

# Giving

SEPT/OCT 2010

# Matters



## *Helping Hands*

White River Medical Center Nurses Reach  
Out to Make a Difference!

Brought to you by the



# Message from the President



**Nurses have a very special place in my heart.** My wife is a nurse, and some of my good friends are nurses. Doctors are pretty important too; my son is a Family Physician. However, it takes more than just doctors and nurses to provide exceptional care for hospital patients. White River Medical Center's (WRMC) maintenance, laundry, housekeeping, and materials management departments keep the hospital running like a well oiled machine.

Housekeepers like Brenda Bowers and Lisa Brown work tirelessly to ensure every inch of the hospital is clean at all times. Brandon Mize and Andrew Bullard deliver materials to the hospital in the rain, sleet, snow and in the summer heat of August. Patients at WRMC can especially appreciate an employee like Tabitha Bunch who works in the laundry to provide clean sheets and blankets for patients, not only in Batesville, but at Stone County Medical Center too. You may not consider these services as glamorous, but they are crucial to quality patient care.

The unsung hospital heroes are plumbers, electricians, carpenters, housekeepers, foodservice workers, technicians, and others working to keep overall hospital operations running smoothly day and night.

Our facilities are well maintained, allowing our clinical staff to provide quality, efficient care to patients, thanks to more-than-dedicated hospital employees.

Dick Bernard, *President*  
*White River Health System*  
*Foundation Board of Directors*

## **WRHS Foundation Board of Directors**

Dick Bernard, *President*  
Jeff Showalter, *Vice President*  
Kay Southerland, *Secretary*  
Jim Wann, *Treasurer*  
Joel Breeding  
Robin Brock  
Betty Campbell  
Randy Cross  
Ben R. Hipp, DDS  
Diane LaCroix  
Charles McClain, Jr., MD  
Raye Rogers  
Jay Shell  
Paula Terrell  
Scott Wood

*Ex Officio Members*  
Gary Bebow, FACHE  
Dianne Lamberth  
Charles Schaaf  
Connie Schirmer  
Stan Townsend

## 16th Annual Charity Golf Classic Raises More Than \$163,000

Over the last 16 years, there have been so many exciting moments played out during the charity Golf Classic hosted by the White River Health System Foundation. Word on the street is that it's one of the best tournaments in Arkansas. Each year, players scramble to sign up before all the slots are filled by the Tournament Director.

Forty-four teams teed off for a good time and a good cause, raising more than \$163,000 for hospital facility development and clinical services within White River Health System. Also, over 50 volunteers gave more than 400 hours of their time to prepare and carry out the event.

Major Event Sponsors Abbott Vascular, AFLAC – Randy Reichardt Insurance Agency, Consumer Collection Management, Inc., Cromwell Architects Engineers, The Course at Eagle Mountain, Liberty Bank, Medtronic, Nabholz Construction Corporation, and Wade's Heating, Air Conditioning and Electrical joined with more than 100 other sponsors to support this year's Golf Classic.

"The generosity of our donors and corporate sponsors allows the Foundation to support expanding and improving the healthcare services provided by White River Health System," said WRHS Foundation President Dick Bernard.

For the seventh consecutive year, the event was held at Batesville's premier 18-hole golf course, The Course at Eagle Mountain. Players, Board Members, and special guests dined on BBQ hamburgers and ribs prepared by the 2009 Memphis in May Whole Hog Champions, Party-Q, and enjoyed music provided by the Danny Dozier Band.

Established in 1992, the WRHS Foundation is a charitable organization dedicated to raising funds to meet the present and future needs of White River Health System. The WRHS Foundation Charity Golf Classic has raised \$1.25 million for vital programs and projects, such as nursing scholarships, community health programs, the WRMC Cancer Care Center, and the Josephine Raye Rogers Center for Women and Imaging.

*For more information about the White River Health System Foundation and opportunities for giving, please call Amber Neal, Foundation Coordinator at 870-262-1225 or via email at [aneal@wrmc.com](mailto:aneal@wrmc.com).*

# On Mission



Governor Mike Beebe practices his golf swing before the tournament.

*by Annie McAllister  
Marketing Specialist*

# Insider's Story

## Lending a Hand

*Our hands allow us to do extraordinary things; however, those who are ill may require extra hands to do the things they love, or even need, to do. That's why the nurses here at WRHS lend their hands to whatever needs arise with patients. The following passages are true stories of times when our nurses offered hands of respect, nurturing, and compassion.*

### Hands of Respect

Nurses at the Inpatient Rehab Unit were caring for an older gentleman who was recovering from a hip fracture. One day, he requested a therapeutic pass to visit his wife, who was in a nursing home. The on-duty nurses Sandy Wildin, RN, and Faye Harris, LPN, respected his wishes and made all the necessary arrangements for the man to spend time with his wife. Little did anyone know, her death would occur just hours after his visit. The gentleman felt grateful and at peace that he was able to see his wife and say goodbye.



