From The Chairmen

The Obici Healthcare Foundation Board of Directors is thoroughly committed to continuing Amedeo Obici’s desire to improve the health status of Western Tidewater and Gates County. That commitment is clearly demonstrated by the grants awarded during the past five years of just under $15 million to community non-profits to improve the health of local citizens. In this report, you will read about the impact the Foundation has made in the lives of our neighbors as a result of those awards. In addition, we are confident that with careful stewardship of Mr. Obici’s endowment, we will be able to continue to serve the community for generations to come.

The Foundation and its community partners are working hard to strengthen the system of healthcare services provided by health and wellness initiatives, healthcare institutions, community prevention programs and a continuum of care that allows our citizens to access healthcare and enjoy healthy lives. It is our belief that a healthy community is the product of healthy individuals and healthy families. Much work still remains to accomplish our vision of good health and wellness for all. We take seriously our obligation to ensure that decisions of the Foundation reflect our values of fairness and integrity as we seek to make an impact in our four priority areas: Access to Basic Healthcare, Obesity Prevention, Chronic Disease Management and Insure More People.

It is our belief that a healthy community is the product of healthy individuals and healthy families.

We acknowledge with deep gratitude our fellow board members and the board members of other organizations in our area who generously work to improve the status of health in our community. We gladly accept the privilege of contributing to that effort for generations to come.

Sincerely,

George Y. Birdsong
Chairman

J. Samuel Glasscock
Vice Chairman

VALUES

The Obici Healthcare Foundation adheres to the highest standards by embracing the following set of values:

Service
We will act with compassion, sensitivity and creativity to make a significant improvement in the health status of our community.

Integrity
We will act with honesty and fairness, give our best efforts and take responsibility for our actions.

Community Involvement
We will act in concert with the community to promote good health and good healthcare for all.

Financial Stewardship
We will act responsibly to make the Foundation strong and support healthcare programs that are effective.

Our Mission

The mission of the Obici Healthcare Foundation is to improve the health status of the people living in the service area by responding to the medical needs of the indigent and uninsured and by supporting programs which have the primary purpose of preventing illness and disease.

Our Vision

The vision of the Obici Healthcare Foundation is good health and wellness for all.

Obici Healthcare Foundation

Seated (from left) are: J. Samuel Glasscock, Foundation Vice Chairman; Joyce H. Trump; George Y. Birdsong, Foundation Chairman; Kurt T. Hofelich; and Lula B. Holland. Standing (from left) are: Jeffrey D. Forman, MD; Robert C. Claud; B.J. Willie; Richard F. Barry III; Frank A. Spady III; William G. Jackson, MD; Douglas C. Naismith; and Robert M. Hayes.
Stanley Byrd was laid off of work two weeks before learning of his cancer diagnosis, and now he had no insurance. Two surgeries and twelve rounds of chemotherapy later, Mr. Byrd was facing mounting medical bills exceeding $1 million, and he could not afford to pay these soaring costs. He was referred to the Western Tidewater Free Clinic for continued treatment.

The Free Clinic often refers patients that may be eligible for Social Security Disability and Medicaid to the Virginia Legal Aid Society for eligibility assistance. Mr. Byrd shared his plight with Randi Blumenson, a Virginia Legal Aid Society Attorney.

Armed with his medical records from the Free Clinic and two denials from the Social Security Administration, Ms. Blumenson's plan was to take the case to a judge for a decision. The judge made an “on the record” decision to approve Mr. Byrd’s application.

If not for Legal Aid,” he said, “I know that I’d have been in a homeless shelter or worse. Byrd admits he had reservations about utilizing a “free attorney” to apply for Social Security Disability benefits and Medicaid, “I was lost and had no faith. I never thought I would get help.” However, Ms. Blumenson explained she had been helping other people in this same predicament for more than 20 years. Her background and confidence compelled Mr. Byrd to “give her a shot.”

A grant from the Obici Healthcare Foundation to the Virginia Legal Aid Society allowed Ms. Blumenson to work with Mr. Byrd from the beginning and walk him through every step of the progress. For Stanley Byrd, the Virginia Legal Aid Society was a lifesaver – literally. “If not for Legal Aid,” he said, “I know that I’d have been in a homeless shelter or worse.”

When the good news finally came, both Mr. Byrd and Ms. Blumenson were overjoyed. He was able to obtain retroactive Medicaid to pay off his medical bills and receive a monthly income. Mr. Byrd was relieved to know he was no longer a burden to his family.

