



Volunteer Newsletter

Volunteer Highlight: Professor Bubblemaker



Professor Bubblemaker performs a kids science experiment at Vandalia-Con 2016.

Meet Professor Phineus T. Bubblemaker, gossipmonger of preposterous and provoking entertainment ventures. Professor Bubblemaker brings back memories of days gone by and teaches children a bit about history and the amazing impact it has on our world today. This multi-talented, retired, stage technician turned performer, explores the almost forgotten worlds of soap bubbles, medicine shows, flea circuses, hypnosis, storytelling and other attractions of olden days.

The Professor has accomplished amazing feats, from putting a cow in a bubble at the West Virginia State Fair to creating a delicate and beautiful choreography of lights and sound in his signature bubble ballet. But the most amazing thing that Professor Phineus T. Bubblemaker has done is introduce us to the man behind the magic - John Gradwohl. John has been working with the West Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program by assisting with Vandalia-Con, the annual Steampunk Convention in Parkersburg. John donates a good deal of his time promoting the event, which is held at the Blennerhasset Hotel in Parkersburg over Memorial Day Weekend.

Each year, John performs the bubble ballet and other bubble demonstrations at Vandalia-Con. He hosts a popular, amazing, interactive kids' science class! He also runs errands, hauls tables and chairs and tirelessly performs less glamorous but necessary grunt work to make this event happen. His dedication and support for Vandalia-Con have been essential to its success.

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Recently, John's daughter was diagnosed with cancer and the battle to promote women's health became personal. "I love volunteering for you guys. Between my daughter's bout with cancer and my father losing the fight with leukemia, I have come to understand how important screening and early detection are and how many lives are affected," John Gradwohl stated. His many characters have been Heroes of Vandalia for years. His dedication and commitment to women's health in WV make him an outstanding volunteer.



Professor Bubblemaker leading a class for kids at Vandalia-Con 2016.



Professor Bubblemaker inside a giant bubble.

The Volunteer Appreciation Event in Flatwoods



“Oh, The Lives We Touch” was the theme for the annual Volunteer Appreciation Event held on November 10, 2016. The room was very festive with wonderful table decorations, a bag of goodies for each volunteer and flyers acknowledging some of the qualities that the WVBCCSP staff admire about its volunteers.

Participants heard about many of the Breast Cancer Awareness Month (BCAM) activities and monies raised by the WVBCCSP volunteers. Everyone enjoyed the six amazing Quilts of Hope that were on display. Breast cancer bingo was played again this year and participants had a great time filling up their cards and collecting prizes. The photo booth gave groups a great opportunity to get their picture taken together and the pink props made this activity even more fabulous. The physical activity got everyone moving and alert after a delicious lunch.

The most meaningful part of the day was listening to the two speakers, both breast cancer survivors. The first speaker was Mrs. West Virginia, Sarah White, who is battling a breast cancer recurrence. She talked about her young children, her bucket list and how she remains positive throughout her continued fight with breast cancer. The other speaker was Michael Price, a male breast cancer survivor with a strong family history of the disease. Michael shared what he has learned about hereditary breast cancer through his family’s experiences and the importance of talking with healthcare providers about genetic testing. Both dynamic speakers were very knowledgeable and informative.

The WVBCCSP is thankful for the many volunteers who make BCAM events and activities possible; we could not do it without you.



Quilts of Hope on display, from left to right in the top row, created by: Wetzel County Cancer Coalition, Racine Community Educational Outreach Service (CEOS) and Comfort Quilters, Belington Clinic, Mountain Heritage Quilters Guild of Southern WV and Taylor County Christian Sisters Quilters. The Quilt of Hope in the bottom row was created by the Wirt County CEOS.

