

The **Cole Foundation** is a not-for-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and enhancing the work of Cole Memorial as it serves its communities by promoting awareness of needs and goals and identifying and connecting donors to those needs.



Andrea Streich,  
Executive Director of  
Cole Foundation

## WELCOME

Welcome to our first quarterly "Foundation Connection" newsletter. I'm excited and honored to introduce myself as the Cole Foundation's Executive Director. It was my pleasure to join the Cole family in September 2016. My mission has always been to one day give back to the community that I was born and raised in.

*"A foundation that is motivated in finding ways to help develop and enrich the work that is done at Cole Memorial and the communities we serve, is something I knew I wanted to be a part of. This position is an excellent opportunity for me to pull this community together to support Cole Memorial."*

The Cole Foundation's mission is very simple; to support and enhance the work of Cole Memorial as it serves its communities by promoting awareness of needs and goals and identifying and connecting donors to those needs. Our vision as a philanthropic organization is to ensure our long-term goal of keeping our local healthcare system progressive and vibrant in order to best serve the medical needs of our diverse communities. I look forward to 2018 and the great things it has in store for the Foundation and Cole Memorial. ❖



Ed Pitchford, President & CEO of Cole Memorial, Assistant Secretary & Treasurer of Cole Foundation

## Cole Foundation Vital to Our Future

Hospital systems like Cole Memorial, depend on gifts and grants to provide funds for things that the government and insurance companies do not. Examples are such things as support for cancer patient needs, assisting a new mom, providing transportation for those without means, offering education for those that wish to become a registered nurse or another health profession. And, at times, hospitals need help with major building projects, buying new equipment or starting new services.

Raising and using funds to accomplish these goals is the responsibility of the Cole Foundation. Formed in 2012, Cole Foundation is locally managed and governed by a Board of Directors of area residents.

You may have heard that Cole Memorial is becoming a part of University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) based in Pittsburgh and now operating across western and central Pennsylvania from Maryland to New York. This will be a great thing for residents of our region. But in the midst of this transaction, Cole Foundation will remain exclusively to support Cole and this region. So, local gifts and grants will remain local and will benefit our local hospital that came into existence because Mr. Charles Cole provided a huge gift in 1961 to build this organization that continues to bear his name. Future gifts will preserve his legacy and help to insure that Cole remains modern and relevant as our industry continues to change. ❖

## Light Up A Life Celebration a Success

On the evening of December 7, approximately 150 people attended the Cole Foundation's sixth annual "Light Up A Life" celebration on Cole Memorial Hospital's campus. Each light on the tree represents a contribution in honor and remembrance of a loved one.

Prior to the crowd singing carols led by the North Country Voices choir and lighting the 60-foot tree, the Cole Foundation's Executive Director Andrea Streich provided a welcome message.



Dr. Andrea Heller of the new Palliative Care Clinic delivered a heart-felt testimony of why she loves helping patients, like Cora Watson. Pictured on the right is Cora's family as they memorialized her and lit our ceremonial tree.

Cole Memorial's Hospice Chaplain Reverend Philip Sanders shared an invocation and special remarks were presented by Andrea Heller, DO, regarding Cole Memorial's Hospice services and the new Palliative Care Clinic.

"Cole Foundation wishes to thank everyone who donated and those who helped with this special ceremony," said Andrea Streich. "We're truly touched and blessed by the support received from our community for our patients of the Patterson Cancer Center and the Hospice program. My hope is that this event has brought joy to others and given them something beautiful to think about during this holiday season."

Proceeds from this event support the needs of hospice and cancer patients at Cole Memorial. To date, over \$13 thousand has been donated to this year's campaign. In appreciation, a list of donors may be seen on the Foundation's News page at [www.colememorial.org](http://www.colememorial.org). ❖



## Susan G. Komen® Grant Provides Free Mammograms

Cole Foundation and Susan G. Komen® Upstate New York have teamed up to offer free mammography screenings for uninsured or underinsured women, ages 40 and older. Upcoming screenings dates are **February 14 and March 14**. If you would like more information, please call 814.274.5375 or schedule an appointment today at 814.274.8200. ❖

## Volunteer Spotlight: Elizabeth Staub

Cole Memorial is honored to have 60 volunteers that selflessly dedicate their time and talents to this organization.

