

Auxiliary News

Supporting our community's healthcare and advocating for patient needs
at Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center

Spring 2020

Auxiliary's NICU Pledge Nears Completion

Five years ago, after Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center Auxiliary members finished their three-year pledge to the Raish Peavey Haskell Children's Cancer and Treatment Center, they set their sights on another challenge—offering their support to the new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), which was nearing completion. The Auxiliary has long supported the healthcare needs of women and children in the community, so the pledge to the Remarkable Begins With You campaign was a perfect fit, benefitting the area's tiniest patients—sick and premature babies.

The NICU, which is located on the seventh floor of the hospital's Penobscot Pavilion, features 29 spacious rooms for families and their newborns, and offers the most up-to-date and innovative care. As of this writing, 1,585 critically ill infants have been admitted to the new NICU since it opened on June 17, 2016. They represent infants from at least nine of the 16 counties of Maine. Approximately 100-120 critically ill newborns are transported into the medical center's NICU each year from referral hospitals, and 450-500 infants are cared for annually.

One sweet girl who spent time in the Northern Light EMMC NICU is Summer. She was born on November 23, 2018, eleven weeks early. She spent the next 48 days, including her first Christmas, in the NICU. Summer's mom, Katie Mayo, of Newburgh, shares, "We are eternally indebted to the incredible Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, where both our preemie, as well as our entire family, were treated with the most incredible kindness and professionalism imaginable."



With assistance from donors such as Northern Light EMMC Auxiliary, other children like Summer have also benefitted from the loving care provided by the staff of the medical center NICU. Many sick and premature babies and their families have been, and continue to be, helped. Currently in the fifth and final year of their \$175,000 pledge to the NICU, Auxiliary members have been working hard in their fundraising efforts. Proceeds from the upcoming Winter Beach Ball will aid in completing the Auxiliary's pledge, and it is hoped that everyone will come out to have fun and celebrate these tiny NICU miracles, and lend a hand with this very deserving cause.

Auxiliary

Board of Directors

President

Susan Nasberg

Vice President

Nazrin Dixon

Past President

Jan Currier

Secretary

Libby Arrico

Treasurer

Rebecca Potter

Members

Kathy Bernier

Mary Brooks

Laurie Cates

Heidi Edelman

Jamie Haining

Mikele Neal

Stephanie Oiler

Libby Perry

Kelli Roy

Colleen Russell

Suzette Vernon

Roberta Winchell, Esq.

Stacey Young

Newsletter Editor

Eileen Hernandez

Northern Light EMMC Auxiliary

PO Box 404

Bangor, ME 04402-0404

207.973.7850

www.northernlighthealth.org/auxiliaryemmc

Thank you, Auxiliary sponsors!

President's Note Spring, 2020



At the end of December, as I prepared to write this letter, I realized we would be starting not just a new month and new year, but a new decade. This prompted an awe-inspiring walk down memory lane and a review of the rich history of our Auxiliary. From humble beginnings as the Women's Hospital Aid Society in 1893, just one year after Bangor General Hospital opened its doors, to the present day, Northern Light EMMC Auxiliary has supported many financial endeavors of the hospital that include contributions to construct a surgical building, purchase operating tables, wheel chairs, x-ray equipment, and so much more. Scholarships were given, annual parties were held, and patient gifts were distributed during the holidays. Over the years, membership climbed from five, to several hundred members strong.

Sometimes we forget to think about the effect we all can make on an organization when we contribute our time and rally our community to support an important cause. I'm so proud to say that the EMMC Auxiliary has contributed more than \$3,800,000 to essential EMMC projects which wouldn't be possible without the support of some amazing members, friends and contributors in our community. We are looking at a year of change ahead of us. We will have a new Director of Volunteer Services starting later this winter, as well as a new support person in that department. These positions are our liaisons to the hospital and are so vital to us. Change is hard, but the Auxiliary has seen its share of change over the years and evolved along with it. When we look back, hindsight often shows that change is a gift. It provides opportunities for growth, fresh ideas and new relationships.

