Happy New Year!

We have had a very busy fall. In late October we had our 26th annual Taste of the Town. Thanks to the support of our 18 local restaurants, caterers, businesses and volunteers we were able to make this a great success. Thank you to all who attended and supported this event.

Thank you to Donna and Kathie and the many volunteers for our Holiday Festival. The Clark Auditorium at the main campus and main lobby at the Saints campus were full of beautiful Christmas items and gifts for all.

As always, remember to visit our gift shop. There are many special events and lobby sales going on. We thank you for your continued support all year long.

Linda Carson and Joy Deschene have been busy working hard on the book fairs. The employees are always happy to come and participate in this great event. Thank you to the many volunteers who help us.

Mark your calendars for February 7, 2013. Our 4th annual ‘A Winter Affair’ will be held at the Stonehedge Inn and Spa in Tyngsborough. Come and listen to some jazz with the Trude Witham Group. Enjoy a wine tasting with Jimmy Young. Try the great food from Stonehedge. You can even try your luck on our putting contest. There is something for everyone! We hope to see you there.

On behalf of the Lowell General Auxiliary, I would like to thank all of you for your continued support in everything we do.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

Mary Bennett
The 26th annual Taste of the Town was a delicious, fun-filled evening, hardly dampened by the early rain preceding Hurricane Sandy! On Sunday, October 28, 2012, at the UMass Lowell Inn and Conference Center, over 350 guests dined on the culinary creations of eighteen local restaurants and caterers.

It was a fierce competition to capture the hearts—and the palates—of the crowd, but in the end, the people chose well. We are proud to congratulate the following winners for the 2012 People’s Choice Awards:

**Appetizer:** Local Butternut Squash Capellacci with almond “milk” sage and crushed amaretti by Moonstones

**Entrée:** Cherry Glazed and Braised Beef Short Ribs with Bourbon Sweet Potato Mashed, Buttered Edamame Beans and Crispy Parsnip Chips by Napa East

**Dessert:** Panna Cotta di Caramello by L’Andana

In addition to the People’s Choice Awards, the Auxiliary awarded the **Chairmen’s Choice**, a prize for the best table presentation and décor. And the winner this year is Gibbet Hill Grill.

Taste of the Town would not be possible without the generosity and hard work of the eighteen restaurants and caterers who give so tirelessly of their time and skill. We would like to extend a huge thank you to our participants: Bianco's Catering, The Capital Grille, Carrabba’s, Cavaleiro's Restaurant, Centro Restaurant & Bar, Cobblestones of Lowell, Frederick’s Pastries, Gibbet Hill Grill, I Dream of Jeanne Cakes, L’Andana Restaurant, Moonstones, Morrison Healthcare, Napa East, Ricardo's Café Trattoria, Rufina’s, Sodexo, Two Chefs Are Better Than One, and UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center.

The evening included such traditional festivities as the Parade of Chefs, a live auction and the basket raffle. For a live auction item, Trinity EMS generously donated a weekend in NYC with Acela train, accommodations at the luxurious and very Italian Michaelangelo Hotel and tickets to a Broadway show—all tailored to the winner’s specific interest. After a round of fierce bidding, auctioneers John and Linda Chemaly awarded the winning bid to Jack O’Connor. Jack and his wife Terry were celebrating their 39th wedding anniversary at Taste of the Town.

The astonishing eighteen baskets for the raffle contained something for everyone: a new iPad, interior design, Celtics and Red Sox tickets, a pair of Adirondack chairs, a 32” Sony LCD TV, a shopping spree, a date night, wagon of fun and much, much more. And of course, there was the signature Taste of the Town to Go. Who said you can’t take it with you?
And the LeMay clan certainly took things with them at the end of the evening. The extended family won an amazing seven baskets. As loyal Taste of the Towners, they must have excellent event karma. All good things come to those who buy raffle tickets.

The Taste of the Town is the largest fundraising event for the Lowell General Hospital Auxiliary. This year, we raised over $52,000 to benefit Lowell General Hospital. And in the aftermath of an evening of culinary delight and indulgence, we loosen our belts, reaffirm our commitment to diet and exercise and turn our thoughts to the endless possibilities of next year’s food, fun and fundraising.
Five of the twenty student volunteers who served as waitresses at the Taste of the Town. It may be hard work, but, definitely fun!

L’Andana Restaurant, Winner of Best Dessert

Napa East, winner of the People’s Choice Award for Best Entrée receives their award from Linda Chemaly.

Lowell General Hospital’s Amy Hoey, Vice President of Patient Care Services /CNO, gets a laugh from two of Sodexo’s chefs!
While Linda Chemaly is busy tallying the votes for the 2012 People’s Choice Awards, Bill Lemos (left), Jody White, Lowell General Hospital’s Executive Vice President/COO (center) and David Wallace (right) have a lively debate over which restaurant/caterer would bring home the top award.

