

THE ADVOCATE

A quarterly publication of The Advocates for Upstate Medical University

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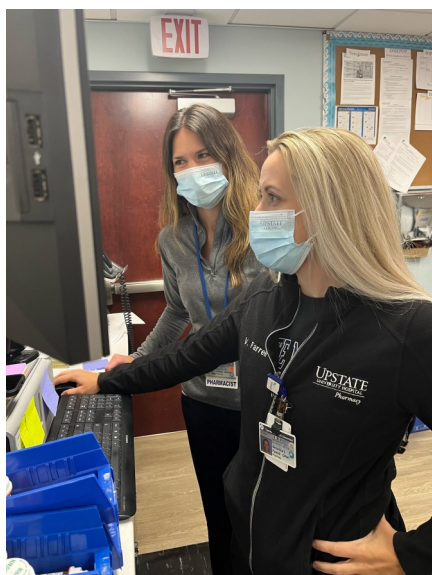
From the President



Tony Kurec

As we move on from Summer's hot and often rainy days to the Fall season, The Advocates continue to face many of the challenges we have seen over the past three years. However, these challenges will generate new opportunities. As previously reported, we have seen decreases in vendor support and even the loss of several vendors as a direct result of COVID issues. Yet, we press forward in working with Hospital Administration in discovering new opportunities in which we can partner. Over the past decade, the Advocates have raised and distributed hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants, scholarships, and other awards in support of patients, staff, and the community. I wish to thank the many individuals who have contributed time and money to achieve these goals and encourage each of you to continue your efforts in support of the Advocates. Your actions, your support, your dollars have provided for programs for cancer patients, indigent patient prescriptions, the Comfort Care Cart, school supplies, Spiritual Care, patient and family enrichment opportunities, Children of Adult Patients (COAP-burn patients) program, replacing clothing items, personal hygiene items, and various pediatric programs, not to mention focusing on specific disorders such as sickle cell, vascular injury, heart failure, brain injury, mental health, and even healthy eating initiatives. Thank you and please, continue your support, volunteer when you can, and be an active part of the Advocates.

Advocates support medication assistance



Amanda Guyette (L), Supervising Pharmacist, and Veronica Farrell (R)

The SUNY Upstate Outpatient Pharmacy Department received continued grant support from Advocates grants since 2018. Pharmacy Accounts Receivable Specialist Veronica Farrell says "This grant has provided numerous patients with assistance in covering their otherwise unaffordable out-of-pocket costs for medications at discharge from Upstate University Hospital and Upstate Community Hospital. Without access to these essential medications when leaving the hospital, these patients would likely end up in an emergency department and possibly be readmitted due to their untreated and unmanaged medical conditions. Many patients may not initially qualify for copay assistance from medication manufacturers or other forms of patient assistance programs while in the hospital, so this grant has been extremely helpful in bridging the financial gap for those patient's medication costs at the time of discharge. SUNY Upstate Medical University hospitals serve a large indigent population and this grant has been essential in putting many patients at ease knowing that they will be discharged safely with all of their medications when they leave the hospital."

In Memoriam: Claire Wightman

A longtime volunteer at Community General Hospital (CGH), and a member of Advocates for Upstate following the merger, Claire Wightman passed away at her home in Jamesville on August 10.

A feature in CNY Magazine in 2009 noted that, at that time, Claire had logged more than 17,000 hours of volunteer service, or more than eight years of full-time work!

She was a volunteer for 46 years at Community General as a member of the CGH Auxiliary, becoming a member of the Advocates' board after the merger. She retired as one of the longest tenured volunteers in hospital history.

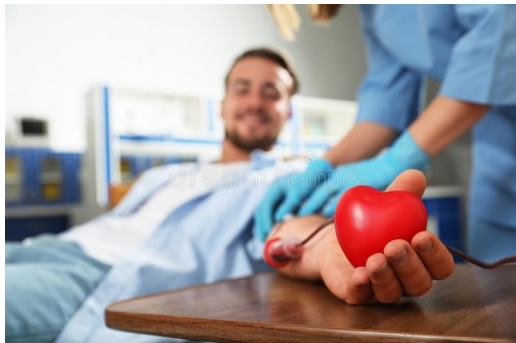


Jean Pirozzi, co-chair of the Advocates Service Committee says "Claire was always available to help when and where needed as well as in caring for other volunteers, friends, and her family."

Advocate Director Bonnie McCabe, who volunteered for years aside Wightman said "Besides meeting and working with Claire through the Advocates when Community

Hospital and Upstate merged, she became an integral part of my pillowcase project and was a faithful attendee at our weekly sewing sessions! Claire believed in doing for others wherever she could and was a loving and dependable friend!"

Blood drive news



Donations were up at the most recent drive at Upstate University Hospital October 6 & 7 with a total of 59 units collected (whole blood donations plus power red donations in which extra red blood cells are collected). Twenty-one units were collected in one day at Upstate Community Hospital in July. The fall drive at Community is scheduled for Oct. 19 from noon-5:00 p.m.

