President’s Message

This marks the Backus Hospital Auxiliary’s 93rd Annual Report, and concludes another successful and productive year. We continue to provide a helping hand in promoting the health and welfare of our community through our hospital. The Auxiliary is a vital force offering service to the community, to the hospital, and to its patients. The proceeds from our fund raising events, together with the profits from the gift shops, canteens, vendor sales and membership dues have allowed us to fulfill some of the needs of the Backus Hospital, but the Auxiliary is much more than a fund-raising organization. We are truly dedicated to providing a myriad of services to the Backus Hospital family-at-large.

This marks the end of my term as President of the William Backus Hospital Auxiliary. It has been a privilege to lead the organization and its committed and talented Board. All of the Auxiliary’s accomplishments are the results of the dedication of the numerous individuals who are always there to pitch in. None of these services would be possible without the people who give of themselves. I wish to personally thank the officers of the Auxiliary, the chairpersons of our Standing Committees, our paid employees, the volunteers who staff and stock the Gift Shops, and all of our members who either volunteer or support our fund-raising events, plus all of the other generous and caring individuals who support our goals.

Some of our outside activities include the following:

Saturday, September 24, 2016: The 13th Annual Mini-Golf Tournament will be held at the Knolls and Holes Course at Odetah Camping Resort, 38 Bozrah Street Ext., Bozrah. Once again, we ask for your help by being a sponsor or a friend. The cost of the ticket to “compete” in the day’s play is $75 and can be purchased at the Gift Shops located on the main campus of the hospital or at the BOCC or by calling me at 860-889-2278. The price of the ticket includes brunch at 11 a.m., followed by play and a full buffet, with wine and beer, at 2 p.m. There will also be a fund-raising auction with a wide variety of items. You must be 21 years of age or older to attend this event. Tickets go quickly, so I urge you to call soon.

Sunday, September 25, 2016: The Annual Eastern Connecticut Heart Walk will take place at a new location, The Mohagen Reservation in Uncasville, CT. Registration is at 9 a.m., walk starts at 10 a.m. Come join us for this very special activity. If you cannot attend, please support our team or become a sponsor. Call Jean Carnaghan, our Team Captain, at 860-887-8045 for further information.

Tuesday, October 11, 2016: The Annual Luncheon is from noon – 2 p.m., at The William W. Backus Hospital, entry-level conference rooms (your invitation is included).

Jamie Block
President
Auxiliary Committee Reports

Camisoles
This committee furnishes camisoles to post-operative breast surgery patients.

Canteen
This committee oversees the four vending machine refreshment facilities within the hospital that contribute substantial income toward the Auxiliary’s annual budget. Hospital patients, visitors, and employees can find a wide variety of beverages and snacks available in the Canteens which are located along the main corridor (near the Gift Shop), adjacent to the Emergency Department waiting area, Same Day Surgery waiting area, and the Birthing Center.

Curechiefs/Turbans/Pediatric Caps
This committee provides curechiefs and turbans, hand-sewn head dressings, for patients undergoing chemotherapy treatments. Additionally, the Auxiliary supplies colorful surgical caps to Same Day Surgery pediatric patients.

Decorations
This committee provides appropriate floral arrangements and decorations at our Open Meetings in May and October.

Education
This committee is responsible for locating guests to speak at selected Auxiliary Board meetings. The speaker this year was Bimal Patel, newly named President of Hartford Healthcare East Region. He outlined his professional background and spoke about his vision for Backus Hospital.

File of Life
During 2015-2016, File of Life packets were distributed from the Gift Shops, the Cardiac Rehab program and community service organizations.

Fundraising
As part of our fund-raising efforts to help meet the needs of the hospital during the 2015-2016 fiscal year, two successful events took place: in July, a percentage of sales from 99 Restaurant in Norwich and in September, the annual Mini-Golf Tournament at the Odetah Camping resort in Bozrah.

Historian/Publicity
This committee maintains written records and photographs of our yearly work. In addition, this committee works in conjunction with the other committee chairpersons to ensure there is appropriate publicity within the hospital and in the local media regarding our community activities.

Membership
Auxiliary membership presently numbers 359 regular and life members. Annual dues for regular members are $25 ($15 for ages 60 and older). Life membership is a one-time contribution of $150. Members are notified on a regular basis as to when their annual dues are payable.

The Auxiliary is always seeking new members to bring ideas and energy to its committees. Current members are encouraged to recommend membership to their friends. Remember, all members are eligible for a 10% discount on most items in our gift shops.

Open Meetings
The Annual Luncheon was held on Tuesday, October 13, 2015 in the conference rooms at the hospital. The Food and Nutrition Department staff prepared and served a petite sit-down luncheon. The guest speaker was David Whitehead, Regional President Hartford HealthCare East Region.

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

Scholarship
The Scholarship Committee, working with a pool of each year, awards three to four scholarships to high graduates pursuing post-secondary study in a medical field. To be eligible, applicants must be current hospital employees, or children, grandchildren, or legal guardians of hospital employees or volunteers.

Sunshine
This committee works with the Corresponding Secretary to assure that board members receive appropriate acknowledgment in the event of a death or illness in family.

Tray Favors
At each holiday throughout the year, the Tray Favor Committee provides appropriately themed favors for dining trays of hospitalized patients. Contributors are Delta Kappa Gamma, Project Outreach from Norwich Academy, Rose City Senior Center, and St. Jude Co.

Vendor Sales
Throughout the year, the Auxiliary sponsors vendor offers a variety of goods to employees and visitors at held on designated Fridays in the hospital.

Recent vendors have offered for sale handbags, wall jewelry, apparel, skin products, gourmet food items, household goods. Proceeds help fulfill the Auxiliary’s commitment to the hospital.