

HEALTHY FUTURES

HASBRO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL • 2022



Hasbro Children's Hospital
The Pediatric Division of Rhode Island Hospital
Lifespan. Delivering health with care.®



For almost 30 years, Hasbro Children's Hospital has delivered the most advanced and highest quality pediatric care to children throughout Rhode Island, southern New England, and beyond.

One of the primary reasons so many families can count on us is because Hasbro Children's is part of Lifespan—the state's largest academic health system. As such, our patients always have direct access to world-class clinicians, researchers, and educators.

It's your extraordinary support that makes so much of our work possible and enables us to touch more lives and realize better outcomes. Thank you for caring and giving.

We deeply appreciate your unwavering support.

Lawrence A. Aubin, Sr.



LAWRENCE A. AUBIN, SR.

Chairman, Lifespan Board of Directors
Chairman, Rhode Island Hospital
Board of Trustees

COVER: Amelia (age 3 ½) pictured with Moby, one of Hasbro Children's Hospital's pet therapy dogs. Read more on page 14.

ABOVE: An eye-catching sculpture now welcomes visitors and patients to the hospital's lobby.



SAUL N. WEINGART, MD
President, Rhode Island Hospital
and Hasbro Children's Hospital



ROBERT K. VINCENT
Chair, Rhode Island Hospital
Foundation Board of Trustees

It is impossible to think about the impact Hasbro Children's Hospital has had on a generation of kids or consider its bright future without recognizing the generous community that built and shaped it all.

From before the first brick was placed nearly 30 years ago, philanthropy was the driving force behind seeing the vision of our state's only pediatric hospital come to life. And since then, that commitment has not only continued—it has deepened.

Today, our hospital's physical space now mirrors the world-class expertise of our physicians and care teams who call Hasbro Children's their medical home. Because of you, there is no limit to what we can accomplish and the difference we can make.

At a time when healthcare may be best described as complex and unpredictable, it is your devotion to the health and well-being of families near and far that inspires us each and every day. There is no question that the work we do is both challenging and rewarding. But we don't do it alone. We have a team of supporters who stand with us every step of the way. And for that, we will be forever grateful.

With warmest regards,

Saul N. Weingart, MD

Robert K. Vincent

HEROES BALL WAS ONE FOR THE RECORD BOOKS!

Heroes Ball

HASBRO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

The 2022 event raised an incredible
\$1.3 million.

Don't miss the full story and more photos,
starting on page 20.



François I. Luks, Md, PhD; Tracey Wallace; Saul Weingart, MD; Phyllis Dennerly, MD

UNVEILING A BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL RENOVATED HOSPITAL



Ellen Collis

A slight drizzle did not dampen the spirits of guests who gathered in the Balise Healing Garden on June 1 to celebrate the completion of the sweeping renovations to Hasbro Children's Hospital. Supporters of the *Every Child, Every Day* campaign were welcomed by hospital leadership and campaign chair Al Verrecchia, who thanked members of the community who contributed to the overall campaign achievement of \$41 million.

The money raised helped expand vital programs and modernize the healing environments across Hasbro Children's and Bradley hospitals. Members of the campaign cabinet, Foundation Boards, Hasbro Children's Leadership Council, and generous donors enjoyed tours of the hospital and mingling with friends and colleagues.



(From left) Lifespan Chairman Lawrence A. Aubin, Sr.; Campaign Cabinet Chairman Al Verrecchia; Pediatrician-in-Chief Phyllis Dennery, MD; President of Rhode Island and Hasbro Children's hospitals Saul Weingart, MD; Rhode Island Hospital Foundation Board Chair Bob Vincent



Lynne and Steve Olson



Mukesh K. Jain, MD; Angela Caliendo, MD, PhD; Maria P. Ducharme, DNP, RN; Phyllis Denny, MD; Louis Rice, MD



Al Verrecchia and Bradford S. Dimeo



Saul Weingart, MD with Beth and Michael Huber



Henry T. Sachs, MD and Saul Weingart, MD



Grace Vincent, Bob Vincent, and Dolph Johnson



Jeanie and Wayne Charness



RENOVATIONS ARE NOW COMPLETE

Thanks to donors' incredible support of the *Every Child, Every Day* campaign, Hasbro Children's Hospital now provides families with an upgraded, state-of-the-art healing environment to match its world-class care.

In all, more than 100,000 square-feet across six floors were renovated and refreshed by Dimeo Construction. This project was the hospital's first major upgrade since it was built in 1994.

Patients and families are now greeted by modernized upper and lower lobbies, complete with a colorful art centerpiece by local sculptor Peter Diepenbrock. Patient rooms and waiting areas throughout the hospital have been modernized and enhanced with smarter layouts, family-friendly features, vibrant colors, and the latest technology.

The pediatric intensive care unit (PICU), pre- and post-surgical spaces, Tomorrow Fund Clinic, and ambulatory center were also transformed. In addition, there is now a dedicated inpatient pod for immunocompromised hematology and oncology patients.

A patient mother recently commented on the impact of the renovated space: "My son has unfortunately visited the Hasbro Children's emergency department and intensive care unit multiple times in his four years. I always hold my breath when I walk down the hallway to the double doors to see him in the PICU. This last visit was different—when those double doors opened, we were greeted with a bright open space as if there were a skylight. The light made it feel more hopeful."

Take a Look Inside



Patient in renovated inpatient room



Lower lobby welcome center



Emergency treatment area



Founding Benefactors donor wall



Ambulatory center



Inpatient room



Upper mezzanine

CELEBRATING A LIFETIME COMMITMENT TO HASBRO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



Maureen Michalewicz and Lawrence A. Aubin, Sr.

