

# Contributions...making a difference

**YOU HELPED GET US OVER THE TOP**  
**\$2,802,778**



## **YOUR ANNUAL FUND DOLLARS AT WORK**

*By Elaine Stiles, Development Office Volunteer*

**T**he Birthing Center at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital offers a full range of programs and services for pregnant women, high quality delivery facilities, and a dedicated and knowledgeable staff to ensure quality care. Funds for the 2007 Annual Appeal were allocated to the Center for a new birthing bed and bassinets.

On a quiet (the “q” word) morning in November, I toured the center with Debbie Patrick, nurse manager, and Dawn Kersula, lactation consultant, to see the new equipment. The Affinity bed by Hill Rom Manufacturing was designed by engineers who really listened to nurses and mothers. The new birthing bed features ease of use, comfort and safety for both the mother and the hospital staff. Dawn demonstrated the ease with which she could remove and replace the removable foot section with no back strain, leaving the foot end of the bed clear for ease of access during delivery. The bed freely repositions to accommodate a variety of positions during labor and delivery and allows ease of movement for the mother. Debbie and Dawn pointed out that the other beds in the center were also made by Hill Rom and remain in excellent condition. They believe that the new and improved Affinity bed is truly an investment grade purchase.

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*Building on Excellence volunteers celebrate the completion of the Capital Campaign*

**I**t has been a long haul, but through the hard work and generosity of many, more than **\$2.8 million** has been raised to support the renovation of the Ambulatory Care unit and build a new Outpatient Center for Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. Under the guidance of former Senator Bob Gannett and Mark Richards, more than 60 community members volunteered their time, treasure and talents in support of this vital initiative. According to BMH President & CEO, Barry Beeman, *“This was a true community success. I want to personally thank everyone for their time, effort, and support of our community hospital.”*



*Barry Beeman toasts the volunteers on their good work*

A celebration was held on Friday, January 11, 2008 to recognize and thank these dedicated volunteers. A “Building on Excellence” Capital Campaign donor reception and a final campaign report is planned for this coming spring. We will keep you posted.

## A SPECIAL GIFT

By Mara Williams Oakes

Recently I was invited to a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for a dear friend. As always I wanted to do something special to recognize this momentous occasion, but what do you get someone who leads a full life, has the resources to purchase what she needs, and has a wonderful family to provide for her? Just as in a number of other times when I was confronted with this challenge, the decision was to give to a charity of her choice. She chose Brattleboro Memorial Hospital; others have designated equally important and vital non-profit institutions.

I don't need one more scarf, nor do I want to buy another tie for someone who already has more than he can wear. As modest as my gifts might be, they can help ensure health care, or food, or that a winter coat is available for a member of my community. I know for me – and for the family and friends in whose names I have made donations – this type of gift is profoundly meaningful.

As you make gift-giving decisions any time of year, please remember BMH and other non-profits that you value. And let your family and friends know you don't need another scarf.

## WHILE A PATIENT AT BMH

One of the highlights of working in the Brattleboro Memorial Hospital Development Office is the numerous opportunities it provides for us to work with the members of the BMH community and develop strong and lasting relationships. We enjoy getting to know you and helping you realize your charitable giving goals. You become a close and dear friend; as such we care about you, your life and your health. Like any friend, when you are sick or in the hospital we enjoy sending flowers, best wishes and good thoughts, or visiting

to just follow up and touch base. But we recognize that there may be times when you are at BMH and do not want your time here or health needs recognized by the Development Office, and we want to respect your desire for privacy. Please think of us as you would other friends and let us know (or have a family member notify us) if you are open to visits, flowers and cards. We would love the opportunity to visit and share get-well wishes. We appreciate you and thank you for your valued friendship.

### Contributions

EDITOR Ellen Smith  
*Director of Development*

VOLUNTEER WRITER Elaine Stiles

GRAPHICS Nicole Zinn  
*Marketing Associate*



If you have any questions please contact the editor.

## ANNUAL FUND DOLLARS

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*Debbie Partrick (on bed) helps Dawn Kersula demonstrate the functions of the Affinity bed.*

The new bassinets were purchased to add not only additional beds, but also comfortable and cozy ones with plenty of storage space. The cabinet style bases help keep the rooms clean and neat and add an element of warmth. Debbie and Dawn emphasize that they like the Birthing Center atmosphere to be less clinical and as homelike as possible, which makes the new mothers more relaxed. **This is just one way your gift to the BMH Annual Fund provides long-term benefits to staff and patients - even the littlest ones.**

The BMH Birthing Center's reputation of quality and care is attracting increased use - they expect to deliver nearly 450 babies during 2008. Go to the BMH website at [www.bmhvt.org](http://www.bmhvt.org) and click on Healthy Babies Program for more about the Center. They welcome your phone calls if you need more information, and offer tours of the Center.

