

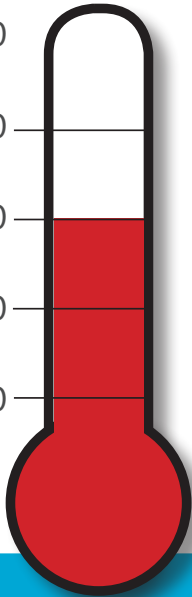
THE WILLIAM W. BACKUS HOSPITAL AUXILIARY ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020

OUR PLEDGE

■ The Backus Hospital Auxiliary continues its legacy of generous support toward the Facilities Improvement Project. Please help us reach our \$625,000 pledge by supporting the Auxiliary gift shops, Mini-Golf Tournament, vendor sales, and by becoming a member.

\$625,000
\$500,000
\$375,000
\$250,000
\$125,000



OUR MISSION

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

Hartford
HealthCare
Backus Hospital

Greetings from the president

The Backus Hospital Auxiliary is alive and well! This year has proven itself to be a difficult year. However, since its formation in 1896, our group has overcome many challenges, and has always managed to thrive and to work tirelessly to provide a helping hand in promoting the health and welfare of our community through our hospital.

Through the years, the Auxiliary has worked with its members to raise funds for the Backus Hospital community outreach and capital improvement programs. The Auxiliary Board continues to meet via “Zoom” in order to maintain social distancing and to plan an eventful 2021.

This year, unfortunately, we were not able to hold our 17th annual Mini-Golf Tournament at Odetah Camping Resort. Mark your calendars — it has been rescheduled for Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021. Our vendor sales and tray favor programs were also put on hold in March and for

the remainder of 2020. But many of our programs continue on — Camisoles and Curechiefs for patients who have undergone chemotherapy, File of Life packets for area residents, and surgical caps for patients and staff. The Backus Auxiliary Merit Scholarship begun in 2002, awarded four \$2,500 scholarships to high school graduates pursuing post-secondary study in a health-related field in May. This year’s recipients are Matthew DePonte, Rachel Goldstein, Leah Mikkelson, and Iris Wainston.

Unlike so many other hospital gift shops, the Backus Hospital Gift Shop, under the management of Candy Gioia, has remained open throughout the entire pandemic. It has provided a welcome diversion for staff and patients during this difficult time.

Our Auxiliary has a long history of being a leading donor to the Backus Hospital. This year, we will present a \$60,000 check towards our \$625,000 pledge to our community hospital’s facility improvement project.

This would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of our committed Auxiliary Board who give generously of their time and talents to support Backus Hospital.

We are always looking for new members who can bring ideas and energy to the Auxiliary. I also ask all current members to consider joining the Auxiliary Board and taking a more active role in the many activities of the Backus Hospital Auxiliary.



Jamie Block

President,
The William W.
Backus Hospital
Auxiliary

The year in review

The Backus Hospital Auxiliary is a volunteer organization with a mission of supporting and fundraising for the hospital. We offer service to the community, the hospital and its patients. Here's a look at what we've been up to this year:

Camisoles

The Camisole Committee furnishes camisoles to post-operative breast cancer patients. During this past year, the Auxiliary donated just over 80 camisoles to the Cancer Center.

Curechiefs/Turbans

The Curechiefs/Turbans Committee provides handmade head coverings to patients undergoing chemotherapy. Approximately 185 curechiefs have been distributed to patients in the past year.

Education

This committee is responsible for inviting professionals from the hospital to speak at selected Auxiliary Board Meetings.

File of Life

This committee distributes File of Life packets through the gift shops, the Cardiac Rehabilitation Program and various community organizations.

Fundraising

The two fundraisers planned this year: Dining for a Cause and annual Mini-Golf tournament at Odetah Camping Resort could not be held due to COVID-19.

Gift Shop

The Auxiliary's primary source of income comes from the two gift shops it operates: the main shop, located at the hospital at 326 Wash-

ington St., and its subsidiary shop at the BOCC at 111 Salem Turnpike.

