

Smart Giving

A Legacy of Caring: Now and for the Future

When asked why they've donated to Bassett over the years and why they've made plans to give a portion of their estate to Bassett in the future, Cooperstown residents Bill and Laurie Glockler simply say, "We're thankful; that's why we give."

Bill explains, "Bassett and MCI helped us in our careers." And now they have decided to pay it forward. Laurie, who previously had been a school teacher on Long Island, joined Bassett when she and Bill moved to this area, and worked at Bassett Medical Center for 33 years in reception and registration, and was responsible for training many new staff members over the years.

After a stint in the Air Force, Bill worked for telecommunications company, MCI, for two decades before retiring. He participated in athletic events over the years and has completed the General Clinton Canoe Regatta twelve times. Laurie and Bill love the outdoors and the country life.

The Glockler's have made lifelong friends and connections at Bassett, Laurie while working there for more than three decades, but also from having gone through a personal health crisis. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2008. "In a time span of about ten days, I went from being diagnosed, to having surgery by Dr. Bernadette Ryan," said Laurie. "I was very confident in her care." Laurie felt supported by everyone who had a part in the health care she received at Bassett, and she is happy to say she is currently in good health. Bill has also had some health concerns, and in 2002 he required a bifemoral bypass to fix a blockage at the base of his aorta. He



Bill and Laurie Glockler

expresses praise and gratitude when talking about the practitioners who have treated him over the years, including Drs. Patrick Dietz, Ann Eldred, and Rosemary Thomas.

"It's like they are family; they know your name," said Bill. He also occasionally meets up with some of his Bassett "family" on the golf course and at social events.

Laurie and Bill enjoy 'spinning a yarn' and nearly complete each other's sentences as they talk about their life together. They met each other in 1967 through computer-assisted matching (both indicated a mutual fondness for cars, particularly Mustangs), subsequent dating and marrying in 1968. They left the Island to raise their family in a lovely hilltop location just outside Cooperstown. Theirs has been a life of generous giving—giving to organizations during their careers, giving to their family and to each other, and now thoughtful plans to give and support organizations who have taken care of them and given them much.

The Glockler generosity has also been passed down to their children, as both their daughter and son, who are now in their 40s with established careers, fully support their parents plan to leave part of their estate to Bassett.

Message from the President

Jason Tabor

I am awed when I sit back and reflect on the impact that Bassett Healthcare Network has on our community. We have neighbors who have entered this world to the welcoming arms of Bassett Healthcare Network; have been treated here for every bump, bruise, cold, and flu in their lives; have had vaccines that have protected them along the way and have gone for checkups with both positive and negative results; have received great news and challenging news and have said good-bye to loved ones in a caring and nurturing environment. Even more impressive is the fact that the people who delivered this professional care may have lived down the street from them or perhaps in a nearby town. This newsletter is about Bassett Healthcare Network and how it is an important part of our lives.

You will read in this issue about the new facilities in Dolgeville that will enhance access to health care in the surrounding communities and how school-based dental care delivers needed services to children in a convenient manner. You will also read impactful stories about how our friends and neighbors have embraced the Bassett Healthcare Network community with their generosity, stories that hopefully will inspire you to think about how you, too, can promote high-quality health care for all.

One of the best phrases I like to hear is, "I wish I could do more, but..." because



"I struggle to comprehend what everyday life would be like if Bassett Healthcare Network did not provide the services that we have come to depend on, and hopefully we do not take this for granted."

I know the professional Friends of Bassett staff has many tools and strategies to help you design your gifts to not only help our community today, but also provide for you and your family now and in the future. With a little creativity and a lot of know-how, the staff can show you sophisticated tax-savings strategies and methods for leveraging your gifts. I encourage you to contact the Friends staff to learn more.

I struggle to comprehend what everyday life would be like if Bassett Healthcare Network did not provide the services that we have come to depend on, and hopefully we do not take this for granted. This newsletter has 'community' written all over it, and I hope you can see the positive impact your gifts do for our entire community.

Thank you for all that you do!

Friends of Bassett Healthcare Network

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Sign up for Updates: Receive our e-newsletter every other month when you sign up at www.friendsofbassett.org



New Little Falls Hospital Health Center to Serve Dolgeville Community

Construction is fully underway for a new Little Falls Hospital primary-care health center in Dolgeville, N.Y., thanks in large part to the F. M. Kirby Foundation, which contributed \$1.25 million toward the total building cost of \$2.9 million. The new center will be named in honor of Walker D. Kirby, who was an active volunteer and board member of the F. M. Kirby Foundation, an organization that has been a long-time supporter of Little Falls Hospital.



