

VOLUNTEER

news

A Newsletter for the Shepherd Auxiliary & Volunteers

December
2010

An Evening Fit for a King!

by Dean Melcher

Louis XIV himself couldn't have imagined a better party than this year's Legendary Party. Ball Chair Dr. Dorothy Mitchell-Leef promised an event fit for a king, and she certainly delivered!



Forrest Leef, Dr. Dorothy Mitchell-Leef, Eula Carlos, Cindy Voyles, and Bill Voyles admire the beautiful decorations.

The evening was a truly beautiful night featuring breathtaking décor, fabulous food, and remarkable entertainment. *Legend of The Sun King, Reflections of Versailles*, a French-themed event, was a delight that combined Versailles' famed gardens, Louis' royal elegance, and a great deal of fun for all. Guests entered through 14-foot gilded gates and strolled among beautiful antique statuary, fountains and mirrors, all graciously provided by Bruce Cusmano and Metropolitan Artifacts. The Grand Ballroom was aglow with gold decorations and plentiful flowers, and all eyes were drawn to a fabulous

backdrop featuring a painting of Versailles itself—all the genius and hard work of Kathy Rainer and Tricky Wolfes of Parties 2 Die For.

A gloriously costumed Louis XIV welcomed guests with a proclamation in French. James Shepherd thanked Chair Dorothy Mitchell-Leef and Chair-elect Cindy and Bill Voyles for all their effort and support. He then recognized and thanked Honorary Chairman Eula Carlos and the Carlos family for their years of dedicated support which includes establishing the Andrew C. Carlos MS Institute at Shepherd and the Endowed Chair for MS Research at the Center.

Guests dined on a marvelous, classic French meal of mushroom and foie gras vol au vent and tenderloin and butter poached lobster. National Distributing Company generously provided the wine for the night.



Eli and Heather Flint take a spin on the dance floor.

The entertainment was non-stop as guests were welcomed by a costumed string quartet.

During the meal, diners enjoyed conversation as a formally-attired strings ensemble played beautiful classical music in the background. After dessert, Simply Irresistible took the stage and provided a deep catalog of dance music, from Motown to modern day that kept the dance floor filled all night. This year's Legendary Party raised more than \$675,000 for patient programs at Shepherd Center. Planning is already underway for The 2011 Legendary Party. For information or to join the committee, email Cara Puckett at cara_puckett@shepherd.org or call her at 404-350-7778.



Linda Morris, Alana Shepherd, Faye Donaldson, John Donaldson, and Thomas Morris enjoy the party.

from the

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Dear Auxiliary Members,

It was great to see so many of our Auxiliary members at the fall coffee. We enjoyed wonderful food and great company! Special thanks to Midge Tracy and Maureen Escott for their assistance. If you were unable to attend, we hope to see you at our annual spring meeting on April 28, 2011.

A very special thanks and congratulations to Dorothy-Mitchell Leef on the highly successful Legendary Party. This year the theme was *Legend of the Sun King, Reflections of Versailles*. The Ritz-Carlton Buckhead was transformed with fabulous decorations and flowers to create the perfect atmosphere. The band was great fun and had everyone on their feet!

Sunshine Committee continues to exercise their creativity. They met on November 20th to assemble and deliver lovely fall arrangements for each patient room! Sunshine also "wrapped" blankets for each patient. These blankets are given by the Auxiliary at Christmas to each Shepherd patient. Hats off to Erin Steele, Linda Stephens, Mitzi Richardson, Bart Marks, Eleanor Bernhardt, Mary Sue Howard, Betsy Cozine, Barbara McArdle, Carol Young (and her husband J.B.), Randa Hamdan, Nancy Dilly, Joann Felder, and Cheryl Watkins. We can't wait to see what they come up with next!

The holidays are a very busy time for the Auxiliary as we are now halfway through our Pecans on Peachtree fundraising. Thank you to EVERYONE who is working pecan shifts. We are off to a great start, but

would always welcome more customers.

Please visit our website at pecanson-peachtree.org to place your order or stop by one of our two sales locations at the Center. You can find us across from security in the Marcus building or on the Plaza level of the Woodruff Family Residence Center. Don't forget to tell your friends and family about these special goodies! They make wonderful hostess gifts, too.

