

ADVOCATES FOR UPSTATE

*Supporting health care and scholarship
through fundraising and service*



2021-2022

ANNUAL REPORT

2021 – 2022

ADVOCATES FOR
UPSTATE

ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

While we thought that the COVID-19 pandemic was waning, other subvariants of the virus emerged, creating new challenges for Advocates for Upstate. But with each challenge, we adapted and met them head-on:

- Under the leadership of Theresa Devennie and her team, we updated our bylaws to allow for virtual meetings and made other changes to make volunteering more conducive to this new way of life.
- Tony Kurec and his team, along with Administrative Coordinator Jonathan Adler, worked closely with our vendor partners as they faced pandemic-related issues impacting their businesses, such as staff shortages and visitor restrictions to our hospitals during the height of the pandemic.
- Under the leadership of Treasurer Barbara LaBarge and her committees, and together with our vendor partners, we provided significant grants to Upstate clinical departments and scholarships for those pursuing careers in the health professions. We also provided funding for nursing recruitment and retention efforts.
- Our Service Committee, under the leadership of Jean Pirozzi and Bertha Jacobs, and with the help of students in Upstate's Colleges of Medicine and Health Professions, worked to ensure that our region had a healthy blood supply through Advocates-sponsored blood drives.
- And under the leadership of Ellen Abbott, our Facebook and Instagram posts produced greater awareness of the Advocates as well as increased revenue through donations and online fundraising initiatives.

I invite you to read through our annual report for details regarding all these efforts.

I especially want to thank Kristin Bruce, director of Upstate's Office of Volunteer Programs and our hospital liaison, for her guidance as we paved the way through the many obstacles directly brought about by this pandemic.

I am proud of all our members who call themselves Advocates for Upstate. I am especially proud of the members of our Executive Committee and our Board of Directors who generously give of their time and their skills to make Advocates for Upstate and Upstate Medical University vital resources for our community.

Doretta Royer

President, 2021-2022

Advocates for Upstate Medical University

2021-2022 Executive Committee

President: Doretta Settineri Royer

Senior Vice President: Anthony Kurec

Treasurer: Barbara LaBarge

Secretary: Jane Forstadt

2021-2022 Board of Directors

Ellen Abbott

Donna Breen

Larissa Brenner

Susan Cole

Theresa Devennie

Jane Forstadt

Alicia Green

Janice Harvey

Kristin Thompson Henry

Bertha Jacobs

Anthony Kurec

Barbara LaBarge

Beverly Lauricella

Bonnie McCabe

Jean Pirozzi

Edward Priest

Sharon Putney

Lisa Schiller

Doretta Settineri Royer

Director Volunteer Services

Kristin Bruce

Administrative Coordinator

Jonathan Adler

Retiring Board Members

Beverly Lauricella

Doretta Settineri Royer

Lisa Schiller

2022-2023 Officers

President: Anthony Kurec

Senior VP: TBD

Treasurer: Barbara LaBarge

Secretary: Jane Forstadt

Honorary Lifetime Membership

Patricia J. Numann, MD, 2005

Gregory Eastwood, MD, and

Lynn Eastwood, 2006

Ted Long and Amy Robbins, 2007

Nancy Page, RN, 2022

CONTRACTS

Advocates for Upstate receives income from rent and commissions paid through our contracts with vendors that are located at Upstate University Hospital and Upstate Community Hospital. Monies from these contracts are used to give back to Upstate through our grants and scholarship programs.

Due to COVID-related issues, two of our vendor partners, Bee Loved Gift Shop at Upstate Community Hospital and Café Kubal at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital, are permanently closed. The **Refresh Express Micro Market**, operated by American Food & Vending, is now open in the Hospitality Center in the West lobby of Upstate Community Hospital in the location formerly occupied by the gift shop. The market offers 24/7 access to grab-and-go fresh sandwiches, salads, foods and other snacks. A selection of Starbucks drinks is available on demand from a vending kiosk.



Perk-up Café & Bistro and **Lori's Gift Shop**, both located in the main lobby of Upstate University Hospital, remain open for business. TeleHealth, also our contract partner, continues to provide television service to Upstate's hospitals. The Advocates appreciate our vendor partners and applaud their efforts in sustaining our partnership with them during the pandemic.

GRANTS

Twenty-nine Upstate clinical programs and services received a combined **\$50,009** through the Advocates' 2021-2022 Grant Funding Program. Those receiving support included:

- **Outpatient Pharmacy Assistance Program**
- **Hospital School Program** for children in Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital
- **Children of Adult Patients (COAP) Program** that helps children of adult burn patients cope with their parent's injuries
- efforts to distribute **pill boxes** to ensure medication safety for patients in transitional care
- Upstate's annual **Employee Recognition Day** and **Volunteer Appreciation** celebrations

Allison Della Penna, BS, CCLS, certified child life specialist in the Outpatient Burn Clinic, shows some of the items purchased by a grant for the Children of Adult Patients Program.



Upstate's annual Employee Recognition event recognizes employees with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 55 years of service.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Nellie Hurley Scholarships totaling **\$17,547** were awarded in 2021-22 to seven Upstate Medical University employees and adult volunteers who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in the health professions.

Two area high school students each received a **\$1,500** Youth Volunteer Scholarship, totaling \$3,000. The scholarships are given to graduating students who have accumulated a minimum of 175 hours of volunteer service at Upstate while meeting academic standards.

