



Honoring a Legacy of Caring in our Community

Passavant Hospital Foundation's partnerships advance health and wellness for all

Megan Ellwood (pictured above), an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) with Harmony EMS, is one of five local EMTs and AEMTs to receive a Passavant Hospital Foundation education grant for paramedic training at the Center for Emergency Medicine.

Passavant Hospital Foundation has been a partner to ambulance authorities throughout the community by providing grants for them to acquire state-of-the-art medical equipment, computer and communications upgrades, and devices for safer, easier transport of patients. Most recently, the Foundation awarded a \$35,000 grant to support tuition-associated expenses for paramedic training.

The country is experiencing a paramedic shortage, and, similarly, "our area has a shortage of about 25%," says Betsy Tedesco, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, CEN, PHRN, clinical director of Emergency Services at UPMC Passavant.

"The shortage of paramedics is a huge problem and I don't think the public really understands the gravity of it," adds Megan Ellwood, an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) with Harmony EMS. "I know of one instance in which a paramedic was requested by two

Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) to assist with a cardiac arrest. He was the closest paramedic in proximity to the scene but he was 55 minutes away."

Paramedics are trained to deliver more advanced and complex life-saving skills than an EMT or AEMT— such as monitoring and interpreting EKGs and other vital equipment, administering medications, providing endotracheal intubations, and establishing intravenous catheters.

Passavant Hospital Foundation is doing its part by awarding a grant which will provide five local EMTs with \$7,000 each to offset the costs of paramedic training and certification at the Center for Emergency Medicine. In return, these five EMTs will sign a commitment to provide paramedic services for a minimum of two years in one of the five local ambulance services: McCandless-Franklin Park Ambulance Authority, Richland EMS, Cranberry Township EMS, Quality EMS, or Harmony EMS.

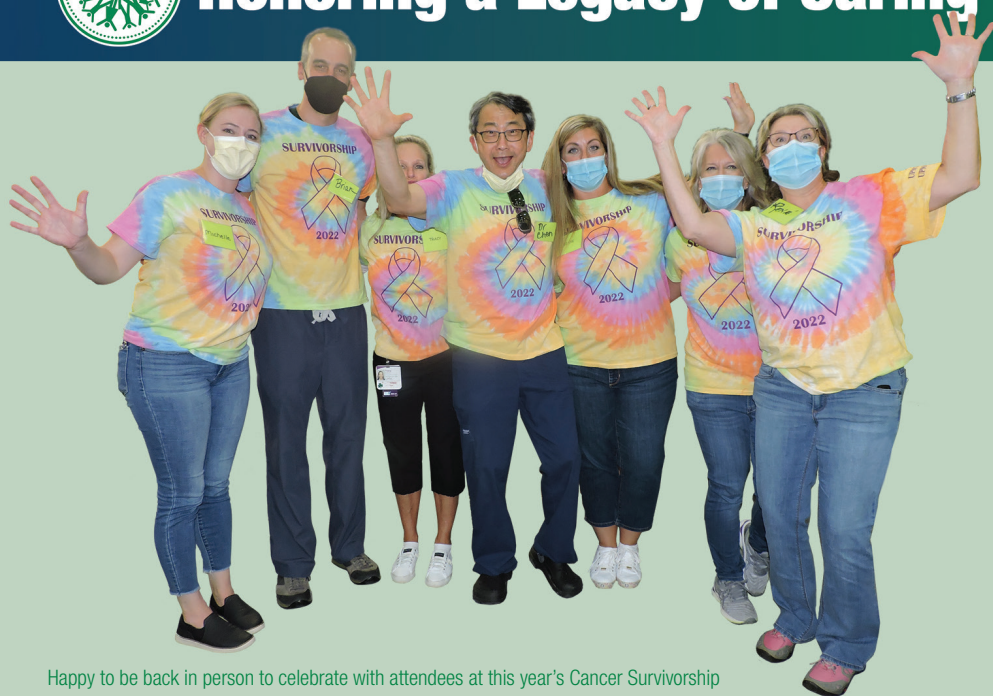
"This grant demonstrates the advanced level of care Passavant Hospital Foundation and UPMC Passavant are committed to providing," says Dr. Tedesco.

