Auxiliary Donates over $200,000 to Institute of Living

In September of 2017, members of the Hartford Hospital Auxiliary Board went on a tour of the Institute of Living (IOL). We were impressed by the vastness and beauty of the IOL, and the breadth of care that is available to patients with mental health issues from the Hartford region and beyond. Our tour helped us appreciate how fortunate we are to have the IOL in our community.

Nevertheless, we also saw that there were aspects of the IOL that needed to be updated. The Auxiliary began to discuss ways to expand our support for the IOL.

In April 2018, as a part of our Annual Spring Projects cycle, we received several proposals for renovation projects from different departments within the IOL. Seeing an opportunity to combine these into one larger project, we voted to donate over $200,000 to the IOL to complete a number of necessary renovation projects.

The Auxiliary grant has been used for several projects to improve the overall experience at the IOL. For example, part of the grant has been used to fund the complete renovation and modernization of a residential program kitchen in the Todd Building. The kitchen had been in complete disrepair, but with the Auxiliary funds, new cabinets, counters and appliances have been installed. Also, the space is a much cleaner and more hygienic environment, creating a huge quality of life improvement for all of the patients and staff members who use this kitchen.

The grant was also used to refurbish a Child and Adolescent waiting area that services the only outpatient clinic on the IOL campus that treats children from the Hartford area with Husky insurance. The waiting area is the first impression the IOL makes on its patients, and it was in dire need of a facelift. It was dark gray and had a stained and worn carpet. The patients who used it continually referred to it as “depressing”. The waiting room was the opposite of what the IOL aims to provide to these young patients. The staff members who serve in this clinic wanted an environment that created more of a sense of hope for its patients. The Auxiliary was particularly proud to be able to do that by refurbishing this space.

Finally, the grant funded the renovation of three nurses’ stations in the Donnelly Building. All three stations were last remodeled in the 1990’s. The updates that the Auxiliary helped to fund included new counters and cabinets, repainting, new furnishings, and new files. Creating these new up-to-date spaces helps to reflect the values of customer service and patient centeredness that are so important to Hartford HealthCare.

The Auxiliary is honored to be able to help the Institute of Living and we are happy to know that our donation is making a direct impact on the well being of patients and staff members at this amazing institution.
Dear Auxilians,

We are coming to the end of another exciting year of board activities. On behalf of the Auxiliary Board, we are happy to report our news of the past year.

Our 2018-2019 season started with yet another record-breaking golf tournament! We donated $150,000 to "Improving the Family Experience" by refurbishing several family lounges throughout the hospital. Hospitalization of loved ones is a difficult experience. This gift allowed the Auxiliary to help support the hospital’s goal of providing a comfortable, caring and peaceful environment for our patients and their loved ones and caregivers. We continue to receive strong revenue from the Auxiliary Store and Au Bon Pain Café. These earnings have allowed us to fund $470,000 in projects that produce direct, tangible benefits for patients and their families, including video laryngoscopes to be used onboard LIFE STAR, Hartford Hospital’s critical care helicopter service, recliner chairs for the Emergency Medicine Department, the Prone Breast System for Radiation Oncology, used to assist in safer breast cancer treatment, as well as a bedside ultrasound machine for the Medical Intensive Care Unit, providing practitioners with ultrasound guidance during invasive procedures.

Another highlight of the year was our $200,000 gift to the Institute of Living (IOL). This gift helped improve the overall experience at the IOL. Specifically, we were able to help renovate the residential program kitchen in the Todd Building, the Child and Adolescent outpatient clinic waiting area, as well as three nurses’ stations in the Donnelly Building. We were thrilled to be able to support this project as well as this underserved community.

The Auxiliary would like to thank both Bimal Patel, Senior Vice President & President Hartford Region, Hartford HealthCare and Carol Garlick, Vice President Philanthropy. Their guidance and support of the Auxiliary has been a contributing factor to our continued success.

