



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 20, 2007

CONTACT

Edward Mintiens, 607-547-3567

Diane L. Wells, 607-547-6354

THE HANNAH-LEE STOKES CHARITABLE TRUST GRANTS \$1.3 MILLION TO ESTABLISH MEDICAL SCHOOL PROGRAM AT BASSETT HEALTHCARE

Cooperstown, N.Y. –The Hannah-Lee Stokes Charitable Trust recently made a grant of \$1,300,000 to Bassett Healthcare to support the creation of a medical school campus program. Mrs. Hannah-Lee Stokes’s history of generosity to Bassett and her dedication to the Cooperstown community are legendary.

In the summer of 1994, Mrs. Stokes contributed \$600,000 to the Friends of Bassett to build the Hannah-Lee House and make a home-away-from-home for patients and family members. Mrs. Stokes made the gift to express her gratitude for being treated at Bassett. She believed that when a patient or a loved one is receiving hospital care, there is enough stress without the added time and expense of commuting back and forth to the hospital.

"The creation of this facility is something I have dreamed about for many years. My whole heart has been in this project from the very moment I first thought about it," she said at the facility’s dedication. "This service is so necessary, and I am just thrilled to be able to help provide it for Bassett patients and their families."

Mrs. Stokes’s legacy will now extend to helping Bassett make a medical school program a reality. The end product will be the presence of "Bassett track" medical students on the Cooperstown campus. Students will study for the final two years of their training at Bassett with the initial two years of their program spent on the campus of Bassett’s medical school partner, which is yet to be announced. The unique medical school concept represents a significant evolution of current traditions in medical education. Beyond academic excellence, Bassett’s medical school track will continue to imbue students with Bassett’s brand of humanism, social responsibility and leadership.

Over a three-year development phase, Bassett will work with the accrediting agency, the Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME) of the American Medical Association, and the Association of American Medical Colleges. Leading the effort are Dr. Laura Schweitzer, who already is onboard as Bassett’s first chief academic officer, and Dr. Henry F. Weil, co-director of the Medical School Campus Initiative.

Through its established medical education program Bassett plays a leading role in developing the skilled professionals on whom the region and nation depend. Many of the physicians who complete their residencies at Bassett choose to remain and practice medicine in the region, contributing more to the quality of life within our communities. At present, there are over 50 Bassett medical alumni, graduates of its training programs, who are on staff at Bassett.

"A visionary gift of this magnitude from the Stokes Charitable Trust will significantly benefit Mrs. Stokes beloved Cooperstown community as well as the surrounding area," said Dr. William F. Streck, Bassett president and chief executive. "The education of new physicians, many of whom will settle here, raise their families and participate in community life, will enhance our regional communities for generations."

"Hannah-Lee’s gift towards Bassett’s new, innovative medical education program is a posthumous blessing from her to Bassett and to Cooperstown," said Dr. Henry Weil, who also was a family friend. "Over several decades, she was a close friend to many of Bassett’s visionary leaders, including Drs. George Miner Mackenzie, James Bordley III, E. Donnell Thomas, John Olson and William F. Streck. She believed that the future of our community and the region was inextricably tied to a strong Bassett. Staying true to her quiet philanthropy, Hannah-Lee chose to have her legacy

-more-

p. 2 Hannah-Lee Stokes gift

unveiled until after she passed away. Her magnanimous gift in support of the medical school concept will take Bassett to another level that will benefit the community in a multitude of direct and indirect ways, far into the future,” concluded Dr. Weil.

“Effectively, the Stokes Charitable Trust grant is seed money, opening a broad spectrum of giving opportunities, both private and public,” said Scott A. Barrett, executive director of the Friends of Bassett. “The medical school track will encompass a multiplicity of specific goals, requiring expanded philanthropy. A gift of this magnitude will create visibility for the future medical school program and enable Bassett to gain support from other sources.”

Mrs. Stokes passed away in 2001.

For more information or to make a contribution toward the Bassett medical school campus program, call the Friends of Bassett office: 607.547.3928.

###