OUR MISSION AND ITS IMPACT

Passavant Hospital Foundation’s Mission
Passavant Hospital Foundation supports UPMC Passavant, advancing the health and wellness of our community through education, outreach, and grant making.

Passavant Hospital Foundation’s Impact
Passavant Hospital Foundation advances the health and wellness of all our community by:

- Providing facilities, technology and equipment at our hospital to support excellence in patient care
- Presenting free health education seminars for all in the community, to promote personal well-being
- Offering support groups for families affected by a loved one’s addiction
- Forming community partnerships for greater impact on health concerns that affect us all

2014–15 Financial Highlights
Support to UPMC Passavant ......................... $ 870,148
Support to the Passavant Community .......... $ 259,008
Total Mission Support ................................... $ 1,129,156

Domestic violence seminar enlightened community members and professionals

Twenty years ago, Lynn Shiner and her ex-husband shared custody of their two children — Jen, 10, and Dave, 8. As part of the custody agreement, Lynn’s ex-husband took the kids to spend the night at his house on Christmas Eve 1994. Lynn was to pick them up on Christmas morning.

“My violent, abusive ex-husband had taken his ultimate act of revenge,” Lynn said.

Working with UPMC Passavant’s Domestic Violence Advisory Committee, the Foundation brought Lynn Shiner to Pittsburgh in October to tell her story. “Stabbed in the Heart: A Story About Domestic Violence, Homicide and Transformation,” so others could learn from her experience.

Ms. Shiner currently serves as Director of Victims’ Services for the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

The Foundation partnered with Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC)–Allegheny, CCAC–North, Crisis Center North, and VOICE of Butler County to hold three events to educate professionals and community members about the serious health issue of domestic violence.

Approximately 170 community leaders and others attended.

UPMC experts led seminar on ways to improve brain and heart health

On April 25, UPMC experts led a free, morning-long seminar to help separate facts from fiction concerning brain and heart health. The event, held at Cumberland Woods Village, covered brain exercises to prevent dementia, as well as steps to avert strokes and heart attacks.

In addition, a stretching and flexibility demonstration was presented by a certified instructor.

The Foundation’s Bedside Nursing Education Fund assisted 56 nurses in their efforts to achieve certification in their specialty areas, such as oncology and emergency care, as research shows this improves patient outcomes.

Through the Health Care Careers Initiative Program this year, the Foundation funded 52 UPMC Passavant employees to take college or other specialized course work to allow them to move from non-clinical jobs into patient care roles.
UPMC Passavant is a tertiary hospital with patients traveling from other states for cancer treatment, open heart surgery, and other care. To provide low-cost overnight accommodations to patients’ families with limited means, the Sisters of Divine Providence have graciously opened their doors at the Kearns Spirituality Center, located across the street from the hospital. “It all started one winter night (about 15 years ago), when a social worker at the hospital didn’t want to drive home and a social worker at the hospital didn’t want to drive home,” explained Peggy Huwe, coordinator of the Hospitality Program for patients’ families.

The dorm closed, it was expanded and renovated into the current spiritual retreat center, which includes meeting and conference rooms, a dining room, a chapel, and overnight accommodations for up to 60 people. The center offers its 27 air-conditioned semi-private rooms, three private suites, fully equipped kitchen, library, lounge, and other amenities to families of patients at Passavant who have been referred to the center from the hospital’s Care Management Department following an interview to determine suitability. First consideration is given to those experiencing financial hardship, who live far away, who need quick access due to their loved one’s critical illness, who don’t drive, who are elderly, or who are alone as they support a hospitalized loved one.

Guests are asked to contribute $40 per room per night. However, no one is turned away for an inability to pay, thanks to the Center’s mission and the Foundation’s support. “My stay was a blessing from God. The stress of my mom’s surgery was all I had to worry about. I felt very welcome and at peace while staying at the Spirituality Center. Truly, I can’t find enough words to say ‘thank you,’” said Sue Estright of Altoona.

