

# SPIRIT

O F G I V I N G

A publication of the St. John Hospital Foundation

SEPTEMBER 2006

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## Guild supports hospital for decades

The St. John Hospital and Medical Center (SJH&MC) Guild has quite a legacy as one of the largest philanthropic donors to the hospital. Established in 1948, the Guild began fundraising for the hospital four years before it opened.

This volunteer organization plays an important role to the eastside community by raising money to assist St. John. Over the years, proceeds from the Annual Guild Dinner have helped fund such projects as a video monitoring system, renovating space for a mobile PET scanner, development of the cancer center and much more. Currently, the Guild is raising funds to support its historic \$1.25 million pledge toward the hospital's expansion and renovation project and a \$150,000 pledge to name a Cardiology Suite.

For the first time, the St. John Medical Staff and Guild joined together for a golf outing on Sept. 11. "It was a successful event for building relationships while raising funds," said James Fox, MD, Guild President.

The Guild has raised more than \$15 million for SJH&MC. "But that's a conservative figure," Dr. Fox stated. "In the early years, financial records weren't the best."

The Guild operates under the leadership of its officers and board of directors. Guild officers include: President – **James Fox, MD**, Vice Chief Emergency Medicine; Vice



Dr. James Fox, Guild President; Paul Mattes, Guild Dinner Chair; Ed Deeb, Treasurer; Mark R. Taylor, SJH&MC President; John Adamo, Dinner Vice Chair; and Michael Azar, Secretary.

President – **Alex Lucido**, of Lucido Real Estate; Secretary – **Michael Azar**, of Noble International, LTD; and Treasurer – **Edward Deeb**, President of the Michigan Business and Professional Association/ Michigan Food and Beverage Association. The Guild currently has 484 members; membership has increased 25 percent over the past 18 months.

"To be involved in a charity organization that directly impacts my job and the care of my patients is very gratifying," Dr. Fox said. "But I really marvel at the enthusiasm and support that other Guild members from outside the hospital bring to the group; I'm impressed they spend so much time and effort raising funds for a cause not related to their line of business."



Dr. James and Jaclyn Fox; Joan S. Gehrke, St. John Hospital Foundation Board Chair; Alex and Teresa Lucido.

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ST. JOHN  
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## Guild supports... continued

"I feel a special allegiance to the hospital," said Alex Lucido. "I was born at St. John and so were my wife and son, and we've always lived in the area. Belonging to the Guild and serving on the Capital Campaign Committee for the expansion project is a way to give back to an institution that's been so good to us."

For information on joining the Guild, call Kathy Taranto, 313-343-3674. **RM**

## Golf outing helps disabled

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Honorable Frank E. Jeannette Memorial Golf Outing, held July 17 at the Gowanie Golf Club in Harrison Township, raised \$27,500 for the St. John North Shores Hospital Helping Our Patients in Need (HOPE) Fund. This fund helps provide medications, walkers, hospital beds, home modifications and other resources to improve the daily lives of the disabled in need. **RM**



Great Lakes Physiatrists, PC:  
Drs. Anthony Femminineo, John Pollina,  
Joseph Femminineo and Frank Pollina.

## Message from the Hospital President

*Life is unpredictable, isn't it?*

Our \$159 million expansion project has certainly presented us with a number of unpredictable events. And many of them are the same challenges that families and communities throughout the United States are facing. Because families work together to overcome challenges, and because we consider you a vital part of the St. John Hospital and Medical Center family, I'll share a few of those challenges.

Costs for our building project have greatly increased due to several factors, most notably Hurricane Katrina. The hurricane damage affected oil production, driving up costs for petroleum-related products such as insulation and roofing. Much of the country's drywall is produced in New Orleans, and the storm disrupted those plants. In addition, the Louisiana rebuild efforts created a new construction market, increasing demand...and costs.

Speaking of costs, copper costs are up 80 percent because of mine closings and strikes. Gas prices have also risen, along with transportation costs.

Do I paint a dire picture? I hope not. We are committed to sustaining St. John's legacy in this community, and we feel positive about the future. That's why we have proactively addressed many of the challenges connected to the expansion project. For instance, we pre-purchased much of our electrical materials before prices escalated and purchased emergency generators months ago (now there is a 26-week wait for these). We also pre-purchased major electrical switches for the powerhouse.

Despite these moves, the project has still experienced increased expenses.

