

# Ellis Connection

A newsletter for friends of the  
Ellis Hospital Foundation



**Linda Breault**  
Chair – Ellis Hospital  
Foundation  
Board of Trustees

**A**s Chair of the Ellis Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees and a member of the Hospital Board, I know how challenging, difficult, and sometimes confusing the Berger Commission reform process has been. However, health care in our community has become stronger and more sophisticated as a result of the unification of Schenectady's three hospitals.

Consider that at the end of 2007, Bellevue, Ellis and St. Clare's hospitals lost a combined total of \$8 million. After a year of intense change, Ellis finished 2008 with a margin of \$11 million. We are now an organization of 3,300 employees, the second largest employer in Schenectady with 600 physicians and more than 850 bedside nurses caring for more than 550,000 patients a year.

We have come a long way, but as CEO Jim Connolly reminds us, "We are just at the end of the beginning, and there is much work ahead of us." Working with our physicians and the community, we have developed a strategic plan that will strengthen our hospital in all aspects – patient care, financial capability, facility operations, and physician and staff qualifications.

In 2009, the Ellis Hospital Foundation has committed to raise funds to support the new Ellis Center (see page 2) and the well-respected Dental Residency program that provides training to dentists in residency, as well as critical services to many in our community, including the uninsured


and underinsured. In addition, the Foundation will continue its mission to support the lifesaving work done at Ellis through sound financial investments and good stewardship.

We are also very proud of our contributions to the hospital in 2008. Through your outright gifts and others bequests, for example, the Neuroscience Program at Ellis has developed significantly. We now diagnose and treat epilepsy, we have more Certified Neuroscience Registered Nurses on staff than any other area hospital, and our physicians have advanced Intraoperative Neurophysiology Monitoring for brain and spine surgeries.

As Jim says, "There is much work ahead of us," and the climate in which we operate is still filled with daunting challenges. During this economic crisis facing our nation, more people without insurance will need care from hospitals like Ellis, and the Governor's proposed health care cuts and taxes threaten to undermine our success as well. That is why, in spite of our progress, we still need your help. Please think about how much it means to you to have good health care right here, close to home, and when you are making a gift to Ellis be as generous as you can.

Thanks for your support of Ellis Hospital.


*Linda S. Breault*




**Save  
the  
Date!**

**16th Annual**  
*Women's Night Out!*  
**Tuesday, October 6**  
ALBANY MARRIOTT

for ticket information:  
[www.ellishospitalfoundation.org](http://www.ellishospitalfoundation.org) 518-243-4600



Featuring an evening with  
*Ann Jillian*

*Presented by:*  
Neil & Jane Golub &  
The William & Estelle Golub  
Foundation, Inc  
*to benefit:*  
**BELLEVUE**  
Woman's Care Center  
A service of Ellis Hospital 

# Plans Unveiled for Ellis Center Move

As planning proceeded on how to reconfigure care and make best use of the Bellevue, McClellan, and Nott Street campuses, an opportunity to move the Ellis Residential and Rehabilitation Center to the McClellan Campus emerged. Ellis recognized that it is in a unique position to be a leader in setting the standard of quality in long-term care.

*Sylvia Anapolis (left) visits with her mother Lucy Capra (right), a resident of the Ellis Center.*



Staff began to look at best practices in long-term and rehabilitative care and how the McClellan Campus, with its gardens and courtyards, might transform into a state-of-the-art facility for the future.

*"My mother is thrilled as am I. It is like going back home for both of us," said Sylvia Anapolis. "My dad and I were present when the cornerstone was laid, and both my parents volunteered at St. Clare's from the moment the doors opened. More importantly, this move makes sense. We know that we will receive the same wonderful care that we get now," added Anapolis.*

Studies show that rehabilitation, quality of life, and the overall health of individuals are better and quicker when social needs are met, and the new Ellis Center is designed as much as a social facility as a medical long-term care facility. Input from residents, including Loretta Delia and Marie A. Patten, has driven the planning for the new facility. Loretta, a former interior designer and owner of Plandome Int. in Plandome, NY, and Marie, an active painter and quilter, are putting their expertise to use in helping to choose some of the color schemes and complementary fabrics that offer all the warmth and comforts of home.

The new Ellis Center will be located on two-south and on the entire third floor of the McClellan Campus. The 82-bed facility will allow for an increase in the number of private rooms and will double the square footage of the current Ellis Center. When completed, the Ellis Center will be arranged in "little neighborhoods."

In addition, the initial plans for the Center include:

- Family rooms for visiting, celebrations and family gatherings
- Dining space with kitchens for private family festivities
- Dedicated activity space
- Bariatric accommodations
- Cyber café equipped with computers, web cameras, and games
- Library
- Enlarged hair salon/beauty shop
- Extended therapy areas
- Rooftop garden
- Access to the campus' outdoor courtyard and gazebo area and interfaith/non-denominational chapel for religious services.

