

## MISSION

The Pinnacle Health Auxiliary is a volunteer community organization dedicated to supporting UPMC Pinnacle in its endeavors to provide quality health care and health education in central Pennsylvania.

## 2022-23

**Auxiliary Executive Board**  
[pn\\_auxiliary@upmc.edu](mailto:pn_auxiliary@upmc.edu)

President  
Kathy Darowish

President-Elect  
Jan Lang

Treasurer  
Cindy Banducci

Assistant Treasurer  
Judy McAllister

Recording Secretary  
Anita Rash

Corresponding Secretary  
Christy Leo

Auxiliary Liaison  
Teri Jakob  
717-231-6320  
[jakobtj@upmc.edu](mailto:jakobtj@upmc.edu)

## President's Message

Our 2021-2022 business year concluded on May 24 with the installation of officers for the 2022-2023 business year. We had a wonderful installation luncheon at The Willows at Ashcombe Mansion, followed by our General Membership Meeting. I must admit, it was a bittersweet day for me as I end my second year as President of your Auxiliary. It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as President of the Pinnacle Health Auxiliary these past two years. Even in the strangest of times, we were able to stay true to our mission as a volunteer fundraising organization. We adapted and continued to do good work in the community.

Reflecting on our past year, it was another strange year even with the pandemic seeming more "under control." The Auxiliary's activities were curtailed for most of the year with our only in-person event being the Spring Gala. And it was great fun and a great success!! Many thanks to the awesome committee that put the event together with proceeds benefiting the Wellness and Integrative Oncology Program at UPMC in Central Pa.

My thanks and gratitude to the Executive Board for our successful year: President-Elect Kathy Darowish, Vice President Jan Lang, Treasurer Cindy Banducci, Assistant Treasurer Dee McLaughlin, Recording Secretary Anita Rash, Corresponding Secretary Christy Leo, and Immediate Past President Dimitri Zozos.

In addition to the Executive Board, many thanks to all of the Committee Chairs, Board members, Auxilians and other volunteers who kept us moving forward. And, of course, we couldn't do what we do without Teri Jakob, the Auxiliary Liaison.

What's next? Welcome to the new Executive Board that will provide leadership for the next year. President Kathy Darowish is putting her Board together and has her planning underway. The framework for some events is taking shape. The Bailey House recently reopened. Please see the following articles and stay tuned for additional updates.

I want to thank the Executive Board, the Board, all committee members, and the membership for the work and support over these last two years. It is because of you that we stayed true to our mission. Yes, I am proud of us!

Please be safe and healthy and spread joy!

With warmest regards,  
**Lynn Graham**



**Pinnacle Health**  
**Auxiliary**

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Harrisburg, PA 17105-8700

Email us at:  
[Pn\\_auxiliary@upmc.edu](mailto:Pn_auxiliary@upmc.edu)  
Or visit us online at  
[UPMCPinnacleFoundation.org/Auxiliary](http://UPMCPinnacleFoundation.org/Auxiliary)

## Congratulations 2022-2023 Auxiliary Executive Board

The Pinnacle Health Auxiliary held our new officers' installation on May 24 at the beautiful Willows at Ashcombe Mansion. Phil Guarneschelli, President of UPMC in Central PA, inducted our new officers:

President – Kathy Darowish  
[kdntow@aol.com](mailto:kdntow@aol.com); 717-503-3793

President-Elect – Jan Lang  
[janzlang@gmail.com](mailto:janzlang@gmail.com); 717-379-5109

Treasurer – Cindy Banducci  
[lucibanducci@gmail.com](mailto:lucibanducci@gmail.com); 717-979-5345

Recording Secretary – Ginger Zozos  
[zozosg@msn.com](mailto:zozosg@msn.com); 717-315-6604

Corresponding Secretary – Christy Leo  
[christyleo@comcast.net](mailto:christyleo@comcast.net); 717-877-9224

The installation meeting was followed by our Membership Meeting. A number of "old" and "new" members attended. At the Board meeting just prior to the Membership Meeting, it was proposed and approved that the Auxiliary increase our contribution from the Spring Gala to \$65,000. So, the highlight of this meeting was the presentation of a check to Phil Guarneschelli that reflected the additional contribution. Well done, Auxiliary!



