Benefactor

A PUBLICATION FOR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF NEWPORT HOSPITAL

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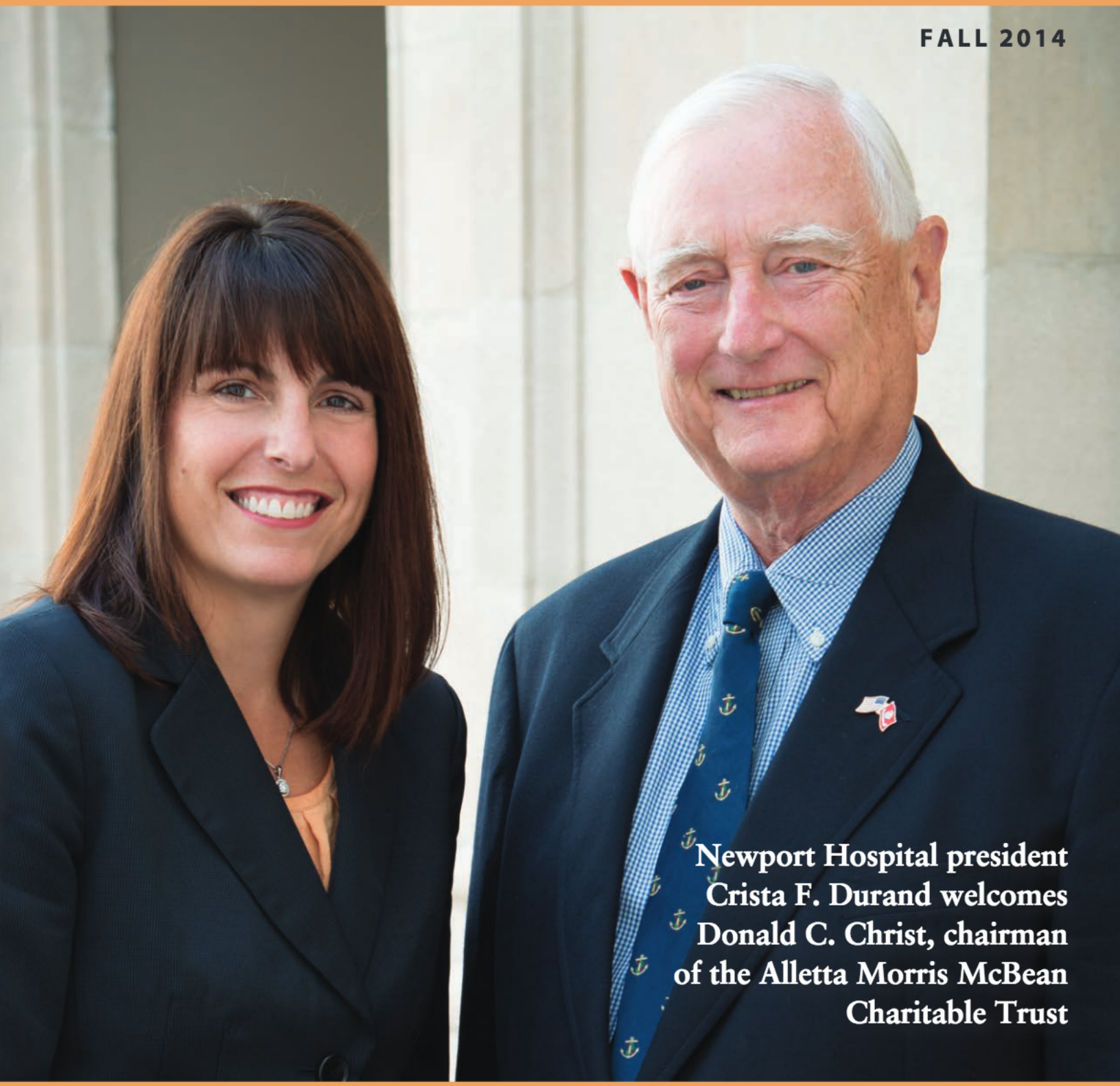