That's why you, the donors of St. John Hospital and Medical Center, are so important. You can help us bridge the gap in this construction project. To make an investment in your community, and the quality of health care in Detroit, please consider making a donation. Call Ralph Alee, Director of Capital Campaigns, 313-343-7482, for more information. **RM**



Mark R. Taylor

*Thank you. We are most appreciative of you!*

Mark R. Taylor  
President  
St. John Hospital and Medical Center

## Generous gift pledged



*Kurt and Carole Tech*

Carole and Kurt Tech have generously pledged \$150,000 to St. John Hospital and Medical Center (SJH&MC) in support of the expansion and renovation project. “St. John is our hospital, and we want to do as much as we can to help it,” Kurt said. “Our affiliation started 48 years ago when our eldest son was born at St. John.” Since then, all 11 of the Techs’ grandchildren have been born at St. John Hospital.

To recognize the Techs’ generosity, St. John will name the General Radiology Center of the Diagnostic Imaging Center in their honor.

The Techs have been supporting the hospital since 1984. Kurt started volunteering at St. John by serving on the Cornerstone Advisory Committee. He then became an original member of the St. John Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees that eventually became the St. John Health Foundation Board, on which he currently serves as Treasurer.

“I believe the cardiology program is one important strength of St. John,” said Kurt. “I am a testament to that.” In 1990, Kurt went in for a routine stress test and was admitted that day due to complications. “I met with Dr. LaLonde last November, and we were discussing how it was my 15th anniversary since that day. We had a nice chuckle about that.”

Regarding the new project, Kurt said, “It is so important to enhance the cardiology program, and this new expansion does just that. When you add the additional space and facilities to the Diagnostic Imaging Center and the new Emergency Department (ED), the result will be great improvements in the services provided by St. John.”

“With three boys, it seemed like we were in the ED almost every month,” Carole added. “An expanded Emergency Department is really needed in this community.”

“Kurt and Carole have been great friends to St. John for a very long time. We are fortunate to have their support and generosity,” said Mark R. Taylor, President, SJH&MC. **RM**

## Fontbonne kicks off 2006 White Christmas Ball



*Kick-off Hostess Nashwa Sawaf, Kick-off Chair Michelle Giorgio, Honorary Chair Victoria Liggett, White Christmas Ball Chair Debra McCarty and Fontbonne President Linda Lloyd.*

The Fontbonne Auxiliary’s annual White Christmas Ball Kick-off Luncheon, hosted by Nashwa Sawaf and Michelle Giorgio, was held May 5 at the Sawaf home. Debra McCarty was announced as Chair of the 2006 event; Victoria Liggett was named Honorary Chair. This year’s White Christmas Ball will be held Dec. 8, at the Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn, with a “Sparkle of the Big Apple” theme. Proceeds will go toward completing the Sister Verenice McQuade Corridor of the new pavilion, where state-of-the-art patient rooms will be located. For event details, call 313-343-3675. **RM**

## Zoe Bergen Childhood Cancer Foundation “tees up” for Meade Center

When Zoe Bergen was diagnosed with Stage IV Neuroblastoma in 2004 at the age of 14 months, she began a long road of chemotherapy, bone marrow aspirations, a stem cell harvest, and surgery to remove two tumors. Zoe is now almost three years old, and her parents, Dave and Danielle Bergen, have founded the Zoe Bergen Childhood Cancer Foundation to help families in need while they battle this dreaded disease.



*The Bergens present a \$5,000 check to Dr. Sawaf.*

In August 2005, the Zoe Bergen Childhood Cancer Foundation hosted its first annual golf outing, featuring NHL Hall of Famer Gordie Howe. The event raised \$20,000, and a portion of the proceeds benefited the Meade Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Center at the Van Elslander Cancer Center at St. John Hospital and Medical Center. The second annual outing, featuring NHL Hall of Famer Ted Lindsey, was held July 15, 2006.

The Bergens presented a check for \$5,000 to Hadi Sawaf, MD, Director of the Meade Center. “I am so thankful for the Bergens’ dedication to the Meade Center and for their desire to make things better for families facing similar situations,” said Dr. Sawaf. **RM**

## Kudos

Marcus DeGraw, MD, received two Telly awards for video production for his “Kids-TALK” DVD.

Julius Gardin, MD, was honored with the Seymour Gordon Award for Distinguished Achievement at the American Heart Association’s Metropolitan Detroit Heart Ball.

Ted Krolkowski was named Volunteer of the Year at SJH&MC.

Diane Smith, RN, received the Nursing Excellence Award from the SJH&MC medical staff.

Debbie Condino, Vice President, Customer Services, was named Woman of the Year by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Michigan for her leadership and fund-raising efforts. **RM**

*Spirit* is a quarterly publication of St. John Hospital Foundation.

*If you would like to learn more about giving opportunities at St. John Hospital, please call 313-343-7483.*

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