

LITTLETON HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

1982-1994

The Auxiliary's next twelve years prove to be extremely busy and full of change. The mission of the Auxiliary is and has always been to support the Hospital and to help educate the community it serves. Continuing this heritage proves to be a challenge, as more members have taken full time jobs, thereby having less volunteer time to give. Despite the obstacles we face, new and different fund raisers are formulated to continue our strong traditions of always supporting the Hospital and our community.

We head into 1982 with Mrs. Edwin Harris as president. Due to construction, the Auxiliary is faced with having to move the ever popular Country Fair from its long standing location of the Lakeway School to the National Guard Armory for a one-day sale. We held a kick-off party at the Elks in order to raise some extra money and boost the profits of this traditional one-day fair. Since 1961 the fair has raised \$245,042.92, quite a fete for the organization to achieve. In the fall Mrs. Harris and several members attend the NH Hospital Auxiliary's Annual Meeting in Concord. To help continue its financial support to the Hospital, the Auxiliary co-sponsors the Tender Corporation's first annual Trout Tournament at Moore Dam Lake. The Hospital used the funds raised to launch the 1983 building program with goals to improve the dietary and kitchen facilities. This is the 12th year for the annual Fashion Show luncheon and is the 10th year that it is staged in the Elks Home. It is interesting to note that the Hospital Nurses' Fund transferred the Mabel Carpenter Nursing Scholarship Fund to the Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship Fund and a long lost safety deposit box was opened after being locked for many years, nothing of great importance was found! Speakers for her term included: Dr. Ramesh Dave who spoke on pathology, Len Reed spoke on "Development Functions of the Hospital," and Dr. Dale Childs on Radiology. The Hospital's Annual Meeting is held at the Lakeway School and Mrs. Harris and Santa's Helpers visit patients at the Hospital on Christmas Eve.

Mrs. Frank Guider is president in 1983 and the Annual Country Fair returns to the Lakeway Elementary School for one day. The theme, "Our World," emphasizes the many ethnic groups which make up the North Country Community which serves our hospital. The volunteer program, under the direction of Mrs. Rowell Fogg is given \$500.00 from the Auxiliary for program development. There is a focus on keeping the membership informed, as a result membership program booklets are printed and distributed to over 80 members. "Wedding in December," the theme for the annual

Luncheon and Fashion Show has become a true Christmas "kick-off" ritual with auxiliarians and the community. This important event reflects the expertise and hard work auxiliarians have come to acquire through the years. At the final meeting before summer, a luncheon at Dr. and Mrs. Richard Monroe, the Auxiliary votes to give the proceeds to the Fashion show and the Monroes generously donate the luncheon to the Auxiliary.

Mrs. Richard Barber serves as president from 1985-1986 when the Auxiliary makes a decision to take a hiatus from the Annual Country Fair. The center of attraction for the community is the Littleton Bicentennial celebration where the auxiliarians find themselves playing an active part in the event. We are also participants in the Annual Tender's Trout Tournament and the Fashion Show. "Yuletide Traditions" recognizes past presidents of the Auxiliary. The Hospital Print Library under the direction of Virginia Walsh and Marjory Tilton, is cared for and the Auxiliary donates \$250.00 toward the maintenance of the program. There are almost 100 prints on file for the patients to choose from. Through much of our effort and hard work the newly renovated Dietary Department opens, and we act as guides at the Open House. The focus on infant car safety helps to generate our successful infant car seat rental program and chairperson, Betty Snow competently handles the task. 1985 sees the return of the Country Fair and it is held for one day at the Continental 93 Motor Inn. The facility is donated by the owners, the Coffield family. This year also takes on a new fund raiser, "Evening Under the Stars," dinner and dancing atop Cannon Mountain. Scholarships will benefit from this fund raiser and it is fair to say the Auxiliary keeps the challenge going to do whatever it takes to meet their goals. The TV rental program which had been successful, but was no longer practical to maintain, is turned over to the Hospital as part of Patient Service.

The election of Mrs. Rick Sundman in 1986 began a two year presidency that would see the Auxiliary gaining in the area of membership and membership recognition, while at the same time focusing on fund raising for the hospital. There were 36 new members in the Auxiliary and the Rock of Recognition was given to recognize the work of individual auxiliarians. The first award was given to a devoted member, Pat Eastman. The Auxiliary members again acted as guides during the opening of the Hospital's new Chemical Detox Unit. We recognized the doctors, nurses and volunteers with a quarter-page newspaper ad on Recognition Day. In the area of scholarships, area students for the first time in the Auxiliary's history received over \$5,000.00 in scholarship money. By-law revision was undertaken in this year, an action clearly indicating that we cared to keep ourselves and our organization up with the times. In this year we decide that a new fund raiser must come into view and the group energetically takes on a "Floral Design Show" with the capable assistance of Everett Aldrich, one of our few male members! We marched in the Memorial Day Parade and carried a banner made by Kay Stillman, a longstanding member of the Auxiliary. Our final membership meeting is a tradition we all look forward to, luncheon at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Richard Monroe. Spring is always

welcomed in and plans for the Fair are discussed. In July we hold our ever popular but declining in Auxiliary time and interest, Country Fair. With foresight and determination, the Auxiliary board directs itself to empower the event with Auxiliary members who have many years of past experience. September culminates with our second running of "Evening Under the Stars" held high atop Cannon Mountain and ably chaired by Sandy Monroe. The Auxiliary held the annual meeting at the home of Mrs. Dorothy Guider and this would be the last time the meeting would be held at "Adair."