Lawrence A. Aubin, Sr. first found himself at Rhode Island Hospital on what initially seemed like an ordinary fall evening in 1989. As he was waiting for his car in front of Capriccio restaurant, in downtown Providence, he started feeling unwell, and his condition rapidly worsened. By the time he arrived at the hospital, he was having a massive heart attack.

“Dr. Arun Singh saved my life,” Mr. Aubin says. “I promised God and myself that night that I would pay it forward.”

And has he ever.

On a beautiful afternoon in May 2022, leadership from across the Lifespan system and many friends came together to celebrate the dedication of the Lawrence A. Aubin, Sr. Pavilion at Hasbro Children's Hospital and honor a man whose impact on the hospital and local families cannot be overstated.

Currently chairman of the Lifespan Board of Directors, Mr. Aubin has served the hospital system in many roles over 33 remarkable years of service. Larry, as he is affectionately known, is also CEO of the Seekonk, Massachusetts-based Aubin Corporation.

He says he was “speechless” when he learned the pavilion would be named after him.

“IF ANY CHILD OR PARENT ASKS WHO LAWRENCE A. AUBIN, SR. IS, I HOPE THEY HEAR HE WAS A PATIENT WHO CAME THROUGH A DIFFICULT EXPERIENCE TO LEAD A RICH, FULL LIFE—JUST TRYING TO GIVE SOMETHING BACK ALONG THE WAY.”

— Lawrence A. Aubin, Sr.

“I like to think that the incredible honor of having my name on the front door of this great hospital—a place that saves children's lives every day—reflects my original and most important role,” Larry says. “That of the patient.”

As part of his commitment to giving back, Mr. Aubin first joined the Rhode Island Hospital Board of Trustees in 1994. He was integral in helping raise the philanthropic capital needed to build Hasbro Children's.

After the hospital was completed, he quickly moved along to his next big project.

“It wasn't long after Hasbro Children's opened its doors that we learned there was a real need for child protection services in our state,” he says. “These are children who aren't able to

speak for themselves. So, that's why people like us need to get up and speak for them."

In response to the need, Mr. Aubin started the annual Hasbro Children's Golf Invitational fundraiser with his friend Joseph Mega. In just six months, the community raised the \$1.5 million needed to create the hospital's child protection program. In 1996, the Lawrence A. Aubin, Sr. Child Protection Center at Hasbro Children's was founded to protect the state's most vulnerable kids.

The invitational, now run with co-chair James "Jamo" Carr, continues to be held every summer. So far, it has raised a total of \$6 million to support a variety of pediatric initiatives, including the Aubin Center. Philanthropy remains integral to the center's important work.

In 2007, Mr. Aubin was named chair of the Rhode Island Hospital board and then became chairperson of the Lifespan Board of Directors in 2015. During his board tenures, his efforts and leadership contributed to the completion of several significant building projects on the Rhode Island and Hasbro Children's hospital campus, including the recent, sweeping renovations made possible by the *Every Child, Every Day* campaign.

In addition, Mr. Aubin has generously donated his own funds to support programs and events across Lifespan.

"Larry's impact on strengthening philanthropic giving to Hasbro Children's Hospital and supporting the community is so great that it is immeasurable," says Arthur J. Sampson, Lifespan's Interim President and CEO.

Reflecting on the significance of having his name welcome patients to the hospital, Mr. Aubin says: "If any child or parent asks who Lawrence A. Aubin, Sr. is, I hope they hear he was a patient who came through a difficult experience to lead a rich, full life—just trying to give something back along the way. And that he has had some of the most rewarding experiences of his life right here at Hasbro Children's Hospital."

Plaques and signs not only honor the contributions of kind and generous people, he adds, they also play the important role of reminding patients that they are not alone.

"They are, in fact, surrounded not only by stellar caregivers but by an entire community that is dedicated to ensuring they receive the best care possible," he says.

THE LAWRENCE A. AUBIN, SR. CHILD PROTECTION CENTER

The Lawrence A. Aubin, Sr. Child Protection Center is home to the state's only child abuse pediatricians and highly trained support staff.

The multidisciplinary team conducts comprehensive evaluations when there is a concern for physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, neglect, domestic sex trafficking of minors, or medical child abuse.

The Aubin Center works closely with community partners, including the Rhode Island Department of Youth & Families, law enforcement, community support services, mental health providers, children's advocacy centers, and the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office in order to advocate on behalf of each child.

Advocacy is at the center of the work done at the Aubin Center, and child abuse pediatricians are specially trained to identify abuse, as well as identify when abuse is not occurring.

"It is an absolute privilege to take care of children, and their families in a time of crisis and uncertainty," says the program's director Christine Barron, MD. "We cultivate a safe environment where children can share their experiences. While we cannot take away the pain that has been caused, we can advocate for a brighter future where they can just be kids. The strength, bravery and resilience of our patients has a profound impact on our lives every day."



Christine Barron, MD and Lawrence A. Aubin, Sr. with pet therapy dog CALI

TEENS DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY AT PROM THANKS TO DUNKIN'S GENEROSITY



Teens in the hospital's TALC program got all dressed up for the TALC Runs on Dunkin' Prom.

Prom is a milestone event for many teenagers, but those living with chronic illness aren't always able to make it to the party. This year, though, was different!

Thanks to the Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation, many teens got their chance for a night they'll remember forever.

Nearly 50 Hasbro Children's Hospital patients and their guests were treated to a one-of-a-kind event all their own this past May on a gorgeous Friday evening. Dubbed the "TALC Runs on Dunkin' Prom 2022," it took place at the Hotel Providence, with teens enjoying space both indoors and out. It was organized by the hospital's The Adolescent Leadership Council (TALC) and funded in full by a grant from the foundation.

