



## Hometown Banker Invests in His Community

The son of German immigrants, Hartwell Zuerner grew up in Taftville. Although his father expected him to go work in the mills at 16, his teachers at Norwich Free Academy encouraged him to finish school and helped him get a job at the Dime Savings Bank.

That job changed the course of his life—a life which would include becoming City Council President and Norwich Citizen of the Year.

"I think Norwich gave him a lot. He started out with nothing and he wanted to pay back what he was given," said his son, Richard Zuerner, MD, a urologist who lives in Newport, R.I.

Hartwell Zuerner and his wife, Lois, left a generous quarter-million-dollar bequest to The William W. Backus Hospital. The couple also remembered such notable institutions as Norwich Free Academy and the Central Baptist Church in their estates.

To recognize their gift, Backus is naming E-4, an all-new telemetry unit to care for people with cardiac conditions, after the couple.

"They both grew up with humble beginnings and their

hometown meant a lot to them," said Gale London, niece of Lois. "It was definitely important to them to give back to the community."

"My father never lived anywhere else," said Elizabeth Pearson, Hartwell's daughter, who grew up in Norwich and now lives in North Carolina. "His whole life was Norwich.

"He wasn't a man of means and for him to do this is quite an accomplishment," Mrs. Pearson said. "He was very frugal; he and my mother started with nothing." Mrs. Pearson's mother, Alma Taylor Zuerner, died in the mid-1960s.

"I felt lucky to grow up in Norwich. There are a lot of examples of people who were involved in the community," she said.

For 47 years, Mr. Zuerner worked at the Dime Savings Bank and Norwich Savings Society, retiring in 1976 as senior vice president and treasurer.

He was City Council President from 1958 to 1960. In 1963, the Norwich Chamber of Commerce named him Citizen of the Year.

He was a member of the Board of Trustees at Backus Hospital and

NFA, where he served one term as president. He also served as president of the NFA Alumni Association and the YMCA.

He was an active member of the Central Baptist Church for many years. Hartwell Zuerner died in March 2001 at the age of 90.

Roger Marien worked with Mr. Zuerner at the Norwich Savings Society, which is now People's Bank.

"I was not surprised to hear of their generosity to the Backus Hospital," Mr. Marien said. "Hartwell always knew and appreciated the value of a sound investment, obviously because he was a banker—and the health of our community is about as solid an investment as you can make."

Lois and Hartwell were married for 32 years. She died in June 2004. Mrs. Zuerner taught in the Norwich school system for 12 years. She also graduated from the Red Cross Nurse's Aide Program and worked as a volunteer at Backus Hospital, where her mother, Marjorie Flynn, graduated from the nursing school. Her teaching continued in Germany, Japan and in Newington, CT, for 11 years.

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"It is a wonderful thing to be able to give to an organization where you have been involved," said Mrs. Pearson, who worked at Backus Hospital as a nurses' aide, starting at 16 and coming back every summer during college. "It was our local hospital; my brother and I were both born there."

*A bequest is a meaningful way to remember loved ones, perpetuate your values and help shape the future of healthcare in the community, said Gen Schies, Director of Planned Giving at the Backus Foundation. We are grateful to the Zuerner family for their thoughtful and generous contributions to their community and Backus Hospital.*



Proper estate planning can protect your assets for your retirement years and provide for your loved ones as you look to the future. We encourage you to consider the many opportunities for creative planned giving that will benefit you, your family and your community's health for the generations to come. Please consider including the Backus Foundation in your estate plans and become a member of the Backus Legacy Society.

For more information on the Backus Legacy Society, or other Planned Giving opportunities contact Gen Schies at (860) 823-6331.



## Nurse Honored By Legacy Society

Dorothy Miller, RN, MA, received the 2006 Backus Legacy Society Heritage Award from Backus Hospital President and Chief Executive Officer Thomas P. Pipicelli at the Backus Legacy Society Luncheon in September. The Heritage Award honors those who champion gifts of legacy. Miss Miller was recognized for her work as a

nurse and volunteer at Backus, and as a founding member of the Backus Legacy Society.

Miss Miller is active as president of the Nursing School Alumnae Association and as the hospital historian, maintaining historical scrapbooks that date back to the early 1930s.

"Backus has come a long way," Miss Miller said at the luncheon, "and part of it is because we have so many caring people in the community who have made donations or have made provisions in their wills to leave gifts to the Backus Foundation."

## Backus Launches New E-newsletter

If you like to read *Healthy Connections*, you will want to subscribe to our newest health information tool: *HealthE\*Connections*, a digest of health information, trends and happenings at Backus Hospital.

This free e-newsletter contains timely information on health issues that you face throughout the year—the flu season, Lyme disease, diet and exercise, community education events, and much more.

"People are constantly looking for timely health information, and this is one more way for us to provide it," says Keith Fontaine, Vice President for Corporate Communications at Backus.

Once you sign up, you will receive the publication by e-mail once per month. Special editions of the *HealthE\*Connections* will be sent out periodically.

To sign up for this newsletter, go to:

[www.backushospital.org](http://www.backushospital.org)

and enter your e-mail address on the left-hand side.



# BackusCare

## A Call for Community Support

The Backus Foundation would like to thank the following individuals and businesses who have come forward in the early stages of this campaign to offer their generous support and leadership.

