

Bulletin Board

An annual update from the Women's Board of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago | 2009

Clinical Research

...the very words indicate perhaps the most powerful tool in advancing a great hospital's prowess. Indeed, a highly superior hospital is defined in large measure by the number, range, and quality of the clinical trials it is conducting.

Today, the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC) is at the forefront of new technology and research, creating novel models of patient care and setting standards for the world in physical medicine and rehabilitation.

We are aggressively pursuing bold, innovative frontiers while continuing to offer the best treatment available anywhere to patients.



It is therefore with great pride that RIC announces that it is poised to develop the nation's foremost Center for Advanced Clinical Trials. This Center will transform rehabilitative medicine as we know it today. Few institutions in the world parallel the impact and opportunity that we as leaders and visionaries now have to launch such a groundbreaking initiative.

To support this landmark milestone, the Women's Board is dedicated to raising awareness of RIC's clinical research initiatives for advancing human ability. Through examining and testing new technologies and piloting new treatments, RIC will translate scientific discoveries into real-world innovations, providing patients with the most advanced care available to meet their goals, reclaim their passions, and thrive in life.

The 2009 Medicine Ball, *Supper in the City An Evening with Steve Tyrell*, was held on September 12 at the InterContinental Chicago. We thank Jill and Richard Almeida who sponsored the evening's performance. Steve Tyrell wowed the crowd—guests were tapping their feet and dancing in their seats. Emceed by Bill Kurtis and Donna LaPietra, the event raised over \$500,000 to benefit clinical research and RIC programs!



TOP LEFT Co-Chairs Kate Boege, Kristin Smith and Cyndy Strong
TOP RIGHT The night's featured performer, Grammy Award-winning Steve Tyrell
BOTTOM LEFT Richard and Jill Almeida
BOTTOM RIGHT Diana Hall, Director of Graff Chicago, and Patsy Callahan

Letter from the President



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your support and generosity over the years and especially this year that challenged us as an economy.

It is a year of thanks for your steadfast dedication to the Women's Board of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and its programs.

The programs which have benefited this year from your giving include: the LIFE Center, the Women with Disabilities Center, the Pediatric and Adolescent Rehabilitation Program, Therapeutic Recreation, the Donnelley Family Disability Ethics Program, the Helen M. Galvin Health and Fitness Center and the Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Sports Program.

We are very pleased to announce that the hospital has once again been selected as the #1 rehabilitation hospital in the United States by *U.S. News & World Report* for the 19th consecutive year—an amazing record for which we are so proud. RIC is recognized for its

world class dedication to medical care and the impact on the lives of people with disabilities. Dr. Joanne Smith, RIC President and CEO, continues to bring her leadership and vision of patient care and groundbreaking clinical research that will continue to focus on bettering the lives of those with disabilities.

The past year was an extraordinary year of fundraising for the Women's Board. Our Medicine Ball 2008 was very successful and benefited RIC's new Cancer Rehabilitation Program.

Other development activities that support RIC's mission were the Annual Appeal, the 12th annual Antiques Preview Party in collaboration with the Merchandise Mart of Chicago and our 2nd annual Medicine Ball, *An Evening with Steve Tyrell*, benefiting clinical research.

As we move into 2009-2010, our Women's Board President is Carrie Grant. This year we will celebrate our Fifty Year Anniversary of supporting RIC's mission of patient care—a major milestone in our history. We have been blessed with dedicated current and past members who embody the spirit of giving and caring to whom we are so grateful.

As we close this year and move on to the next, we want to once again thank our donor community for their generosity to supporting RIC and its programs.

Sincerely,
Michelle Smead



A note from RIC's President – Dr. Joanne Smith



Dr. Joanne Smith, RIC President and CEO, accepts a check from Joanne Crown, RIC Women's Board member since 1970.

For more than 50 years, RIC has been the leader in rehabilitation care and research, advancing ability for countless people whose lives have been affected by stroke, spinal cord injury, cancer, amputation and orthopedic and neurological conditions. It's amazing to consider all we have accomplished and all that is yet to be—the pioneering breakthroughs to be brought to fruition through clinical research.

Clinical research involves the translation between the work in RIC's research laboratories and the best clinical care, the process through which ideas are taken from "bench to bedside" advancing patient care and real patient outcomes.

RIC's "Bionic Arm" technology is one example of how RIC has applied its innovative science in breakthrough ways to advance patient care and outcomes. This revolutionary discovery of neural-machine interface has provided more than 40 people worldwide the ability to control a prosthetic arm using their own thoughts.

We define a successful outcome as, ultimately, the patient being able to do or participate in life in a way that is meaningful to them. Ability is a unique and highly individual concept. For a young girl with cerebral palsy, ability may mean that she can kick a soccer ball in gym class. For a young man who has had a stroke, Ability may be to return to his budding career and his traditional weekend tennis match.

