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Leading with Heart
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Laura and Bill Westervelt
Gratitude

Dear Friends,

Anne Arundel Medical Center is a unique health system with its rare combination of state-of-the-art facilities and programs coupled with a community hospital culture that focuses on patient and family centered care. A key part of this unique environment is our “culture of gratitude.”

So that’s a lovely phrase, but what does it really mean and how does it come to life at your hospital, as well as within the 40+ points of access where AAMC care is provided around the region?

The first element of this culture of gratitude is the appreciation that our doctors, nurses, techs, staff, leaders and volunteers feel for the patients and families who choose AAMC for their care. There are 46 acute care hospitals in Maryland, some of which enjoy great international name recognition. You could choose any one of these facilities for your care, yet every year, hundreds of thousands of patients from as far away as Hawaii, choose AAMC because they know they will receive high quality care in an environment where patients and families are at the center of everything we do. For your trust and confidence in us, we are most grateful.

Every day, grateful patients and their families say “thank you” to the Anne Arundel Medical Center team through letters, conversations and donations. This is an exceptionally important aspect of our culture of gratitude. For the grateful patients, their donations often complete the healing process as a means of giving back to those who were there for them when they needed it most. Grateful patients are thankful for the care they received and want to ensure the same care is available to their families and friends for years to come. Their giving at every level makes this hospital and this community better for all of us.

Our culture of gratitude also includes our collective appreciation for you – our donors. The tremendous support we receive from this community generates pride in the work we do. Our administrators, caregivers, volunteers, staff, and the Foundation team “sincerely” appreciate every donation that you make to support the advancement of healthcare in our community. We know we could not do what we do, if you did not do what you do.

As you will see in these pages, gifts come in all sizes, and every one of those gifts makes a difference. Your gift enables AAMC to expand services for patients and families, attract the best and brightest caregivers and staff, and enhance our facilities. But even more than that, it gives a much needed and most appreciated vote of confidence to the men and women who have dedicated themselves to caring for this community.

At the end of the day, our work at AAMC and here in the AAMC Foundation is not about “gifts” or “donations.” It’s about expressions of gratitude that we show one another, for the care each of us has received in the past, and for the people and facilities that will be there in the future if and when we need them. From all of us at AAMC, “Thank You!”

All the best,

Jan Wood
President
Anne Arundel Medical Center Foundation
Helping others with Uplifting Gifts

Looking at the life of local businessman Michael Hollins from the outside, no one would have known that his family was hurting from the effects of substance use. Out of desperation, Michael joined Al-Anon for support and guidance. “I was ignorant,” he states, “I didn't understand the disease of addiction; how and why drugs can dominate an individual's and their family's lives.” Michael was embarrassed and afraid of who might see him at the meeting. “I liken current attitudes toward drug abuse and addiction to the secrecy that people attached to cancer in past generations. People are ashamed and embarrassed to admit they or someone they love is struggling with addiction.” He was surprised and comforted to see familiar faces. “I am grateful to the members of Al-Anon,” he says. “Addiction and its effects are hard to understand if you haven’t dealt with it personally on some level.”

What’s called for today, Michael believes, is for each of us to recognize how this condition affects communities and what we can do to not only address it, but help remove the stigma attached to it. In Michael’s view “It’s too easy to blame the condition on a person's lack of morals or self-indulgence or on the leniency of parents. But this is no time for sweeping generalizations or sweeping drug and alcohol abuse under the rug. Addiction is a societal crisis, and it is an economic crisis.”

Michael has expressed his gratitude and helped the community by donating to Pathways, AAMC’s 40-bed facility dedicated to providing inpatient and outpatient care and programs for teens, adults and their families who suffer from substance and alcohol use, as well as patients who suffer from a combination of substance use and mental health problems. “If I have more than I need and can help someone in need, then I will—and I make my own life better as a result. I read and hear more and more, lately, that helping others is one key to our own happiness, and by uplifting somebody else, you uplift yourself.”

