

# THE ADVOCATE

*A quarterly publication of The Advocates for Upstate Medical University*

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Spring 2023

## From the President



Tony Kurec

Spring is here- bringing us warmer weather and a “sunnier” season for the Advocates. As COVID restrictions have wound down I hope to see more opportunities for the Advocates to get involved in fund-raising activities. The contract with the Faculty-Student Association (FSA) has cleared Albany and currently is with Upstate’s lawyers. I expect that we will have an executed agreement in hand shortly. While we continue to partner with Lori’s Gift Shop and American Food and Vending, the agreement with TeleHealth will not be renewed per the request of hospital administration. Most patients are bringing their own entertainment devices- thus not subscribing to TeleHealth’s services.

Our income stream is somewhat limited. Therefore, it is incumbent on all our members to look for other ways that we might be able to raise money. So please send us your suggestions. I would also like to encourage you to volunteer where you can, for that’s a core value of the Advocates and an opportunity to promote volunteerism. If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining, [submit their names](#).

## Advocates support Recreation Therapy

Patients with a wide range of debilitating conditions including strokes, brain and spinal cord injuries, amputations, burns, and many types of illness and trauma benefit from the skills of the Recreation Therapists in the Regional Rehabilitation Center at Upstate University Hospital and the Transitional Care Units there and at Upstate Community Hospital.

Advocates for Upstate, through our grants program, supports recreational activities for patients to help them become more independent, utilizing therapy tailored for each individual in a safe environment and designed to improve quality and life and prepare patients and their families for their reentry into the community.

Recreational Therapists Donna Sims, CTRS, CDP; Paul Dunning, CTRS; and Tanya Burnett, MS, CTRS, CBIS direct programs that may include activities such as baking, shopping trips, learning new leisure activities requiring memory and motor skills, mindfulness skills, musical stimulation, gardening, artistic approaches to help with stress, etc. Burnett says “It’s not all fun and games, it’s about assisting the individual regain confidence and create a life that is worthwhile for them to live. All of this would not be possible without Advocates funding. Thank you!”



Transitional Care patient develops skills paying three-way chess

# Annual meeting is May 2

The Advocates fiscal year runs from June 1 to May 31 and we end each year and kick start the next with the annual meeting and luncheon.

This year's event is May 2 at Collegian Hotel & Suites at 1060 E. Genesee St. There is a short business meeting at 11:45 a.m. to elect new directors followed by a buffet lunch and a program featuring remarks from Upstate Medical University President Dr. Mantosh Dewan.



Spiritual Care Department, an Advocates grant recipient, brought a strong contingency to the 2022 annual meeting

The 2022-23 Advocate of the Year will be recognized along with other honors and recognitions.

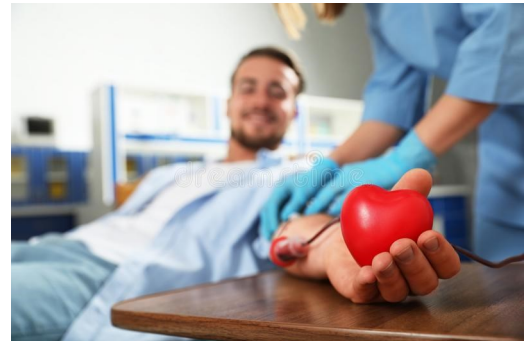
[Register to attend](#) no later than April 26 by paying \$15 online (same price for members and guests you bring). Or you can [let Administrative Coordinator Jonathan Adler know you will be attending](#) and send payment by mail to the address on the back cover or paying at the door (exact cash or check please). Please bring a guest with you!

## Blood drive news

The first two blood drives of 2023 at Upstate are in the books. On April 6, in Setnor Hall, 24 units were collected, and on April 7, in the Kinney Center in Upstate Golisano Hospital, 23 units were donated. And at Upstate Community Hospital on April 11, 28 units were collected, exceeding the goal of 19.

Upcoming drives are July 13 at Setnor Hall, July 14 at Golisano, and July 24 at Community.

Volunteers are always welcomed for working the registration desk at the drives and for calling past donors to encourage them to give again. To learn more about how you can help, please contact the Advocates office at [advocates@upstate.edu](mailto:advocates@upstate.edu) or by calling 315-464-5610.



## End of Year campaign

Advocates thank the many donors who helped us raise \$5,633 in our End-of-Year campaign in support of our departmental grants program with a big shout out to C&S Companies for their \$3,000 donation.



Advocates grants support activities such as the recreation therapy featured in this issue as well as programs such as the school program for children in Upstate Golisano Hospital, the Organ Donation Council's Donate Life Night with the Mets, the Out-patient Pharmacy Medication Assistance Program and communication boards for Interpreter Services.



