The CAMC Foundation Gala raised more than $308,000 to support programs and services at CAMC Women and Children's Hospital.

**CAMC Foundation Mission**
The mission of the CAMC Foundation is to support and promote Charleston Area Medical Center’s delivery of excellent and compassionate health services, and its contribution to the quality of life and economic vitality of the region.

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**CAMC Foundation Advisor’s Committee Tip**

From John Barry, VP, Philanthropic Services at BB&T

Thinking of making a charitable bequest in your will? Another viable option is using your pension plan/401(k) as a giving opportunity. Pension plan/401(k)s create “income in respect of descendent.” Assets such as a pension plan/401(k) generally provide better tax benefits in a testamentary gift. The best type of asset to gift to charity through an estate will normally be an asset that produces taxable income. Most assets that an heir inherits are free from income tax. However, with the exception of a surviving spouse, an heir will pay income tax on amounts received from a descendents' retirement plan. If you are going to make a charitable bequest, it is usually better to transfer assets subject to income tax to charity and transfer non-taxable assets to heirs.
Inside the NICU; a personal reflection

Jarna Jarrett will tell you, “Sometimes when you do everything right, things still go wrong.” She notes that she tried to do everything right to ensure her baby had a safe, beautiful start at life. Even though her doctor had placed her on bed rest for some minor complications, her pregnancy had nearly been uneventful and showed no foetinating signs of what was to come. She remembers “going to bed early on a Friday night. The next thing I remember was waking up in the hospital on a Sunday evening, confused and without child.” She describes her experience in her own words.

As my husband recounts the story, he will tell you he had been awakened by the sounds of gurgling and choking. Surprised and helpless, he watched as my body convulsed and seized. Frantically, he called 911 and I was quickly rushed to CAMC Women and Children’s Hospital. In the emergency room, I experienced another seizure and had to be restrained by several nurses and placed in physical restraints. The life-threatening seizures I experienced were the catalyst that triggered the pre-term birth of our daughter.

I later learned that I had eclampsia. Eclampsia is the most severe form of preeclampsia. Preeclampsia is a condition pregnant women can get during pregnancy. It is marked by high blood pressure and often times, swelling in the feet, legs and hands. Eclampsia can cause seizures, coma and even death of the mother and baby. In my case, I did not exhibit any of these symptoms. Thankfully, during the morning of my ordeal, Dr. Stephen Bush immediately recognized my situation and rushed me into surgery saving my life and that of my baby’s. Reagan Grace was born Oct. 28 weighing only two pounds 15 ounces. Provided our new bundle of Reagan Grace was born Oct. 28 saving my life and that of my baby’s. The gift was used to purchase a new Giraffe bed for the NICU.

The Giraffe bed is designed to maximize the opportunity for survival of a low birth weight infant. The Giraffe bed provides humidity, up to 100 percent, which reduces the water loss that occurs through a premature baby’s thin and fragile skin. The bed provides essential heat to maintain a normal body temperature, and it can do so in two positions, open and closed. The bed is in the open position when access to the baby is needed, but most of the time the bed is in the closed position to reduce noise and keep the baby’s internal environment stable.

Program to help families of NICU babies

The March of Dimes has chosen CAMC Women and Children’s Hospital to implement its first NICU Family Support program in West Virginia. Inside the neonatal intensive care unit, the patients are receiving tremendous care from doctors, nurses and others. The NICU Family Support specialist will be working closely with parents providing them with a comprehensive set of services developed to give them information, comfort and emotional support during and after the NICU hospitalization. The CAMC Foundation is funding the project along with the March of Dimes. The program was announced at a March 4 news conference, which included a media tour of the NICU.

“March of Dimes selected CAMC Women and Children’s Hospital as its partner for NICU Family Support because of its reputation for excellence and the quality care it provides to babies,” said Chuck Jones, Chairman of the March of Dimes Board of Directors. “We are grateful to the doctors and nurses who work every day to care for sick babies and their families. We want to support their efforts.”

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Reycling = $ for CAMC Foundation

The CAMC Foundation has teamed up with The Wireless Alliance to put a cell phone recycling program into place. The program is a way to improve the environment while helping raise additional funds for the CAMC Foundation to continue its mission of “Helping CAMC touch people’s lives every day.”

The Wireless Alliance accepts all cell phone makes and models, accessories, batteries and chargers. It recycles everything received regardless of its value. The alliance maintains a “zero-waste” facility and adheres to all local and state environmental guidelines. For each box we fill with unwanted cell phones and parts, the CAMC Foundation can receive up to $1,500 or more.

