the floral deliveries Random Acts of Flowers Knoxville is able to make throughout the year, none are more special than the annual Christmas Poinsettia Deliveries. The longest running tradition at RAF, the Christmas Delivery program began seven years ago, and has remained a cherished project by everyone who has been a part of it.

Each year, poinsettia plants are generously gifted to RAF by area nurseries, greenhouses, grocery stores, garden centers, and corporate events. Our loyal volunteers donate their time on Christmas Eve to collect and distribute poinsettias to patients in area hospitals. For those requiring medical care during the holidays, the harsh lights and white walls of

The Christmas Delivery program is funded by generous sponsorships from local companies and families in the Knoxville community. A \$10 donation sponsors one poinsettia delivery, and the donating family's name or company's logo appears on the delivery card. Donations can be made in honor of someone special who then receives a greeting informing them of the gift. Many families find the Christmas Poinsettia Delivery to be the perfect time to honor the memory of a loved one by making a donation in their name. For the friend or family member who does not need or want anything new for Christmas, or for the mall-avoidant gift-giver, a poinsettia sponsorship makes the perfect gift. Given the joy experienced by the staff, volunteers, and recipients of Random Acts of Flowers, we look forward to continuing this program for many Christmases to come!

Donate securely online at:
www.RAFKnoxville.org
or contact Jennifer Sheehan for more information at (865) 633-9082 / jen@rafknoxville.org.

"I just wanted to thank you and the team at Random Acts of Flowers! My mother was in the hospital for Christmas this year and she received a beautiful white poinsettia delivered to her while she was here. It definitely made her day brighter! It was also nice to be on the receiving end - I had the pleasure of volunteering with your team a few years ago. It made my heart smile to know that I was a part of that. Again, I thank you and wish the best to you and the Random Acts team for the New Year. Thank you again for all that you do!" – Nikki G. ■

holiday tradition. Parents and grandparents use this experience to instill a value for service in their families and to keep compassion and humanity a part of their holidays.



you can help deliver a smile

Name _____

Billing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please accept my/our gift of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other \$ _____

Check enclosed

Charge my credit card: Visa MC AmEx

Name as it appears on card _____

Card # _____ CVV (security code) _____

Exp. ___/___ Signature _____

Mail to: 3500 Workman Rd. • Suite 101B • Knoxville, TN 37921

or *donate online* securely at www.RAFKnoxville.org

ladies night out

Take a night to come experience the magical art of floral and event design. Enjoy delicious food and drink while learning the art of table and floral pairings, showcasing award winning floral designers amid the latest entertaining trends from All Occasions Party Rentals' talented Event Designer, Gina Changas. Random Acts of Flowers' 2015 Floral & Décor Event Series has one event remaining, located at All Occasions Party Rentals on Middlebrook Pike.



"Transformations"

Tuesday, November 17th, 6:30 pm
Guest Designer: Susan Patrick Meacham

Make your fall decorations transition into the Christmas holiday season with a generous application of glitz and glitter. Don't throw out that fall beauty, transform it.

Tickets are \$50.00 per person.

To purchase tickets, call (865) 633-9082 or visit www.RAFKnoxville.org (special discount for RAF volunteers - Just call Jen!)

All proceeds from the workshops benefit RAF Knoxville. ■



"My husband received a beautiful bouquet of flowers from RAF. We are both so grateful for the work of RAF, its volunteers and supporters. He loved the flowers. Once he had enjoyed the flowers, he passed them along so another patient could enjoy."

- Colleen W.

save the dates

IN"VOL"VEMENT EVENT

November 12, 2015
5:30pm @ RAF Knoxville
Volunteer training and ongoing education

LADIES NIGHT OUT

November 17, 2015
6:30pm @ All Occasions Party Rentals
Order your tickets today!

