



The BMH Valentine Ball is back in February, and the dinner party hosts and hostesses are already planning their menus...

Join the Beaufort Memorial Hospital Foundation for an evening aboard the Orient Express for this year's Valentine Ball on February 11, 2012. The Ball will benefit BMH's Emergency Room Expansion, so it can continue to serve the needs of our town so successfully. This vital renovation, which will more than double the size of the ER, will help the hospital meet the community's increasing demand for emergency medical services. Beaufort Memorial's emergency department visits currently total nearly 40,000 a year.

The inaugural Beaufort Memorial Hospital Valentine Ball was held in 1990. Since its inception, the Ball has raised over \$3.5 million for numerous projects. Becky Trask served on the first Committee for Development for the hospital under Director of Development for the Beaufort Memorial Hospital Foundation, Alice Moss (she is now Executive Director). Becky conceptualized and was the driving force behind an idea that would set this event apart from traditional fundraisers – and thus was born the Pre-Ball Dinner Party! The night of the Ball, ticket holders are invited to attend a private dinner party in a local home prior to going to the Ball. The dinner parties are organized by the BMH Foundation; they are unique in that guests

All Aboard The Orient Express

Written by Editor

Wednesday, 23 November 2011 08:29 - Last Updated Wednesday, 23 November 2011 12:43

may or may not know each other or their hosts! Dinner parties are held in the residences of generous volunteers. They are a great way to give back to the Foundation and allow you to meet fellow ball attendees and get to know them. These parties are small and intimate in size, but large in their benefit to the hospital. Hosts serve dinner, whether homemade or catered, but are not responsible for dessert, which is served at the Ball.

That first year, Becky and Neil Trask were supposed to host twelve people and ended up with 32 at their home, due to the large number of tickets sold.

Carter and Polly Swenson have hosted dinner parties for the Valentine Ball every year since 1992, with the exception of one. The Swensons feel their best way to support the hospital is by hosting a dinner party every year – and that has lead to some wonderful memories. Mrs. Swenson has the dinner party hosting down to a science – it includes her personally preparing all five courses she serves at her house... along with some humor. One year, the Swensons decided to dress up – Carter as Pierre and Polly as a French maid. Small touches like their fun costumes and the homemade chocolate turtles they serve as the place cards are what make this event so much fun. They have met so many people and had a blast while also helping the hospital.

For 22 years, the Valentine Ball has brought our community together to celebrate and support the Foundation that maintains and improves the excellent healthcare available in our community. The success of this event has been because of generous and adventurous people like the Swensons and the Trasks.

If you are interested in hosting a Pre-Ball Dinner Party or to purchase tickets to The Beaufort Memorial Hospital Valentine Ball for a Night Aboard the Orient Express, please contact Brenda Molony (843) 522-5774.

[Read more Local Color](#)