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"She's Our Dynamo"—Volunteer at Children's at Egleston Spotlightht for Her Service

As we all know at Children's, amazing things come in small packages. Usually though, we think of the small patients we treat, who bring joy to Children's employees through their courage and candor. However, there is one pint-sized miracle bringing joy to everyone at Children's at Egleston, but she is not a patient.

Ansley Hall, a sweet, shy woman with an infectious smile, can't be more than five feet tall. Her Children's at Egleston volunteer apron is tied carefully and proudly around her waist, and her University of Georgia earrings sway like a child on a swing. Her voice is soft and calming, particularly to the nervous patients and families that she guides fearlessly around the large hospital.

Ansley isn't just a volunteer: she's a compass, she's a comfort, and she's a crucial part to the personal touch that Children's offers our patients.

Ansley has volunteered at Children's at Egleston since February 2006.

Although she resides in Phenix City, Ala., she travels two hours to Atlanta each week with her mother who works here. When she first started volunteering, Ansley delivered Hospital Happenings, the calendar of events, to all the patient rooms, which is how she learned the layout of the hospital.

Anita Adair, Manager of Volunteer Services at Children's at Egleston, describes the responsibilities Ansley has earned over the years. "Today, Ansley volunteers at the Information Desk, where she makes deliveries and replaces the red wagons to parking areas, but primarily guides patient families to various parts of the hospital."



It's apparent that Ansley is making strides as an outstanding and dedicated volunteer. Not only was she designated as MVP Administrative Volunteer in April 2007 and earned ELITE volunteer status in October 2008 by logging more than 1,000 volunteer hours, she also was awarded Volunteer of the Year in April 2009.

Ansley says the best thing about working in the hospital is "helping families get where they are supposed to go."

Ansley has also seen benefits in her growing friendships at Children's. She trained Laney, another volunteer with a great story, by showing her the ins and outs of the hospital, and the two became good friends. Ansley says the two eat lunch together every time they volunteer on the same days.

She also has made a friend in Bernard "BJ" Jackson, a Security Officer who works at the front desk. Ansley, who is often spotted wearing University of Georgia red and black, says she teases BJ for being a University of Kentucky fan.

One of the closest connections Ansley has made is with Jan Lavender, Children's at Egleston Guest Services Coordinator. Jan sings Ansley's praises, saying, "She is our dynamo. She is always willing to do everything we ask, and she always does it with a smile." She notes that Ansley has come a long way. "She started out quiet and shy, but now she is so eager! She sometimes even answers the phone!" Ansley smiles proudly when she hear Jan's praise.

Ansley's mother, Taffy, has also noted the impact Children's and the volunteer coordinators have had on Ansley. "Anita paved the way for Ansley to volunteer, and Jan has really been a wonderful mentor. She's really taken Ansley under her wing, and been so sweet and kind to her."

"Overall, Children's has been such a rewarding experience for Ansley. She lives and breathes it." Taffy says gratefully. "It's been life-changing."

And as much as Ansley benefits as a volunteer, Anita says it benefits Children's more. "Having someone like Ansley walk a family through the hospital really provides Children's with a personal touch, even though this place is so big. It's clear that all of our volunteers are really passionate about what they do."



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