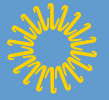


# The Bradley Bulletin

NEWS AND NOTES FOR OUR DONORS AND FRIENDS



**Bradley Hospital**  
A Lifespan Partner

## With Bradley Hospital's Work Close to his Heart, Benes Family Gift Ensures Care for Patients for Years to Come

Throughout his career, Michael Benes has learned that much in life is a matter of timing. While the veteran branding and marketing professional is deeply engaged with Bradley Hospital today, he wishes he had known about our life-changing work when he was seeking help for his daughter, Kimmie.

*"Patty and I took Kimmie everywhere looking for answers," said Michael, who lived in Lexington, MA at the time, more than an hour away from Bradley Hospital. "Had we known more about what really takes place here, our daughter would have come to Bradley for sure—all of the programs we've needed are available in one place and the care is incredibly focused."*

At nine months of age, Kimmie developed Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome, a severe form of epilepsy. Once a happy, healthy baby, Kimmie started experiencing upwards of 400 seizures a day and cognitive decline, ultimately becoming dependent on a wheelchair. *"It was like watching a computer getting erased," said Benes.*

When Michael's company, Benes Communications, opened its Jamestown office, he began living in Rhode Island part-time, ultimately becoming a full-time resident in 2010. Having been introduced to Bradley through a friend helping to identify services for Kimmie, Michael immediately wanted to use his professional expertise to help our hospital. He joined the Bradley Hospital Board of Trustees, serving 2010–2012, providing unparalleled counsel in branding, marketing, communications and creative direction.

*"Bradley Hospital keeps a low profile, so my question was how could we raise awareness and support for the hospital's amazing work," said Benes. "Bradley is a unique institution*

*recognized nationally; it's the St. Jude's of pediatric mental health. Our population is the most underserved in the country and they don't have a voice—there is no greater public to serve."* Through his pro-bono efforts, Michael developed the "Free the Future" video, an emotional piece that helps break down the

stigma of children with mental illness, highlighting that within every child is an opportunity for greatness. So well-received, "Free the Future" also became the name of Bradley's newsletter for friends and supporters. But, his commitment and generosity didn't stop there.

Because the Benes family wanted to ensure Bradley's future was as secure as the futures we envision for our patients and their families, they decided to make a planned gift, establishing an irrevocable trust. Assets will remain available for the family's needs while they are living and will then become available to Bradley Hospital.

*"My vision for Bradley's future is to see satellite locations in major health institutions around the country, like the Mayo Clinic and John Hopkins," said Benes. "Deservedly so, we need to be broadly known as leaders in pediatric mental health where children and their families, everywhere, turn for the most comprehensive treatment and information on the pressing issues of the day."*



Michael, Kimmie, Patty Benes

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— Michael Benes

Added Michael, *"Raising a child with special needs changes your life. Even the simplest of things become far more complex. As a parent, you're always on high alert, ready to jump in a split second to protect your child. We had to adjust to a new normal, and I'm dedicated to helping others facing the same journey my family experienced."*

# Therapies in Sensory Processing Disorder Help Children Overcome Day-to-Day Challenges



*"The goals for a lot of our families are as simple as wanting their child to be able to sit at a family dinner, eat a variety of foods, ride in a car or participate at school," said Jane. "For children with sensory modulation difficulties, it's important to be proactive and not reactive—we always provide strategies to regulate the nervous system before a child becomes overstimulated."*

All treatment is done through a family-centered approach with strategies that can be

replicated at home. A key role in treatment is the sensory room, which houses equipment to jump and climb on, suspended swings, a light-up ball pit, relaxation music, and more. It also features video capabilities to externally monitor a child's session. The sensory room is often the only way to calm some of the patients going through difficult times.



*"No two children present the same, so our customizable sensory room provides an environment for children to conquer their fears and learn to process information in a safe manner," added Jane. "It's booked from morning to evening, and we're already looking to build more rooms throughout our campus."*

For children suffering from sensory processing disorder, everyday tasks—brushing their hair, getting dressed for school, and going to the grocery store—are not only difficult, they can create paralyzing anxiety. No one knows this better than Jane Cancilliere, Bradley Hospital's Rehabilitation Services Clinical Coordinator and an occupational therapist.

While everyone continually receives information through their senses, organizing it in the brain and using it to navigate the world around them, children with sensory processing disorders experience a breakdown in this process. Information comes in too quickly, disorganized, or incomplete. The results can be debilitating.

## Changing of the Guard: Lawrence B. Sadwin Named New Chairperson of Bradley Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees

Amidst Bradley Hospital's closest friends at its recent annual meeting, Lawrence B. Sadwin was appointed chairperson of the Foundation Board of Trustees. Sadwin accepted the gavel of leadership from David A. Brown, who served as chair for more than a decade as part of his nearly forty years of service on our hospital's board.

A long-time member of the Bradley Hospital family and a generous supporter of our work, Sadwin is a highly respected business and community leader known for his passionate advocacy around health education and service programs that encourage personal behavior change.

*"I am humbled to not only take on the responsibility of leading the Foundation Board of Trustees for such an incredible institution, but to also follow in the footsteps of a friend and mentor who has been instrumental in charting the course Bradley is on," said Sadwin. "I look forward to working with the tremendous leadership of Bradley to remain a nationally-renowned hospital dedicated to caring for children and families caught in the grip of mental illness."*

In addition to his service to Bradley Hospital, Sadwin is also a member of the Lifespan Board of Directors and is serving his fifth term as board chairman of the Center for Medical Technology Policy. He is the recipient of the American Heart Association's Distinguished Leadership Award, the John H. Chafee Award for leadership in healthcare in 2006, and received special recognition by the Army National Guard for his efforts in support of the Decade of Health initiative.



*Lawrence B. Sadwin and David A. Brown*