Teens with a variety of diagnoses that included cancer, cystic fibrosis, and sickle cell disease dressed to the nines

for a night of fun with their peers. The lavish bash featured an opportunity for attendees to get their hair and makeup done, a red carpet, special mocktail hour, photo booth, and chocolate fountain.

Entertainment was provided by local cartoonist and "Good Night Lights" founder Steve Brosnihan, as well as Illusionist David Garrity, and DJ Michael Rock of Fun 107, who kept the teens dancing all night long.

"It was the biggest party we've ever done," said Erin Scott, the director of TALC. "There was no expense, and that's an important part when you're dealing with a chronic illness that takes a lot of resources from the family—what an amazing example of the difference that philanthropy has on the kids and families we care for."

HONORING THE LIFE OF COLBY CAVE

Providence was a special place for Emily and Colby Cave. They both grew up in Canada but met and fell in love in Rhode Island's capital city while Colby was playing for the Providence and Boston Bruins from 2015 to 2019. While he was with the team, the ice hockey center even spent some time volunteering at Hasbro Children's Hospital.

Tragically, in April 2020, just eight months after the couple's wedding, Colby passed away at age 25 due to a colloid cyst.

"He was genuine, caring, selfless, and had a contagious laugh. But most importantly he had the biggest heart," Emily says. "He always wanted to help people."

As a way of honoring Colby's spirit and legacy, Hasbro Children's Hospital established The Colby Cave Medical-Psychiatric Fund with a \$50,000 donation from the Boston Bruins Foundation. The fund supports entertainment and enrichment programs for children and adolescents who are simultaneously struggling with psychiatric and medical illnesses.

"Colby had a soft spot for Hasbro Children's, for sure," Emily says. "He always glowed when he talked about his visits."

The Colby Cave Medical-Psychiatric Fund benefits patients receiving both inpatient and outpatient levels of care. Specifically, the fund has allowed the hospital to expand programming in the Healing Arts, including hosting visiting artists, musicians, and yoga instructors.

Colby's memorial funds—which also includes one established by the Edmonton Oilers, the team he had been playing for at the time of his death—primarily support mental health-related programs for children.

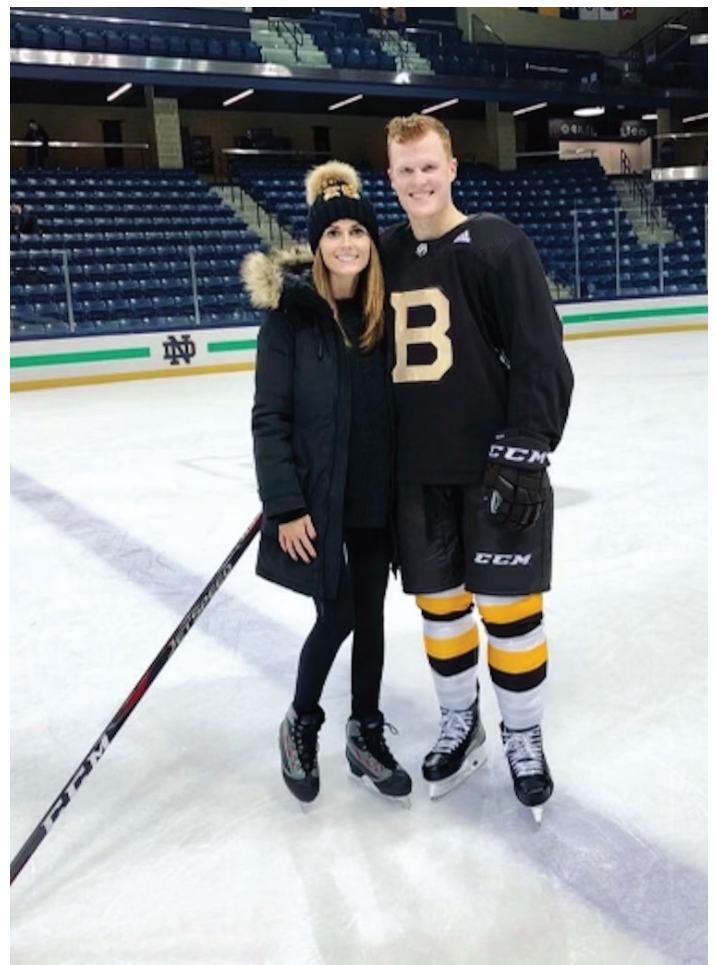
"Mental health was super important to us in our life together, and I feel like it doesn't always get enough attention," Emily says.

The Bruins Foundation raised funds for its gift through various events, such as Colby Cave Nights in Providence and Boston. At the Providence event, the P-Bruins retired Colby's number, 25—making it the first one to be raised to the rafters in the organization's history.

"We thought it would be best to donate to the community where Colby spent the majority of his professional playing career, which was Providence," says Bob Sweeney, President of the Boston Bruins Foundation. "I applaud Emily for helping us direct funds to children who are in need of assistance."

Emily adds that she is grateful the Bruins Foundation has helped her honor Colby in a way that would be meaningful to him.

"We were only married for eight months and didn't have the opportunity to have kids of our own," Emily says. "But he would love knowing how many kids are going to be helped because of his fund. It's so special that we're still taking care of kids together, with him in heaven and me here."



Emily and the late Colby Cave

MEET DR. PATRICK MCGANN



Patrick McGann, MD, PhD

Patrick McGann, MD, PhD, is Director of the Pediatric and Adult Sickle Cell and Hemoglobinopathy Program at Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children's Hospital. The Massachusetts native began the position in 2021, arriving at Lifespan after eight years at Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

What has been your main focus in your first year at Rhode Island and Hasbro Children's hospitals?