In addition to grants and scholarships, Upstate's Nursing Recruitment and Retention Department was awarded **\$10,000** for its Nursing Recognition Fund.



Nellie Hurley Scholarship recipient Rosanne Trevail graduated in 2022 from Upstate's College of Health Professions with a BS in medical technology; she has been accepted into Upstate's PhD program. Youth Volunteer Scholarship recipient Amelia Rhoades is a 2022 graduate of C.W. Baker High School in Baldwinsville, N.Y. She will attend the University of Pittsburgh this fall, enrolled in the physician assistant program.

SERVICE

Our **blood drives** at Upstate's hospitals were successful despite the ongoing COVID-19 protocols/status that restricted hospital visitations, as well as the challenges of recruiting volunteers. With the assistance of Upstate's medical and health professions students, we sponsored four drives each at Upstate University Hospital and Upstate Community Hospital, resulting in **more than 340 units**, saving the lives of more than 1,000 patients and controlling costs by preventing delays and cancellations in patient treatments, care, and surgeries. These donations help Upstate by reducing the costs of processing its blood and blood products for patient care.

In addition to the blood drives, our Service Committee put up holiday decorations and held a spring planting event, bringing cheer to patients, families, staff, and volunteers at Upstate Community Hospital. For the second year, we changed course for the Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital gift-wrapping event in

December due to COVID-19 restrictions. Rather than personally wrapping holiday gifts for our hospitalized pediatric patients, Advocates members donated gift-wrapping items and cash donations to help with the purchase of gift-wrapping supplies.



MARKETING/FUND DEVELOPMENT

Our 2021 Year-End Campaign raised nearly **\$5,500**, in large part due to a generous donation by C&S Foundation Inc. Proceeds from the campaign went toward the Advocates' Nellie Hurley Scholarship Program, which benefits qualifying Upstate Medical University employees and adult volunteers who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in the health professions.

Our monthly gift basket drawings that began during our year-end campaign and continued through May, raised **\$1,200**. Proceeds from the drawings went toward our Grants Program to benefit Upstate's patient care, patient education, and staff enrichment programs. The drawings also resulted in increased donations to our organization.

Our organization received **\$1,100** in direct donations, including contributions made through the SEFA/United Way/Community Giving Campaign.



We thank C&S Foundation Inc. for their generous donation.

Advocates for Upstate launched its Instagram account in early 2022. Together with our Facebook page, we are reaching a greater number of people to keep them abreast of Advocates news and events. To date, we have 200 Facebook followers and 79 Instagram followers. We encourage you to visit our website at upstate.edu/advocates and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



Follow us on social media.

MEMBERSHIP

We are grateful to our 100 members, 20 of whom are lifetime members, for their continued support during this past year. We have welcomed four new members and are thankful for their interest in the Advocates.

After a two-year hiatus, we reintroduced our in-person Annual Meeting and Luncheon in early May. More than 60 people attended the event that featured guest speaker Robert Corona, DO, MBA, chief executive officer of Upstate University Hospital, who provided an update on Upstate's newest initiatives. Other event highlights included the awarding of Certificates of Appreciation to students in Upstate's Colleges of Medicine and Health Professions for their volunteer efforts at our blood drives; the awarding of an Honorary Lifetime Membership to Nancy Page, RN; and the collection of assorted activity items for adult inpatients that were donated by our guests.

We continue to publish our quarterly newsletter and have profiled three Advocates in the Advocates Spotlight section.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions this year, the Advocates were unable to host any social events. We are hoping to see you at a scheduled event this coming year.

Upstate University Hospital Chief Executive Officer Robert Corona, DO, MBA, holds one of Upstate's Skydio 2 drones as he explains the drone and robotics program at Upstate during the Advocates Annual Meeting May 3.



ADVOCATES OF THE YEAR

Barbara LaBarge and Anthony Kurec were named 2021-2022 Advocates of the Year.

While the distinction of Advocate of the Year is usually given to one member of our organization for exceptional service, this year we are proud to honor Barb and Tony, as they both are equally deserving of this recognition.

Barb and Tony are members of the Advocates' Executive Committee and Board of Directors, with Tony also serving as chair of the Contracts Committee and Barb serving as board treasurer and chair of the Finance and Grants committees since 2019.

They represent the best of all of us who call ourselves Advocates for Upstate.

This past year, especially, they went above and beyond what is expected as a board member and volunteer to ensure that the Advocates continue to effectively support Upstate and the patients Upstate serves.

These two individuals gave a considerable amount of their time sharing their expertise to ensure that our grants and scholarship programs continued uninterrupted despite the challenges and financial shortfall brought about by COVID-19.

They were integral parts of our team, especially in interacting with our vendor partners and the challenges they faced.

Barb and Tony are smart, insightful, and committed to keeping Advocates for Upstate strong and to helping Upstate Medical University and its hospitals continue to be vital resources in our community.

We are proud to honor them as our 2021-2022 Advocates of the Year!



Anthony (Tony) Kurec



Barbara LaBarge

ADVOCATES FOR UPSTATE



Supporting health care and scholarship through fundraising and service

750 East Adams Street, Jacobsen Hall: Room 513, Syracuse, NY 13210
315-464-5610 | advocates@upstate.edu | www.upstate.edu/advocates
Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.