

Advocates Review

Making a difference in the life of a patient!

Winter 2017



The Advocates for
UPSTATE
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

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Donna Breen

VP Membership Marketing

Jane Forstadt

VP Service

Jean Pirozzi

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Director Volunteer Services

Kristin Bruce



President's Report



As always, things have been busy with Advocates participating in worthwhile activities and service to the Upstate community. I tip my hat to Jean Pirozzi, last year's Advocate of the Year, for the terrific job she has done lining up service projects for Advocate participation this Fall. In addition to volunteering at the Blood Drives at both hospitals and participating soon in Snowflake Central, the Golisano Children's Hospital Gift Wrapping Program, we have had some fun new projects. A group of volunteers recently frosted Holiday cookies and sung Christmas carols with patients in Community's Transitional Care Unit. In coming days, members will be wrapping for the patients at Community as well. It's great to spend time interacting with patients and staff at this special time of year.

Many thanks to Jane Forstadt and the Events Committee for many hours of work spent on the Magic Beyond Imagination held in October. It was a terrific event. Still trying to figure out the illusions!

The Advocates are excited to see the progress in the Family Birth Center at the Community Campus. This unit was the beneficiary of the funds from Mystery Malt and Merlot 2016 and it's terrific to see the plans come to fruition.

The Advocates had a wreath at the Everson Museum Festival of Trees recently. Many thanks to Theresa Devennie, Tracy Ryder and Jane Forstadt for their beautiful creation!!!

The Advocates' mission is to provide support to patient care and staff education and looking over the past year, there are countless times we have accomplished those goals. To all those who have helped The Advocates through supporting our contracts, attending Mystery Malt and Merlot, volunteering and countless other ways, a heartfelt Thank You. It is our goal to be of service to the Upstate Community. YOU help us do that!

Wishes for a Blessed Holiday Season and a Terrific New Year!

Judy Carr, President

• * **SAVE THE DATES** * * **SAVE THE DATES** * *



Blood Drive – Community Campus

Tuesday, January 9, 2018 – 12 pm – 6 pm
Wednesday, January 10, 2018 – 7 am – 1 pm
Wednesday, April 25, 2018 – 12 pm – 6 pm
Thursday, April 26, 2018 – 7 am – 1 pm

Blood Drive – Downtown Campus

Thursday, January 18, 2018 – 8 am – 5 pm
Friday, January 19, 2018 – 7 am – 1 pm
Thursday, April 12, 2018 – 8 am – 5 pm
Friday, April 13, 2018 – 7 am – 1 pm

20th Annual Mystery Malt & Merlot

Friday, April 13, 2018

Marriott Syracuse Downtown

Finger Lakes Ballroom



The Vice Presidents Reports



Fund Development

The Advocates have just completed two fundraising projects. The sale of pencils, personalized by Bonnie McCabe, was a success. 740 pencils were sold netting The Advocates \$222. We also took advantage of a special fundraiser provided by Delta Sonic. They sent us 200 \$5 gift cards which we then sold 2 for \$5. We earned the entire \$500. In the new year, we will be looking to donate these funds to the hospital.

We are grateful to all members who donate their time and talents to make these endeavors successful.

Mystery Malt & Merlot

The Mystery, Malt & Merlot committee has already started planning for our premier fundraiser which will be held on Friday, April 13th at the Marriott Syracuse Downtown, Finger Lakes Ballroom. This year the Committee has chosen Upstate University Hospital's 8 Bed Adolescent Psychiatry Unit as the beneficiary. Proceeds from this year's event will help fund the Comfort Room, a key component in the Unit. The Comfort Room will be a non-threatening space to reassure, support and provide a safe and comfortable area. Staff will be able to teach patients calming techniques to assist in decreasing agitation. This room will be a therapeutic space specifically designed and utilized to promote positive therapeutic outcomes for patients.

We will be reaching out to obtain silent auction items in the coming months; so if you'd like to donate, please let Susan know and we can make arrangements to receive your items. Please save the date. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Karen Goldman, Barbara LaBarge Co-Chairs M3,
Donna Breen, VP Fund Development**

Community Campus Committee Report

The Community Committee has been busy volunteering their time in supporting the various Advocate activities. Our members work on blood drives, fundraisers, reviewing scholarship applicants, Snowflake Central, and Mystery, Malt and Merlot.

The committee not only plants and cares for flowers on the campus in the summer, but also decorates five trees and 6 wreaths in the hospital. We enjoyed our work together this past year, being a positive viable part of The Advocates.

Our next meeting will be March 7, 2018. We would

welcome new members as we go forward into this new year.

**Donna Breen, Chair The Advocates
Community Campus Committee**

Service Committee

I would like to wish The Advocates and Volunteers Best Wishes for the New Year.

The month of December was busy at both Campuses. Advocates and Volunteers were busy at the Community Campus decorating the hospital with placement of Christmas Trees and Wreaths for the holidays. A program called "Cookies and Caroling" for the patients in the Transitional Care Unit was held for patients to decorate Christmas cookies and then sing Christmas carols with the accompaniment of guitar and banjo. Members of a local Folk Group donated their talents. The patients enjoyed the program and were disappointed when it ended.

