

# President's Message

It is my distinct pleasure to be serving as the President of The William W. Backus Hospital Auxiliary. Our Board works tirelessly to assist The Backus Hospital in promoting the health and welfare of the community. As our Annual Report will attest, we continue to offer innumerable services to our local Backus community-at-large. Additionally, we have pledged \$625,000 over the next five years to support the hospital's Facility Improvement Project scheduled to start next year. None of these formidable commitments would ever be achieved without your continued support.

## Please note the following activities:

**Saturday, September 22, 2018:** The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Auxiliary Mini-Golf Tournament will be held at the Adelman family's bucolic Knolls and Holes Golf Course at Odetah Camping Resort, 38 Bozrah Street Extension in Bozrah.

Once again, I not only urge you to attend this fun-filled day but also to consider being a friend or sponsor. Ticket cost is \$75 a participant. Tickets are available at the Gift Shops or by calling the Auxiliary Office at 860.889.8831, extension 2259. Ticket price includes brunch at 11am, followed by play at noon with a full buffet at 2pm. There will also be a fund-raising auction featuring a variety of items.

## Wednesday, October 10, 2018:

The Annual Luncheon is from noon – 2pm at The William W. Backus Hospital, entry-level conference rooms. Cost is \$10 per person (invitation enclosed).

I encourage you to attend and support these two major Auxiliary events. I thank you for being an Auxilian and I urge you to encourage a friend or neighbor to join!

Fran B. Leta  
President

The William W. Backus Hospital Auxiliary

2017-2018

# Board of Directors

## Officers

President	Fran Leta
President-Elect	—
Recording Secretary	Barbara Gladue
Corresponding Secretary	Jamie Block
Treasurer	Barbara Dombrowski

## Committee Chairpersons

Camisoles	Margaret Aldrich
Canteen	—
Curechiefs/Turbans	Jan Stewart
Decorations/Centerpieces	—
Education	Shirley Sholes
File of Life	Sheila Morgan
Finance	Barbara Dombrowski
Gift Shop	Kathryn Forschler
Membership	Jamie Block
Newsletter	Kathryn Forschler
Nominating	—
Open Meetings	Jane Seder
Pediatric Surgical Caps	Kathryn Forschler
Policy	Yvette Jacaruso
Publicity/Historian/	—
Sunshine	—
Scholarship	Fran Leta
Tray Favors	Ellie Sposato
Vendors	Mimi Learned-Daigle

## Board Members

Fran Donnelly, Joyce Hastings, Betty LaFreniere, Janis Sawicki

## Honorary Director

Margot Gibbs

## Ex Officio

Donna Handley, President  
Hartford HealthCare East Region

Anthony Mastroianni, Regional VP, Finance  
Hartford HealthCare East Region

Mary Brown, Program Manager  
Volunteer and Guest Services Backus Auxiliary Liaison

Backus  
Hospital  
Connect to healthier.™

2017-2018

# Annual Report

The William W. Backus Hospital Auxiliary



To "...assist The William W. Backus Hospital in promoting the health and welfare of the community..."

Backus  
Hospital  
Connect to healthier.™

# Auxiliary Committee Reports

## Camisoles

The Camisole Committee furnishes camisoles to post-operative breast cancer surgery patients. During this fiscal year the Auxiliary donated close to 55 camisoles to the Cancer Center.

## Canteen

Joyce Weber, Vending Coordinator, oversees the four vending machine refreshment facilities located within the hospital that produce income for the Auxiliary's annual budget. Hospital patients, visitors, and employees can select from a wide variety of beverages and snacks available at the Canteens located along the main corridor (near the Gift Shop), and adjacent to the Birthing Center, Emergency Room, and Same Day Surgery.

## Curechiefs/Turbans/Pediatric Caps

The Curechiefs/Turbans Committee provides curechiefs and turbans, hand-sewn head coverings to patients undergoing chemotherapy. Approximately 175 curechiefs and turbans have been distributed to patients this year. The Pediatric Surgical Caps Committee supplies colorful surgical caps to Same Day Surgery pediatric patients. More than 185 caps have been furnished this year. The Auxiliary also provides port covers/pillows to cancer patients. To date, 75 pillows have been donated to the Cancer Center.