We wish you all a happy and healthy year! Please remember that each and every purchase you make at the Auxiliary store and Au Bon Pain Café directly benefits the Auxiliary’s budget for Good Works for Hartford Hospital. We truly appreciate your continued support.

Best,

Jennifer Wedeles and Shelley Dodd
Hartford Hospital Auxiliary Co-Presidents

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**Changing of the Guard**

Nominated for election at the 2019 Hartford Hospital Auxiliary Annual Meeting, Marri Fairbanks will join continuing president Shelley Dodd as the Co-President of the Auxiliary.

Marri joined the Auxiliary in 2008 and has served on the Executive Board since 2016 in the capacity of Corresponding Secretary and is currently VP of Retail Operations. Marri has chaired the Rx for Fun event and served on the Golf Tournament committee. Outside of the hospital Marri has held numerous leadership positions at Renbrook School, Kent School and served on the Board at the Elizabeth Park Conservancy.

Marri and her husband Jonathan live in the West End of Hartford and have a son (21), a daughter (19), and two Wheaten Terriers. Marri has a background in communications and advertising and worked at advertising agencies in Boston, New Haven and Hartford. Marri is an avid gardening and design enthusiast and is very excited to join Shelley as Co-President of the Auxiliary.
The Hartford Hospital Auxiliary Annual Meeting and Breakfast will be held on May 14, 2019 from 9:30am to 11:30am at the Hartford Golf Club. This meeting offers current Auxiliary members and hospital administration the opportunity to celebrate the many accomplishments of 2018-2019 and enjoy a fabulous speaker. We will review our positive financial picture, share the highlights of our impressive projects and beneficiaries, and announce the new slate of officers.

We then welcome you to join us in a conversation between Hartford Health Care’s very own Rebecca Stewart and Dr. Jack Ross on infectious disease and pandemics and how we are impacted at home and abroad. Don’t miss this timely and important dialogue.

READ TO GROW
Building Literacy from Birth

Founded in 2000, Read to Grow is a nonprofit dedicated to improving early literacy for children in Connecticut. The mission is straightforward – promote language skills and literacy beginning at birth and support parents as their babies’ first teachers. RTG’s overall vision is that every family, regardless of income and primary language, will understand the critical importance of early childhood literacy and take an active role in their child’s reading development.

The Auxiliary funds the early childhood literacy initiative at Hartford Hospital. A $30,000 annual commitment implemented in 2008, the Auxiliary Board brought the Branford-based Read to Grow “Books for Babies” program to the hospital. Literacy information is provided to new moms; trained volunteers (some Auxiliary Board members) meet with parents and families on Bliss 6; and books are provided for newborns and siblings. It is an effective and powerful strategy, directly serving the 3,500 babies born annually at Hartford Hospital.

Auxiliary Board members also donate approximately 1,000 books annually to RTG’s Book Places, which is a partnership with community organizations throughout the state. There are 32 Book Places where families can visit, close to their homes, and choose free books for their children to keep. This includes books for toddlers as well as elementary, middle, high school and adult level readers.

Au Bon Pain Café

The Auxiliary’s relationship with Au Bon Pain Café continues to be strong. Located in the main lobby of Hartford Hospital, the café has been very well received by the hospital community and its guests. In addition to offering freshly prepared sandwiches, salads and desserts on site, the café extends its services to catering breakfast, lunch and snack options for hospital meetings and group gatherings. All Au Bon Pain purchases benefit the Hartford Hospital community, as all fees the Auxiliary receives from Au Bon Pain go into the funds the Auxiliary uses to support important hospital projects.

The Auxiliary Store

The Hartford Hospital Auxiliary has been professionally managed by Faber since 2013. The store continues to do well with strong sales for 2018 and the Auxiliary continues to coordinate with Faber in an effort to ensure that the variety, selection and quality of merchandise offered meets the needs and expectations of the Hartford Hospital community, its visitors and guests. As always, we welcome any feedback regarding specific merchandise that members of the Hartford Hospital community would like made available in the store.

