

## President's Message

This marks the Backus Hospital Auxiliary's 92nd Annual Report, and concludes another successful and productive year. We continue to provide a helping hand in promoting the health and the 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, vendor sales, membership dues, and the canteens 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.

All of the Auxiliary's accomplishments are the results of the commitment, dedication, and talents 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 to provide them. 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 Shop, 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:

**Saturday, September 19, 2015:** The 12th 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 per ticket and can be purchased at the Gift Shop located on the main campus of the hospital or by calling me at 860.889.8331, Ext. 2259. The price of the ticket includes brunch at 11 a.m., followed by play and then a full buffet at 2 p.m., including wine and beer. There will also be a fund-raising auction for 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 27, 2015:** Our Annual Heart Walk will take place at Rocky Neck State Park, 244 West Main Street, Niantic, CT. Registration is at 9 a.m., walk starts at 10 a.m. It is a three-mile walk rain or shine. Please 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 13, 2015:** October Annual Luncheon, from noon – 2 p.m., at The William W. Backus Hospital entry-level conference rooms (your invitation is included).

~ Jamie Block

## The William W. Backus Hospital Auxiliary

### 2014 – 2015 Board of Directors

#### Officers

President	Jamie Block
President-Elect	
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	Gina Hanrahan
Newsletter	Gina Hanrahan
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

Tammy Blais, Fran Donnelly, Barbara Gladue, Joyce Hastings, Joan Kelly, Betty LaFreniere, Ellie Sposato and Elizabeth Trudelle.

#### Honorary Director

Margot Gibbs

#### Ex Officio

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



## 92nd ANNUAL REPORT The William W. Backus Hospital Auxiliary

Norwich, Connecticut  
2014-2015



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



## Auxiliary Committee Reports

### Camisoles

Provides camisoles for post-operative breast surgery patients.

### Canteen

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 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

Provides curechiefs and turbans, hand-sewn head dressings for those patients undergoing chemotherapy treatments. Additionally, the Auxiliary also supplies colorful surgical caps to pediatric patients in the Same Day Surgery area.

### Decorations

Provides appropriate floral accessories and decorations at our Open Meetings throughout the year.

### Education

Speaker this year was an Investment Service Representative Dwayne Stallings.

### File of Life

During 2014-2015, File of Life packets were distributed from the Gift Shop, the Cardiac Rehab program at the hospital and from community service organizations.

### Fundraising

As part of our fund-raising efforts to help meet the needs of the hospital during the 2014-2015 fiscal year, three major successful events took place: a Mini-Golf Tournament at the Odetah Camping Resort in Bozrah, a percentage of sales from Chico's at Mohegan Sun and from 99 Restaurant in Norwich.

### 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, jewelry, flowers and other gifts for hospital visitors, patients and staff. The branch shop at the Backus Outpatient Care Center (BOCC) on Salem Turnpike is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

The hospital shop is open seven days a week with the following hours: 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.

These shops are staffed primarily by volunteers.

### Historian/Publicity

This committee maintains both written and photographic records of our yearly work.

In addition, this committee works in concert with other committee chairpersons to assure there is appropriate publicity within the hospital or in local media regarding our community activities.

### Membership

We currently have around 380 regular and life members. Effective October 2, 2015, annual dues for regular members are \$25 (\$15 for those 60 and older). A one-time contribution of \$150 ensures life membership.

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 14, 2014, at the hospital. As always, the very capable Food and Nutrition Department staff served a sumptuous petite luncheon. The speaker was David Whitehead, Regional President Hartford HealthCare East Region. President and CEO of

Backus Hospital, spoke of plans for our affiliation with Hartford HealthCare.

The Annual Membership Coffee/Tea was held in the conference rooms on Tuesday, May 11, 2015.

Scholarship chairperson Fran Leta introduced this year's recipients of \$2,500 apiece. Scholarship winners are Khushbu Pandya, Tracy Jullarine, and Kerrie Thiffeault.

### Policy

Oversees the parliamentary procedures of Auxiliary Board of Directors.

### Scholarship

Using a pool of \$10,000 this year, the Scholarship Committee provides three to four 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.

### Sunshine

Works in concert with the Corresponding Secretary to assure that board members receive appropriate acknowledgment in the event of a sickness or death in their family.

### Tray Favors

At each holiday throughout the year, the Tray Favors Committee provides hospitalized patients with the creative favor for their dining trays. Contributors to this program include Project Outreach at the Norwich Free Academy, St. Jude Common, Rose City Senior Center, and Delta Kappa Gamma.

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