## Decorations

This committee provides seasonal floral arrangements and decorations at the Open Meetings in May and October.

## Education

The Education Committee is responsible for procuring guests from the medical field to speak at selected Auxiliary Board meetings.

## File of Life

This committee distributes the File of Life packets. Packets are handed out from the Gift Shops, the Cardiac Rehabilitation Program and various community organizations. Approximately 275 packets have been distributed this year.

## Fundraising

As part of our efforts to support the hospital, two fundraisers were conducted during the 2017-2018 fiscal year: in July, "Dining for a Cause" at the 99 Restaurant in Norwich, and in September, the annual Mini-Golf Tournament at the Odetah Camping Resort in Bozrah.

## Gift Shop

The Backus Gift Shops continue to be successful, both as a fund-raiser for the Auxiliary's projects and as a source of greeting cards, flowers, giftware, jewelry, books, and apparel for hospital visitors, patients and staff. The main Shop at the hospital is open seven days a week: Monday through Friday from 9am-6:30pm, Saturday from 9:30am-4pm, and Sunday from 1pm-4pm. The secondary Shop located at Backus Outpatient Care Center (BOCC) on Salem Turnpike is open Monday through Friday from 8am-4pm. Gift Shop Manager Candis Gioia oversees both Shops; volunteers comprise the remainder of the staff.

## Historian /Publicity

This committee maintains written records and photographs of our yearly work. In addition, this committee is responsible for promoting our activities within the hospital and in the local media. Two Auxiliary publications went out this year: the Auxilian in the spring and the Annual Report in the early autumn. Throughout the course of this year, the Auxiliary's accomplishments and activities were publicized in the East region bi-weekly newsletter, the *HospiTell*.

## Membership

The Auxiliary Membership presently numbers 322: 101 regular and 221 life members. To date 27 have been added to the Auxiliary membership this year. Annual regular dues are \$25 (\$15 for ages 60 and above). A life membership is available for a one-time contribution of \$150. Life members always have the opportunity to consider an additional donation to assist us in fulfilling our numerous projects. The Auxiliary is always seeking new members to bring new energy and ideas to the group. Current members are encouraged to join the Auxiliary Board and to recommend membership to their friends. The Auxiliary Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month with no meeting in January or February.

## Open Meetings

The Annual Luncheon Meeting was held on Tuesday October 10, 2017, in the conference rooms at Backus Hospital. A buffet luncheon was prepared by the Food and Nutrition Department. The guest speaker was Donna Handley, President Hartford HealthCare East Region. In recognition of Backus's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018, the Auxiliary presented a check for \$125,000 and directed the funds toward the Facilities Improvement Project scheduled to start next year.

The Annual Membership Coffee/Tea was held in the conference rooms on Tuesday May 8, 2018. Refreshments were provided by the Food and Nutrition Department. At this event four scholarships of \$2,500 were awarded to this year's recipients.

## Policy

This committee oversees the parliamentary procedures of the Auxiliary's Board of Directors.

## Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee, working with a pool of \$10,000, awards two to five scholarships to high school graduates pursuing post-secondary study in a medical field. To be eligible, applicants must be current hospital employees, volunteers, or children, grandchildren or legal charges of a hospital employee or volunteer. Four scholarships of \$2500 apiece were awarded this year to Catherine Albo, Stephanie Doody, Rachel Goldstein, and Ethan Rose.

## Sunshine

This committee appropriately acknowledges death or illness in the families of Board members and Auxiliary employees.

## Tray Favors

At each major holiday throughout the year, the Tray Favors Committee provided appropriately themed favors for the dining trays of hospitalized patients. Contributors this year included the Rose City Senior Center and St. Jude's Commons.

## Vendor Sales

Throughout the year, the Auxiliary sponsors vendors who offer a variety of goods to employees and visitors at sales held on designated Fridays in the hospital. Recent vendor shows have featured accessories, jewelry, apparel, skin products, gourmet food items, and household goods. Forty shows were scheduled this year and the proceeds from the shows help to fulfill the Auxiliary's financial commitment to the hospital.

