

# Giving News

December 2008/January 2009

## Remembering a Friend

Dr. Zmolek, EJ, Ernie – whatever you eventually settled on, it didn't take long to learn that the man possessed special qualities. Among them humility, a sense of humor, faith and joy, open affection for those he liked and people in general, patience and understanding for the ones with whom he didn't agree. I really enjoyed EJ's sense of humor. He once told me that the objective in life was to develop character, not become one.

Most certainly, Dr. Zmolek had his *moments* and failings, known by those closest to him. Perhaps his family, physician colleagues and former staff could tell a few tales. But, I believe it was the love of God manifest in Ernie's everyday life that was so compelling.

Mercy was the beneficiary of the EJ Zmolek life of blessing. He literally cared for the Sisters who were such a big part of Mercy's early years. We have uncovered many accounts of Dr. Zmolek's kindness and help in time of need. EJ, with his beloved wife, Donna, also generously supported the work and mission of Mercy through the Foundation.

I can't help but think that we all got to experience in Dr. EJ Zmolek what a former pastor described as "Christ with skin on." Thanks, Ernie. We'll miss you and appreciate the lessons.

*Vicki Schorse, Executive Director, Mercy Health Foundation*



*Dr. Zmolek never lost his sense of humor. Here he is sharing a laugh with fellow Mercy Health Foundation Trustee Emeritus Susy Vette at the 2007 Friends for Life event at which he and his wife Donna were honored for their philanthropy.*



*Dan Neufelder, President/CEO of Affinity, and Marsha Hughes, Chairperson of the Mercy Health Foundation Board, present Dr. Theresa Cheng with an AFP Outstanding Philanthropist Award. Mary Pieschek, president of NEW AFP is also pictured.*

## Dr. Theresa Cheng Honored

An Outstanding Philanthropist Award was presented to Dr. Theresa Cheng by the Northeast Wisconsin Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) at its annual Philanthropy Day luncheon held November 19 in Appleton. She received the recognition for her 2006 gift of \$2.5 million to Mercy Health Foundation to create the Dr. Theresa M. Cheng Endowment for Medical Excellence and Compassion. The purpose of the endowment is to further advance the neurosurgery program at Mercy Medical Center and provide neurosurgery services to low-income individuals locally, nationally, and internationally.

*To laugh a bit  
and joke a bit  
And grasp a  
friendly hand;  
To love a bit  
and scold a bit  
And know  
they'll understand;  
To tell one's secrets,  
hopes and fears  
And share a  
friendly smile;  
To have a friend  
and be a friend  
Is what makes  
life worthwhile.  
unknown*

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.....

## 2008 Project Updates

A grant from the Foundation allowed the BirthPlace at Mercy to purchase **sleepsacks** to replace blankets for newborns in the nursery. Unlike loose blankets, sleepsacks cannot slip over the baby's face and interfere with breathing. Their use is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics for safe sleep. BirthPlace nurses educate new parents about the advantages of sleepsacks and send one home with each infant.



*Domanic*

A grant to Affinity Visiting Nurses earlier this year, helped cover the cost of a **feasibility study** on the possibility of building a hospice house in Oshkosh. Although there is still interest in pursuing this project in the future, the operating expense projected by the feasibility study and the current economic environment, have resulted in AVN tabling the project for now.

A **Perinatal Hospice Conference** was held October 1-2 with the help of a grant from Mercy Health Foundation. Nurses, physicians, hospice nurses, social workers, and chaplains from Affinity and other area health care providers attended an evening and/or full-day presentation by the director and program manager of the Fetal Concerns Program at the Medical College of Wisconsin. The next step will be to form a committee within Affinity Health System to look at the current protocols for working with families who learn their child will die at or shortly after birth and then integrate Perinatal Hospice concepts.

Mercy Health Foundation continues to solicit gifts for the **digital mammography** equipment purchased for the Phyllis Leach Breast Center at Mercy. At this point, about half of the goal of \$442,420 has been raised.

## Tis the Season for Cookies!

Foundation Friends for Life were visited by elves bearing cookies from Mercy Health Foundation in early December. The cookies are a small token of our gratitude for the wonderful support received from donors throughout the year. Mercy volunteers graciously donned our brand new elf costumes to do the legwork. The costumes were designed and handmade by Mercy volunteer Lucia Franzen. Volunteer Sue Daggett was the delivery elf and Bob Brennan the driver for the first cookie run of the season, December 2. Thank you to all!



## Tribute Gifts October/November 2008

### In Honor of:

*Marsha Hughes  
Mother Mary of  
St. Marshall's  
Vicki Schorse  
Dr. E.J. and Donna Zmolek*

### In Memory of:

*Bill Brunover  
Billy Butt  
Bob Eichel  
Tom and Tommy Eichner  
Gina Graf  
Daniel and Orabella Hanson  
Stanley Kierszh  
Ed Lichtenwald  
Bernard Miller  
Marilynn Moll  
Mary Newton  
Rosemary Tauber  
Grace A. Thoma  
Jerry Winter  
Dr. E.J. Zmolek*



## Good Food, Good Wine, Good Friends

In early December, Dave and Cherri Vierthaler claimed the wine and dine package they purchased in the live auction at the 2008 Mercy Health Foundation Invitational. James Grine shared his wine expertise offering wines donated by McKnight and Carlson. Additionally, six donor couples: Dick and Marti Norton, Loren and Judy Swanson, John and Susy Vette, Keith and Barbara Voelker, and Don and Judy Weber cooked up and served tasty tapas to the Vierthaler's guests for the special evening. *Pictured are Loren Swanson, Susy Vette, Barbara Voelker, and Judy Swanson.*