It was with mixed emotions that we announced Elizabeth Staub's final day as a Hospital and Foundation volunteer on December 22. Elizabeth began volunteering in 1989 and for 28 years was dedicated and committed to Cole Memorial.

She has participated in many ways, including working in the snack bar, gift shop, the Cole Foundation's Annual Golf Tournament, and serving as Secretary/Treasurer of the Auxiliary. In 2012, Elizabeth was named an Honorary Director and has volunteered over 9,100 hours! Elizabeth will be deeply missed and her Cole family thanks her for all she has done! ❖



Pictured from the left: Gift Shop Manager & Volunteer Shelby Pitchford, presented Elizabeth Staub an Honorary Director plaque with retired Volunteer Director Rose Bunch.

## Reach Out and Read



Cole Foundation and Cole Memorial's Pediatric team would like to thank the community for their continued support of the Reach Out and Read program. This program is to advise parents on the importance of reading aloud to their children for developmental growth. The program begins at the six-month checkup and continues through age five. At the time of their office appointment, the child is given a new book and their parents are educated on the impact of reading with their child to promote improvement in their receptive and expressive vocabulary and language skills.

This program is near and dear to the hearts of Cole Memorial's pediatricians, Dr. Mary Ann Rigas and Dr. Marlene Wust-Smith.

Dr. Mary Ann Rigas says, "Research has shown that families who participate in the Reach Out and Read program read to their children more often and their children have higher language and literacy skills by kindergarten. Thanks to the support of our local sponsors, Reach Out and Read is in its sixth year at Cole Memorial! Last year the pediatric practices in Coudersport and Port Allegany distributed 1,827 new books to children at their well child visits. We are so happy to be able to share the love of reading with our patients and families and appreciate our communities' continued generosity to sustain our Reach Out and Read program."

Dr. Marlene Wust-Smith adds, "The Reach Out and Read program is one of the best initiatives that Cole Memorial Pediatrics has gotten involved with. Children and their parents delight in getting a new book at each of their children's well child visits from the ages of six months through five years, and there is no better feeling than knowing that we are helping our community's children develop early literacy skills and a love for reading. The program would be unsustainable without our community's generous donations for the purchase of new books. We thank everyone who has supported this program and look forward to creating the next generation of early readers!" ❖



## Employees Share a Big Heart

The Heart of Cole Employee Giving Club represents Cole Memorial's staff by working together for the future of health care in our community, for our families, our friends and neighbors. Heart of Cole was organized by employees to provide support for each other and Cole Memorial's future. The employee determines the amount of their tax-deductible gift and how they would like their contribution distributed. Currently 31% of full-time employees

at Cole Memorial participate. If you're an employee who wishes to contribute, please stop by Human Resources or the Cole Foundation office. ❖

## Thank You...

We appreciate your continued support. If you know someone else who might like to donate, please pass this newsletter along. Whatever the gift, it will make a difference for patients, caregivers and our community's health.

*Yes, I want to support the Cole Foundation. Please contact me.*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

I enclosed a check.

I prefer to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_

On  Visa  MasterCard

Account# \_\_\_\_\_

Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Board of Directors

The Cole Foundation is governed by a board of directors who volunteer their time and energy in pursuit of the Foundation's mission to support and enhance the work of Cole Memorial. The Foundation serves its communities by promoting awareness of needs and goals and identifying and connecting donors to those needs. This outstanding board draws its membership from the community at large.

Members include:

David Buckler – Chair

Dave Erick

Charles "Boo" Hagerty – Vice Chair

Ami Foust

Karen Larsen – Secretary & Treasurer

Terry Foust

Ed Pitchford – Assistant Secretary & Treasurer, Ex Officio

Sam Lush

Amy Hunt – Ex Officio

Linda Voss-Plummer

Andrea Streich – Executive Director