The second annual *Hearts for our Hospital Big Bike Weekend* took place on a beautiful weekend in November. This event, a partnership between Sumter Landing Bicycle Club and the Villages® Regional Hospital Auxiliary Foundation, raised over $40,000.

A new facet of the 2016 Bicycle Challenge, the competing teams, added some good natured rivalry to the event. There were four categories of teams in 2016: restaurants, wealth management, health services and Villages cycling clubs. Travelling trophies will be awarded to the winning teams at the *Hearts for our Hospital* Night of the Stars Gala on February 11.

Over 300 riders participated in the Bicycle Challenge. Another new option this year, the one hundred mile route, brought in riders from as far as Miami. Bikers were treated to breakfast before the ride by KR Management and lunch after the ride was provided by Olive Garden. Quest was the title sponsor.

Also part of the weekend was The Cycling Expo and Health Fair. The 2017 Big Bike Weekend will be held on November 10 and 11. To keep up to date on the latest information for this event, go to www.H4HBikeWeekend.com.
As we enter the seventh month of the current fiscal year, the growth of our Auxiliary Foundation continues at a remarkable pace. Executive Director Dick Campbell and his staff recently put together a statistical review of our growth over the past three years and I would like to share a few of the numbers with you.

- The Foundation has contributed over $2 million in cash and equipment to the hospital.
- The number of partners has increased from four to thirty-six.
- Fifty-five room sponsorships have resulted in over $3 million in cash or pledges to the Foundation.
- We have over $3 million in bequests.
- Auxiliary membership has grown from 650 to 900.
- Scholarships for area high school students and hospital team members have grown to over $100,000 annually.

Growth of that magnitude can only come through the dedicated efforts of a committed staff with the support of a strong board. Regarding the board, I’m most pleased to announce the addition of two new members—Charles Smith and Diane Kupchak. Both have extensive business backgrounds as well as involvement with non-profit organizations. We look forward to their wise counsel.

As far as program activities, we recently completed a highly successful cycling event, Hearts for our Hospital Big Bike Weekend, with nearly 300 cyclists participating. Our next big event, the annual Hearts for Our Hospital Gala, is scheduled for Feb. 11, 2017. This is our largest fund raiser and this year’s event promises to be one of the best ever.

I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Happy New Year.

Dave Gardner, Chairman
TVRH Auxiliary Foundation

TVRH AUXILIARY FOUNDATION HOLDS ANNUAL DINNER

The Villages® Regional Hospital Auxiliary Foundation held their third annual dinner in October at the Eisenhower Recreation Center. TVRH Auxiliary Foundation Executive Director Richard Campbell gave an overview of the Foundation’s three year progress and achievements. Foundation donors welcomed the opportunity to get to know Michael Pittman, Vice President, Chief Clinical Officer and Site Administrator for The Villages® Regional Hospital.

As noted by the Foundation’s Board Chairman, David Gardner, Pittman has only been on the job for a few months, but already major changes in departmental operating procedures including the Emergency Room have been instituted.

Pittman enthusiastically shared an overview of changes and improvements in the leadership process and patient satisfaction. He believes in developing strong leadership, building quality teams and accountability. In the past few months patient satisfaction surveys show rising satisfaction rates.
The first annual American Cancer Society Bark for Life took place in October on the grounds of The Villages® Regional Hospital’s East Campus. Cancer survivors and those honoring friends and family of people with cancer joined together with their dogs for a short walk and other activities to raise money and to highlight the importance of people’s pets in their lives as they go through the process of cancer.

Working the TVRH Auxiliary Foundation booth to raise awareness about the brick program to honor pets was Chris Miller, Chair of the Event Volunteers for the Auxiliary and five-year event volunteer veteran Janice Davenport. “Event volunteering is a great choice for someone who is interested in helping out at the hospital, but cannot commit to a regular schedule,” said Miller.

Chris and her team were very busy last fall supporting all the hospital grand openings including the oncology wing, the lobby, gift shop and cafe.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

January 21 | Cabaret
Over 20 talented performers mostly Villagers including The Godfather will perform two show at the Savannah center at 5 and 8 pm. Vocalist Mary Jo Vitale will perform. Tickets, $18 balcony and $25 main floor, are available at the Villages Box Office. Proceeds from this show will benefit TVRH Auxiliary Foundation.

February 11 | 11th Annual Hearts for our Hospital Black Tie Gala
An Evening with the Stars
An evening of great food, dancing, silent and live auctions at the Savannah Center.

March 3 | Country & Western Concert
Dale Cebert of Cebert Wealth Management will perform a concert of country and western music at Lake Miona Recreation Center starting at 5 pm.

The above-mentioned events benefit TVRH Auxiliary Foundation.
For more information about these events, call the Auxiliary Foundation office, 352-751-8871.

