



## Lourdes Hospital Foundation

*Sustaining the vision. Supporting the mission.*

# news

## A Generous Spirit

Because of his devotion to Lourdes Hospital, Foundation Board Member Miles Ondeko happened to be “at the right place at the right time.” It literally saved his life! For the past 30 years, Miles devoted countless hours to volunteering in the Pharmacy at Lourdes. He is a very familiar face around the Hospital and always has a smile (or a sweet treat) to brighten your day!

But a few years ago, Miles found that he needed Lourdes to help him instead of the other way around. After completing his volunteer duties and preparing to drive home, weakness suddenly overcame him. Thankfully, two Lourdes employees noticed his state and took him to the Emergency Room where the unthinkable happened; his heart stopped for 17 seconds! Miles received the care that he needed to save his life and attributes this to those people who have supported Lourdes. “Thanks to the Lourdes Family, including Foundation, Auxiliary members, employees, and other contributors who had raised the funds required to purchase the marvelous state of the art equipment at Lourdes that helped me, (and so many others in the past), by my volunteering at Lourdes, I was in the right place at the right time, and probably avoided a disastrous highway accident involving some very innocent victims, perhaps escaping a tragedy”. His story ends very well and thankfully Miles was able to return to his normal hobbies of playing softball and tennis, and he was able to get back to volunteering at Lourdes after just a short time. Through this experience, he saw first-hand the importance of donating to Lourdes to ensure that the Hospital has the funds necessary to meet the medical needs of our community.

In 2010, Miles joined the Lourdes Foundation Board. Over the years, he has made contributions that not only impact Lourdes Hospital but have a major impact on the health and well-being of the greater community. In 2012, Miles pledged a very generous \$100,000 gift to Lourdes Hospice in memory of his sister Lucille Moschak. And now, this year, Miles just made a commitment of \$500,000 over the next 5 years to

support the renovations of the Lourdes Oral Health Center.

This will enable Lourdes to make the necessary

upgrades to begin serving the adult population. We simply cannot thank him enough!

Miles has been a life long resident of the Triple Cities. He attended local public schools and Harpur College. He embarked upon a long and fulfilling career of 30 years with IBM. In 1954, while employed at IBM, Miles took leave from his job there and served as a soldier in the US Army until 1956. In 1972, Miles graduated with a Bachelors degree and a specialization in Accounting from Harpur College.

Over the years, he has stayed active in various sports and volunteer work. In addition to his volunteer time at Lourdes, he is also a Life Member of American Legion Post 82, Honorary Life Member of J.C. Knights of Columbus Council 2953, Life Member of the Amateur Softball Association of America & Life Member of the United States Tennis Association. He has volunteered at the Dick’s Sporting Goods Open for the last 29 years, the Binghamton Professional Tennis Tournament since 1997 and has made contributions to many other charities as well.

We are lucky to have your support Miles and we greatly appreciate all that you do for the Hospital, the Lourdes Foundation and for our community! Thank you and God bless you!



*Memorial plaque displayed in the hospital atrium in memory of Miles Ondeko's sister.*

## An Update from the Foundation

Each year we are reminded of why Upstate New York is considered one of the most beautiful places in the country at this time of year. The changing of the leaves and the waning of the hot summer days sure does paint a vibrant picture. We realize that it is not one leaf, but many leaves together that create this beauty and it reminds us of how fortunate we are to have so many donors like you entrusting us with the task of sustaining the programs and services here at Lourdes Hospital. Each day, we believe, is a blessing and we could not continue on without your support.

September was an exciting month for the Hospital as the construction of the parking garage was completed and the structure is now in full use. Additionally, the Lourdes Breast Care Center was granted full accreditation designation by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC). Accreditation is only given to those centers committed to provide the highest level of quality breast care while volunteering to undergo a rigorous evaluation process and review of their performance. We congratulate Lourdes on these accomplishments!

As you will see throughout this edition of the newsletter, the Foundation continues its mission of assisting the Hospital in various ways. We are pleased to help bring robotic surgery to Lourdes Hospital with the acquisition of the daVinci Robot. Our Board also generously approved a donation to expand upon Hospice services in our area and one of our own Board members, Miles Ondecko has chosen to underwrite the cost of renovations to the Lourdes Oral Health Clinic. These are the reasons the Foundation exists...and why we need your support in continuing this legacy!

