

Hasbro Children's Hospital

Caring for Kids

For our friends and supporters.

2020

Healing is a Family Affair

Ice cream on a hot summer day is a favorite for children and adults alike. A month away from his third birthday, Sam Ferretti was on a mission to beat his older sister Mia to the ice cream no matter what. But the fun ended in an instant when Sam, squeezing around his sister while climbing stairs, slipped and fell 12 feet onto the cement below, landing on his head.

Sam's parents do their best to block out the memories of that day, but his father Jim recalls, "He didn't look good. His eyes were rolling back in his head." When the ambulance arrived on scene, it was clear Sam needed a trauma center; fortunately, Hasbro Children's Hospital wasn't far.

Receiving a call from the ambulance that Sam was on his way, the pediatric trauma team was ready when he arrived. Of the more than 53,000 emergency department visits Hasbro Children's Hospital sees annually, nearly 400 trauma cases are admitted. The highly skilled multidisciplinary team of pediatric surgeons and nurses immediately began working on the small boy. Sam's primary and life-threatening injury was a depressed skull fracture and a brain bleed. He also sustained a broken wrist and abrasions.

"We were absolutely terrified," recalls Sam's mother Alisha. "We were preparing for the worst."

Sam's brain was under intense pressure from the bleeding and the only way to remove the pressure was to remove part of his skull. He was quickly taken to the operating room where surgeons performed a craniotomy, removing one third of his skull, to give his brain room to expand from the swelling.



Jim, Mia, Sam, and Alisha Ferretti

After surgery, Sam went directly to the pediatric intensive care unit where the family first met attending intensivist Lee Polikoff, MD. "Sam's condition was critical and he required an intense level of attention," recalls Dr. Polikoff, who put a central line in to give Sam extra medications to keep his brain pressure well controlled. "Successfully keeping Sam's vital signs regulated was the key to his survival; his brain needed time to heal," Dr. Polikoff says.

"Dr. Polikoff didn't leave our side the whole first night," says Jim, "and he came back every single day. He's family to us now. He is an angel."

"Everyone saw that we were at our worst and they rallied around us. The nurses were incredible," Jim continues.

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Hasbro Children's Hospital
The Pediatric Division of Rhode Island Hospital
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Sam before his fall



Sam wearing protective helmet



Sam after cranioplasty

“We wanted for nothing except for Sam to be okay.” A week to the day after the fall, Sam woke up wanting to play with his toys, as if he’d just been napping. “I was beyond...” Jim says choking back tears, “overjoyed and thankful.”

Now stable, Sam was released from the hospital a few days later. A third of his skull was still missing, however, as the full recovery process is a lengthy one. He had to wear a helmet to protect the missing part of his skull.

The weeks and months that followed were filled with outpatient visits, x-rays, and MRIs, as Sam’s team continued to monitor his healing brain.

Part of that team included Christina McRoberts, RN, the Pediatric Trauma Coordinator. Her role is a navigator, advocate, and care coordinator for trauma patients and their families once they are discharged from the hospital. “Pediatric trauma patients may experience the effects of multiple injuries for a lifetime. However, it is our program’s duty, as a Level I Pediatric Trauma Center, to enable access to vital services and rehabilitative resources to promote optimal recovery during the entire continuum of trauma care,” explains Christina. Her role was created in 2017 to ensure post-discharge pediatric trauma care coordination for children with the most severe and complex injuries. “Being able to call Christina when we had any questions or concerns, and to just have her support and reassurance that we were doing all the right things for Sam was so meaningful,” says Alisha.

Sam had two more surgeries, the final one 13 months after the initial fall and involved skull repair with a “created just for Sam” cranioplasty. During a procedure, neurosurgeon Petra Klinge, MD and plastic surgeon Albert Woo, MD used a custom piece of hard plastic created using 3D technology to fit the missing skull bone. “Sam is a very lucky boy,” says Dr. Polikoff. “To see his trajectory with no long-term consequences after such a life-threatening injury is just so wonderful.”

Today, the happy and vibrant 4-year-old goes through his days with an unparalleled zest for life. His family is eternally grateful for the multidisciplinary care he received at Hasbro Children’s Hospital. They gave them their son back.

“Everyone saw that we were at our worst and they rallied around us... We wanted for nothing except for Sam to be okay.”

