You won’t believe who we invited to this year’s black-tie Gala. (Virtually everyone!)

Online Silent Auction “House Parties” throughout the community

Join us for our 15th Annual Hearts for Our Hospital Gala
Saturday, February 13, 2021 at 6:30pm - Live Stream

Expert Speakers and Panel Discussions

Michael Lauzardo, MD, MSC
Michael S. Okun, MD
Jennifer Hunt, MD
Maen Abdelkarim Hussein, MD

Music & Entertainment

Clark Barrios, Master of Ceremonies accompanied by the Clark Barrios Band.
Larry Rivellese | Fine Tuned | Jon Saxx | Joe Beddia | The Villages High School Chamber Singers

For more details visit: www.tvrhfoundation.org/believe
It is simply hard to believe how much life has changed for all Americans during this last year...and the changes continue. To adapt to these extraordinary times, the upcoming 15th Annual Hearts for Our Hospital Gala will be a virtual affair! On Saturday, February 13, 2021, for the first time in the event’s history, the gala will be streamed live into the living rooms of virtually the entire world. This year’s theme is “Believe!” because in trying times, hope is America’s greatest asset. We must believe that, together, we can persevere and overcome the adversity life has thrown our way and, in doing so, bring hope to so many in need. We Believe...and we want to make you a believer, too.

This year’s gala is hosted by UF Health The Villages® Hospital Auxiliary Foundation and The Villages® Homeowners Advocates (VHA). Together, we are excited to present this awesome technologically groundbreaking event.

During this spectacular event, specialists from UF Health and local physicians will present exciting new information on relevant topics such as the COVID–19 virus that is affecting us all in so many different ways. Also, the hospital’s new relationship with UF Health will be highlighted. Audience members will be able to ask questions and get real–time answers to some of the tough questions we are all asking. In addition to these informative presentations, there will be panel discussions, virtual “House Parties” held throughout the community, and an online auction during which the event’s virtual audience will have the opportunity to bid on and purchase exclusive items, exciting experiences and gift cards to their favorite shops and restaurants.

There is no doubt about it; COVID–19 has changed the face of the world we live in. Moving forward we must accept what is, let go of what was, and believe in what can be.

For questions or more information on how you can participate, please contact the UF Health The Villages® Hospital Auxiliary Foundation office at 352–751–8871. You can also visit our website at tvrhfoundation.org, or follow our Facebook page www.facebook.com/UFVillagesHospitalFoundation for the latest updates.

Ye Olde Thrift Shoppe is undergoing major renovations. Demolition on the older building has been completed and construction is underway! Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers.

Our Pandemic Preparedness Fund is also one of the new innovative ways we have been developing. This fund, which can be accessed via our website, is for the benefit of our local hard–working medical professionals who have sacrificed so much to make sure that we continue to be in good health. This past quarter our Foundation provided both massage chairs and live chair massages for our health care workers.

As always, thanks to you our readers and supporters, and our board members and staff – without you none of this would be possible.

Scott Sander, CPA, Chairman

UF Health The Villages® Hospital
Auxiliary Foundation

KUDOS KORNER

I was recently a patient on the fourth floor at UF Health The Villages® Hospital. I was very pleased with the care I received and wanted to commend RNs, Heather and Shannon and CNAs, Chris and Jay. These nurses and CNAs made my visit extraordinary in that I felt I was in good hands, with experienced, caring people in charge. My blood draws and tests were given with minimum waiting, hospitalists came in as promised, and I was kept in the loop as to what was happening. Thank you very much for making my stay as comfortable as possible.
WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER: ROBERT REILLY, MD, FACP

BUILDING BRIDGES IN HEALTH CARE

Dr. Robert Reilly is an Internal Medicine Specialist who serves as the Medical Director for Utilization Management for The Villages® Health. He divides his time between administrative work at The Villages® Corporate Offices in Spanish Springs and providing patient care in his office at Creekside Medical Center. Though Dr. Reilly divides his time between two different jobs, his focus is singular: providing excellent, efficient health care to men and women in The Villages. As an internal medicine physician, Dr. Reilly has more than 800 patients in his care. “I get to play an important, privileged role as I work with an older population,” Dr. Reilly observes. “I am grateful to be able to care for people at this particular stage of their lives.” Part of that care is delivered in the office, the other part is provided through his administrative work. Dr. Reilly explains, “Looking at the cost side and making sure we are good stewards of our resources is vital to ensuring quality care now and in the future.”

Though Dr. Reilly does not work at The Villages® Regional Hospital, he does admit his patients there when they require inpatient treatment. He believes it is important to build bridges between The Villages® Health and the UF Health The Villages® Hospital. As a UF Health The Villages® Hospital Auxiliary Foundation board member he will not only help to raise funds for the hospital but also serve as a guide as to how best to use them. As a member of the medical community and a utilization manager, Dr. Reilly is uniquely positioned to help the board determine how to allocate money effectively, ultimately improving the quality of care for patients.