Newport Hospital president Crista F. Durand welcomes Donald C. Christ, chairman of the Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust

COMMITTED TO CARING FOR NEWPORT COUNTY

Newport Hospital
A Lifespan Partner

A Generous Donor's Roots Run Deep in Newport

Alletta Morris, who died in 1986, had a lifelong affection for Newport where her distinguished family lived for generations. In her will she established the Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust to continue her charitable work with the purpose to *"enhance the quality of life in and to perpetuate the history of the City of Newport and Aquidneck Island."* Over the years, the Trust has contributed more than $5.6 million to Newport Hospital, most recently providing a $405,000 grant for the purchase of laparoscopic surgical equipment. *"The Trust has helped in bringing Newport Hospital into the 21st century in terms of equipment and facilities,"* says Donald C. Christ, Chairman of the Trust.

Mr. Christ was a longtime friend of the late Noreen Stonor Drexel of Newport, his predecessor as Chairman, who worked tirelessly on behalf of the Trust and Newport Hospital. *"Noreen was really a pivotal character and a great champion for Newport Hospital,"* says Mr. Christ. *"The birthing center, which obtained new beds and baby monitoring equipment from the Trust, is named after Mrs. Drexel because of her love and support of the work they do there."*

Donald C. Christ

Back in 1998 when Newport Hospital undertook its Vision 2001 campaign, *"The Alletta Morris Trust was asked to make a major contribution to kick off the campaign and we committed $3 million for the emergency department,"* says Mr. Christ. As the campaign neared the end and the $16 million goal had not been reached, the Trust gave an extra $1 million for magnetic resonance imaging equipment. The Trust has also supported Newport Hospital with digital mammography equipment, ultrasound equipment in the emergency department in honor of the late Dr. Benjamin Walker, the Interventional Radiology Challenge Grant, and more. *"All of the trustees feel that the Hospital is terribly important for Newport,"* notes Mr. Christ. *"It's heavily used by full-time and part-time residents and visitors—and people get excellent care there. When you look at the list of donors, it's a reflection of how important and highly regarded the hospital is viewed by the community."*

As the only survivor of the original group of trustees of the Trust, Mr. Christ takes his responsibility to heart. *"It has been soul-satisfying to do this work,"* he says.

Alletta Morris

"I got along very well with Mrs. McBean who asked me if I'd be willing to be a trustee for her trust." He adds with a chuckle, *"I think if she came back today, she'd be amazed to see how much we have been able to do with her money."*

Helping a Patient Get Back on Her Feet

Jan Gunzelman, age 74, had been suffering from such bad pain in her knee she could barely go up and down the stairs. She went to Newport Hospital for an MRI and was diagnosed with a torn meniscus, the shock-absorbing cartilage in her knee. *"We opted to do arthroscopic surgery,"* explains Dr. James O. Maher III, an orthopedic surgeon at Newport Hospital and Clinical Assistant Professor at Brown University School of Medicine. *"The procedure involves making two small one-centimeter incisions in the knee and using a fiber-optic arthroscope and small instruments, both manual and motorized, to look inside and repair the injury,"* explains Dr. Maher.

This outpatient procedure, which has the added benefits of less blood loss and quicker recovery time, was made possible by a $405,000 gift by the Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust in February 2014. *"All of the trustees went to the hospital to better understand the need for the new equipment and how laparoscopic machines have advanced the medical profession,"* says Donald C. Christ, Chairman of the Trust.

Mrs. Gunzelman, who had her procedure in June 2014, is grateful to Dr. Maher for her excellent results. *"There was also arthritis in my knee, and Dr. Maher got rid of it, too,"* she says. *"He is a wonderful surgeon and the entire staff at Newport Hospital is just very attentive, conscientious, and professional. For me and my husband, it is our hospital of choice."*