

# in the spirit

INSPIRED GIVING THROUGH THE ST. JOSEPH MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION



Orthopaedic nurses like Marty Deedy, RN (left) and Kim Born, RN will benefit from the Gala.

Friends of St. Joseph Medical Center were “in motion” on Saturday, April 18 at The Hyatt Regency Baltimore, the setting for Gala 2009: *Life in Motion*. Guests enjoyed an evening of celebration and entertainment as they mingled with clinical staff and corporate and community sponsors. Everyone was there to honor The Orthopaedic Institute’s long history of unparalleled excellence in helping generations maintain their mobility. Funds from the Gala will support continuing education programs for orthopaedic nurses and facility improvements that will enhance the patient experience for all who come to St. Joseph.

We are most grateful to our many generous sponsors and benefactors. Please visit [sjmcgala.com](http://sjmcgala.com) to enjoy photos and sponsor names. Look for a photo montage of the evening in the fall issue of *Housecall*.

## LIFE IN MOTION

*Gala 2009 celebrates helping people achieve and maintain their active lifestyles*



Now able to travel with ease, McMurray and her husband, Milo, enjoy the culinary delights of Paris.

To most people “orthopaedic” means “relating to bone.” And while that often means setting a broken bone, there are many more complex surgeries performed at The Orthopaedic Institute at St. Joseph Medical Center—drawing patients from across the state and outside of Maryland to the expert care delivered by our physicians, nurses and therapists. Both Doug Croker and Sue McMurray were facing daunting challenges when they arrived at St. Joseph.

Imagine you have had a fall, are not in tremendous pain afterwards, but learn that if you have another fall, perhaps just a slip on the floor, that you could be paralyzed for life. That was the scenario Doug Croker faced a decade ago. Ira Fedder, M.D., of The Orthopaedic Institute quickly diagnosed Croker as having spinal cord syndrome, a dangerous condition that would require surgery unless Croker wanted to shift gears and lead a sedentary life. For the 51-year-old avid athlete that wasn’t an option.

In 1999, Fedder performed spinal fusion surgery on Croker. Ten years later, the Easton, Maryland developer is leading anything but a quiet life. He is often found at the helm of his boat, “The Canvasback,” even competing in the Southern Ocean Racing Circuit. “I am so grateful I found my way to St. Joseph,” states Croker.

Sue McMurray had an equally serious medical condition. The vivacious marketing and managing director of a Pennsylvania summer theater had adult onset arthritis that progressed into disfiguring, painful scoliosis. “If you saw me leaning to one side and hunched forward, you would say ‘oh look at that poor woman,’” she comments. “I was preparing for life in a wheelchair.”

A visit with Justin Tortolani, M.D., of The Orthopaedic Institute changed her life. “Dr Tortolani promised me that if we worked as a team, he would make sure I became well,” adds McMurray. “I exercised, lost weight, and became very fit to prepare for the complex operation to straighten my spine. I was better able to withstand the surgery, and the outcome couldn’t have been any better.” Talking to this smiling, very active lady, it’s hard to imagine her in less than perfect health.

Two patients, two lives restored—a reason to celebrate any day. Sue McMurray, Doug Croker and the thousands of other patients treated at The Orthopaedic Institute at St. Joseph thank everyone for their support of Gala 2009.



Doug Croker teaches his grandson the fundamentals of sailing near his home in Easton, Maryland.

# A Reason To Run

## Women's 5K Race Benefits Gyn Oncology Patients at St. Joseph Cancer Institute



St. Joseph Medical Center Foundation is delighted to announce that board chair William J. McCarthy, Jr., has been named 2009 *Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser* by The Maryland Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP/Maryland). Nominated by Maryvale Preparatory School where he and his wife, Maria, are spearheading a \$12 million campaign, Bill has been instrumental in the success of St. Joseph's capital campaign: *Investing in Excellence*. Raising nearly \$17 million for the new main entrance, the centralized Heart Institute and the Cardinal William H. Keeler Spiritual Center, the campaign, under Bill's leadership, has brought transformational change to St. Joseph. Many non-profits in the Maryland area benefit from Bill's generosity of time and talent. We are so fortunate to be one of them. Congratulations, Bill!



(left to right) Tom Amatucci, Diana Smith, Monica Fulton, executive director, Cancer Institute and Laurie Amatucci at the check presentation ceremony.

Spend a minute with Laurie and Tom Amatucci, the guiding lights of the Baltimore Women's Classic 5K (BWC), and it is easy to understand the race's incredible success. Their spirit about the only race in Baltimore strictly for women is infectious. "Although it is a great time, the BWC is dedicated to promoting fitness and healthy living among all women," says Laurie.

"We want to make a real difference in changing women's lives," adds Tom, "particularly women suffering from gynecological cancers where outcomes and treatment can be very challenging." To this

end, part of the proceeds from the BWC race go to help women undergoing therapy who need assistance that is very necessary but doesn't always come readily to mind.

Diana Smith, patient care coordinator at The Cancer Institute at St. Joseph Medical Center, says "As our gyn oncology program grows, we are very fortunate that our needs match perfectly with the mission of the BWC. We tell our patients our job is to worry about their cancer. Their job is to think about getting well. To achieve this, they can't be worrying about co-pays, childcare, transportation to treatment and other activities of daily life that can suddenly become tremendously burdensome to someone undergoing rigorous treatment."

"That's where we step in," adds Tom. "We were delighted to give a grant to The Cancer Institute that directly supports these sorts of challenges.

On June 28, 2009, nearly 1,500 women will gather at the Museum of Industry in downtown Baltimore to bond, celebrate, enjoy music, explore the Festival Village and, most importantly, run (or walk!) like the wind to change another woman's life.