I saw a great opportunity to merge the previously separate pediatric and adult sickle cell disease programs, which we are now in the process of doing. Sickle cell disease is a genetic blood disorder that causes anemia and pain. It affects people—primarily those of African descent—throughout their life, so a continuum of care is important. In addition, there tend to be misconceptions about sickle cell patients, often because of skin color, that can result in suboptimal care. Pain management is one of these things.

We're also expanding education on how to appropriately care for our patients throughout the hospital system. In addition, recent support from The Rhode Island Foundation; The Edward J. and Virginia M. Routhier Foundation; Shriners of Rhode Island Charities Trust; The Roy T. Morgan Foundation; and the John Clarke Trust will enable us to hire Sickle Cell Community Health Workers, who will help patients access and navigate care.

What are the benefits of combining the pediatric and adult programs?

Caring for individuals with sickle cell disease needs to be comprehensive, which means more than just medical care. Programs should include psychologists, social and community health workers, sub-specialists, and nutritionists. Throughout the country, these pieces typically exist on the pediatric side, but not the adult side, which is problematic. Pediatric patients and their families might spend 20 years on the pediatric side and develop a very trusting relationship with their care team. Then, when they transition to the adult side, these young adults have to develop that relationship with a new team, which is hard. If that doesn't happen, it fragments care and can result in poor outcomes. So, having a continuous program where the team and physical space is the same can be quite beneficial.



Dr. McGann and the James family

You're a researcher as well as a clinician. What does your research focus on?

We hope to transform care through research. Through my National Institutes of Health grants, we are running large clinical trials in the US and in Sub-Saharan Africa. In the US, sickle cell disease is a chronic condition. Most children will survive to become adults and will have to manage the illness through adulthood. In Sub-Saharan Africa, where a baby is born with sickle cell disease every two minutes, most will die before the age of five because they don't have proper screening and diagnosis. Through our research, we are trying find ways to level the field so we can have similar outcomes across the world. It's a long-term plan, but certainly not impossible.

VAN BEUREN CHARITABLE FOUNDATION CONTINUES TRADITION OF GENEROUS SUPPORT

The transformational generosity of the van Beuren Charitable Foundation helped build Hasbro Children's Hospital nearly 30 years ago, and that unwavering commitment continues today.

Most recently, the Newport-based Foundation supported sweeping renovations to the hospital, donating \$1.8 million to the *Every Child, Every Day* campaign. Its grants helped fund upgrades to the hospital's inpatient floors, pediatric intensive care unit, medical-surgical pods, and the hematology-oncology unit.

"Now that the renovations are finished, it has been incredible to see the results firsthand," says Elizabeth Lynn, the Foundation's Executive Director. "It is clear that this tremendous undertaking was a thoughtful process all around. The updated spaces are modern, comfortable, and welcoming for patients and their families."

The opportunity to provide more comfort and privacy to patients and their families through improving the hospital's physical space was especially compelling to the Foundation, according to Elizabeth.

John "Archie" van Beuren and his wife, Hope, affectionately known as "Happy," established the van Beuren Charitable

Foundation in 1986. Hope's grandfather, John T. Dorrance, a chemical engineer, developed the cost-efficient method of canning condensed soup for the Campbell's Soup Company back in 1897.

Since inception, the Foundation has invested over \$100 million to improve the quality of life and place of Aquidneck Island and surrounding communities.

"Hasbro Children's is a critical service provider for children and families, both in Newport County and across the entire state," Elizabeth adds. "It is so important to us that families have access to such high-quality care."

That belief originated with both Happy and Archie, with the latter having served on several boards, including as a Governor of Lifespan, and continues with the leadership of family's second generation. The Foundation is also a generous supporter of Lifespan's Newport Hospital.

"We've stayed connected to health care for our entire history," Elizabeth says. "In fact, one of the Foundation's first off-island gifts was to Hasbro Children's. There's simply no way to overstate its value to our community, both then and now."



Pediatric Intensive Care Unit

HEALING WITH HELP FROM A FURRY FRIEND



As three-year-old Amelia endured weeks of cancer treatment at Hasbro Children's, nothing her family or caregivers did could make her smile. Then four-legged Moby arrived.

As the Golden Retriever approached her bedside, Amelia's face immediately brightened. The dog wasn't there to check her vital signs, insert a needle into her port, or ask her to take medication. He was there simply to bring her comfort and joy.

"Amelia had been very agitated, but when the dog would come in, she'd instantly calm down for as long as the dog could stay," says Amelia's mom, Carly. "We have two dogs at home, so when she had pet therapy it was like she forgot she was in the hospital."

Amelia's moments of happiness during the most difficult time in her life were made possible because of donors. Pet therapy is an important therapeutic tool for the philanthropy-funded Child Life specialists who support patients and their families. A dog's presence in the hospital setting, when appropriate, has many benefits, including improving communication, promoting mobility, relieving stress, and boosting mood.

"When you bring a dog into the room, it can change everything," says Child Life Specialist Kristin Murray. "Families tell us that just through that tactile experience of petting the dog, or sometimes hugging, they can see their child's heart rate and blood pressure go down on the monitors."

Kristin can recall countless stories just like Amelia's, including one example of a teenager who requested a dog to cuddle with immediately following brain surgery.

"It was such a comfort to her," Kristin says.

It is not only patients who benefit from the hospital's six extensively trained pet therapy dogs. Their presence is also therapeutic for staff, who rely on their visits during long, hectic, and emotionally draining shifts.



