Happy New Year!

As we begin another year at the UMHS gift shops, we would like to thank you all for your support - whether it is through your volunteer hours, your service on the Friends Board or your purchases in the shops. All of these together enable us to carry on the mission of the Friends Gift Shops. So we send a big THANK YOU to you for making it another successful year for us, and in turn, the patients and families.

We have had some changes in personnel at the Mott and EAAHC gift shops. We bid goodbye to Keysha and Michelle and thanked them for their contribution in getting both of these gift shops off the ground.

As we bundle up and stay warm, we hope that the winter passes quickly. Our next big event will be the jewelry sale in February. Watch for the announcements! Hopefully that will raise excitement and keep us warm until Spring arrives!

Remember: Every Purchase makes a Difference!!

Karen Stern,
UMHS Friends Board Communications Director
Volunteering in the Friends Gift Shops is a fun and rewarding experience. But do you ever wonder what goes on behind the scenes of the shops themselves? Kicking up your volunteer service a notch gives you a look at and a voice in making the Friends Gift Shops what you want them to be. Consider this: Friends Gifts Shops were formed and continue to be directed by volunteers like you. You spend your time on the "front lines" of the shops, serving and hearing about our customer's needs. Who is better qualified to discuss these issues than you?

Here is how it works: you can express your desire to become more involved in the shops by speaking with a current volunteer Board member. Do you know Sandy Plunkett, Pat Richards, Lynne Kittle, Jenny Carpenter - just to name a few? You could even mention your desire to get more involved to our UMHS Friends Advisory Board Administrative Assistant Waitzy Brown at FriendsofUMHS@med.umich.edu and she will pass your interest on to one of the Board members to contact you. Typically, a volunteer starts getting more involved by volunteering to be on a sub committee: The Gift Shop committee, or communications and programs. Once you feel more comfortable participating on one of these important committees, you generally would share with a chairperson your desire to become even more involved by seeking a position on the overall Board of Directors. A nominations committee puts together a slate of candidates based on Board openings for the next year and presents this slate to the Board of Directors for their review at the March meeting. In May, if elected, you are sworn in to serve for the duration of your position's term. For a member at large, the term length is one year.

You decision to get more involved in the shops guarantees a strong succession of volunteers willing to keep the spirit of our shops alive. Friends Gift Shops is a truly unique organization. Give it some thought. And THANKS for being a volunteer!

Michelle Sanford,
UMHS Friends Advisory Board President Elect
Ernestina Parravano's legacy at C.S. Mott Children's and Von Voigtlander Women's Hospitals continues to provide support and lots of love to patients and families who come here for care. Whether it is at a time of crisis, or providing routine assistance for a chronic, long-term problem, families are provided with assistance from Ernestina's patient assistance fund, through the social work staff at Mott and Women's Hospitals.

Through the years, Ernestina spent untold hours helping families who were scared, tired, and over-burdened with expenses associated with having a sick or injured child. Ernestina would come to the hospitals as an ambassador of goodwill, seeking out those families who were in need of a helping hand. Whether it was someone who needed shoes, a utility bill paid, gas or a repair for their vehicle, Ernestina would help the hospitals' staff to identify these problems and find solutions.

We miss Ernestina’s physical presence so much, but take great delight in continuing to help those families whom Ernestina would so lovingly care for through her good deeds and desire to make their lives just a little less difficult during difficult times.

The Friends of the University of Michigan Health System continue to support Ernestina’s mission and legacy and would encourage anyone else who would like to help to forward a contribution to the Department of Social Work, noting the Ernestina Parravano Patient Assistance Fund. Your support will enable us to continue to provide help to those patients and families who need a little help.

Ernestina Parravano Patient Assistance Fund
Department of Social Work
1500 E Medical Center Drive, L1252 WH SPC 5268
Thank you and in Ernestina’s words, "Love, love ..."

Happy New Year,
Sara Hickey, President
The Friends of the University of Michigan

UMHS Friends Gift Shop invite you to join our volunteer team!

One 4-hour shift as a cashier or stock assistant comes with FREE parking, flexible scheduling, and a
No experience required - we will happily train our volunteers.
All proceeds from our shops support programs that directly benefit patients and their families.

Contact us at 734-936-5975 ask for Tiffany Pryor or email us at FriendsofUMHS@med.umich.edu

http://www.med.umich.edu/friends/involved.html

What's Going On in the Gift Shops?
Manager's Musing
Another year is in our wake! I began to think that perhaps this winter, we will be spared the bitter cold of 2014 and enjoy golf and sun in January. Alas, this IS Michigan and it is 6 degrees as I write this...

The first 6-months of our fiscal year has been a resounding success with sales increases and positive feedback on our holiday sale events. Our special sales have also been well-received. The Leather Sale and the $6.00 Sale both achieved new highs. The next event will be the annual Jewelry Sale February 11-13. There will be another $6.00 Sale in the early spring...we'll advise with the exact dates.

We have had a couple of tenured employees leave us for opportunities closer to their homes and Keysha and Michelle will be missed. The staff wishes them well in their endeavors and look forward to a visit or two from them in the future. As for us, it is an opportunity to recruit and select new talent to lead us into 2015. And beyond.

Robert Newman, JD
FRIENDS Organization
University of Michigan Health System

SAVE-THE-DATE

UMHS Friends Gift Shops Advisory Board
Cordially invites their
Donors and Gift Shop Volunteers
to the Annual Spring Luncheon
Monday May 18, 2015.
Noon-2PM
Towsley Center Lobby

Please mark your calendars!

Sincerely,

Karen Stern,
UMHS Friends Gift Shops Board Communications Director