Our Friends of Lourdes Fund, an ongoing effort to raise unrestricted funds for the Hospital, continues to be a successful campaign year after year. We can't thank you enough! We are so grateful to those who have already donated to this fund helping us to reach a total of almost \$275,000 raised. This is a fantastic achievement which we attribute to the commitment of our donors.

Thank you, again, for assisting us in maintaining a sense of community within Lourdes Hospital. We understand that there are many different ways to direct your generosity – we are eternally grateful that you have chosen Lourdes!

May God bless you.

William H. Lane  
*Chairman, Lourdes Hospital Foundation*

Robert O'Connell  
*President, Lourdes Hospital Foundation*

## Small Change: Big Difference

Those touched by the beneficence of our donors sometimes have little to give in return. Still, they often come back with thoughtful responses such as these:

"I'd like to take the time to thank the Foundation for the help we received. It made it possible for me to see my family in Florida...Highlight of the trip was to see all my great-grandchildren triplets one month old. Again thank you and God bless you."

"I'm writing to express my gratitude that your foundation was able to help our client pay the security deposit for an apartment in senior housing. He is no longer bound to stay in his cabin where the ice and rugged terrain press on him and where he lived with the constant danger of falling and freezing to death. He has been a friend, sometimes guardian, sometimes a nurse to wild animals. I am glad someone was able to extend the same kindness to him in his time of need."

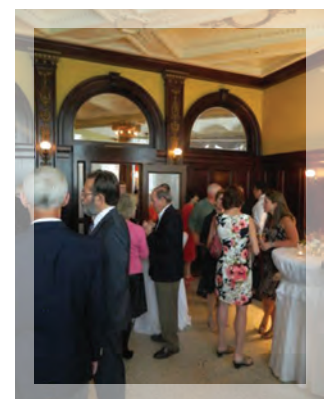
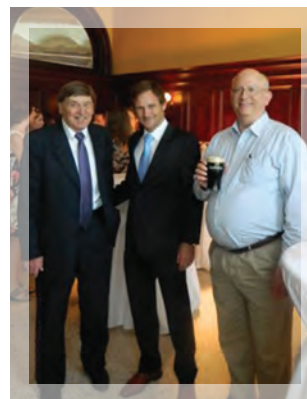
"Thank you so very much for your Foundation's graciousness in allowing us a grant from the Geller Oncology Fund! With both myself & husband out from work, we were feeling a pinch to get us through a month or so. We've always been self-supporting and it was hard to even ask for any assistance. We sincerely appreciate this help!"

Never think of your donation as "small change," because it has the power to make a big difference.

## Donor Event

The Foundation recently hosted its Annual Donor Appreciation Reception on Thursday, September 18, 2014, in a beautiful setting at Remlik's Restaurant in Binghamton. About 35 of our most generous donors were in attendance and represented those who have given to the Friends of Lourdes Fund, Hospice Fund, the Mission 2012 Campaign, the Geller Oncology Fund and the many other funds we hold at the Foundation. We have an abundance of gratitude; our donors are the lifeline of our organization and we strive to share our thanks with all of you!

A wonderful evening with good food, good music and great friends! We thank ALL of you who continue to support the Foundation. Your generosity will ensure the longevity of the Foundation. THANK YOU!



# Annual Lourdes Hospital Foundation Golf Tournament

Year after year, the Lourdes Hospital Foundation Golf Tournament always seems to “luck out” with good weather. That luck ran out a bit this year but despite the inclement weather and ending the round of golf a little early, this year’s tournament proved that the people, not the weather, make the day! Friday, June 13, 2014 marked the 22nd Annual Lourdes Hospital Foundation Golf Tournament. It was a great event once again held at the beautiful Binghamton Country Club. It was a spectacular day on the golf course followed by an evening of dinner and dancing.

We had 31 teams for golf and over 200 people attended the dinner. This year’s tournament raised \$93,990 from our very generous underwriters, sponsors and attendees. We wish to thank everyone for their support, especially our underwriters and sponsors:

## Underwriters

Lourdes Health Support: Dinner  
 Federated Clover Investment Advisors: Golf shirts  
 Security Mutual Life Insurance Company: Golf Carts  
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We are most grateful for how generous and willing our community is to stand behind us in support each year. Through sponsorships, donations, volunteer hours and a lot of hard work, it continues to be one of the most sought after golf tournaments in the area. We are proud of the continued legacy of this event and thank all those who participated this year and look forward to next year’s event!