# Meet the Advocate: Marilyn Crosby

Marilyn Crosby, a longtime member of The Advocates, has been involved in many volunteer activities at the Community Campus. She headlines the planting of flowers in the spring, as well as the decorating for the holidays each fall and winter. She has been actively involved in the golf tournament; Mystery, Malt and Merlot; Snowflake Central (holiday wrapping at Golisano Children's Hospital); Blood Drives; and has organized a team for the Heart Walk that included several Advocates. Marilyn also volunteers once a week in the diagnostic area.



After graduating from Syracuse University with a BS degree in Nutrition and Dietetics, Marilyn did a one year dietetic internship at the Bronx VA Hospital In New York City, and then worked at the New York Cornell Medical Center. She later came back to Syracuse to work at Community General Hospital, then became its Executive Dietitian. After spending time at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville, Indiana, Marilyn returned to Syracuse to begin the Outpatient Nutrition Program at Crouse Hospital. In the 11 years prior to her retirement, Marilyn was self-employed doing nutrition counseling.

Marilyn is a member of the Fairmount Garden Club and several senior organizations. She helps count money at her church, exercises, plays golf, enjoys traveling, and spends time with her 6-year-old rescue dog, Callie.

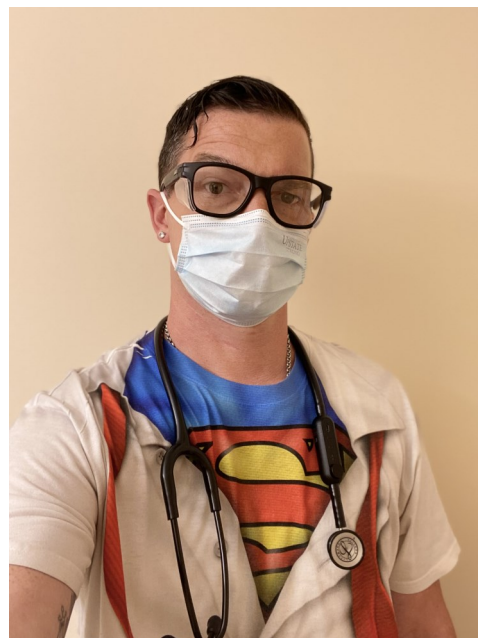
Marilyn feels The Advocates provide tremendous support to Upstate Hospital by providing monetary support as well as good public relations.

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## Meet Our Nellie Hurley scholars

William Melfi is currently working as a LPN in the Pediatric Emergency Department. He has been in the department for about six years and has worked as a LPN in the hospital setting for almost 16 years. Melfi is pursuing his ASN/BSN and has about a year and a half left in the program. Melfi says "I'm excited to be able to expand my scope of practice in the Pediatric Emergency Department after graduation. I plan to expand upon my BSN by becoming TNCC, CPN, and CPEN certified, and eventually pursue my NP. I'm grateful to the Advocates for their scholarship support."

Each year Advocates for Upstate offers scholarships to Upstate staff and volunteers pursuing undergraduate degrees in the health professions to help advance their professional careers. Applications are accepted in June. To learn more about the Nellie Hurley scholarship program you can [visit the Advocates website](#).



# ADVOCATES FOR UPSTATE

*Supporting healthcare and scholarship  
through fundraising and service*

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## Advocates spring raffle

Gardening is the theme of Advocates' [Spring Fling Raffle](#) this year. A gift basket worth more than \$300 features gift cards from Home Depot, Ace Hardware, and Delaney Farms Nursery along with pots, lopper



shears, gladiolus bulbs, hose, and gloves. Proceeds go to Advocates' scholarship and grant programs benefitting the Upstate community. Thanks to Sharon Putney for putting the package together and to all who donated to it.

Raffle chances are three for \$10 and are [available online](#) or by sending a check to the address on this page.

The drawing will be at the annual meeting and luncheon on May 2, but it is not necessary to be present to win.

## Advocates to get new office

Later this spring, or early this summer, the Advocates office will be moving from Jacobsen Hall to the CAB (Campus Activities Building), just down the hall from the Upstate Foundation office.

The Advocates, known as the Auxiliary prior to 2001, has had several homes over the years as Upstate has grown and renovated.

When I was hired, in 2018, we were in Room 1401 in University Hospital. The subsequent lobby remodeling totally redesigned that hallway and we were moved to Jacobsen.



Campus Activities Building

With help from Elise DeAndrea, archivist in the Health Sciences Library, I have learned that it appears Auxiliary was in Room 1105 of University Hospital in the late 1990s and in Room 1509 back in the 1980s. We're still researching the period prior to the building of the current hospital in the 1960s. If you have any information or photos to share from earlier periods [please let me know](#) so we can continue to share stories from our history.

-Jonathan Adler