An Evening with the Stars, the 11th annual Hearts for our Hospital Gala, held in February was a tremendous success. The annual fundraiser hosted by TVRH Auxiliary Foundation transformed the Savannah Center into Van Gogh’s Starry Starry Night. More than three hundred guests dined, danced and raised a significant amount of money. The Gala is the Auxiliary Foundation’s largest fundraiser. “Final tabulations are in,” said Foundation Executive Director Dick Campbell, “the Gala raised $300,000.”

A silent auction with a wide array of quality items from jewelry to fishing trips was a big hit with Gala guests. Hearts on Fire diamonds, golf cars, vacation stays in Italian villas were among the items auctioned off in a spirited live auction led by auctioneer Col. Bob Britton. Approximately one hundred Auxiliary volunteers helped with this event including setting up the silent auction.

New this year were the travelling trophies awarded at the Gala. Starting with the November 2016 Big Bike Challenge groups formed for a little friendly competition to see who could raise the most money. The 2016 winners who will hold on to the trophies this year are Pumping Peddlers in the health services category, Ruggie in the wealth management category, City Fire at Lake Sumter in the restaurant category and Sumter Landing Bicycle Club in the villages cycling clubs category.
I’m most pleased to welcome David Taylor and Gary Kadow to the TVRH Auxiliary Foundation Board of Directors. Both of these new directors bring a wealth of critical experience to the board and will make an already strong board even stronger.

What can I say about this year’s Hearts for our Hospital Gala? It was a smashing success. Since this was our 11th Gala the fact that we were sold out is testament to its ongoing popularity. I want to thank all those who had a hand in planning the Gala and particularly the more than 100 Auxiliary volunteers who helped make all the activities run like clockwork.

Of course, the real beneficiary of the Gala is our hospital. The $300,000 realized from the event will go a long way toward making the hospital one of the most technically up to date and safest in Central Florida.

Now we can look forward to a number of upcoming events:
- Fundraising concert John Truth & Reflexx featuring Dr. John Williams
- Being the community honoree at the Villages Annual Boy Scout Golden Eagle Dinner
- Awarding our 2017 annual scholarships to area students and hospital team members

We have only four months left in this fiscal year and we are well on our way to the best year ever thanks to our board, staff and volunteers.

David Gardner, Chairman
The Villages® Regional Hospital Auxiliary Foundation
WELCOME OUR TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Dave Taylor joined TVRH Auxiliary Foundation in February. He had become familiar with the workings of the Foundation through the Hearts for our Hospital Big Bike Weekend, a partnership between the Foundation and the Sumter Landing Bicycle Club. Taylor serves as co-chair for this event.

Taylor brings a wealth of board experience to his new role as a Foundation board member. Taylor was one of six people who founded the National Windshield Repair Association in 1991 which is now an international organization. He is also a past president and served on the board of the Sumter Landing Bicycle Club. The Hearts for our Hospital Big Bike Weekend started in 2015. The 2016 weekend raised over $40,000 for the Foundation. “I see the bike event being an even greater contribution than it already is,” said Taylor. “We have planted it. Now we need to water and fertilize and see where it goes.”

Dave and his wife Cindy, residents of the Village of Bridgeport at Miona Shores, have lived in the Villages for six years. He met Cindy many years ago at a biking event. “We have been cycling together ever since,” said Taylor.

New TVRH Auxiliary board member Gary Kadow is also the founder and Chairman of Project SOS – Support our Soldiers, Inc. Formed in 2010, Project SOS launched a U.S. Military Children’s Scholarship program in 2014. Beginning in 2016 Project SOS and TVRH Auxiliary Foundation established an agreement to provide additional scholarships through the Foundation to students in military families seeking a career in the medical field.

In Kadow’s varied career he was in both the private sector and public service. He spent the last six years of his career in Washington, DC working as a Special Assistant to the Secretary of HUD and subsequently as Special Assistant to the President, serving as a member of the National Labor and Management Council.

For over 35 years, Kadow has been an ordained Episcopal chaplain. He volunteered as an Emergency Chaplain to the First responders at Ground Zero.

Kadow brings a wealth of board experience with him. He currently serves on the board of Combat Veterans to Careers, Villages Honor Flight Network and Vietnam Veterans of America.

He and his wife Barbara reside in the Villages.

DR. WILLIAMS IN CONCERT

Mark your calendars now and purchase a ticket to see “John Truth and Reflexx” in concert on Saturday, April 29 at the Seabreeze Recreation Center. Lead singer and rhythm guitarist of this Bob Marley Tribute band is Orthopedic Surgeon John Williams, MD.

Dr. Williams is the Director of Total Joint Replacement at the Advanced Orthopedic Institute of the Villages. An orthopedic surgeon and Chairman of Surgery at Central Florida Health, Dr. Williams moved to central Florida from Philadelphia in 2011. “We’ve played about fifteen concerts in this area since I moved here,” said Williams. “It is going to be a lively event, we usually play twenty songs straight through in a non-stop set.” He added, “Dancing is encouraged.”

A life-long Bob Marley fan Dr. Williams had always liked to sing and started playing guitar at age 40. In 2005 he connected with members of the Reflexx Band and they began performing together in Philadelphia. When called on to perform in this area the Reflexx Band travels down from Philadelphia to join their band mate “John Truth.”