Throughout the pandemic, the Backus Hospital Auxiliary Gift Shop has remained open. If you have a need the gift shop can fulfill, please do not hesitate to call Candis Gioia, Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. to place an order and to arrange for a curbside pick-up.



**Gift Shop Manager
Candis Gioia**

Membership

Current membership, consisting of both men and women, presently numbers 332: 122 regular and 210 life. Always seeking new members, we encourage all to recommend Auxiliary membership to friends.

Annual dues for regular members are \$25 (\$15 for ages 60 and older) and life membership is a one-time contribution of \$150. One may be as active as one chooses, consider joining the Board or a committee, participating in a fundraiser and/or shop in either of our gift shops and receive a 10 percent discount on most items.

Newsletter/Publicity

This committee is responsible for promoting the Auxiliary's activities within the hospital and in the local media. Only one Auxiliary publication went out this year, the Annual Report in early autumn. Throughout the course of this year, the Auxiliary's accomplishments and undertakings were publicized in the East

Region weekly online newsletter, HospiTell.

Open Meetings

The Annual Meeting of the William W. Backus Hospital Auxiliary was held on Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2019. Donna Handley, president of Backus and Windham hospitals was the speaker, and the Auxiliary presented her with a check for \$125,000 to support capital improvements.

The Annual Membership Coffee/Tea and Scholarship presentation scheduled for May 12, 2020 was canceled due to COVID-19.

Patient favors

At each major holiday throughout the year, appropriately themed favors are provided on the trays of hospitalized patients. Contributors included Rose City Senior Center, St. Jude's Commons, and Norwich Free Academy's Project Outreach. This program is on hold through the remainder of the year due to COVID-19.

Pediatric Surgical Caps/ Post-Op Pillows

The pediatric surgical caps were initially created to cheer up pediatric patients faced with an impending surgery. But in recent years, the colorful head coverings had been placed in storage as the majority of pediatric surgeries are now done at a children's hospital. However, with the onset of COVID-19, the caps found a new use as protective head-



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SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Four worthy students chosen

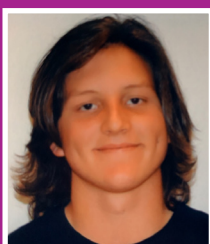
For the last 18 years, the Scholarship Committee, working with a pool of \$10,000, has awarded two to five scholarships annually to high school graduates pursuing post-secondary study in a medical field. To be eligible, applicants must be current hospital employees, volunteers, or children, grandchildren or legal charges of a hospital employee or volunteer.

The committee, chaired by Fran Leta and comprised of Jamie Block and Janis Sawicki, read over the 15 applications consisting of a transcript, a personal letter, and letters of recommendation to assess the candidate's merit based on the following criteria: academic prowess, character, leadership skills, and community commitment.

Since the committee members were unable to meet in person, they exchanged texts and emails to share their rankings to determine this year's finalists. To comply with social distancing regulations the finalists were then interviewed in a vacant area of the Norwich Senior Citizens' Center parking lot. As a result of this entire process, four scholarships of \$2,500 apiece were awarded this year to the following:

Mathew DePonte

Mathew, the son of Mark and Sheila DePonte, is an alumnus of Griswold High School where he excelled both as an athlete and a scholar. A Backus Junior volunteer, Mathew is an enrolling freshman at Trinity College where he plans to major in chemistry and to participate in the school's football program. In addition to his penchant for the sciences, Mathew is also a strong proponent of the theatrical arts.



Rachel Goldstein

Rachel, the daughter of Adam and Amy Goldstein is returning to the University of Pennsylvania where she is enrolled as a junior. An alumna of The Williams School, Rachel is majoring in health care management and finance. Besides being an outstanding student, she serves as the University's student disability service coordinator. She also is a swim instructor at the school and is actively involved in the Wharton School and World Bank Ideas for Community Action Community Service Initiative. Rachel is the first three-time recipient this award.



Leah Mikkelson

Leah, the daughter of Mark and Krista Mikkelson, an alumna of Norwich Free Academy, is beginning her sophomore year at Western New England University where she is majoring in biomedical engineering with an emphasis on cell and tissue engineering. She plans to minor in biomedical physics, chemistry, and applied mathematics. A Dean's List student, Leah served as a summer intern at Medtronic in North Haven, CT. Leah is a second-time recipient of the merit scholarship.