CHRISTMAS DELIVERY PROGRAM

December 24, 2015
Times and locations to be determined
Deliver holiday joy to those in need



2015 board of directors

Chad Harrison, *President*

- Eric Anderson
- Lindsay Bennett
- Tom Catani
- Chelly Clayton
- Angie Crabtree
- Melissa Everett
- Jacqueline Holdbrooks

- Amy Morton
- Keith Ottaviano
- Rose Perkinson
- Janice Pollock
- Cecil Scarbrough
- Dr. Stephanie Smith
- Terry Turner
- Connie Wallace



testimonials

Share your story... info@RAFKnoxville.org

"I feel that when people can find a way to give to others, it keeps one grounded, appreciative and positive. Thanks for being a light in my day, and opening my eyes to yet another way people are making a difference in the lives of others."

- Cynthia M.



"The yellow daisies are beautiful. I enjoy them every day. Thanks so very much!"

- Margaret O.



"We had an Elvis impersonator here today and your flowers just topped off the day! When the residents returned to their room, their faces just lit up in a joyous smile."

- Diana M.



mission

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" nonprofit organization, Random Acts of Flowers is committed to nourishing the health of the environment, individuals, and the community.

fulfillment

The below statistics represent the all-time mission fulfillment numbers for both Knoxville and RAF across the nation (as of 10/19/15).



BOUQUETS DELIVERED

51,979 KNOXVILLE
93,340 NATIONWIDE



VASES RECYCLED

59,931 KNOXVILLE
110,804 NATIONWIDE



VOLUNTEER HOURS

23,741 KNOXVILLE
41,345 NATIONWIDE



garden party

The only thing better than having a party, is having a party for a purpose. Random Acts of Flowers Knoxville did just that on May 9th surrounded by over 400 of our best friends and supporters. Donors, volunteers, and community leaders came together at the beautiful home of **Julie and Louis Schaad** to celebrate friends, fellowship, and flowers!

Guests began the night with a stop by the photo booth where they were able to pose with friends and make their silliest faces. After hitting the buffet provided by **Dead End BBQ Catering**, attendees wiped the barbeque sauce from their faces and indulged in a little dessert at the classic s'mores bar. After a few laughs, party goes relaxed on a leisurely boat ride courtesy of **Malibu Boats**. Re-energized by the jaunt down the river, it was time to jam to the musical stylings of **The Chillbillies**, Knoxville's premier rhythm and blues band.



Guests and supporters of RAF Knoxville

Our Silent Auction was made possible by **Town & Country Garden Club** who donated 30 beautiful floral arrangements, which winners were able to

take home and claim credit for at their next dinner party! Even more exciting were the 10 different vacations auctioned off during the evening's Live Auction. The product of RAF's partnership with **Winspire**, these travel packages were a huge hit! After the



Guests enjoyed cocktails by the pool at the Schaad home.

barbeque had been eaten, the last marshmallow burnt, and the shouting at the auction had died down, we were left with beautiful images of the evening courtesy of **Danielle Evans Photography**.

Such a successful event would not have been possible without the countless hours of effort put forth by RAF staff and volunteers. RAF is also very fortunate to have the support of our title sponsor, **Pilot Flying J**. Other sponsors for the event include **The University of Tennessee Medical Center, Malibu Boats, Clayton Homes, Tom and Caren Gallaher, ADT Security Service, Dewhirst Properties, Enrollment First, Inc., Tom and Deanene Catani, Patrick and Lisa Schaad, and Michael and Lucy Schaad**.

Special thanks goes out to **Dead End BBQ Catering, All Occasions Party Rentals, and Cherokee Distributing** whose generous in-kind donations made this event happen. Finally, we would like to thank Random Acts of Flowers co-founders **Larsen and Adrian Jay** for chairing the event.

We sincerely hope that everyone who was able to make it out had as much fun as we did. We are looking forward to an even bigger, better party next year! ■

volunteer profile

Marcy Meldahl is a wonderful volunteer that has been finding her niche at Random Acts of Flowers since February 2015. As a new volunteer, she has found RAF to be a very welcoming place and says "RAF treats its volunteers better than some businesses treat their employees!" She says that the seasoned volunteers were willing to teach her and made her entry into the organization very pleasant.



Marcy Meldahl

One of her favorite experiences was the day she made six bouquets that she thought "passed muster" and on which she received compliments from other volunteers. Marcy says that her time here has helped broaden her horizons and make new friends outside of the employment arena. Before Marcy came to RAF she had a long career as a Human Resources Professional.