Ellwood is one of the grant recipients and began her paramedic training this past August. The 44-week-long program consists of 520 hours of didactic and laboratory classes, 544 hours of clinical education plus additional hours of online coursework and field time on an ambulance and inside a hospital. She plans to maintain her full-time job at Harmony EMS while training.

"Receiving this scholarship is one of the greatest blessings I could have ever imagined. I'm so grateful to Passavant Hospital Foundation, my family at Harmony EMS, and everyone who helped make this happen," she says. "I can't begin to express my excitement for the months to come and I am determined to be the best paramedic I can be." ■



Honoring a Legacy of Caring in our Community



Happy to be back in person to celebrate with attendees at this year's Cancer Survivorship event are volunteers and medical staff, including (from left to right): Michelle Post; Brian McLaughlin, MD; Tracy Sullivan; Alex Chen, MD; Diane Loritts; Beth Berezny; and Rene Frank.

Cancer survivorship celebration resumed in person for first time since pandemic

For oncology patients, the transition from illness to wellness can be difficult. Once their treatment is completed, many are reluctant to break the years-long bond that they have developed with their physicians and other caregivers.

"Research is telling us that this period can be a very stressful time because patients feel more on their own without the regular, ongoing support they'd grown accustomed to," says Kathleen Bryte, MSN, RN, OCN, patient and

community nurse educator at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center at UPMC Passavant.

To respond, Kathleen teamed with Passavant Hospital Foundation in 2011 to launch a Cancer Survivorship event. It featured a dinner, fellowship with other cancer survivors and their guests, entertainment, and breakout sessions that addressed various issues affecting cancer survivors at all stages of their journey. Oncology nurses and physicians mingled and served dinner.

Passavant Hospital Foundation brings engaging, hands-on health care curriculum to local middle school students

In May, 30 gifted middle school students at North Allegheny School District got an opportunity to try their hand at being a doctor. During two three-hour workshops presented through Little Medical School —



a non-profit organization that provides hands-on interactive programs for youths with a focus on health care — students practiced taking vital signs, applying tourniquets, and performing CPR and the Heimlich maneuver. They built models to better understand the components of skin, blood, and the digestive tract. They even simulated hernia surgery by constructing a "hernia" out of balloons, foam sheets, and cheese cloth, then performed a "hernia repair" before suturing the "incision" using authentic needle drivers and pickups.

That was 11 years ago. Today, it continues to attract upwards of 500 cancer survivors and guests each year (except during the COVID-19 pandemic, when it was cancelled in 2020 and scaled back to a drive-thru event in 2021). Cancer Survivorship programs like this one are now widely recognized as an integral part of comprehensive cancer care.

Mary Bates was thrilled to return in person for this year's event, which took place at La Roche University's Kerr Fitness Center in June.

Mary was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2013 when a routine mammogram screening detected a malignancy.

"I kept asking myself, 'Why me?' I'd always been so healthy. How could I get cancer? Why did I get cancer? No one could give me answers," she says.

It was an emotional time and her cancer treatments were grueling. She endured six years of chemotherapy, radiation, and oral medication, plus a mastectomy before she was declared cancer-free. "For every two steps forward, I'd fall one step back," she says. "It was a slow, gradual progression out of the hole I was in."

She has found much-needed comfort and support at the Cancer Survivorship event.

"I went there the first time in 2013. I keep going back because of the people I've met there. Every year, it's like going back home again," she says. ■

"Students approached these lessons with curiosity and maturity, and they loved the hands-on learning," said Colleen Morris, a teacher in the school's gifted support program.

The event was led by Kirsten Lin, MD, and sponsored by Passavant Hospital Foundation, which has helped fund the workshops for the past two years.

"We're always happy to support programs like these, which help inspire health and wellness among the young people of our community," says Foundation President Anthony R. Savannah. ■



A fun-filled evening of shopping provided funds for Passavant Hospital Foundation's mission

A whole new fundraising event benefitted Passavant Hospital Foundation this past spring: a shopping spree at Kiya Tomlin's clothing boutique in Etna.