Amelia with pet therapy dog, Moby

BUILDING A WORKFORCE FOR THE FUTURE

Thanks to a \$10 million commitment from the Papitto Opportunity Connection (POC), Lifespan is expanding its workforce development programs with a focus on adding new career pathways for communities of color. The transformational philanthropy of the POC—the largest gift ever to the Lifespan Foundation—will support the hiring of 1,000 BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) individuals over the next four years.

“It is important that we lead the way in diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace, and especially as Rhode Island’s largest employer,” says, Alexis Devine, Lifespan Workforce Development Program Manager. “This gift is a game changer in our ability to offer no-cost certification for high demand medical professions at a time of unprecedented staffing challenges across the health sector.”

Built by Lifespan and unique in comparison to the efforts of other health systems around the country, our forward-thinking workforce development programs provide opportunities for both entry positions and long-term careers. Currently, training is available for nursing assistant, pharmacy technician, behavioral health specialist, and residential care counselor positions.

It was the pharmacy technician path that led Isaac Demola to the full-time “dream job” he has at Rhode Island Hospital today.

Isaac, 23, grew up in South Providence and hoped to one day work with computers. But shortly after graduating from Rhode Island College, his focus shifted away from IT. “I just

really developed a passion for wanting to pursue a career as a pharmacy technician,” he recalls.

To make the change, however, Isaac would need new training and the cost of grad school programs were out of reach. That’s where Lifespan’s workforce development came in.

While working in IT—a job he landed through Lifespan’s summer youth employment initiative—Isaac enrolled in the 12-week Workforce STAT program. It provided him not only free education to become a pharmacy technician,

but mentoring and networking opportunities, and a hands-on internship. We also provided Isaac with a new laptop and assistance with rent and bills so he had the supports needed to help him succeed.

Less than a week after completing STAT, Isaac was offered a full-time pharmacy technician position at Rhode Island Hospital.

“This program was an incredible blessing,” he says. “It gave me the opportunity to have a life-changing experience and to be a part of something bigger than myself.”

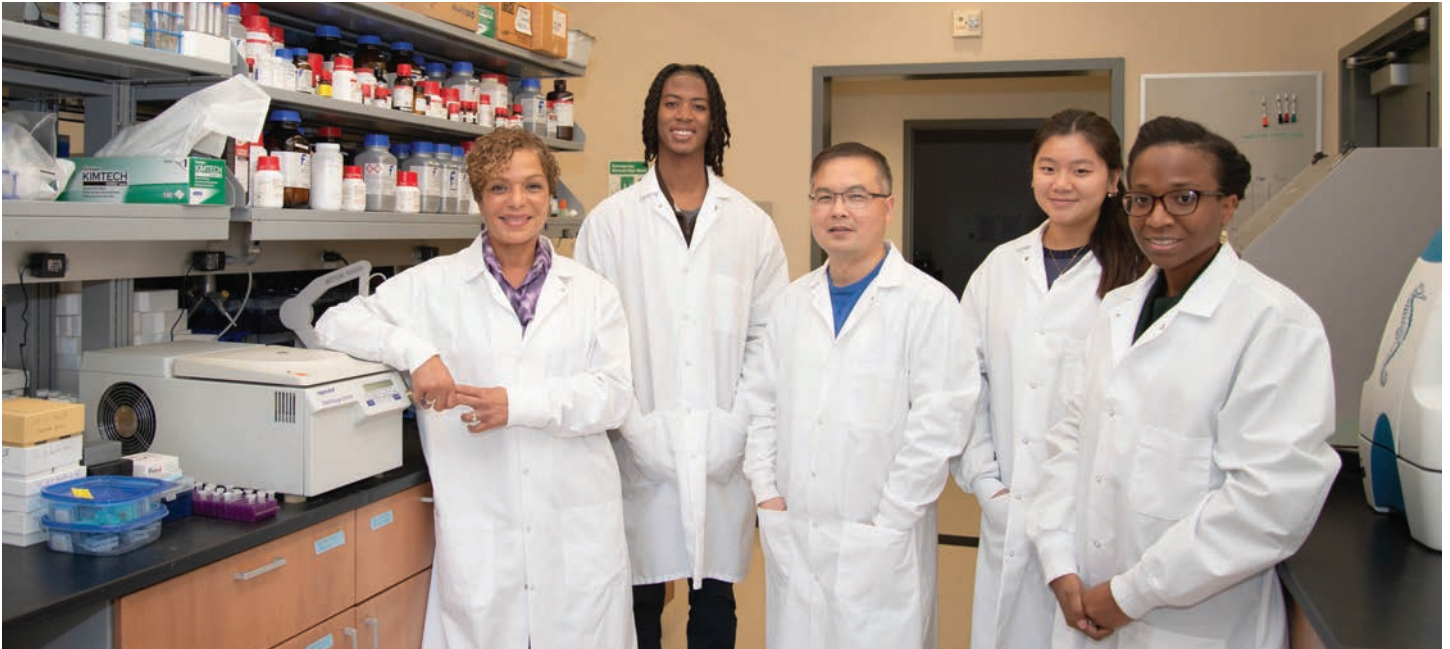
Looking ahead, Lifespan plans to use funds from the POC gift to develop a paid job-training program for formerly incarcerated BIPOC individuals, a succession program to prepare diverse employees for leadership roles, and scholarships for employees from underrepresented communities.



Isaac Demola



FINDING THE CURES FOR TOMORROW



Phyllis Dennerly, MD (far left), with members of the investigative clinical research team.