Tickets are $25.00 and the proceeds from this concert will benefit The Villages® Regional Hospital Auxiliary Foundation. CFH team members and volunteers may purchase one ticket at half price. Tickets can be purchased by calling Dr. Williams’s office at 352-751-2862 or directly from office at Advanced Orthopedic Institute, 1400 N. US Hwy 441, Sharon Morse Building, Suite 552. Payment for tickets is cash or check. Any available tickets can be purchased at the door for $30.00.
**CABARET SHOWCASE OF TALENT**

The eleventh annual Cabaret Showcase of Talent at the Savannah Center in January once again was a huge hit! Top talent, mostly Villagers, performed for over 900 people at two performances. To date the Cabaret Showcase has raised over $100,000 for the Villages® Regional Hospital Auxiliary Foundation.

Ray Leggiero has been at the helm for every one of the eleven Cabaret performances as producer and director. Although there are new acts each time, some of the performers have been with him since the beginning. “We seem to improve every year,” said Leggiero. And the audience agrees. Leggiero said that every year he hears from the audience, ‘That was the best one yet.’

If you have not had the opportunity to see the Cabaret Showcase, mark your calendars now. The 2018 Cabaret Showcase at the Savannah Center will be January 24th.

**VHA’S FIRST ANNUAL COUNTRY AND WESTERN HOEDOWN**

There was something for everyone at the VHA’s first Country and Western Hoedown held at the Villages Polo Field in February. Every minute was filled with back to back entertainment, an impressive kid’s zone and a saloon if you just wanted to sit back and relax. Many of the corporations that participated in the cowboy stew contest took it to the next level really embracing the theme and decorating there areas. “Our idea,” said Joan Testa, VHA Vice President and Chairman of the event. “was to have a fun family event that celebrated Florida’s Agricultural Heritage.” Testa continued, “something unusual and fun is what we were after.”

Steve Andelman, VHA District 10 Director, and his wife Sue ran the Kid’s Zone. “A lot of thanks goes to the Villages Recreation Department,” said Steve. He was excited by the turn out and the execution of the event. “I see this becoming one of the must-do events in Central Florida.” There will definitely be a second VHA Hoedown; it is already on the books for January 28, 2018.

The Auxiliary Special Events Team headed by Chris Miller participated as a vendor at the Hoedown. Debbie Winters was the lucky lady to win the $75 gift certificate from The World of Beer. The free raffle was the Auxiliary’s way of saying thank you for supporting this event which in turn is supporting The Foundation and its mission.

Proceeds from today’s event will benefit the VHA Community Foundation, Helping Hands and The Villages® Regional Auxiliary Foundation.

**DALE CEBERT’S HONKY TONK CHARITY CONCERT**

A packed audience, many of them clients, saw Dale Cebert, president of Cebert Wealth Management in whole new light at his March concert at Lake Miona Recreation Center benefitting TVRH Auxiliary Foundation. He wowed the crowd with some straight up country and songs from his personal favorite artist Elvis Presley. Cebert made his way down into the audience and danced with several of the attendees.

Ticket sales and a 50/50 raffle combined to raise more than $3,000 for the Auxiliary Foundation. This is the ninth annual Dale Cebert Honky Tonk Charity Concert.
DONORS ENHANCE OUR HOSPITAL

Charlie & Debbie Smith

Charlie and Debbie Smith are twenty-one year residents of the Villages. Together they are room naming sponsors and Charlie serves on the TRVH Auxiliary Foundation Board. They were residents before Spanish Springs was a square; back in the day when people knew Harold Schwartz personally, “He was a grand guy, a magnanimous individual, very generous,” said Charlie.

Charlie came down to open a Morgan–Stanley office. He worked until January 2016. Once he was retired and had the time he joined the board in November 2016. “It is just something I have always wanted to do,” said Charlie, “be on the hospital board.” Charlie was a founding member and is still very involved in the Rotary club. Currently he is an Auxiliary Volunteer as a driver transporting people to and from the parking lot via golf cart.

Debbie volunteers with Operation Homebound and Helping Hands. She has also accompanied neighbors and friends on tours of the hospital. Debbie encourages people to take one of the hospital tours offered to the public. “It is a way to become familiar with the hospital facilities and services available.

When it came time to choose the room they were going to name, they selected a sun room on the fourth floor. They chose it because of the view.

Carol & Ron Spira

Since 2003 Carol and Ron Spira have spent part of the year in The Villages. They became interested in donating to the Auxiliary Foundation after they both had experiences at The Villages® Regional Hospital. Ron just graduated from cardio-rehab. “I had a very nice experience at the hospital” said Carol. They decided to become involved with the Foundation because “the hospital is for anyone who might need it. It serves everybody.”

They are taking advantage of the room naming opportunity. They took a tour of the hospital. “The tour really impressed me,” said Carol. They are studying their options and will select a room before they head back north to their home in Clifton Park, NY.

Ron and Carol sponsor three scholarships in New York. “It perpetuates our family name for a good cause.” They have scholarships at Utica College and Union College. They also have one in the Saratoga Springs school district. Ron was a junior high English teacher in Saratoga Springs for 34 years.

Carol was with GE also for 34 years. “We never really lived above our means and didn’t have children to put through college,” says Carol. Explaining their charitable giving philosophy, Carol says “We enjoy spending part of our retirement helping the community.”

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 (& other appreciated assets) and gifts from your IRA 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)

TOURS OF THE HOSPITAL

From outside you have witnessed the transformation of a small 60-bed hospital into what is now a beautiful 300-bed facility. The new hospital provides a myriad of healthcare services for residents of our tri-county area. We invite you and/or your group to join Deidre Rosemond, Patient Navigator, for a “behind-the-scenes” tour of the hospital and experience first-hand the growth and improvements taking place from inside.

For more information or to schedule a hospital tour or presentation for your club or organization, call Deidre Rosemond at 352-751-8871.