The cost for renovation and relocation of the Ellis Center is \$8 million, which includes asbestos abatement, room reconfiguration, and wider doors and hallways to meet current code requirements.

Ellis Hospital Foundation has begun a year-long fundraising campaign for the new Center. In addition, the Ellis Center is one of 37 facilities statewide to receive a state grant to make quality of life improvements for its residents.

The new Ellis Center is expected to be complete and fully occupied in 2010.



*Marie A. Patten (left) and Loretta Delia (right) look at color chips for the new Ellis Center.*

## Donor Dialogues

**Q.** Whatever happened to the Elite Repeat Boutique, St. Clare's "recycled" clothing store on McClellan? I have some gently used items I would love to donate — and I'm always hoping to find a hidden treasure there. In fact, what's going on with all the hospital shops?

**A.** The Volunteer Aides of Ellis Hospital are pleased to announce that the *Elite Repeat Boutique*, located as always at 515 McClellan St., is now open for business as usual. The shop hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. The shop, staffed entirely by volunteers, and led by Elvira Newmann welcomes contributions of clean, lightly-worn items, particularly women's clothing. Stop by, say hello, and see what bargains lie in store!

The Volunteer Aides staff two additional Ellis gift shops. The *Shop at Bellevue* is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and features a variety of cards, gifts, and jewelry in addition to baby items. The shop at the Nott St. Campus, *Volunteer Visions*, is open seven days a week Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and Saturday/Sunday, 12 noon to 4 p.m. The shop offers gifts for the entire family, in addition to greeting cards, newspapers, magazines, and tasty treats. Best of all, the proceeds from all the Shops at Ellis support programs and services at Ellis Hospital. Where else can you buy a gift and help save a life?

**Q.** Is there still a dental program at St. Clare's — I mean the McClellan Campus?

**A.** The Dental Health Center at Ellis' McClellan Campus continues to provide more than 12,000 visits each year to patients of all ages, including a large underserved and uninsured population. The Center provides a full range of services including general and pediatric dentistry, periodontics, endodontics, orthodontics, dental implants, and oral surgery. Equally important, it serves as the training ground for Ellis Hospital's Dental Residency Program, established by the former St. Clare's, which has been training generations of dentists since 1975. Future plans at the McClellan Campus include moving the Dental Health Center to newly-renovated space on the first floor of the Cushing Center. Watch for more information on this move!



### Celebrating a Re-Opening

*The Ellis gift shop at the Bellevue Campus recently re-opened to a crowd of well-wishers and new families. The new inventory includes gifts for baby and a unique collection of gift items for any occasion. Shown above, Ellis volunteers celebrate the re-opening, from left to right, Betty Jones; Gretchen Sharp; Carolyn St. John, gift shop manager; Beverly Smith; and Jean Bonacquist.*

### A New Healthcare System Presents a New Golf Event

This year the "new" Ellis Hospital, which has combined the caring traditions of all three hospitals, will present a new golf event.

The new Ellis Hospital Pro-Am Golf Tournament presented by Neil and Jane Golub will provide the opportunity for more golfers to participate. Each foursome will play 18 holes at the Mohawk Golf Club with a professional golfer from the NE Section of the PGA.

The Ellis Pro-Am replaces the Skins Game, which has raised more than \$2 million over 16 years under the leadership of Nora C. R. Jaski and Dr. Steve Goodman. Together they brought some of the leading PGA stars to the Capital Region.

The committee, lead by Trustees Nora Jaski and Andy Fusco and a team of dedicated golfers, is planning a day of fun and great golf followed by a reception buffet and live auction including great golf vacation destinations including Myrtle Beach, SC and Naples, FL. **Save the date of June 22, 2009!**

For sponsorship information or to reserve a place for your foursome, call the Foundation office at **518-243-4600** or email **foundation@Ellishospital.org**.





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Make a gift online at  
[www.ellishospitalfoundation.org](http://www.ellishospitalfoundation.org)

## Studying for a Legacy

Benefactor Dick Huether watches as Laurie Murphy, CNRN (Certified Neuroscience Registered Nurse), reviews a model of the human brain with neurology ICU trainee Donna McGregor, RN. Mr. Huether has planned to leave a bequest to Ellis Hospital to empower front-line workers such as Donna and Laurie to make Ellis a better, safer place through continuing education and peer-to-peer training.



### What will your legacy be?

*Remember the Ellis Hospital Foundation, Inc. in your will.*

## Thank You to our 2008 Donors!

We surpassed our fund raising goal in 2008 by more than \$1 million and helped the hospital fulfill its most pressing needs! With your generous support, Ellis Hospital Foundation was able to help almost every department in the hospital, from the purchase of special beds in neurology designed to reduce the risk of falls, to continuing medical education for our caring, professional staff, to toys for our youngest patients and entertainment for our eldest – to name only a few. Thank you for your extraordinary support and commitment to Ellis, one of the top hospitals in the country, *the best place to get better.*