Our vision is to advance the ability of our patients using the most promising research protocols and latest in technology—to be the clinical laboratory for the world; the destination for the world's best research ideas that bring scientific breakthroughs to patient care, fostering better recovery and bright hope for the future.

Your support and steadfast commitment ensures our patients a very promising future. *Thank you for believing in and investing in what is possible!*

Joanne

THE WOMEN'S BOARD OF RIC

Fifty Years of Caring, Commitment, and Honor

BY SUSAN GARLAND

The year was 1954. Rehabilitative medicine had not yet won a place in the forefront of the medical world. Society had not yet understood the value of a program dedicated to those with physical disabilities. Dr. Paul Magnuson, witnessing this deep need, garnered the support of leading Chicagoans and founded the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. A vintage warehouse at 401 East Ohio Street became the Institute's first home.

RIC now needed its own building. Ground was broken in 1973 for a \$26 million dollar structure. The Women's Board pledged \$375,000 and outsiders said it could not be done. But we raised even more. In 1974, 345 East Superior was dedicated and keynote speaker actress Patricia Neal rightfully christened it "A House for Heroes".

The Women's Board became famous for sparkling parties and gala benefits as notable for their artistic merit as for the extraordinary funds raised.

Six years later Dr. Magnuson's patient, Bertha Evans Brown, launched the Women's Board. An old trailer was our office. Twenty-one founders gathered for our first meeting on September 27th, 1960. To cut costs, meeting lunches became baloney sandwiches.

Volunteer programs were launched, Christmas cards marketed, and our fledgling Annual Appeal raised the astonishing sum of \$27,000. A Junior Auxiliary was established as well as key Community Auxiliaries, all destined to provide outstanding RIC support. Women's Board members gathered more leading Chicago women into the fold and by 1970 the roster contained over sixty names.

In 1972 our landmark Access Chicago conference escalated national awareness of the need to make buildings, streets, sidewalks, and restrooms accessible. Mayor Richard M. Daley, witnessing a golden opportunity, put Chicago in the lead by immediately lowering curbs citywide.

Leading-edge motion pictures were premiered to the world. Our fundraiser walk "Anything with Wheels", from wheelchairs to pinwheels, was born. Elegant store openings, concerts, chocolate fests and international art fairs all bore the hallmarks of the energy, style, and creativity of our growing number of members.

Today the Annual Appeal garners close to half a million dollars. Our yearly Medicine Ball sparks awareness of the Institute's groundbreaking initiatives. "Anything with Wheels" is now the RIC Challenge. And since our founding the Women's Board has raised over \$30,000,000 for the Institute. Our members number almost one hundred.

It has been a good fifty years. Our founders needlepointed their name tags, served themselves those baloney sandwiches, rolled up their sleeves, and went to work. Their successful drive to stamp "The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago" into the center of public awareness made them legends in their own time. Today's members remain ever grateful to those trailblazing women.

Ability Through Innovation

JESSE SULLIVAN – DAYTON, TN

On a beautiful day last April I was warmly welcomed into the Dayton home of my fellow East Tennesseans Jesse and Carolyn Sullivan. Greeting me was a man of genteel Southern manners with a sparkle in his eyes and a strong sense of purpose, his charming wife by his side. Jesse and I then spoke for hours on subjects ranging from local politics to the Scopes Trial to the town's famous Strawberry Festival and to most importantly—the bionic arm he wears with such remarkable success. It was hard to leave this lively conversation, this lovely home. I was urged to pay another visit at any time and be their house guest. Jesse Sullivan is a towering example of what can happen when a patient with true grit meets groundbreaking RIC Research.

—Susan Garland



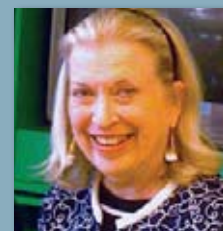
The Nancy McIlvaine Open Art Studio Program

BY PATRICIA LEAR

The Open Art Studio/Ice Cream Social gatherings at RIC are thriving. The brainchild of Women's Board Member Nancy McIlvaine and her husband Bill, patients and their families and friends stream into a room on the 3rd floor with huge grins on their faces as most head straight for the ice cream table to make their sundaes before getting down to the work of the evening: water color postcard painting. With the happiness evident in the room, McIlvaine, owner of the art gallery Portals, Ltd. on Wells Street, bustles from table to table remarking, praising and cheerleading with the patients over their works in progress. She and her husband Bill have funded and overseen the program for several years now.

The monthly event draws around 50 participants. Their projects vary from tile mosaics to jewelry design and other art inspired projects. That it is fun is only one of the good things it does for the patients. Megan Brady, one of the RIC therapists present at the September meeting, says it also increases socialization, gets patients out of their rooms which is so important, and gives them a little fun and normalcy. "It's really wonderful," she says.