*Dawn and Debbie were great tour guides but warned me not to use the "q" word there, since it usually brings on the chaos!*

It has come to the attention of the Development Office that the gift amount listed in the 2008 Annual Fund solicitation letter that a number of you recently received may have been incorrect. For those of you who made multiple gifts to the Annual Fund last year, your letter should have reflected the total amount of your gifts but instead reflected only the amount of your last gift.

**We apologize.**

## WOMEN GOLFERS RAISING SUPPORT FOR CANCER PATIENTS

By Elaine Stiles, Development Office Volunteer



Standing by the sign in photo (l. to r.) are Cynthia Blood (with Forest Moon); Timothy J. Ryan, Jr., Tournament Fund Raising Chair; Judy Manley, Tournament Chair; and Agnes Mikijaniec, nurse manager of the BMH oncology department.

For over 20 years, the Brattleboro Country Club Women's Golf Association has hosted an annual Invitational Golf Tournament for women in July. It has always been a great day for women golfers and, for the last several years, has benefited hundreds of women in Southern Vermont suffering from breast cancer.

A minimum donation of \$50 entitles the giver to a professionally designed sponsor sign placed on the tournament course to honor a friend, a cancer survivor, in memory of a loved one, or simply to support the cause. Over \$20,000 of the proceeds from these tournaments have been donated to the Oncology Fund, which is a 'buffer' fund for breast cancer patients during their treatment.

Many women who require radiation cannot continue to work during the treatment. They often require 5-6 weeks/5 times per week for radiation in Keene or else where for services that cannot be provided in Brattleboro. According to Agnes Mikijaniec, Breast Program and Oncology Department Manager, over 25% of patients spend their savings completely during their treatment program. The assistance provided by this fund is invaluable in helping patients keep up with rent payments, heating oil, food, gas money (for the extensive travel required for radiation treatments), freeing them to focus on their recovery.

The tournament organizers and participants felt strongly that they wanted to do something for women in the local area and make a visible difference in their lives. Diane Bassett, one of the many volunteer organizers, calls it a "wonderful day for women" – those on the course, and those who benefit from the generous donations to the tournament. If you are interested in sponsoring a hole, please call Diane at (802) 254-2031. You may also donate directly to the Oncology Fund to support BMH cancer patients, by calling the BMH Development Office at (802) 257-8314.

## DONOR RECEPTION

Each year Brattleboro Memorial Hospital holds a reception for its leadership level Annual Fund supporters. This year we were invited to *Tom & Sally's Chocolate Factory*. In early December 2007, Tom and Sally Fegley graciously opened their factory for this annual event and shared not just a sampling of their fabulous chocolates, but also allowed guests to try their hand at making chocolates. To add to the fun and conform to health department standards, hair nets were worn by all. Randi Ziter from the Putney Inn provided wine, eggnog and hot hors d'oeuvres; cheese and crackers were provided courtesy of Marcia Rosen and a vegetable crudité was provided courtesy of Elsa Waxman. Brattleboro Memorial Hospital and the Development Office were pleased to have this opportunity to say THANK YOU.



Tom Fegley (the Tom of Tom and Sally's) shows hospital board chair Jeff Morse and former Senator Bob Gannett how to make a chocolate candy!



Nancy Heydinger, BMH board member and Development Committee Chair, takes the microphone as hospital President and CEO, Barry Beeman, looks on at Tom and Sally's Chocolate Factory.



## LEGACY SOCIETY

If you have remembered Brattleboro Memorial Hospital in your estate plans, we would like to know. We will be introducing a new legacy society in the near future and we would like you to be a founding member. For more information, please call (802) 257-8314 and ask for Ellen Smith, Director of Development.

## DEVELOPMENT OFFICE STAFF

Meet the Development staff, those who are on the other end of the letter, phone, or thank you note. We are here to help you understand the ways your charitable giving makes a real and lasting difference. If you are in the neighborhood, please stop by our office at 55 Belmont Avenue to say "Hi". We would appreciate the opportunity to personally thank you for all you do for Brattleboro Memorial Hospital and the community we serve.

Contact us at 802-257-8314 or visit us our website at [www.bmhvt.org/giving](http://www.bmhvt.org/giving).



(l. to r.) Tracy Boucher, Director of Development Ellen Smith, Brenda Hodges, Barb Henry



**Brattleboro Memorial Hospital**

*Caring for our Community*

Office of Development  
17 Belmont Avenue  
Brattleboro, VT 05301

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