His “uplifting gifts” to Pathways were a minivan that seats six adults and a full-size van seating up to 15. Pathways’ Executive Director, Helen Reines, RN, couldn't be more grateful for Michael's timely contribution. “We don't have to juggle schedules anymore to make sure we can accommodate our inpatients. It means we can take patients to 12-Step meetings, to dental and medical appointments, to the hospital, to a halfway house, or transport them when they need to be picked up for an assessment and dropped off again.”

Substance use and addiction can happen to anyone or any family. Pathways is most appreciative of the grateful patients, families, and community members whose contributions ensure access to care and treatment for those in need.

For more information on how you can support Pathways and its programs, contact Elizabeth Gross at 443-481-4731 or egross@AAHS.org.
“Your own heart is pounding as you watch the ambulance drive off with your loved one on board. Questions tumble through your mind: Will she arrive safely? Will the emergency procedure save her life?”

Laura Westervelt and her family asked just that several years ago when it was necessary to transport her mother to a hospital in Washington, D.C. The experience got both Laura and her husband, Bill, thinking about what hospitals have—and, more critically, what they don’t have—in the way of treatment. “We realized there’s a common misconception that all hospitals do everything. But that’s not the case. Even though AAMC offers exceptional care, for example, it still is not equipped to perform open heart surgery,” comments Laura.

Laura found herself drawn to the AAMC Foundation’s Board to help raise money and awareness for cardiac care because she has lost both her brother and her stepfather to cardiac disease. And, she notes, “I recently found out that my father needs an aortic valve replacement. As the population in Anne Arundel County ages, the need for a state-of-the-art cardiac center nearby will be more pronounced.”

In this day and age, when consumers see consolidation everywhere, AAMC is a standout as a community-owned, independent hospital. “AAMC has created a great culture of patient-centered care and has attracted physicians that are top in their fields” states Laura. Bill adds, “AAMC takes advantage of and mirrors the appeal of this treasure-filled area on the Chesapeake; it offers the tight-knit community of a small town, where people are well connected, with the world-class hospital of a large city.”

Bill is proud of Laura’s dedication to her role as a board member. “Joining the AAMC Foundation Board was the best thing I’ve ever done,” states Laura. “I have learned so much about healthcare and the needs of our community, as well as philanthropy. I think many people in the community are under the impression that the hospital has a lot of money and doesn’t need support. Without philanthropic support, we wouldn’t have the new buildings, the scholarships offered to nurses, or many of the community programs offered by AAMC. I am proud to support an organization that is impacting the lives of so many.”

To expand the impact of cardiovascular care in our region, AAMC has filed an application for a cardiac surgery Certificate of Need with the Maryland Health Care Commission, the state’s health planning commission. This program will bring Johns Hopkins cardiac surgeons to provide world-renowned cardiac surgery to AAMC. Our thanks to the more than 300 medical staff and community members who wrote letters of support for this important application. We will continue to update you as our application for cardiac surgery moves forward.

For more information how you can help support cardiac care in our community, contact Lisa Michelsen at 443-481-4735 or lmichelsen@AAHS.org.
Frank Campbell learned three core values growing up in a home with his parents and grandparents—courage, honor, and justice. His grandfather was a veteran of World War II, and Frank’s father served the community’s greater good as a detective sergeant of a homicide squad in the New York City Police Department. Frank himself embraced his family’s values by serving in the U.S. Marine Corps. “The Marine Corps informs everything I do all of the time. I approach challenges before me with gratitude, humility, integrity, and a strong work ethic—not fear. And by asking what’s the right thing to do in each instance, I gain others’ trust and can lead them.”

After graduating from law school, Frank and his wife, Missy, sought out a town where they could start their family and contribute to the community by serving friends and neighbors. Frank and Missy Campbell are representative of the many young professional, civic-minded couples who call Annapolis home. Three years ago they joined the Building Traditions Society (BTS) at AAMC both for its social networking opportunities and as a way to have an impact through charitable giving. “Being a part of BTS is great. It is something we can do together as a couple. We are able to come together with like-minded people and put our hands to work and be of service to our community” explains Frank.

