

## Coal City Coalers and Dean Vigna Conclude a 27-Year Enterprise



Dean Vigna, a teacher at Coal City, IL, High School receives a special Appreciation Award from Mark Niederpruem (photo left), as Mike Welch, Darlene Kelly, Yours Truly, and Sheldon Kantoff look on. Dean was recognized for his remarkable achievement in bringing members of the Varsity Club of his high school to SHC - Chicago for 27 consecutive years, introducing generations of young people to our mission and the care of children provided by our doctors, nurses, rehabilitation specialists, and others. Mark observed, "The young people you first brought

here 27 years ago are middle-aged now!"

Dean's vision from the beginning was to help young people whom he taught, understand that other young people were not so fortunate as they--and yet achieve significantly. Over the years, more than 500 teens from Coal City--an hour-and-a-half trip, one way, to our hospital--have been challenged to understand and be concerned, in a whole new way, about other children. All Coalers performed for our patients, and, always, they brought a gift to the hospital. In the photo right, Alec Leasure, Ryan Horrie, and Makenna Emerson present the 2016 gift from the Coal City Coalers, bringing their total giving to \$5.761.



We're sad to report that Dean Vigna--who insists he's *not* too young--is retiring, and, with his departure, the program, supported strongly over the years by the school's foresighted administration, will, without a doubt, conclude. We thank Dean, the many students who have participated in the program, and the Coal City High School administrators, who have encouraged it over the years. We shall miss all of you greatly!

## SHC - Chicago Provides Learning Opportunity to Michigan Students



We were delighted to welcome 30 health professionals, with instructors and students from Baker College Nursing Program and the Career Tech Center Healthcare Program, Cadillac, MI, to our hospital. Our guests came under the sponsorship of Saladin Noble, Gary Nostrant, a member of the Paul Bunyan and Lakeland Shrine Clubs. The day-long trip provided participants firsthand experience with procedures and care available at SHC - Chicago. Shriners also shared their philosophy and mission and discussed treatments available at all of our highly acclaimed pediatric specialty facilities. The trip

was made possible through the generosity of Saladin Temple. Brother Gary coordinated efforts of Cadillac organizations, including Order of the Eastern Star and Wexford-Missaukee Child Protection Council. We were pleased to share our work and our hospital with these aspiring young medical students.

