The threat of a downpour didn’t dampen the spirits of more than 200 of DHMC’s most loyal supporters at the Annual Appreciation Dinner on July 8. These donors, along with more than 14,000 other individuals and organizations, gave nearly $17 million in gifts and grants this year in support of DHMC’s education, patient-care, research, and community-service programs. All gifts—large and small—contribute to DHMC’s ability to transform medicine and improve lives, and the Annual Appreciation Dinner celebrates those friends who made especially generous contributions in the preceding fiscal year.

At the dinner, a DHMC tradition for over two decades, guests got a chance to mingle with fellow donors and with DHMC’s leaders—including James Varnum, president of Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital; Dr. Stephen Spielberg, dean of Dartmouth Medical School; and Paul Gardent, executive vice president of DHMC. As Stephen Barba observed, “We’re all part of the DHMC community; we just don’t know each other until we come here.”

The dinner is also a forum for DHMC leaders to share how donor support contributes to the Medical Center’s growth and success. Vice President of Development Brian Lally shared with guests the hot-off-the-press word that U.S. News & World Report had again ranked DHMC among the best hospitals in the nation. Both Norris Cotton Cancer Center and DHMC’s Department of Urology were recognized for excellence in research and patient care. “It’s your generosity that helps us achieve such recognition,” Lally said.

This generosity also helps sustain the programs and services that distinguish DHMC from other hospitals and medical centers in the region—programs such as the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Advanced Response Team (DHART), which was the subject of a presentation by the evening’s keynote speaker, DHMC Vice President of Operations Susan Reeves. Reeves, who has been closely involved with DHART since its 1994 inception, illustrated how the program has grown over the past decade: in size, in scope (now with ground as well as air service), and—most significantly—in number of lives saved. Adding impact to her talk was the presence of the program’s customized ambulance, plus several DHART crew members who answered questions about their work on the front lines of emergency care.

On behalf of DHMC’s leadership, Brian Lally closed the evening by again thanking the guests for their support of DHMC and the real difference they make in people’s lives.

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Barbra Alan is assistant director of development communications at DHMC.
As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.
—John Fitzgerald Kennedy