Sister Joan Coultas, Program Coordinator at Kearns Spirituality Center, shared stories of 67 nights. Hospitality Program served 38 guests over the course of the night here.

Grant money has been used to subsidize room charges; purchase new bed sheets, pillows, and guest towels; buy a new TV and DVD player for the lounge; and provide a washing machine and dryer for the community laundry room. Management Department following an interview to determine suitability. First consideration is given to those experiencing financial hardship, who live far away, who need quick access due to their loved one’s critical illness, who don’t drive, who are elderly, or who are alone as they support a hospitalized loved one.

“People who’ve had a heart episode have a bit of fear about returning to exercise and other physical activities. This program wraps them in safety and gives them profile reassurance. It’s life-changing,” said Linda May Conner, associate executive director of the Baierl Family YMCA.

In March, Passavant Hospital Foundation helped expand the Comfort and Hospitality Program with a $10,000 grant. Grant money has been used to subsidize room charges; purchase new bed sheets, pillows, and guest towels; buy a new TV and DVD player for the lounge; and provide a washing machine and dryer for the community laundry room.

From March through August 2015, the Comfort and Hospitality Program served 38 guests over the course of the 67 nights.  

Communities full of potential lifesavers,” said American Heart Association’s Foundation Relations Director Rachel Vermillion Betta. This is the Foundation’s second grant for this purpose.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Patients receive cardiac rehabilitation maintenance

Dan Buttry, 44, underwent quadruple bypass surgery last July and, in October, began receiving strength, cardio-respiratory, and cardiovascular training through the cardiac-rehab program.

“I knew I’d need a program that committed me to keeping on course. I had to quit smoking, quit caffeine, change my diet, and start a rehab program after my surgery. This program helps keep me on track in all those aspects,” Dan said. “I feel like I’m almost whole again, and, in many respects, feel stronger and more energetic than before my surgery.”

Without the support of the Foundation, such care would not be affordable for any of the program’s 145 participants.

Local police to be trained and equipped to better handle domestic violence calls

In cooperation with the UPMC Passavant Domestic Violence Task Force, the Foundation donated $17,313 for the Crisis Center North Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) to train and equip two local police departments to better handle calls involving domestic violence.

LAP is a nationally recognized, evidence-based program with demonstrated success in strengthening partnerships between law enforcement and domestic violence service providers, connecting victims of domestic violence with lifesaving services, thereby reducing fatalities.

Local middle-school students learn CPR

Approximately 7,320 middle-school students from six local school districts will be trained in hands-only CPR during the 2015-16 school year. Passavant Hospital Foundation contributed $22,360 to the program, which will be conducted by the American Heart Association.

“The ‘CPR In Schools’ program allows us to reach many more students to build communities full of potential lifesavers,” said American Heart Association’s Foundation Relations Director Rachel Vermillion Betta. This is the Foundation’s second grant for this purpose.

In March, Passavant Hospital Foundation committed $10,000 for a 12-week, 24-session, one-on-one, customized exercise plan for patients referred by the hospital’s Cardiac Rehab Department who otherwise could not afford individualized training. The program, held at the Baierl Family YMCA in Franklin Park, is conducted under the guidance of a certified personal trainer, and the cost is shared among the patient, the YMCA, and the Foundation.

“People who’ve had a heart episode have a bit of fear about returning to exercise and other physical activities. This program wraps them in safety and gives them profile reassurance. It’s life-changing,” said Linda May Conner, associate executive director of the Baierl Family YMCA.

Maureen Iondino, 58, suffered a heart attack last May. In the cardiac rehab program, she works with certified personal trainer Gary Knit to build up her strength, endurance, heart rate, and confidence.
Vigil of Hope provided an evening of remembrance

Two support groups — Bridge to Hope and Beyond Bridge to Hope — sponsored the 10th annual Vigil of Hope on June 3, which 116 community members attended to remember loved ones who died from substance abuse, are still struggling, or are in recovery.

