



# Truman VA BULLETIN

## Take Note:

- September is National Preparedness Month. For information, visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).
- Sept. 14-20 is 2008 National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week.
- The Hatch Act prohibits federal employees from campaigning for any political party or candidate at their workplace.

Department of Veteran Affairs—Columbia, Missouri

## United Way Day Of Caring

On Friday, Sept. 5, more than 500 volunteers from 33 local area companies and organizations, including Truman VA, volunteered their time and expertise for 45 projects at

local human service agencies. There were 18 Truman VA employees that participated in the 16<sup>th</sup> annual United Way Day of Caring. The VA group engaged in several day-long

work projects involving painting, cleaning and landscaping at Boys & Girls Town of Missouri. Truman VA was represented by



Jan Boone,  
 Janet Branch,  
 Joyce Caldwell,  
 Kristina DeVenney,  
 Stephen Gaither,  
 Carla Hansel,  
 Kim Hyatt,  
 Lula Johnson,  
 Linda Kaercher,  
 Paul Kurzejeski,  
 Wanda LaBore,  
 Melissa Langley,  
 Donna Leezy,  
 Sarah Nickles,  
 Jackie Rahmer,  
 Cindy Swingle,  
 Marilyn Thomas and  
 Bob Van Arsdale.

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## Valet Parking Begins September 22

Beginning Monday, Sept. 22, all veterans with appointments at Truman VA will be able to use a free Valet Parking Service. The service, which has been successfully provided at several other VA medical centers, will operate from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Vehicles should be driven to the main entrance of the hospital where parking valet employees will provide no hassle

parking for veterans with appointments. Truman VA has contracted with Phoenix Industries for this service.



## 2008 Federal Employee with Disabilities Award Nominations



6% of Truman VA Employees report some kind of disability.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Currently, six percent of Truman VA employees have disabilities. These employees embrace challenges, pursue career opportunities and significantly contribute to VA's mission with their dedication and commitment. The hospital's EEO Committee invites service lines and other organizational units to nominate deserving employees for the 2008 Federal Employee with Disabilities Award. Nominations are due no later than Friday, Sept. 26 and should

include the employee's name, service line, position/title, years of service and a brief narrative justification for the recognition. For more information, contact **Connie Riker**, EEO Committee Chair, at extension 56688 or via e-mail at [connie.riker@va.gov](mailto:connie.riker@va.gov). The award will be presented at the National Disability Employment Awareness Month program at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 23 in the auditorium.

## Truman VA Employee Receives 2008 "Embrace Life" Award

*"Live life to the fullest," says*

*Clare Stringer,*

*2008 recipient of the*

*Embrace Life Award.*

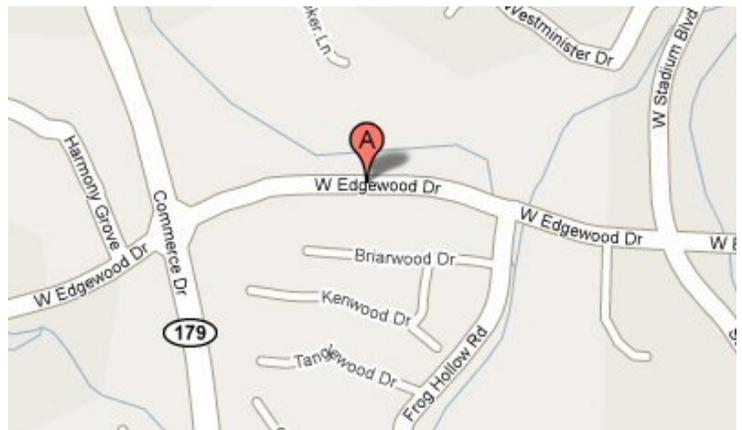
**Clare Stringer**, a food service worker in the Veterans Canteen Service at Truman VA, was recently recognized as one of 13 nation-wide recipients of the 2008 "Embrace Life" awards presented by State Farm Insurance Companies. Created five years ago, the Embrace Life award program celebrates the achievements and life lessons of those who have suffered losses. Stringer, who was nominated

for the award by two of her cousins who are State Farm agents, qualified because of the loss of several loved ones. She was a pre-teen when both parents died and then, at age 16, lost her sister. Her daughter died 11 years ago in an automobile accident as a result of a drunk driver. Stringer's coping philosophy, which she emphasizes with her other children, is to "live life to its fullest." That basic belief along with her

belief that "family is everything" was a key factor in her selection for the award. Congratulations, Clare!

## Jefferson City CBOC Operational

The new Jefferson City Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) opened for business on Monday, Sept. 15, when the first patients were seen. A dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 26. The address for the newest CBOC is 2707 W. Edgewood in Jefferson City. The primary telephone number is **573-635-0233**.