From time to time, the Auxiliary collaborates with Faber when holding membership events at the store. Every sale in the store results in a direct investment in Hartford Hospital through proceeds the Auxiliary receives and applies to funding requests for unique, innovative and necessary projects.
The 2018 Hartford Hospital Auxiliary Annual Benefit Golf Tournament took place on September 17th at the Tumble Brook Country Club in Bloomfield. Once again, the tournament was completely sold out, with net proceeds totaling $380,000. The recipient of this year’s tournament was the Family Experience at Hartford Hospital. We know that Every Moment Matters. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the renovation of Hartford Hospital’s Family Lounges. These areas, adjacent to patient units, will provide our patients’ loved ones and caregivers with an enhanced environment: a place to rest, meet, talk, read, charge their devices and check in with the world when they are away from home.

A full field of 220 guests enjoyed the beautiful early autumn day playing golf, participating in contests, and supporting our raffle and silent auction. The evening ended with a banquet dinner and awards and prizes for our lucky winners. To assist the Auxiliary in making the event run smoothly were nearly 65 volunteers from various departments within Hartford Hospital and the community. The Auxiliary is so appreciative of our numerous sponsors, volunteers and supporters for consistently helping to make this event a success.

We are thrilled to be celebrating the 30th anniversary of our tournament on Monday, September 16, 2019 at The Hartford Golf Club in West Hartford, CT. This new venue will be an exciting change for our sponsors who are eager to play the course. This year’s tournament will support the establishment of a dedicated Emergency Department Observation Unit (EDOU) at Hartford Hospital. In the past year, over 100,000 patients were seen and received care at Hartford Hospital’s Emergency Department, making us among the largest and busiest hospitals in New England. An EDOU will provide continued monitoring for patients who are too sick to be transitioned out of the ED, but are not sick enough to be admitted to the hospital. The EDOU will allow for more space and time to assess and treat the patient’s illness, enabling planning for a safe transition home, as well as freeing up ED space, thus providing a more pleasant experience for all of our emergency patients.

For more information about the 2019 golf tournament, or to find out how to sponsor, donate or volunteer, please contact Lori Flaks (Lbflaks@yahoo.com) or Virginia Van Dyk (virgiavandyk@yahoo.com).
Auxiliary Approves Funding for 2018 Projects

The Hartford Hospital Auxiliary is pleased to announce that it funded thirty-four projects totaling over $467,000 in 2018. The following is a sample of some of the projects the Auxiliary approved for funding:

1. $14,400 for the Heart and Vascular Institute to purchase a PACE early mobility device to increase early ambulation during recovery for patients in the ICU and step-down units.
2. $30,000 for the Pain Treatment Center to conduct genetic testing and counseling for opioid addiction in women of childbearing age who are being treated for chronic pain, headache or fibromyalgia. The tool will help establish the opioid addiction risk of these women.
3. $22,325 for the IV Therapy Services Department to purchase an additional ultrasound machine to enable the proper placement of peripheral intravenous catheters, the most frequently performed invasive procedure in healthcare.
4. $7,995 for the Nursing Lymphedema Program for the purchase of bandage supplies and compression garments to maintain reduction in swelling from lymphedema. Often insurance will not cover the costs.
5. $13,580 for Life Star to purchase two video laryngo-scopes with accessories to be used onboard LIFE STAR to insert breathing tubes into critically ill or injured patients who cannot breathe on their own.
6. $23,746 for the Speech Pathology Department to purchase a TIMS DICOM System to record, review and analyze Modified Barium Swallow Studies. This system will provide the best technology to maximize safety and efficiency when assessing patients with swallowing difficulties.

Other departments that received funding from the Auxiliary are CESI, Nursing, Radiation Oncology, Neuroscience, the Institute of Living, the Tissue Bank, Volunteer Services, Medical Oncology Palliative Medicine, Jefferson House, Medical Affairs, Women’s Ambulatory Health, and the Women's Health Services Lactation Program.

