Dr. Bruce and Beth McDonald of Fairfield to be honored at Bridgeport Hospital Auxiliary spring gala May 10

The Bridgeport Hospital Auxiliary will honor the hospital’s retiring Chief Medical Officer, Bruce McDonald, MD, and his wife Beth, a longtime member of the Auxiliary, during its Spring Gala, Thursday, May 10, 6:00 p.m., at the Birchwood Country Club in Westport.

Earlier this year, Dr. McDonald announced that he will retire in September, after 32 years at the hospital, first as Chairman of Pediatrics from 1980 to 1986, and for the last 26 years as Senior Vice President, Medical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer. He is also a clinical professor at Yale School of Medicine and has maintained his clinical practice as a pediatric nephrologist at Bridgeport and Yale-New Haven Hospitals. Dr. McDonald was recently named Physician of the Year by the Greater Bridgeport Medical Association.

During more than 20 years as a member of the Bridgeport Hospital Auxiliary, Beth McDonald has been a member of the group’s board of directors, served a two-year term as vice president and participated in a number of fundraising activities.

“The McDonalds are exceptional leaders who have passionately supported our projects and worthy causes, and have helped make a difference in the lives of others,” says Auxiliary President Ilene Feldman of Fairfield.

Proceeds from this year’s gala will support the renovation of SurgEase, Bridgeport Hospital’s ambulatory surgery center. Planned improvements include the addition of two pediatric areas—one an interactive playspace with computers and games and the other specifically designed for special needs children; a new adult area with computers and workstations; a new social area for TV viewing and conversations; and upgrades to the check-in and waiting areas.

The gala is being co-chaired by Ulla Atweh of Westport and Marlene Fischer of Southport. For information about the event or to request tickets, call the Auxiliary office at 203-384-3331.

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Since it was established more than 50 years ago, the 400-member Bridgeport Hospital Auxiliary has donated more than $4 million to Bridgeport Hospital facility improvements, equipment purchases, nursing scholarships and other projects. The Auxiliary sponsors a variety of fundraising activities throughout the year, including art, book and jewelry sales.

In addition, the Auxiliary operates the hospital gift shop, profits from which are donated to the hospital. Many Auxiliary members are also active volunteers who contribute their time and energy in patient care and support areas of the hospital.