The moving, healing experience included a message from clinical psychologist Michael Flaherty, PhD, and U.S. Attorney David Hickton, who talked about new directions in drug enforcement in Western PA.

A tribute and candle-lighting ceremony were included to remember those who have died from drugs and alcohol, and to shine a light of hope for tomorrow.

Grieving family designated their son’s memorial contributions to Bridge to Hope

Luke Petro’s addiction to drugs plunged him into a downward spiral, along with his parents and siblings.

“Drug addiction is a family disease. There simply isn’t a manual on how to deal with addiction effectively. This disease impacts the stability of the home, finances, and most importantly, emotional and physical health,” said Luke’s father, Jeff Petro.

Janine Sidoruk is the program consultant for Bridge to Hope, a free support group held every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Passavant Hospital Foundation Conference Center at Cumberland Woods Village.

The group offers support and education to families affected by substance abuse.

Janine says it’s instinctive for parents to want to nurture and protect their children, no matter what. “If their child gets cut, they want to fix it. It’s the same with addiction. They want to fix it. But they can’t. Only the addict can fix it. It takes a long time to understand and accept that. In the process, parents often feel guilt, shame, and a sense of failure,” she explained.

Like most families dealing with a drug addict, the Petros experienced plenty of fear, heartache, anger, frustration, and feelings of helplessness. “When we found the Bridge to Hope family support group, we found the hope and healing we needed to recover as a family. The education, coping skills, and level of support that we received were truly our saving grace,” said Jeff.

On March 3, 2015, Luke died from an overdose. He was 22 years old.

In lieu of flowers, his family requested that memorial contributions be designated for Bridge to Hope so that other families who are faced with this heartbreaking situation can find the help and support they so desperately need.

Passavant Hospital Foundation is raising funds for the advancement of open heart surgery in the North Hills

The open heart service at Passavant began in 1996. Today, doctors at UPMC Passavant perform approximately 300 open heart surgeries each year. Scott Winkler, DMD, a local dentist, underwent quadruple bypass surgery at Passavant this past spring and was so impressed with his surgeon and cardiac care team that he now is vigorously supporting the “Hopeful Hearts” campaign — Passavant Hospital Foundation’s effort to raise funds to upgrade the hospital’s open heart surgery operating room with state-of-the-art equipment that will allow surgeons to provide the latest and greatest surgical care right here in the North Hills, including minimally invasive valve surgery and robotic valve surgery, as well as other procedures. Cardiac surgeon Dr. Chris Cook, MD, said, “Cardiac surgery requires specialized equipment that continues to increase in sophistication. Multiple team members — including the surgical, anesthesia, and perfusion teams at various locations in the operating room — rely on clear visibility of several monitoring devices that are used to safely conduct cardiac surgery operations. Having clear and simultaneous access to all monitoring parameters improves communication, room integration, and safety.”

With increasing amounts of equipment, however, doctors can get overcrowded in the operating room, so a remodeling of the cardiac operating room would be necessary to allow improved monitoring capabilities, better display of necessary radiographic studies, and expanded operative capabilities.

The cost for new equipment is $256,297. To date, the Foundation has raised $33,900 toward this goal.

To help, call the Foundation at 412-746-6640.
Passavant Hospital Auxiliary grants $20,000 to establish hospital rooms especially designed for end-of-life care

Thelma Sherrett’s first experience with end-of-life care came on September 25, 2014, when her husband asked to be removed from a ventilator following a fall down the steps four months earlier. Doctors in the Intensive Care Unit at UPMC Passavant honored his request, then moved him to a private room so he could spend his last few hours in comfort and peace, with his family at his side.

Thelma appreciated the hospital staff’s compassion and care, but she admits the patient room in which they were placed was not especially conducive to the situation. According to Thelma, the patient-room lights were as bright as spotlights, and the furniture became noticeable uncomfortable after hours of sitting vigil.

