

# Wellaware



Volume 5, Issue 2 - March 2007

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## AMC Auxiliary Makes a Difference

The Adirondack Medical Center Auxiliary has for many years been working quietly behind the scenes in contributing to the overall quality of care at AMC.

In fact, most recently the Auxiliary pledged \$50,000 toward the Mercy-Uihlein campaign.

This generous pledge was a significant boost in the fundraising campaign to raise \$1.8 million to help defray purchase and renovation costs associated with the recent partnership of AMC and the two nursing homes in Lake Placid and Tupper Lake (AMC-Uihlein and AMC-Mercy.)

The Auxiliary is an active organization. Auxiliary members from throughout the Tri-Lakes host fund-raising events and socials to benefit projects at the hospital.

The Auxiliary's annual summer Antique Show & Sale is one of the oldest and longest running in the Northeast.

Over the years, the Auxiliary has been instrumental in



*The AMC Auxiliary recently elected its slate of officers for the coming year. Congratulating the new officers was Chandler Ralph, CEO & President, left. The new officers are Nancy Depuy, President; Mitzi Shantie, Vice President; Joyce Henklein, Secretary; and Mabel Foote, Treasurer.*

raising money to purchase life saving equipment, donating to many of the Medical Center's services, and funding the chapel.

The Auxiliary is also active in advocating on behalf of the Medical Center.

### **Become a Volunteer**

The next step is up to you! If you

are interested in the various volunteer opportunities at Adirondack Medical Center or becoming a member of the Auxiliary, please call or e-mail Linda Skiff (lskiff@amcCares.org), the Volunteer Coordinator, at (518) 897-2230.

## From the CEO ...

**W**ith the release of President Bush's and Governor Eliot Spitzer's budget proposals, state hospitals and nursing homes are once again being saddled with drastic cuts they can ill afford.

For Adirondack Medical Center, these cuts come on the heels of a successful partnership with two local nursing homes to ensure the viability of long-term care in our region. Sadly, the Governor and President have offered budget plans that severely jeopardize the well being of AMC-Mercy in Tupper Lake and AMC-Uihlein in Lake Placid.

In total, AMC - including the nursing homes - stands to lose \$3.4 million over a five-year period under the state and federal budget proposals. As a non-profit organization that operates under a strict financial margin, these cuts would be devastating to the services we provide and the staff we employ.

While Gov. Spitzer claims his budget proposal intends to put patients first, the fact of the matter is that hospitals already do this around the clock on a daily basis throughout the year. The Governor was able to see this firsthand when he visited AMC in October 2006 as part of his election campaign.

Patients are not the only stakeholders who stand to lose in this scenario. The community served by AMC is in jeopardy as well. Whether it is the Uninsured Task Force, community outreach and education, or the many other health and wellness services AMC provides, there would be a conspicuous void in the community should these services be halted as a direct result of the budget cuts.

Health care providers are still suffering from past cuts in Medicare and Medicaid, and from inadequate reimbursement from private payers. The bottom line is that we cannot withstand any more cuts and still be expected to provide the same access to the same level of services and the same level of staffing.

Cutting health care providers undermines the ability to invest in life-saving advances, the health care workforce, and community health programs. Freezing Medicaid payments to providers while our costs continue to increase endangers our ability to fulfill our mission of service to our communities.

The consequences of these drastic cuts would lead to reduced access and undermine workforce investment, and result in the elimination of services, which are all in direct opposition to the high standard of care AMC strives to provide for the Tri-Lakes Region and beyond.

I agree with the Governor's goal of restructuring the health care system by expanding coverage for children, increasing primary care, eliminating fraud and better coordinating care for the elderly and chronically ill - each of these elements is essential to achieving real reform. But arbitrarily cutting funds to hospitals does not advance any of these reform goals and would instead adversely impact our ability to provide care.

Most importantly, these health care cuts threaten New York's health care safety net. We cannot allow Governor Spitzer or President Bush to jeopardize care for those among us who are most in need.



