Thanks to Our Donors: “Faith in our Stars” Reception

The Saint Agnes Foundation welcomed 150 donors, key stakeholders, community partners, and many associates and physicians to the “Faith in our Stars” reception held at Saint Agnes on Thursday, October 11, 2018. The purpose of the event was simple—to share the Foundation’s deep gratitude and thanks to the many donors who allow us to continue to serve our community in meaningful ways.

The guests were treated to the culinary genius of TF Caterers of Rockville, music by DJ Face, and live patient stories. The Saint Agnes Foundation board of directors and staff felt strongly that guests should hear the impact their gifts have had on the lives of so many in our community. The stories showcased at “Faith in our Stars” included Carlos Randolph, a former patient in the Saint Agnes Heart Failure Clinic, Michelle Sample, a patient of Saint Agnes Cancer Institute Breast Link program, and a story of a young man that sadly lost his life to a drug overdose, highlighting the importance of the work our Health Institute is doing around the opioid epidemic. Saint Agnes Healthcare continues to focus not only on care within our hospital but in taking care of the community. We are proud of the vision of

Carlos Randolph, former patient, Saint Agnes Heart Failure Clinic

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Five Star Federal Credit Union and Saint Agnes Hospital Mark 50 Years of Partnership, Service and Support

For 50 years, associates, physicians, and volunteers (along with their dependents) at Saint Agnes Hospital have had access to an in-house credit union, making it convenient and easy to handle banking and other financial matters on their way into or out of work, or throughout the course of their day at the hospital. What began as the Saint Agnes Employees Federal Credit Union has evolved in that time, expanding its services and membership offerings, and renaming itself twice; most recently to become Five Star Federal Credit Union. It’s managed by a team of people who believe wholeheartedly in the mission and vision of Saint Agnes Hospital, and who are committed to helping the hospital and everyone who is affiliated with it, achieve their financial goals.

Unlike for-profit banks, credit unions are owned by their members, and their committees and boards are made up of volunteers. Located on the first floor of the hospital, along the corridor near the cafeteria exit, Five Star FCU offers various checking and savings account options, individual retirement accounts, loans, lines of credit, credit cards, and an array of electronic services: two ATMs in the hospital, 24/7 online banking, online bill pay, and a mobile banking app.

“I am especially proud of the terrific value and benefits we are able to offer doctors, nurses, associates, volunteers, and others who are part of Saint Agnes,” said Paul Coakley, chairman of the board of directors for Five Star FCU. “We are a small credit union, and because of that, we really have the opportunity to build meaningful, personal relationships with our members.”

Supporting the hospital’s strategic growth initiatives is another, equally important priority. That support has been demonstrated year after year through sponsorship and volunteer commitments.

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Health beyond Healthcare, where person centered care, regardless of one’s ability to pay is provided in the hospital and beyond its walls.

The Saint Agnes Foundation would like to thank the numerous sponsors that stepped up to support the first event of the new Foundation Team. As this team infuses a new energy into the Foundation they are determined to share stories and be true partners in the community. The team would like to thank Five Star Federal Credit Union; Goodell, DeVries, Leech & Dann; HCT Pathology Services, LLC; Pessin Katz Law, P.A.; The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company; Digestive Disease Associates, P.A.; Marshfield Associates; Whiteford, Taylor, Preston, LLP; Brown Advisory; Bank of America Merrill Lynch; RCM&D; Agency Insurance Company of Maryland, Inc.; Emjay Engineering and Construction Co., Inc.; Vituity; CMES; Y of Central Maryland; Leach Wallace Associates, Inc.; M&T Bank; Hertzbach & Company; Link Financial; and Total Wine & More. We couldn’t have done it without you!

Faith in Our Stars

Mr. Coakley, a former vice president at Saint Agnes Hospital, has been a member of the credit union since it was founded in 1969, and has served as chairman of its board of directors since 1984. Nearly all of his fellow board members are either employed by the hospital today, or worked there previously. Collectively, the credit union’s board and leadership team have a very strong, very clear interest in helping those who are part of the Saint Agnes Hospital family.

“The credit union and the hospital share a common goal and bond; basically, we both exist to help people,” said Mr. Coakley. “It’s a partnership that impacts a lot of people, in different ways.”

Five Star FCU is the largest hospital-based credit union in the state of Maryland, with approximately 7,000 current members. Members are encouraged to attend the upcoming annual meeting, which will provide an update on new programs and services. The meeting will be held on April 24 at 6:00 pm, at Five Star FCU’s Maiden Choice branch, located about 10 minutes from the hospital (by car) at 716 Maiden Choice Lane, Suite 101. Those who have not yet joined but would like to learn more about the credit union and apply for membership are encouraged to visit www.fivestarfcu.org or call 855-597-5766 for more information.

Giving online is easy!

