

a Ministry of Healing

A Bimonthly Newsletter - November / December 2007



FOUNDATION Update

News about grants, campaigns, community support and giving opportunities

The 16th annual Good Health Classic Golf Tournament attracted 60 teams and raised over half a million dollars for the Saint Thomas Family Health Centers and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Baptist Hospital. Congratulations to first place teams from AmSurg Corporation and Humana, Inc.



AmSurg Team

The second John Settle Johnson, M.D. Lecture took place in September when Daniel Sulmasy, OFM, M.D., PhD. and author of *The Healer's Calling*, spoke to physicians, ethicists and clergy. The lecture was funded by the John Settle Johnson, M.D. Endowment for Ethics in Medicine Fund, established to honor Dr. Johnson when he retired in 2004. Dr. Johnson attended the event and was acknowledged by his peers and those present for his many remarkable contributions to Saint Thomas Hospital as a physician and teacher.

The Foundation received a \$122,600 grant from the Tennessee Department of Health to run a "Healthy Lifestyles" program at the South and West Clinics, giving uninsured and underinsured people with type two Diabetes access to dietitians, social workers and fitness clinics for one year.

Middle Tennessee Camp Bluebird, a biannual camp for adult cancer patients, hosted 50 campers in September for a weekend of education, encouragement and fun on the shores of Old Hickory Lake

The annual John Allen Strupp, M.D. Award was given posthumously to Debbie Sohl, R.N., in recognition of her passion for excellence in oncology nursing at Saint Thomas Hospital. ☪



Chuck Wilson, Mimi Walsh and Sandy Wilson (l-r) present the pins at a Cancer Center Board meeting.

Making a difference...

CHUCK & SANDY WILSON

Earlier this year, Chuck and Sandy Wilson approached the Dan Rudy Cancer Center staff with an idea. Chuck had recently been a patient at the Center when he was treated for brain cancer with the Novalis BrainLab system. Grateful for the excellent technology, expertise and care he received and now in full remission, he and Sandy wanted to encourage others in their own battles with cancer.

With a generous gift to the Foundation's Dan Rudy Cancer Center Fund, the Wilsons paid for Dan Rudy Cancer Center pins. "We noticed most other cancer centers have their own pin," explains Chuck. "We thought that a pin is a neat and subtle way to bond cancer patients together by reminding them that they're not alone in their struggle."

Inspiration for the nautically-themed pin came from a sculpture entitled "The Dan Rudy," created by artist Mimi Walsh for the Cancer Center's Brick Auction last April. The bronze lapel pins feature a reproduction of her sailboat sculpture, an image that has meaning to Chuck Wilson, a retired Navy Captain. The pins are now available to all patients at the Center, along with the following message from Chuck: "This pin is to remind you that regardless of how lonely or tumultuous your journey through the sea of cancer seems, there are others on the same ship with you. Fellow travelers and supporters whom you may never meet in this life empathize with you, care for you, and pray that God will lead you to drop anchor in a safe and secure harbor." ☪



CAMP BLUEBIRD Celebrating 20 Years of Hope



In 1987, Saint Thomas Hospital and the BellSouth Pioneer Volunteers developed a new program for cancer patients in Middle Tennessee. Named for the bluebird houses crafted by its participants, Middle Tennessee Camp Bluebird is now one of the longest running camps of its kind and has touched the lives of more than 1,600 cancer patients and survivors.

Twice a year, Camp Bluebird takes adult cancer patients to a beautiful natural setting for a weekend of support, education and encouragement in living well with cancer. Thanks to donations from thousands of supporters to the Camp Bluebird Fund at the Saint Thomas Foundation, cancer patients attend camp for only a nominal registration fee.

"Living in the now, that's what Camp Bluebird is all about," says Trish Loftis, who first attended Camp in September 2007. Diagnosed with Stage 3 Hodgkin's Lymphoma in early August, Trish heard about Camp Bluebird at Gilda's Club and, two days later, arrived as a first-time camper. "Camp gave each of us the time to live with cancer, and to escape from it," Trish explains. "The first day, we tell our stories. The second and third days, we just live and enjoy the moment, whether you're having a massage, eating great food or laughing at a skit."

Blessed with a great "cancer posse" – a supportive group of friends and family – Trish says there was still something amazing about being with other patients. "It was incredible to be in a room full of people who knew exactly what I'm going through – the emotions, the fears, the questions, the concerns – and realize they will be there for me through it all."

"No one wants to have cancer. But we don't get a say," Trish adds. "If our name is called, we must choose how to live our life. I left Camp with a renewed sense of spirit, courage, hope and faith. I was inspired by everyone I met and reminded of how to live my life every day – one moment, one breath, one day at a time." ☪

We are grateful for the countless volunteer hours and tens of thousands of dollars that have been donated to make Camp Bluebird's first two decades possible. Look for news about Camp Bluebird's 20 Year Celebration event in an upcoming issue. For more of Trish's story, go to www.caringbridge.com and enter "trishloftis".