Red Cross Senior Account Manager for the district including Syracuse, Katie Stepanian, recognized the work of blood drive volunteers.

"Thank you for all your help with the recent blood drives," she said. "We were able to collect over our goal each of the two days downtown."

The January drives will be on Jan. 11 from noon to 5:00 p.m. at Upstate Community Hospital, and at Setnor Academic Building downtown Jan. 12 from noon to 5:00 p.m. and Jan. 13 from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm. Donors can register at upstate.edu/blood.

Nellie Hurley Scholarships 2022

Each year Advocates for Upstate awards Nellie Hurley scholarships to Upstate staff and volunteers who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in the health professions and who meet specific academic criteria. The scholarships are named in honor of the late Nellie Hurley, who was a nurse at Syracuse General Hospital, rising to Director of Nursing and continuing in that position after the 1964 merger with Community Hospital. Congratulations to our 2022 awardees, two of whom are featured on page 3: Toan Riley Burton, Cassandra Cleary, Rebecca Gary, Andrea Hadcock, Sarah Kelchner, Sara Mack, Julia Medicis, William Melfi, Erika Moon, Taylor Parry, Rebecca Petrie, Salina Marie Smith, Johnny Stevens and Emma Tucker.

Meet The Advocate: Dayle Burgess

Before retiring in 2021, Dayle Burgess spent the last ten years of her professional life as Assistant to the President of St. Lawrence University, supporting a person she both admired and respected. Prior to that, Dayle was the Chief of Staff for the Assemblyman for the 122nd State Assembly District.

Raised in Gouverneur, New York, Dayle graduated from Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration in 1981.

Dayle and her husband, Mike, moved to CNY in March of 2020, just as COVID shut everything down. It was quite a challenging time for a move, but Mike's job as VP for Finance at KPH Healthcare Services, Inc., needed him in Syracuse and Dayle could work remotely for St. Lawrence. She has been delighted to finally meet her neighbors and to learn more about her new community.

Dayle and Mike have two adult children. A resident of the San Francisco Bay area, Madeline is a mental health counselor, while Nathaniel lives in Washington, DC, where he works in Old Town Alexandria as a governmental contract administrator.

An avid reader, Dayle also enjoys walking, hiking and practicing yoga. In the years ahead, Dayle looks forward to learning to play golf, traveling, and spending time with her children and their partners.



Meet Our Nellie Hurley Scholars

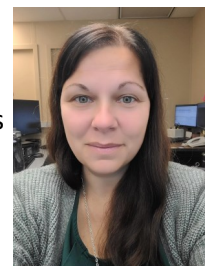


Cassandra Cleary

Cassandra Cleary says "I've been at Upstate for eight years, the last three years working as the Administrative Assistant in the Office of Patient Experience. The department works with and educates staff on patient experience best practice to help increase patient satisfaction score with recent focus on Magnet designation and re-designation. My job is to assist the department with all the various details to ensure success when interacting and engaging with our staff.

"I started helping out on the units during off-hours when we went through the staffing crisis last year. I thoroughly enjoyed helping and interacting with patients which is what sparked my desire to earn my nursing degree (SUNY Empire State University). Once I graduate, I plan to continue working at Upstate as a bedside RN."

Rebecca Gary works as an Administrative Assistant in the Vascular Ultrasound department and says "I am currently working on my Bachelor's degree in psychology (Southern New Hampshire University). In the future, I plan to get my Master's and then my Doctorate. There is a high demand for mental health professionals in the field of child psychology and I would like to help fulfill that need."



Rebecca Gary

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through fundraising and service*

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Jonathan Adler

Advocates For Upstate

750 E. Adams St.

Jacobsen Hall: Room 513

Syracuse, NY 13210

315-464-5610

Upstate.edu/advocates



Beautifying Upstate Community Hospital



As dependable as spring turning to summer, Advocates volunteers once again this year planted petunias and impatiens in the beds at Upstate Community Hospital to provide additional beauty and cheer to patients, visitors, staff and volunteers alike.

Helping out this year were (L-R in photo) Jane Horyl, Bob Jutton, and Marilyn Crosby. Also helping were Gerri MacLachlan and Rosemary Fenneman.

"On behalf of the Upstate Community Hospital team, we are deeply appreciative of all that Advocates do to enhance the patient and staff experience," said Associate Administrator, Facilities and Support Operations, Ken Redmore.

From the Archives

Although the name "Advocates" has only been used since 2001 for the hospital's auxiliary organization, Advocates for Upstate can trace its roots back to 1902 when the predecessor of today's Upstate University Hospital was known as the Hospital of the Good Shepherd (founded 1872). The facility, on Marshall St. is now part of Syracuse University.

The auxiliary was organized with the support of Syracuse University Chancellor Rev. James Roscoe Day, whose wife Anna was its first president.

During its early years popular activities included washing, sewing and mending hospital linens, rolling bandages, entertaining patients and providing snacks for staff and patients. Money was raised via bazaars, teas, and the sale of cookbooks.