“I was about 9 p.m. and the only light that was dimmed came from the hallway, so we turned off all the lights in the room and left the door open. We tried to get some sleep. I knew the loveseat would pull out to a sofa, but I couldn’t make it work, so I rested in a culed up position until the end came at 4 a.m.”

Thelma — who is an active member of the Passavant Hospital Auxiliary — jumped at the chance to get involved when the opportunity came to renovate and refurbish two sixth-floor patient-care rooms into spaces dedicated to end-of-life care at UPMC Passavant.

Unit Director Caroline Kinsell, RN, said, “We see quite a few patients dealing with end-of-life situations, and our nurses are very passionate about their care. They wanted extra training for it. We thought, if they want the training, we should prepare our environment for it, too.”

Caroline requested a $9,800 grant from the Auxiliary last October in order to establish two end-of-life care rooms.

However, as the Auxiliary began considering cost estimates, they quickly realized that $9,800 wasn’t going to go very far.

“We could have cut back on what was included in each room, or eliminated one of the rooms completely. Instead, we doubled the grant to $20,000,” said Auxiliary President Bev Aufman.

The Auxiliary was instrumental in choosing calming colors and suitable amenities for the space.

Now complete, both rooms boast plenty of natural light, as well as table lamps and dimly-lit wall sconces. For comfort, each room is equipped with multifunctional furniture and a TV, mini refrigerator, and microwave. A book filled with menus from local restaurants and lists of nearby congregations is readily available for those who may not be familiar with the North Hills community.

“It’s hard to describe the looks on the family’s faces when they see the room for the first time. It’s priceless,” Caroline said. “They’re thrilled with the space and comfort of the furnishings. They wouldn’t have had this opportunity to stay with their loved one without the generosity of the Auxiliary,” she added.
Passavant Hospital Foundation was the winner with Brad and Katie Franz as charity runners for Passavant Hospital Foundation in the 2015 Pittsburgh Marathon, raising $8,645 for our mission. Our second-place fundraiser was Alisha Riles, RN, with $1,340 raised, and coming in third was Ryan Ball, MD, raising $1,301. The Foundation had 14 event participants who raised a total of $14,101.

Newly established Patient Assistance Fund aids financially struggling patients
Passavant Hospital Foundation recently established a Patient Assistance Fund to help financially struggling patients pay for medications or equipment needed at discharge.

“The fund does not cover the hospital bill. It assists our most vulnerable patients in returning to health when they go home from the hospital,” said Fay Morgan, Foundation President/CEO.

The first recipient was an 81-year-old who came to UPMC Passavant for a procedure related to her newly diagnosed cancer. At discharge, she was to go home on blood thinners for two weeks, a best practice standard to prevent blood clots. Unfortunately, the medication is very expensive. The fund helped her purchase the blood-thinning medication to help her through the post-operative period.

A 62-year-old patient, hospitalized four times in one year due to cardiac issues, still works but does not have insurance coverage through his employer. His cardiac issues could be easily controlled through medication management, but the cost is very high. He was hospitalized again in February and discharged only to return nine days later with the same medical issues. The fund was able to break this cycle and cover costs for the medications that he needed to stay well.

The fund also supported a 76-year-old patient in severe heart failure. She needed a defibrillator to detect and treat a life-threatening heart rhythm should it occur at home. While the family was making long-term payment arrangements, the fund was able to cover a portion of her first month’s expenses and get her home from the hospital.

Continued on next page
the hospital chapel. They dedicated the for the Healing Garden, located outside think of no better way to honor her than to “They were genuinely concerned about received tremendous care from the nurses boys was bigger than life, according to Steve. In addition to memorializing their mother, purchasing the memorial bench was a way In life to ensure their happiness and to thank her doctors and nurses as well, according to Steve. He believes his mother would be appreciative of the thoughtful gesture. “Her initial response would be, ‘You didn’t have to do this!’ But, in the end, clearly she’d be grateful and look at it as a way her boys could show their gratitude and appreciation for all that she went through in life to ensure their happiness and success,” he said.

