



Press Release
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Giving Time, Giving Heart at Knox County Hospital District

National Volunteer Week shines a light on the people who strengthen care and community

KNOX CITY, Texas (April 10, 2026) – During National Volunteer Week, April 19–25, and throughout the year, Knox County Hospital District (KCHD) is so thankful for the volunteers whose generosity, compassion and steady presence help make a difference across the district every day. National Volunteer Week is coordinated by Points of Light and is observed each year as a time to celebrate the people who give their time and talent in service to others.

At Knox County Hospital District, those contributions take many forms. Volunteers assist with outreach efforts, support the district's mission through community service, contribute to special events and fundraising, and bring encouragement to patients, residents, staff and families. Their efforts may not always happen in the spotlight, but they leave a lasting mark.

"Volunteers represent the kind of community spirit that helps rural healthcare thrive," said Stephen Kuehler, CEO of Knox County Hospital District. "Their service reflects generosity, compassion and a real commitment to neighbors helping neighbors. We are proud to recognize them and deeply grateful for the role they play across our district."

Volunteer service has long been part of the fabric of KCHD. The district's volunteers help extend the culture of care beyond medical treatment alone, reminding patients and residents that kindness, familiarity and personal connection matter. In a rural setting, those qualities are especially meaningful.

One of the most visible volunteer efforts connected to KCHD is the Pink Ladies Auxiliary, which has supported the hospital district for decades. Through the Pink Ladies Thrift Shop and other service efforts, the auxiliary has helped raise support for hospital needs while also creating a place where community members can gather, visit and lend support in practical ways.

"The Pink Ladies Auxiliary has been an important part of our story for many years," Kuehler said. "Their work is about more than fundraising. They help strengthen relationships, create goodwill and demonstrate what service looks like in action. Their contribution has touched this district in countless ways."

At Munday Nursing Center, volunteers also help enrich the lives of residents by offering companionship and supporting activities that bring interest, joy and social connection to daily life. Whether helping with seasonal events, visiting one-on-one, or simply spending time with residents, volunteers can help create moments that matter.

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“Volunteers help make the nursing center feel even more personal and welcoming,” said Kelsy Simmons, Administrator at Munday Nursing Center. “A visit, a conversation or time spent sharing an activity can brighten a resident’s day in ways that are hard to measure, but easy to see. Those moments are meaningful to the people who live here and to the staff who care for them.”

National Volunteer Week was first established in 1974 and continues to serve as a national reminder that volunteerism strengthens communities and inspires others to get involved. Points of Light describes the observance as an opportunity to recognize and thank volunteers who lend their time, talent, voice and support to causes they care about.

That message fits especially well in a community like Knox County, where service often grows from personal relationships and a shared investment in local wellbeing. Volunteers are often friends, neighbors, retired professionals, family members and community supporters who simply want to help.

“Rural communities understand the value of showing up for one another,” Kuehler said. “That is exactly what our volunteers do. They step forward, give what they can and help make this district stronger for everyone who depends on it.”

KCHD leaders also note that volunteerism is meaningful not only for those receiving support, but for those who serve. The act of volunteering often creates a stronger sense of purpose and connection, while reinforcing the idea that even small acts of kindness can have a wide-reaching impact.

Each fall, KCHD looks forward to honoring its volunteers at the Annual Appreciation Banquet in Knox City, a tradition that reflects the district’s gratitude for the many individuals who give of themselves throughout the year. National Volunteer Week provides another important opportunity to pause and say thank you.

“There are many ways to serve, and every one of them matters,” Kuehler said. “Whether someone gives time at the thrift shop, helps support residents, assists with events or contributes behind the scenes, that service helps carry out our mission. We want our volunteers to know their efforts are noticed, appreciated and never taken for granted.”

KCHD encourages anyone interested in giving back to consider volunteer opportunities within the district. There are a variety of ways to become involved, depending on interests, availability and preferred areas of service.

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To learn more about volunteer opportunities with the Knox County Hospital District Auxiliary, including the Pink Ladies Thrift Shop, call 940-658-3403. For volunteer roles at Munday Nursing Center, call 940-422-4541. More information about Knox County Hospital District and its services is available at www.knoxhospital.org.

About Knox County Hospital District

Founded in 1926, Knox County Hospital District provides healthcare for residents of Knox County and surrounding areas. The district offers a wealth of medical services, including 24-hour emergency care, advanced radiology services, a clinical laboratory, home health, physical therapy, long-term care, patient education, and more. For additional information, please call 940-657-3535 or visit www.knoxhospital.org.