# Friends of Lourdes Donors as of September 2014

The Friends of Lourdes Fund is a vital source of unrestricted gifts that assists Lourdes Hospital in its mission of providing compassionate, faith-based, comprehensive healthcare. With sincere gratitude we honor more than 250 "Friends of Lourdes" whose thoughtful contributions in 2014 have raised nearly \$275,000.00. There is still time to make your gift, and make your mark, as a Friend of Lourdes this year. Thank you and God bless you!!

## St. Catherine Laboure Associate \$10,000 +

Ann Boga Revocable Trust  
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 Mr. and Mrs. Jack V. Weiss  
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## Gratitude: A Giving Attitude

One of our longtime donors tells us: "When my mother has occasionally needed to be hospitalized at Lourdes or use outpatient services and the emergency room, we have been very pleased. I could never thank the nurses and staff enough for their outstanding service, sensitivity, compassion, and efficiency. Outpatient blood lab and radiology were kind and gracious. Physical therapists educated me in caring for my mother's pedal edema. The staff in wound care taught me to perform necessary tasks for my mom. Every Lourdes associate, from medical records to bed placement, understood our needs and helped us through difficult times. God bless all of you!"

Another "Friend of Lourdes" stopped by our office recently while visiting from Florida where he now lives, just to say what Lourdes meant to him, and why he continues to donate to the Foundation. When he suffered a stroke a few years ago, Bill was sitting on his front porch and his symptoms alerted nearby neighbors, and an EMT three doors down, who called an ambulance for him. Bill was hospitalized for several days, and told us that he can't say enough good about the nurses, staff, and technicians at Lourdes who made it a positive experience overall for him.

Each year one of Binghamton University's professors sends a gift, "In appreciation of Dr. Jagraj Rai's outstanding medical care and compassion for patients." What a wonderful way to recognize Lourdes professional staff. Another donor said in tribute to Dr. Rai: "We have been with him for seven years and he has helped us in many ways through a variety of medical issues. His demeanor is positive and he is a very good communicator. We particularly appreciate his practical and wise suggestions. We do not make an important medical decision without seeking his advice."

We are witnesses to the fact that Lourdes staff and support personnel are appreciated and respected by patients and peers. As noted by William Arthur Ward: "Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it." Clearly, a charitable tribute is a way to show gratitude and esteem for your healthcare team at Lourdes.



## Learning at Lourdes

Benjamin Franklin is credited with the advice: “If a man empties his purse into his head, then no one can take it from him.” Lourdes, as a strong advocate of continued education for our professional staff, sees it as one avenue for maintaining respect and accreditation in the healthcare industry, and remaining at the forefront of skill and technology. The Foundation assists this endeavor by coordinating the deposit and disbursement of various scholarship funds.

The underwriting of a \$2,500.00 site license for multi-user educational software for nurses was accomplished using the Nancy Sherwood Memorial Scholarship, which the Foundation helped the Sherwood family establish this fund a few years ago in honor of Nancy’s steadfast commitment to lifetime learning.

The Ann Stowell Scholarship was disbursed in 2012 to cover tuition for one of Lourdes WOC nurses to earn certification in Wound, Ostomy, and Continence care. This \$8,000.00 investiture gave the specialized team an expanded capability to perform needs assessment and treatment of wound care and pressure ulcers.

The family of Rose Klucka worked with the Foundation in 2012 to set up a five-year scholarship in her memory at Binghamton University. The initial transfer of funds from donors, family and friends, went to underwrite five, \$1,000.00 awards at The Decker School of Nursing to students of high academic merit, exemplifying the principles that Rose herself embraced as a compassionate and conscientious career nurse.

Contributions to the Pharmacy Continuing Education fund, along with honorariums Lourdes Pharmacy receives for providing preceptorships with D’Youville College and Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, provide for such diverse educational opportunities as sponsoring professional association events, underwriting quality assurance and narcotics tracking programs, and funding vital training for staff to keep their skills and knowledge current.

A number of departments at Lourdes have followed the example of several physicians in Lourdes GI section who, in 1966, chose to donate funds to establish an Education Fund instead of purchasing Christmas gifts for staff and associates.

Diabetes Education, Cardiac Rehab, deMarillac Maternity Program, and the Breast Care Center all have funds to finance the development of clinical staff and also to contribute to patient education through publications, medication/treatment management programs, counseling, rehabilitation, and post-operative support.

Opening the Southern Tier’s first pediatric practice in 1931, Dr. John W. Burns served on staff and as president of Lourdes’ pediatric department for several decades. In 1994 his family worked with Lourdes Hospital Foundation to establish a perpetuating fund for the annual Dr. & Mrs. John Burns Pediatric Teaching Day. This symposium provides speakers on diverse pediatric topics, a positive academic experience, and Continuing Medical Education credits to participating doctors, nurses and students.

