

## 22ND ANNUAL MAGNOLIA BALL

# Chairs have history of volunteer work



**Bob and Tish Stone**

As honorary co-chairs for the 22nd annual Magnolia Ball, Bob and Tish Stone are working to raise funds for a new emergency department and an expansion of the surgical services unit at Tanner Medical Center/Carrollton.

Their longstanding involvement with Tanner Health System is one of the numerous community projects they support every year, a commitment they learned from their parents.

"She follows in the footsteps of her father and I am pretty much in the footsteps of my mother," Bob Stone said. "They were the volunteers in our families. They were the

people who worked in our community."

The couple grew up in Hapeville, Ga., where both of their families made contributions and would be recognized for their leadership. Tish's father, Max Holt, and Bob's mother, Martha Lewis Stone, were each honored as Hapeville Citizen of the Year, setting the stage for what would become a family legacy of civic engagement.

"When Dad was elected to the city council, Hapeville was in debt," Tish said, describing how her father used his financial expertise to help the city

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# MAGNOLIA BALL

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE

emerge from its financial challenges. "Within a year or two they were in the black and doing well."

He also was instrumental in bringing the first hotel to Hapeville.

"Hilton was choosing where to build next," Tish said. "They wanted to put a hotel in Hapeville, but the city had to pass a liquor ordinance because Hilton would not build without it."

Some residents were opposed to the ordinance, but once it passed, the hotel provided much-needed taxes to the growing city and Holt's contributions were honored.

Bob's parents were immersed in community as well, serving at the First Methodist Church in Hapeville and as PTA presidents. As president of the Hapeville High School band booster club, Bob's mother campaigned to have the band perform nationally. Her efforts paid off and in 1968, the Hapeville High Hornets become the first Georgia public high school band to march in the Rose Bowl Parade.

"They had six Greyhound buses taking the kids to California and back," Bob said. His younger brother, Tom, performed in the band and would become band captain both at Hapeville High School and later at the University of Georgia.

Bob, Tom and their older brother Hinton learned from their parents that "the idea of giving time and service is just what you do," Bob said.

Showing early signs of leadership, Tish became president of the high school library club and Bob rose to the second highest post in ROTC, was inducted into Beta Club and became editor of the yearbook. They met at the First Methodist Church in Hapeville and became sweethearts, enjoying a courtship of walks together at Adam's Park and dancing to their favorite song, "Moonglow."

Their romance might have been thwarted when her father's job moved the family to Chicago, but Bob's father, William Hinton Stone Sr., had received flight privileges when he was hired as the 69th employee of a new company called Delta Air Lines. (He would rise to become vice president of maintenance for Delta.)

Bob flew north to visit Tish, bringing her mother grits and corn meal — staples that were difficult to find in the north. When Tish's family moved back to Georgia, their romance continued and on the evening of her senior prom, Bob proposed.

The Stones are known for many things — the success of their business, Systems & Methods Inc. (SMI), their enthusiasm for the races at Talladega, but mostly for their family. It's not just that their family is an impressive size (with six children and their spouses, 16 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren), it's more that their family works, plays and serves together.

In addition to working together at SMI, spending weekends and vacations together at the lake or in their motor homes

(when they are referred to as "The Rolling Stones"), Bob and Tish have turned philanthropy into a family affair.

"I think they see how much fun we have," said Bob on his children's commitment to the community. "They see what we do and know that you have to give back. It's just a way of life."

The Stones' commitment to Tanner Health System has taught volunteerism by example. Bob joined the Tanner Medical Foundation Board of Directors in 1993, and he serves on the Foundation's Finance Committee.

For more than 20 years, the entire family has chaired Tanner committees, volunteered for the Magnolia Ball and generously championed Tanner in the community.

As the Stones serve as honorary co-chairs, their children and several grandchildren are active participants with the Magnolia Ball this year. They are volunteering, securing auction donations and serving on committees.

Their involvement has led to the Stones holding numerous leadership positions in west Georgia and receiving many honors. Bob's community contributions include his tenure as chairman of the Administrative Board of First United Methodist Church of Carrollton, chairman of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce and chairman of the Board of Trustees for the University of West Georgia and member of the Wolves Stadium Development Committee. He also is past president of the Carrollton Rotary Club, where he is a Paul Harris and Will Watt Fellow.

Along with her service to Tanner, Tish is a former chairman of the Altar Guild and Finance Chair for First United Methodist Church of Carrollton. She has been a member of the Carrollton Civic Woman's Club for 35 years and has held offices at the local, district, state and national level of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, including serving as Georgia state president for two years.

Tish has been honored as Mother of the Year, Clubwoman of the Year and Family of the Year. She served as a charter member and charter treasurer of the Dawnbreakers Rotary Club, of which she, too, is a Paul Harris Fellow.

The Stones were eager to support the Magnolia Ball because they saw it as an opportunity to help Tanner provide the community with improved access to fast, convenient, state-of-the-art emergency and surgical care.

They also see Tanner's expansion as key to Carrollton's growth — a priority for the Stones, both as business owners and as residents.

"In order to provide a place for my grandchildren and my great-grandchildren and everyone who lives here," Bob said, "you've got to help the community grow."

The 22nd annual Magnolia Ball, "Moonlight at Tiffany's," will be Saturday, April 28, on the grounds of the Richards' family estate in Carrollton.