



# Laugh Lines



Clowns on Rounds, Inc.

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Fall, 2011

The purpose of Clowns on Rounds, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation, is to encourage in hospitalized patients, a positive attitude toward their illness and through humor, to help alleviate the fears, anxieties and stress experienced by patients, their families, friends and caregivers.

## Twenty Years of Spreading Laughter, Joy and Smiles Save the Date—May 9, 2012

In 2012, Clowns on Rounds will celebrate our 20th Anniversary and we invite you to join us for a joyful celebration. Our good friend, Dr. Mark Fruiterman will once again grace us with his presence as our MC for the evening. The festivities will be held at Mallozzi's Banquet House in Rotterdam.



As a very special treat, nationally known entertainer and friend of Clowns on Rounds, Al Getler will be with us that evening with a very special performance designed especially for us.

Additional information will be mailed out early next Spring, but you can mark your calendars today!



"Paul is part of an experiment. Instead of giving him morphine for his kidney stone, they are testing the healing power of laughter."

## Golub Grant Expands Melodies Program

Neil and Jane Golub and the Golub Family Foundation are now providing Clowns on Rounds with funding for our program at the Melodies Center for Childhood Cancers and Blood Disorders at Albany Medical Center. The grant makes it possible for our clown doctors and nurses to visit the children, their parents and the staff one day each week. For many years, the foundation has provided the Clowns on Rounds program at Ellis and Sunnyview Hospitals.



Dr. Funnybones shares a smile with her young friend at the Melodies Center.

Funding for additional days at the Melodies Center each month comes from an annual grant from Stewarts Shops, our fundraising dinners and Apple Festival events. The beautiful smile-on-a-stick in the picture was provided by a grant from Capital Communications Federal Credit Union which has provided us with over 3000 smiles-on-a-stick in past years.

Our programs could not exist without the support of these generous organizations as well as our many individual donors. THANK YOU!!!



Please welcome Dr. Justine Thyme aka Stephanie Swald as the newest member of the Clowns on Rounds staff of pretending physicians.



# Spotlight on Staff

## Nancy Rosekrans aka Nurse Non Cents aka Rowdy



Any clown who drove a school bus for 28 years must have a sense of humor. At least that's the case with Nancy Rosekrans, a retired Schodack School bus driver who has developed an alter ego. She pastes on a red nose, puts red and white paint on her face, dons a flaming red wig, cowboy hat and cowboy boots becomes Rowdy the Clown.

In her youth, Nancy was a rodeo competitor in barrel racing and goat tying. It was then she fell in love with rodeo clowns. "I love the wild, wild west, all that hooping and hollering, ride'em, rope'em stuff. After I thought about it, I realized, 'That's me.' The smell of greasepaint and make-up became part of me after I tried to paint a serious picture and realized the paint looked better on me than on the canvas."



Years later, Nancy put on a huge pair of plastic joke glasses, a nurse's outfit with horizontally striped leggings and a bedpan hooked to her belt and became Nurse Non Cents. For several years, she provided our Clowns on Rounds program at the VA Hospital. She can now be spotted traveling down the halls of Ellis and Sunnyview Hospitals and the Melodies Center at Albany Med. When she is not spreading smiles for us,

Nancy works with a dummy named Reggie, does balloon tricks, has a "Trixie Trash" homeless character and a hapless policewoman named "Brenda". She also has a Charlie Chaplinesque character she calls Pee Le Wee as well as her very popular character, "Beatrice Green, the Recycling Queen". Beatrice does Summer Library Reading Programs and does a show about recycling, composting, etc.

"I like to leave my mark of fun and laughter on anyone I come in contact with," she says. "Making people smile and giving them a good time is the best!"

**Nancy was named the COAI Clown of the Year for 2002!**

## Vera Propp



Vera bumps a nose with Dr. Gigglebritches

In January of this year, we lost a great friend in Vera Propp who served as our executive board secretary for 16 years. She was the wife of Dr. Richard Propp who also has served on our executive board for almost 20 years. Together they dedicated their

time and resources to help make our organization a highly regarded asset to the Capital Region. Vera was a multiple medal winner in our highly competitive humor competitions over the years. Her contagious smiles are greatly missed by us all.

## \* IN MEMORIAM \*

## Luke Romano

Lucas (Luke) Romano passed away on Monday, August 29, 2011 at Albany Medical Center after a courageous seven-year battle with leukemia. Luke was a 17-year-old senior at Shenendehowa H.S. Luke's zest for life, charismatic personality, infectious smile, and fearless determination to beat the disease won the hearts of family, friends and, in many instances, complete strangers. During his life journey, he inspired many because of his perseverance, generosity and courage. He was determined to never let the disease control his life. He valued family and friends and lived every day to the fullest.



Luke and his mom, Annette were kind enough to attend a Clowns on Rounds fundraising dinner and spoke from personal experience about the effects of our humor therapy program on helping patients and their families through very difficult times. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

## CLOWNS ON ROUNDS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECEIVES 2011 PRESIDENT'S CALL TO SERVICE AWARD

Elaine Person, executive director of Clowns on Rounds for almost 14 years has been named as a recipient of the 2011 President's Call to Service Award for volunteering well over 8000 hours to her community during her lifetime. The award includes an official President's Volunteer Service Award lapel pin, a personalized certificate of achievement and a congratulatory letter from President Barack Obama.



Elaine Person is presented the 2011 President's Call to Service Award by Gabe Olah, president of the Mt. Valley Empire Chapter of the Verizon Telecom Pioneers.

She was nominated by the Verizon Telecom Pioneers, one of several organizations she has served during the past 45 years. She was previously named the Chapter and Regional Pioneer of the Year and was inducted into the Pioneer Hall of Fame in 2004. The Telecom Pioneers is the largest industry-based community service organization in the world, made up of active and retired telecom industry employees. They have also supported Clowns on Rounds over the years with financial and volunteer support.

For the past 19 years, Elaine has also served as one of our executive board members and volunteered her time coordinating the facepainting, balloon selling and haunted house events at the annual Capital Region Wine and Apple Festival that has raised thousands of dollars for our programs.

Other organizations she has volunteered with include the Guilderland PTSA, RID - Remove Intoxicated Drivers, Stop DWI, The Albany County Traffic Safety Board, Parson's Child and Family Center, the Heart Gallery, Red Nose Response, Electric City Clown Alley and several other area charities and organizations.

She and her husband, Tom live in Altamont and have been foster and adoptive parents for over 31 years.