Visit: givesaintagnes.org

Contact Us

- 667-234-3155
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Saint Agnes Healthcare launches SBIRT Program

We are in a state of crisis in Maryland, while Baltimore City remains at the epicenter for overdose deaths from opioids. Saint Agnes’ newly created Health Institute has joined 8 other Baltimore City Hospitals in taking a stand to help those suffering from Substance Abuse Disorder. They launched SBIRT in March 2018. It stands for Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment which is an evidence-based practice used to identify, reduce and prevent problematic use, abuse and dependence on alcohol and illicit drugs*. A unique characteristic of this approach is the use of Peer Recovery Coaches. The coaches are recovering addicts with at least two years of sobriety that are actively connected to support networks and have gone through extensive training. “Our patients appear more willing to engage in an honest dialogue about substance use when it is with a peer that lived that same experience.” says Dawn O’Neill, VP of the Saint Agnes Health Institute.

Saint Agnes’ vision is to increase access, education and provide an early intervention in our Emergency Department and the Saint Agnes Medical Group Primary Care and OBG Practices. This is a top priority since Saint Agnes’ service area has the highest rate of drug and alcohol morbidity in Baltimore City. In the first three quarters of 2017, 574 residents of Baltimore City died as a result from drug overdose.

The results nationwide speak for themselves, it has been measured that the SBIRT Program reduced Emergency Department visits by 20%, hospitalizations by 37% and has been shown to save healthcare providers $3.81-$5.60 per $1.00 spent on an SBIRT Intervention*. It is our goal that by implementing SBIRT, employing Peer Recovery Coaches and building a strong volunteer team that our early intervention efforts save lives!

The Foundation recently sat down with Angelic, one of Saint Agnes’ Peer Recovery coaches. We asked her what a day looks like for our coaches. Angelic shared that on average there are 10 substance users flagged for potential treatment that come into the Saint Agnes Emergency Department every day and she is thankful to be equipped with resources to help those willing to get into treatment. What she likes most about our program is that we meet patients, where they are. She recently had a patient share that his friend told him to come to Saint Agnes for help, because he said they will make sure to help get you into treatment. It is hard to hear patients say, “Why me” and “I didn’t think anyone cared”, Angelic said that at the end of the day it is a great feeling to respond, “Why not you?” In just spending 30 minutes with Angelic, you can feel her commitment to helping others into recovery. A recovery that she found three years ago. She pushes her patients to stick with it because the rewards are worth it!

Our patients’ stories are all too common. We reflect on our first SBIRT case, which was a young man in his 20’s, an accident caused his addiction to medication where after eight years left him injecting contaminated drugs. An infection caused by his drug use brought him to Saint Agnes. We offered him treatment and found a place that would take care of his physical and substance abuse needs. He called his peer recovery coach after being clean 30 days. He said thank you, “I have not been clean for 30 days since before my accident.”

The SBIRT Program has been active in the Saint Agnes Emergency Department just a few months but the stories are a beacon of hope! The Saint Agnes Foundation is excited to see the amazing progress and looks forward to working with its donors to fully fund this transformational program.

* Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration, SAMHSA

“On average there are 10 substance users flagged for potential treatment that come into the Saint Agnes Emergency Department every day. I am thankful to be equipped with resources to help those willing to get into treatment. Having been in their shoes, and now in recovery for three years, I explain to my patients that if they stick with it, the rewards are worth it!”

— Angelic, Saint Agnes Peer Recovery Coach

Honor your physician on National Doctors’ Day!

National Doctors’ Day is March 30, 2019. The Saint Agnes Foundation invites you to honor your doctor on this special day. Your physician will receive a card informing them of your tribute, a Doctors’ Day lapel pin, and will be included in the online Tribute book.

Visit www.givesaintagnes.org/doctorsday
Patient and Family Centered Care in the Adult Intensive Care Unit (AICU)

One of the hardest parts of having a loved one in the hospital is waiting, especially families with loved ones in the Saint Agnes Adult Intensive Care Unit (AICU). This unit consists of sixteen patient rooms. The patients in this unit are extremely fragile and families frequently are onsite for long periods of time but cannot always be by the bedside. At Saint Agnes we aim to deliver personalized care for our patients and their families. To ensure that we are delivering exceptional care and experience for those we serve, we listened to our visitors and in response the AICU implemented a liberal visitation policy and has an intensivist, a physician that provides special care to the critically ill, onsite 24 hours a day. With funding from the Saint Agnes Foundation, we were also able to update the waiting room. It was important to create a more comfortable, private seating arrangement that can accommodate individuals and groups of visitors at one time. In addition, charging stations are now readily available along with a computer counter for those who may need to work remotely. By having families close by the clinical staff can consult them about their loved ones, and involve families in their care. Dr. Dean Meadows, Director of the Adult Intensive Care Unit, stated that this is a very traumatic time, and being able to reduce stress allows for better communication resulting in more favorable outcomes for the patient. The families know our patients the best, and being able to have them included in care is truly invaluable.