— Jim, father

Jim and Alisha say, “We’re so grateful for the care Sam received. From the Drs. Polikoff, Klinge, and Woo to nurse practitioner Yunika Presson in neurosurgery, Christina McRoberts and the nurses, to the cafeteria workers and cleaning staff, we can’t thank any of them enough.”

Family's Loss Inspires Golf Tournament

For decades after the tragic death of Johnston teen Steven Francis Carrier in 1975, his parents, Ann and Henry, and brother Marc, bore their grief in silence.

“Steven was diagnosed with a brain tumor at 13 and died from complications just before his fifteenth birthday,” says his brother, Marc Carrier, now 55. “We were devastated. We rarely talked about it without shedding many tears.”

Marc held tight to his older brother's memory through the years. But he wanted to do more to honor Steven while also helping children with similar life-threatening illnesses.



Chris Josephson; Ann Carrier; Marc Carrier;
Dr. Rishi R. Lulla; Sherry Cadden; and Bruce Cadden

So in 2013, Marc hosted the first St. Francis Invitational Golf Tournament in loving memory of Steven. Since then, the yearly third-party event has raised more than \$31,000 to support pediatric brain cancer research at Hasbro Children's Hospital.

Known as third-party fundraisers, activities like Marc's are put on by friends of Hasbro Children's to support the hospital's important work. Anyone can hold a fundraiser to support Hasbro Children's Hospital and direct the proceeds to whatever program or area of interest that appeals to them the most.

We welcome fundraisers of all shapes and sizes—yard sales, lemonade stands, fun runs, musical events, sports exhibitions, and more. You can also host a Facebook fundraiser without having to worry about event planning (see below)! To learn more about hosting your own third-party event, visit www.hasbrochildrenshospital.org/Host-a-fundraiser.

“The St. Francis Invitational Golf Tournament, held in September, has been blessed with great weather each year,” says Marc. Pointing toward the heavens, he adds, “The weather is my brother's department.”

The next tournament is scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2020, at the Cranston Country Club.

Facebook Fundraising Easy as 1-2-3

- 1. GO TO**
facebook.com/HasbroChildrensHospitalPage
- 2. Click CREATE under Fundraisers**
- 3. FOLLOW THE PROMPTS** to set up your fundraiser and you're done. Thank you! Then share with your friends and watch the dollars and support come in.



Our Hospital's Transformation Begins

Renovations that will transform Hasbro Children's into the pediatric hospital of tomorrow are well underway, with completion expected by 2022. The renovations will touch nearly every inch of the hospital and are made possible by the *Every Child, Every Day* campaign, which has raised more than 80 percent of its \$35 million goal. "We've cared for a generation of kids and are now preparing to care for the next generation," says Pediatrician-in-Chief Phyllis A. Dennery, MD. "These renovations will ensure that our physical environment matches the level of care we deliver within our walls."

A new, state-of-the-art surgical services waiting room and an expansion to our pediatric hematology/oncology outpatient clinic are complete. Renovations on the second floor—where pediatric surgical services and the pediatric intensive care are located—are expected to be completed this summer, and a new Psychiatry Access, Continuity and Evaluation (PACE) Clinic within our emergency department will open soon.

These are just some of the improvements that will modernize our facilities and bolster our ability to deliver world-class care to the thousands of families throughout our community.

We are taking something great and making it even better. If you'd like to find out more about the *Every Child, Every Day* campaign and our transformative upgrades, please visit hceverychild.org.



Main Lobby

Become A Monthly Miracle Maker Today!



As a supporter of Hasbro Children's Hospital, you know how crucial our life-changing and lifesaving work is to all the children and families in our care.

But what you might not know is how becoming a Miracle Maker ensures your generosity makes a difference for our patients each and every day. Miracle Makers donate monthly, which is our easiest and most convenient giving option. For just \$.50 a day (\$15/month), you can have the satisfaction that comes with knowing that you're impacting the health of kids in your community on an ongoing basis. If for some reason your circumstances change, you can easily cancel or change your gift by going online or with a phone call.

Please visit hasbrochildrenshospital.org/become-miracle-maker.

Caring for Kids, a publication of the Rhode Island Hospital Foundation, is published for the friends and supporters of Hasbro Children's Hospital. For more information, please contact the Development Office at 401-444-0394.

hasbrochildrenshospital.org/Giving-to-HCH.



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