SCHOLARSHIPS 2017

In May The Villages® Regional Hospital Auxiliary Foundation celebrated another successful scholarship season awarding fourteen scholarships to hospital team members continuing their education and to five high school seniors planning to enter the health care field. To date close to $200,000 has been awarded in scholarships by the Auxiliary Foundation.

The growth of the scholarship program at TVRH Auxiliary Foundation is a success story in itself. In 2015 the idea to develop a scholarship program began with the awarding of two scholarships totaling $4,000. A decision to fully commit to this endeavor was endorsed by the Auxiliary Foundation Board. Executive Director Dick Campbell set about securing the money and board member Paul Farineau headed the scholarship committee.

The philosophy behind this scholarship program is to assist current hospital employees further their educational development and retain skilled talented team members at TVRH. Also by awarding scholarships to students planning to go into any aspect of the health care field, the thought is some of those students will return to the area and work in the hospital or in some aspect of the medical field in the area. The scholarships earned by the high school seniors follow them each year of their schooling up to four years provided they maintain satisfactory academic standings.

The Auxiliary Foundation scholarship program continues to grow. Gary Kadow, board member and president of Project SOS – Support our Soldiers, Inc., has joined forces with the Auxiliary Foundation adding three scholarships to students entering the medical field whose parents or grandparents are veterans. “Health care is so important to this community; Project SOS wanted to be part of it,” said Kadow. “When their family member receives a scholarship, it is another way to say thank you to the veteran for their service, even if it was a long time ago.”

The latest development in the Auxiliary Foundation scholarship program involves a partnership with the William F. Crumel, Jr. Foundation and Florida A & M University. This exciting new project would include student interns training at TVRH.
CHAIRMAN’S MESSAGE

On behalf of our Auxiliary Foundation’s board, I am most pleased to welcome our newest staff member, Cathy Reardon, on board. Cathy, a resident of the Village of Charlotte, has a wealth of fundraising and special event experience which she will bring to her new position of Development Coordinator.

Two recent special events benefitting our Auxiliary Foundation were both outstanding successes. Dale Cebert, principle at Cebert Wealth Management and a Foundation partner wowed a sellout crowd at Lake Miona Recreation Center with a variety of toe tapping country songs. Then Dr. John Williams, as John Truth and Reflexx, had a sellout crowd at Seabreeze Recreation Center dancing in the aisles with his Reggae brand of music. The good news is that both Cebert and Williams have agreed to perform benefit concerts again next year.

Our Patient Care Committee has been hard at work with the hospital staff to identify key pieces of medical equipment that will continue to improve patient care. The Foundation has budgeted $100,000 this fiscal year to purchase the items. Equipment recently purchased includes wheelchairs with oxygen tank holders, blanket warmers and phlebotomy lab carts. The Patient Care Committee is chaired by board member Jim Lemon.

This issue of our newsletter features a rapidly growing part of our initiatives – our scholarship program. This year we awarded fourteen scholarships to TVRH team members and five to area high school seniors. In just two and a half years the program has awarded nearly $200,000 in scholarships. Thanks to Paul Farineau and the Scholarship Committee for their dedication to the recipient selection process.

Keep an eye on our website and newsletters for details about other exciting upcoming events that support our Auxiliary Foundation and, ultimately, The Villages® Regional Hospital.

David Gardner, Chairman
The Villages® Regional Hospital Auxiliary Foundation
2017 TVRH Team Member Scholarship Recipients:

Melissa Buchkovich, IMCU
Herschel Godbee, Environmental Services
Nicole Cardiello, Observation
Tammy Gorby, Perioperative Services
Annette Chessar, Wound Care
Andrea Schotter, Supply Chain
Kirsty Cowles, Pharmacy
Marilyn Solomon, Day Surgery Center
Jim Finney, Pharmacy
Joanne Williams, Human Resources
Jofy Gerard, ICU
Vida Wilson, Diagnostic Imaging

2017 High School Senior Scholarship Recipients:

Amy Ashley, a South Sumter High School graduate, will attend the University of Florida with plans to become a speech pathologist. The daughter of a military veteran, Amy’s scholarship was awarded in conjunction with Project SOS – Support our Soldiers.

Erin Cary will attend Toccoa Falls College in Georgia where she will play basketball and volleyball while earning her degree in biology. A Villages Charter School graduate, Erin’s future plans are to become a trauma surgeon.

