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NEWS RELEASE

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JUNIOR VOLUNTEERS GIVE OF THEIR SUMMER TO SERVE

Benton, AR. (July 30, 2007) For many teenagers, summer time is spent sleeping late, hanging out with friends or laying by a pool. But not for these 31 dedicated teenagers. For the past 6 weeks, the Saline Memorial Hospital Junior Volunteers have given numerous hours learning how a hospital works and helping with a variety of tasks.

“This was my 5th consecutive summer to volunteer at SMH,” said Emily Howard of Benton. “I’ve volunteered in a variety of departments in the hospital and truly feel like the work I did made a significant difference.”

The SMH Junior Volunteer program originated in 1961 as a junior girls’ volunteer organization formerly referred to as Candy Strippers and has evolved into the Junior Volunteer Program now including teen boys and girls between the ages of 13-18.

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The goal of the JV Program is to offer educational experiences, participation, and insight into the everyday operations of a hospital.

"The enthusiasm of this group is infectious," said Shelly Reed, SMH Manager of Volunteer Services. "They are only here for a short time, but their contributions have left a lasting impact on those departments for which they serve".

Volunteering at the hospital not only looks good on a resume, but also helps prepare students entering the workforce. Volunteers work in a variety of hospital departments such as Clinical Education, Breast Imaging, Medical Records, Dietary, PASE Center, Diagnostic Imaging and Diabetes Education.

"I definitely encourage others to consider volunteering at SMH," said Paul Herndon of Benton. "I was fortunate to work with a few of the SMH physicians and was able to gain their valuable advice on my futures plans in healthcare."

The 2007 summer program participants were: Katelyn Prewitt, Derrick Marshall, Aaron Knight, Paul Herndon, Matt Melero, Courtney Krough, Myra Cloud, Anna Clay, Zac Rowe, Keeleigh O'Neal, Haley Glymp, Meagan Lovell, Zach Platt, Caroline Lawrence, Emily Howard, Jenny Chilton, Morgan Ross, Tamario Beaugard, Lyndsie Crone, Austin Howe, Brittany Izard, Jessica Mahan, Samantha Puckett, China Russell, Elizabeth Russell, Kyle Thompson, Lindsey Tucker, Lindsey Weatherford, Danielle Winkler and Jennifer Wright.

For more information about the 2008 Junior Volunteer program or about other SMH volunteer opportunities, please call Shelly Reed at 776-6007.