

Gift Shop, Aromatique Sale Proceeds Fund Hospital Projects

What to do with the money? That's what UAMS Medical Center Auxiliary members get to decide each year as they disperse funds raised from gift shop sales and the annual Aromatique sale of discontinued products donated by Dick and Patty Upton, owners. The auxiliary distributed funds totaling \$105,000 from fiscal year 1999-2000 revenue to several worthy projects at UAMS Medical Center.

One of the projects was a new stereo unit for use by MRI patients of the Department of Radiology. The stereo system enables patients to listen to soothing music while undergoing lengthy procedures such as bone marrow testing. Director Marvin Stricklin, radiology, said that some MRI exams can take up to five hours to complete. "The new stereo system allows us to relieve the anxiety about the procedure of some of our patients without using drugs," he said. Patients may bring their favorite compact discs, but the department has CDs on hand. "We have some nice classical titles and nature sounds, like ocean waves, that we can play for them," he said.

The Department of Rehabilitation Therapy and Communication Services also benefitted from the funds raised by auxiliary volunteers. Located in the Donald W. Reynolds Center on Aging, the Rehabilitation Therapy and Fitness Center received new high tech low vision equipment.

Fawnda Steelman, occupational therapist, and Richard Harper, M.D., associate professor, ophthalmology, and residency program director, are collaborating to deliver readily available options for those patients 65 and older who are experiencing a vision problem that is not correctable by eyeglasses, contacts, or surgical procedures. Steelman said, "Vision limitations of this nature make simple everyday tasks such as



UAMS Medical Center Auxiliary board members show the new stereo units for use in the MRI facility. From left to right are: Carlyn Langster, Jane Texter, Carolyn Clark, Betty Moore, Bruce McEntire, Betty Jo Ward, Auxiliary President Anne Sims, Tish Miller, Jean Cross and Ann Williams.

reading a newspaper, recipe, or birthday card virtually impossible." With the new equipment provided by the auxiliary, Rehab Therapy will now be able to provide patients with hands-on demonstrations of treatment and equipment options. The center also received money for its patient contingency and for patients who need financial assistance with transportation service and prescription drugs.

New corometric fetal monitors were purchased and installed in Labor and Delivery. The devices are used to monitor the infants' heart rate and the maternal contraction pattern during labor and delivery. "The fetal monitors are an essential piece of equipment," said Marie Patterson, R.N., C.S.M. "The old fetal monitors needed repair on a weekly basis, and now we are able to monitor patients more accurately," she continued.

Robert Barnes, M.D., former chairman of the Department of Surgery,

proposed the largest funded project. Dr. Barnes' Basic Skills Project will create a Surgical and Interventional Skills Education Center for physicians, residents and students. Barnes has already created a media center for the project. Instructional videotapes, CDs, and DVDs will be designed to instruct physicians and residents how to conduct new surgical and radiological procedures. "It normally costs at least \$1,000 per minute to create these kinds of videos," said Barnes. "We're going to be able to do a lot more at a modest cost," he said. With the auxiliary funds Barnes purchased the audiovisual equipment to create and edit the videos. The Departments of Surgery and Radiology plan to hold monthly group conferences so physicians and residents can view the videos and learn about new procedures. The instructional cassettes and CDs will also be available in the library for students to acquire information on an individual basis.

Projects Funded by UAMS Medical Center Auxiliary

Recipients

Department of Surgery Basic Skills Project
Labor and Delivery Unit
Reynold's Senior Health Center
Center on Aging and Occupational Therapy
Department of Radiology - MRI
ENT Clinic & new Laser Center
MASH Program
UAMS Medical Center Marketing Department
Cardiac Care Unit
Clinical Skills Center
Special Care Nursery
Emergency Department Family Room
2B Medical/Surgery Intermediate Care Unit
Recovery - PACU
Mother Baby - Women's Health

Projects

Surgical and Interventional Skills Education Center
Corometric fetal monitors
Contingency fund, transportation, medications
Low Vision equipment and furnishings
Stereo units for MRI patients
Rhino-Laryngo fiberscope
LR Public Schools "Vital Links" Program
Newborn baby bibs
BP machine and pulseoximeter
Simulated Very Special Patients
Chairs, child play area, waiting area recliners
Furniture/Remodeling
Otoscope, camera and monitor
Glucometer and hemacue machine
TV/VCR for patient education