An invitation to join the ACMS Alliance

The ACMS Alliance (ACMSA) invites parents, spouses, adult sons and daughters, and adult siblings of ACMS members to join them in membership, on committees and in leadership of this vital organization. The alliance is an organization of spouses and supporters of the Allegheny County Medical Society membership. In a long and strong partnership with the ACMS, the alliance has been uninterrupted in hands-on community service projects, fundraising for scholarship support of medical school education and careers in health care, and in advocacy efforts reflecting medical society initiatives. An organization of dedicated volunteers – hard at work – the ACMSA is commencing its 88th consecutive year.

ACMSA opportunities

From hands-on, roll-up-your-shirt-sleeve-projects and advocacy initiatives, to fundraising black tie gala events, volunteers are valued at any level of involvement! We are dedicated to work in, on and for:

● issues of public health and welfare, including disaster relief and other charitable causes;
● advocacy in the interest of patient and physician reflecting the focus of PAMED and ACMS;
● fundraising projects benefiting scholarships for medical school education, nursing degree and health career programs, including science and technology.

Beneficiaries have included, but are not limited to, Carnegie Science Center, CCAC, Henry the Hand Foundation, Operation Safety Net, Project Bundle-Up and the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, as well as AMA-ERF, PAMED Foundation, ACMS Foundation, PMSA, PMSA AMES Fund, shelters for women and children, and disaster relief-direct giving. Selection decisions are determined by the ACMSA Governing Board as described in the bylaws of the organization.

Some of the wonderful benefits of membership in the ACMS Alliance include camaraderie, networking, newsletter and invitation mailings, visibility and teamwork on committee(s) of your choice. The officers, governing board and entire membership of ACMSA welcome your interest, will answer your inquiries and will graciously receive you as colleagues and friends! We do look forward to hearing from YOU! For information on becoming a member of the ACMS Alliance, visit www.acms.org or call (412) 321-5030.

On behalf of the ACMS Alliance, Ms. Rose Kunkel Roarty presented a check to the ACMS Foundation, represented by ACMS President Amelia A. Paré and Executive Director John Krah. Also present for the day’s program were: the Most Rev. David A. Zubik, bishop of Pittsburgh; Cinny Parrish, Pennsylvania Medical Society Alliance president; the Rev. Kevin G. Poecking; and Christ Child Society co-presidents Marian Flowers and Laura Merzlak. Chamber music was provided by J. Neukom, E. Niiko and H. Whitehead, a Carnegie Mellon University group.

Henry the Hand

The alliance is eagerly seeking Henry the Hand volunteer(s) for school year 2013-14. The message of Henry the Hand is to spread the word – not the germs – by teaching kids the importance of hand washing. For almost two decades, our own Mrs. John (Sandra) DaCosta and Mrs. Donald (Joyce) Orr have taken the program into local schools, and Mrs. Justina Flores and husband Dr. Lawrence Purpura have taken the program internationally to several continents and countries.

Henry the Hand is a basic but very...
Gilbert Brenes, MD, 78, died July 2, 2013.
Dr. Brenes graduated in medicine from the University of Costa Rica, serving an internship at Children’s Hospital in San Jose, Costa Rica. He served his residency at St. Francis Hospital, Pittsburgh, and the University of New York Medical Center.
Dr. Brenes was a dedicated physician for more than 40 years, serving as medical director of the Spinal Cord Injury Program at Harmarville Rehabilitation Center from 1976-2005. In 2006, Dr. Brenes moved to UPMC Mercy Institute of Rehabilitation.
He is survived by his wife, Diane Erdelack Brenes; daughter Kathia Kennedy; son Ivan Brenes; stepdaughter Leslie Erdelack; stepson Kevin Erdelack; and four grandchildren.

Luther W. Spoehr, MD, 93, died July 11, 2013.
Dr. Spoehr graduated in medicine from the University of Pittsburgh.
For more than half a century, Dr. Spoehr was the trusted physician for hundreds of area families, seeing patients in his office attached to his home in Ross Township.
Deceased are his wife, Lois Jane Magee Spoehr, and a sister, Miriam Louise Spoehr Hummel.
He is survived by children Luther W. (Kathryn) Spoehr, Elaine (Alan) Teare and William D. (Cheryl) Spoehr; seven grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

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