Good Food, Good Friends, Good Times all for a Great Cause!
The annual Holiday Festival was held on Thursday and Friday November 29 and 30 in Clark Auditorium, main campus. Our little elves were busy on the Wednesday before creating a beautiful winter wonderland full of pretty items to tempt our holiday shoppers. And boy did they shop…buying “Alex & Ani” bracelets, unique scarves and cozy jackets, necklaces and lots and lots of holiday décor. Shoppers plucked ornaments right off the four glowing Christmas trees; they bought everything from hand-painted martini glass ornaments to more traditional mercury glass ornaments.

The holiday fun continued over at the Saints campus on Thursday, December 6! The staff and visitors at the Saints campus were pleasantly surprised by the mini holiday festival set up in the main lobby, but were quick to scoop up Alex & Ani bracelets, scarves and other gifts for themselves or that special someone on their list.

“Alex & Ani” bracelets seemed to be 2012’s biggest hit…and still going strong!

President/CEO of Lowell General Hospital, Norm Deschene, getting a jump start on his Holiday Shopping! Carol Gilchrist (in red) sold him, what Norm hopes, is a winning Raffle Calendar. Good luck Norm!
Overall, the festival was a big success and for those of you who came or helped us set up, a huge thank you! If you didn’t make it, please plan to come next year…it’s a fun way to shop and give back to the hospital at the same time!

In other news, the Dahod Building is getting busier and busier with much more traffic in the lobby and the shop. We are selling amazing amounts of Alex & Ani bracelets…if you don’t know what they are you need to come see us…they are all the rage! We are also now carrying breastfeeding supplies which patients can buy directly from their rooms on the hospital’s Skylight intranet system. We carry pumps and accessories, bras, nursing stools, Boppy breastfeeding pillows and Moby baby-carrying wraps. Please consider coming to the Gift Shop for these items if you have a baby shower; they are very popular with new moms!

Finally, if you haven’t “friended” us yet on Facebook, please do: Lowell General Hospital Auxiliary Gift Shop!

**How You Can Become a Gift Shop Volunteer!**

As you know, the Gift Shops at both the main campus and Saints campus provide revenue that is a vital source of our philanthropic effort for the hospital. We rely on volunteers to help staff the gift shops, and with some of our seasoned volunteers headed south for the winter, or retiring, we are looking for volunteers of all ages! Our staff is energetic, fun and enthusiastic and we would love to have you join us! Do you enjoy shopping yourself? Do you like working with people? We have shifts available at all times of the day and early evening or on weekends. Our volunteers are an integral part of the success of our shops and are often the first friendly faces to meet and greet our patients and their families. Joining our team is a meaningful way to give back to our hospital and community. Whether you are interested yourself or know a friend who might be, please call Debhinn Watts, Manager of the Volunteer Services Department at 978-937-6280 to set up an interview!

*Getting into the holiday spirit are Auxilians (left to right) Terry O'Connor, Pauline Lambert and Tarina Mansur!*
The Lowell General Auxiliary mourns the loss of two longtime volunteers and supporters: Evelyn McCartney and Janice Mugford.

Evelyn E. (Spinney) McCartney, 84, a longtime resident of Chelmsford, died peacefully at her home on October 20, 2012. She was married to the late Captain Howard G. McCartney for 42 years. Born in Lowell on December 7, 1927, she was the daughter of the late Manuel J. and Ursula G. (Ritchie) Spinney of Lowell. She graduated Lowell High School with the Class of 1945.

She was a member of Eliot Presbyterian Church and served as Clerk of Session for many years. She was Past President of the Women's Association and most recently served as Fund Raising Chairperson. Evelyn volunteered at the Lowell General Hospital Gift Shop for over 40 years working with the Women's Auxiliary and serving on the board of Lowell General Hospital.

Janice R. (Gillette) Mugford, 78, of Chelmsford, passed away on Friday, November 30, 2012. Beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Janice was born in Chelsea, MA on September 7, 1934 and had resided in Chelmsford since 1966.

A dedicated volunteer, Janice was former Past President of the Elks Emblem Club. She enjoyed many years of service with many organizations including Nashoba Valley Technical School, numerous blood drives, Lowell General Hospital Gift Shop, and the Chelmsford Senior Center.

Lowell General Hospital Gift Shop Manager Donna Thoene writes, “As most of you know, Evelyn worked at the gift shop for many, many years donating countless hours to the auxiliary and hospital. She was a dedicated and very hard-working volunteer who will be greatly missed by all of us in the gift shop and at the hospital. Janice also volunteered at the gift shop for many years and, in the last few years that I knew her, worked from home doing our gift certificate paperwork. No matter how “under the weather” these two were the last year or so, they always came in if at all possible; they loved working for and at the gift shop! We will miss them both!”