## Welcome to AMC's Newest Employees

**Ashley, Kathryn**  
Certified Nursing Assistant

**Besaw, Kerri L.**  
HIM Clerk

**Crosby, Richard A.**  
Physician Assistant

**Cushman, Amy E.**  
Registered Nurse

**Dann, Marcie A.**  
Registered Nurse

**Davis, April S.**  
Registered Nurse

**Euber, Jessica J.**  
Secretary/Receptionist (Lab/MI)

**Garrow, Ransley**  
Nutritional Svc

**Garrow, Virginia M.**  
Medical Unit

**Geddes, Steven J.**  
Human Resources Generalist

**Holzer, Jessie**  
Convent Cook Housekeeper

**Irizarry, Tony**  
Certified Nursing Assistant

**Latt, Judith**  
IS Help Desk Coordinator

**Mcbride, Thomas P.**  
Physician Assistant

**Ormsby, Elaina M.**  
Registration/Admitting Clerk

**Peebles, Patricia M.**  
Dental Hygienist

**Smith, Garrett M.**  
Environmental Svc Tech

**Smith, Hunter**  
Environmental Svc Tech

**Snickles, Jackie**  
Registration/Admitting Clerk

**Sullivan, Judith E.**  
Registered Nurse

**Wilke, Denise Sr.**  
Pastoral Care Assistant

**Wood, Paul E.**  
Environmental Svc Tech

*Chandler*

## NBT Bank Gives To Nursing Home Appeal

NBT Bank NA has made a significant contribution to the Mercy-Uihlein Nursing Home Appeal being conducted by Adirondack Medical Center.

NBT has generously pledged \$25,000 to the campaign, and recently donated \$10,000 toward that pledge. AMC has surpassed the halfway mark toward its goal of raising \$1.8 million, thanks in large part to the generosity of residents, businesses and other interests in the Tri-Lakes Region.

The \$1.8 million purchase of AMC-Mercy and AMC-Uihlein was finalized in January, 2007, and now AMC will embark on an ambitious expansion and renovation project. The capital improvement portion of the project is expected to cost approximately \$5.3 million.

While much of the overall project is being financed through mortgaging and grants, a portion of the overall cost will be defrayed through fundraising. The AMC Foundation has committed to reach the \$1.8 million fundraising goal by December, 2007.

To support this critical endeavor to ensure continued skilled nursing and health care in the Tri-Lakes, direct your donations to the AMC Foundation,



**Cheryl Breen Randall, Executive Director of AMC Foundation and Community Relations, recently accepted the first \$10,000 installment of a \$25,000 commitment to the Mercy-Uihlein Nursing Home Appeal from NBT Bank NA. Presenting the check on behalf of NBT were Pat Garrow (r) Senior Vice President, and Julie Connors (l), Assistant Vice President.**

P.O. Box 120, Saranac Lake, New York 12983. Make your checks payable to Adirondack Medical Center. If you wish to donate stock or charge your donation to a credit card, call the AMC Foundation Office at 897-2370 or 897-2348.

## Crystal Gala to be Held June 9

It's time to dust off your dancing shoes for the 10th Annual AMC Crystal Gala scheduled for June 9.

This year's Gala will be held at The Wild Center Natural History Museum in Tupper Lake, and is honoring Dr. Bradford A. Stephens and Dr. W. Roy Slaunwhite with the AMC Distinguished Service Award.

The event starts at 6 p.m. with guests greeted by champagne butlers and serenaded by Joel Perkins, Violinist. Dinner will follow at 7:30 p.m. catered by Charlie Levitz of **Chair Six**. Following dinner, the entertainment for the evening is the soulful sounds of **Jenni & the Jazz Junketeers**, based in Burlington, Vt.

Tickets for the Gala event are \$100 per person, \$180 per couple and tables for eight can be purchased for \$720.

In conjunction with the Gala, The AMC Foundation has kicked off its **Super W!ld Raffle** with **\$20,000 in cash prizes being awarded**. The grand prize is \$10,000 with other cash prizes including \$5,000, \$2,500, \$1,250, \$750, and five \$100 winners. The raffle ticket price is \$100, and only 500 tickets are available!

