

Navicent Health Baldwin-Pink Bow Gift Shop & Volunteer Opportunities

By Catherine Dean

Since 1974, the Pink Bow Gift Shop (PBGS) at Navicent Health Baldwin (NHB) has donated more than \$1.2 million worth of medical equipment to the hospital. All profit generated from sales is used to purchase the items that otherwise could not be obtained due to budget restrictions.

Located on the first floor of Park Tower, the store is filled with more than the standard balloons, flowers, and candy that all hospital gift shops provide.

“We want the community to know that the shop is filled with beautiful home décor, baby clothes, trendy cups and tumblers, and jewelry-just to name a few of the hundreds of items we carry,” said Sharon Leavitt, vice-president of the Hospital Auxiliary-the volunteer group that manages and staffs the shop.

Leavitt is the gift shop chairman and buyer for the shop and she makes sure it stays chockfull of goodies that appeal to a wide audience. Some of the best sellers are the University of Georgia baby clothes, the jewelry-including rings, watches and necklaces-and on-trend home décor.

“You do not have to be visiting someone in the hospital to shop in the Pink Bow. We are a great source for a last-minute gift item and holiday shopping as well,” said Leavitt.

Once a year, the Hospital Auxiliary takes a “wish list” of needed or wanted items from each NHB department-the group’s goal is to purchase as many pieces of equipment as their annual profits will allow.

“We want the funds to go a long way,” said Hospital Auxiliary President Diane R. Sargent. “We try to be as fair as we can be and rotate the departments receiving the donated items so that everyone can benefit at some point in time. “

Sargent has been a volunteer at the Pink Bow since 1976 and said that it has been a rewarding part of her life for many years. A retired school teacher, the shop gives her the opportunity to strengthen the ties to the community she calls home.

She observed, “We not only sale beautiful items, we connect on a personal level to the individuals who visit the shop. That’s the beauty of a small-town hospital.”

A few of the donations made over the years include blanket warmers, a neonatal hearing evaluation machine, and chairs and televisions for waiting rooms.

Sargent, Leavitt, and the 35 Pink Bow volunteers are currently preparing for the upcoming holiday season with Christmas items arriving as early as next week and special sales are schedule including a 20% off day-some restrictions do apply- to be held on December 10.

According to Leavitt, the shop will carry a lot of fabulous Christmas gifts as well as smaller items for stocking stuffers. They will also have a Secret Santa Shop the night of the hospital's Celebration of Life on December 6, just for children to pick out inexpensive gifts for loved ones.

"We are extremely grateful to all of our volunteers and to the Pink Bow Gift Shop for what they contribute each day to our hospital," said Navicent Health Baldwin's Volunteer Coordinator Gail Peacock.

According to Peacock, the hospital has over 100 volunteers stationed within all departments to assist staff, patients, and families navigate through the services NHB provides.

"We welcome anyone who wants to volunteer with us and make a difference in the lives of the people who visit our hospital every day," said Peacock.

To learn more about volunteering at Navicent Health Baldwin visit their website at [/www.navicenthealth.org/nhb/volunteer-opportunities](http://www.navicenthealth.org/nhb/volunteer-opportunities) or contact Gail Peacock at Peacock.Barbara@navicenthealth.org or 478-454-3709.

To learn more about the Pink Bow Gift Shop email Diane R. Sargent at died_1942@yahoo.com or drop in the store located on the first floor of the hospital in Park Tower located at 821 North Cobb Street and is opened Monday-Friday 9:30 am-4:30 pm. For information on sales visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ORMCPinkBow/.

Upcoming Events

Baldwin Road Race 5K-November 3, to benefit the hospital. If interested visit www.racepal.com or call 478-733-3388.

A vendor sale will be hosted at NHB on November 26&27-\$6.00 Sale-to include jewelry, stocking stuffers, and much more. A portion of the proceeds will go back to the hospital.

Celebration of Life-December 6, 6 pm-8pm to be held at Park Tower and outside by the lake. Will include free hot chocolate and cookies and selfies with Santa. The gift shop will be open, and a Secret Santa Shop will be available for children to purchase inexpensive gifts.

20% off sale at the Pink Bow Gift Shop on December 10. Look for an announcement on a Open House at the shop during the month of December.