

NEWPORT HOSPITAL'S
— SUMMER CELEBRATION —
A SALUTE TO HEALTH

TOGETHER, WE CAN EXPAND ESSENTIAL SERVICES FOR OUR COMMUNITY'S MOST VULNERABLE TEENS.

The Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit at Newport Hospital

Please join us for Newport Hospital's *A Salute to Health Summer Celebration* as we honor 150 years of donors, supporters, and friends who have made access to quality health care close to home achievable.

At this year's celebration, we invite you to support a crucial funding need- the development of a new Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit at Newport Hospital. We are partnering with our Lifespan sister hospital, world-renowned Bradley Hospital, to create an eight-bed unit that will serve patients 12 to 17 years old who suffer from serious mental health disorders and need short-term stabilization, assessment, and treatment for suicidal, aggressive, or other behavioral conditions. Beyond adding eight-beds, the area of the hospital housing the new unit will undergo a full interior renovation, which includes bright and modern group therapy rooms, activity rooms, and an outdoor enclosed garden area.



Mental health emergencies among young people have increased dramatically since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the spring of 2022, the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Rhode Island Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry declared a Rhode Island State of Emergency in Child and Adolescent Mental Health. In Rhode Island, 1 in 5 children ages 6 to 17 has a diagnosable mental health disorder and 1 in 10 has an impairment that affects daily functioning. The state of Rhode Island currently lacks the resources to serve every adolescent who needs help. This new unit at Newport Hospital is a response to this critical need; it will reduce the inpatient behavioral health bed shortage and increase access to care.

Currently, Newport Hospital does not have an inpatient adolescent behavioral health program. On many occasions, patients in crisis stay in the emergency department while waiting for a bed to become available at an appropriate facility. The need is great: In 2022, adolescents were boarded in our emergency department for 290 days, with each patient staying an average of 14 to 18 days. It is critical to expand access to inpatient services within Aquidneck Island, so our youth can receive the support they need to grow and transition to adulthood.

Supporting the mental health needs of this population has long-term impacts. With the right diagnosis and treatment, these children and adolescents can heal. But without it, they face possible life-threatening challenges, as well as social and behavioral problems that can carry through to adulthood and affect the next generation.

With your generous support, we can eliminate barriers by increasing access to resources and expanding the continuum of care. With this, Newport Hospital will have a significant impact far beyond the structure of the hospital by not only assisting children in crisis but their families, too. Together, we can help meet the needs of our community by prioritizing the health and well-being of our most vulnerable.