



## **A Brief History of the MRMC Auxiliary**

### **In the Beginning**

- In 1903, the Draper family of Hopedale established the Milford Hospital. That same year, several women from the community organized to provide support to the hospital, forming the Ladies Aid, what is now known as the MRMC Auxiliary.
- One of the earlier efforts by the Ladies Aid was to provide sheets, towels and diapers for the hospital.

### **Thru the Years**

- By the 1950's the Annual Springtime Ball was a major fundraising event and was attended by more than 400 couples.
- Meetings were held in the afternoon. At the conclusion of the meeting, a tea of sandwiches and cookies was served by the Hospital Superintendent.
- Through the 1950's into the 1960's, the Annual Ball continued with proceeds purchasing equipment for the Milford Hospital.
- One of the highlights of the 1960's was "Fractured Follies" a musical revue, featuring local nurses and doctors in a two-act revue. Tickets sold for \$2.50 and \$1.25.
- Membership continued to grow, with 6 Directors in surrounding towns (Mendon, Franklin, Uxbridge, Medway and Upton) tasked to increase membership to support the fundraising efforts.
- A Membership Drive was conducted in October each year. As a result, there were 343 members from Hopedale, 325 from Milford, and 70 members in the remaining surrounding towns.
- Seasonally, the Good Cheer Committee provided: flowers, baskets of fruit and favors for the hospital trays; toys for children, and additionally, trees and plants were placed in the men's and women's boards.
- Still known as the Ladies Aid Society, the group committed \$21,000 to fund the Coffee and Gift Shop, opening in August 1962. An additional \$21,000 was pledged to provide an Emergency Operating Room.
- In the mid 1970's, the "Ladies Aid" name was changed to the Auxiliary. The organization continues to fundraise in support of the hospital thru various events such as a Fashion Show and Luncheon.

### **Current Days**

- The Auxiliary continues to fundraise to support the needs of the Milford Regional Medical Center, by raising funds for various departments including two major MRMC Campaigns, the 2012 Excellence Campaign for the ICU, the Emergency Department and Private Patient Rooms, plus the 2018 Commitment Campaign for Oncology and Palliative Care.
- Additional funds were raised to support The Tranquility Garden, equipment for Maternity, Radiology, Elder Care, Cardiac Rehab, and Palliative Care Services, to name a few.
- The Auxiliary also participates in the annual Scholarship Awards for our high school volunteers who intend to go on to study healthcare fields while in college.