

Greenspon Family Makes Challenge Gift to Support Healing Garden Project Honoring Sandy and Lois Benjamin

It all begins with a story of friends. When Stan Greenspon learned that an effort was underway to name a healing garden in honor of his good friend, Dr. Sanford Benjamin, there was no doubt in his mind that he would support the project.

"Sandy is not only one of the nicest, sincerest persons you will ever meet, he's also one of my dearest friends," said Mr. Greenspon. "There's no way I would not be involved."

Scheduled to open late spring 2014, the healing garden will be built on the campus of Carolinas Medical Center-Mercy (CMC-Mercy), located in Charlotte's Elizabeth community. Studies have found that healing gardens in hospital settings can reduce the need for pain medication, reduce the length of hospital stays, and improve the attitudes and perceptions among patients, guests, and employees. Through healing gardens, patients facing a critical illness, recovering from surgery, or waiting for test results will have access to a calm, restful environment for peace and reflection. The garden will also be useful for families visiting hospitalized loved ones and provide a quiet place for hospital staff to take breaks and become refreshed before returning to patient care.

When Dr. Benjamin learned of the project, he had a response similar to that of his long-time friend,



From left to right: Marty Birnbaum, Roz Greenspon, Lois and Sandy Benjamin, Maureen O'Keefe, Stan Greenspon.

Stan Greenspon: "There's no way a garden will be named for me and not include my wife, Lois." Likewise, when Stan's former wife Roz heard about the project, she did not hesitate to get involved. "Sandy and Lois Benjamin are my dear friends. How fitting for a healing garden to be named in honor of such caring people who have a rich history of supporting the health and well-being of our community," said Roz. Dr. Benjamin has provided more than 33 years of service to CMC-Mercy, including serving as past-president of medical staff, as a member of Carolinas Pathology Group, and 29 years as Medical Director

of Laboratories. His wife Lois currently serves as co-chairperson of membership for the Mecklenburg Medical Alliance and Endowment and formerly served as its co-president, vice-president of financial development, projects treasurer, recording secretary, and as a member of various committees, including Community Health Luncheon and Holiday House. She also has served as a volunteer at CMC-Mercy for over twelve years and is a former president of Sisterhood, board member, and membership chair at Temple Israel.

The healing garden at CMC-Mercy will be a lasting legacy in

the Benjamins' honor. "Our goal is to raise \$40,000 to add to funds already secured for the Benjamin naming opportunity. With less than \$7,000 to go, we're almost there," said Stan Greenspon. Through a generous matching offer from Stan Greenspon and Maureen O'Keefe, Roz Greenspon and Martin Birnbaum, and the Greenspon sons (Keith, Lawrence, and Michael) and their families, all gifts up to a cumulative total of \$20,000 will be matched dollar-for-dollar. "The positive response to our challenge is a true testament to the Benjamins' standing in our community," said Roz Greenspon. And the timing could not have been better. With Dr. Benjamin's recent retirement, this project provides a way for all of the people who love and respect the Benjamins to show their support.

"We hope that our gifts and matching challenge will inspire others to support this worthy project, which not only honors the Benjamins, but also benefits a hospital that provides the Charlotte community with world-class healthcare. Gifts of all sizes are important and will be doubled through our match," adds Stan, "and we are deeply grateful to all of our family members and friends who have already made gifts and pledges."

As the story began, so shall it end: a testament of friends, com-

ing together to honor two of their own.

If you or your company would like to join the Greenspon Family in supporting the Benjamin Healing Garden Project through a tax-deductible gift, please contact Kathie Minnon at 704-376-1561. Donors will be invited to the garden's ground breaking and ribbon cutting ceremonies, scheduled for spring/summer 2014, and also to other garden-related special events. ☆

Donating an Old Cell Phone Can Save a Life

Shalom Bayit-NC, in conjunction with Safe Alliance's Victim Assistance, is collecting cell phones for victims – or potential victims – of domestic violence. Old, used and unwanted cell phones will be re-programmed to call 911 and used in the event of an emergency. Donating is as simple as dropping the cell phone and battery charger (in a plastic bag or box, if possible) at the reception desks of the following locations: Levine Jewish Community Center, Ohr Hatorah Congregation, Temple Beth El, Temple Israel, and Jewish Family Services. For more information check www.shalombayit-nc.org.

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