

A Message From the

PRESIDENT

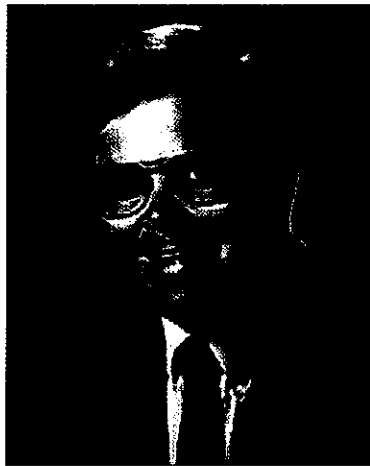
LEO F. FRONZA, JR.

Each and every day, members of the Elmhurst Memorial Hospital Guild give freely of their time and talents while supporting the Hospital's mission to improve the health of the communities and customers we serve. And just as the Hospital has grown over the years, so, too, has the Guild.

On March 21, the Guild will celebrate its 75th anniversary. The Guild was founded in 1929, three years after the Hospital was established. It began as a group of community women who raised funds to provide free hospital care for needy people. These women did everything from canning vegetables for patient meals to sewing hospital gowns to lending a hand in patient care.

Today, members of the Guild – both men and women – continue to make meaningful contributions to the Hospital and to Elmhurst Memorial Healthcare. One of the Guild's most creative contributions is the "Snuggles and Hearts" program, in which members hand-sew and assemble a stuffed elephant for pediatric patients and a heart pillow for cardiac patients. With each stitch, members of the Guild are helping to secure the future of the Hospital and to ensure that it continues to be a strong and viable contributor to the community.

The Guild also raises funds that support new technologies, facilities, programs and services at the



Hospital and other EMHC facilities. Special events such as Chef Fest help to support important endeavors such as our Palliative Care unit and Home Health/Hospice agency. The Guild also provides scholarships to teens who are pursuing healthcare careers.

In addition to supporting the health system financially, many Guild members volunteer at the Hospital and other EMHC locations. From the volunteers who staff the gift shops and resale shop to the transporters who help to transport patients throughout the Hospital, their enthusiasm and can-do attitudes are contagious. Last year, Guild members contributed over 59,000 volunteer hours.

As the Guild celebrates its diamond anniversary, I offer my very sincere thanks for the many positive contributions that the Guild has made over the last 75 years to Elmhurst Memorial Healthcare. Stitch by stitch, and hour by hour, the Guild truly supports the mission of Elmhurst Memorial Healthcare.

Sincerely,

Leo F. Fronza
President/CEO
Elmhurst Memorial Healthcare

*Members of the Guild
are helping to secure the future
of the Hospital
and to ensure that it continues
to be a strong and viable
contributor to the community.*

celebrates 75 years

HOUR, GUILD SECURES HOSPITAL'S MISSION

THE YEAR WAS 1929. BABE RUTH HIT HIS 500TH MAJOR LEAGUE HOME RUN AND THE FIRST ROCKET PLANE LAUNCHED INTO SPACE. IN ELMHURST, THE YEAR 1929 MARKED THE FOUNDING OF THE ELMHURST MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (EMH) GUILD.

What was then referred to as the Elmhurst Memorial Hospital Auxiliary was founded three years after the Hospital's opening as a way to provide free medical care for needy patients. On March 21, the Guild will celebrate its 75th anniversary.

"For 75 years, members of the Guild have made significant contributions to our Hospital," said Leo Fronza, President and CEO of Elmhurst Memorial Healthcare. "From sewing stuffed animals for children who are hospitalized to serving in various volunteer capacities, the men and women of the Guild give us their most valuable gifts – their time, their talents and their energy."

Kaye Murrell, Guild Chairman, feels that the Guild provides a forum in which members give back to their community, as well as engage in year-round, fun activities with like-minded individuals. "This is an exciting time for the Guild, and our diamond anniversary year is sure to be one of the best ever," she said. "We welcome anyone with an interest in supporting their local hospital to consider joining the Guild."

Murrell joined the Guild in 1976 and began volunteering in 1984 in the Hospital's Cardiac unit where she subsequently received treatment for a heart attack. Murrell also created the heart pillows that are sewn by Guild volunteers and given to cardiac patients. Guild members also sew and assemble "Snuggles," a stuffed pink elephant that is given to pediatric patients in the Hospital.

Sewing has defined the Guild since the 1920s when women formed sewing groups to make needed supplies for hospital patients. These women also volunteered their services in canning and preserving fruits and vegetables for Hospital meals and at Christmas, held jam, jelly and pickle sales. In its first year, the Guild raised approximately \$200.

Elmhurst resident and Guild member Agnes Elden-Maxson, who joined the Guild in 1960, remarked, "I can remember when we were delighted to bring in \$50 a year. Now the Guild raises over \$300,000 per year."

GIVING SOMETHING BACK

Funding increases have been accompanied by increases in membership. In its first year, the Guild had 76 members; today it has over 700. Many members say that they want to give something back to their local hospital and community. "I received excellent treatment at Elmhurst Hospital and wanted to give something back," said Janet Mueller of Elmhurst, who joined the Guild in 1974 and served as County Council Chairman in the early 90s. "I have enjoyed making friends through the Guild and also supporting the mission of the Hospital."

Funds raised by the Guild support the Hospital and health system in many ways, from new technologies to facilities to programs and services. In recent years, the Guild has helped fund the Palliative Care unit, the Elmhurst Memorial Center for Health, an infant protection system and scholarships to teen volunteers pursuing careers in healthcare. In 2003, the Guild's main funding project was EMHC's Learning Center for Diabetes.

Fund-raisers are organized by members in each of the four Guild units – Elmhurst, Elmhurst Junior, Addison and Villa Park. Some of the fund-raisers include book fairs, a holiday house walk, a fashion show and even an Alaskan cruise. All four units participate in an annual "Chef Fest" event, which features area chefs and food tastings. Since 2001, Chef Fest has netted over \$150,000, said Chairman Patty Spencer, of Elmhurst.

The Guild raises much of their funds through sales at their downtown Elmhurst resale shop and gift shops at the Hospital and Center for Health. Each year, the shops contribute more than \$200,000, said Carol Krasso, Committee Member.

Money is also raised through donations to the Hospital's Remembrance Fund, said Elden-Maxson, Chairman of the Fund.

Other important functions of the Guild are community relations and volunteerism. Many of the 700 Guild members are also regular Hospital volunteers. Lora Vega, Director of Volunteer Services, said that Guild members contributed over 59,000 volunteer hours during the last fiscal year.

One of the best reasons to join the Guild is the lasting friendships formed through supporting a good cause. "By being a member of the Guild, you are supporting a hospital that is one of the best," said Elden-Maxson. "But raising funds is not the only thing the Guild is about. It's about the camaraderie and the good feeling you get from being involved in something worthwhile."