ON OUR FEET AT THE 2018 HARTFORD HOSPITAL EMPLOYEE HOLIDAY PARTY

A joyous time was had by all at the December 7 annual daytime Hartford Hospital Employee Holiday Party. Working with Cari Piper of Human Resources, in addition to providing funds to support the party, the Hartford Hospital Auxiliary Board volunteered by spreading good cheer and assisting with the buffet and punch. As party guests came into the ERC lobby, they were greeted by Auxiliary Board members inviting new membership in the Auxiliary. The Employee Party was well attended with a steady stream of hospital employees celebrating with co-workers. The Auxiliary Board is appreciative of the excellent job done by the kitchen staff, headed by Wayne Oden. Volunteers made multiple trips between the buffet tables and the kitchen and returned home in good spirits but with sore feet!

With so many other demands and responsibilities during this time of year, gratitude for volunteering at this event was warmly extended to Auxiliary Board members Ginger Gillespie, Julie Corroon, Jennifer Pace, Jennifer Wedeles, Shelley Dodd, Julie Carter, Robin Kriesberg, Patti Maciag, Hilary Allen, Julie Carter, Kim Shea Lynn Robinson, Chris Bennett, Virginia Van Dyk, Kim Conrad and former, long time Board member (and punch pouring expert) Hazel Vail. Working alongside everyone were the HHA Board co-chairpersons for the Employee Holiday party, Cornelia Hull and Kathy Herzog.
The Hartford Hospital Auxiliary Board is excited to recognize the winners of The Auxiliary Sons and Daughters Scholarships for the 2018-2019 and the 2019-2020 academic years.

The Auxiliary Sons and Daughters Scholarships are competitive, merit-based scholarships, with one-time awards of $750 and up. The $10,000 Hazel Vail Scholarship is the top award given. All scholarships are awarded to children of Hartford Hospital employees.

In April 2019, The Hartford Hospital Auxiliary Board awarded 28 scholarships totaling $75,000 for the 2019-2020 academic year.

The winner of the $10,000 Hazel Vail Scholarship was Carly Liquori of Southwick, MA. Carly is the daughter of Patricia Liquori, an RN on C8I Surgical/Trauma ICU who has been employed by Hartford Hospital for over 30 years. Carly has not decided yet where she will attend college, she plans to double major in biology with a possible minor in geoscience and dance. She has been a member of the Hartford Hospital volunteer program for the last four years and is also an international baton twirling champion.

Additionally, 27 students were recipients of Sons and Daughters Scholarships. Awardees included Noelle Albert awarded $6,000, William Robinson awarded $5,000, and Samuel Shagan, Deniz Camli-Saunders, Tahlia Ramos and Stephanie Butler each awarded $4,000. Twenty-one additional students received awards ranging from $3,500 to $750.

In May, 2018, The Hartford Hospital Auxiliary Board awarded 33 scholarships totaling $60,000 for the 2018-2019 academic year.

The 2018 winner of the $10,000 Hazel Vail Scholarship was Katherine Wicander, daughter of Janet Wicander, R.N., Vascular Laboratory. Katherine attends Salve Regina University.

Additionally, 32 students were recipients of Sons and Daughters Scholarships. Awardees include Noelle Albert, winner of $5,000. Samuel Shagan, Stephanie Sickinger and James Wicander received $2,500 awards. 28 additional students received awards of $2,000 to $1,000.

The Hazel Vail Scholarship is given in honor of a most loyal, determined, and forward-thinking woman. An Auxiliary Board Member from 1992 to 2015, Hazel Vail has been a volunteer at Hartford Hospital since 1979 and has dedicated over 13,000 hours of service. Hazel's spirit and energy continues to inspire, and we are proud to present a scholarship in her name.

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HARTFORD HOSPITAL AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Thank you to Auxiliary annual and lifetime members! Your membership dues and additional donations make a difference. Improvements are happening in all areas of the hospital. And all funds benefit patients, their families, visitors, employees, and volunteers.

