

Newport *Hospital*

2023



150 YEARS
1873-2023
NEWPORT HOSPITAL

150
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1873-2023

NEWPORT HOSPITAL



Newport Hospital
Lifespan. Delivering health with care®

COVER: L-R Carol Bazarsky, Chair Newport Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees; Jeffrey Gaines, MD, Chief Medical Officer; Crista F. Durand, President; Orla Brandos, DNP, RN, Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer



Crista F. Durand

President, Newport Hospital

As a supporter of Newport Hospital, you are likely familiar with our remarkable story of origin and long, rich history. Founded and funded by Newporters in 1873, we began as a 12-bed cottage hospital on donated land. From these humble beginnings, the hospital has grown and evolved into a world-class facility and cared for generations of residents and visitors.

Celebrating our sesquicentennial this year is an amazing accomplishment. It is a testament to the inspired, dedicated work of so many and for so long, as well as the ever-present support of our extraordinary donor family, whose generosity continues to have a direct and powerful impact on patient experience and outcomes.

For us, being fortunate enough to contribute to the success of Newport Hospital in our own ways has been fulfilling, meaningful work and we appreciate the opportunity.

With a bright future ahead, we are proud to stand alongside every hospital supporter as, together, we build on our founders' vision and legacy and ensure Newport Hospital always remains our great cornerstone of health and healing.

Here's to another 150!

Crista F. Durand

Carol Bazarisky



Carol Bazarisky

Chair, Newport Hospital Foundation
Board of Trustees

Teamwork is a topic I love to talk about, whether it's among Newport Hospital's staff and supporters, or the hospital's role as a team member in Lifespan, the state's largest academic health system. Of course, every successful team needs a strong leader, and I'd like to welcome ours—Lifespan's new President and CEO, John Fernandez. *Be sure to read more about him on page 10.*

A versatile and engaged executive, John's vision and expertise will guide our organization's future strategic direction and ensure we remain focused on *Delivering health with care.*

With John on our team and your continued support, the future looks bright.



Lawrence A. Aubin Sr.

Chairman, Lifespan Board of Directors
Chairman, Newport Hospital
Board of Trustees

GENEROUS ORGANIZATIONS FUND ADDITIONAL CT SCANNER



For decades, The Champlin Foundation and The Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust have been among the most generous and active philanthropic organizations in Rhode Island. Independently, each has awarded millions of dollars to the state's nonprofit community via direct grants and capital funding. These investments have resulted in, among many other things, better medical care, improved educational outcomes, and expanded access to social services, as well as the conservation of open spaces and preservation of historic buildings.

Through their inspired giving, both well-respected institutions have been able to do an extraordinary amount of good for the people of Aquidneck Island and Newport County. A recent example of their caring in action is helping Newport Hospital acquire an additional computerized tomography (CT) scanner for the emergency department.

A CT scanner is an advanced and versatile piece of medical imaging equipment used to diagnose disease or injury and to plan medical, surgical, or radiation treatment. Adding a CT scanner to the emergency department will ensure patients requiring diagnosis for a potential stroke, traumatic injury, or other similarly time-sensitive medical emergency will get the critical care they need where and when they need it.

A perfect match

Newport Hospital first received a \$750,000 commitment from The Champlin Foundation, and that amount was then matched by The Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust. The combined \$1.5 million of essential funding awarded will enable the purchase and implementation of the new CT scanner—and both parties were more than willing to step up for this worthwhile cause.

“The Champlin Foundation is happy to support Newport Hospital and recognizes the ever-increasing demand for diagnostic and medical imaging,” says Nina Stack, Executive Director of The Champlin Foundation. “Our grant reflects the Foundation goal to fund critical, state-of-the-art medical equipment at our area hospitals, enabling easier care without the need to travel.”

Donald Christ, Chairman of The Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust, voices a similar sentiment. “We are delighted to support Newport Hospital,” he says. “The CT scanner grant will enhance the hospital’s ability to deliver the very best care to the patients and families in our community, and the trustees are pleased to help.”

Historically, Mr. Christ points out, the Trust has maintained a long, significant relationship with Newport Hospital and has always offered its unwavering support; to date, contributing handsomely to various campaigns and infrastructure projects, most recently, the expansion of the emergency department. “The Trust has also provided support for the procurement of equipment used in MRI services, ultrasound mammography units, the interventional radiology program, and laparoscopic equipment for the operating room,” he adds.

“The CT scanner grant will enhance the hospital’s ability to deliver the very best care to the patients and families in our community...”

—Donald Christ

Grateful and more capable

For its part, Newport Hospital is beyond grateful for their partners’ support and the enhanced capacity a new CT scanner affords.

“We are the only hospital in Rhode Island recognized as a Diagnostic Imaging Center of Excellence,” reports Crista Durand, President of Newport Hospital. “Investments in health care technologies are critical in helping to ensure we maintain that distinction and continue to deliver an optimal standard of care. I am grateful to The Champlin Foundation and The Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust for their generosity and thankful they share our patient-centered vision.”

In addition to its use in the emergency department, the CT scanner will also provide backup to the hospital’s existing CT scanner during regularly scheduled maintenance or in times of high-patient volume. On that latter point, consider this: CT scanner usage at Newport Hospital skyrocketed 80 percent between 2015 and 2021; driven by unprecedented, exponential increases in outpatient and emergency patient utilization.

The gift comes at an opportune time and will help meet a critical need.



Anthony M. Napoli, MD, Crista F. Durand, and Donald Christ

NEWPORT HOSPITAL MAKES ANDREA FEEL ‘UNSTOPPABLE’



It was October of 2022, and Andrea Blair’s life was about to change in a sudden and cruel way. “I wasn’t feeling well for a few days,” she remembers, “and one morning I woke up with tingling in my feet and having trouble walking . . . then my legs just gave out on me.”