TVRH AUXILIARY FOUNDATION EVENT VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS ON THE GO
In recent months the hospital has seen a lot of grand openings, re-openings and firsts. The new dedicated oncology wing opened in November as did the renovated main lobby and expanded gift shop. Now for the first time patients at TVRH Rehabilitation Hospital have a golf cart to incorporate as part of their rehabilitation program.

**INPATIENT ONCOLOGY WING**

Described as more than beds, but a place for caring, compassion and hope, the Oncology Wing had a grand opening in early November. The wing of twelve beds dedicated to cancer patients opened after two years of planning. One of the big advantages to a dedicated wing is the staffing of trained oncology nurses.

**MAIN LOBBY / GIFT GALLERY and CAFÈ RE-OPENING**

Many well-wishers stopped by the re-opening to admire all the improvements to this area. The lobby was upgraded with new flooring and furniture. Two new enclosed admitting offices were added to the lobby. The Gift Gallery nearly doubled in size and features brand new display windows. New flooring, shelving and lighting were also added. The Café just of the main lobby also re-opened.

Another new addition in the Main Lobby and the Surgery Waiting Lounge is the Auxiliary Foundation touch screen information boards. Information about upcoming Auxiliary Foundation activities, the donors and volunteers that make so much possible for the hospital is easily accessed and updated monthly. People can learn a lot about the past, present and future of the Auxiliary Foundation in just a few minutes.

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**COMMEMORATIVE BRICK PROGRAM**

Diane Kupchak’s core belief about pets made working with the Commemorative Brick Program a perfect fit when she was looking for a way to get more involved with the Auxiliary Foundation. “I believe pets are a gift from God. They love us unconditionally and are always there for us,” says Diane.

While Cindy Parr Rabley focuses on the bricks honoring people, Diane is working to spread the word that bricks can be purchased to honor the animals in your life. “The bricks are a nice way to remember or honor your furry friend,” says Diane. Admittedly Diane is all about pets, she has never not had a cat during her entire life. “The brick garden is a pretty peaceful place to be,” added Diane. The bricks are part of the Sharon L. Morris Celebration Garden.

If you would like more information about the brick project, you are welcome to contact Cindy Parr Rabley at cindyrabley@comcast.net or 352-750-5077 and for pet bricks contact Diane Kupchak at dianekupchak@embarqmail.com or 352-259-6762.
ARDEN’S FINE JEWELERS

“We want to be part of the process of continuing quality care in the hospital and positive growth,” said Blake Gallaher about his service with The Villages® Regional Hospital Auxiliary Foundation. He and his wife Kate are the public faces of the family-owned Arden’s Fine Jewelers located at Lake Sumter Landing. One of the ways they support the Foundation is through their donation each year to the Gala’s live auction. “We always select a designer piece, following the latest trends in diamonds,” said Kate.

This dynamic young couple met in the jewelry business. Blake is a third generation jeweler. “I love jewelry; it is my passion.” That passion and a reputation for being able to repair jewelry the right way has earned Arden’s a loyal clientele. Blake and Kate get to know their customers on a personal level which means knowing some of them during illnesses. Blake said that he hears many stories about the quality staff and volunteers his customers encounter while patients in the hospital. He and Kate are happy to be part of the team that helps the hospital provide the good treatment they often hear about from their customers.

WELCOME ENERGYMEDICAL

EnergyMedical joined in their support of TVRH Auxiliary Foundation in October. Bill Rowland, owner of EnergyMedical, became aware of the Auxiliary Foundation at a Chamber of Commerce event and wanted to become part of the good work they are doing for our Hospital. Since that initial meeting, they have made a donation to purchase a room naming opportunity and supported the Big Bike Challenge by donating supplies for cyclists in their swag bags.

EnergyMedical, a unique alternative health center using advanced technologies, is located in the Spruce Creek Medical Center in Summerfield. “We specialize in eliminating pain when nothing else works,” said Rowland. “Seeing the changes it has made in people, makes it my passion to let the world know about this technology.”

THE VILLAGES GOLF CARS DONATION MAKES BIG IMPACT ON TVRH REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

Special thanks to The Villages Golf Club Cars!

Villages Golf Cars gifted golf car to TRVH Rehabilitation Hospital to aid patient therapy readying them to go home and resume their lives. Consultant Susan Keeker, serving as the Interim Director of Acute In-Patient Rehab is from Indiana. Seeing so many Villagers in golf cars was a new experience for her. “When I saw that the hospital had a golf car parking lot, I knew we had to incorporate golf cars into our therapy program.” A little while later she was at a meeting with Dick Campbell, Executive Director of the Auxiliary Foundation, and mentioned how helpful a golf car would be in the therapy trying to get people back to their active lifestyles. Campbell agreed and within two weeks the golf car was delivered. It is getting a lot of use as part of the community re-entry program. Patients are trained in safely getting in and out of the golf car; driving the golf car is not part of the program. “We love the golf car,” says interim lead therapist Jennifer Winchell. “During the hurricane, or nurse manager loaded the car on a truck and took it to her garage for safe keeping.”