The Bradley Bulletin

News and notes for our friends and supporters.

Bill Tracey is Helping to "Build" a Better Bradley

s president and CEO of TRAC Builders—the Providence-based general contracting and construction management firm he founded in 1994—Bill Tracey knows more than a thing or two about building. Perhaps at the top of that list is something that appears on his company's website: *The built environment isn't just about bricks and mortar. It's also about sharing experiences, improving quality of life, and making a positive impact on others.*

For years, Bill has put that same belief into action in his philanthropic work, which includes being an active supporter of Bradley Hospital. "I think we're always trying to make authentic connections," he says, "and working with the people of Bradley feels very real to me. The hospital staff is remarkable, and my friends and colleagues on the philanthropic side are impressive, committed people, too. When you see all of them step up and help out it inspires you to do the same."

"Working with Bradley gives you some perspective on life..." —Bill Tracey

Bill was first introduced to Bradley by Rick and Marcy Granoff. "They asked me to participate in the Play4Kids golf tournament and Bravo Bradley, which were events they organized and co-chaired," Bill recalls. "I also met Dan Wall back then and took my first tour of the Bradley facilities, which was very impactful."

These days, Bill is still a generous contributor to the hospital, but he's also an ambassador. As such, he helps raise critical funds that support programs, brings new supporters into



the fold and increases awareness about the good work that goes on at the hospital. In addition, Bill has taken on several volunteer positions—from active participation on the Bravo Bradley committee, to serving on the Board of Governors, to his recent appointment to the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

"Working with Bradley gives you some perspective on life on an empathetic level as well as a level of gratitude," Bill points out. "The fact that there's a place right here where at-risk kids can go and get the help they need is huge. So, it feels good to be part of the team and make a difference where I can."

In addition to Bradley, Bill's philanthropic support extends to several other organizations including Crossroads Rhode Island, Roger Williams University, and the Providence Preservation Society.



Social Media Use Linked to Teen Depression

f you've spent time recently around teenagers, you've noticed they are inordinately attached to their electronic devices. Much time is spent on social media and according to a new study, an increased use of social media can lead to depression, particularly in young girls.

Karyn Horowitz, MD, Director of Outpatient Services, explains, "The images that some teens create lead other girls to feel that they do not measure up. They can feel that their appearance and social life are not as good as others' and it can lead vulnerable girls to feel badly about themselves in comparison."

Also on the rise is a phenomenon known as FOMO, or the fear of missing out. "Seeing what others are actually doing or creating on their social media for others to view leads to feeling like you are on the outside. Not only can this create anxiety in all children/adolescents, in vulnerable girls with existing anxiety and/or depression, it can exacerbate their symptoms," Dr. Horowitz says.

The impact is significant. "Between 2007 and 2015, 92% of teenagers and young adults had a smartphone," Dr. Horowitz says. "Between 2010 and 2015, the depression rates went up by over 30%, and rates of suicide in adolescent girls went up by almost 65%."



Dr. Horowitz encourages parents to be aware of how their child is spending time on their electronic devices, educating them about the negative impact of social media, putting personal technology away at least an hour before bed, and increasing real face-to-face time and physical activity.

Teaching Positive Behaviors, Point by Point

t was a special moment in the healing process of a 7-year-old at Bradley Hospital. His mother was visiting and he couldn't wait to show her "the board"—a prominent computer monitor display in the center of the children's inpatient unit. "That's me!" the child exclaimed, gesturing at a colorful avatar bearing a circled number. "Look at how many points I have!"

The boy earned those points not with a joystick, but by demonstrating positive behaviors throughout the day. That's significant progress for a child with extensive trauma and self-regulation difficulties.

"That little boy realized, 'I can do this,'" says Jennifer Hellmuth, PhD, a clinical psychologist on the children's inpatient unit (CIU). "Our patients are learning and applying new coping skills, and seeing the results in a very visual way. It's exciting for everyone."

The avatar display is part of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), a school-based program used nationwide and adapted for CIU by Dr. Hellmuth. PBIS is a model for teaching and rewarding safe and appropriate behaviors.

Rewards for points earned on the inpatient unit include special free-time activities and other individualized incentives.

PBIS is a core therapeutic tool on the CIU, where the majority of patients have a trauma-related diagnosis and struggle with issues of trust and self-regulation.



"PBIS sets reachable expectations of appropriate behavior and makes the outcomes tangible," says Oana Costea, MD, MBA, Director of the Children's Inpatient Program. "By recognizing and rewarding these behaviors consistently, we help rebuild a child's trust and a path to healing."

For information about the Bradley Hospital Foundation, please contact Anne Morton Smith at 401-432-1451 or asmith18@lifespan.org.

bradleyhospital.org/Giving-to-Bradley-Hospital





2018 Healing Society

We are proud to present the members of the Bradley Hospital Healing Society, recognizing supporters who make annual gifts of \$100 or more. Our gratitude goes to all who have given selflessly to support the lifesaving work of Bradley Hospital.

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