

Hartford Hospital Auxiliary

Bulletin

A Periodic Publication Featuring Items of Interest
for Hartford Hospital Auxilians

Spring 2018

Auxiliary Donates \$50,000 to “The Great Gray Wall” Project

Every October, the Auxiliary Board reviews proposals for our annual Fall projects. This year one particular project stood out. It was a touching story about a mother and daughter who were both diagnosed with Ovarian Cancer and both treated at Hartford Hospital’s Helen and Harry Gray Cancer Center.

Mary Lowengard, who lives and works in New York City, grew up in West Hartford, CT and would return to the area to visit family. In September 2016, Mary returned to West Hartford to accompany her mother to Hartford Hospital for chemo therapy to treat her Ovarian Cancer diagnosis. Little did Mary know that three months later, she would receive the same cancer diagnosis as her mother. Mary decided to return to the Helen and Harry Gray Cancer Center for her treatment. Having been by her mother’s side for the previous few months, Mary knew exactly what to expect as she started her treatment.

Like her mother, Mary watched the seasons change during her treatments, but was always bothered by the gray concrete wall she would see when looking outside the infusion room windows. The night before surgery, Mary emailed Dr. Peter Yu, Physician-

in-Chief for the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute, a proposal to transform the “gray” wall. To Mary’s surprise, Dr. Yu responded to her email within two hours and “The Great Gray Wall” project was born. With support from hospital administration, Mary began a grass roots campaign to transform the gray wall into a beautiful, uplifting mural depicting the four seasons in their most beautiful state. She wanted the beauty of the wall to evoke peace, joy, and healing for the cancer center patients, families, and staff. Mary successfully raised enough funds to get phase 1 of her project off the ground, but more fundraising was necessary to complete the project.

In October, Mary shared her inspirational story with the Hartford Hospital Auxiliary Board. After hearing her touching story, the Auxiliary Board voted unanimously to make a special donation of \$50,000 to “The Great Gray Wall” project. With this gift, Mary and an artist were able to complete the first phase of the project. The Auxiliary is very proud to be able to fund this special project and happy that the wall is complete and brightening the lives of many patients every day.



Artist putting the final touches on “The Great Gray Wall” project inspired by former Cancer patient, Mary Lowengard.

From the Co-Presidents



Amy Steinberg

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 2017-2018 season started with yet another record-breaking golf tournament! We donated \$150,000 to Hartford Hospital's Cancer Treatment Innovation Unit. Our gift will help to create a dedicated in-patient unit that will provide patients fighting various types of cancer a safe and comfortable environment for Phase 1 clinical trials. We continue to receive strong revenue from the Auxiliary Store and Au Bon Pain Café. These earnings have allowed us to fund \$400,000 in projects that produce direct tangible benefits for patients and their families, including a musculoskeletal ultrasound machine for the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Department, dental chairs for the Brownstone clinic and training arms for the Center for Education, Simulation and Innovation that offer the capability to practice IV catheter insertion, venous and arterial blood sampling injections and IV infusion.



Jennifer Wedeles

Another highlight of the year was our \$50,000 gift to "The Great Gray Wall" project for the Helen and Harry Gray Cancer Center. Our gift has helped to transform the gray wall outside of the Cancer Center's infusion rooms into a beautiful mural depicting the four seasons. This mural has created a much more uplifting environment for the patients, families and staff at the Cancer Center. We were thrilled to be able to support this worthy project.

The Auxiliary is excited to welcome back Bimal Patel to the position of Hartford HealthCare Senior Vice President and President of Hartford HealthCare's Hartford Region. We greatly appreciate his continued support of the Auxiliary. We would also like to thank Stuart Markowitz, MD for the guidance he provided us in this position over the past few years and we would like to wish him good luck in his new role as Hartford HealthCare Senior Vice President and Physician in Chief for Strategic Imaging Services.

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,

Amy Steinberg and Jennifer Wedeles
Hartford Hospital Auxiliary Co-Presidents

Changing of the Guard



Shelley Dodd

Nominated for election at the 2018 Hartford Hospital Auxiliary Annual Meeting, Shelley Dodd will join continuing Co-President Jennifer Wedeles as the Co-President of the Auxiliary.

Shelley joined the Hartford Hospital Auxiliary in 2012, serving on the Executive Board for the past 5 years; 3 years as Treasurer and 2 years as the Assistant Treasurer. During her inaugural year, she co-chaired both the membership and Rx for Fun committees. Shelley received her B.S. cum laude in Accounting from Bentley University, as well as her Postbaccalaureate in Premedical studies from Tufts University. She worked in corporate finance in Mountain View, CA as well as a buyer for a global retailer headquartered in San

Francisco, CA before moving back to Connecticut to start a family.