## The Gavel is Passed!



New president, Kathy Darowish, kicked off her term with a board retreat on August 30, 2022, held at Buhrig's Gathering Place in Mechanicsburg.

It was a full agenda spent reviewing committees, finances, membership, strategic planning and the 2022-2023 calendar. Jessica Ritchie, Vice President of Development for the UPMC Pinnacle Foundation, gave an update on UPMC in Central Pa, and on the Foundation's focus on workforce development and cancer care.

To close out our day, yoga instructor Cindy Beers led a session on mindfulness.

It was a great kickoff to our 2022-2023 year.

Auxiliary president, Kathy Darowish, welcomes attendees to the Board Retreat.



# Pinnacle Health Auxiliary Happenings

*By Kathy Darowish*

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, Phil Guarneschelli inducted the slate of officers at the beautiful Willows at Ashcombe Mansion. At that time, Lynn Graham and Jan Lang presented him with a revised check from the Gala proceeds in the amount of \$65,000 benefiting the Wellness and Integrative Oncology Program at UPMC in Central Pa.

Planning is underway for the coming year. Here is what is happening for 2022/2023 and where you can get involved in helping the Auxiliary.

**General Meetings:** The Auxiliary will have two General Meetings, in addition to the installation of officers in May 2023. These luncheon meetings typically have a theme/activity. Ideas for General Meetings are welcome. If you would like to volunteer to help plan these meetings, and/or if there is a topic of interest, just let us know

**Christmas Stockings:** Each holiday season, Auxiliary volunteers get together to make Christmas stockings, which are given to the newborns arriving during the holiday season. The newborns get to have their photos taken in their stockings, which is something for the parents to treasure for years to come. Are you handy with a sewing machine, scissors or glue gun? If so, contact Shelly Matter, 717-480-9227, to help out this year.

**Casino Night, Saturday, March 4, 2023:** We put the FUN in fundraising, and we will start our planning for a casino night soon. It should be an exciting time. Jan Lang, President Elect, is Chair of this event. Volunteers are needed to help plan the FUN!!

**Children's Health Education Fair:** The Children's Health Fair is held the first Thursday of May each year. Local area third graders are invited to participate. Due to COVID, the past two Fairs were held virtually. We hope we can host these students in person in 2023.



The 2022 Health Fair consisted of 12 stations hosted by community volunteers and UPMC employees. Students learned about healthy eating, exercise, internet safety, hospital stays, and dental care, to name a few topics.

Volunteers are needed to help fill goodie bags for each student, usually three weeks before the event. Volunteers are also needed the day of the event to help lead the students from one station to the next. It is one of the easiest and most fun days of volunteer work you will ever experience.



**Bailey House:** Tania Srouji chairs the Bailey House Committee. Bailey House is a home-away-from-home for adult family members of patients who are in the hospital. Guests stay in private bedrooms and are not charged to use the facilities. Check out more news about Bailey House in this newsletter.

**Ernest R. McDowell Scholarship Fund:** A signature project of the Auxiliary is the Ernest R. McDowell Scholarship Fund. The Auxiliary awards scholarships to college students who major in medical studies, and in 2022 awarded \$47,000 in scholarships. Students can also re-apply yearly if they continue to have a major in a medical field.

**Directory:** Anita Rash compiles the Auxiliary Directory. She organizes our updated membership information, by-laws, calendar etc., and gets it ready for distribution to the members.

**History of the Auxiliary:** Volunteers are needed to help assemble the happenings of our Auxiliary. It is exciting to look back at the long and varied history of the Auxiliary, and to continue to document its future successes.