More recently, Frank became an AAMC Foundation Director as chairman of AAMC’s Charitable Gift Planning Advisory Committee (CGPAC), whose motto is advice, advocacy, and community. As chair of CGPAC, Frank donates his time, advice and guidance to AAMC, and provides complimentary estate planning educational sessions and seminars. Because of his expertise in estate planning, Frank is aware of the various ways people approach philanthropy. If he were to describe his own philosophy about charitable giving, it’s simply to look at your talents and ask yourself how you can use them to help others.

“Don’t let perfect get in the way of the good. There’s always so much need, and you can be so torn as to what to do that you end up being immobilized. Go ahead and choose something you can get your hands on, where you can interact with others, and thus enhance your life. It’s rewarding!”

“Legacy is more than just the money you leave,” explains Frank. “All that you’ve given of yourself passes to the next generation. I can attest to that. The lives of service led by my grandfather Frank Aiello and my parents Lucille and Bill Campbell is why I am who I am today. Missy and I hope to pass on the same values and ideals to our three sons.”

Frank R. Campbell, Esq., Managing Partner, Holden & Campbell, AAMC Foundation Board Member, Chairman CGPAC

"All that you've given of yourself passes to the next generation."

For more information on bequests and planned giving opportunities, please contact Margo Cook at 443-481-4745 or mcook1@AAHS.org.

For more information on how you can become a Building Traditions member, please contact Lisa Michelsen at 443-481-4735 or lmichelsen@AAHS.org.
The inaugural Denim & Diamonds Bash held April 25, 2015 was a huge success! Thank you to the 760+ people who joined the AAMC Foundation and Denim & Diamonds Chairs Claudia and Randy Boldyga for a night of fun, food and dancing under the stars.

Guests danced the night away to the sounds of Orlando Phillips and Mad Planet. Highlights from the evening included interactive magic and entertainment by Jack Julius. Party goers smiled for the camera in the Charm City Photo Booth. Ken’s Creative Kitchen did not disappoint, providing a gourmet dinner buffet and cocktails. A creative food truck court delighted guests with additional cuisine.

Thanks to our generous sponsors and supporters, as well as an expansive silent auction, the Bash raised more than $595,000 to support the Anne Arundel Medical Center’s Clatanoff Pavilion renovation, which will impact more than 25,000 women, children and families annually who rely on AAMC to provide high quality healthcare. As AAMC provides prenatal care, labor and delivery, and neonatal intensive care services in the Clatanoff Pavilion, the 2015 Bash is an important step in providing the critical funding needed to care for our tiniest patients and their families.

A heartfelt thank you to all who made our old fashioned tent party an event to remember. You won’t want to miss the 2017 Denim & Diamonds Bash!

For more information on the Bash or how you can sponsor an AAMC Foundation event, please contact Kendra Smith Houghton at 443-481-4739 or khoughton@AAHS.org.

Special thanks to the 2015 Denim & Diamonds Bash Chairs and committee members who worked tirelessly to make this event a success.

Randy & Claudia Boldyga
AAMC Bash Chairs

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Auction Chair

Pam Cole Finlay
Hospitality Chair

Tom Collinson
Sponsorship Chair

Chris Accinelli
Ellen Allocca
Nick Codd
Cecilia Daltner
Peggy Davliakos
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Making a Difference

Leading Corporate Donor

Twentieth-century life coach and self-help author Anthony Robbins has said that “Life is a gift, and it offers us the privilege, opportunity, and responsibility to give something back by becoming more.” Luckily for Anne Arundel County residents, those two outlooks come together harmoniously—and generously—in Annapolis born and bred Randy Boldyga and his wife Claudia.