**Contact the AMC Foundation office for your gala and/or raffle tickets at 897-2348 or 897-2320.** Cash, check or credit card will be accepted for all ticket purchases. AMC staff may purchase their raffle tickets through payroll deduction. Super W!ld Raffle tickets can be purchased by a group, and winners need not be present to win. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket.

**The drawing will be held June 9 at the AMC Crystal Gala.**

**Dr. Bradford A. Stephens and Dr. W. Roy Slaunwhite are being honored with the AMC Distinguished Service Award.**

## AMC Awarded Accreditation from the Joint Commission

By demonstrating compliance with The Joint Commission's national standards for health care quality and safety, Adirondack Medical Center has earned the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval™.

"We sought accreditation for our organization because we want to demonstrate our commitment to patient safety and quality care," says Chandler Ralph, AMC President & CEO. "We take pride in the level of care we each provide here at AMC, and this accreditation award reflects our unwavering pursuit of excellence."

In fact, AMC is **one of four hospitals** in New York State to be accredited by both The Joint Commission and the American Osteopathic Association (AOA). This voluntary participation in both accreditations demonstrates the Hospital's commitment to patient safety and maintaining the highest standards of quality patient care.

The Joint Commission conducted an unannounced, on-site evaluation of AMC on October 31 to November 2. The accreditation award recognizes AMC's dedication to complying with the Joint Commission's state-of-the-art standards on a continuous basis.

It is also worth noting that the success of this evaluation was the result of many tireless hours of work logged by countless individuals who work at AMC. The preparation nec-

essary for a successful Joint Commission survey certainly goes above and beyond the normal call of duty for most staff at AMC.

Founded in 1951, The Joint Commission seeks to continuously improve the safety and quality of care provided to the public through the provision of health care accreditation and related services that support performance improvement in health care organizations. The Joint Commission evaluates and accredits nearly 15,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States, including more than 8,000 hospitals and home care organizations, and more than 6,800 other health care organizations that provide long term care, assisted living, behavioral health care, laboratory and ambulatory care services.

The Joint Commission also accredits health plans, integrated delivery networks, and other managed care entities. In addition, the Joint Commission provides certification of disease-specific care programs, primary stroke centers, and health care staffing services. An independent, not-for-profit organization, the Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care.

This survey focused on the Hospital's acute inpatient and outpatient services, and over 265 standards and 1,348 elements of performance were examined in the process.

### THE LAST WORD

## Get Your Personal e-Health Newsletter for Free

Adirondack Medical Center has unveiled a brand new e-Health Newsletter, an innovative, personalized online health information resource now available on the AMC website at [www.amcCares.org](http://www.amcCares.org).

The e-Health Newsletter allows subscribers to designate the health information they want to receive – based on their age, gender and health needs – via any of four free services.

"This adds a new dimension to the way we serve our community," said Joe Riccio, Communications Manager. "We're committed to improving the health of the Ti-Lakes area residents, and this new resource will give them easy access to the current health information that matters most to them. We hope that knowledge can help them make even more informed decisions about their health."

The four E-Health Newsletter services include:

- My Health Newsletter – delivers via e-mail each month up to three current arti-

cles – selected from more than 350 of the nation's top health publications – on the topics subscribers choose.

- My Health Reminders – geared to the subscriber's age and gender, e-mails timely alerts for key health screenings needed for good health.

- My Baby Expectations – timed to the subscriber's due date, guides parents-to-be through preparation, delivery and baby's first year in a series of monthly e-mail newsletters.

- My Health Links at [www.amccares.privatehealthnews.com](http://www.amccares.privatehealthnews.com) connects visitors to a directory of authoritative health websites.

Subscribers to the e-Health Newsletter receive only the topics and information they request via password-protected, secure online communication.

Registration for any e-Health Newsletter service is free, at [www.amcCares.org](http://www.amcCares.org), click on the Free Personalized Health E-Newsletter button on our website.



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