

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 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. None of these formidable commitments would ever be achieved without your continuing support. Wholeheartedly, we thank you.

Please note the following activities:

Saturday, September 21, 2019: The 16th 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**. In addition to partaking in a challenging mini-golf game, the ticket price includes brunch at 11:00 a.m., and a full buffet including wine and beer at 2:00 p.m. There will also be a fund-raising auction featuring a variety of items.

Tuesday, October 8, 2019:

We will hold our Annual Meeting from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the entry-level conference rooms at The William W. Backus Hospital.

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

2018-2019

Board of Directors

Officers

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

Committee Chairpersons

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

Board Members

Darleen Caisse, Fran Donnelly, Joyce Hastings, Janis Sawicki, Kelly Schenking, Joyce Weber

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

2018-2019

96th Annual Report

The William W. Backus Hospital Auxiliary
Norwich, Connecticut



Backus
Hospital

Backus
Hospital

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 75 camisoles to the Cancer Center.

Canteen

In December the Auxiliary turned over the operation of the Canteen facilities to an outside vendor. Joyce Weber, Vending Coordinator, retired from Backus in May after more than 20 years of service to the Auxiliary.

Curechiefs/Turbans

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.

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. The speaker this year was Jessica Vanase, RN, BA, OCN, CBCN, oncology nurse navigator. She presented an overview of her role in assisting patients faced with a newly diagnosed cancer diagnosis. She not only helps to locate the best possible treatment options for the patient, but provides guidance and support throughout the course of treatment.

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 2018-2019 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 9:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Saturday from 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and Sunday from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. The secondary Shop located at the HHC facility on Salem Turnpike is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Gift Shop Manager Candis Gioia oversees both Shops; volunteers comprise the remainder of the staff.

Membership

The Auxiliary Membership presently numbers 340: 127 regular and 213 life members. To date, 21 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.

Newsletter/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*.

Open Meetings

The Annual Luncheon Meeting was held on Wednesday, October 10, 2018, in the conference rooms at Backus Hospital. A salad buffet luncheon was prepared by the Food and Nutrition Department. The guest speaker was Donna Handley, President Hartford HealthCare East Region. During the meeting a check for \$125,000 was presented. The check was the second installment on a \$625,000 pledge the Auxiliary made last year in support of the Backus 125th Anniversary Fund.

The Annual Membership Coffee/Tea was held in the conference rooms on Tuesday, May 14, 2019. Coffee, tea, and light refreshments were provided by the

Food and Nutrition Department. At this event, scholarships of \$2,500 were awarded to this year's four recipients.

Patient Favors

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

Pediatric Surgical Caps/Pillows

The Pediatric Surgical Caps Committee supplies colorful surgical caps to Same Day Surgery pediatric patients. Since the majority of pediatric surgeries are now done at other facilities, the need for caps has decreased. Fifty caps were provided this year. The Auxiliary also supplies post-operative pillows to cancer patients. The Colchester Senior Center "Charitable Crafts Group" fashions the pillows with materials supplied by the Auxiliary. To date, 121 pillows have been donated to the Cancer Center.

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 Hannah Crary, Rachel Goldstein, Leah Mikkelson, and Megan Rice.

Sunshine

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

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, apparel, jewelry, gourmet food items, books, and household goods. Thirty-eight shows were scheduled this year and the proceeds from them help to fulfill the Auxiliary's financial commitment to the hospital.

