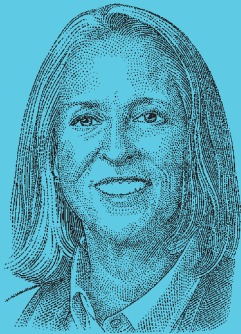


Message *from* the President of The Auxiliary to Texas Children's Hospital

We've had a lot to celebrate lately. Since the last great issue of *Watch* magazine, Texas Children's Hospital has reached new milestones, received new accolades and announced news that will shape the direction of our future. We're excited to share all this and more in this issue of *Watch*.



As we all feel and know, Texas Children's Hospital is blessed to have wonderful staff, dedicated volunteers and exceptional doctors as well as brilliant, forward-thinking leaders. I feel that excellence clearly shows in the appointment of Dr. Mark Kline as the hospital's new physician-in-chief. You may know that Dr. Kline was a protégé of the late and much-loved Dr. Ralph Feigin and that he has spent the past several years establishing a series of groundbreaking clinics in Africa and Romania to treat HIV-positive children. I hope you will take the time to get to know him better and learn about his vision for Texas Children's by reading an in-depth Q&A article in the following pages.

You'll be equally fascinated by another story featuring one of our innovative physicians—Dr. Bryan Vartabedian—who uses the latest social media tools such as blogs and Twitter to offer health information to the public. This issue also showcases the hospital's recently renovated and rechristened Children's Garden—a lush, green retreat right in the heart of Texas Children's main campus. Thanks to a collaboration of groups and individuals led by The Auxiliary, the garden is now welcoming patients, parents and employees with the sights, sounds and smells of the outdoors.

Lately Texas Children's Hospital has earned continued respect and recognition from the media and from hospital associations. Probably the most notable recognition came from U.S. News Media Group's 2009 rankings of America's Best Children's Hospitals. Texas Children's was one of only 10 hospitals in the country to earn a spot on the Honor Roll by ranking among the top 15 in all 10 subspecialties surveyed. The results clearly prove what we've known all along—that we're among the best of the best.

It seems that our wonderful Auxiliary members have even more to be proud of—Texas Children's Hospital has just been named by the *Houston Business Journal* as the best place to work in Houston. I think it is safe to say that our volunteers' selfless donations of care and time helped Texas Children's earn this distinction.

Just in case you think that's the end of our recognition, think again. The Auxiliary's Caring for the Caregivers program has just been honored with the Texas Association of Hospital Volunteers' Past President Award of Excellence. This unique program focuses on meeting the needs of the workers at Texas Children's Hospital by offering services such as neck massages and tea and sweets service from our traveling tea cart, providing a welcome break for our hard-working staff.

Finally, I am proud to say Texas Children's Hospital has reached two more milestones in its landmark Vision 2010 expansion campaign with the topping out of the West Campus location and the Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Research Institute. As I watched the tree being hoisted to the top of the West Campus building, my thoughts were on all the children who will be helped by this magnificent facility when it is finished and all the volunteers to come who will be right there to fill in where needed. Once again, I'd like to thank all the dreamers and forward-thinkers at Texas Children's Hospital, and of course all those who help them achieve their goals.

Sincerely,

SUSAN HARTZOG

President

The Auxiliary, 2008–2009