**For information about participating in this year's New Balance Baltimore Women's Classic 5K, please visit the Web site at [www.baltimorewomensclassic.com](http://www.baltimorewomensclassic.com).**



Women all running in one direction...towards a better future for cancer patients.

## Looking Ahead

# Planned Bequests Will Help St. Joseph Maintain Excellence In Care



Clockwise from left: Winnie and Bill Flattery, Sue Currence and Marilyn Beach are some of our newest Tau members.

**“It’s my hospital.”**—a simple sentence but it is no small coincidence that four of our newest Tau Society members use it when asked their reason for plans to leave a bequest to St. Joseph Medical Center. It’s a telling example of how vested our friends are in St. Joseph. More than just a place to come when you need medical care, the medical center brings a personal, tangible and long-term connection to the people we serve.

Marilyn Beach, Winnie and Bill Flattery, and Sue Currence, RN, each developed a love for St. Joseph in different ways—Beach started as a volunteer with the Foundation and eventually joined The Foundation Board. Winnie and Bill Flattery are board members of FANS and the Foundation, respectively. Currence not only completed her nursing degree at The Saint Joseph Hospital School of Nursing but has spent her entire career, 30 years to date, delivering on our patient promise to be *always expert, always personal, always faith-filled* on a daily basis.

These four Tau members have something else in common as well: they have been

grateful patients. Beach comments, “It was one thing to become involved in volunteering for St. Joseph—it was quite another to experience the hospital from the other side of the bed. I was so gratified that everything I had heard was true—my care truly was loving and compassionate.” Winnie Flattery, recently recovered from orthopaedic surgery, agrees, “The quality of care I received was amazing. Each aide and nurse seemed to be genuinely concerned and ready to assist me at any time of the day or night.”

The Flatterys, along with Currence and Beach, are well aware of the health care challenges that hospitals face today and they want to be sure that St. Joseph retains the uniqueness that makes it “their hospital,”—a permanent legacy for their families and their friends.

Currence sums it up nicely: “St. Joe’s has always been here for me and I know it always will be. I want to be a part of making that happen.”



St. Joseph Medical Center is honored that so many of our friends have chosen to pass a legacy to future generations through their membership in the Tau Society. The Tau, a symbol that St. Francis of Assisi cherished, has long been recognized as a symbol of genuine hope in and response to the faithfulness of God. The Tau Society membership is offered to all individuals who include St. Joseph in their estate plans or make a deferred gift through an annuity trust or life insurance policy. Members are recognized at the annual Candlelight Reception of Honor, held each November.

Members of St. Joseph’s Tau Society share a commitment to the future of the hospital. If you have included St. Joseph Medical Center in your will or would like to learn more about the Tau Society, please call the Foundation’s major gifts officer, Meghan Ray at 410-337-3914.

# St. Joseph Raises Awareness of Domestic Violence

**“The defense attorney told me there was no hurry to try the violence case before me. ‘After all,’ he said, ‘it’s just a domestic.’”**

The Honorable Katie Curran O’Malley, Associate Judge, District Court of Maryland in her remarks at St. Joseph Medical Center photo exhibition opening.

The House of Ruth’s powerful traveling photo exhibit, *“A Line in the Sand,”* was on display in the new main entrance during the month of February. Each of the subjects featured in *“A Line in the Sand”* has made a significant contribution to combating domestic violence. Some of the subjects have been touched by domestic violence in a very personal way, others have been moved by the experience of strangers—but all reached a point where they said “enough” and took very positive, often courageous actions to make life safer for the women and children of Maryland. Some of the subjects are household names, others are just ordinary people driven to do extraordinary things.

Vicki Deyesu, president of St. Joseph FANS and a House of Ruth board member and her husband Carmen, chairman of the medical center’s board of directors, hosted a reception on February 5th to unveil *“A Line in the Sand”* at St. Joseph. One hundred members of the community, including The Honorable Katie Curran O’Malley, First Lady of Maryland, attended the event. Her father, former Maryland Attorney General, J. Joseph Curran Jr., an early advocate for women suffering from domestic violence, was also on hand.

Included in the exhibit is a photograph of journalist, writer and producer David Simon, who did an investigative series on battered women in Maryland in 1990. He had this to say, “Human beings who profess to care about each other and then resort to violence are engaged in the most dishonest kind of dialogue there is.”

St. Joseph is very pleased to be the only hospital to host this remarkable exhibit and raise awareness of the social, emotional and physical health emergency of domestic violence. We thank everyone who took time to visit this powerful display of 25 remarkable photographs that personify the ability to create real and positive change in our community.



Visitors are drawn to photos and stories of local pioneers for the prevention of domestic violence.

## From The Mailbox: *Excellence in Care*

Dear St. Joseph Heart Institute,

March 30, 2009

“I had bypass surgery at St. Joseph about 3 weeks ago and just wanted to let you know that I could not have been happier with the care I received. I was nervous and quite frankly scared, and everyone I met tried to make me feel as at ease and comfortable as possible...I would like to point out two people who were superior in their work. Zach in ICU was assigned to me, and I never saw anyone work so hard. I don’t think he ever stopped moving, checking me and my stats, and making me as comfortable as possible...Anna, one of the nurses on my floor: I don’t know how I would have made it through those first few days without her. She always made sure that the many readings and tests were done correctly and fully. Most importantly, she pushed me to do the things I needed to do even when I didn’t want to...I will never forget them...My thanks to all of you for making my stay as good as it could be.”

Sincerely, Tom Hardy  
Street, Maryland