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St. Elizabeth's Hospital Auxiliary Celebrates 75th Anniversary

Belleville In 1935, five people became the inaugural members of the St. Elizabeth's Hospital Auxiliary. Now, 166 members strong, they marked the 75th Anniversary of the Auxiliary at a special celebration event on Thursday, August 26, in Belleville.

The Auxiliary was created to support St. Elizabeth's Hospital, its numerous programs and partnering organizations. The Auxilians promote the hospital within the community and raise scholarship funds by planning special events throughout the year.

"The Auxiliary is a very important part of my life. The things we do and have done to support the hospital have made a real difference over the years. St Elizabeth's patients and staff have benefited through our efforts." states Sharon Weck, a member of the Auxiliary for 23 years.

The Auxiliary Board oversees and helps direct the efforts of many enthusiastic members who successfully present such events as the Elizabethan Holiday, Uniform Sales, Jewelry Sales and specialty item sales like gourmet chocolate. Current Auxiliary

Officers include:

President	Kevin Duffy
First Vice President	Doris Steiner
Second Vice President	Elizabeth Klingler
Recording Secretary	Mary Ann Appel
Treasurer	Sharon Weck

The Auxiliary has raised nearly a million dollars in its 75 year existence and donated tens of thousands of hours of volunteered time. Way back in 1936 the Auxiliary bought Belleville's first iron lung for polio cases and since then has continued to support the hospital through various purchases. Funds have benefited every area of the hospital with many small purchases like a dry erase board for Out-Patient Surgery, to much larger purchases like the 20 passenger bus purchased in 2008.

Additionally, in 1987, the Auxiliary started a special health care scholarship fund that awards eight \$2,000 scholarships to area students pursuing careers in health care fields. To date, over \$200,000 in scholarships have been awarded.

Amanda Lankford, Director of Volunteer and Colleague Development noted, "The Auxiliary's fundraising efforts and generously volunteered time has made a significant difference at St. Elizabeth's Hospital. We are blessed to have such a caring and giving group of individuals supporting our mission".

The largest fundraiser of the year, the Twenty-Seventh Annual Elizabethan Holiday will be held on November 5, 2010. The event includes a holiday Bazaar, luncheon and fashion show. Tickets are \$35 per person.

Call Carol Lawrence at 618.234.2120, ext. 1280 for more information on the Auxiliary and its upcoming events.