Kiya is a fashion designer and the wife of Pittsburgh Steeler's coach Mike Tomlin. Her 5,700-square-foot Work/Shop features a large space for her and her two-member staff to produce her lines of casually elegant fashions; the adjacent space is dedicated to retail sales.

The Foundation invited UPMC Passavant physicians for an evening of wine, a fashion show, and shopping.

"None of us had ever shopped like this before," says Nicole Kaib, administrative coordinator at the Foundation. "The store is unique as they design, make, and sell the clothes out of the same space, so customers get a behind-the-scenes look at everything."

Kiya hosted the event and recommended specific outfits for each attendee as live models showed off her clothing line.

"It was a very enjoyable evening," says Joann Kim, MD. "I love the creative versatility of her clothing designs and the sustainability of the materials she uses."

A percentage of the sales were donated back to the Foundation, for a total of \$500. ■



Some of those participating in the fundraiser at Kiya Tomlin's store were (left to right) Sowmya Varre, MD; Joann Kim, MD; Venmathi Indramohan, MD; Kiya Tomlin, store owner; Amy Thompson, MSN, RN-BC; Amanda Posa, events coordinator at Passavant Hospital Foundation; and Nicole Kaib, administrative coordinator at the Foundation.

Passavant Hospital Auxiliary installs new officers for 2022-2023

Comprised solely of volunteers, Passavant Hospital Auxiliary conducts fundraising events to benefit the patients, families, and staff of UPMC Passavant. Projects funded by the Auxiliary range from free valet parking passes for outpatients to the establishment of two end-of-life care rooms at the hospital.



The Auxiliary recently installed its new officers for 2022-2023. Pictured from front to back: Jean Eckert, President; Carol Koontz, Vice President; Janese Abbott, Secretary; and Beverly Aufman, Treasurer.

"The goals for the Passavant Hospital Auxiliary for 2022-2023 are to improve patient care and support hospital staff," says Jean Eckert, Auxiliary president. "We're doing this through grants in the amount of \$60,000 to purchase new or replacement equipment for the hospital, support continuous education for the staff, donate monthly contributions to Passavant Hospital Foundation's Patient Assistance Fund (which helps qualified patients offset the costs of medications, transportation, housing, etc. during their medical treatment), and more."

One of the Auxiliary's biggest fundraisers is the Lights of Love Tree, which has been displayed in the hospital lobby for the past 35 holiday seasons. The tree is adorned with lights and dove ornaments, each of which is designated in honor or memory of loved ones.

To designate a light or ornament in your loved one's name, call 412.748.6640. ■

Foundation to offer free health and wellness programs

This fall, Passavant Hospital Foundation is offering a variety of interactive health and wellness education programs free to the public at Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) North Campus. Each is led by physicians and experts on the topic. All are free, but registration is required by calling 412-788-7546.

This fall's programs are:

What are Nerve Blocks and Why You Should Get Them

Tues., Sept. 13, 2022 ■ 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Learn the pros and cons of regional anesthesia and why it should be a part of your post-operation pain plan. This class is led by Charles Luke, MD, UPMC System Director, Acute Interventional Perioperative Pain Services.

Common Hand Conditions: Diagnosis and Treatment

Tues., Oct. 11, 2022 ■ 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Trenton Gause, MD, orthopaedic Hand and Upper Extremity surgeon with Tri Rivers Musculoskeletal Centers, will discuss the causes, common symptoms, and treatment of osteoarthritis of the hand and wrist. Learn what you can do to manage your pain and remain active.

Updates in Lung Cancer

Tues., Nov. 8, 2022 ■ 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Learn about the advances in lung cancer treatments from Kiran Mehta, MD, radiation oncologist and Jennifer Osborn, MD, hematology oncologist at UPMC Hillman Center.



PASSAVANT HOSPITAL FOUNDATION LEGACY OF CARING

Gala

Passavant Hospital Foundation will host its annual Legacy of Caring Gala on Thursday, September 22 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Pittsburgh–Cranberry to honor six extraordinary individuals who embody a Legacy of Caring and have served long and well to make UPMC Passavant a world-class hospital.