### \$1,000,000 and up

Estate of Eva Virginia Smith

### \$500,000 - \$999,999

Mr. and Mrs. Edward P. Lord  
The William W. Backus Hospital  
Auxiliary

### \$250,000 - \$499,999

Estate of Hartwell and Lois  
Zuerner

### \$100,000 - \$249,999

Liberty Bank Foundation

### \$50,000 - \$99,999

Dr. and Mrs. Larry Coletti  
Dime Bank  
The Disch Family  
People's Bank  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Seeman

### \$25,000 - \$49,999

Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Adelman  
AES Thames, LLC  
Dr. and Mrs. Sultan Ahamed  
American Ambulance Service, Inc.  
Brown Jacobson P.C.  
Eastern Federal Bank  
The Gorin Family  
Drs. Woong B. and Yil Sun Lee  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Pipicelli  
The Savings Institute  
Thames Printing

### \$10,000 - \$24,999

Anonymous (1)  
Dr. and Mrs. Anthony G. Alessi  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael A. Arnold  
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Bell  
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick C.  
Berberick, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark S. Block  
Dr. and Mrs. Stephen T. Briggs  
Chamber of Commerce of Eastern  
Connecticut Foundation  
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Drs. David E. Coletti and  
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CorePlus Federal Credit Union

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Mr. William Rolla  
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Dr. and Mrs. Peter H. Shea  
Shipman's Fire Equipment Co. Inc.  
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Dr. Melissa J. Welch  
Mr. and Mrs. David A. Whitehead  
The William W. Backus Hospital  
Alumnae Association

### \$5000 - \$9999

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Dr. and Mrs. Brian Benton  
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Mr. and Mrs. Lester Temkin  
Wheelabrator Lisbon Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. Bishop Wlodecki  
Yale University School of  
Medicine  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel York, Jr.

*This list represents lead gifts of \$5,000 or more to the BackusCare Campaign. The Backus Foundation has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list. Please contact the Foundation Office at (860) 823-6331 with any errors or omissions as we would like the opportunity to make corrections. Thank you.*

# BackusCare

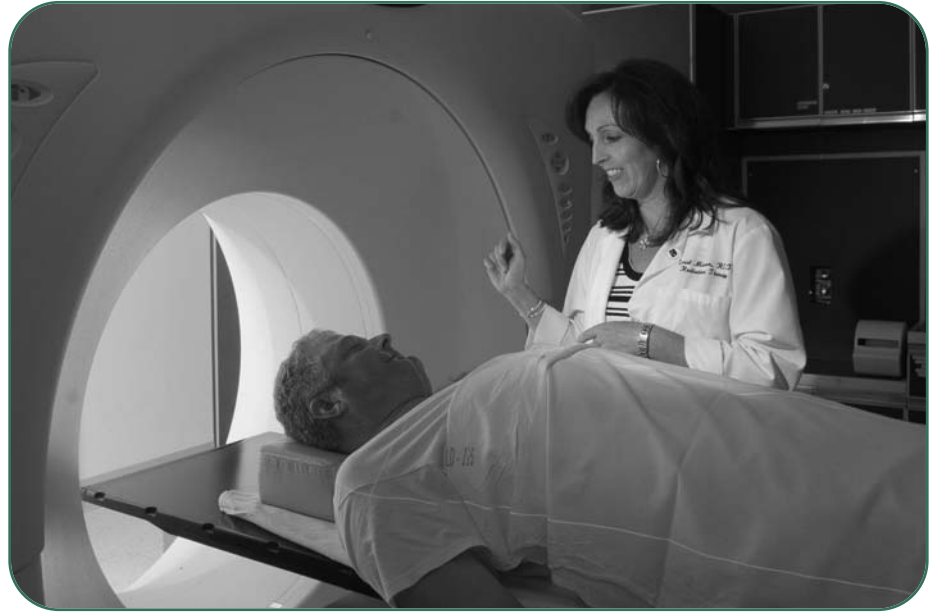
## A Call for Community Support of The William W. Backus Hospital

**BackusCare** is a \$5-million campaign in support of the current \$50-million facilities enhancement project. This exciting expansion project is adding needed space to the Emergency Department and Surgical Services, a new inpatient floor, and the most powerful tools in the fight against cancer.

Backus Hospital needs the commitment and contribution of the community to make this project happen.

As we begin the community phase of the **BackusCare** campaign, we are grateful for the support of the individuals and organizations listed on the previous page. These community leaders have demonstrated that they care about the future of quality healthcare in our region.

The list on Page 3 is a lead gift list of donors of \$5,000 and more, but gifts of all sizes will be needed to reach our goal of \$5 million. A complete listing of *all* donors will be published at a later date, and special



recognition opportunities exist for gifts of \$5,000 or more. Pledges can also be made payable over a five-year period.

Through your generosity, you are helping to position The William W. Backus Hospital as one of New England's most progressive community hospitals, and truly our entire community will benefit from this undertaking.

To contribute to the **BackusCare** effort, please use the enclosed envelope or visit the **BackusCare** web site at [www.backuscare.org](http://www.backuscare.org) for a downloadable gift form.

### Thank you for your support.

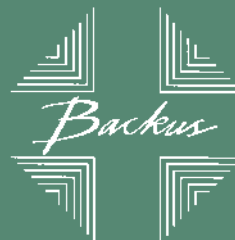
Please contact the Backus Foundation Office with any questions or for further information.

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