

# SPIRIT

O F G I V I N G

A publication of the St. John River District Hospital Development Fund

## Major gifts make major impact on community

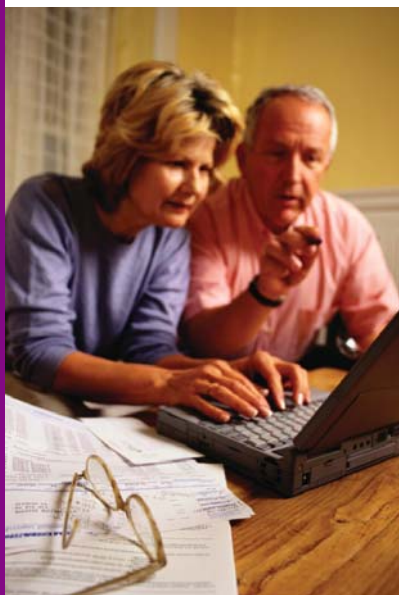
Your contribution could be a matter of life or death.

Just think about the impact your contribution to your local hospital could have on the lives of those in our community. When a (city?) (woman? Man?) recently left three quarters of a million dollars to St. John River District Hospital in (his/her) will, it provided the hospital with the opportunity to purchase equipment that might not otherwise have been possible—potentially life-saving equipment.

If you are interested in saving the lives of others in our community, a gift to St. John River District Hospital left through your estate will bring comfort and healthcare to the community long after you are gone.

Isn't that the kind of legacy you'd like to leave?

For more information about making a major gift during this tax year or sometime soon, or a bequest through your estate, contact the Jennifer Richards, St. John River District Hospital Foundation officer, at (313)343-4658.



## 2008 fundraising efforts to help SJRDH purchase new CT scanner

Imagine radiology imaging technology so advanced that some surgical procedures can be eliminated because a physician can now receive images of a patient's heart so clear and so accurate, it is as if he had opened up the patient and was looking right at the organ itself.

You don't need to imagine that scenario. Upon completion of the purchase of a 64-slice CT scanner for the radiology department at St. John River District Hospital, the scenario described above will be a reality in southern St. Clair County.

Funds raised by St. John River District Hospital special events and annual appeals conducted in 2008 will go toward the purchase of the 64-slice CT scanner. A lead gift of \$750,000 – left to the hospital by the estate of an area resident – will cover approximately half of the \$1.45 million cost of purchasing the scanner and renovating space in the hospital to house it. The scanner alone has a price tag of \$1.2 million. Another \$250,00 is needed for renovations.

A computed tomography (CT) scan is a simple, quick and safe imaging procedure commonly used for diagnosis of a variety of potentially life-threatening diseases. The 64-slice CT scanner offers even greater diagnosis

capabilities producing precise 3-D pictures of the human body in minutes. This non-invasive, painless procedure offers exceptional image quality, which can mean better diagnosis and increased patient comfort and convenience.

The technology has been particularly exciting for studying the beating heart. Heart motion has historically made it challenging to achieve accurate CT images of the heart and blood vessels. Until now, only an invasive cardiac catheterization procedure enabled physicians to visualize the heart with such detail. Now the 64-slice CT scanner offers patients a less invasive procedure, thus possibly reducing the need for cardiac catheterizations.

"To put this in perspective, the CT scanner currently in use at the hospital is a two-slice scanner," said Vickie Nedeljkovic, radiology director at St. John River District. "The difference between the imaging is indescribable and historic, with our ability to reduce the number of invasive procedures as a result of the clarity of the images."

To make a donation toward the purchase of the CT scanner, contact the St. John River District Hospital Community Relations department at (810)329-5325.

## “An Evening to Share” to return in Fall 2008

The annual “An Evening to Share with St. John River District Hospital” will be held in the Fall of 2008.

Previously, this annual dinner dance fund raising event has been held in late January or early February.

“After evaluating other events taking place during the winter months, the planning committee determined that moving the dance to a fall date would be a better fit on the calendar,” said Frank Poma, hospital president. “We are excited about this change and look forward to celebrating our passion for the hospital’s mission just a few months later this coming year.”

When a final date has been scheduled, save the date cards will be sent out. Funds raised at the 2008 event will go toward the purchase of a new 64-slice CT scanner for the radiology department. The 2007 event raised funds to help bring state-of-the-art digital mammography to the hospital.

The event serves as a significant fund and friend raiser for the hospital, and in 2007 raised more than \$60,000. The event has raised almost \$500,000 over the past 10 years.