A native of Long Island, New York, Dr. Reilly earned his undergraduate degree from The University of Notre Dame. He attended medical school at the State University of New York at Stony Brook School of Medicine and completed his internship and residency training at Stony Brook University Hospital. He is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine. Dr. Reilly is married to Lisa Reilly, a level 2 sommelier and manager at Edna’s on the Green. Together they have three children ages 10, 14 and 18. The Reilly family lives near The Villages in Oxford Oaks.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER: JOSEPH L. LALONDE

LIVING A LIFE OF SERVICE

A native of Upstate New York, Joseph Lalonde comes to the UF The Villages® Hospital Auxiliary Foundation with an impressive resume in retail pharmacy and community service. Joe began his professional career with Faye’s Drugs, a retail drugstore chain with stores in New York, Vermont and Pennsylvania, working his way up to Vice President of the chain’s store operations in the drug division. From this executive post, he was recruited to Kinney Drugs where he served as Vice President of Store Development, Design and Merchandise.

Joe’s commitment to his profession was matched by his dedication to meaningful community service. As Joe explains, “Volunteerism is a passion.” In 1989 Joe became a member of the board of the Upstate Medical University Foundation, a position he still holds. From 2007 to 2017 he served as the Director of Corporate Development. Throughout his tenure at Upstate, Joe has worked on a variety of committees that promote health care in the community. According to Joe, his “most treasured position” was serving as chairman for the Children’s Miracle Network, raising millions of dollars for the pediatric department at University Hospital in Syracuse, New York.

Joe and his wife, Pam, have been married for 54 years and have three adult children and nine grandchildren. The couple resides in The Village of De La Vista East. Both Joe and Pam volunteer at Ye Olde Thrift Shoppe where Pam works as the jewelry stager and Joe shares his vast experience in retail development to help with the opening of the new store. On the rare occasion that Joe is not volunteering, he enjoys golf and DIY projects.
**ENDORSEMENT: PHIL WALKER**

Continuing our long history of supporting valuable causes, on behalf of The Villages Homeowners Advocates (VHA), an organization here in The Villages® that strives to advocate for Villagers, we are pleased to endorse the efforts of UF Health The Villages® Hospital Auxiliary Foundation for the Pandemic Preparedness Fund.

In these uncertain times, it is essential that we, as a community, ensure that we are as prepared for future emergencies as we are during the pandemic today. Supplies and equipment are often in short supply in times of crisis. Personal protective equipment (PPE) may be used only a limited number of times, thus an emergency fund would ensure the availability.

There are virtually no emergency situations when the hospital and its health care workers would not be essential. As The Villages® continues to grow, having the PPE and other supplies available would ensure that our community will be in the best possible position to handle the inevitable. We should all be in this together.

Phil Walker  
VHA President

**SYDNEE PARIS:  
FUTURE HEALTH EDUCATOR AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT**

University of Florida senior Sydnee Parish always tries to stay one step ahead. As she begins the final year of her Bachelor of Science Health Education - Behavior program, she is already planning for her next move, attending graduate school to become a Physician Assistant (PA).

Although Sydnee originally imagined a career in dermatology, working in a general practitioner’s office during the summers of 2018 and 2019 ignited a passion for general practice. “I loved not having the same cases every day and getting to participate in so many types of treatment,” she explains. Sydnee is confident that her undergraduate training as a health educator will enable her to be a more effective PA. “Medicine is filled with big words and phrases most people do not understand,” observes Sydnee. “I feel this educational path will help me educate my patients so that they better understand their diagnosis.” Ultimately, she believes this will enable her future patients to participate more effectively in their care.

A 2017 graduate of South Sumter High School in Bushnell, Florida, Sydnee learned about the UF Health The Villages® Hospital Auxiliary Foundation Scholarship program from her guidance counselor. “This scholarship has meant a lot. Not only for undergraduate school but for graduate school as well,” she reflects. “This scholarship has taken a weight off my shoulders. As someone who likes to have everything done in advance, I am able to focus completely on my classes and not have to work through the school year.”

**THRIFT SHOPPE UPDATE**

Yes, we are open! Although construction is underway to expand the Ye Olde Thrift Shoppe located at 110 W. Lady Lake Boulevard, keep in mind we remain open to serve customers Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm, to provide new and gently used items at an affordable price.

In addition, donations are always greatly appreciated and accepted Monday through Saturday, from 10 am – 4 pm at the new drop-off entrance to the Thrift Shoppe, which faces Old Dixie Highway. Our friendly volunteers will be available to help you unload at the ramp and receive your items. Likewise, if you have furniture or large items that you wish to donate, you may call 352.571.9785 to arrange for pick-up of those items.

Remember, YOU can make a difference! All purchases and sales from donations are used to provide support to UF Health The Villages® Hospital for the purchase of equipment, enhancement of programs to render excellent patient care, and provide scholarships to area high school seniors and hospital team members. We invite you to stop in and see us, as well as follow us on Facebook (@YeOldeThriftShoppe) to stay informed of the great weekly specials.

-Coming April 2021-
CARRABBA’S MEALS FOR HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS

THANK YOU CARRABBA’S!