Though the process took a year, and the case is officially closed, Ms. Blumenson remains in touch with Mr. Byrd. Although Mr. Byrd is in remission, he still faces a long road to recovery and has Ms. Blumenson to thank for getting him to this point; “I can’t thank her enough.”
When seconds count you want the best possible medical care. When you live more than an hour away from the closest Level 1 Trauma Center, you want fast response. When it is your daughter, you want to know she will be all right.

On her way to high school and just blocks from her Suffolk home, Jaleesa Lewter was in a car accident. Rescue workers on the scene found her ejected and lying in rocks – the worst was assumed.

Jaleesa's mom, Donna Lewter, recalled that her cell phone rang. “When I asked the police officer if Jaleesa was alive, the police officer failed to respond at first, and then said, 'I have some good news, her hand has moved.' I immediately began to pray when I heard that Nightingale was on the way.”

Nightingale helicopter turns an ambulance ride into a direct flight and, in essence, a flying intensive care unit. Jaleesa was taken to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, the area’s only Level I Trauma Center.

“Even though I had no experience with Nightingale, I was glad when the police let me know it was Nightingale on the way. I knew the helicopter would get her there, and getting her to medical attention faster was definitely part of saving Jaleesa’s life. She was getting the specialized care that she needed,” reported Donna.

In many medical emergencies time is life, and Nightingale saves the minutes that save lives. A grant from the Obici Healthcare Foundation helps support Nightingale Ambulance with a 125-mile radius serving much of the Obici Healthcare Foundation’s service area. In fact, 37% of all the Nightingale trauma flights are from the Western Tidewater area. Jaleesa was taken to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, the area’s only Level I Trauma Center.

“Even though I had no experience with Nightingale, I was glad when the police let me know it was Nightingale on the way.”

“Even though I had no experience with Nightingale, I was glad when the police let me know it was Nightingale on the way.”

Five years later, the quick medical attention that Jaleesa received has paid off. She has graduated from high school (on time), has completed her pharmaceutical certification and is currently engaged to be married. She continues with her physical therapy and continues to work toward her dream of “being there for others as so many have been there for her.”

Donna further added, “I don’t know what it would be like not to have the Nightingale, and I truly support it in any way possible.”
The Obici Healthcare Foundation Board and Conference rooms offer places for conducting capacity-building training sessions. Suffolk Leadership for Tomorrow (below) was among the groups that used the meeting room space this year. Other organizations were: the Early Childhood Development Commission, Paul D. Camp Community College, Paul D. Camp Regional Workforce Development, the Peninsula Institute for Community Health, the Salvation Army, Suffolk Meals on Wheels, Suffolk Partnership for a Healthy Community, the Suffolk Rotary Club, VOLUNTEER Hampton Roads and the Western Tidewater Continuum of Care Committee. More than 200 people attended training sessions in the Foundation’s office during the fiscal year.

Paul D. Camp Community College is preparing nurses of the future with a state-of-the-art training facility. The College has a Nursing Skills Lab, complete with mannequins and simulators that were funded in part by the Obici Healthcare Foundation.

The lab is equipped with eight hospital beds, including a crib and newborn bassinet, manual and electronic blood pressure cuffs and in atravenous and tube feeding pumps. Simulators give students practice conducting tracheostomy care, suctioning and various types of injections before performing on live patients. A collaborating grant from Franklin-Southampton Charities allowed College officials to purchase the mannequins and simulators.

This type of learning environment is desperately needed with the large number of Baby Boomers reaching age 65. “Boomers will utilize health services at an increasing rate,” according to the Advisory Committee to the Governor on the Future of Nursing Workforce and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV). “This impending demand for nurses makes it one of the leading career choices for future employment, since the average age of RNs in Virginia is over 45,” Mrs. Glymph, RN, MS, Skills Lab Instructor, noted.

This impending demand for nurses makes it one of the leading career choices for future employment, since the average age of RNs in Virginia is over 45.

One student in the current class said the Nursing Skills Lab helps fulfill her goal of becoming a nurse. At age 14, Katherine Canady knew she wanted to be a nurse. “I experience a great sense of joy whenever I take care of people, especially babies,” she said. Currently, Ms. Canady works in the Sentara Obici Hospital Step Down Unit, but this mother of a 3-month old son longs for the day when she is assigned to the Labor and Delivery Unit or becomes a nurse midwife.

The Suffolk Nursing Skills Lab made it possible for the College to offer the LPN to RN Bridge Program, which provides opportunities for licensed practical nurses to enter the nursing program to advance their careers. A graduate of Suffolk Public Schools and the Obici Hospital School of Practical Nursing, Ms. Canady began her nursing career as a licensed practical nurse (LPN). “Current and future nursing students receive a real-world education through simulation laboratory experiences,” said Mrs. Glymph.