Other members of the planning committee include Frank Poma, hospital president; Bill Zweng, chair of the hospital’s board of trustees; Diane Allison; Chuck Currier; Mary Jane Hay; Christine Newberry; Patty Shine; and Terry Jowett.

## 2008 golf outing scheduled for June 17

The 2008 St. John River District Hospital Golf Outing will be held on Tuesday, June 17.

The annual event will raise funds for a new 64-slice CT scanner being purchased for the radiology department.

Over the past 10 years, the annual event has raised \$300,000. The 2007 golf outing raised \$32,000 that went toward the purchase of state-of-the-art digital mammography equipment for the radiology department.



Members of the St. John River District Hospital Development Council are:

Mary Jane Hay	Laura Schwehofer
Gilda Hayes	Jim Taylor
Bernard Kuhn	Sue Taylor
Thomas Lock	Joe Vito
Christine Newberry	William Zweng
Frank Poma	

*Spirit* is a quarterly publication of St. John River District Hospital. If you would like to learn more about giving opportunities at St. John River District Hospital, please call the Community Relations department at (810)329-5325 or visit [www.stjohn.org/foundation](http://www.stjohn.org/foundation).

## SJRDH first to bring digital mammography to county

The first digital mammography equipment in St. Clair County is now available for patient screening at St. John River District Hospital thanks to the generous donations of area residents and businesses.

“We are a community hospital and this equipment has been purchased in partnership with the community we serve,” said Frank Poma, president of SJRDH. “We’ve proven that by working together, we have been able to secure the necessary funds to provide this service to help save the lives of women in St. Clair County.”

With a total cost of \$500,000, digital mammography was brought to SJRDH through the generosity of private donors as well as the receipts from the annual SJRDH dinner dance and golf outing. The Citizens First Foundation (?), the Henry and Harriet Whiting Foundation and the DSLT Foundation all provided major donations. Through a matching fund program, the first \$100,000 in donations was matched, dollar-for-dollar, by those organizations.

Additionally, numerous private donors from area residents contributed to the fund raising efforts, and special gifts were provided by the Beverly and Ernie Oskin Fund through the St. Clair Foundation, and Bernie and Margaret Kuhn of St. Clair.

Full field digital mammography produces



A donor recognition plaque has been established outside the radiology department to recognize those who contributed to the digital mammography campaign.

digital images on a computer screen that help physicians make the most accurate diagnoses. Some of the advantages of digital mammography include: improved contrast between dense and non-dense breast tissue; faster image time, thus less radiation exposure; shorter exam time, reducing anxiety as pictures are generated immediately; decreases number of biopsies; and fewer patients need to be called back for additional views.

For more information or to schedule a mammogram, call (810)329-5390.

## Annual Appeal raises funds to enhance Infusion Center at SJRDH

Someone close to you has cancer. She needs chemotherapy. Rather than drive all the way to Port Huron, Mt. Clemens or Detroit, chemotherapy infusion services are available at St. John River District Hospital.

The need for infusion services for chemotherapy, blood transfusions and other IV-administered medications in the river district area has grown over the years, and the hospital’s current infusion treatment center is in need of both enlarging and updating to enhance patient comfort and service.

The hospital’s 2007 annual fall appeal is currently underway and raising funds that will go toward enhancing this service area. More than \$26,000 has been raised to date, but with a goal of \$50,000, more funds are needed to complete the hospital’s wish-list of updates for the department.

“We would really like to enhance the service the patients receive in that area,” said St. John River District Hospital President Frank Poma.

The center was recently named the Van Elsander Infusion Center due to a significant donation to oncology services through the St. John Foundation by the Art Van Elsander family of Grosse Pointe. Infusion centers at three St. John facilities have received the Van Elsander name. A special dedication ceremony in honor of the naming and the local fund raising efforts will take place in early 2008.

The Infusion Center currently administers 2,000 treatments each year, and that number is growing. To make your contribution to this special campaign, contact the Community Relations department at (810)329-5325.

## Seniors can avoid income taxation of IRA distributions

Do you know someone age 70½ or older who receives taxable distributions from their IRA? Does he know he can avoid income tax on an IRA distribution if he has his IRA administrator make the distribution to St. John River District Hospital (SJRDH)?

This “IRA Charitable Rollover Distribution” is a great way to donate to SJRDH. Qualified charitable distributions are not included in the donor’s income and do not impact any other deductions or limitations on your tax return. Tax law changes permit *tax-free IRA distributions*



to charity by December 31, 2007, up to \$100,000 for those age 70½ or older.

Contact your IRA plan administrator for instructions on how to make a meaningful gift, or call Heidi Crisman of the St. John Foundation at (586)582-7538 for more information.