



December 12, 2005

Dear Editor,

As co-chairs of the Bassett New Year's Eve Gala, we would like to pay tribute to the host of volunteers throughout the Leatherstocking Region who donated their time and talents to producing "An Evening of Great Expectations." Throughout the year of planning, we have been impressed by the selfless dedication and commitment of the people who work on the myriad facets of this very special fund-raiser with no expectations beyond benefiting the region with Bassett's excellent health care.

We extend our most profound gratitude to our committee members: Jean Cramer, Colleen Donnelly, Mary Dunkle, Cay Franck, Jhil Ghaleb, Anne Hall, Connie Jastremski, Marolyn Kellner, Mary Livermore, Amanda May, Alyssa McGoldrick, Margaret McGown, Bertine McKenna, Laura O'Shea, Polly Renckens, Mary-Margaret Robbins, Robert Schneider, Gayle Smith, Janet Snyder, Robert Snyder, Nancy Tallman, Carol Waller, Christine Weiss and Bruce Wilhelm.

Kudos also to the Auctions Committee, its co-chairs Mary Dunkle and Chris Weiss, and its members – John Anagnost, Jean Cramer, the late Walter Dolan, Ursula Hage, Nancy Irvin, Marolyn Kellner, Roberta Kieler, Alyssa McGoldrick, Margaret McGown, Doreen Potrikus, Ellen Sanford, John Sanford, Robert Schneider, Gwen Schuster, Gayle Smith, Albert Weiss and Joan White.

We also thank all donors who responded to our call for contributions to the Gala auctions and raffle. Nearly 200 items cover a wide spectrum of interests from a golf foursome with Hall of Famer Phil Niekro, to gift certificates, art, furniture, specialty services, tickets to entertainment and sporting events, to a 2005 Club Cadet Lawn Tractor. We thank all auction and raffle donors, and we salute Herrick Gibbons, owner of Riverwood, Cooperstown, who devoted his prominent Main Street storefront window to display auction items.

If you are not attending the Gala this New Year's Eve, don't miss out on bidding for a must-have or must-experience auction item. Placing a closed bid is easy. Closed bid forms are printed in the Friends' Auctions booklet, which details all items. Copies are available at the Friends' office. The booklet also is online on the Gala page on the Friends' Web site, www.friendsofbassett.org. Contact the Friends' office for more information: (607) 547-3928.

All proceeds from the Gala and auctions support the "Initiative for Maternal and Child Care at Bassett Hospital," the Friends' regional fund-raising effort to help Bassett expand and update its popular Birthing Center and Pediatrics Units. We wish you and yours happy holidays.

Sincerely,

Maureen Schuermann
Co-chair, Gala Committee

Nancy Irvin
Co-chair, Gala Committee