



Barbara and Paul Hills overlook the hospital's new entrance at the South Pavilion lobby during a final phase of construction in April.

Making and Keeping Hospital Friends

BARRINGTON RESIDENTS Barbie and Paul Hills have been overlooking the health needs of the community with their talent, treasure, and time—for 29 years to be exact—offering the community unwavering support for Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital with passion and impressive results.

“The hospital stands for a healthy community and its management keeps a focus on prevention; but if you need treatment, renown doctors are on staff ready to help you,” Paul said.

The Hills’ involvement with Good Shepherd dates back to 1987, shortly after they moved to Barrington from Crystal Lake. They wrote a check

for \$1,000 to achieve the donor category named Shepherd. Today, they are chairs of the largest fundraising campaign in the hospital’s history, \$25 million toward the cost of the hospital’s near-complete modernization project.

“I wasn’t here when they built the hospital originally [in 1979],” Paul said. After busy schedules of working and raising children (“and all the sports”), Paul and Barbie stepped up. “My wife and I wanted to be a part of it.”

Paul has a background in the health care business. In 1971 he co-founded Sage Products Inc. The Cary-based company manufactures medical devices. “Not only did I earn a living in health

care,” he says, “but it was something that I understood. Not only its importance to the economy, but I also understood that health care—especially for younger people and older people—is something they cannot live without. ... It’s a birth-to-death need.”

Barbie was busy raising the couple’s four children in Barrington, and having Good Shepherd close to home was important to her. “I’m glad it’s here in our backyard, where we sleep, near our home,” she said. As a mother and grandmother, having high-quality health care nearby was a must. “One of our sons, John Paul, was born here.” Two of the Hills’ four children live in Barrington with



PHOTO: TAO ZHANG/LENSWORK STUDIO

“Everyone who lives in the community will have the benefit of that hospital.”

The Hills began to organize the fundraising campaign several years ago. They assembled a steering committee of community leaders they felt shared their passion for Good Shepherd, ones who could get their friends involved. In addition to the nonstop fundraising, Barbie and Paul are co-chairing the upcoming gala. “It’s our chance to support the hospital,” Barbie says of her commitment. “Nothing is important, unless you make it important.”

As chairwoman of the Silver and Gold Friendship Gala on October 8, Barbie shares her excitement for the event, to be held at Arlington International Racecourse. “It’s going to be epic fun! We have music from ‘New Age’ Beatles, an a cappella group named Blake, coming in from England, who are fantastic. There will be plenty of fun surprises,” she says.

The campaign and its gala committee invites the whole community to be involved in the modernization project, with a goal of completing the \$25 million goal by gala time. “Now that we are very close to that goal,” Barbie Hills says, “we’re going to need the help of the entire community—gifts of any size. We need the community to join forces to complete this great initiative,” Barbie says. “We need everybody’s help. It’s for all of us.”

To contribute to the Advocate Good Shepherd modernization campaign, or purchase a table or individual tickets for the October gala, contact hospital Vice President of Development Sue Abderholden at 847-842-4026.

their families. They have six grandchildren (three were born here) and one on the way. They talk about how 20 to 40 years from now, their grandchildren will be having babies at Good Shepherd.

Both Barbie and Paul say that “this is the place” to raise a family. “We have good schools, parks, a library, restaurants, Barrington’s White House, safe neighborhoods, and a great hospital,” Paul says. “What more could a family want?”

HEARTFELT INVESTMENTS

“The first opportunity to serve was when I was invited to be on the development council. Our goal was to take the Good Shepherd Hospital golf outing to the next level,” Paul said. “We had the best group of people. We raised \$120,000. It wasn’t about playing golf—it was about developing friends of Good Shepherd Hospital. We wanted to attract the kind of people who cared about the hospital, and with that, we saw how success breeds more success,” he said. “We put together the right team that was responsible for working together to meet the goal. We asked our friends to get on board. We really dug in.” To Paul’s surprise, no one who was asked to help said no. People helped at the level they could.

In addition to his role with the hospital’s development council, Paul served on the governing council. He was also chairperson of the fundraising campaign for the Wayne and Patricia Kocourek Family Cardiac Care Center, which opened in 2005.

The Cardiac Center and its remarkable medical team recently saved Paul’s life with quadruple bypass surgery. In early 2016, he suffered two heart attacks in Naples, Florida. Paul reached out to his trusted Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital family. “Cardiologist George Christy and heart surgeon Tim Votapka got it right,” Paul says. “People walk into the hospital feeling bad, needing help, and they come out feeling well. They get it right.”

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE GALA

The fundraising campaign’s theme, “Look Forward,” reflects the progress that modernization brings to Good Shepherd. “The community is getting, basically, a brand new hospital,” Paul says.

