FALL 2020



Complete connected care<sup>™</sup>

#### Lowell General Hospital Auxiliary Newsletter



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# Happy Fall!

Hope this abbreviated newsletter finds you well and keeping safe. Who would have believed that when we gathered at Vesper Country Club last February for Winter Affair that it would be our last event for 2020.

The Coronavirus pandemic and state mandated guidelines forced us to cancel all of our in-person fundraising events including: Daffodils & Desserts, Book Fairs, and our signature event Taste of the Town. It also forced us to address the ownership of the Gift Shop. For more information, please see the Gift Shop report in this issue.



The Auxiliary would, however, not be hindered by this dreaded disease and continued to support the staff and patients of Lowell General Hospital:

- On four successive Fridays in April, the Auxiliary provided pizza from Brickhouse Chelmsford for hospital staff and other frontline workers.
- The Auxiliary also sponsored a meal for the Main Campus Emergency Department and Intensive Care Unit from Evviva Trattoria.
- In September, the Auxiliary donated \$20,000 to the hospital's **Help Us Heal** campaign.
- Also in September, thanks to the generosity of Auxiliary members, the Auxiliary donated over \$1,600 in Market Basket gift cards to the Cancer Center for Thanksgiving & Christmas dinners for patients.
- The Auxiliary donated \$250 to the Cancer Center in honor of outgoing board member Pauline Lambert. In addition to her dedicated service to the board as President, Corresponding Secretary, and Gift Shop Co-Chair, Pauline is the founder of Daffodils & Desserts.

#### Great work by all during these very trying times.

The impact these surprise meals had on our team is immeasurable...friends like the Auxiliary took care of our staff so they could take care of our community and we could not be more grateful for their continued partnership." - Jennifer Hanson, Director of Philanthropy

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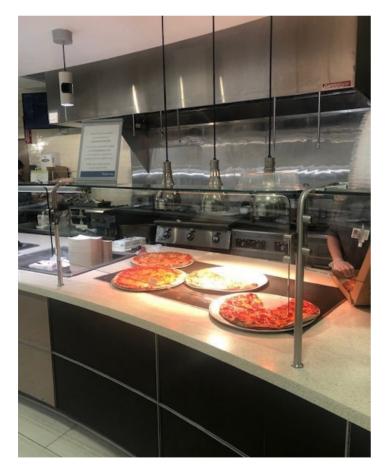
The delicious meals that Evviva Trattoria prepared for Lowell General Hospital staff, sponsored by the Auxiliary



Daffodils & Desserts Co-Chairs Pauline Lambert, Mary Bennett and Paula Leavitt present Lowell General Hospital Philanthropy staff members Jennifer Hanson and Kelly Will with beautiful bouquets in recognition of their support of the Auxiliary this year.



Daffodils & Desserts Co-Chair Pauline Lambert (above) presents Meg Lemire-Berthel, Director of Oncology Social Work at Lowell General Hospital, over \$1600 in Market Basket gift cards to provide holiday meals for patients undergoing treatment.



The Main Campus cafeteria set up for an all staff pizza party, courtesy of the Lowell General Hospital Auxiliary.



Members of Lowell General Hospital's hardworking frontline staff who were the recipients of the generosity of the Auxiliary. The Auxiliary is so pleased to support the dedicated clinicians and caregivers as they continue to fight the pandemic and keep our community safe and healthy.



### **Gift Shop Report**

Effective August 1st, the Auxiliary transferred ownership of the gift shops to the hospital. Given the reduced square footage at the Main Campus Gift Shop and the pandemic restrictions, it became clear it would be almost impossible for the Auxiliary to make a profit moving forward. This transfer also allows the hospital to re-focus the gift shop to align with its mission of providing Complete connected care and its pledge to "put patients first."

In return for the inventory and equipment, the hospital released the Auxiliary of its outstanding pledge of \$45,000. Due to these changes Auxiliary members will no long receive a discount in the gift shops.

Our thanks to Sarah, Maria, and the entire gift shop staff for their dedicated support and we wish them well in the future.

#### 2020–2021 Auxiliary Board of Directors

**President: Molly Bennett** Vice President: Vacant **Treasurer: Deborah Lemos Recording Secretary: Alison Burns Corresponding Secretary: Tara Morrissey Immediate Past President:** Susan Dionne **Directors:** Mary Bennett **Frances Dallmever Christine Fraser** Christine Hart Paula Leavitt **Margaret Leighton** Trish O'Donnell **Renee Psoinos** Anne-Marie Sousa **Deborah Trull** Pam White Susan Zacharer

### **Annual Meeting**

This year's Annual Meeting was held virtually on Friday, September 25th. Molly Bennett was elected Auxiliary president. The Auxiliary welcomed two new board members, Susan Zacharer, who is returning to the board, and Christine Hart is new to the board.

The vice-president position remains open. If you are interested in a leadership position on the Auxiliary Board, please contact Susan Dionne.

A special thank you to outgoing President Susan Dionne for her commitment to and steady leadership of the Auxiliary during these difficult times.



## **January Raffle Calendars**

The Auxiliary's annual January raffle calendar is on sale now! As in the past the calendar will have a daily prize worth a minimum of \$50 for each day in January. In the past the calendars were sold at Taste of the Town and at the Gift Shops. As those venues are not available to us this year, sales will be fully online.

Calendars sell for \$10.00 each or three for \$25.00. Please see a Board member to get your calendar or go to https://lowellgeneralauxiliary.square.site/ Given our inability to hold fundraising events this year, calendar sales are more important this year than ever. Please be generous.

Raffle Calendars make great stocking stuffers! Get yours today!





## **President's Message**

I am honored to be elected President of the Lowell General Hospital Auxiliary.

As noted in this Newsletter, these are difficult times for our nation, state, city and hospital. We can no longer do many of our recurring activities. We cannot come together as we once did. And, when the pandemic is over, we will likely face a "new normal".

Luckily, the Auxiliary is made up a group of creative and driven members and we will redirect our efforts to make sure we continue to support the Hospital. I am committed to ensuring the Auxiliary continues to be successful!

Accordingly, I will be working with the board to identify new opportunities for the Auxiliary to best support the mission of the hospital.

Again, thank you for the honor of choosing me to be Auxiliary president.

Molly Bennett President Lowell General Hospital Auxiliary

