The annual CAMC Foundation Gala was held April 30, raising $371,000. Thank you to the 370 people who attended. Special thanks to Frank and Camilla Baer who were our Gala co-chairs.

On the Gala

The CAMC Foundation is participating as a registered charity for the 2011 Greenbrier Classic Badges for Charity. Eligible non-profit organizations receive a percentage of weekly badges sold for the PGA Tour event scheduled for July 25-31. Visit www.greenbrierclassic.com to buy your Badges for Charity and designate the CAMC Foundation as your charity. In 2010, $2,996.40 was raised for the foundation. Money raised in 2011 will go toward the cancer center project.
Grateful patients say thanks with donations

The CAMC Foundation Grateful Patient program is a way for patients and families to express their gratitude for the care they received at CAMC. It is a meaningful way to recognize and commemorate the care you or a loved one received from your team of caregivers during your stay at CAMC. Whether it was a kind word with an understanding smile or a life-saving procedure, we would love to hear what made a difference to you. For further information, contact Bryan Cummings at (304) 388-9866.

Pet therapy: a “paws-itive” effect on patients

Spending time with a favorite pet has a way of making people calmer and happier. While they can’t be with their favorite pets at home, seeing visitors like Barney, the 6 year-old golden retriever pictured, makes hospital patients feel more comfortable and lets them forget that they’re in the hospital for a moment. Several units at Charleston Area Medical Center use pet therapy for patients. Barney and his owner, Dick Bradford, often visit CAMC Women and Children’s Hospital’s pediatric unit and the David Lee Cancer Center.

"Mr. Bradford approached the CAMC Foundation, which his father started years ago, about bringing Barney to Women and Children’s, and we loved the idea,” said Christi Bissett, child life therapist. "We benchmarked against other children’s hospitals and developed a policy for pet therapy.”

Barney and four other pets visit the pediatrics unit. These animals are calm, gentle and well-mannered, especially around excited children. Whether their age is 2 or 12, kids are thrilled to see this special visitor come into their room.

“When we bring Barney in the room, the kids light up. Postsurgery patients, who have been lying in bed, get up. I think they forget why they’re here for that quick moment,” Bissett said.

Bradford said that Barney loves people and that people, especially children, love him. "It’s fun for me to take him around. We spend a lot of time together, and we’re bonded,” he said.

The dog’s loving touch provides comfort to these patients. Experts know that animals allow humans to focus, even for a short period of time, on something other than themselves.

The Ernestine Hollister Harrison Harris Memorial Endowment Fund

The Ernestine Hollister Harrison Memorial Endowment Fund was established in 1993 in honor of Ernestine Harris by her husband H.E. Harrison, her son Dr. William L. Harris and Marjorie J. Johnson. Dollars in the fund go to projects related to primary care aspects of the early detection and prevention of smoking related cancers. Dr. Harris notes, “My father and I initiated her fund shortly after she died. It has been one of the most wonderful things that we’ve done as a family in honor of her life and in memory of all of her goodness. We’ve been pleased with how the fund has grown and even more so that some of the resources from that growth will now be used for the new cancer center in helping with research and prevention not only of lung cancer but all types of cancer. Since her death, my sister-in-law, twin brother and wife have all had cancer and have benefited from treatments at the David Lee Cancer Center. And that makes it even more important to us that the initial gift keeps on giving.” For additional information on the Ernestine Hollister Harrison Harris Memorial Endowment Fund, please contact the CAMC Foundation office at (304) 388-9860.

Save the date

The 2011 CAMC Foundation Golf Classic, scheduled for Aug. 15, celebrates 20 years of helping children and families at CAMC Women and Children’s Hospital. Thank you to our 20th anniversary sponsor: Barnett Benefits. Event co-chairs Ryan Lindsay and Ted Brady are teaming with K. Richard C. Sinclair, sponsorship chair, to coordinate a fabulous event to honor this milestone. Also, thank you to our Snead sponsor Spilman, Thomas & Battle, PLLC and our Nicklaus sponsors Coca-Cola Bottling Company, The Dow Chemical Company, MedAssets HSCA and Triana Energy.
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Foundation President Gail Pitchford presented CAMC Women and Children’s Hospital with a check May 11. The proceeds for this event support Prevention First, a program providing care for underserved and high-risk patients. These patients make up 70 percent of the hospital’s patient population. Diverse services are offered through the program.