

Award benefits St. Agnes

By Chaz Muth

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When Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, Homeland, parishioner Albert "Skip" Counselman was awarded a lifetime achievement award from an insurance firm based in Hartford, Conn., it was St. Agnes Hospital in Baltimore who reaped the big-cash reward.

Travelers – the nation's second-largest writer of property and casualty insurance – presented a \$10,000 check to the Caton Avenue hospital at the request of Mr. Counselman, who serves as chairman of the St. Agnes board and designated the hospital as his charity of choice, said Jay Fishman, chairman and chief executive officer of Travelers.

Travelers' lifetime achievement award was presented to Mr. Counselman during an April 13 ceremony in Naples, Fla., which also featured a video presentation of the care being given at the Catholic Baltimore hospital.

"What was really nice was St. Agnes was given a national audience," said Mr. Counselman, a 59-year-old Cockeysville resident and president and CEO of Riggs, Counselman, Michaels & Downes, Inc., one of the leading 100 insurance and risk management agency/brokerage firms in the U.S. "Travelers spent a day and a half filming, and they were able to capture the compassionate care they give at St. Agnes and show how they treat everyone, regardless of their ability to pay."

Travelers' selection of Mr. Counselman was based on his industry leadership, unwavering commitment to integrity in his role as an independent broker, and his strong philanthropic record of serving the community through civic leadership and volunteerism, Mr. Fishman said.

"Skip Counselman is a true role model," he said. "He has distinguished himself as a leader in the industry, while maintaining upstanding values and keeping in synch with the needs of his community."

The \$10,000 donation has been funneled into a fundraising campaign currently underway at St. Agnes, which so far has raised a little more than \$4 million from major donors since it began in 2006, said Sherry Welch, president of the St. Agnes Foundation.

The \$25 million fundraising campaign will contribute to the five-year-\$180 million redevelopment of the Caton Avenue campus, Ms. Welch said.

"We have not done a major capital fundraising before, so a \$10,000 gift is really meaningful to us," she said. "Given that it comes from an award for Skip makes this exceptional. He's given so much of his time, effort and his personal dollars to us. Anything attached to his name is so special to us. He is very beloved at St. Agnes."

In addition to his roles at RCM&D and St. Agnes, Mr. Counselman also chairs the investment committee of Ascension Health – the nation's largest affiliation of Catholic hospitals – serves on the board of Loyola College in Maryland's Sellinger School of Business, is first vice chair of the Maryland Hospital Association and serves on the president's advisory council of the Greater Baltimore Committee.

The married father of three and University of Notre Dame graduate is a knight in the Order of Malta, established in 1050 and now provides medical services and humanitarian aid in war-torn and impoverished regions around the world.



CR Staff/Owen Sweeney III

Albert "Skip" Counselman was awarded a lifetime achievement award from Travelers insurance along with a \$10,000 check that was donated to St. Agnes Hospital, Baltimore.

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