Looking farther into the future, it is hard to know what is next, but change will continue to be significant, and the efforts and experience that Auxilians provide will be needed more than ever. As we have for the past 127 years, the Auxiliary will remain a key link between Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center and our community. We will continue to offer support that helps the most vulnerable people in our communities and write our history alongside that of the hospital's. In the years to come, our events may change, and our membership list will likely be different as we welcome new friends eager for the opportunity to become a part of our history. Several things will stay the same, however. We'll continue to be adept at finding solutions, just as the first Bangor General Hospital Auxilians were, knowing that through each meeting and event we attend, we are influencing lives in our community. There will be new challenges and we'll be ready for them. I hope you accept this gift of change with excitement for what is to come.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Nasberg".

Susan Nasberg

Get Out Those **Flip Flops and Disco Shoes!**

Mark March 7 on your calendar... It's the Auxiliary's fourteenth annual Winter Beach Ball, from 7 to 11 pm at the Anah Shrine in Bangor, featuring fan-favorite, Motor Booty Affair! Delicious refreshments will be provided by Rollie's, of Belfast, with tasty homemade desserts provided by our Auxiliary friends. A cash bar, silent auction, and 50/50 raffle will round out the night. Year after year, people come back to the Winter Beach Ball because they have so much fun! Help us with our pledge to the NICU while having a great time. Tickets are \$35 and are on sale now (973-5055 or online at emmcauxiliary.org).

A large, glowing disco ball with a grid of reflective facets, set against a background of soft, out-of-focus lights and a teal gradient. The ball is positioned on the left side of the page.

Fourteenth Annual
Winter Beach Ball

Lunch and Learn features Northern Light Acadia Hospital Vice President



Pictured from left to right:
Heidi Edelman, Wayne Steller, and Sue Vernon

On Friday, November 15, Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center Auxiliary members enjoyed lunch, comradery and a wonderful presentation by Wayne Steller, PMHNP-BC, Vice President Nursing and Patient Care Services at Northern Light Acadia Hospital. "Creating Healthy Communities: Mental Health Resources, Services, Outreach and the Opioid Crisis" was the theme of the message given by Mr. Steller and was well received by the audience who was amazed by the number of services Acadia Hospital provides, both within the hospital, in the community, and within the state of Maine. Mr. Steller assisted in removing the stigma associated with mental illness and psychiatric hospitals.

This Lunch and Learn was coordinated by the Friends of the Auxiliary Committee, with special assistance from Sue Vernon, Kathy Bernier, and Heidi Edelman. Special thanks to Nazrin Dixon, Vice President, Business Development Officer at First National Wealth Management for accommodating us in the First National Bank Community Room, and for providing an excellent lunch for all attending.

Champion the Cure Challenge

The EMMC Auxiliary Champions, a team comprised of Friends of the Auxiliary, and community members, again stepped up this year to help with the Champion the Cure Challenge on Saturday, August 17, 2019. Sincere thanks to all who joined us in our efforts to meet this Challenge! Looking forward to building another great team for August 15, 2020!

