

WMH foundation holds social, receives three gifts

News

Posted by : John

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It was a night of celebrating, the receiving of gifts and the ceremonial ground breaking as over 150 individuals kicked off the Wright Memorial Hospital Walking Trail and Memorial Garden project on Friday night in Trenton.

“This is just the beginning” said Matt Osterthun, Foundation Development Officer for Wright Memorial. “As we come together for the 111th anniversary of Wright Memorial, this night is just the beginning of greater things to come for this hospital and for this community.”

Osterthun was one of three speakers who thanked and challenged the community to continue their support of Wright Memorial and to work together for the betterment of local health care. Others addressing the group included Rick Klinginsmith, Wright Memorial Foundation Board Member who announced the first three donors of the indoor pictorial project for the hospital followed by WMH Pharmacist Scott Martin who not only thanked the audience for their personal support but the pending support for the construction of the walking trail/memorial garden.

Announced as donors of acrylic photographs to be displayed in prominent places within the hospital were the Bill and Linda Kennebeck family, Dave Wright in honor of his parents “the late Jerald and Ann Wright and Virginia Rose Brassfield-Briegel in honor of her late husband, Larry Briegel. Scenes of the Charlie Dye Bridge, the 5th hole of the Riverside Country Club and the Trenton Trap & Shooting Range are the first three photos to be completed by Trenton resident Dave Wright. Klinginsmith thanked each presenter and invited other individuals, families and businesses to sponsor special scenes of the area as lasting reminders of the community and the important history of the area creating a living legacy for years to come.

Key note speaker Scott Martin, a native of Webb City, Missouri came to Trenton as a pharmacist through a temporary agency and immediately doors began to open allowing him to accept permanent employment and a feeling that Trenton was indeed a home away from home. His arrival to Trenton came while the hospital was located in its previous location where talk began to focus on the new hospital and the importance of a walking trail “a conversation that Martin supported because of his personal health challenges and the importance of an employee driven effort. Martin suffered what was initially diagnosed as a stroke in 2000, later to learn it was a brain tumor. Following visits to hospitals in Houston and Kansas City for observation and treatment, Martin was also encouraged to eat better, get plenty of exercise and to prepare for uncertainties related to cancer diagnosis. Martin became a team champion as a part of the hospital’s family campaign and proudly announced to the audience a 97% participation among hospital employees in support of the proposed walking trail.

Martin’s story didn’t stop there as he related having a seizure in the parking lot of the hospital while arriving for work for day. He credited the support of his pharmacy team, the hospital administration and community members who assisted him throughout his healing process. “All in all,” he said “the Wright Memorial family offered love and support to enable his healing.” Martin believes the walking trail and memorial garden will provide similar support to not only the patients of the hospital but their family members, employees just like himself and the entire community in striving for a healthier lifestyle. “This is just another example of why Wright Memorial Hospital is truly the best place to get care and the best place to give care,” said Martin in closing.

Matt Osterthun announced that over \$112,000 has been raised in cash and pledges for the walking trail with construction to begin soon. Eight individuals participated in the commemorative ground breaking ceremony that included: Hospital CEO Gary Jordan, Hospital Board Chairman Wendell Lenhart, Hospital Foundation Board Chair Cathy McKay, Dr. John Holcomb “local donor, Ron Auxier of the contracted architectural firm of Ellison-Auxier, Hospital Pharmacist Scott Martin and hospital employees Kristie Fox and Denise Hamilton who were among the first to begin making contributions to the walking trail before the vision became a reality.

Osterthun extended the invitation to those in attendance to support the gift campaign by purchasing bricks and/or tiles, trees to be planted along the trail, benches within designated areas and finally, five sitting areas to be located throughout the trail. A memorial garden will be the second phase of the campaign with a memorial wall of tiles to be an important part of recognition and financial support. "Each naming opportunity creates a lasting legacy that will impact not only the present, but our future generations as well," said Osterthun.