

Crayons!

May Stuart, Chair AHA Committee on Volunteers

We could learn a lot from crayons:

All are different colors

Some have weird names

Some are pretty

Some are smart

Some are blunt

But they all have to learn to live in the same box

Auxiliary Members/Volunteers are like crayons:

We do come in different colors and different backgrounds and levels of education.

Some of us do have weird names that perhaps were family names passed on to us from our ancestors or acquired when we were married.

All Auxiliary Members/Volunteers may not be pretty, but we are beautiful because of what we do for others. We have a special capacity for sharing our love and compassion with our patients and their families, staff and fellow volunteers.

Our new members are the sharp crayons: they have not been used but are ready and willing to serve wherever needed.

Our veteran members are the blunt crayons: they are experienced and have been used and served everywhere for many years, they can be sharpened and renewed through continuing education and can be an inspiration for new members.

Perhaps the one thing we need to learn is how to live as "crayons" in the same box. We have to remember that we all volunteer for different reasons; Because we are lonely and want to meet new people. Because we want to give back to the hospital/community. Because we want to feel good about ourselves through service to others. Or, because we want to make a difference.

Auxiliary members/Volunteers, like the crayons, are different, but we have (or should have) one common goal, to be the best that we can be. We should perform our assignments in a professional manner as we carry out the mission of our hospitals and remember the patients and their families are our guests and priority.

We don't have to love or like everyone we work with, but in order to live in the same box we must recognize and appreciate what each contributes to the organization. As we enter the hospital we should leave all our personal problems and dislikes at the door. Let's all live in the same box "Lifting Lives, Spirits, and Hearts," and remember we are an example of the best America has to offer. Be safe, be strong, be proud, and make room for everyone in the box.