Construction underway for the new Dolgeville primary care center

"Our family and our foundation have had a long and very positive partnership with Little Falls Hospital," said S. Dillard Kirby, foundation president. "The matriarch of our family, Walker D. Kirby, witnessed first-hand the compassionate care of the medical staff. Now we are honored to help expand that primary care and provide wellness efforts in Dolgeville and the immediate surrounding communities that meant so much to our parents and family. Mom and dad would be so proud to have her name associated with such a center focused on a healthy community, just as we at the foundation are."

Michael L. Ogden, president of Little Falls Hospital, said, "It is very exciting to think of helping address the unmet demand for health center services and adding to the economic vitality by constructing the Walker D. Kirby Primary Care Center in the community."

Little Falls Hospital was also awarded \$480,000 in support from Empire State

Development for the relocation, design, and construction of the new center, which replaces the older facility on Gibson Street. Donations from local community members and foundations are also being used to make the new health center a reality.

The 5,000-square-foot center will be able to accommodate up to four practitioners and will feature eight exam rooms, offices, and a laboratory. Also included in the design is a 2,000-square-foot addition for the purpose of hosting community and wellness education programs.

The Walker D. Kirby Primary Care Center is located at 36 Slawson Street. Construction is expected to be complete by the end of this year.

Donor Profile

David and Susan Theobald: The Caring Gene

David and Susan Theobald have always been drawn to those who have the “caring gene”—whether it’s a nurse they are hiring through their health-care staffing agency, Stat Staff Professionals, or as an agency team member. And judging by their philanthropic support to Bassett, they believe Bassett Healthcare Network also has the caring gene.

The Theobalds say it’s essential to give back as doing so shows commitment to the organization they have worked with since 2011, helping Bassett to fill its nursing and other health-care professional vacancies. Susan and David also agree that being a donor shows appreciation for being able to collaborate with great health-care leaders whose only interest is serving the patients.

Serving the patient is something that David has taken to heart since his youth. A critical turning point in his life occurred when he was 18, after a motorcycle accident left him hospitalized and in a coma. When he woke up, he was amazed at the compassion and skill of the nurses at his bedside. This experience, along with helping with the care of both of his grandmothers, inspired him to pursue a nursing career.

David worked for a period of time as a registered nurse in an upstate hospital and worked alongside what are known as travel nurses, who were filling critical gaps in care due to a nursing shortage. Although the system worked reasonably well, he envisioned a different approach to patient care, and in 2003 Stat Staff Professionals began as one of the first nurse-owned and nurse-operated organizations in the United States. At its core is a commitment to provide exemplary patient care and staffing solutions that lead to the best health outcomes.

David also worked to develop complementary software that hospitals and nursing schools can use to streamline the clinical



Susan and David Theobald recognize the value of Bassett’s programs, like the mobile cancer screening coach.

placement process of nursing students, facilitate the credentialing process, promote workforce development, and ultimately reduce hospital reliance on supplemental staffing.

“Our partnership with Bassett has been built on trust, open communication, caring, and an ongoing commitment by both of our organizations to providing excellent health care to the people who depend on the Bassett Healthcare Network for their medical care and treatment,” said David. “We appreciate this partnership and the opportunity to give back to an innovative, creative rural hospital.”

“Bassett’s programs like the regional cancer screening coach, the school-based health centers, therapy dogs to comfort patients, the arts in health care program—are all impressive, and we are happy to support the work,” said Susan.

“Every year we take a look at our budget and see where we can give back but still ‘keep the lights on,’” David said with a smile.

The Theobalds can easily identify the caring gene in others, because it’s in their DNA too!

Good From Your Gifts

Unique Gift Makes K-9 Team Possible for Bassett



Dorcas Viera, a nurse on the inpatient unit, visits with Bassett’s new K-9 security animal, Hudson, and his handler Bob Meiser.

Bassett Healthcare Network has introduced its first K-9 security team—Hudson, a four-year-old Belgian Malinois who was a gift to Bassett, and the dog’s handler, security officer Robert Meiser. They make rounds at the hospital and throughout the network. Bassett joins a growing number of hospitals around the country that have a K-9 security program in place.

Bassett Medical Center President William LeCates, M.D., said, “I am greatly appreciative of Mr. Meiser and the Bassett security team who worked to make this program a reality for

Bassett. The presence of a K-9 team adds an important new dimension to our security program and represents our ongoing commitment to the safety of our patients, visitors and caregivers.”

“The presence of a K-9 team is shown to be extremely effective in promoting safety,” explained Harold Southworth, director of Public Safety and Transportation for Bassett Healthcare Network. “Hudson is extremely intelligent and adaptable to the moment. His presence can immediately calm a highly-charged situation, and he is an approachable, comforting distraction when called upon, such as for children in the emergency department.”

Hudson also regularly interacts with patients, visitors, and staff. He wears a working K-9 vest to show he is “on the job,” but Hudson is approachable by simply asking his handler if it is okay to approach and waiting for an affirmative response.