Shelley and her husband, Matt, live in West Hartford with their daughter, aged 12, and two sons, aged 10 and 9. Shelley also serves on the planning committee for the Bridge Family Center's Children's Charity Ball, a nonprofit agency that serves children and families in the Greater Hartford area. A lover of the arts and a recent graduate of the Interior Design Certificate Program at Fairfield University, Shelley also chairs the art show at her son's elementary school. Shelley is thrilled to continue serving the volunteer community of Hartford Hospital, and looks forward to a wonderful and exciting term as Co-President of the Auxiliary.

2018 Annual Meeting & Breakfast

Featuring a panel discussion on the opioid epidemic

The Hartford Hospital Auxiliary Annual Meeting and Breakfast will be held on May 8, 2018 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am at the Hartford Golf Club. This meeting offers us the opportunity to invite all current Auxiliary Members as well as our hospital administration to share the many accomplishments of 2017-2018. We assemble and highlight the Auxiliary's financial year in review, our impressive list of beneficiaries, announce the new slate of officers and welcome Bimal Patal, Hartford HealthCare Senior VP and President of HHC's Hartford Region, which includes Hartford Hospital.

This year's Guest Speaker, Patricia Rehmer, Senior VP Hartford HealthCare, and President of HHC's Behavioral Health Network, will moderate an impressive panel of experts to educate us on the opioid crisis, currently one of the nations most challenging epidemics. Their discussion will highlight Hartford HealthCare's effort and collaboration with local advocacy agencies, working diligently to achieve positive outcomes here in Connecticut. Pat will be joined by two colleagues; Dr. Craig Allen, Chair of the Behavioral Health Network's Clinical Council for Prevention and Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder; and Jennifer Chadukiewicz, BS, RCP, Recovery Coach Manager, for CCAR~Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery.

Don't miss this timely and important dialogue. R.S.V.P. on or before April 24th to Co-Chairs, Julie Corroon and Patti Maciag, at pmaciag@comcast.net or 860-490-7072

READ TO GROW

Read to Grow, focuses on improving early childhood literacy. The Hartford Hospital Auxiliary fully supports funding of the program at Hartford Hospital. Members of the Auxiliary volunteer with the "Books for Babies" program which provides books for newborns and their family members, offer advice on the importance of reading to and with children of all ages, and provide additional books periodically to families served by Read to Grow organization. Last year Auxiliary members donated just over 930 books for the Read to Grow programs through the Annual Book drive. Books are given to the families of infants born at Hartford Hospital and later to their siblings at home to encourage literacy development. Literacy support and development is Read to Grow's main focus. In 2017, the Read to Grow "Books for Babies" program, with support from the Auxiliary, provided books and support for the 3,617 babies born at Hartford Hospital.



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 2017 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.

Hartford Hospital Auxiliary Benefit Golf Tournament

The Hartford Hospital Auxiliary Annual Benefit Golf Tournament took place on September 18th at the Tumble Brook Country Club in Bloomfield. Once again, the tournament was an amazing success, with record-breaking net proceeds of \$440,000. Over 200 guests enjoyed the beautiful early autumn day playing golf, participating in contests, and supporting our raffle and silent auction. To assist the Auxiliary in making the event run smoothly were nearly 65 volunteers from the HH Cancer Institute as well as volunteers from various departments within Hartford Hospital.

This year's tournament benefited Hartford Hospital's Cancer Treatment Innovation Unit. Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute's partnership with Memorial Sloan Kettering has given patients unprecedented access to MSK medical trials. The Cancer Treatment Innovation Unit at Hartford Hospital will allow this partnership to bring the most promising and cutting-edge cancer fighting drugs - based on precision medicine and immunotherapy - and offer hope for more rapid

advances in cancer care. Proceeds from the tournament will help create a dedicated in-patient unit that will provide Hartford Hospital's patients battling various types of cancer a comfortable and safe environment for Phase 1 clinical trials.

The Auxiliary never stops moving and plans are well underway for our 2018 tournament which will take place on Monday, September 17 at Tumble Brook Country Club. This year, proceeds from the tournament will focus on improving the family experience for our patients' loved ones. Hospitals care for people at the most vulnerable time of their lives and Hartford Hospital is dedicated to providing family members and care givers surroundings that are both comfortable and comforting which can make a trying time easier. For more information about the golf tournament, or to find out how you can sponsor, donate or volunteer, please contact Lori Flaks (Lbflaks@yahoo.com) or Virginia Van Dyk (virginiavandyk@yahoo.com).