In May 2011, Paul D. Camp graduated 38 students; they were the first nursing class to consistently use the Suffolk Skills Lab. That means we are 38 nurses closer to meeting the growing demand for these healthcare providers.

Paul D. Camp Community College Nursing instructors observed Katherine Canady (left) conduct a blood pressure check on a specially-equipped mannequin.
In It For Better Nutrition

Foundation Stimulates Growth in Farmers’ Markets

In its efforts to support access to fresh foods and to promote healthier eating, the Foundation awarded $5,000 in discretionary funds to Smithfield and Isle of Wight’s Olde Towne Curb Market. At this farmers market, local fresh fruits, vegetables, eggs, meats and locally prepared foods are brought to local residents. Farmers Market Manager Kristen Wilda hopes to continue to bring fresh, local produce to area residents and engage residents in learning more about the benefits of fresh produce through activities geared toward children and cooking demonstrations geared toward adults. The market is open from May through September.

Purchasing produce from local vendors, has become more and more popular over the last few years. Since the USDA began tracking agricultural markets in 1994, more than 4,000 new markets have been established in the United States. Virginia has seen growth since 2004 from 88 markets to 190 markets in 2010. And for the past nine years, the Isle of Wight market has been a part of this growing trend. The market, local fresh fruits, vegetables, eggs, meats and locally prepared foods are brought to local residents and engage residents in learning more about the benefits of fresh produce through activities geared toward children and cooking demonstrations geared toward adults. The market is open from May through September.

Many of us remember the taste of the season’s first tomato from our youth. The fresh sense of knowing you grew it – or at least who grew it – made the experience even better. But as life becomes more hectic, time and convenience become precious commodities. However, there is a way to preserve the feeling of just-harvested produce while not sacrificing convenience: visit your local farmers’ markets.

Not only is the food fresh, but consumers can interact with producers and ask questions that could not otherwise be answered. The average food item will travel over 1,000 miles before arriving at your home – when purchased at a store. The market, on the other hand, allows you to control where your food is grown.

In Its Efforts to Support Access to Fresh Foods and to Promote Healthier Eating, the Foundation Awarded $5,000 in Discretionary Funds to Smithfield and Isle of Wight’s Olde Towne Curb Market. At This Farmers Market, Local Fresh Fruits, Vegetables, Eggs, Meats and Locally Prepared Foods are Brought to Local Residents. Farmers Market Manager Kristen Wilda Hopes to Continue to Bring Fresh, Local Produce to Area Residents and Engage Residents in Learning More About the Benefits of Fresh Produce Through Activities Geared Toward Children and Cooking Demonstrations Geared Toward Adults. The Market is Open from May Through September.

Purchasing Produce from Local Vendors, Has Become More and More Popular Over the Last Few Years. Since the USDA Began Tracking Agricultural Markets in 1994, More Than 4,000 New Markets Have Been Established in the United States. Virginia Has Seen Growth Since 2004 from 88 Markets to 190 Markets in 2010. And for the Past Nine Years, the Isle of Wight Market Has Been a Part of This Growing Trend.

Many of Us Remember the Taste of the Season’s First Tomato from Our Youth. The Fresh Sense of Knowing You Grew It—or at Least Who Grew It—Made the Experience Even Better. But as Life Becomes More Hectic, Time and Convenience Become Precious Commodities. However, There Is a Way to Preserve the Feeling of Just-Harvested Produce While Not Sacrificing Convenience: Visit Your Local Farmers’ Markets.

Not Only Is the Food Fresh, But Consumers Can Interact with Producers and Ask Questions That Could Not Otherwise Be Answered. The Average Food Item Will Travel over 1,000 Miles Before Arriving at Your Home—When Purchased at a Store. The Market, on the Other Hand, Allows You to Control Where Your Food Is Grown.

DISCRETIONARY FUND GRANTS

The Obici Healthcare Foundation administers a Discretionary Fund that supports health-related activities conducted by nonprofits in Western Tidewater and Gates County. Examples of eligible discretionary awards include, but are not limited to, projects that build capacity of organizations (e.g., improving staff skills and organizational functions) and special events, such as health fairs and seminars. Discretionary Fund guidelines and the application can be obtained at: http://www.obichcf.org/grant-opportunities.asp.