Trish Loftis (center) at Camp Bluebird with friends Wilma Neeley and Megan Ingram, Program Manager at Gilda's Club (l-r)

Remembering

MARY NICHOLS

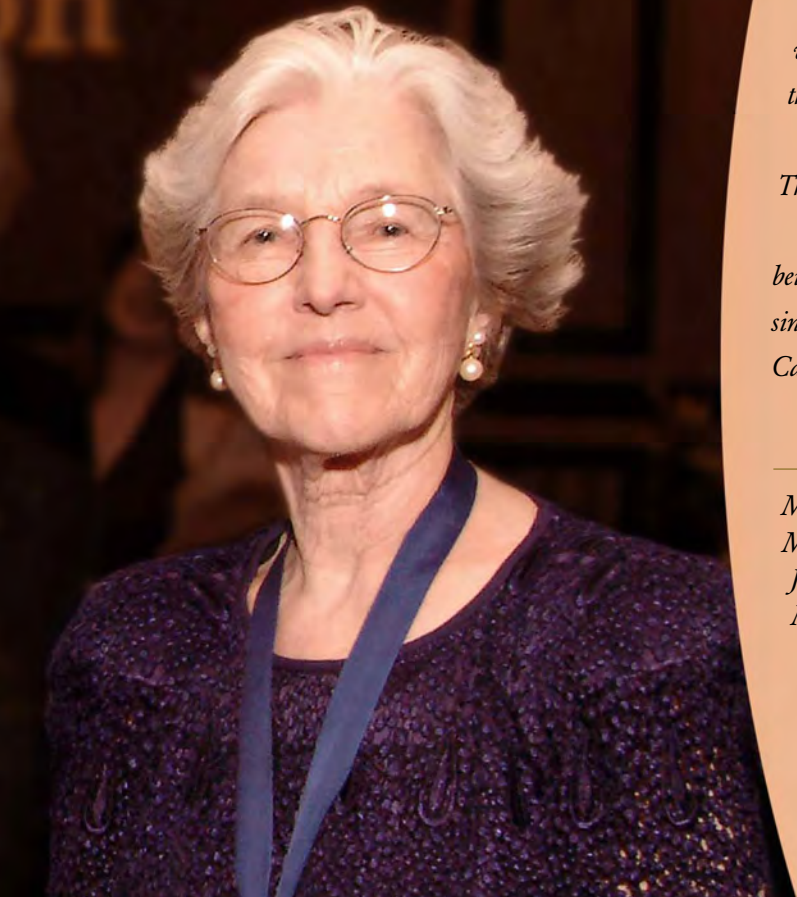
Mary Nichols was a beloved volunteer whose service at Saint Thomas Hospital spanned four decades. Since first volunteering at Saint Thomas in 1965, she logged over 10,000 volunteer hours helping patients and families, mainly from the family waiting room information desk. She passed away on October 16, 2007.

"I had the delight of working with Mary over the past year," says Robin Crowell, Director of Guest Services at Saint Thomas Hospital. "She is irreplaceable - her presence will be greatly missed here at Saint Thomas."

"Volunteering was her passion," adds Anne Layman, Manager of Volunteer Services, Baptist Hospital. "Mary loved being there for families - she was so good at listening to them and making them feel comfortable." A donor to the Foundation since 1980, Mary and her late husband Charles S. Nichols were keen supporters of many Foundation initiatives, including Camp Bluebird and the People Helping People campaign supporting the Sister Juliana Employee Assistance Fund.

Thanks to all who recongized Mary by giving a gift in her memory....

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A way to say "thank you"

Friends of the Foundation

The Friends of the Foundation program is a new way for us to recognize and thank people who support Saint Thomas Hospital through the Foundation. Friends of the Foundation receive personal attention from Foundation staff at all hospitals and clinics within the system. All contributors giving annual gifts of \$1,000 or more can join the program.

For more information call Elisabeth Yoder at 222-6274 or go to www.stthomas.org/support and click on "Friends of the Foundation."

CALENDAR of EVENTS WINTER 2007-08

December 4 – Heart Healthy Cooking School, Saint Thomas Hospital's Parkside Cafeteria, 3pm. "Heart Healthy Hanukkah" menu features Roasted Rosemary and Garlic Chicken, Potato Latkes, Two Squash Gratin and Apple Torte. Free to the public. Call 222-3541 to register.

December 7 & January 4 – Defensive Eating Seminar & Afternoon Tea with Randy Pendergrass, Nutritionist. Seton Support Center, 2-4pm. Call 222-3234 to register.

December 8 – Holiday Gathering and Silent Auction, First Presbyterian Church, 4815 Franklin Road, 5:30 – 7pm. All auction proceeds go to the Foundation's Transplant Services Fund to meet special needs of patients.

December 17 & January 21 – Legal Clinic for Cancer Patients, Seton Support Center, 3-5pm. Call 222-3234 to register.

December 18 & January 22 – Care for the Caregiver, support group for caregivers of cancer patients, Seton Support Center, 4 – 6pm. Call 222-3234 to register.

January 9 – Look Good, Feel Better class for cancer patients, Seton Support Center, Noon – 2pm. Call 222-3234 to register.

April 5 – Seton Celebration at the Parthenon. For more information call Greg Pope, 222-6800. 🍷

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