To Marcy, RAF was a great way to combine her desire to learn more about flower arranging and to also do something that would brighten other people's day. After getting into the groove of volunteering with both deconstruction and arranging, she wanted to experience delivering bouquets to an area hospital.

"I'm not well suited to work in the hospital, but I can make something that can brighten someone's day." Marcy would definitely recommend volunteering at RAF to those who are interested, saying it is *"both gratifying and uplifting to create a beautiful arrangement that someone else will enjoy,"* even if she has to stand for a couple hours to do so! ■

around the nation

2015 has been a significant growth year for Random Acts of Flowers. After a 2014 filled with planning, events, scouting and prep we were excited to launch RAF Chicago (Evanston, IL) in late January, the first branch in our Midwest region. Throughout the successful launch in Chicago, the national team continued work establishing our west coast presence in Silicon Valley, CA, which opened in late April. Establishing both of these new branches were a result of over a year of efforts, propelled by the RAF national staff and board of directors, to begin bringing the mission to different areas of the country.



Knoxville staff and volunteers prepare for their 50,000th delivery!

In addition to establishing new Random Acts of Flowers branches, this year's focus has been on further developing our national operations team. Located in Knoxville, the RAF National team serves as the "back-office" support for all branches handling everything from finance, compliance, insurance, human

resources, marketing and operational support. As the number of branches and their needs have grown, so has the team. Three new staff members were added this year bringing the total to six professionals who are dedicated to the success of each RAF location.

Due to the ever-increasing demand for the Random Acts of Flowers' mission around the country, the RAF national team and national board of directors are finalizing a strategic plan. This initiative will outline the growth strategy in the years to come and focus the organization's efforts to helping people in healthcare facilities across the country.

This fall, RAF will revel in making its 100,000th floral delivery to a person in a healthcare facility across the country. Just last month, we also celebrated our 100,000th vase recycled! While these are certainly significant milestones to commemorate, everyone at Random Acts of Flowers is focused on the individual impact our mission has on our community members. It all comes down to the moment when a RAF volunteer greets the recipient with a smile, offer of flowers and that moment of kindness.

As RAF continues to evolve as a national service organization, our goal and vision remains the same: to improve the emotional health of communities with flowers. The future of Random Acts of Flowers is exciting and we're proud of all that's been accomplished in the name of innovative healthcare and offer our appreciation to those who've helped make it possible. ■



branch highlights

Chicago, Illinois

RAF Chicago launched on January 27th, 2015 at Northwestern Medicine. Located just north of Chicago in Evanston, IL, RAF Chicago has received tremendous community support and recently moved into a bigger facility to support the growing volunteer base. As of September 15th, 2015, this branch has delivered beautiful bouquets to over 10,000 individuals in the Chicagoland area at 8 hospitals and over 40 long-term care facilities. **Learn more at www.RAFChicago.org**

Silicon Valley, California

RAF's newest branch in Silicon Valley officially launched on April 30th, 2015. A growing network of reliable floral donors and a thriving volunteer program have allowed for over 2,500 bouquets to be delivered in just a few short months. Recipient hospitals include Stanford, El Camino, the VA, and many other healthcare and senior care facilities. We are looking forward to engaging a diverse population in our mission, and establishing a flourishing presence on the west coast. **RAFSiliconValley.org**

Pinellas Co., Florida

Random Acts of Flowers Pinellas launched in November 2013 as the first expansion branch for the now nationwide nonprofit organization. In just under two years of operation, RAF Pinellas has delivered smiles in the form of floral bouquets to over 18,000 patients and repurposed over 23,000 vases.

The organization regularly serves 7 hospitals and over 60 long-term care facilities in the Pinellas County community. Through collaboration with local businesses and organizations, RAF Pinellas has seen volunteers from many community organizations, including deliveries by professional baseball players from the Tampa Bay Rays. Thank you to all who make this mission possible; we are looking forward to the continued growth in the future. **Learn more at www.RAFPinellas.org** ■