Total: $119,750
The Foundation's investment portfolio receives close attention from the Investment Committee in accordance with the Foundation's Investment Policy, the Committee has developed a well-diversified, professionally managed securities portfolio designed to meet investment targets while minimizing risk. The portfolio includes not only domestic and international stock and bond funds, but also a variety of alternative investments. All assets are invested with outside investment managers with proven records.

In accordance with the Foundation's Investment Policy, the Committee has developed a well-diversified, professionally managed securities portfolio designed to meet investment targets while minimizing risk. The portfolio includes not only domestic and international stock and bond funds, but also a variety of alternative investments. All assets are invested with outside investment managers with proven records.

The turbulence associated with the economic downturn in September 2008 sent shockwaves throughout the financial markets and caused investment earnings to plummet. However, Foundation investments over the past two years surpassed our own benchmarks by four percent. Consequently, our annual return over the past five years has averaged approximately five percent. These gains put us in a better financial position to increase our grantmaking ability.

These gains put us in a better financial position to increase our grantmaking ability.

The statement of activities is presented on page 11 of the annual report.
Two leading health authorities accepted the Obici Healthcare Foundation's invitation and shared their expertise with Western Tidewater audiences,” said Foundation Executive Director Gina Pitrone. “Our very special guests were Francine Kaufman, MD, and Karen Remley, MD.”

Dr. Kaufman is internationally renowned as an endocrinologist and pediatrician. She is the director and head of the Center for Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles and is the former president of the National American Diabetes Association. She was the keynote speaker at the Foundation’s Diabesity Forum in March.

Dr. Remley, who spoke at the Foundation’s Request for Proposal Announcement Meeting in May, is the principle public health advisor to the Governor, Secretary of Health and Human Resources, the Virginia General Assembly and the Board of Health. Dr. Remley provided shocking, statewide health data. “An estimated 3.5 million adults in Virginia have one or more chronic condition (arthritis, asthma, cancer, coronary health disease, heart attack, stroke, high blood pressure, high cholesterol or diabetes), and 1.6 million have more than one type of chronic disease,” she said.

The Foundation’s goal is to serve as a catalyst by raising awareness of health issues facing our community.

Obici Healthcare Foundation board members George Birdsong, Chairman, and Lula B. Holland welcomed Karen Remley, MD (right), to the 2011 Request for Proposal Announcement in May. In her keynote address, Dr. Remley reported on the status of chronic disease in Virginia.

Francine Kaufman, MD, signed copies of her book following the Diabesity Forum. She is the author of “Diabesity: A Doctor and Her Patients on the Front Lines of the Obesity-Diabetes Epidemic.”

The Obici Healthcare Foundation’s service area covers the established location of the Louise Obici Memorial Hospital and includes the cities of Suffolk and Franklin; Isle of Wight County; Gates County in North Carolina; the towns of Sunny, Dendron and Eubener in the eastern half of Sunny County; Waverly and Wakefield in Sussex County; and Boykin, Newnams, Courtland, Sedley and Ivery in Southampton County.

The Foundation makes it possible for healthcare nonprofits to make programs exceptional by awarding capital grants. This makes it possible for agencies to purchase equipment and repair, construct or renovate buildings. The YWCA of South Hampton Roads received a capital grant for the Aggie Climbing Tower (above) that was erected at its new Camp Ammenhet Facility. The climbing tower promotes teamwork and causes users to exert a lot of energy while working their way to the top of the 50 feet high structure.

The Foundation’s goal is to serve as a catalyst by raising awareness of health issues facing our community.

In It For The Community
Top Health Experts Visit Western Tidewater

EXPANDING THE SAFETY NET
“One of the Foundation’s goals is to fund projects throughout our geographical region based on need,” said Executive Director Gina Pitrone. “To that end, we have encouraged organizations from outside the service area—such as The Up Center, Access AIDS, Catholic Charities and Access Partnership—to bring needed health services to residents of Western Tidewater and Gates County.”
Obici Healthcare Foundation is a tribute to the generosity and compassion of Amedeo Obici (1877 - 1947). Eleven year old Amedeo was sent by his family from Oderzo, Italy to relatives in America, a young immigrant with the hope of greater opportunity. In 1906 he founded Planters Nut and Chocolate Company in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania. In 1915 Planters began operations in Suffolk, which soon became its headquarters.

Successful in business and passionate about helping the people of this community, Mr. Obici was the sole benefactor of the Louise Obici Memorial Hospital, named for and dedicated to his wife. The Foundation was created from his estate and from the proceeds of the sale of the hospital in 2006. Obici Healthcare Foundation continues Amedeo Obici’s legacy to provide access to medical care for all.

106 W. Finney Avenue