

Hasbro Children's Hospital

Caring for Kids

For our friends and supporters.



2021

Olivia Battled Epilepsy—And Won!

It was July 2019, and Matt Mullaney was out enjoying an ordinary, everyday Rhode Island summertime tradition: taking his kids to Del's for frozen lemonade. But what happened to his youngest daughter, Olivia, while they waited in line was anything but ordinary.

“Out of the blue, she grabbed at the counter and then fell to the ground,” Matt recalls. “She said she felt dizzy, but quickly snapped out of it and was back to normal.”

At the time, the family's pediatrician said dehydration might have been the culprit, which seemed reasonable to Matt. After all, Olivia, then 7, had been playing soccer outside in the heat, and maybe she didn't drink enough fluids throughout the day.

But that was not the case.

Three months later, in October 2019, Matt was taking Olivia shopping for her Halloween costume when she said she felt sick in the car. “I figured she had a bug or maybe was coming down with a cold, so we went home instead,” he explains. Olivia was resting on the couch, but when she got up, she collapsed in a peculiar way. “Her left arm sort of contracted briefly when she fell down,” Matt explains. That week, Olivia would have several more fainting-type episodes at home, including one in the bathroom where she fell headfirst into a vent on the wall. “She smacked her head pretty hard,” says her mom, Beth.

The worried parents took their daughter to the emergency room at Hasbro Children's, where she underwent a battery



Olivia Mullaney

of tests before being admitted. “We were thinking the absolute worse at this point,” recalls Beth.

Luca Bartolini, MD, director of the hospital's pediatric epilepsy program, was the doctor on rounds the next day and reviewed Olivia's test results. “Her MRI revealed a lesion on her brain consistent with a malformation of cortical development, likely focal cortical dysplasia,” he explains.

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Hasbro Children's Hospital
The Pediatric Division of Rhode Island Hospital
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“Seeing the results, we absolutely know we made the right decision.”

— Matt Mullaney, father

Based on the description of her seizures and results of the EEG and MRI, Dr. Bartolini diagnosed Olivia with focal epilepsy, and put her on a regimen of anti-seizure medications.

But the seizures returned—stronger and more frequently. In fact, she sometimes had as many as 10 in a single day. “I knew when I would have one because I would feel a tingling in my hand first,” Olivia says. “But I couldn’t get to a safe place because they just happened so fast.” These “drop attacks” occurred everywhere in her home as well as at school and on the soccer field.

“Unfortunately, one-third of people with epilepsy are pharmacoresistant, meaning they do not respond to two appropriately chosen anti-seizure medications,” Dr. Bartolini points out. “So, for these patients, surgery needs to be considered soon, because it can be curative. In Olivia’s case, we determined that an innovative procedure called *resection with neuronavigation and intraoperative electrocorticography* was the best approach.”

The complex and delicate operation, which took nearly six hours to complete, included removing part of Olivia’s skull and using advanced imaging and EEG technology to pinpoint exactly where the seizures were originating from. Then, neurosurgeons removed the lesion from Olivia’s brain. The surgery was a success, but it was not without an added level of anxiety—it took place in early March 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic was first beginning. “Because of the visitor restrictions and scarcity of PPE at the time, Matt and I weren’t able to go with Olivia to begin the anesthesia,” Beth says. “So, she had to go in alone. That was very hard for us. But she was amazingly brave. A real trooper.”

After three months of rehabilitation, Olivia was back to enjoying her active, playful life with her older sister, McKenna, and all their friends. It’s been nearly a year since her surgery, and Olivia is still seizure-free and off all medications.

At the time, the Mullaney family wrestled with the choice of going to one of Boston’s renowned hospitals for Olivia’s care or staying close to home. In retrospect, they say they chose the best destination. “Seeing the results, we absolutely know we made the right decision,” Matt says.

EPILEPSY: by the numbers



1 in 100

ONE PERCENT of the US population is affected by epilepsy, making it one of the most common neurological disorders.



1 in 3

THIRTY-THREE PERCENT of those diagnosed with epilepsy are pharmacoresistant, meaning that anti-seizure medication won’t work for them.



8 in 10

80 PERCENT of pharmacoresistant epilepsy patients chosen for surgery are seizure-free after their procedure.

401-444-5685 the number for the region’s most advanced and comprehensive pediatric epilepsy program. Call it to schedule an appointment or for more information.