This year's Legacy of Caring honorees are:

Joann Kim, MD
Pulmonologist, Pulmonary Partners;
President, UPMC Passavant Medical Staff –
14 Years of Service

Dr. Kim has been at UPMC Passavant since 2008 and has been a member of Pulmonary Partners during this time. She not only works hard during the day and taking overnight calls while raising her young family, but was on the front line with her partners and led the ICU in caring for our COVID patients. She was the Chairman of the UPMC Department of Medicine from 2011–2019 and currently serves as the president of the Medical Staff at UPMC Passavant. Dr. Kim's commitment to UPMC Passavant, patients, and physicians is extraordinary.



Kelly A. Linn, RN
Outpatient Oncology Unit, UPMC Hillman Cancer
Center at UPMC Passavant – 15 Years of Service

Kelly is a registered nurse at the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center at UPMC Passavant, providing expert oncology nursing care to the patients she serves. Kelly started working in the treatment rooms and was then offered an opportunity to split her time in the Gynecology Department, which led her to the transition to be a collaborative practice nurse. Kelly gives exceptional and thorough care to all her patients, and goes above and beyond for patients with handicaps and special needs.



Kiran Mehta, MD
Radiation Oncologist, UPMC Hillman Cancer
Center at UPMC Passavant – 21 Years of Service

Dr. Mehta is a radiation oncologist at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center at UPMC Passavant. She took on the role as medical director for UPMC Passavant and the entire northern region for UPMC. She feels strongly that quality of care is the most important aspect of care. Dr. Mehta gets involved in activities within her department, the cancer center, and the hospital. She takes the same caring attitude that she has for our patients and families and extends it to the staff.



David H. Rice, MD
Physician, Pulmonary Partners, UPMC Passavant
– 13 Years of Service

Dr. Rice has been at UPMC Passavant – Pulmonary Partners for 13 years. In the height of the pandemic, there were questions from every discipline and every administrator, which were all sent to Dr. Rice as the Critical Care director. Dr. Rice has been a leading representative on the UPMC Critical Care Service line and has provided leadership in implementing strategic initiatives at UPMC Passavant. Dr. Rice leads the Critical Care Team at UPMC Passavant with a focus on providing quality and evidence-based care to our patients to promote positive outcomes as a gentle and compassionate clinician and critical care physician.



Karen L. Schogel, MD
Internist, Genesis Medical Associates;
Immediate Past President, UPMC Passavant
Medical Staff – 25 Years of Service

Dr. Schogel has 25 years of service between UPMC Passavant and Genesis Medical Associates. She has actively pursued leadership and advocate roles through her time with Genesis Medical Associate Partners, UPMC Passavant, and in her community. Dr. Schogel opened her practice under Genesis Medical Associates 20 years ago. Through dedication to her patients, providing consistent quality care, and demonstrating professional excellence, the practice now manages more than 5,000 patients. Dr. Schogel was given the opportunity to lead the UPMC Passavant Medical Staff over six years as president-elect, president, and immediate past president, and did so in an empathic, charismatic, and honest fashion.



Philip and Jacqueline Zmenkowski, RRT
Retired, Volunteer Services at UPMC Passavant

Philip and Jacqueline both worked at UPMC Passavant in the Respiratory Care Department. Once they retired, Philip began volunteering at the hospital as a eucharistic minister. On his off-days from distributing communion to patients, he substitutes for other volunteers when they are unable to come in and he also picks up shifts on the weekends. Both Philip and Jacqueline volunteer at St. John Neumann Church, at community health fairs performing pulmonary function screenings put on by UPMC Passavant, at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center and UPMC Passavant events, and all Passavant Hospital Foundation events. They are always the first to raise their hands when help is needed and proudly represent UPMC Passavant in the hospital and throughout the community.



PASSAVANT HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

9100 BABCOCK BLVD ♦ PITTSBURGH, PA 15237
412-748-6640 ♦ PASSAVANTHOSPITALFOUNDATION.ORG