In what has been a game changer for Hasbro Children's Hospital, research funding secured by the Department of Pediatrics has grown exponentially over the past seven years. From managing \$2 million in annual grants to now overseeing nearly \$28 million a year, the program's growth—and reach—is an especially strong piece of pride for Phyllis Dennerly, MD, the hospital's Pediatrician-in-Chief and Medical Director as well as the Sylvia Kay Hassenfeld Professor and Chair of Pediatrics.

Dr. Dennerly arrived on campus from Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in 2015.

"One of the most compelling reasons to come here was knowing I could make a difference," she says. "I instantly knew Rhode Island was a place where people really cared for each other and for their patients."

Building upon a solid foundation

As an academic health center affiliated with The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Dr. Dennerly knew the foundation was in place to build something special in Pediatrics. She also knew the department could benefit from change.

To provide more supports to faculty to help them identify research opportunities, she restructured the department's

resources for research. Then, a mentorship program was introduced, as well as a research cabinet comprised of experts in various areas, adding more voices to help guide and hone investigative ideas.

"Building infrastructure was a huge priority so that faculty could understand the importance of conducting research to the success of an academic medical center," says Dr. Dennerly. "I wanted to expand our ability to manage grants and secure funding."

With a reshaped team in place, Dr. Dennerly created internal funding opportunities, making small grants available to faculty to get new research ideas off the ground and prepare them to compete for greater levels of funding.

The impacts of a burgeoning research program

For many, the idea of medical research conjures thoughts of lab-based experiments in animals and cell models, and clinical trials for drug development. However, there's an equally large element of investigative research where physicians explore ways to transform care—and overall health.

An example with both short- and long-term patient implications aims to reduce childhood obesity while increasing the amount of nutritious food in families' homes.

Frequently, pediatricians would see kids drink juice boxes and other sugary beverages during visits to the hospital. These beverages are linked to childhood obesity and dental issues.

“RESEARCH, ULTIMATELY, ADVANCES OUR MISSION AND ENHANCES OUR ABILITY TO ATTRACT THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST... I WANT PEOPLE TO SAY, ‘THERE’S GREAT STUFF HAPPENING IN RHODE ISLAND,’ AND I THINK WE’RE WELL ON OUR WAY.”

— Phyllis Dennerly, MD

So, asking themselves, “How can we delay or curb altogether the introduction of such drinks,” researchers in the Department of Pediatrics created an intervention for young children and their families to educate families about the harmful effects of these sugary drinks. The group also created a questionnaire to learn about families’ diet and access to nutritious food, which allowed for further intervention.

“The data you capture helps you better understand the families you serve,” says Dr. Dennerly. “Some live in food insecure areas where they only have access to the corner bodega and not to fresh produce. Now we can geocode to identify zip codes with a high density of food insecurity and target our interventions there.”

From this project, the department now offers a program that provides fresh produce and culturally relevant foods to families in its clinic through partnerships with local growers and food suppliers.

On the clinical investigative side, a range of studies have brought the hospital notoriety. Just to describe a few:

Daphne Koinis-Mitchell, PhD, a clinical psychologist, is Director of Education for Hasbro Children’s Community Asthma Program and the lead investigator of several studies funded by the National Institutes of Health. Among them are initiatives that focus on the cultural and contextual factors affecting disease management in urban children, and a five-year study examining the co-occurrence of asthma, allergic rhinitis symptoms, sleep quality, and academic performance across the school year in urban children. Its goal: to

implement multi-level asthma services in urban elementary schools to improve child asthma control.

Within Hasbro Children’s Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Department, Patrick McGann, MD, PhD, Director of the new combined Pediatric and Adult Sickle Cell and Hemoglobinopathy Program, is studying the difference in treatment approaches for sickle cell disease in patients in the U.S. and abroad. He has a significant presence in the Republic of Angola in Southern Africa to address the global burden of sickle cell disease.

“For our research to be known nationally and internationally makes a real difference,” says Dr. Dennerly. “It’s a tremendous recruitment tool – people want to be surrounded by the best, whether they are a trainee or an accomplished doctor considering a new medical home.”

Always ready with an example, Dr. Dennerly looks no further than her team’s recent recruitment of three pediatric intensive care doctors. What sometimes felt like “pulling teeth” to get the right applicants became an avalanche, with 42 candidates expressing interest, including those from Stanford and Children’s National Hospital in D.C.

What’s next?

Looking to the future, Dr. Dennerly is deliberate with where she’d like to see Hasbro Children’s take its research program next.

She is eager for the hospital to participate in more national studies and multi-center clinical trials. And thanks to the team’s success securing training grants, she sees an almost limitless opportunity for Hasbro Children’s to be a leader in teaching the next generation of pediatric physicians by doubling down its focus on junior fellows and faculty education.

But with it all, collaboration must be central. In addition to the hospital’s close ties with Brown’s medical school, Dr. Dennerly would like to deepen the relationship with its School of Public Health and Center for Biomedical Engineering and grow a partnership with Rhode Island College’s Zvart Onanian School of Nursing.

“Research, ultimately, advances our mission and enhances our ability to attract the best and brightest,” she says. “I want people to say, ‘There’s great stuff happening in Rhode Island,’ and I think we’re well on our way.”



THANK YOU CUMULUS MEDIA PROVIDENCE!



Volunteers at Radiothon

Local airwaves were filled with stories of hope and healing on May 12, when Hasbro Children’s Hospital hosted its annual Radiothon in partnership with Cumulus Media Providence radio stations.

The daylong event saw the community come together in an impressive display of generosity, leading to over \$315,000 raised in support of patient care, research, and programs like Child Life and Healing Arts.

Its success would not have been possible without the many people who called in to make donations, as well as the dedicated volunteers who answered phones in a temporary phone bank set up in the Rhode Island Hospital cafeteria and sold Radiothon t-shirts to hospital staff.