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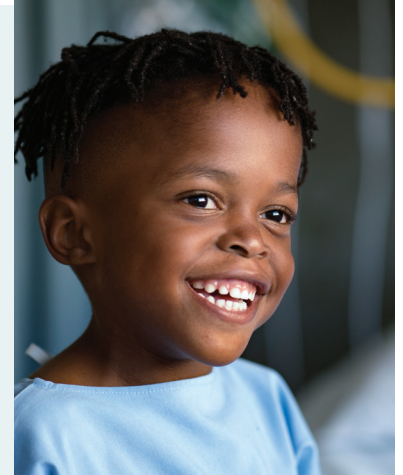
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HasbroChildrensHospital.org/become-miracle-maker.



Motorcycle Run Raises Money for Kids

Motorcycle clubs from all over the state and even some from Massachusetts joined the Goodfellas annual motorcycle run, founded by Cal Calabro and six friends in 2017, to raise money for Hasbro Children's Hospital. Boosted by the support of four major donors, the 220-bike run that spanned 75 miles, raised \$14,000 for the greatest needs at the hospital.



Ride for Kids

“Fewer groups are fundraising during the pandemic because of gathering restrictions, but we still rely on philanthropy to support critical programs that our patients and their families depend on,” says Tracey Wallace, VP for Patient Services at Hasbro Children's Hospital. “So, we are extraordinarily grateful for those in our community who are finding creative, socially distant ways to raise funds.”

Another easy way to raise funds for Hasbro Children's is with a Facebook fundraiser. Learn more at HasbroChildrensHospital.org/Giving-to-HCH.

Social Media
Shout-Out



Ryan Taft

Admin · September 10 · 🌐

Today was Arianna's final day of radiation!!! This amazing little princess that decided weeks ago that she would shock everyone and not get sedated for radiation melted the hearts of everyone along the way, including Ryan, her radiation tech at Hasbro. We talked a million times about her fancy nails (and mine when she did them) and he volunteered to let her paint them on her final day. We'll, today was the day and he was a man of his word. She has been talking about this day for weeks-not because she wanted to be done but because she was that excited to give him a manicure! Ryan now has some beautiful nails and he made our little princesses journey that much easier and helped bring a smile to her face each time she went in, just like every nurse, dr, tech and specialist has at Hasbro. I can't thank him or the amazing staff enough and if he ever sees this, THANK YOU!!!! It truly takes an amazing person to work in any kind of pediatric medicine and I will be eternally grateful for how you treated this little princess ❤️
[Hasbro Children's Hospital Rhode Island Hospital](https://HasbroChildrensHospital.org/Giving-to-HCH)

Becoming the Hospital of Tomorrow

Transformative Renovations Taking Shape at Hasbro Children's

In just over a year since Hasbro Children's announced its *Every Child, Every Day* campaign and plans for sweeping renovations to transform the region's leading pediatric hospital, exciting progress can be found around every corner.

Making the modernization more impressive is that it's being done against the backdrop of a global health pandemic with nary an impact on patient care. All told, the \$35 million in extensive projects are expected to finish by spring 2022. Among the space already complete and supporting patient care is an expanded infusion unit in our hematology/oncology center, the Tomorrow Fund Clinic. The only center of its kind in Rhode Island that treats pediatric cancers and blood disorders now features six new infusion bays, bringing its total to 10, and added amenities for comfort.

On the hospital's second floor, the pre- and post-surgical areas have been fully revamped, including a larger footprint for recovery and a new, spacious surgical family waiting room. Nearby, the pediatric intensive care unit, or PICU, received a facelift and individual rooms made larger to allow for family to remain comfortably with a child. In the emergency department, among the busiest in the Northeast and the state's only Level 1 pediatric trauma center, a new rapid treatment area was created, along with reimagined provider work stations and updated rooms. As one of the effort's largest undertakings, additional work continues. And, outside, a new Balise Healing Garden and completely redone playground comprise 29,000 square feet and are complemented by a reworked Healing Arts Theater.

Over the coming year or so, additional projects will include the renovation of inpatient rooms, changes to the ambulatory clinic and primary care space, expansion of the Collis PACE Clinic for behavioral health patients, new upper and lower lobbies, and revitalized common areas.

For more information and campaign updates visit hcheverychild.org.



Pre-surgical playroom



PICU central workstation



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HCHLegacy.org

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lifespan.org/HCH-giving



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