With your help, the Auxiliary funded nearly $1M this year. The Bulletin highlights many of the special projects and recurring annual gifts happening throughout the hospital.

Look for us at the employee holiday party – funded by the Auxiliary. Or pick up a brochure in the Auxiliary store – members receive a 10% discount on their purchases. Please invite a friend or colleague to join. Membership makes an impact in our hospital community.
We are proud to report that Hartford Hospital made a difference in the lives of countless people over the past year. We succeeded by committing to our operating model, improving the patient experience, and driving positive changes in the areas of quality and safety.

We have much to celebrate. We once again ranked #1 in the Hartford region and among the best in Connecticut in the 2018-2019 U.S. News & World Report annual ranking of hospitals. We opened a new inpatient rehabilitation unit, offering highly specialized rehab care proven to get patients home faster and healthier. We introduced a new LIFE STAR helicopter to become the only air ambulance service in western Massachusetts. We cut the ribbon at our Cancer Care Innovation Unit, which gives our neighbors access to Phase 1 clinical trials. And we opened a dedicated suite for advanced, minimally invasive gastrointestinal procedures.

These are just a few of the many accomplishments that propelled outstanding financial performance last year. Although it is primarily a commitment to caring that drives our success, positive financial results ensure we can continue serving our community well into the future.

Looking forward, our goal is to be the destination healthcare center between New York and Boston. We will do this by making connections among all the ways our patients access care and creating a more consistent experience for the people we serve. Fortunately, we have everything we need to succeed.

Our confidence for the journey ahead is inspired by your support. In addition to more than half a million dollars in donations and grants, the Hartford Hospital Auxiliary’s vision and backing play a crucial role in our work. We have enormous gratitude for all you do to make a difference.

As a member of the Auxiliary, you have at least one thing in common with the thousands of people who work here: a spirit of compassion. This shared spirit is the secret ingredient to our success. It links us together as one Hartford Hospital family and binds our clinical excellence with genuine caring. Never has this been truer than it is today.

Our success is only possible because of your tireless dedication to the people we serve. Thank you for all you do and for your ongoing support of this special place.

Sincerely,

Bimal Patel
President, Hartford Region
Senior Vice President, Hartford HealthCare
The 10th Annual “Rx for Fun” event was held on May 3, 2018 at Dunkin’ Donuts Park. Auxiliary Members and friends of the Auxiliary gathered to watch a Hartford Yard Goats game and to honor the beneficiary of the event, The Sports Medicine and Athletic Training Service line of the Hartford Hospital Rehabilitation Network. Sports Medicine provides preventative care, injury care, educational information and clinics for local school sports programs and at community events. The Auxiliary presented Sports Medicine with a $10,000 check to help enhance the outstanding programs that it provides to the community. More than 80 guests weathered a rain delay and were entertained by Chew Chew the mascot, plus enjoyed a 5 to 4 win against the Portland Sea Dogs. The 11th Annual “Rx for Fun” event will take place on April 25th from 6-8 pm at Montana Nights in Newington, CT to benefit the Center For Education, Stimulation and Innovation (CESI). In attendance will be CESI’s newest member, Axel, a dog mannequin which provides hands-on training opportunities for law enforcement canine officers by simulating various canine injuries.

Save the Date
Please join us for the following events:

“Rx for Fun”
Thursday, April 25th
6 pm to 8 pm
Montana Nights
80 Fenn Road, Newington, CT 06111

Annual Meeting & Breakfast Buffet 2019
Tuesday, May 14th
9:30 am to 11:30 am
The Hartford Golf Club,
134 Norwood Road, West Hartford, CT 06117

We are excited to celebrate the 30th anniversary of our Hartford Hospital Auxiliary Annual Benefit Golf Tournament on Monday, September 16, 2019 at The Hartford Golf Club in West Hartford, CT.