## Hospital Smoking Policy Change

**Effective Oct. 1, the revised hospital smoking policy takes effect. Key changes in the revised policy include:**

- To further reinforce our facility's security requirements for locked doors at all entrances and exits at the end of the day, access to the smoking shelter will not be allowed after 9:30 p.m. each day. Smoking hours for patients will be limited to 6:00 a.m. until 9:30 p.m.
- Smoking will be prohibited within 35 feet of any building entrance or the MRI trailer, which is a patient care area. Gold and black lines have been painted on the grounds as a reminder. This is a requirement for all health care facilities.
- There are two specifically designated smoking areas on the hospital grounds.
- Patients/visitors are to use the newly erected smoking shelter near the Visitor's Parking Lot.
- Employees are to use the benches south of Building #21, adjacent to Service Drive and the Grounds Shop area.



## Vacancy Announcements

Vacancy announcements are currently posted on first, second and third floor bulletin boards. In addition, they are sent via e-mail to a shared mail group titled CO-VACANCIES. In order to provide the greatest accessibility to employees, Human Resources established a mail group in which employees may self-enroll and receive vacancy announcements automatically. If you are interested

in this mail group, please follow these prompts:

- Go to Mailman Menu Option
- Type P for Personal Preference
- Type E for Enroll in
- Type G.CO-COLUMBIA VACANCIES.

Registered nurse and licensed practical nurse vacancies are automatically sent to previously established mail groups. You do not need to follow the procedures above to receive those vacancy announcements. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact **Kristina Gaddy** (HR) at extension 56400 or **Jeff Kimbro** (HR) at extension 56402.

## VA Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel (DEMPS)

Through VA's Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System (DEMPS), current and retired VA employees can contribute their service and support VA's rapid response to an emergency affecting a VA facility or to a Federally-declared national disaster. VA has deployed hundreds of physicians, nurses, mental health counselors, pharmacists, allied health and non-medical personnel to

strengthen Federal health and medical response efforts. If you might be interested in signing up or need more information, contact **Richard Poelling** at extension 52590 or via e-mail at [Richard.poelling@va.gov](mailto:Richard.poelling@va.gov).

### PERSONAL

Wednesday, Sept. 24 has been designated **VA Privacy Day** with a goal of increasing employee awareness of protecting personally identifiable information (PII). As VA employees, we all have the responsibility to protect both veteran and employee PII. Please help in the joint effort to forge a more secure enterprise. For more information visit the following intranet site:

<http://vavw.privacy.va.gov>.



# Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital

Department of Veteran Affairs—Columbia, Missouri

Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital  
800 Hospital Drive  
Columbia, Missouri 65201  
Phone: 573-814-6000

## WELCOME

**Christopher Bradshaw**, Medical Supply Aid (PS)

**Tanner Cassil**, Recreation Aid (PS)

**John Guzman**, Library Clerk (Library)

**Daniel Holley**, Mail Clerk (HAS)

**Peter Jiang, MD**, Staff Physician (PC)

**Janet Johnson, PhD**, Staff Psychologist (BH)

**Rachel Jones**, House Manager (BH)

**Lori Kurzejeski, LCSW**, Staff Social Worker (PS)

**Kay Leege, RNP**, Nurse Practitioner (PS)

**Daffany McDowelle**, Medical Supply Aid (PS)

**William Palmer, PhD**, Staff Psychologist (BH)

**Thomas Porter**, Program Support Clerk (FIN)

**Airel Saunders**, Medical Aid (PS)

**Ernest Slaughter, RN**, Staff Nurse (PS)

**Tara Stemme, RN**, Staff Nurse (PS)

**Vanesha Stewart**, Food Service Worker (PS)

**Michael Taylor**, Supervisory Occupational Therapist (CS)

**Elizabeth Vaughn, RN**, Staff Nurse (PS)

## FAREWELL

**Shaun Caliz**, Program Support Clerk (Research)

**Mitchell French**, Housekeeping Aid (FM)

**Emily Johnson, RN**, Staff Nurse (PS)

**Marcia Muskrat, RN**, Nurse Recruiter (PS)

**Ruth Stivers**, Telephone Operator (HAS)

## Odds and Ends

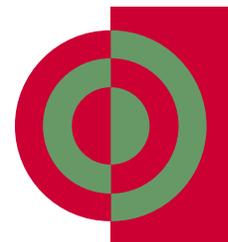
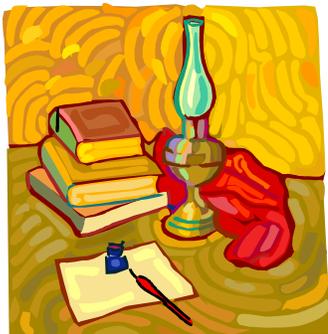
### 2008 INTEGRATED ETHICS STAFF SURVEY

Thanks to all that participated in the 2008 Integrated Ethics Staff Survey. We do care about your opinions and participating in the survey was one way in which your input can be used to make positive changes. We expect to receive feedback from the survey by the end of October. This information will be shared with service lines and we will develop specific action plans based on the results. For more information, contact **Vickie Stockglauer**, Compliance Officer, at extension 56593.

### THANK YOU

I would like to thank my co-workers for the flowers, cards, visits, phone calls and most of all for their continued support while I was out for surgery and since my return during my recuperation. They truly are the most awesome team in the hospital. Thanks from the bottom of my heart and may God bless.

**Barb Critchfield**



ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM? THANK A VETERAN!