

UAMS Auxiliary Raises Over \$100,000

UAMS is no different from other health-care centers in one respect — the “wish list” is long and expensive. But thanks to the volunteers of the UAMS Auxiliary, many new items for several areas of the hospital will be acquired this year.

“The proposed list of projects included electronic equipment, stereo units for MRI patients, corometric fetal monitors, a BP machine and pulseoximeter, and low vision equipment,” said Elizabeth Genz, Director of Volunteers.

The largest amount in the current funding allocation will be used to match other funds for the start up of the Surgical/Interventional Skill Education Center. According to an article in *Psychological Review 1993*, it takes 10,000 hours of dedicated practice over 10 years to achieve “expert” performance. Currently, there is no teaching facility in Arkansas devoted to the new technical and interventional skills required for today’s cutting-edge technology. The center will be a part of the planned Multipurpose Educational Outreach Center and serve to educate UAMS students, residents and faculty as well as practicing physicians in Arkansas.

That is a tall order, but Genz and the 300 UAMS Auxiliary members have been filling such needs for a long time. “The gift shop opened in 1982 and donated about \$4,000 to UAMS Medical Center that year. It has grown considerably since then. This year, the gift shop contributed \$50,000,” said Genz. That kind of commitment requires a lot of time from shop manager Barbara Frazer and her loyal staff. “Most of the gift shop volunteers have been there since the beginning,” said Genz.

The other major fund-raiser for the Auxiliary is the Aromatique Sale. “For the past several years, Aromatique owners, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Upton, have donated discontinued products to University Hospital for sale to employees. “About 50 volunteers run the Aromatique Sale,” said Genz.

The high-energy Director of Volunteers credits the people she works with and her assistant, Grace Williams, for the success of the Auxiliary. “We have volunteers from ages 14 to 93. The group is like a warm and caring family. I love the unselfishness of people who give their time,” said Genz.