

# Contributions

...making a difference

## In Remembrance of Max Huestis

Max Huestis was a rugged, healthy-looking young man, just 44 years old, when he unexpectedly died from a severe heart attack on August 13, 2009. The impact of his death affected many. He was a husband, father, son, brother, nephew, cousin, uncle and good friend.

His wife, Stephanie, can readily recite the details of that day—their last phone conversation before he headed to the gym and how she was first notified by a colleague who was coincidentally at BMH when Max was brought in to the Emergency Room. She remembers the compassion with which the ER staff delivered the news to her and their son, Oliver, as well as other family members who had gathered there. Stephanie said the ER staff had tried to resuscitate him for quite some time. Max's parents, Yudah and Bill Huestis, agreed saying "the ER staff exhausted themselves and had to keep relieving one another." But it was not to be.

Months later, a stack of sympathy cards sits on the table in front of Corinne Bristol, Max's aunt. They represent a small fraction of the total sent to her brother and his wife after the loss of their son. The white space of nearly every card is filled with handwritten remembrances of Max. Other cards arrived with letters inserted. They came from friends of the family, but they also came from customers who got to know Max as he worked alongside his father in the family business. They frequently spoke to his attention to detail, his work ethic and especially to his sunny disposition.

Of course, everyone in the family knew Max possessed a kind disposition. His effervescent personality was punctuated by his nearly perpetual contagious smile. But it seemed extraordinary to Corinne that his passing had touched so many so deeply and this provided added impetus to honor his life in a special way. "Max was special," she said. "You always have the option of sending flowers or contributing to a charity. I wanted to do something special that would benefit others."

Since Max had been brought to the Emergency Room, Corinne consulted with Dr. Christopher Schmidt,



Max Huestis

Emergency Department Director, for ideas. Dr. Schmidt told her about an ultrasound imaging device that could aid an emergency room physician's ability to evaluate, diagnose and treat patients. Technology advances have made ultrasound equipment more portable and easier to operate while also improving image quality. Its use is widespread in other community hospitals around the country, and has been effective in a number of applications, from non-invasive diagnostics of acute life-threatening conditions to guiding invasive procedures in a way that improves patient safety. Contributing toward the purchase of this sounded like the perfect idea.

"We wanted something that could be of use to cardiac patients coming in to the ER. Dr. Schmidt said that while this device has a number of uses, it has a specific probe for the heart," said Corinne, adding that the gift was made on behalf of her and her husband, Charlie, and their children, Aaron, Stacey and Jared. "While it wouldn't have saved Max, hopefully it will help others."

For Max's wife Stephanie, and their 13-year-old son, Oliver, the gift of the portable ultrasound machine struck them as very appropriate given Max's generous

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## Juggling the Many Decisions of Estate Planning

As all of us age there are new questions and issues that arise. Many have to do with our health, living situation, providing for our children/grandchildren and how best to insure our own financial security. As we tackle these questions, it is often helpful to get input from community resources and experts who address these questions regularly.

The BMH Development Office would like to invite you to some educational events that are coming this fall to Brattleboro Memorial Hospital—presentations that will help answer some of these questions.

- Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup> (9:00 – 11:00 a.m.)  
**Beyond the Basics: Advanced Estate Planning**  
Leslie Morey, CFP, CLTC  
Jon Secrest, Esq.
- Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup> (5:30 – 7:00 p.m.)  
**Savvy Social Security**  
Joe Little, CFP, CPA, AIF
- Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup> (11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)  
**Advanced Directives—A Panel Discussion**  
Chris Chapman, VP & Principal Trust Company of VT, Jon Secrest, Esq., Leslie Morey, CFP, CLTC, Denise Paasche, MD, and Jan Puchalski, BMH Dir. Risk Mgt/Safety/Credentialing

**Space is limited** for each of these presentations. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to [development@bmbvt.org](mailto:development@bmbvt.org) or (802) 257-8314.

## Remembering Max *continued from page 1*

nature. “To know that something given in his name would continuously help others would have made him extremely proud” she said. “I greatly respect the commitment the Bristols have to the hospital, and the thoughtfulness behind this donation.”

Stephanie also hopes that Max’s story will help other young men by encouraging them to get routine physicals on a regular basis. As shocking as it was to lose her husband of nearly 20 years so suddenly, Stephanie was equally surprised to learn that Max had advanced heart disease at such a young age. “His death was 100% preventable to my understanding. Max was a rugged guy. He would go to the hospital for an injury, but he never would have labeled himself as unhealthy or unfit or sick,” she said. “The alternative is so much worse than a physical.”

## Back by Popular Demand...TRUCKS

All kinds of trucks in different shapes and sizes—farming, excavation, emergency medical and everything in between—are coming to the BMH parking lot on **Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>** from **10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** Kids (big and small) can climb and explore. The cost is \$5 for children 2-12 and by donation for everyone else. The first 200 children will even get a free toy truck.