Jeff Flaks and a fellow golfer eagerly awaiting the start of the 2017 Golf Tournament.



Dedicated volunteers ready to assist golfers on the course.



Volunteer Coordinator, Falguni Patel, and Golf Tournament Co-Chair, Lori Flaks, enjoying the day.



Members from HHC Cancer Institute reporting for volunteer duty.

Auxiliary Approves Funding for Fall 2017 Projects

The Hartford Hospital Auxiliary is pleased to announce that it voted on October 10 to fund fourteen Special Projects totaling almost \$200,000. The following is a sample of some of the projects the Auxiliary approved for funding:

1. \$13,140 for a new bladder scanner in Women's Health Services. Replacing this essential equipment will assist the hospital in reducing infection rates;
2. \$7,282 for the HH Rehab Network Lymphedema Program, to purchase compression supplies and garments for underserved patients;

3. \$35,000 for Physical Medicine and Rehab to purchase its own ultrasound machine used to diagnose and treat musculoskeletal injuries;

4. \$24,120 for the Institute of Living Webb Schools to purchase six Promethean Activboard smart boards to help identify and present interactive and engaging physical activities to students each day; and

5. \$29,095 for Radiation Oncology to purchase an MRI compatible immobilization system. This will allow for diagnostic quality MRI scans to be performed with the patient

in the exact treatment position, reducing errors in treatment planning and delivery.

Other departments that received funding from the Auxiliary are the Anxiety Disorders Center at the IOL, Labor & Delivery, Adult Care Services and Dental Care Services at the Brownstone, Echocardiography, Women's Health, Center for Education, Simulation, and Innovation (CESI), Psychiatry/Child & Adolescent Inpatient Services at the IOL, and Inpatient Transplant Services.

IN THE MOOD AT THE 2017 EMPLOYEE HOLIDAY PARTY

If you found it hard to get into the holiday spirit, then you should have joined all the Hartford Hospital Auxiliary Board volunteers at the December first annual daytime Employee Holiday Party. In conjunction with Cari Piper and the HR department, some eighteen of us, over three time shifts, gave our time to greet employees and to keep all of the foods stocked on the buffet tables. Although some of us suffered aches and pains from frequently hurrying to the kitchen and back with heavy containers of food or punch, we all seemed to feel quite festive.

In addition to board member volunteers, dear Hazel Vail, a retiree from the board, served punch, and a kind nurse, Abbi Bruce from the Cancer Center, who just felt like she should jump in with us, helped with refilling the food tables. Frequent thanks from the employees for our assistance with the party were warmly received. Co-chairpersons Kathy Herzog and Cornelia Hull were grateful for assistance from the many board members and volunteers.



Hazel Vail and a friendly volunteer passing out punch at the Employee Holiday Party.



Past and Present Auxiliary Board Members spreading holiday cheer.

Auxiliary Board Awards 2017 Sons and Daughters and Hazel Vail Scholarships



Amy Steinberg, Lynn Robinson and Hazel Vail pose with the 2017 Hazel Vail Scholarship recipient, Stephanie Sickinger, and her mother, Karen Sickinger, from Cardiac Rehabilitation.

In May 2017, The Hartford Hospital Auxiliary Board awarded 40 scholarships totaling \$59,500, to children of Hartford Hospital employees, which include Newington campus HH employees, IOL, Jefferson House, Cedar Mountain Commons and Rehabilitation Network (HHRN) employees who meet the criteria.

This year's winner of the \$10,000 Hazel Vail Scholarship is Stephanie Sickinger, daughter of

Karen Sickinger from Cardiac Rehabilitation. Stephanie attends Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, PA. She is pursuing a dual degree in Law and Social Work. Stephanie is a Presidential Scholar, Dean's List Student, and Service-Learning Program Scholar. She is committed to educational service, building relationships and empowering many in both the Hartford and Philadelphia communities.

Additionally, 39 students were recipients of the Sons and Daughters Scholarships. Awardees include Kathryn Smyrak, winner of \$5,000. Autumn Prete and Gary Simons received \$2,500 awards. 36 additional students received awards of \$1,500 to \$1,000.

Both Sons and Daughters and the Hazel Vail Scholarship are competitive, merit-based scholarships, with one-time awards of \$1,000 and up. Amounts are based on application merit. In addition to the employee information and the student's academic achievement, the essay is judged anonymously and separately. 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 3,000 hours of service. Hazel's spirit and energy continues to inspire, and we are proud to present a scholarship in her name.

2017 Holiday Plant Sale



On November 30th, the Auxiliary held another successful holiday plant sale. Similar to last year, we limited our Poinsettia sales to pre-orders only and we continue to be happy with our results. Focusing on pre-orders allows us to order and deliver just the right number of high quality Poinsettia plants to our loyal supporters.

