

PERIANESTHESIA NURSES: MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN ONE UNIT, ONE HOSPITAL AND ONE COMMUNITY

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Preoperative nurses at Cleveland Clinic have many opportunities for leadership both in the hospital setting and in the community through the Community Outreach Committee. Through the committee several populations in need were identified. In the past year nurses in the preoperative department have initiated several projects of their own.

Several bake sales and raffles were held to raise money for several projects. The funds were used to purchase fleece material to make blankets for the pediatric cardiac operating room patients. Food was also purchased with the money raised, and members of the committee then served the food at a local hospice facility solely funded by donations and volunteers.

Halloween items and healthy snacks were collected to make Halloween bags for 75 children and their families in the Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital. Two food drives for Thanksgiving and Christmas were also organized, resulting in a collection of 89 pounds of food for the Cleveland Food Bank.

Several other projects that the preoperative staff was involved in include volunteering during Perioperative Week at a local science center, March of Dimes Walk, Hands on Northeast Ohio, Cleveland Clinic Teddy Bear Drive, toiletry collection for hospice, and Cleveland Pride.

Through these initiatives and others, perioperative nurses are able to continually provide leadership in their units, facilities, and surrounding communities.