Snowflake Central Wrapping Station in the Golisano Children's Hospital is a big celebration at the Downtown Campus. The wrapping station is staffed by Advocates and Volunteers to wrap gifts for families of hospitalized children. This is a special and enjoyable activity for all involved as the families are appreciative of this service.

The Service Committee has been busy with successful Blood Drives at both Campuses throughout the year in the Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall. There are more projects and activities planned for 2018 i.e. Blood Drives and dinner for patients on the Rehab Floors at both Campuses, to name a few.

If interested in helping with any of our projects please contact me at jean.pirozzi@gmail.com.

Jean Pirozzi, VP Service

Membership & Marketing

A special thank you to all who attended "Magic Beyond Imagination" October 1. It was a remarkable show by illusionists Garrett Thomas & Kozmo. We are thankful to these magicians for also presenting a free performance to the patients at Golisano Children's Hospital.

Jane Forstadt, VP Membership & Marketing





NEWS

**MEET THE ADVOCATE – BARB LaBARGE**

Barb LaBarge's Upstate roots run deep. While she is relatively new to The Advocates, she has an extended history with the Hospital having received her Bachelor of Science Degree from The College of Health Professions' Clinical Laboratory Science Program. She furthered her education at the New School for Social Research, completing a Masters in Professional Studies for Health Services. She then returned to Upstate working in Clinical Pathology and The Blood Bank in various capacities over the years. She recently retired as a technologist in the lab at Associates for Women's Medicine. She currently works for her husband's business Yankee Tronics.

Barb is the mother of an adult daughter who lives in the Boston area with Barb's two grandchildren, ages 2 and 4. Her stepson also lives in the Boston area and she makes the trip to Boston often to be with family. If not with them, she is often on the golf course in the summer months, currently chairing her 9 Hole League. Other interests include walking, swimming and shopping. Barb and her husband try to head south for a few weeks each winter, nourishing her love of the ocean and beach.

Barb is pleased to be working with The Advocates and has jumped right in! She worked on the Golf Tournament, blood drives and Snowflake Central. She is on the Finance Committee and last year participated on the Mystery Malt and Merlot committee, chairing the Surprise Wine donations. She has recently accepted the co-chairmanship of M3, which will be held on April 13th at the Downtown Marriott Finger Lakes Ballroom.

About participation in The Advocates Barb says, "It is fulfilling to me to be a part of an organization that understands the importance of patient care. I am grateful to have met some wonderful people that make this organization work and would like to see our projects and contracts that raise funds continue to directly affect patient care resulting in a better outcome for all involved".

The Advocates are grateful to Barb for her dedication to our Board and the mission of this organization. With her experience in the medical profession, she brings a unique perspective which will help the organization to respond to the needs of the hospital community. We shout out a resounding thanks to Barb for her commitment and increasing involvement in The Advocates.

MANAGER BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATION

We say the same thing every year, but I will say it again – "Where did the year go?"

2017 brought challenges and opportunities for The Advocates. The Board of Directors provided the needed leadership and direction for the entire organization to take advantage of the opportunities and work through the challenges.

Thank you to our contracts: American Food & Vending, Café Kubal, Dazzle Gifts on the Hill, EspressoOasis Coffee Bar, Lori's Gift Shop, MOM 365 (baby photographs), TeleHealth (patient TVs). It is through the hard work of the owners and employees of these businesses that provide The Advocates funds to offer grants to enhance patient care, support medical education and public health initiatives in the community; as well enables The Advocates to give scholarships to employees and volunteers within the hospital. Many of our contracts offer discounts, coupons and incentives. So, please support these businesses. More business for them means more funds The Advocates have to distribute!

Grant applications will be available early January and will be accepted starting February 1st through noon February 28th. Please read the grant Guidelines and Application carefully as we have made some changes to the process as well as what we fund.

Here's to a spectacular 2018 and the opportunities it will bring!

Susan York, Manager Business & Administration, 464-5610, yorks@upstate.edu

From 2000 - May 2017, The Advocates have given \$2,541,048 to the Hospital!



LOGOWEAR NOW BEING OFFERED AT DAZZLE GIFTS ON THE HILL



Community Beautification Photos



This year The Advocates displayed a wreath in the Everson Museum of Art's 32nd Annual Festival of Trees. Our theme was "Circle of Giving" based on our ongoing dedication to the Upstate Medical University Family. The wreath was constructed by Jane Forstadt, Tracy Ryder and Theresa Devennie.

The Advocate Board celebrated their Holiday lunch with a trip to the Festival, enjoying a wonderful display of unique trees and wreaths.



On Saturday, December 2nd, members of The Advocates joined together to decorate the Community Campus once again.



20TH MYSTERY,
MALT & MERLOT

The Advocates for
UPSTATE
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

750 East Adams Street
Room 1401 UH
Syracuse, NY 13210
315.464.5610

Save the Date for the 20th Annual
Mystery, Malt & Merlot

Friday, April 13th, 2018

Marriott Syracuse Downtown, Finger Lakes Ball Room
Information will be available at: www.upstate.edu/advocates

The Advocates for
UPSTATE
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

For information, questions, or to volunteer contact Susan E. York at 315.464.5610
Or e-mail at yorks@upstate.edu Visit our website at www.upstate.edu/advocates

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