



Volunteer Auxiliary Funds Baby Grand Piano for Hospital Lobby

The lobby of HCGH was recently enhanced with the soothing sounds of a baby grand piano that was donated by the HCGH Volunteer Auxiliary. The piano can auto play or be played by a pianist.

“We are thrilled to have been able to provide this gift to the hospital,” says Kathy Lewis, president of the HCGH Volunteer Auxiliary. “So much can be said about the value of music—it brings normalcy and comfort to patients and visitors and can

relieve stress.” The piano is the most recent donation from the Volunteer Auxiliary, following their \$10,000 pledge to renovate the pediatric playroom from the cookbook sale funds raised.

The HCGH Volunteer Auxiliary is a membership organization whose primary function is to provide support for the hospital through fundraising activities. This dedicated group of men and women volunteer their time and talent in support of HCGH and its mission. The auxiliary is open to anyone who likes to organize, create, network, write, edit, speak in public or just contribute to the community. There is no required time commitment to be a member and you do not need to be a hospital volunteer.

Dues are \$35 per year, which entitles each member to receive invitations to auxiliary meetings, special events and fundraisers, and receive the auxiliary newsletter and a directory of members. For a membership application or for more information, call the Howard Hospital Foundation at 410-740-7840.

Championing a Cause: Cancer Support for Families

Following the death of their friend, John Champion, after a battle with cancer, Howard County residents Doug Silverstein and Tim Finkelston found themselves inspired. “We had many mutual friends fighting cancer and wanted to do something,” says Doug. “We asked ourselves ‘who gets affected by cancer?’ That started us thinking about the children of the parent with cancer. Several of us met over a few months in 2015 and developed a nonprofit foundation that would be everlasting, Champions Against Cancer, aptly named after our friend John Champion.”

The principle mission of the foundation is to provide financial and other support to children whose parent has or has had cancer with the hope that the children can have a sense of normalcy restored in their lives. For example, funds can be used for continuing to take music lessons, playing on their sports team and participating in their community. The first year, the foundation held numerous fundraisers to do just that and received nearly \$95,000 in support.

When looking for a way to donate some of the funds raised to provide support services to families of cancer patients in Howard County, the foundation discovered the Claudia Mayer/Tina Broccolino Cancer Resource Center. “The more I learned about the center, the more I realized how consistent it is with our mission,” notes Doug. “We were thrilled to provide a donation to support the center and the services it provides. We want to touch as many people as possible in Howard County and look forward to continuing to expand our reach and support the work of the center in the future.”