**Marketing:** Are you good at marketing or good with communication ideas? Tania Srouji, Chair, needs you and your thoughts. We want to get our name and activities out in the Harrisburg area. Contact Tania at 717-576-4333 if you would like to help.

**Newsletter:** The newsletter committee, consisting of Lynn Graham, Christy Leo and Dee McLaughlin, produces a quarterly newsletter. Article ideas are always appreciated.

**Hospitality:** Peggy Gekas chairs the hospitality committee. We look forward to having in-person meetings.

**New Members:** We are **ALWAYS** looking for new members. And you may just make a lifelong friendship by joining the Auxiliary. If you know anyone who just might like what we do, feel free to encourage them to join!

***As you can see, Pinnacle Health Auxiliary does many varied activities to follow our Mission to support UPMC in Central Pa in its endeavors to provide quality health care and health education in Central Pennsylvania.***

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## Meet the New Bailey House Coordinator, Todd Wiker



With the Bailey House reopening to guests this summer and it needing a Bailey House Coordinator, we found the one – meet Todd Wiker. Here's a little bit about Todd:

Hello, my name is Todd. I was born in Paradise, Lancaster County but live in Bressler now with my spouse of 25 years and three cats. I am an avid motorcyclist and do charity fund rides for veterans and their families to support mental health therapy. I am a history buff and enjoy old science fiction movies and cryptozoology. I have been with the health system for 12 years.

**Michael Todd Wiker**

Bailey House Coordinator

*119 & 121 Washington Street*



## Bailey House Participates in Garden Tour 50 Years After Agnes: A Celebration of Resolve

What do you get with a \$200 budget and a group of determined and talented volunteers – a transformation of a downtown backyard into a lovely, inviting courtyard for Bailey House guests.

On Sunday, June 12, 2022, Bailey House participated in Historic Harrisburg Association's **50 Years After Agnes: A Celebration of Resolve**, which marked the half-century milestone of the historic Agnes flood. As part of the celebration, Bailey House took part in the "Secret Gardens of Historic Harrisburg" Garden Tour, which was held on a beautiful sunny afternoon. The tour featured some of Harrisburg's finest hidden gardens and outdoor living spaces throughout the Midtown and Historic Shipoke neighborhoods.



Visitors got a chance to tour the backyard at Bailey House and hear a little bit about what Bailey House provides to families of patients at UPMC in Central Pa.

A special thanks goes out to Tania Srouji, Dr. Chuck and Kathy Darowish, Jan Lang, Eileen Walker and Dimitri Zozos for the transformation, and for hosting almost 200 people that visited Bailey House during the Garden Tour.

Tania also participated in the picnic in riverfront park on Saturday, June 11. She set up a table with information about Bailey House and the Auxiliary.

A BIG shout out to all those who helped make this courtyard a reality. Not only did it bring some awareness to Bailey House, but it will be a lovely place for the residents to relax outside.

### Bailey House Courtyard (before)



*(Continued on the next page)*



## Bailey House Courtyard (after)





## Congratulations Phil!

After 37 years in the health system, Phil Guarneschelli is retiring as President and CEO of UPMC in Central Pa. His leadership experience includes operations management, strategic planning, contracting, finance, physician relations, and real estate and construction management. He has seen it all and done it all in his long and successful career.

Phil's interest and involvement in the community is broad. He has served on numerous boards and has been an influence for good throughout central Pennsylvania.

Phil has always been a champion of the auxiliary and we are forever grateful for his support of and contributions to our events and activities.



We wish Phil and Marlene a happy and fulfilling retirement.



Pinnacle Health Auxiliary members celebrate Phil's retirement at The Willows at Ashcombe Mansion.



Phil and his former longtime administrative assistant, Jan Lang, at Phil's retirement celebration on September 7, 2022.

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## **Pinnacle Health Auxiliary Board Meeting Dates**

October 25

November 15

December 13

**The first to  
apologize is  
the bravest.  
The first to  
forgive is the  
strongest.  
The first to  
forget is the  
happiest.**