*by Rebecca Brosius, R.N.  
Clinical Manager, Inpatient Rehab*

### Hands of Nurturing

C.N.A. Megan Tate was caring for a man on the Recuperative Care Unit who was suffering from a progressive neuromuscular disease. One day, while Megan was giving him a bed bath, the man asked her if, another day, she would help him with a shower since he had not had a real shower in four months. Megan was off the next day, but she came to work to see if he felt like taking a shower. When she walked in the room and told him why she was there, the man began to cry and asked, "Is this not your day off?" Megan replied, "Yes, but I made a promise and I always keep my promises."

*by Gaye Clark, R.N.  
Clinical Manager, Recuperative Care*

### Hands of Compassion

Being in the hospital is not an ideal place to celebrate a birthday. Unfortunately, that was the hand one patient was dealt. When patient care tech Justin Candler found out it was the patient's birthday, he went to the cafeteria, bought a piece of cake, stuck a candle in it, and presented it to the patient. Needless to say, this brightened the patient's day!

*by Stephanie Cannon, R.N., C.M.S.R.N.  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Clinical Lead*

# Spirit of Giving

When Al Jones was a student, nursing was considered a job for women. Determined to find a purpose, do worthwhile work, and make a difference, he overcame the stereotypes of his generation and pursued his dream of becoming a nurse.

Al attended Sparks School of Nursing in Fort Smith, and he lived in a hotel room secured by the school because there were no living quarters for male students. He became the first male to graduate from the program.

His nursing career began at a Little Rock nursing home. There, he developed close relationships with the residents under his care, as well as their families, who depended on him even when their loved ones were hospitalized. Al worked at the nursing home during the day and often sat with a hospitalized resident at night where, one evening, at the Missouri Pacific Hospital in Little Rock, Al met Veronica McNeirney, RN, Chief of Nursing. She offered him a job and he accepted. Ms. McNeirney left the hospital shortly after to become a Professor of Nursing at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, but Al stayed behind and spent the next twenty years caring for patients at the Missouri Pacific hospital and the Arkansas State Hospital.

In 1982, Al retired from nursing. Eager to begin a new chapter in his life, Al moved to North Little Rock. From time to time, he noticed a familiar-looking neighbor tending her garden. He admired her beautiful flowers, so he decided to introduce himself. To Al's surprise, the neighbor was Ms. McNeirney, his former boss from the Missouri Pacific Hospital. They became fast friends. Over time, Ms. McNeirney needed full-time care in order to remain in her home. With no children or other family, Al became her caregiver until her death in 2004.

Another chance meeting opened a new chapter for Al. While researching his family history at the Arkansas Museum of History, Al asked the gentleman seated next to him for help reading an old document. The two struck up a conversation and soon discovered they were related. Al's new friend was his cousin, Gerald Gray. Al began visiting Gerald regularly at his home in Mountain View until moving there himself in 2004.

Al immersed himself in his new home and community.

Al and his beloved dogs, Max and Bear, are well known. A loyal volunteer at the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce, Al greets visitors and cheerfully tells them about local attractions.

Even in retirement, Al continues to make a difference and is a treasure to his friends and family. In 2010, Al made the decision to remember the Stone County Medical Center in his will. His gift will help SCMC to continue to provide lifesaving care as well as ensure quality continuing education for its nursing staff.

Thank you, Mr. Al, for your faith in us and your kindness and genuine love for people. Your generosity is a tribute to a life of purpose and service and will help to ensure quality healthcare at Stone County Medical Center.



Al Jones, winner of the 2010 Bill A. Young Community Cooperation Award

by Sheila Mace

Public Relations Coordinator

NonProfit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit # 237  
Batesville, AR



P.O. Box 2197  
Batesville, AR 72503-2197

**Gary L. Bebow**, Administrator/CEO  
**Dick Bernard**, President White River Health System Foundation

**Larry Sandage**, Director of Institutional Advancement

Giving Matters is published by the White River Health System Foundation. The information included is intended to educate and inform readers about subjects pertinent to health and fundraising, not as a substitute for consultation with a personal physician or financial advisor. To unsubscribe to Giving Matters, send an email with your name and address to [aneal@wrhc.com](mailto:aneal@wrhc.com) or call (870) 262-1225. ©2010

# Ways to Give

Instead of Flowers...

A decorative illustration in the top right corner featuring a variety of colorful flowers, including sunflowers and daisies, and several butterflies in various colors like green, blue, and pink, set against a textured, parchment-like background.

A gift made in memory of someone is a meaningful way to recognize an individual who has made an impact on your life. Consider giving a memorial gift to the White River Health System Foundation to honor a loved one and provide medical care to others.

The WRHS Foundation will promptly mail an acknowledgment card to the family of the person you wish to memorialize. At the same time, you will receive a thank you letter. For tax purposes, if your gift is for \$250 or more, an end-of-year total contribution statement will be mailed to you.

*For more information contact Amber Neal, WRHS Foundation Coordinator at (870) 262-1225 or email [aneal@wrhc.com](mailto:aneal@wrhc.com). Your gift may be mailed to the WRHS Foundation P.O. Box 2197 Batesville, AR 72503.*