Iris Wainston

Iris, the daughter of Mark and Laura Wainston, is an alumna of Stonington High School where she excelled as both an athlete and a scholar. In addition to being an outstanding student, Iris is also an accomplished equestrian and a certified lifeguard. She is enrolled as a freshman at the University of Vermont where she plans to major in pre-med neuroscience and /or biology.



gear for hospital staff. In late March, the Auxiliary donated approximately 210 caps to the Backus staff.

The Auxiliary also provides post-operative pillows to cancer patients. We furnish materials and the Charitable Crafts Group at the Colchester Senior Center sews them. Unfortu-

nately due to COVID-19 this program has been suspended until the Senior Center reopens and the group is able to resume making pillows to donate to the Cancer Center.

Vendor Sales

Throughout the year, the Auxiliary

sponsors vendors who offer a variety of goods for sale to staff, patients, and visitors on designated Fridays at the hospital.

Unfortunately due to the hospital's COVID-19 restrictions, only 15 of the 50 scheduled vendor sales for the year could be held.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

THE WILLIAM W. BACKUS HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

OFFICERS

President Jamie Block
Recording Secretary Shirley Sholes
Corresponding Secretary .. Barbara Gladue
Treasurer Barbara Dombrowski
Immediate Past President Fran Leta

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Finance Barbara Dombrowski
Policy, By-Laws Yvette Jacaruso
Fundraising
Gift Shop Kathryn Forschler
Mini-Golf Darleen Caisse
Vendor Sales Mimi Learned-Daigle
Marketing/PR
Newsletter, Publicity .. Kathryn Forschler
Membership Joyce Weber
Mentorship Fran Leta
Patient/Community
Camisoles Margaret Aldrich
Curechiefs Jan Stewart
File of Life Sheila Morgan
Patient Favors Jan Stewart
Post-Op Pillows Kathryn Forschler
Scholarship Program Fran Leta
Programs
Education Shirley Sholes
Open Meetings Jane Seder

BOARD MEMBERS

Fran Donnelly, Joyce Hastings, Janis Sawicki,
 Kelly Schenking

HONORARY DIRECTOR

Margot Gibbs

EX OFFICIO

Donna Handley President
 HHC East Region
 Anthony Mastroianni . Regional VP, Finance
 HHC East Region
 Mary Brown Manager
 Volunteer and Guest Services

In memoriam

Evelyn Boyd
 Dr. Larry Colletti
 Dr. Michael Deren
 Arlene Fargo
 Martha Jancewicz
 Maryann Morin
 Mary M. Norris
 Theresa Reardon
 Alberta Sherman
 Sonia Tedesco

New members

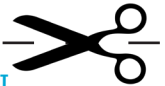
Sally Bolstridge
 Erika Bourgoin
 Helen "Nell" Bourgoin
 Greg Carabine
 Tanya Chalifoux
 Jill Fallon
 Diane Fortier
 Laurie Jeffers
 Dr. Vanessa Johnson
 Donna Landry
 Bonnie Larkins

Carol Lovell Reed
 Mary Marshall-Crim
 Marilyn McElroy
 Andrea Pero
 Nancy Scrapchansky
 Dr. Robert Sidman
 Colleen Sullivan
 Jessica Vanase
 Anne Wenau
 Mary Whitworth

Upcoming events

- **Membership Coffee/Tea** Tuesday, May 11, 2021
 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- **Mini-Golf Tournament** Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021
 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- **Annual Meeting** Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2021
 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Pass this on to a friend and grow our membership



THE WILLIAM W. BACKUS HOSPITAL AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP FORM

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ Date: _____

- CHOICE OF MEMBERSHIP:** New Member
- Life Membership \$150
- Regular Membership \$25
- Senior Citizen Membership (age 60 and over) \$15

Return application with check to:

The William W. Backus Hospital Auxiliary
 326 Washington St. • Norwich, CT 06360