Dr. Judson Griffin, another physician with far-ranging vision, created the Nurse Continuing Education fund in 1986 as a memorial to his father Howard Griffin, MD, and his father’s late partner, Charles Pope, MD. Today the fund continues as a tribute to Dr. Griffin himself, (RIP June 2014), and is a distinct credit to his belief that every patient benefits from our nurse’s enhanced skills and quality clinical care.

Coming back to Benjamin Franklin, we agree with his thought that: “Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning.” By supporting opportunities for education, enrichment, and experiential learning, our benefactors help to advance Lourdes clinical skills, compassionate care, and commitment to service, in the tradition of St. Vincent de Paul, Ste. Louise de Marillac, and the Daughters of Charity. Thanks for your endorsement of, and contribution to, our education and scholarship funds at Lourdes.

# Mercy House: A Hospice Legacy

## Foundation makes \$250,000 donation to home for the terminally ill

*“Provide a home and an extended family to people with terminal illnesses so they can die with dignity and experience the unconditional love of God” — Mercy House Mission Statement*

For the past several years, various community members have been meeting to assess the feasibility and the need for a home for Hospice patients in our area. What they quickly realized was that the closest site dedicated solely to Hospice is Francis House in Syracuse, NY over an hour away. With this in mind, the idea of Mercy House of the Southern Tier was born. After much research, dedication from volunteers and a commitment of members for 7 different planning committees, this idea became a reality.

The Lourdes Hospice program cares for many patients in the Southern Tier either in nursing homes, hospitals or in the patient’s home. The care would now be extended to Mercy House. Sr. Joanna Monticello, MSC, Coordinator of Counseling Services for Lourdes Hospice is a member of the Mercy House Board and is dedicated to seeing Mercy House open its doors to the community and beyond. She says, “There are many needs of patients at the end of their lives. Mercy House hopes to provide emotional, spiritual, social and physical needs in a compassionate and loving atmosphere.” She sees first hand, the benefit it would provide not only to the Lourdes Hospice program but to our community in general.

In June 2014, representatives from Mercy House met with the Finance Committee of the Lourdes Foundation and presented their plan for this initiative. They laid out plans for location, cost and care. Through all of this information, one can see that there is a strong demonstration of need for the Hospital and other community organizations to support this project to move forward. With this in mind, The Lourdes Hospital Foundation Board approved a gift of \$250,000 to assist in the start up cost of opening the facility. The Foundation is pleased to support this wonderful mission of bringing dignified care to those who are terminally ill.

The Mercy House of the Southern Tier will provide a home-like environment that honors the dignity of the dying person. Concentrating solely on end of life care, Mercy House will provide many individuals and their families with the space to find comfort and peace. We pray for continued success of this project and look forward to its opening within the next year.



*From left to right: Sr. Joanna Monticello, MSC, Lourdes Hospice; Robert O'Connell, President, Lourdes Foundation; Anthony Paniccia, Lourdes Foundation Board Member and Mercy House Board Member.*

# Lourdes Foundation Board Members

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## Foundation Staff

Robert O'Connell, President  
Lisa Schappert, Executive Assistant

## Contact us

M – F 8:00am – 4:30pm  
Phone: 607-798-5684  
[www.lourdes.com/about-us/foundation](http://www.lourdes.com/about-us/foundation)

# LOURDES Foundation

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## Planned Giving

There are many ways to support the work of Lourdes Hospital. One of the easiest ways to make a planned gift is through a bequest. Through a simple provision in your will, you may make a gift to the Foundation.

Making a bequest is the most common type of planned gift, and is an excellent choice if you want to maintain control of your assets during your lifetime, and support Lourdes in the future. We can work with you and your financial advisor to craft specific bequest language that accurately reflects your gift intentions.

Our Heritage Society gratefully acknowledges the following individuals who have demonstrated their devotion to Lourdes Hospital through a planned gift. We would like to express our deepest appreciation as their gifts have enabled the Foundation to continue its support of Lourdes Hospital.

Estate of Albert M. Anderegg\*  
Estate of Robert L. McDevitt\*, K.S.G, K.C.H.S  
& Catherine H. McDevitt\*, L.C.H.S.  
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\*Deceased

**If you would like more information on Planned Giving or The Heritage Society, please feel free to contact the Foundation office at 607-798-5684.**

