

Message *from* the President of The Auxiliary to Texas Children's Hospital

When I was installed as president of The Auxiliary to Texas Children's Hospital last fall, one of my priorities was to make sure The Auxiliary and its members were recognized for all that they do for the hospital, its patients and its staff. This issue of *Watch* shows exactly why our group of volunteers deserves every accolade it receives.



The magazine's two main feature articles share a common theme: that the work performed at Texas Children's goes beyond medicine into the areas of education, service and outreach and that The Auxiliary makes important contributions to all three.

One of these pieces features the hospital's work in the field of genetics. Thanks in large part to our affiliation with Baylor College of Medicine, which has the nation's top-ranked genetics department, Texas Children's has one of the world's leading genetics programs among pediatric hospitals.

As this article shows, the hospital's work in genetics extends beyond purely medical/scientific efforts. Since genetics-related care, at this point, primarily involves identifying and diagnosing conditions then determining interventions, education and outreach play a big role in what the hospital offers to patients and families. That's why The Auxiliary provides financial support to important outreach efforts such as the Evenings with Genetics lecture series.

The other main article in this issue lists most of the non-medical resources the hospital's patients and their families can access. These range from personal, one-on-one services like the baby holders who work throughout the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, to bigger programs like *Radio Lollipop* and Caring for the Caregivers. Since the list is intended to serve as a resource for patients and families, it includes programs that aren't spearheaded by The Auxiliary. Remove the Auxiliary-run

services, though, and it would be a much shorter list.

As Texas Children's has grown, so has The Auxiliary. The new people we've had join us over the years bring with them new ideas that develop into new programs, making our service to the hospital even more valuable. One person who has witnessed this growth and development from the very beginning is Dr. Edward Singleton. In 1953, Dr. Singleton was the first physician hired at Texas Children's and, remarkably, he's still practicing here today. This issue contains a Q&A with Dr. Singleton on his 57 years with the hospital, its evolution from an institution that didn't even have a single building of its own to one of the largest and most respected pediatric health care institutions in the country and, of course, his deep relationship with The Auxiliary.

In the Q&A, Dr. Singleton points out that he dedicated a medical textbook to The Auxiliary to show his appreciation for all they had done for Texas Children's. This magazine as a whole will remind those who read it that all Auxiliary members should be similarly thanked for their gift of service.

Best regards,

MICHAEL SCHRAMM

President

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