I wish each and every one of you a safe, happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Marla Bennett

bennettmarlatom@mac.com



**When we count our blessings
this holiday season...**

**we count you
twice!**

**Thank you for your gifts of time,
care, compassion, humor, and
commitment to Shepherd Center
and our patients.**



What Do You Wish For This Holiday Season?

Many of you are wishing for something intangible this holiday season - something more precious than a gift wrapped with a bow. This is a small sampling of what's on some of your wish lists. We hope all your wishes come true!

Sandy Unruh (Auxiliary) – “I wish that our elected officials would learn to work together for the good of the country and its citizens”. **Stephen Goot** (Family Support Services) - “to spend more time with my grandchildren”. **Charles Craig** (Clerical) – “News that there is a new treatment on the horizon which will halt or reverse my son-in-law’s long-standing bout with MS”. **Zada Weston-Hill** (Welcome Desk) – “an uninterrupted, peaceful night’s sleep”. **Ryan Hill** (Locomotor) - “for my sister’s work schedule to allow her to come to Jekyll Island for the holiday”. **Doyle Mote** (Fitness Buddy) – “for the people with whom I interact to be better and happier because of the interaction”. **Scott Keithley** (Seating Clinic) - “I’d like to have patience and perspective. It’s so easy to let myself run ragged over the the Holidays. I’m ready to go with the flow of friends and family and appreciate the experience of connecting again.” **Fred Roberts** (Fitness Buddy) - “As long as my wife and I continue to enjoy good health, and have opportunities to travel, I will be very happy. And when we are no longer so fortunate, I want to be able look back and be satisfied that we took advantage of our chances.”

Lay Ministers Serve Shepherd

Last summer an article in Spinal Column magazine highlighted one of our volunteers, Mike Stephens, who ministers to patients and families here at Shepherd. The Cathedral of Christ the King has authorized not only Mike, but also Helen Pearce and Lynne Yancey to be Eucharistic Ministers at Shepherd, bringing Holy Communion to all Catholic patients and family members.



All three of these volunteers have also completed Stephen Ministry training, a non-denominational system for training lay people to provide one-on-one Christian care. That care can continue for months, providing support well beyond initial life-changing crises.

Helen Pearce has been a Eucharistic Minister for 30 years and says her Stephen Ministry training taught her a lot about listening effectively. She was led to Shepherd in a unique way. When she passed by our Secret Garden on a walk she sensed God pulling her towards this place. It became clear to her through prayer that if she “got in the boat, God would take me across”, and she shadowed Mike as she prepared to serve here.

Lynne Yancey has served in multiple hospitals, but narrowed her scope to Shepherd to be able to spend more time with each patient. She has not only served as a Stephen Minister and as a trainer in that system, but also as a Eucharistic Minister for twenty years. Lynne is able to bring personal empathy to Shepherd families when she visits, as her daughter has undergone hospitalizations that included being on a ventilator. She says that after caring for patients and family members at Shepherd one night a week, she feels as uplifted as if she had been to a worship service!

We are grateful that Mike, Helen, and Lynne bring their unique gifts and extensive training and experience to their volunteer duties. We know there are many Shepherd families blessed each week by their spiritual care.

spotlight



Above: Mindy Kirke and her son Conor, a former Pathways patient, stand in front of two of the beautiful Christmas trees Mindy and her friend Elizabeth Fritz decorated for the hospital.

Below: Bill Pritchard thanks employee Jerry Queen for giving blood at the Blood Drive.

Right: Music Therapy Volunteer Maureen Shelton shares her talents with families.

Far right: Libby Garrett registers donors for the Blood Drive.



Right: Auxiliary member Kathy Caputo greets visitors to the Pecans on Peachtree kiosk in the lobby.



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Membership in the Shepherd Center Auxiliary, Peach Corps, SCS, and Junior Committee is open to all volunteers. Members provide ongoing fundraising and volunteer support to Shepherd Center. For more information on becoming a member of one of these groups, contact Midge Tracy at (404) 350-7315 or visit www.shepherd.org.

Shepherd Center's mission is to help people with a temporary or permanent disability caused by injury or disease rebuild their lives with hope, independence, and dignity, advocating for their full inclusion in all aspects of community life while promoting safety and injury prevention.