

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 Mohegan 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

The William W. Backus Hospital Auxiliary

2015 – 2016 Board of Directors

Officers

President	Jamie Block
President-Elect	Elizabeth Trudelle
Vice President	
Recording Secretary	Phyllis Schaffhauser
Corresponding Secretary	Albie Czapski
Treasurer	Barbara Dombrowski
Immediate Past President	Mimi Learned-Daigle

Committee Chairpersons

Camisoles	Margaret Aldrich
Canteen	Lori Ashburner
Curechiefs/Turbans	Jan Stewart
Decorations/Centerpieces	Lori Ashburner
Education	Evelyn Guido
File of Life	Sheila Morgan
Finance	Barbara Dombrowski
Gift Shop	Jean Carnaghan
Membership	Lori Ashburner
Newsletter	Kathryn Forschler
Nominating	Diana George
Open Meetings	Jane Seder
Pediatric Surgical Caps	Kathryn Forschler
Policy	Yvette Jacaruso
Publicity/Historian Sunshine	Lori Ashburner
Scholarships	Fran Leta
Tray Favors	Doris LaPre
Vendors	Mimi Learned-Daigle

Board Members

Fran Donnelly, Barbara Gladue, Joyce Hastings, Joan Kelly, Betty LaFreniere, Ellie Sposato.

Honorary Director

Margot Gibbs

Ex Officio

Bimal Patel, Regional President
Hartford HealthCare East Region
Daniel E. Lohr, Regional VP, Finance
Hartford HealthCare East Region
Mary Brown, Program Manager, Volunteer
and Guest Services



93rd Annual Report The William W. Backus Hospital Auxiliary

Norwich, Connecticut
2015-2016



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



Backus
Hospital

A Hartford HealthCare Partner



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.

Gift Shop

The Hospital Gift Shop at Backus continues to be a success, both as a fund-raiser for the Auxiliary's projects and as a source of greeting cards, clothing, jewelry, flowers and giftware for hospital visitors, patients and staff. The hospital shop is open seven days a week: Monday through Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., Saturday from 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. The Backus Outpatient Care Center (BOCC) Shop on Salem Turnpike is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Staff at both shops is comprised primarily of volunteers.

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.

The Annual Membership Coffee/Tea was held in the conference rooms on Tuesday, May 10, 2016. Food Nutrition provided refreshments. Scholarship chairperson Fran Leta introduced this year's recipients of \$3,350: Jessica Bettencourt, Taylor Dudek and Ethan Fenton.

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, volunteers, or children, grandchildren, or legal children of a hospital employee or volunteer.

Sunshine

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

Tray Favors

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

Vendor Sales

Throughout the year, the Auxiliary sponsors vendors to offer a variety of goods to employees and visitors at meetings held on designated Fridays in the hospital.

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