The hospital’s 2022 Champion Child, Arianna Taft, and her dad, Ryan, even stopped by to help cheer on the volunteers answering the phones.

“The support of the incredible community we serve is essential to our ability to care for the most vulnerable among us—and the Radiothon illustrates that perfectly,” said Saul Weingart, MD, President of Rhode Island and Hasbro Children’s hospitals. “I cannot thank our partners at Cumulus enough, or the thousands of generous donors, who made this year’s fundraiser such a success.”

During the 12-hour event, which was broadcast across all Cumulus Media Providence stations, listeners were introduced to Hasbro Children’s patients, families, and staff.

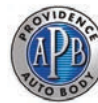
Families spoke of their moving medical journeys with rare, aggressive cancers, cystic fibrosis, lung disease, and life-threatening heart conditions, while volunteers answered calls to accept donations throughout the day.

Radiothon donations support Hasbro Children’s ability to provide the region’s children and their families with the best care possible. Over the years, the funds have helped to purchase medical equipment and support programs that rely heavily on philanthropy. Since its inception, the event has raised more than \$9.5 million.

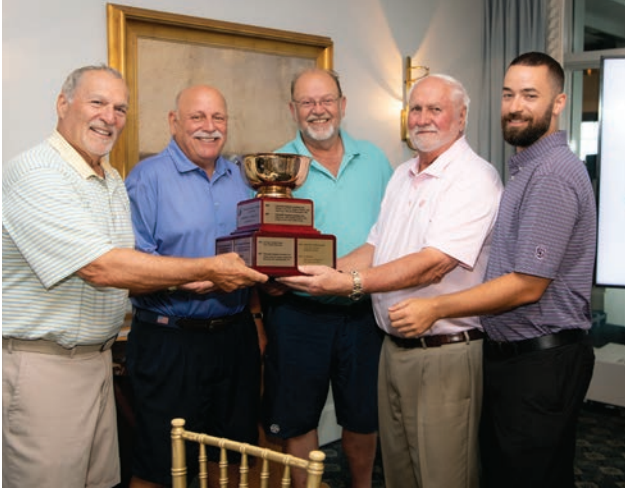
Among the sponsors and supporters of the 2022 Radiothon, many of which matched gifts during special “power hours” and volunteered to answer calls, were Jordan’s Furniture; Alexander’s Uniforms; Dunkin’; Marshall Building and Remodeling; Providence Auto Body; Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island; Mr. David Schuller; Nathan Clark; Pepsi; Walmart; and Shaw’s Supermarkets.

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 11, 2023

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR OUR SUPPORTERS



SWINGING INTO ACTION TO HELP KIDS



Participants at Hasbro Children's Golf Invitational

Generous supporters came together at Rhode Island Country Club on July 25 to enjoy a day on the golf course while raising critical funds for the hospital's pediatric neurology program and areas of greatest need.

This year's annual Hasbro Children's Golf Invitational generated \$402,000, with nearly \$47,000 directly supporting the neurology program. The rest of the funds benefitted essential programs including Child Life, Healing Arts, and the Aubin Child Protection Center.

Thirty-three foursomes took to the course on a bright summer day before enjoying cocktails, dinner, and awards. A live auction was hosted by event co-chair Jamo Carr and a fund-a-need appeal was hosted by event co-chair and Lifespan Board of Directors Chairman Lawrence A. Aubin, Sr.

HOLE IN ONE FOR HASBRO CHILDREN'S

After losing their friend Rob to cancer in 2003, Brian Oates and Jay Monahan were inspired to do something to honor his memory. So, they ran the Boston Marathon to raise money to support Rob's wife and young kids. That gesture has since grown into so much more. Over the past 19 years, Brian and Jay's Norton, Massachusetts-based nonprofit Golf Fights Cancer (GFC) has awarded more than \$9 million in grants to about 75 cancer-related charities, including Hasbro Children's Hospital.

"The most rewarding aspects of running this organization has been the community we have built and seeing the impact that our collective dollars make for cancer patients and their families," says Brian.

The nonprofit's longstanding support of Hasbro Children's began in 2008 with a gift to the Tomorrow Fund Clinic. Since then, the organization's generosity has led to nearly \$800,000 in cancer-related philanthropy across Rhode Island and Hasbro Children's hospitals. Most recently, GFC provided \$200,000 to help fund renovations to Hasbro Children's inpatient oncology unit.

"We couldn't be happier to direct our funds in support of the wonderful healing environment at Hasbro Children's Hospital," says Cheryl McGuire, Executive Director of GFC. "We thought about the amount of time children and their families spend in the hospital and wanted to help make the space as comfortable as possible for those who are essentially living there for weeks or months at a time."

Overall, the organization donates funds to support a range of cancer-related programs and initiatives, including those that provide education and screening, research, treatment, family and patient support, and palliative care.

GFC's fundraising focuses on mobilizing the golf community (Jay is commissioner of the PGA TOUR) through various events. The organization still gets a team together to run the Boston Marathon for fundraising purposes every year. It also hosts a 100-hole golf marathon, as well as the Good Guy Invitational. As part of that, the organization chooses a "bucket list" course to feature, and the money raised benefits a cancer-related cause in the course's city or town.

"The philanthropic power of the golf community is just incredible," Cheryl says.