Mrs. H. Taylor Caswell leads us in 1988 through 1991 and activities of the Auxiliary take a course of serious care and consideration in achieving its goal to always serve the Hospital. We undertake the enormous task of decorating patient rooms, hallways of the Medical/Surgical patient area which included the color coordinated draperies, cubical curtains, thermal bedspreads and shower curtains. Included in this project were new draperies for the Medical Library, hallways, and for the pharmacy. The Nurses lounge was refurbished from the proceeds from the "Evening Under the Stars" dance held in the fall. The annual meeting is held at The Clam Shell Restaurant and a silver tea set is used that is donated to the Auxiliary by Mr. Richard Bennink of Franconia. This was given in loving memory of his mother and the Hospital will have a case built to store it in. The Auxiliary became very involved with the new Emergency Room and Radiology renovations and purchased the cubicle curtains, ice machine and crusher, inside sliding doors, four mounted blood pressure cuffs, trauma stretcher, three hundred patient Johnnies, one hundred eight p.j. bottoms and Mammography waiting room furniture, total cost of \$15,000.00. When the wing is officially opened, we serve as guides for the event. Our Floral Design show continues, but to our regret it is poorly attended and profits are low. We don't give up hope and seriously review the changes needed to make the event successful. A new fund raiser is developed by past-president, Charron Sundman and chaired by President Caswell. The fund raiser is called "Rubber Duck Race" and ducks were sold and marked with a number, then they were floated down the Pemigewasset River in Lincoln and the first duck to cross the finish line won the race. The winner this first year is our own Dr. Pritham, and he turned his winnings back to the Auxiliary. Started this year is a "Memory Tree" which will be lighted after Thanksgiving to officially open the Christmas season. Members purchase a light in memory of someone special and the event is successful in raising over \$400.00. The Anna Connors Memorial Book Collection was founded. The Auxiliary was the benefactor of \$2,240.00 given in memory of a long standing member and past-president, Anna Connors. The family requested the funds be placed in a trust fund and benefit women's health education. The Doctor's luncheon was held as well as the Tea to honor the nurses: "Love That Fuzz," was begun to provide a small stuffed animal to elderly patients who must have a lengthy stay at the hospital. General membership programs included, "The Eye," with Dr. Ted Houle, "Weight Loss," presented by Dr. Michelle Lackovic and "Developmental Pediatrics and Learning Disorders" by Dr. William Lakey.

Mrs. Dale Childs was president from 1991-1993. During her term the membership in the Auxiliary numbers 188. Bertha Wojus retired as Gingham Goose Gift Shop chairman after serving as the assistant for 4 years and chairman for 5 years, a job well done. The permanent "Memory Tree" was planted in October. The programs held for membership meetings included panel discussions on Women's Health Issues, Organ Donation, "Seasons of Life," presentation of the new Rehabilitation Clinic at the Globe Shopping Center, Nutrition, and AIDS. The Auxiliary participated in the Mount Washington Valley Horse Show and was quite successful in this first-time venture. During Mrs. Child's second term, \$200.00 was given to the Auxiliary from New England Electric Wire Company in Lisbon. A "Comfort Room" was established for use by families in times of crisis. The Auxiliary purchased the furnishings for this room which cost \$1,703.00.

Autumn of 1993 sees the Auxiliary under the wing of a long time auxiliary member and a friend of the hospital, Mrs. Ramesh Dave. Early nineties are the years of "Health Reform." Changes are taking place all the time and concerns and care for the Hospital remain high on her list.

During Mrs. Dave's first term, Auxiliary completes its pledge of \$30,000 which was made four years ago. Besides completing the pledge, Auxiliary gives \$1,000.00 for the water fountain in the main lobby and \$800.00 to furnish Hospice Room. \$3,300 was given for the off-sight renovation of Rehabilitation Department. I.C.U. receives a recliner for \$990.00 and Lab receives a Platelet Rotator for \$1,100.00.

Scholarship awards of \$5,200.00 were given to area high school seniors and hospital employees during her two-year term.

Education and heightening health awareness were main concerns on Auxiliary agenda during 1993-95, and we had several excellent presentations such as:

1. "Personal Plan of Action for Breast Cancer."
2. "Oncology Services at Littleton Regional Hospital."
3. "Health Care Reform and How Hospitals of New Hampshire may be affected."
4. "Sandwich Generation," i.e., Middle-age generation raising children and taking care of elderly parents
5. "Dermatology and Skin Care in North Country."
6. "Physicians Hospitals, Organization and Health Care. Patient care and payment plan."

Again, C.P.R. courses were made available to the members at minimal cost. Auxiliary By-Laws were revised to keep our organization up with the time.

Infant car seat program was transferred to Ammonoosuc Family Health Services after twelve years of success. Reasons for giving up this program were:

1. Decrease in number of people renting the car seats.
2. Lack of interest among general membership for this program.
3. Executive board felt that Ammonoosuc Family Health Services would be a better organization to serve the community than Littleton Hospital Auxiliary.

During Mrs. Dave's two-year term \$17,300.00 was raised and given to the Hospital as Auxiliary's contribution towards health care.

Mrs. Debra Harris
Mrs. Jewel Fogg
Mrs. Pat McMahon
Mrs. Hasu Dave