





A Gift of Art That Gives BACK



Dr. Klaus Anselm found his life's calling as a gastroenterologist. But after retiring from a satisfying 30-year career in medicine in 1999, Anselm immersed himself in his creative passion of weaving beautiful, bold-colored tapestries inspired by his travels to America's Southwest.

"I've been drawn to tapestry as an expression of my imagination," Anselm wrote in his artist's statement. "I find peace and relaxation in the solitude of designing and creating my tapestries. Weaving tapestries means everything to me; it changed me as a person and allows me to see the world from a different point of view."

Anselm donated one of his original tapestries, woven in wool on cotton warp, to Martha Jefferson Hospital in September. The piece is framed and displayed on the second floor of the Phillips Cancer Center, where Anselm hopes it will bring comfort and a sense of peace to patients and their loved ones.



“This piece needed a good home,” said Anselm, who began weaving in 1998. “It has a nice, positive feel, and I thought Martha Jefferson was a good place for it to be — particularly in its location where cancer patients are being treated. But I’ve also been a patient at Martha Jefferson, and this is a way I can contribute and express my gratitude to the hospital.”

A native of Eastern Germany, Anselm practiced medicine in Pueblo, CO, before moving with his wife, Joan, to Albemarle County in 2009. The Anselms, who also are well-known and experienced dog show judges, have traveled extensively throughout the U.S. and fell in love with Central Virginia.

“We loved the area, with its history, architecture and beautiful landscape,” said Anselm.

A member of numerous weaving organizations, including the Albemarle Handweavers Guild, the American Tapestry Alliance and the Handweavers Guild of America, Anselm has exhibited his work throughout the country and won numerous awards. He believes strongly in the value of artwork in creating and sustaining a healing environment.

“Artwork in the healthcare setting takes away from the sterile environment that is so typical of most hospitals,” Anselm said. “Displaying artwork that’s



uplifting and pleasant gives the hospital a warm feel to it, and that’s important to the nurses and physicians, as well as to patients and their families.”

Anselm believes Martha Jefferson has a “good ambiance and feng shui,” so he’s thrilled to be able to add his artwork to the hospital’s positive environment. During a recent bout with a serious illness, Anselm was treated in Martha Jefferson’s Emergency Depart-

ment, where he experienced firsthand the hospital’s Caring Tradition and quality of care provided by Martha Jefferson’s outstanding physicians, nurses and other providers.

“The medical care at Martha Jefferson is excellent,” noted Anselm. “It’s never a good experience to have to go to the emergency room, even in the best circumstances. But I received excellent care and have nothing but good words for the hospital. The medical team makes you feel at home, and you feel like you’re in good hands when you’re there.”



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