Golf Fights Cancer leadership

HEROES BALL SAW RECORD-BREAKING GENEROSITY WHILE CELEBRATING COMPASSIONATE CARE SERVICES



Lawrence A. Aubin, Sr., Lynne Kelly, Denise Chakoian, Melisa Verrecchia, Saul Weingart, MD



Patient speaker Emma Murray

The spirit of generosity soared to new heights on August 27 as the community came together at the 2022 Heroes Ball to raise a record \$1.3 million for Hasbro Children’s Hospital. This year, after two years of pandemic-related restrictions, the hospital’s signature event returned to a celebratory in-person gathering. The event would not have been possible without the dedication and enthusiasm of this year’s event chair Melisa Verrecchia and co-chairs Denise Chakoian and Keith and Lynne Kelly.

The grounds of the Moses Brown School in Providence were transformed into an enchanting Italian-inspired courtyard. Guests enjoyed tented *al fresco* dining, an inspired speaking program, a spirited live auction hosted by professional auctioneer Tom Stebbins, and lively dancing to the music of the Silver Arrow Band.

The evening’s fund-a-need appeal, benefitting Compassionate Care Services, generated nearly \$400,000. The funds will support an array of patient-centered programming designed to make a hospital stay a little more comfortable and enjoyable for children and families, including Healing Arts, Child Life, and The Adolescent Leadership Council. These services integrate body, mind, and spirit into the approach of treating the whole child – not just the symptoms or illness.

The moving speaking program included remarks from hospital leadership, patients, and families.

Former patient Emma Murray described how Compassionate Care Services helped her cope while she received long-term care over the course of her childhood.

“Growing up, I never knew that these lifechanging programs and services were all funded by donors,” Emma said. “Today, I understand that it is quite amazing and powerful for a community to come together so generously to better the lives of children.”

Ryan Taft, father of 2022 Hasbro Children’s Hospital Champion Child Arianna Taft, described how these services,

Heroes Ball

HASBRO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

along with the compassion and kindness of the hospital staff, helped Arianna endure cancer treatment.

“There isn’t anything scarier as a parent than having your child diagnosed with cancer ... but to know that she can go through it with a smile on her face, because of these services and the amazing people that provide them – there’s nothing more you can ask for,” he said.

Ryan and Arianna Taft were on stage to tally fund-a-need donations at the \$2,500 level. Before the start of the auction level, presenting sponsor Hasbro, Inc. announced they would match twenty \$2,500 donations. Excitingly, the number of donations kept climbing! When all was said and done, 26 donors raised their paddles at this level and Hasbro Inc. generously agreed to match all of them for a total of \$65,000.

Lifespan Board of Directors Chairman Lawrence A. Aubin, Sr.; Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children’s Hospital President Saul Weingart, MD; Hasbro Children’s Hospital Pediatrician-In-Chief and Medical Director Phyllis Dennerly, MD; Hasbro Children’s surgeon-in-chief, Dr. François Luks; and event chair Melisa Verrecchia also spoke.

In his remarks, Dr. Weingart thanked all of the donors in attendance, including the hospital’s youngest supporter, Theo, who donated \$1,000, earned from running a lemonade stand, to the fund-a-need appeal.

“Hasbro Children’s Hospital is a tremendous resource for the community,” Dr. Weingart said. “But the community is also a tremendous resource for Hasbro Children’s Hospital. We could not do what we do without you.”

The 2022 Heroes Ball was made possible thanks to the generosity of presenting sponsors CVS Health, Hasbro, Inc., and IGT; platinum sponsors Brown Physicians, Inc., Denise Chakoian and David Olney, Citizens, Core Cycle Fitness Lagree, Nerves & Bones, Seasons Corner Market; and many additional sponsors and donors.



Melisa Verrecchia, Saul Weingart, MD



Ari with her dad and Tom Stebbens



Theo raising his paddle for the fund-a-need appeal



The festivities continued...



Heroes Ball

HASBRO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

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TRANSFORMING GRIEF THROUGH PHILANTHROPY



Bruno Ramieri

How can I help?" That's the question Bruno Ramieri asked Hasbro Children's Hospital in 2020 as he tried to cope with immense grief.

At the time, Bruno was about to lose his wife of 60 years, Pauline, due to complications of Alzheimer's disease. Making matters worse, he couldn't visit her in the nursing home because of COVID-19 restrictions.

One day, while sitting with that pain, Bruno had the idea that doing something for someone else might make him feel better. So, he called the hospital's development office and asked a gift officer if he could make a donation to buy a piece of lifesaving equipment for children.

"I wanted to give the hospital something they could actually use and that I could actually see," says Bruno, 83, who is retired and lives in Johnston.

After making some inquiries, the gift officer learned that Hasbro Children's could use an electroencephalogram (EEG) machine for children with epilepsy.

Bruno didn't hesitate—he made a \$100,000 donation in Pauline's name. The gift was used to purchase the \$60,000 EEG machine, with the remaining funds benefitting the *Every Child, Every Day* campaign and Radiothon.

"It's a great feeling to know that I'm helping so many kids," Bruno says. "They are the future."

Sadly, Pauline passed away shortly after, in December of 2020. Bruno continues to keep her spirit alive through charitable giving.

Before retiring, Bruno worked in the manufacturing industry in Providence. His wise investments in the stock market have allowed him to donate generously to the hospital and other nonprofit organizations, he says.

He is a big fan of matching gifts—whether he's the one doing the matching or the one being matched. In 2021 and 2022, he matched \$20,000 at the Goodfellas Motorcycle Run, organized by a group in Johnston, bringing the event's total donation to the hospital to \$40,000.

That year he also provided a \$10,000 matching gift to a Johnston-based golf fundraiser for the hospital. And he's a regular Radiothon donor during the Nathan Clark Matching Hour.

"Getting involved with Hasbro Children's has helped me a whole lot," Bruno says. "I want others to know that you can turn your pain into something good."

Healthy Futures, a publication of Hasbro Children's Hospital, is published for our friends and supporters.

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