Fifteen years ago, Randy started Networking Technology Inc. dba RxNT, operating under a small, tight budget out of his home in Annapolis. He likens the company’s development to shaping a snowball that he pushed over the crest of a hill. Within five years, the RxNT snowball had quickened in both size and speed such that it was competing on the national level. Today he jokes, “The snowball might just run you over if you stood in front of it.”

Randy began developing an innovative software program to meet a need in the medical community that makes so many of our lives easier – electronic prescriptions. Today, the company processes millions of prescriptions every month and boasts a full suite of applications to support the physician’s office, including practice management, e-prescribing, and electronic medical records. Through the support of his wife Claudia and their two sons Nate and Zach, RxNT is now a nationally recognized leader in the medical software industry.

Though his approach to his start-up business was admittedly “old school” (he didn’t solicit “outside venture capital”), Randy is thoroughly modern in his attitude toward giving back to the community. “At the end of the day, each of us should try to do whatever we can to make our community a better place,” Claudia states. “When we were approached to chair the event and were told the funds raised would support women’s and children’s services such as the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit – Teddy’s Place, and labor and delivery, we couldn’t say no. Supporting children’s services in our community is near and dear to our hearts.”

In addition to chairing the event, the Boldyga’s were compelled to support the important services provided at AAMC’s Clatanoff Pavilion by being the lead sponsor of the Denim & Diamonds Bash.

“Each time I drive by the hospital—our hospital—I feel so connected to the community and am thrilled that RxNT’s name is associated with such a superb medical center” says Claudia. “We are pleased that the Denim & Diamonds Bash was held in Annapolis where so many local vendors, caterers, and residents were able to participate” adds Randy.

"At the end of the day, each of us should try to do whatever we can to make our community a better place."
Fish For a Cure

Fish For a Cure was started in 2007 by a group of friends and business associates looking for an opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the Chesapeake Bay, fulfill their passion for fishing, and have fun. After a successful first year, the wife of one of the main participants was diagnosed with cancer. The group decided to honor the Lilly family and turned the tournament into a charitable event to raise money to support cancer patients. The organization wanted to support patients being treated in their community, so they generously made a pledge of $1,000,000 to support AAMC’s Geaton and JoAnn DeCesaris Cancer Institute. This year, Fish For a Cure raised $300,000 bringing cumulative donations to more than $850,000.

“The Chesapeake Bay based fishing tournament and Annapolis based Shore Party continues to inspire participants and every year brings the organization closer to its pledge of $1 million to support cancer survivorship programs within the Geaton and JoAnn DeCesaris Cancer Institute at AAMC” stated Greg Lilly, chairman of Fish For a Cure’s board of directors.

Act Local, Think Global

Thompson Creek Window Company held their annual Going Pink fundraiser for Breast Cancer in October. Throughout the month they donated $5 for every window purchased and had lunches, sold pink wristbands, and made pink Thompson Creek branded shirts for each employee, raising $300,000 for the AAMC Breast Center.

Thompson Creek Window Company wanted to ACT LOCAL and THINK GLOBAL. “We chose the AAMC Breast Center because we felt it was important to support our local community. It is important to us that all women have access to care, and we were particularly pleased to learn that AAMC provides financial assistance to those who are struggling to make ends meet while undergoing treatment” said Rick Wuest, President, Thompson Creek Window Company.

51st Annual Holly Ball Supports Breast Center

The Severn Town Club, Inc. has supported charities in the Annapolis area for the past 50 years. This year, the organization wanted to support women’s health by naming the Breast Center at AAMC as the beneficiary of their 51st Annual Holly Ball.

“It was an awe inspiring experience for all of us and a reaffirmation that our choice of the Breast Center this year was right on target” explains Grete Unhjem, President, Severn Town Club, Inc. “We were all impressed with how the Breast Center not only treats the clinical issues, but helps with psychological and financial issues facing patients during treatment.”

The Severn Town Club presented the Breast Center at AAMC with a check for $30,000. “We are most fortunate to have this state of the art medical facility in our very own community and are proud to support the care and treatment of our local residents” stated Grete Unhjem.