If you would like to contribute to this effort, a drop box is available the CAMC Foundation (3412 Staunton Ave.), or locate the recycling box at your hospital. If you have any questions regarding this program, contact Cindy Hanna at (304) 388-9864 or by e-mail at cindy.hanna@camc.org.

Giraffe bed provides care for preemies

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Community Movers on the Move!

Children’s Hospital for a first hand look at the services and needs of the hospital. Andrew Weber, vice president and administrator, led the tour and discussed opportunities available for Community Movers to be actively involved in “Helping CAMC touch people’s lives everyday.”

The tour included visits to the children’s infusion center, the child advocacy center, neonatal intensive care unit, the pediatric intensive care unit and the newborn nursery. Information was also given regarding the children’s and women’s medicine clinics and services available at the Family Resource center.

If you are interested in learning more about Community Movers and how you can get involved, contact Cindy Hanna at (304) 388-9864 or by e-mail at cindy.hanna@camc.org.
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Eclampsia can cause seizures, coma and even death of the mother and baby. It is marked by swelling in the feet, legs and hands. Eclampsia is also a condition that can occur early on in pregnancy. It is marked by high blood pressure, swelling in the feet, hands and face. Eclampsia is a condition that can occur early on in pregnancy. It is marked by high blood pressure, swelling in the feet, hands and face.

For us, the parents and families of the babies in the NICU, it’s something much different. It is scary and intimidating. It’s filled with uncertainty, ups and downs and the frightening possibility of death. Aside from these fears however, there is also hope. Not just a hope that is generated by faith, but a hope that is extended by the doctors, nurses and other medical staff who continuously warm our hearts with their contagious smiles and radiant personalities. They’re not just there to care for our babies, but also to keep our spirits high and our minds at ease while we learn to live in the NICU. These professionals know how important it is to break the solitude and relieve the apprehension for us during our pre-term and anticipated visits.

After two exhausting days in a hospital bed, I was finally able to see my baby girl. As I stared at her tiny body, all I could see were monitors, IV’s, breathing tubes and other invasive instruments that concealed her beautiful face and fragile body. She was hidden away inside an incubator to keep her delicate, helpless body safe and warm from the elements surrounding her. Her heels were bandaged to cover the needle prick and ‘sunglasses’ covered her tiny eyes to protect them from the phototherapy lights shining brightly above.

As overwhelming as this was becoming, I soon found comfort and relief from my baby’s nurse. Her professionalism and kindness immediately made me feel that she was not only my daughter’s caregiver, but also a friend. Those feelings of loneliness and inhibition quick subsided as she detailed my daughter’s condition and upcoming treatment plan. She patiently explained every monitor, tube, IV and the many alarms sounding loudly above our heads.

Visiting the hospital is a different experience for me now. The thoughts of miracles and dedication override my fear of the doctor visit or the aggravation of having to wait for an appointment. This experience has given me an increased appreciation for the individuals who work in the medical field. My family and I will be forever grateful to the doctors and nurses who helped our little miracle make it home. The words will never be enough, but for what it’s worth, thank you.

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Community Movers on the Move!

The CAMC Foundation Community Movers is a group of energetic young professionals in our community. Their goal is to support the CAMC Foundation and to promote the Charleston Area Medical Center’s delivery of excellent and compassionate health services, and its contribution to the quality of life and economic vitality of the region through leadership and volunteerism.

On March 6, a group of community movers toured CAMC Women and Children’s Hospital for a first-hand look at the services and needs of the hospital. Andrew Weber, vice president and administrator, led the tour and discussed opportunities available for Community Movers to be actively involved in “Helping CAMC touch people’s lives everyday.”

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Contact us

E. Gail Pitchford
President
Cindy Hanna
Development Officer
Stephanie Meadows
Development Officer

If you’re interested in learning more about how you can help support the CAMC Health System, contact the Foundation.

(304) 388-9660
(304) 388-9861 fax
E-mail: camcfoundation@camc.org
Web: www.camc.org/foundation

On the Gala

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From John Barry, VP, Philanthropic Services at BB&T

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1. Jessica & Pat Graney, gala co-chairs
3. David & Jennie Ferretti
4. Charlie & Becky Ryan
5. Mary McJunkin Gray, Dr. David Gray, Callen McJunkin
6. Dr. Stefan Maxwell & Pat Graney
7. Bob & Susanne Colfield, Dr. Johnsey Leef III & Margaret Leef
8. Sharon & Steve Bush
9. Shawn & Ginny George, Jessica Graney
10. Charlie Jones, Marion & George Jones
11. Mike Clowser, Kelly Whitlock, Jennifer Willits & Dale Clowser
12. Marion & Frank Baer
13. Denise & Mike Burgess

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