Kristin-Marie Gopichand, inspired by both surgeon Ben Carson and her grandfather’s brain cancer, plans to become a neurosurgeon. A graduate of The Villages Charter School, Kristin-Marie will attend the University of Florida.

Megan Grimshaw graduated from South Sumter High School and will attend Lake Sumter State College this fall. She is pursuing a four-year degree to become a registered nurse with a specialty in pediatrics.

Sydnee Parish will attend her ‘dream school’ the University of Florida. The oldest of six siblings, Sydnee plans to become a pediatrician. She was the salutatorian of her class at South Sumter High School. Her scholarship is also in conjunction with Project SOS – Support our Soldiers.

ANNUAL AUXILIARY AWARDS

Leadership Award of Excellence award: Pat Kronk and Sandy Murphy
Special Recognition award: Tom Hollister and Eda Oteri
Outstanding Team/Department award: Patient Survey/Rounding Volunteer of the Year award: Rena Marchand
President’s award: George and Gloria Counselman

TVRH Chief Clinical Officer and Site Administrator Michael Pittman and TVRH administrative director of nursing Susan Williams received the Making a Difference award. Said TVRH Auxiliary President Lou Emmert, “Michael and Susan have been with TVRH for less than a year, but they have already worked magic to improve the reputation of our hospital and the community’s level of satisfaction with TVRH. Their interaction with the Auxiliary proves they see us as an equal partner in making the hospital first rate.”

In 2005 The Villages® Regional Hospital Auxiliary decided to honor their members with an Annual Awards Luncheon. Since that time nearly ninety awards have been given to our hard-working volunteers. The award categories have been modified through the years to more closely honor the actual duties and responsibilities of the TVRH volunteers. The following is a list of the 2017 honorees.

Going the Extra Mile award: Bob Briest and Scott Roberts
Unsung Heroes award: Brenda Nye and Jeannie Rogale
BIG BIKE WEEKEND

Planning and preparations are underway for the third annual Hearts for our Hospital Big Bike Weekend to be held in November. This year the Big Bike Weekend, which in 2016 featured over 300 cyclists and raised more than $40,000 for The Villages® Regional Hospital Auxiliary Foundation, is looking to expand the event to 500 cyclists to ride throughout beautiful Lake and Sumter counties. The cycling expo will kick off the weekend on Friday, November 10 followed by the challenge ride on Saturday, November 11.

Dave Taylor, TVRH Foundation Auxiliary board member and co-chair of the Big Bike weekend along with Pat Gillis, encourages people to put together teams. “It makes a great day even greater,” said Taylor. So far four team categories are in place: Restaurants, Wealth Management, Health Services and Villages Cycling Clubs. Taylor is looking forward to adding more categories to the list for 2017. “It drives a little friendly competition among the competing organizations,” said Taylor, “and bragging rights.” A traveling trophy is awarded to the team raising the most money. Businesses also benefit said Taylor because the bike challenge works as a team building experience for employees. Taylor also encourages neighborhoods in the Villages to consider riding as a team, not only because it is more fun for participants, but neighbors not riding can go on-line and easily donate to a team.

Changes and additions have been implemented for the 2017 Bicycle Challenge. A ten-mile Fun Route has been added to the regular 17, 32, 64 and 100 mile routes. The start and finish line will be at La Hacienda Recreation Center. Breakfast and lunch will again be served, however, this year World of Beer will add to the after ride festivities.

To register online or for more information visit our website at www.H4HBikeWeekend.com

BEHIND THE SCENES AT YE OLD THRIFT SHOPPE

Many people shop regularly at the Auxiliary Foundation’s Ye Olde Thrift Shoppe. Customers enjoy the wonderful bargains and recognize the faces of the helpful staff. The Shoppe is staffed entirely by Auxiliary volunteers; those visible to the public as well as those who work behind the scenes.

Annual awards to recognize volunteer efforts:
Artistic Creativity award: Terry Fiorito
Above and Beyond award: Jim Berlin and Cinda French
Rookie of the Year award: Elena Goulet.
Reliability award: Sherry Johnson and Linda Dombrowsk

“It’s Time to Go!” day trips with Carol’s Trips recently included Ye Olde Thrift Shoppe in an Orlando-bound trip of consignment shopping.

