

# THE ADVOCATE

A quarterly publication of The Advocates for Upstate Medical University

Inside:

In Memoriam: Helen Carlson

Meet The Advocate: Ellen Abbott

Youth Scholar Pursues Dream

Join Our Leadership Team

Blood Drives News

Winter 2021

## 2021 Year-End Campaign & Valentine's Day drawing raise nearly \$6,000



Advocates for Upstate's **2021 Year-End Campaign**, which ended Dec. 31, raised nearly \$5,500, in

large part due to a generous donation by C&S Foundation, Inc.

Proceeds from the campaign go toward the Advocates' Nellie Hurley Scholarship Program that benefits qualifying Upstate Medical University employees and adult volunteers who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in the health professions.

Congratulations to Dana Savici, MD, and to Theresa Devennie, winners of our 2021 Year-End Campaign gift baskets.

The Advocates' Grants Program benefited from \$405 raised through the organization's **Valentine's Day drawing** that also resulted in two additional \$100 donations to our organization. The Advocates annually awards grants to benefit Upstate's patient care, patient education and staff enrichment programs.

Congratulations to Lynn Scott who was randomly selected as the winner of the gift basket that included chocolates, gift certificates to Francesca's Cuccina Restaurant and Westcott Florist, and more.



The campaign and the drawing were activities of the Advocates' Marketing and Fund Development committees. They were promoted through a series of creative Facebook and Instagram posts, an email blast to our membership and through Upstate Medical University's weekly Upstate Announcements publication.

Interested in joining the Marketing and Fund Development committees? Call 315-464-5610 or email [advocates@upstate.edu](mailto:advocates@upstate.edu).

Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram and to share our posts.

## Advocates grant helps children of adult patients



Allison Della Penna is very grateful for the Advocates grant in support of the COAP (Children of Adult Patients) program.

The Certified Child Life Specialist with the Pediatric Burn Clinic described the help the grant made possible for nine-year old and seven-year old children whose mother was hospitalized with severe burns over the holidays. For more than three weeks the children could not visit their mother.

COAP supported virtual visits, paid for dolls with the same dressings as Mom had so her children

could be prepared for when she came home, paid for voice recorders with messages from Mom placed inside stuffed animals, bought books to help kids process scary things happening to their caregivers such as "A Terrible Thing Happened."

"COAP, and Advocates support, bridges the gap where these children weren't previously getting this level of support," says Della Penna. She hopes the program will expand beyond burn patients.

The Advocates Grants Committee is evaluating the 2022-23 proposals this spring and the awards will be listed in the next Advocates newsletter and on the Advocates website at [upstate.edu/advocates](http://upstate.edu/advocates).





# ADVOCATES FOR UPSTATE

*Supporting healthcare and scholarship  
through fundraising and service*

## President

Doretta Settineri Royer

## Senior Vice President

Anthony Kurec

## Treasurer

Barbara LaBarge

## Secretary

Jane Forstadt

## Board Members

Ellen Abbott

Donna Breen

Larissa Brenner

Susan Cole

Theresa Devennie

Alicia Green

Janice Harvey

Kristin Thompson Henry

Bertha Jacobs

Beverly Lauricella

Bonnie McCabe

Jean Pirozzi

Edward Priest

Sharon Putney

Lisa Schiller

## Director Volunteer Services

Kristin Bruce

## Administrative Coordinator

Jonathan Adler

## Advocates For Upstate

750 E. Adams St.

Jacobsen Hall: Room 513

Syracuse, NY 13210

315-464-5610

Upstate.edu/advocates



## Contracts News

COVID continues to have a hold on patients, visitors, staff, and our vendors. The pandemic has made it difficult for our vendors to recruit and retain staff which directly impacts the hours of operations for their businesses. The Advocates continues to work with them to seek out opportunities to improve and/or expand services. We anticipate that within the next few weeks we will be able to complete contract negotiations with various accounts and provide additional opportunities that will benefit all. So please, remember to visit our vendor partners and support them, which in turn support the Advocates.

## Do you want to join our leadership team?

The Advocates is led by its Board of Directors —a creative team of volunteers who come from all walks of life and who are committed to supporting healthcare and scholarship initiatives at Upstate Medical University through fundraising and service.

We welcome individuals who are interested in joining our Board of Directors and having a voice in administering the affairs of The Advocates on behalf of our general membership.

The Board meets about six times a year for one-hour with the option of in-person or zoom participation and takes a hiatus during the summer months. Employees of Upstate Medical University and employees and vendors of The Advocates are not eligible for officer nomination. Newly elected Board members are installed at the Advocates annual meeting in May and take office immediately.

If you know of someone or if you are interested in serving the Advocates as a Board member, or would like more information, contact Sharon Putney at [putneyse@yahoo.com](mailto:putneyse@yahoo.com) or contact the Advocates: [advocates@upstate.edu](mailto:advocates@upstate.edu), 315-464-5610.

## Advocates brighten the holidays at Upstate Community Hospital



The Advocates Service Committee, co-chaired by Jean Pirozzi and Bertha Jacobs, once again put up holiday decorations in the East lobby at Upstate Community Hospital to bring some cheer to patients, families, staff and volunteers.

Pictured are (L-R) Jane Horyl, Donna Breen, Don Breen and Gerri McLaughlin. Also participating were Judy Davis, Jean Pirozzi and Bob Jutton.