Volunteers aid in the evening, but more are always needed. It is a great way to work closely with patients and have some fun to boot.



LEFT Nancy McIlvaine
Women's Board Member
TOP Patient art



Merchandise Mart International Antiques Fair Preview Party Attracts 750 Guests

More than 750 guests attended the 12th Annual Merchandise Mart International Antiques Fair Preview Party on April 30, 2009, an event that benefits the programs of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. The evening offered the initial viewing of antiques and fine art from over 100 dealers.

Women's Board Chair Anne Hokin planned a festive evening with sumptuous buffets and refreshments. The Preview Party raised over \$90,000 for RIC programs. Thank you to all who attended. We look forward to seeing you again at next year's event to be held on April 29, 2010!



TOP Patsy Callahan with Len, RIC's therapy dog
TOP CENTER Sheila Kennedy, Marilyn Thoma and Kathleen Cowie
BOTTOM LEFT Robin Armour and Michelle Smead
MIDDLE CENTER Dona and Samuel Scott
BOTTOM MIDDLE Mary Arnberg and Bradley Heit
FAR RIGHT Kristi Brown and Anne Hokin (event Chair)



Kitty Freidheim
Women's Board Member

Member of the Year, Kitty Freidheim

Leadership. Commitment. Generosity. These are three words that only begin to describe the many contributions of Kitty Freidheim to RIC and our Women's Board. She most deservedly was this year's recipient of our Member of the Year award.

In Kitty's 16-year tenure on the Board, she has served in countless leadership roles including President, Treasurer, Chair of the Annual Appeal and Book Club Chair. She is also the first to step in and help mentor others, sharing her knowledge of RIC and her wisdom. Just one example is how Kitty quietly provided helpful guidance to fellow member Barbara Bierig. "It's hard to imagine

RIC without Kitty Freidheim" says Barbara. "She knows virtually everything about the organization. When I served as co-chair of the Antiques Fair, she guided me to all the right places, helped me work through all the issues and exercised great judgment on every decision. And she did it all in an exceptionally nice way. I can't thank her enough for her mentoring and friendship."

Kitty designated the \$5,000 award to the LIFE Center. "It is a great privilege to be associated with the Women's Board of The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. I never cease to be impressed with the extraordinary support RIC provides to the disabled

community in treating not only the body but the human spirit. In particular, the LIFE Center provides information on a limitless list of issues to its patients, their families and disabled persons throughout the world to help ease their anxiety and challenges as they return to productive lives outside of the hospital setting."

Women's Board member Leslie Kennedy, who presented Kitty with her award at the holiday luncheon, summed it well, "Kitty is a dedicated and devoted member of our Board. She is always there no matter what you may need. She is a true leader and has many wonderful supporters and friends at RIC!"

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A Wonderful New Thread in the Fabric of RIC

BY PATRICIA LEAR

Women's Board member Marilyn Thoma and her husband, Carl, have donated an important piece of art to RIC. Installed on the 16th floor, the piece entitled "The President's Rooms" is by legendary abstract artist Ronald Davis. It is a magnificent 16 panel grid that covers a large part of the wall in the epicenter of the Dixon Education & Training Center where it will be enjoyed by a wide spectrum of the RIC family.

The artist Ron Davis has produced a comprehensive series of digital compositions, one for each American president, which recasts each as a decorative element in a wondrously diverse assortment of "rooms". His often surreal imagery offers unexpected and utterly original views of an American institution.

Davis burst onto the international art scene in the 1960's, aggressively and vividly using isometric and multi-point perspective to offer an illusion of depth while maintaining the idea of painting-as-object for which post Abstract-Expressionist painting was known. His work has been shown in over 65 solo exhibitions and countless group shows and he resides in public collections including the Art Institute of Chicago, the Guggenheim Museum, LACMA, the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Marilynn says of the donation that she and her husband were prompted by the ambition of the RIC vision, which in a holiday message, Dr. Joanne Smith aptly summed up with a quote from Kahil Gibran: *Our progress lies not in enhancing what is, but in advancing toward what will be.*

Marilynn goes on to say, "Just as we ask patients to look beyond what is possible today to what may be, it struck us that RIC should embrace the same standards in the quality of the environment in which patients work so diligently to achieve physical ability and emotional strength. Art that is beautiful, intriguing and thoughtful has the power to take us viewers outside ourselves and to inspire us. That is true not just for patients but also for the members of their families and the physicians, hard-working staff and volunteers who work at RIC."



Marilynn Thoma
Women's Board Member



Karie Katz, Sophie Bross and Astra Gamsjaeger



Tracy Souder and Britt Taner



Tamra and Jack Weiss

*In memoriam of our beloved
Women's Board members:*

Mrs. James E. (Timmey) Challenger
Women's Board member 1989-2008

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