To learn about dedicating a bench, a room, new equipment, or other permanent item, call Foundation President/ CEO Fay Morgan at 412-748-6645.

For the Gonabe family, donating a bench in the Healing Garden was the best way to honor their mother’s memory.

Geraldine “Geri” Gonabe may have been petite in stature, but her love for her three boys was bigger than life, according to her eldest son, Steve. “She was an itty bitty gal, but she worked multiple jobs as a waitess and a cashier through parochial school and college. She worked tirelessly,” he said. “She wanted nothing but the best for her sons.” Geri loved the hospital, too. She volunteered in the hospital gift shop every Monday from 2005 to 2011. When she fell gravely ill in 2012, she received tremendous care from the nurses and doctors at UPMC Passavant, according to Steve. “They were genuinely concerned about her,” he said.

When Geri died in 2013, her sons could think of no better way to honor her than to purchase a memorial bench in her name for the Healing Garden, located outside the hospital chapel. They dedicated the bench on February 18, 2015 — the second anniversary of her passing. The Healing Garden is a place to connect with nature and experience peace during a hospitalization or while visiting the hospital. Commemorative bricks line the garden path, and vibrant flowers beautify the space. In addition to memorializing their mother, purchasing the memorial bench was a way to thank her doctors and nurses as well, according to Steve. He believes his mother would be appreciative of the thoughtful gesture. “Her initial response would be, ‘You didn’t have to do this!’ But, in the end, clearly she’d be grateful and look at it as a way her boys could show their gratitude and appreciation for all that she went through in life to ensure their happiness and success,” he said.
Karen Cotter
Madeline M. Cox
James Creo, Jr.
Carrie Cunningham
Pamela Jane Dailey
Joan & Joseph Daquartelote
Gary N. Datt
June R. Davidson
Dianne L. Davis
Mary E. Decker
Michael Detore
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Donna & Michael Detore
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Millan Millar
Robert & Maegorik
Clay Laucelle
P. Kerr
Nicholas Beckwith, chair of the UPMC Board of Directors, gave the invocation; Rev. Jay Passavant — the great-great-great-grandson of hospital founders Robert Ford, MD; Marjorie Gould, MBA, MSN, RN; Julie Kincak; LouAnn Brindle, MSN, RN, CPCS; Ralph DeStefano, JD; Additional honorees included William J. Bentz, DO; Joan M. Bodnar, Patricia Kutcher who helped with the original fundraising campaign to bring the hospital to the North Hills and who remains active with the Passavant Hospital Auxiliary.

Legacy of Leadership: Virginia Cole for her service throughout the last five decades, first as an employee and then as a volunteer.

Legacy of Caring at UPMC Passavant

50th Anniversary dinner honored the Legacy of Caring at UPMC Passavant

On October 9, at the Le Mont restaurant on Mt. Washington in front of 300 attendees, Passavant Hospital Foundation celebrated the 50th anniversary of UPMC Passavant in the North Hills. The event raised $112,598 to support Passavant Hospital Foundation’s 34-year mission of supporting the hospital and advancing care in our community.

A presentation of the inaugural Legacy of Caring Awards recognized those individuals who have played a vital role in growing UPMC Passavant into a world-class hospital. Five awards, one for each decade, plus two special awards, were presented.

First Decade, 1964-73: John Earl, A. Lin & Jesse Weigelt, MDs
Second Decade, 1974-83: Lewis (Pete) & Scott Nettrour, MDs
First Decade, 1964-73:
John Earl, A. Lin & Jesse Weigelt, MDs

Legacy of Service:
Third Decade, 1984-93:
Lewis (Pete) & Scott Nettrour, MDs
John Earl, A. Lin & Jesse Weigelt, MDs

Legacy of Caring:
First Decade, 1964-73:
UPMC Passavant into a world-class hospital. Five awards, one for each decade, plus two special awards, were presented.

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Legacy of Caring:
PASSAVANT HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

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