On Tuesday, Oct. 13, Carrabba’s Italian Grill donated meals during two shifts (11 a.m. and 3 p.m.) to our volunteers working in the hospital that day as their way of saying thank you for all that we are doing to help the staff. Everyone who received a meal said they were delicious and very much appreciated. Thank you Carrabba’s for being one of our community heroes!

Auxiliary members provide service in many areas of the hospital. Volunteers work in areas visible to the public and behind the scenes. Some of the volunteer opportunities involve direct patient contact while others do not. If you are interested in volunteering, contact the Volunteer Placement Office to schedule an interview by phone at 352.751.8176 or email at tvrhvpo@centflhealth.org. Applications may also be made online at tvrhfoundation.org.
DONNIE COVEY - HONEY BAKED HAM

The Honey Baked Ham Company has been around for 61 years. Harry J. Hoenselaar opened the first Honey Baked store in Detroit, Michigan, in 1957 and did so because he believed he could provide the best-tasting ham in the world. Using the highest-quality bone-in smoked ham, Harry created a special curing and cooking process to bring out a one-of-a-kind taste that he described as “perfection.” With its sweet, crunchy glaze enhancing the flavor of the ham, Harry’s patented spiral-slicing process made Honey Baked Ham the easy-to-serve centerpiece, becoming an instant staple at holiday dinners.

Donnie Covey is the owner of a Honey Baked Ham franchise, acquired in 2016, with a store conveniently located off of Route 27/441 in Lady Lake. Donnie said, “All these years later, the company has stayed within the Hoenselaar family, and so has the commitment to make every ham the same way Harry did – one at a time. We proudly stand behind each and every one of our products, and take pride in serving our customers.” Their menu options include much more than delicious ham, such as side dishes, classic roasted turkeys, ham salad, and tasty desserts. In the store is a café where patrons can enjoy sandwiches and soups. “Additionally, we have an active catering service for parties of almost any size,” he added. Donnie also owns a store in Eustis and once owned one in Orlando, which he has sold. Donnie said, “The busiest time of the year for us is at Christmas. We sell 5,000 to 6,000 hams during the season.” He noted that Easter was the next best-selling season, followed by Thanksgiving.

Donnie and his wife are strong supporters of The Villages® Regional Hospital Auxiliary Foundation. They are hospital room naming sponsors to honor his wife’s mother. Donnie said, “We wanted to dedicate the room as a remembrance, and at the same time provide funds for the Foundation to continue its good work. We encourage all business owners to stand tall by becoming donors for this very worthy cause.”

DEIDRE ANDERSON: TEACHER AND TRAVELER

Maya Angelou famously said, “When you learn, teach. When you get, give.” Village of Caroline resident Deidre “Dee” Anderson has done both and traveled the world in between.

A Chicago native, Dee earned her bachelor’s degree from Illinois State University in 1972. Upon her graduation, unlike most college students, Dee was completely debt-free. “I was the recipient of a volleyball scholarship and a teacher’s scholarship,” she remembers, “and my mom and dad helped with room and board.” As a result, when Dee moved to Virginia to begin teaching in the Fairfax County School system, she did not have a single school loan. Unburdened by debt, Dee was able to see the world.

Throughout her career, Dee would teach during the school year and travel during the summer. Between 1974 and 1989, as part of the International Student Exchange, she visited Europe 15 times. Though the Germanic countries were her favorite, she holds fond memories of her adventures in Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia as well. One of her most memorable and dangerous exploits, she recounts, was glacier skiing! These days, Dee limits her recreation to mahjong, samba and an occasional glass of wine with friends, but she remains grateful for her lifetime of teaching and travel, which all began with a scholarship.

“I saved more money than I need,” Dee explains. “I want to help someone the way I was helped.” Toward that end, Dee made a generous gift to UF Health The Villages® Hospital Auxiliary Foundation as both a room naming sponsor and a scholarship sponsor. The room named after Dee is the 3rd-floor sunroom, where patients can enjoy sunlight and a lovely view. But it is the scholarship program, which aids students in pursuing a career in a medical field, that is near and dear to Dee’s heart. Dee understands how expensive a medical education can be and just how important well-educated health providers are. “The Villages is our community, and this is our hospital,” Dee explains with a big smile. “We need to make sure it is a good one!”

WE ARE NOW ON FACEBOOK!

The Foundation and Ye Olde Thrift Shoppe are excited to announce our new profiles on Facebook. We will be sharing a variety of useful content to keep our family of donors, friends and visitors up-to-date on all of the latest news, events, special promotions and more. Please check out our pages and be sure to LIKE and FOLLOW us!

SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS

Corporate

FLORIDA CANCER SPECIALISTS & Research Institute
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
CENTRAL FLORIDA COUNCIL
Lake Sumter State College
Property Owners' Association of The Villages, Inc.
PROJECT SOS
City Fire
AMERICAN OVEN & BAR
Insight

EVENT SPONSORS

The Benvenuto Americans of Italian Heritage Club