JOHN TRUTH AND REFLEXX ROCKED THE HOUSE

The John Truth & Reflexx band’s benefit concert for The Villages® Regional Hospital Auxiliary Foundation was a tremendous success and concert sellout. Front man for this Bob Marley Tribute group is none other than orthopedic surgeon and Director of Total Joint Replacement at the Advanced Orthopedics Institute of the Villages, Dr. John Williams, Jr., whose high energy had many in the enthusiastic crowd on their feet dancing the night away. In fact after the concert, Dr. Williams said that he really felt the energy of the crowd. “The audience was fantastic,” said Williams. All of this musical energy and fun was also for a good cause, and the TVRH Auxiliary Foundation is grateful to be the recipient of the concert’s proceeds.

John Truth & Reflexx formed in Philadelphia in 2005. Although Dr. Williams, Chairman of Surgery at Central Florida Health, moved to central Florida in 2011, his Philadelphia-based band mates traveled to Florida to perform with him at this concert.

Mark your calendars for May 2018 at the Savannah Center for the next opportunity to share in the energy known as John Truth & Reflexx!
**DONORS ENHANCE OUR HOSPITAL**

**GRACE AME & WILLIAM F. CRUMEL, JR. FOUNDATION**

“We are committed to preserving and promoting the community,” said Rev. Thomas Poole, minister of Grace AME Church. “When the opportunity to do something in the area of healing came our way; it was an easy decision,” said Poole on becoming a Scholarship Partner with The Villages® Regional Hospital Auxiliary Foundation. The room is named in honor of Grace AME Church and the William F. Crumel, Jr. Foundation.

Grace AME church was established in October 2014 and is “historically the first African American institution in the Villages,” shared Rev. Poole, “however, we are respectfully inclusive.” He counts among his key staff a retired nun and a Roman Catholic Franciscan Friar. Poole, a Florida native, received what he describes as the compelling call in 1995. Having already graduated from the University of Virginia in economics and attended graduate school at the University of Michigan, he went to Payne Theological Seminary. He describes his ministry as Gracentrism, his word, meaning to embody the dictum, “I am because we are,” to make no distinction between the sacred and the secular and to govern ourselves consistent with our ethical mandate to preserve and promote commonwealth. He and his wife R.J., residents of Osceola Hills, moved to the Villages in September of 2016.

Anita Crumel, fellow Village resident and founder of the William F. Crumel, Jr. Foundation, established a foundation in memory of her son that focuses on education and scholarships for students. Crumel’s son was an educator who died in 1998 prior to the start of the school year. “It would have been the first year he had his own classroom,” said Crumel. “He already had his classroom all set up.”

**CITY FIRE – LAKE SUMTER LANDING**

Scott Vasatka, operating partner of City Fire restaurant at Sumter Landing, is a scholarship partner with The Villages® Regional Hospital Auxiliary Foundation. “I became aware of the Auxiliary Foundation through Evan and Mary Ann Richards,” said Vasatka. “Evan was a wonderful man and a real inspiration to me.” Vasatka enjoys being part of the Auxiliary Foundation because as he says, “I have never seen a community get behind their hospital like this community.”

Vasatka, at age sixteen, began working for one of the largest Burger King franchisees at the time (360 locations throughout eleven states.) He remained with the company, ultimately retiring as vice-president of operations. However, retirement didn’t last too long, and Vasatka became part of the team that purchased then Urban Flats, now City Fire. “During all my time working I have worked for companies that were very involved in the community, but I especially like giving back in the Villages. I don’t know what community you could compare to The Villages for active community involvement,” said Vasatka.

His current mission is holding on to the traveling trophy awarded to his City Fire team in the restaurant category of last year’s Big Bike Challenge. “We intend to keep it,” said Vasatka. He is planning to up his team members to an even dozen and is looking to double his sponsorship.”

**CHARITABLE GIVING**

You can make a BIG charitable impact here in the Villages by giving to TVRH Auxiliary Foundation helping us uphold our mission of improving patient care at The Villages® Regional Hospital. Gifts of stock, IRAs & other appreciated assets are powerful ways to give big and give smart.

You made a great investment decision; now you can make a powerful charitable decision. With these contributions, you not only benefit from regular tax savings but can also avoid capital gains taxes on qualified assets given for charitable use.

Please be sure to check with your legal and/or financial advisor before proceeding with any gift. Please call TVRH Auxiliary Foundation Executive Director Dick Campbell for more information.

(352-751-8871)
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