

Any Thing But Serious Give-Aways

Tissue Paper Flowers:

Several layers of tissue paper squares are pinched together and taped to a hospital straw. The ones that bend in the middle (like a flower stem) Then the petals are spread out. Simple and pretty. These are used mainly in senior centers. The clowns carry baskets of these and they can be color coordinated to match holidays. Flowers are recognized as being associated with positive memories. The flowers help stimulate conversation about a wedding, prom, a garden , special scents.

Survival Kits for staff.

We use these mainly in nursing home settings.

Survival Kit

When in doubt or when problems arise reach for your survival kit. It contains:

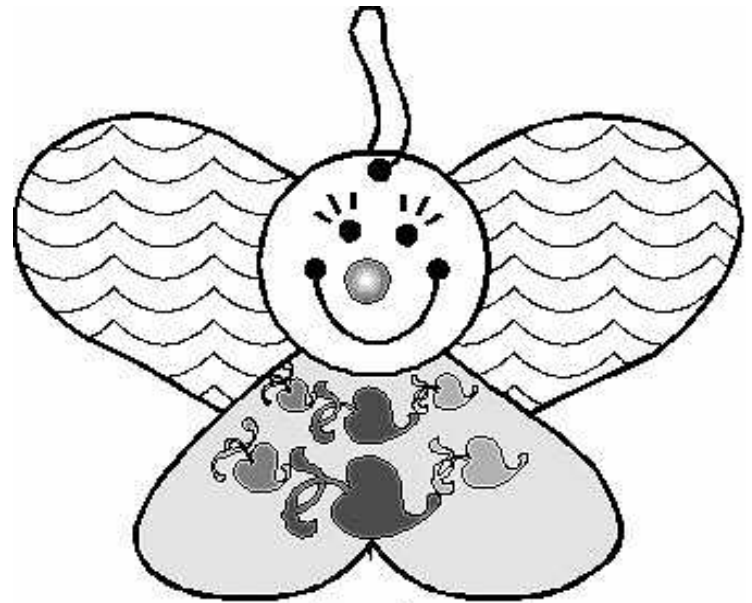
- A toothpick to remind you to not to be picky
- A lollipop to help you lick your problems
- A rubber band to help you be flexible
- A paper clip to help you hold things together
- A caramel to help you "chew the fat"
- A stick of gum to give you "stick-to-itiveness"
- A piece of string to help you tie up the loose ends
- A pin to help you pinpoint problems,
- A Q-tip to "quit taking it personally," and
- A penny so that you will have enough "cents" to realize what a valuable person you are.

Bubble Wrap Prop: [This is the second group that has written they get requests for bubble wrap from staff. I will try it too.] We cut it in small squares and pass it out to the staff for stress relief. We tell them put it in their pocket and when they are dealing with a difficult patient, put their hand in their pocket and pop the bubbles. We get requests for the bubble wrap all the time. It's a standing joke at our hospital.

Life Savers: We also use the individually wrapped white life savers. We hand those to doctors who "need to be saved, also!"

On the give away items we are always being creative and trying to come up with different ideas to re-cycle old greeting cards. Tip: Don't put it in your newsletter that you need used cards to recycle. I currently have over 18 paper size boxes of cards. I think every church in the area is collecting them for us. But the cards are beautiful. These are nice craft ideas for the staff or patients. It is absolutely amazing what you can do with re-cycled greeting cards and a little imagination.

Angels: These are made from these old greeting cards or calendars. On the back we put a poem by Serene West which was in the Hospital Clown newsletter last year.



Front



back

One of the angels we gave to a grandmother who gave it to her grandson. He was holding it on the way home and had a very bad car accident. He swears it was his guardian angel that he was holding that saved his life.

In case you can read the fine print above.

Laughter is a melody,
A concert from the Heart,
A tickling by the Angels,
Creative, living art.
Laughter heals and comforts,
Sometimes gentle, sometimes bold.
Laughter is a healing dance,
Performed within the soul.

The Anti-Depression Kit: This comes in a little baggie

An ERASER to make all those little mistakes disappear
A PENNY so you'll never be completely broke
A MARBLE when you're sure you've lost all yours
An ELASTIC to help you stretch beyond your limits
A STRING to hold it together when you're fallin' apart
A HUG & KISS to remind you someone cares about you!!

Hug and Kiss Box: Made out of recycled cards with a Hershey kiss and hug candy which symbolizes a hug and a kiss.

Stress diets: A ridiculous diet that starts out serious and ends up "eating the rest of the Oreos." We also attach PayDay candy bars.... "as you know all nurses work for peanuts."

Purple heart award/certificate. It's a picture of a purple heart with band aids all over it. We give this to the nurse or staff person who can come up with the worst story of the day. Who had the worst day and deserves to get the certificate. Some of the stories are comical and we try and get them to have fun and be creative - exaggerate their day. Another twist to this is we buy \$100,000 bars and say "We wish this was real money - but we think you are worth a million bucks" and hand them a candy bar. "We appreciate what you do." Keep in mind a clown can have fun with this and twist this into a many different things - one of them being that they can't add. This can be expensive so usually we get the department to purchase the candy bars for us and we pass them out. It's a real morale booster.

The Worry Box:

We put a picture of three small angels inside the box with this poem. These boxes are all made out of the recycled cards.

This box is for your worries, the aches within your heart,
a place to tuck away your fears, where love and hope can
start. So keep this little box beside you, and know how
much (___*___) care, for when you need peace and joy,
the angels will be there.

(* Your name or your group's name.)

Snow Man Soup:

Then in the winter time we make little bags of snowmen soup. The patients love these (but we get permission from their nurse before giving them out). Picture a small sandwich baggie with ribbon and poem attached. Inside the baggie is a hot chocolate mix, a few miniature marshmallows, a chocolate stirring stick (the kind you would get at a coffee shop), and two chocolate kisses. The idea is that the melted marshmallows looks like melted snowmen - thus snowman soup. The poem attached reads:

Snowman Soup

Was told you've been real good this year.
Always glad to hear it.
With freezing weather drawing near,
you'll need to warm the spirit.
So here's a little Snowman soup
Complete with stirring stick.
Add hot water and, sip it slow....
It's sure to do the trick.

As you can see the ladies/gentlemen [the clowns too] I work with are very crafty and are always coming up new ideas. The fun thing about all this is that it has become a hospital/community wide project. Various different departments collect cards, materials, etc. to donate to us. If we need something special, we put a request in the employee newsletter or payroll stuffer and the item requested usually ends up on my door step. A lot of times employees will run across a neat idea or craft at church and will bring us in a sample. Several of the nursing homes we visit have started helping us make our simpler crafts - they love it for they feel they are doing something useful instead of making a craft that just sits on a shelf.

Angel Rock

These are so popular. Take a rock and wrap it in netting or saran wrap (colored netting is prettier). The rock can be any type of rock - as it is not the focus. Tie the top with a ribbon. On the recycled cards - cut the picture off the front so that it is a long rectangle like a book mark - we use pinking shears so that the edges are pretty. Then on the back we paste this poem - which everyone loves.

I am a little Angel Rock.
I'll remind you what to do.
Just put me on your pillow
until the day is through.

Then pull back the covers,
and climb into your bed.
and Whack! Your little Angel Rock
will thump you on your head.

Just a small reminder
to kneel and say a prayer.
Then drop me on the floor,
and I will spend the night right there.

When you wake up the next morning,
Clunk! You stub your toe.
A reminder that you ought to
talk to God before you go.

I am a little Angel Rock.
I'll remind you what to do.
Because your Heavenly Father
wants to hear from you!

author unknown