If you would like information on how your organization or business can support AAMC, please call the Foundation at 443-481-4747.
Devastated by their loss, The Jess Carson Foundation was created by his family and friends who wanted to continue Jess’ legacy and honor his compassionate spirit, generous heart, and love of life. And that is exactly what they have been doing for more than 14 years.

The mission of the Foundation is “to offer hope for each new tomorrow by supporting charitable, medical, educational, and recreational programs that fulfill the special needs and interests of the families that are facing the difficult challenges of caring for a child with a critical illness.” The Anne Arundel Medical Center Pediatric Department has received more than $116,000 to date from the Jess Carson Foundation. Their gifts enabled AAMC to build an Overnight Stay Room in the Pediatric Emergency Department, fund The Jess Carson Critical Care Simulation Training, and now the Advanced Trauma Life Support training for our pediatricians.

“Our Foundation is pleased to continue to fund programs that have saved the lives or helped change the outcomes for thousands of children already,” remarks Jess’ mother, Leslie. “It is our hope that through the successes of these programs, many, many beautiful memories will be made throughout the coming years by the patients and families whose lives have been positively affected by these amazing programs.”

Jess Carson was only 22 years old when he was tragically killed as a passenger in a car accident on his way home from a Baltimore Orioles baseball game in 2001. He was a kind, giving soul who always found a way to make certain others were thought of first.

Evan and Margaret Thalenberg worked hard as a couple to build their very successful law firm. “It was a long road,” explains Margaret. “Evan and I were working full time during the day, and then he was going to school at night first to complete his master’s degree and then law school, all while raising a family.” Evan and Margaret are thankful for all they have—a successful business, happy and healthy children, and now, grandchildren.

“Our community has always been important to us. This is where we raised our daughters. Our success has enabled us to give back to the community” says Evan. And for Margaret and Evan Thalenberg, that means supporting the dedicated healthcare providers and staff at AAMC with the resources they need to provide exceptional care. “A hospital is only as good as you make it. Excellence is only sustainable if the community shows support,” explains Evan.

When the Thalenberg’s were asked to support the inaugural Denim & Diamonds Bash this year, they didn’t hesitate.

Margaret and Evan have supported AAMC for years and helped open the pediatric triage rooms more than six years ago. “We didn’t realize we would be having our first grandchild shortly after the triage rooms were opened,” remarked Margaret. “We are glad they are there.”

It is donors like the Thalenbergs, who appreciate the importance of high quality, accessible health care in our community, who enable AAMC to provide the best possible programs and services to all who need us.
Ensuring the future of Healthcare

“Until you give, you don't know how good it feels.” Annapolitan Richard (Dick) Pettingill wants you to know how positive he feels about a life spent giving—of his time, talents, and means.

Dick grew up in a small town in Upstate New York where his businessman-father was active in hospital work and economic development of his community, attracting both doctors and industry to locate there in an industrial park that he was instrumental in developing. Dick’s father felt it was important to build and support your community from the ground up, literally and figuratively. The apple didn’t fall far from that tree, with Dick pursuing a similar course throughout his career in private and public economic and commercial development. He has always looked for ways to get involved in the life of the places where he’s lived. Those words ring true for his wife Christine "Chris" Pettingill, too, a successful managing director for an executive search firm based in Washington, D.C., where she has conducted many searches in the healthcare sector.

After moving to Arnold in 1998, they quickly became involved, and it wasn’t long before they were devoting hours and energy to various nonprofits in the area. Her knowledge of healthcare, her strong skill set, and desire to work to benefit her community made her an ideal candidate, and Chris was asked to chair the 2005 AAMC Gala in support of the NICU – Teddy’s Place expansion. Chris, with the help of a wonderful team of friends, pioneered a new level of philanthropic giving for the hospital that also reinvigorated the interest and participation of the medical community. “I was happy to work hard to raise funds for the NICU – Teddy’s Place expansion. It felt good to know the work I was doing was making a difference in the lives of so many. It is so important to be able to see where and how you are able to make a difference,” says Chris.

