Dear Board Members, Staff and Volunteers,

Our E-Newsletter Is Officially Launched!

Thanks to the hard work of Waitzy Brown, our Administrative Assistant, Friends Gift Shops now has an official e-newsletter!. Friends volunteers and supporters can now be kept informed about all kinds of topics in a more timely manner. This newsletter also allows us to highlight those hospital departments and programs that have benifited from our hard work in the shops. Now we all can see and learn where our funds are going and how much impact they are having throughout the hospital and community! Another great feature is that hospital employees, patients - anyone you might forward the newsletter to, has an opportunity to subscribe to this communication. We broaden our reach and therefore educate more people about the great things that are happening as a result of the funds generated by our shops.

This project has been creatively fun to work on and I will miss those brainstorming meetings regarding content, but I am very excited to turn the Communications Director position over to Karen Stern who is ready to take over those duties! Karen and Waitzy will make a great team, working together to provide you with timely and interesting stories about Friends and the community we serve. Congratulations Karen!

Michelle Sanford

FY15 UMHS Friends Communications Director
I am pleased to be the new Communications Chair but following in Michelle Sanford's footsteps will be a hard act to follow. She and Waitzy Brown created our e-newsletter and they did a terrific job helping to keep you informed about the goings-on in the gifts shops and on the Friend's Board.

I hope to do the same for you. Our e-newsletter is published four times a year and my job is to keep you informed about the latest happenings in the gift shop world. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me via Waitzy, the Friends Administrative Assistant, FriendsofUMHS@med.umich.edu. I look forward to making the e-newsletters interesting and informative for you and introducing you to our many volunteers.

As always, we thank you for your support of Friends and our mission.

Karen Stern,
UMHS Friends Gift Shops Board Communications

Incoming President FY15

Spring Greetings!

The Friends of the University of Michigan Health System sends "warmest" wishes and many thanks for your continued support of the Friends Gift Shops. We are happy to report that business has been good, which enables us to fund more and larger grants benefiting our patients and their families.

As incoming President for the Friends Board of Directors, I am looking forward to working more closely with the tireless volunteers and staff, who are responsible for the success of the Gift Shops.

The Friends are proud to provide annual support to:

- Department of Social Work, for patient and family assistance
- Gifts of Art programming
- Trails Edge Camp (for ventilator dependent children)
This past year, it has been an honor and privilege to serve as President of the Friends Board of Directors at the University of Michigan Health System.

Friends is a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization that generates revenues through the operation of four (4) gift shops. Profits from these shops are donated back to various University of Michigan Departments and their affiliates, with the goal of benefiting patients’ and their families within our community.

In over 50 years of operating the gift shops we have given back millions of dollars to all kinds of programs. This past year we donated funds for:

- Wall murals in Pediatric Anesthesiology
- Wall quilts in Hematology & Oncology
- Instructional pamphlets and videos in the Cancer Center, Newborn ICU and Pediatric Genetics
- Gift bags and Teddy bears for pediatric patients

In addition, general grants were given to: Child & Family Life, Trails Edge Camp, Northstar Reach Camp, Adult Social Services, Gifts of Art and the Patient Education Advisory Council approved patient education materials

In addition, a grant of $250,000 (over five years) was made to the North Star Reach Camp as well as numerous other grants benefiting patient programs throughout the health system.

It is my honor to serve as President of the Friends Board of Directors for the 2014-2015 fiscal year and I would encourage and invite any of you to consider volunteering in the shops or serving on the Board.

Together we will accomplish great things!

Sincerely,

Sara Hickey

Outgoing President FY14
Committee (PEAC).

These University of Michigan departments and their affiliates often do not have funding from other sources and depend on the dedication of our volunteers and the diligence of our shoppers!

We are excited to have successfully initiated our NEW Friends E-newsletter, which is updated on a quarterly basis, to keep us all apprised of our mission and activities. We are always looking for NEW volunteers of all ages and abilities!

See you in the shops...

Kind regards,

Sandra E. Plunkett

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**Managers Musing: What’s going on at the Gift Shops?**

Greetings Friends Family,

We are a few days away from completing another successful year at the Gift Shops. Strong sales and profits can only be attributed to a loyal and dedicated group of Volunteers and Staff!

Our annual Customer Appreciation event was held June 18 and 25 with much success. These are very busy days, but the entire team rang up sales cheerfully and rapidly. We hold this event just before the Physical Inventory to be held June 28-29.

So you were thinking...who’s the Employee of the Quarter? Not so fast...I can’t quite tell you, but there’s a tie at the top. Hmmmm...

Don't forget the Ice Cream Social August 27! Have a safe and pleasurable summer.

Robert Newman, JD
FRIENDS Organization
FY14 May Annual Spring Luncheon Update

Celebrating Volunteers and Agave Bloom at the Annual Spring Luncheon

Over 50 volunteers and staff members attended our annual Spring Luncheon held at the University of Michigan Mathai Botanical Gardens. Attendees enjoyed a beautiful view of the outside gardens while chatting with friends, enjoying a light lunch and learning about the Life Images of Today and Tomorrow program - a new complementary therapies program at the U of M Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Jennifer Baker, Susan Wintermeyer-Pingel and Sheila Morris provided details about this very innovative program that is the first of its kind in a hospital setting; partnering with the photography department at Washtenaw Community College, a new program was devised to allow patients and their family the opportunity to have professional photographs taken in a studio set up in the hospital. Our funds were used to purchase equipment and supplies that make this professional product available. The program was launched in February and by our Spring Luncheon date, many more reservations had been made to take advantage of this service. Printed testimonials received from patients who participated illustrated the true meaning of this opportunity.

A bonus at this year's luncheon was the opportunity to tour the Botanical Garden Conservatory. The highlight of this experience was the beginning of the bloom of the Century agave plant! This plant send up a very tall (over 12 feet) flower stalk as it prepares to bloom for its one and only time. Volunteers were able to view this fascinating plant and learn about its flowering process.

Thanks and Welcome to Pat Richards, Cindy Kapanowski and Lynne Kittle who will be planning your Spring Luncheon for next year! I can't wait!

Michelle Sanford

SAVE-THE-DATE
UMHS Employee Appreciation Ice Cream Social
Wednesday, August 27th at the Courtyard.

Please be sure to stop by and visit our booth.

Sincerely,

Michelle Sanford,
UMHS Friends Gift Shops Board Communications and Programs