126th Annual Meeting

The Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center Auxiliary's 126th Annual Meeting was held on November 6 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bangor, with President Susan Nasberg presiding. After welcoming members and guests, Susan also welcomed Presenting Sponsor, KeyBank. Brief remarks were made by Mike Perry and Kelley Syphers, KeyBank representatives. Guest speaker for the meeting was Lisa Harvey-McPherson, RN, Northern Light Health Vice President Government Relations. She presented an informative talk on "Health policy issues impacting Northern Light Health." Auxiliary Education co-chairs, Valerie Patch and Suzette Vernon presented \$1,000 nursing awards to four Husson University students: Colleen Seavey, Sophie Vetter, Morgan Carver, and Katelyn Cloutier. The slate of officers for 2019-2020 was presented and approved unanimously, with Marc Edelman, Northern Light EMMC Senior Vice President, Operations, leading the induction. The minutes from October 30, 2018, and the proposed 2020 budget were approved as presented. Outgoing board members, Valerie Patch and Sarah Quirk were recognized for their service, and new board members, Mikele Neal and Libby Perry were introduced. Donna Colbath, Manager of Lori's Gifts was recognized, along with long-term volunteers, Darlene Carr and Cindy Curran. Fundraising efforts were highlighted, with two donation presentations. The first check, totaling \$56,193.15 was presented to Marc Edelman, who accepted on behalf of Northern Light EMMC, for the Remarkable Begins With You campaign. A receipt totaling \$15,728.15 was presented to Wendy Lux of Northern Light Foundation from the Auxiliary's Pediatric Endowment, to benefit Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, and other pediatric projects. This gift brings the Auxiliary's total lifetime giving to \$3,807,000.



Val Patch & Sue Vernon with Husson University nursing students



Marc Edelman with Auxiliary officers, Rebecca Potter, Nazrin Dixon, Susan Nasberg, Libby Arrico, not pictured.

Save the date

March

- **7:** Winter Beach Ball
- **27:** Lunch and Learn - Farm to Table with Chef Jay Deemers, Co-Chair, Culinary Arts Department, EMCC and Gene Ripley, Owner, Ripley Farm. 12 pm, First National Bank, 145 Exchange Street, Bangor.

May:

- **6:** Cocktail Party/Social

August:

- **15:** Champion the Cure Challenge
- **TBD:** Tapas Party

October:

- **3:** Sixteenth Annual Kitchen Tour

November:

- **TBD:** Annual Meeting

December:

- **TBD:** Holiday Caroling
- **TBD:** Patient Holiday Gift Distribution

December events



Joined once again by Santa and Mrs. Claus (aka Joe and Mary Brooks), a very merry band of carolers from the Auxiliary and the community spread tidings of Joy throughout the halls of Ross Manor and Northern Light EMMC in mid-December. Joined at the hospital by the very talented Bangor Area Youth Choir, the carolers and Santa and Mrs. Claus delivered lovely music, great merriment and the spirit of the season to all who crossed their paths. Thank you to all who made this event so special again this season!

Also in December, Auxiliary members brightened the day of some hospital inpatients. Attractive and useful Auxiliary tote bags were distributed to patients needing to spend the holidays in the hospital.

Another Successful Kitchen Tour

Six beautiful kitchens in the Bangor area were featured on the Auxiliary's fifteenth annual Kitchen Tour on October 5. A diverse mix of kitchen styles and unique designs were showcased, and the great weather and colorful fall leaves provided the perfect backdrop. New this year was a post-tour reception at Frank Webb Home. Best of all, more than \$8,000 was raised to help with the Auxiliary's pledge to the NICU. Thank you to everyone who helped make the event a success—homeowners, sponsors, tour-goers, and volunteers.

Thank you to our vendors: Fork & Spoon/Basil Creek Catering, Mimi's Little Loveys, Oats Anytime, Right Bag at Ya', Specialty Sweets, and Tea & Tarts. A special thank you is extended to all our generous sponsors.



We're on Facebook!



Northern Light Eastern Maine
Medical Center Auxiliary
[@NLEMMCAuxiliary](#)

With Gratitude



The Auxiliary recently said goodbye to two very special people—Martha Wildman, and Carrie Brown. Carrie was the Volunteer Associate and Student Manager for the last five years. Her cheerful presence in the office will be greatly missed. We wish

her well with her move and her new job. As Director, Volunteer Services, for the past thirteen years, Martha has provided invaluable support to Auxiliary members. She has been helpful in countless ways, and she has been a very good friend to all. We wish Martha an enjoyable and relaxing retirement. May 2020 be a great new year for you both.