Dick and Chris have continued to support their community and AAMC. “You have to advocate for your community” explains Dick. “Most people think Anne Arundel County is wealthy and a resource like the hospital doesn’t need money or support, but it does. It is up to us, all of us in the community, to ensure we continue to have great medical care available. We can’t take it for granted.”

Dick and Chris are doing their part to ensure AAMC is available to all that need care in our community for many years to come. They have planned to remember and support AAMC through a very generous bequest. As members of the Belcher Society, they recognize that a future investment in AAMC will ensure high quality care for generations in the future.

For more information on bequests and planned giving opportunities, please contact Margo Cook at 443-481-4745 or mcook1@AAHS.org.
A Physician’s Legacy

Dr. Walter Landmesser, a 59 year member of the AAMC Medical Staff, passed away in February. Dr. Landmesser dedicated his life to AAMC as an orthopedic surgeon and saw it grow from a small hospital in 1954 to the renowned regional medical center it is today. He boasted that he was the only surgeon who had operated in every one of AAMC’s ORs. With more than 50 years of service, Dr. Landmesser set broken bones in the “B” building at the corner of Franklin and Cathedral Streets in downtown Annapolis, followed by more surgeries in the “A” building that opened in 1969. And, of course, he set even more bones in the Edwards Surgical Pavilion and in the new ORs in the Acute Care Pavilion before hanging up his hospital scrubs in September 2004. Although he continued his private practice until 2014, semi-retirement didn’t stop him from continuing to work at AAMC 8 – 10 hours a week reviewing medical records and providing guidance to new physicians.

Dr. Landmesser didn’t only dedicate his time to AAMC, he showed his commitment and generosity to the organization with gifts to support AAMC’s patients and families. He donated six stained glass windows he purchased in Scotland to the Hackerman-Patz House; he supported Capital Campaigns and the Annual Fund; and he remembered AAMC with a charitable gift annuity.

When asked shortly before his death if he would have done anything differently, he remarked “I wouldn’t have changed a day in my medical career. I enjoyed my years as a physician and helping my patients.” With a typical Dr. Landmesser smile, he added “I do wish I had spent more time with my family.”

We will miss Dr. Landmesser, his humor, his wit, and his service. The AAMC Foundation has honored him by creating the Landmesser Society which recognizes physicians who have included the Foundation in their will or trust and who have made other planned gifts in support of our mission to enhance the health of the people we serve.

Retirement Plan Gifts Make Good Tax Sense

Many tax benefits are associated with IRAs, 401(k)s and similar retirement planning opportunities. Generous income tax deductions are allowed for amounts contributed to such plans. Over time, the funds also build up on a tax-free basis.

When it comes time to withdraw funds from retirement accounts, however, these funds are fully taxable. For most people, a portion of IRAs and certain other retirement accounts must be withdrawn beginning at age 70½, regardless of whether the funds are needed for living expenses. Such funds can be a good choice to fund tax-deductible charitable gifts to AAMC. This allows you to make your charitable gifts using funds that will never be subject to federal income tax or taxed under the laws of most states.

Possible Multiple Taxation

One thing many people do not realize is that any amounts remaining at death in a qualified plan, such as a conventional IRA or 401(k), may be subject to heavy taxation. Not only can these funds be subject to estate taxes, but retirement assets will also be subject to income tax.

By designating your charitable interests, such as the Medical Center, as final or remainder beneficiary of your IRA, you can arrange a wonderful gift. It’s easy to do (simply complete a “Change of Beneficiary” form) and may be arranged so as not to diminish the financial security you have built for yourself and your loved ones.

Other assets that will not be subject to income tax when received, such as investment accounts, life insurance proceeds and real estate, can be left to heirs instead.

Check with your tax advisor if you think this could be a good option for you.
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