As always, the entire proceeds of the Poinsettia sale go towards the funding of projects and equipment for Hartford Hospital.

HARTFORD HOSPITAL AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Auxiliary Membership continues to stay strong thanks to the support of Annual Renewal and lifetime membership. We continue to hold membership drives at the Auxiliary store. This is our opportunity to showcase the Auxiliary and answer any questions regarding our mission, programs and fundraising efforts.

Your membership counts! In addition to membership dues and funds raised from other Auxiliary programs and events, proceeds from store merchandise sales continue to benefit the Auxiliary, and Auxiliary members are entitled to a 10% discount on their purchases. We appreciate your ongoing support, which allows us to DO GOOD WORKS for Hartford Hospital.

We are always looking to grow our membership. Please feel free to invite a friend to join. Membership brochures are available in the store.

State of the Hospital



Bimal Patel

I am privileged to be entering my sixth month serving as president of Hartford Hospital, a place with a long history of offering superb medical care and exemplary service to others. Since 1854, this hospital's strong standing has comforted millions of people across Connecticut and provides peace to me personally.

Hartford Hospital plays a vital role as a premier healthcare provider in the state of Connecticut. While we are a community hospital to those who live in our neighborhood, we are a quaternary care hospital to the rest of the state. We have the only adult Level 1 Trauma Center in the region and operate the region's first and largest air ambulance system, LIFE STAR. Patients turn to us when they need advanced care and treatment options beyond what many hospitals are able to provide.

The strength of our healthcare system cannot be understated. Together our hospitals, home health services, nursing homes, behavioral health network, rehabilitation network, and urgent care and ambulatory care centers allow us to deliver a level of comprehensive care that is unmatched. We are home to many of Hartford HealthCare's institutes which offer cutting-edge care in orthopedics, cardiology, oncology, neuroscience, behavioral health and more. Access to these centers of excellence offers our patients peace of mind that they can get the very best care close to home.

Yet beyond the services we provide, there is something else that sets our organization apart: the unconditional service of our staff. I see our hospital as a place of deep clinical expertise layered with human touch and caring. Physicians, nurses, pharmacists, technologists, and all clinical and support staff make our hospital unique. I am grateful for their service. They make us truly exceptional.

We've seen so many achievements over the last year – from the launch of our CareConnect platform, to the opening of the Bone & Joint Institute, to the exponential growth of our Center for Education, Simulation and Innovation. I am excited about this journey and optimistic as we build upon our accomplishments this year. In the past few weeks I have been discussing the importance of urgency, agility and accountability. These three elements tell us how to stay focused on our priorities this year: customer satisfaction, staff engagement, physician relations, institute growth and community engagement. All these things are possible when we remain accountable and strive for excellence.

The Auxiliary plays a key role in supporting our hospital. With your help, we will continue Hartford Hospital's tradition of making a profound difference in the lives of many. Thank you for all you do and for your ongoing support of this special place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bimal Patel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Bimal Patel
President, Hartford Region
Senior Vice President, Hartford HealthCare

Annual "Rx for Fun" Event



Jane Robinson and her daughter meeting one of the honored "pawticipants" from the Pet Therapy program.

Each Spring the Auxiliary sponsors our "Rx for Fun" event, which is designed to bring Auxiliary members and friends together for a fun evening while raising money and awareness for a particular project or department at Hartford Hospital.

Over 90 people (and 3 dogs) attended our 9th Annual "Rx for Fun" event on April 27, 2017 which was held at the Capewell Lofts in Hartford. The event benefited the Pet Therapy Program at Hartford Hospital. Pet Therapy dogs have been providing comfort to patients for over 22 years. Currently there are 40 "pawticipants" in the program that service the main hospital, the IOL, Avon Cancer Center and The Grace Webb School in Avon.

The 10th Annual "Rx for Fun" event will take place at The Hartford Yard Goats Baseball game on Thursday, May 3rd at 7 pm at Dunkin Donuts Park. Please contact Christine Bennett (cdbennett@comcast.net) for more details. Hope to see you there!



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Save the Date

Please join us for the following events:

Rx for Fun

Thursday, May 3rd

7 pm

The Hartford Yard Goats Stadium

Dunkin Donuts Park,

1241 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103

Annual Meeting & Breakfast Buffet 2018

Tuesday, May 8th

9:30 am to 11:30 am

The Hartford Golf Club, Main Dining Room

134 Norwood Road, West Hartford, CT 06117



Auxiliary Board Members recognizing the Pet Therapy Program as the beneficiary of the 9th Annual "Rx for Fun."