



*Since 1947, a tradition of friendship,  
community support and service to Oregon  
Health & Science University School of  
Medicine.*

## ***ABOUT:* School of Medicine Alliance Activities**

### **BLANKETS AND BOOKS FOR BABIES**

#### **An SMA Community Service Project**

This longstanding project provides layettes to needy infants born at OHSU Hospital and other area OHSU community clinics. In Salem, the layettes are a part of one judge's rehab program for young mothers. Included in each gift package is a book, 'onsie', socks, knitted cap, and a flannel blanket and/or knitted baby blanket, hand-made by community volunteers or our own Threads interest group. Additionally heart-shaped pillows, hand-made by more community volunteers, are provided by the BBB Project for the "Hug" program at Doernbecher Children's Hospital. These pillows, made in 3 different sizes, provide comfort after cardiac surgery.

#### **DORTHEA DRAKE PENNINGTON ANNUAL SUMMER GARDEN PARTY**

In 2007, the annual August Blankets and Books for Babies Potluck was renamed to honor Dorthea Drake Pennington, a senior member of SMA who originated the Blankets and Books for Babies project in the 1980s. The BBB Project is supported primarily through financial contributions from SMA members at this Garden Party. BBB celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2010 with focused fundraising for a commemorative gift of 15 breast milk warmers for Doernbecher's NICU along with 2 breast pumps for the mothers.

### **CHOCOLATE SALES**

A Valentine's Day sale featuring "heart-healthy" chocolates is held in February for the OHSU community. Proceeds from this and other fundraisers help support SMA projects.

### **SPEAKER LUNCHEONS**

Held on campus or in area restaurants, the luncheons provide an opportunity for SMA members and their guests to become acquainted and stay in touch with SMA 'happenings'. The Fall Luncheon features a speaker from OHSU whose topic addresses a current medical issue while the Winter Luncheon usually focuses on an aspect of the Portland community. The Spring Luncheon is the Annual Meeting which reviews activities and events from the current SMA year. Election of officers for the coming year is also conducted.

### **INTEREST GROUPS**

Gardening, BLT (Bargains, Lunch and Talk), Day Book, Evening Book, Movies, Threads (knitting for BBB layettes), Walking, Birding and, in process, Gourmet & Bridge groups have been formed to meet the interests of the membership. These groups generally meet monthly (Walking meets twice/week) and are enthusiastically supported and enjoyed by the members. Each group has a lead who contacts members to confirm dates and the month's topic for the group, if applicable. For joining a group or further information about typical monthly activities, please contact the person leading the group.

## **PROGRAM SUPPORT**

There have been different projects providing support to various programs through the years: child psychiatry camperships, Poison Control Information Center funding, music therapy for autistic children, medical school student lounge renovation, trauma program display, books for the medical school library and the purchase of diagnostic equipment for use by medical students to name some examples. To honor members and spouses who have died in the previous year, Program Support makes an annual memorial contribution to the Dean's Endowment Fund for Excellence. In 2007-2008, to commemorate SMA's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, \$13,500 was contributed to help fund the furnishing of a suite of on-call rooms for use by medical students. Currently SMA contributes the funding for an August welcome social event for new medical students. During the spring and summer of 2011, the project for medical students was refurbishing, upgrading & generally 'overhauling' the student study and lounge areas of the old library. Previously SMA had purchased bike racks for the students which are also installed within these same areas of the old library.