
Celebrate for a Good Cause! The 101st Annual Charity Ball
by Amy Buggs, President-CRMC Hospital Aid

A tradition for the past 100 years, the Annual Charity Ball promises to be a fun-filled evening. The gala is planned by members of CRMC Hospital Aid, a volunteer organization focused on providing support to the Maternity, Nursery and Pediatric Units.

The generosity of last year's participants and donors resulted in our ability to hand President Brian Mitteer a check totaling \$20,000. We would like to share with you exactly how *those gifts made a difference recently*:

- Four school-based rehabilitation systems were purchased for Occupational and Physical Therapy use.
- A Birthing Computer Simulator was added for training the maternity staff.
- Pediatric Bronchoscopes and Rigid Endoscopes were acquired, expanding the diagnostic equipment available for young patients in our hospital.

The Charity Ball is the main fundraising event for Hospital Aid. This year's theme is "The Roaring 20's" and the event will be held on Saturday May 1st at the Cortland Country Club. Guests will be treated to an evening of fabulous hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, desserts, gaming tables/prizes, music and dancing, capped off by the Famous Silent Auction.

In addition to the Charity Ball, Hospital Aid also sponsors a number of programs that benefit new mothers and children of all ages. One such program, Unit Support, provides sleepers, blankets, socks and other "every day" items to children that need them. Hospital Aid is also one of the co-sponsors of WHALE (We Have A Little Emergency), a child safety seat identification program, as well as the "That's Using Your Head", a bicycle helmet safety program.

We are extremely fortunate to have such a great group of dedicated volunteers. The 34 women on this committee work hard and tirelessly for our hospital. They are proud to be contributing to the health and well being of mothers and their children, both at the medical center and in the community. If you are looking for a way to give back to the Cortland community, Hospital Aid may be for you.

If you are interested in Charity Ball tickets, or would like to learn more about joining CRMC Hospital Aid or have any questions regarding Hospital Aid programs, contact Amy Buggs at (607) 745-2985.