In addition to the K-9 team, there are 61 security officers who staff five hospitals, various regional health centers and act as a reassuring presence and resource for employees, patients, and visitors. They respond to emergencies and are the network’s liaison with area law enforcement.

Farmers are More Safe Thanks to Philanthropy

Farms are one of the most dangerous places to work in the country. According to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), agriculture ranks high among the most hazardous industries and farmers (and often other family members) are at very high-risk for death and injuries.

Since 2015, the John May Farm Safety Fund has helped many New York State farmers make important safety im-

provements on their farms, such as installation of cattle-handling systems for improved livestock and handler safety, repair of silo floors and updates to electrical systems.

“Thank you for this program. We didn’t know how bad our electric was until we started replacing and updating it. We highly recommend this program! Also, the safety lights we got for our wagons are

A.O. Fox Hospital Awarded Grant to Launch Food “Farmacy” Program



A.O. Fox Hospital was awarded \$10,000 by the MultiPlan Rural Health Grant Program to help launch a food “farmacy” based at its Tri-Town Campus in Sidney.

The prescription food location, set to open January 2020, will provide emergency food, education, and navigation services to patients and their families in need. Fox Hospital will partner with local businesses, local farms and food pantries in offering fresh produce and healthy non-perishable food.

The food bank will operate on an outpatient basis; visitors will receive vouchers for food prescribed by their primary care practitioners. Clinicians will create referrals based on social determinants or diagnoses that place patients at-risk for food insecurity.

Patients given referrals will receive education and resources from a care team and have the opportunity to obtain groceries based on their medical conditions and household needs.

“Addressing food insecurity in our communities is an ongoing priority of the hospital and we are proud to partner with local businesses to launch this amazing program,” said Sarah Buttice, MPH, director of Education and Employee Wellness, A.O. Fox Hospital. “Our goals...are to decrease area food insecurity by 25 percent and increase SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) applications by 25 percent.”

In Delaware County, it’s estimated that more than 8,400 people suffer from hunger; more than 1,800 of those are children; and in Chenango County, 19.6 percent (or approximately 2,060) of children experience hunger daily. Food insecurity has negative long-term effects on a person’s health, placing them at greater risk for serious health conditions, especially if they have already have a chronic condition. In children, hunger can lead to growth impairment, poor academic performance, behavioral issues, sickness, social disorders, and more.

“Working to alleviate hunger in our communities is absolutely vital to the health of our population,” said Jeff Joyner, president, A.O. Fox Hospital. “Good food is good medicine, plain and simple. When folks do not have access to basic needs like food, housing, and other resources, their whole world is fragile. Fox’s Tri-Town Campus is a perfect location and will offer a centralized food source to the tri-county area. We extend our sincere gratitude to the local businesses who have agreed to partner with us, and we would also like to thank MultiPlan for their generosity and faith in our program.”



great. Good magnets and no wiring to do, just batteries. [You] can see the lights for an easy two miles, making it easy to move from one wagon to another.”

—Jerry Taylor, Muniak Farms, Wyoming County, Attica, N.Y.

Generous philanthropic contributions to the John May Farm Safety Fund are vital for keeping farms and farmworkers safer 365 days a year.

Patients Benefit from Gifts to Expand Teledental Care in School-Based Health



Dr. Carpenter caring for patient.

Telemedicine seems to be everywhere today, and Bassett is no exception. Practitioners are using remote digital health care with success and providing the same quality patient care. It can reduce access to care issues and saves the patient and practitioner extra travel time—so important in our region.

Telemedicine is used in school-based health centers for certain primary care visits, for specialist visits, such as telepsychiatry care for children, for concussion care, and brand-new for school-based health teledental visits. Leah Carpenter, D.M.D., chief of Dental Services Department, answered a few questions about teledental for Friends & Partners:

Q: How can teledental help children receive dental services in a school-based health center?

“The teledental program has allowed us to reduce the geographic barriers to care that many of our patients face. A hygienist in one school-based health center can capture diagnostic information on a patient with a special camera or x-ray and send that information to me at a distant site. That ability to triage remotely has already saved patients and their parents hours of travel time and time in my chair.”

Q: Is there an example that comes to your mind?

“A 5-year-old boy presented for the first time to one of the school-based health center hygienists. This was his first time for any dental care. Most of his teeth were decayed, so the hygienist took an x-ray and it was immediately available to me, remotely, on the patient’s digital medical record. I knew right away the patient needed treatment in the operating room, so the patient received a referral for further care. This saved the child and his parents a trip in to see me, and I could then see another patient.”

Teledental services will be expanded in the 2019-2020 school year.

Upcoming Events

Nov. 1, 2019 President’s Forum Breakfast*
The Ottesaga Resort Hotel, Cooperstown
8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Feb. 8, 2020 Valentine’s Soirée
The Ottesaga Resort Hotel, Cooperstown

**By Invitation Only*



For more information or to RSVP for an event please contact the Friends office at (607) 547-3928