



Healthcare Association
of New York State

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Arnot Ogden Medical Center Auxiliary and Jones Memorial Hospital Auxiliary Receive Auxiliary of the Year Awards

ALBANY, N.Y. — The Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) today presented its 2010 Auxiliary of the Year Awards to Arnot Ogden Medical Center Auxiliary and Jones Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. The awards were presented during a luncheon ceremony at HANYS' Annual Institute for Health Care Auxiliaries and Volunteer Leaders at the Desmond Hotel and Conference Center in Albany.

HANYS established the annual Auxiliary of the Year Award to recognize the many ways that auxiliaries help strengthen New York State's health care system. This year, the awards were presented to two auxiliaries that demonstrated outstanding achievements in community outreach and advocacy.

Arnot Ogden Medical Center Auxiliary (Large Hospital Category)

The Arnot Ogden Medical Center Auxiliary supports its hospital's mission through service, fundraising, and outreach in the greater Elmira region. The auxiliary is especially proud of its Poison Prevention Program. This year, seven dedicated volunteers (all retired early childhood teachers) visited 70 schools in the region, meeting children in 245 classrooms to present a half-hour program to teach them about poison prevention.

The Auxiliary Thrift Shop is another important community outreach project that serves the public as well as hospital patients. Run by volunteers, the shop sells gently used clothing and housewares at very low prices. It provides free items to human service agencies that make requests on behalf of clients with limited income. Volunteers also make generous gift boxes for needy families at holiday time, and overstock merchandise is donated to the Harrison Valley Children's Home.

In addition, the auxiliary is involved in:

- "Warm Hands, Warm Hearts," which supports children from low-income families by collecting hundreds of scarves, mittens, and hats each holiday season;
- "No One Dies Alone," which provides the reassuring presence of a compassionate companion volunteer for patients with less than 72 hours to live, who would otherwise be alone;

- “Orchids & Candlelight,” an annual fundraiser for cancer care that has raised more than \$650,000 over the past 20 years;
- Children’s Miracle Network, which raises \$400,000 annually to help serve infants and children with special needs in a nine-county region; and
- scholarships for local students entering the health care field, blood drives, daffodil sales for the American Cancer Society, helping staff ArnotHealth community wellness and education events, and helping plan the annual, county-wide volunteer recruitment fair.

The dedication of the auxiliary, coupled with the trust and vision of Arnot Ogden Medical Center’s leaders and staff creates a powerful force that upholds and expands the auxiliary’s mission of excellence in caring.

Jones Memorial Hospital Auxiliary (Small Hospital Category)

The Jones Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, consisting of 150 volunteers from the greater Wellsville area, conducts a wide array of programs that make a big difference in the hospital and in this small, tight-knit community. In addition to greeting and coordinating patients in admissions, operating the gift shop, and escorting patients through the facility, the auxiliary is committed to several larger projects, including the Gala and Silent Auction and the Country Fair. The auxiliary’s fundraising activities have a strong social component and are eagerly anticipated and enthusiastically supported by the community.

The auxiliary is also involved in projects including:

- volunteering for periodic American Red Cross blood drives—many auxiliary members also donate blood;
- supporting “Gil’s Hills,” a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program for local teens;
- scholarships for local students entering the health care field;
- providing blankets for the Community Action Angels “Buddy, Book and Blanket” project, which provides “care packages” to area children in crisis;
- collecting and donating used clothing and canned food to the Salvation Army, Wellspring Ministries, and the local food pantry; and
- providing supplies to the Allegany County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The auxiliary also makes a difference through grassroots advocacy. When a fiscal crisis loomed over all of New York State’s health care facilities throughout 2009, the auxiliary mounted a massive letter-writing campaign targeting all relevant state and federal legislators.

HANYS, the only statewide hospital and continuing care association in New York State, represents more than 550 non-profit and public hospitals, nursing homes, home care agencies, and other health care organizations.