Brattleboro Sunrise Rotary will be on site selling hamburgers and hot dogs. We will also have Touch a Truck hard hats and t-shirts for sale. The Book Cellar has agreed to be present with an assortment of children’s truck books for purchase.

Two raffles will be held. The prizes for the \$1 ticket raffle include a personal ride on a school bus, tickets to Monadnock Speedway and tickets to the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Vermonster 4x4 Festival. The \$5 raffle ticket prize is a John Deere Gator kids ride-on tractor. You do not need to be present to win and raffle tickets can be purchased prior to the event by calling (802) 257-8314.

Visit us on Facebook or on the BMH website [www.bmbvt.org](http://www.bmbvt.org) to view a video from last year and to see a list of the trucks and our generous sponsors. You can also purchase tickets to the event on our website. **Hope to see you there for a fun-filled day!**

### And these are just some of the trucks at **Touch A Truck**

Police Cruiser  
Fire Truck  
Lumber Truck & Claw Truck  
2010 International  
Prostar & Reefer  
Oil Delivery Truck  
Excavator  
Telescopic Fork Lift  
Medium Duty Wrecker  
Knuckler Crane  
VT Yankee/Entergy’s “Big Red”  
Tractor Trailer with Sleeper Cab  
Traditional Trash Truck  
Side Loading Soda Truck  
1 Ton Dump Truck  
Gas Delivery Tank Truck  
Ambulance  
Unimog  
Backhoe  
Insulation Truck  
Pull Truck



## BMH DONOR PROFILES - Glenn and Sharon St. John

One late night and early morning in 1993, Glenn and Sharon St. John watched the family business burn down. It was because of the business that they met in the first place back in the 1970s, when Glenn and his brothers installed a pool at Sharon's foster family home. The business evolved into Fireside True Value Hardware and moved to the site of the Stone Fence Inn on Putney Road. Now it was burning down, and as Glenn and Sharon watched the firefighters combat the blaze they noticed they were not alone. Members of the community were bringing coffee, donuts and other food to the firemen and to them.

"There's a lot of loyalty in Brattleboro that way," says

Glenn, "We got letters from people for weeks and weeks afterwards saying please re-open. It was very heartwarming."

The community got its wish when Fireside built a new store in the same location, with Glenn still running the store along with his two brothers and two sister-in-laws. ("There's almost always a St. John in the store," says Glenn.) Around that same time, Sharon saw her 21-year career as a hairdresser put in jeopardy when a rollerblading accident broke her wrist in three places. One day while she was getting x-rays at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, she thought about a career change.

"I felt like I could comfort a patient because I've had to comfort my clients for 21 years while doing their hair. Right? Don't you tell your hairdresser everything?" Sharon says with a laugh. "I worried that I was going to lose the motor skills I need to cut hair, but I knew I had to do something where I could visit with people."

With their sons, Brandon and Tyson, grown up and on the verge of leaving home, Sharon went back to school for radiology and got her associate's degree. She had several job offers upon graduating, but chose to work at BMH not only because she knew the hospital, but because she felt the hospital knew her. "When you walk down the halls in BMH people know your name or they at least acknowledge you. In other places you felt like you were a number," says Sharon.



Glenn and Sharon St. John



The St. Johns contribute to BMH both personally and through their business. "Any community has to have a strong hospital if they're going to draw new business or keep business that you have and keep younger people in the area," says Glenn. "It's more than just good PR. It's good business sense."

Where Glenn sees contributing to the BMH annual fund as a savvy businessman giving back to a community that has shown strong support for the family hardware store, Sharon sees the sentimental side in the purchase of trees to honor Glenn's parents (his father passed away several years ago; his mother now resides in Florida) and a brick for the Richards Building in memory of a brother she lost.

"My brother was actually born at BMH, so to have a brick at the hospital where he was born makes sense to me," Sharon says. "And for Glenn's parents, who were such a part of this community, the trees makes sense to have a marker that they existed here in Brattleboro."

**BMH 25<sup>th</sup> and Final Clambake & Auction  
A Huge Success... **THANK YOU****

See photos of this year's event as well as  
many from the 24 years prior  
on the BMH website: [www.bmhvt.org/giving/clambake](http://www.bmhvt.org/giving/clambake)



Brattleboro Memorial Hospital  
EXCEPTIONAL CARE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

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*Best patient care experience- every patient; every time; Best place to work- employees / volunteers / medical staff*

Become a 'fan' of BMH on...



Upcoming Technology Tours



- Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 5:15 p.m.  
**Visit the Hospital Operating Room**  
(meet in the main lobby of BMH)
- Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 5:15 p.m.  
**See the Technology in Women's Imaging**  
(meet in the lobby of the Richards Building)

**You can now get Contributions by e-mail** ~ If you prefer to get your quarterly copy of Contributions electronically, please e-mail us at [development@bmbvt.org](mailto:development@bmbvt.org) You will be helping BMH with printing and mailing costs and maybe lessen the piles on the corner of your kitchen table.

Call 802-257-8316 to register or for more information.

