

Why We Ask The newsletter of

January 2010



From the Executive Director - Nicholas J. Stahl, CFRE

With the introduction of this newsletter we aim to improve our communication with you, our donors, and to better demonstrate how your gifts are making a difference for our patients. The simplest answer to the question why the Hospital asks for gifts is that, while “money isn’t everything,” it makes some things possible. With your support the Hospital can do more and be more than it could otherwise be or do.

For some people, that’s about all the explanation that’s needed. Most people appreciate more specifics. So, here’s *Why We Ask*, and, as always, on behalf of our patients, thank you.

A Talking Bed in a Time of Need



In 2009, with your donations, the hospital replaced all of the patient beds. This bold, but absolutely necessary decision is now being praised by patients and staff alike.

The new beds come equipped with pressure relieving mattresses and retractable frames which aid in the protection of a patient’s skin in the prevention of bedsores. They include technology that is based on a patient’s center of gravity, and which helps to alert caregivers if a patient attempts to get out of bed without assistance.

Beds purchased for the ICU also come equipped with pre-recorded clinical phrases in twelve languages to help Hospital caregivers communicate with limited English proficiency patients.

The comfort and safety of our patients and staff is paramount to the hospital, and thanks to your donations this is now one less thing we’ll all lose sleep over.

Your Gifts Launch New Women’s Health Services

As a next step in the ongoing *Women’s Health Initiative*, made possible through philanthropy in 2009 and 2010, the Hospital has welcomed Susan Lovitt, director of women’s health services. Susan's career has included work as a community health educator, director of a hospital tobacco control initiative, university lecturer, small business owner as well as work in publications/communications.

At the Westerly Hospital, she is responsible for coordinating initiatives around existing women's health services, new program development, and community outreach to women.



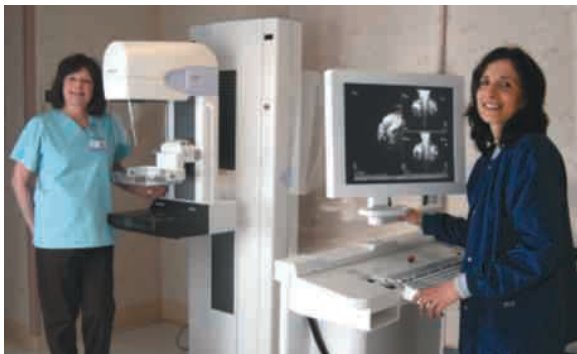
Susan Lovitt, Director of Women’s Health Services

Please join us in welcoming Susan to our caring team.

Your gifts made possible the purchase of new digital mammography equipment, which in just eight months has been used by over 4950 women to more accurately detect breast cancer. Also new to the hospital through your philanthropy is stereotactic breast biopsy and bone densitometry equipment.

View *Why We Ask* on line and see the new additions to the Hospital’s medical staff at www.westerlyhospital.org

2009 Annual Fund



New digital mammography equipment

The Hospital's 2009 fiscal year ended on September 30, with a total of \$926,911 in gifts received. In addition to supporting the purchase of new digital mammography, stereotactic breast biopsy, and bone densitometry equipment as part of the Women's Health Initiative, contributions assisted in expansion of the Hospital's Wound Care Program, and the completion of two additional Hospice Suites.

The year was capped with a successful **21st Annual Benefit Golf Tournament**,

chaired by Paul Nunes and Jennifer Schwindt, which raised more than \$25,000, an increase of \$3,500 over the prior year. Many thanks to all who contributed to this great annual event.



*Winning Team and Event Sponsors:
Professional Planning Group*

Irene Walker's Estate Planning Story: What does it mean to live one's life in one place?

Irene McCarthy Walker died in February 2009 at 27 White Rock Road, Westerly at age eighty-seven.

This was the same neatly kept house in which she was born and had resided her whole life. Precisely what this lifetime in one place meant to her and to her husband John Walker, also a Westerly native and graduate of Westerly High School, we can't say for sure, but we do know that it included a lasting devotion to each other and to their community.

John and Irene both spent their working lives with the Bostich company in East Greenwich RI, later a subsidiary of Textron. During their careers they accumulated some wealth and retired very comfortably, but never changed their modest lifestyle. They had no children.

In 1989, around the time of their retirement, they began to make annual gifts to the Hospital of \$25, which continued each year until 2003 when they responded to a special request by making a \$500 commitment to the Hospital's capital campaign. Around this time their need for the Hospital's services began to increase – Irene expressed appreciation for the care that she and her husband received in the new building they had helped to build. She was especially grateful for the care provided to John during his illness with cancer.



The Westerly Hospital

John died in 2004, and Irene began to make her own estate plans, and working with her attorney arranged a number of simple bequests. These included arrangements for family members and for other people who had helped Irene take care of her home and had assisted her in her later years.

Irene also established a scholarship fund for graduates of Westerly High School, and directed bequests to community institutions she valued highly, including: the Westerly Public Library, the Old Town Hall Museum, the Orlando Smith Trust, the Westerly Animal Shelter, the Westerly Ambulance Corps, the Masonic Lodge, St. Michael's School, and The Westerly Hospital, which received \$250,000. While she had little interest

in being recognized during her lifetime, Irene told her attorney that after her death she wanted people to know of the plans she had made.

She understood that the Hospital plays a large role in the health and security of the residents of our town. Her gift is evidence that she knew as well how important it is for people who are in a position to support this vital institution to do so. We're pleased to share Irene and John Walker's quiet devotion to the special place they always called home, and to the Hospital they relied upon their whole lives. The Walkers' names have been permanently affixed to our *Cornerstone Society* recognition plaque, and their legacy will endure for the benefit of generations of patients.