The cause of Andrea’s mobility loss would

later be identified as multiple sclerosis, a chronic, unpredictable disease of the central nervous system. In what felt like the blink of an eye, Andrea, a 36-year-old high school assistant principal, had her whole world turned upside down.

“I went from walking—and sometimes running—up three flights of stairs after young’uns who were skipping class to paralysis in my lower extremities in less than a week. It was life-changing and happened that fast.”

Fortunately, the medical response was also fast. In a matter of just a few days, Andrea was transported from the hospital where she received emergency services and stabilization, to Newport Hospital, where she immediately began intensive rehabilitation. “When I arrived at Newport Hospital, my room was ready, and the nurses were in there waiting for me. They were all smiles and welcoming and their words were very reassuring,” she recalls. “They dropped my anxiety level and made me feel at home.”

They also got right to work.

Occupational and physical therapy started quickly, with 90 minutes of each every day being the norm. “Everyone on the team was invested in seeing the slightest progress,” Andrea adds, “and I always felt like my health and well-being was their top priority.”

During her six weeks of inpatient services at the award-winning Vanderbilt Rehabilitation Center, Andrea was among the first patients to undergo therapy using the hospital’s recently acquired EksoNR (read more on page 15). A high-tech, wearable exoskeleton suit, the EksoNR re-teaches the brain and muscles on correct step patterns, weight shifting, and posture, with the goal of hopefully helping patients to walk properly on their own again.

Andrea jokes that she felt like a “cyborg or Transformer” donning the state-of-the-art apparatus, but marvels at how well it worked and how much it advanced her progress. “It really gives you the feeling that you’re walking on your own and it trains you toward what’s possible.”

“... I always felt like my health and well-being was their top priority.”

—Andrea Blair

Now back home, Andrea puts into practice everything she learned at Vanderbilt and continues outpatient OT and PT three or four times a week. She says she remains hopeful and is always making forward progress. “Every week, I can do a little more and walk a few steps further.”

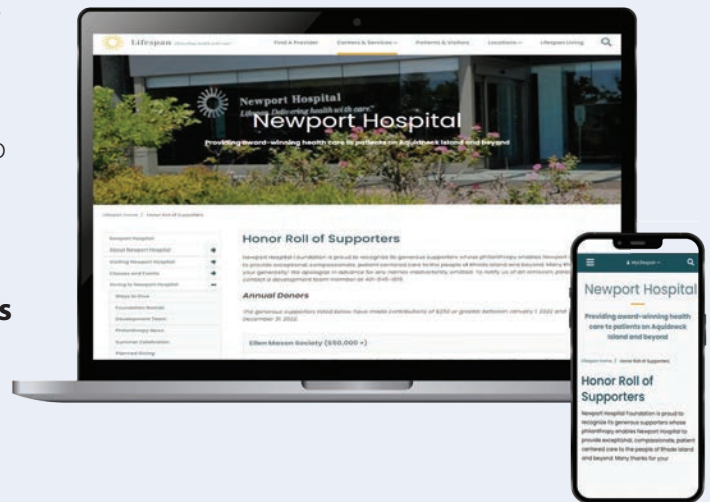
Reflecting on her Newport Hospital experience, Andrea says, “‘Team’ is not the right word to describe those caregivers. They’re more like family. My slogan with them was ‘I am unstoppable’ because they empowered me with that feeling.”

THE 2022 HONOR ROLL IS ONLINE!

The Newport Hospital Foundation is proud to recognize its generous supporters—online! The Honor Roll of Supporters for the calendar year prior has traditionally been printed in this annual magazine. However, we wanted to share the list as soon as it was complete.

In case you missed the email, you can view the list at lifespan.org/newport-hospital/honor-roll-supporters or scan the QR code below.

Thank you for your generosity!



DONOR TAKES IT ‘ONE STEP FURTHER’



Dave Dittmann

Dave Dittmann has been a baseball business consultant since 1995 and achieved remarkable success building and growing summer, wooden-bat collegiate baseball leagues and teams. Currently, the Middletown, Rhode Island, resident is also Partner/Chairman of the Amsterdam Mohawks, one of the top 10 franchises in the country. So, he knows a thing or two about winning and the importance of putting together the right game plan.

A longtime donor, Dave recently decided that the right game plan for him was to increase his support of Newport Hospital by including it as a beneficiary in his estate giving portfolio. “I took it one step further and put the hospital in my will,” he says. Doing so not only allows Dave to continue helping one of the causes he cares about most, but it also creates a lasting legacy—something he encourages others to consider.

“The hospital is such a valuable asset to all of Aquidneck Island,” he explains, “and I strongly believe that anybody who lives close by really needs to support it, if they can.”

For nearly a decade, Dave has been a heart patient at Newport Hospital and has experienced firsthand the world-class, lifesaving care its staff provides right here on the island. “It’s easy to support them,” he adds. “Everyone is polite, courteous, and knowledgeable and it’s like a homecoming every time I visit. The people there are very welcoming, and they always maintain a caring temperament 24/7. I don’t know how they do it, but I am so grateful that they do.”

Sounds like a home run to us!

REFLECTIONS ON CULTURE, CARE, AND PHILANTHROPY



For 150 years and counting, Newport Hospital has been a mainstay on Aquidneck Island and one of the true heartbeats of the community. With this year marking an incredible milestone anniversary, a few staffers, past and present, share their thoughts and perspectives on what makes Newport Hospital such a special place of hope and healing.

Orla Brandos, DNP, RN, is Newport Hospital's Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer. Reflecting on the hospital's rich history, she marvels at the foresight of the founders and the legacy of the framework they put in place.



Orla Brandos

"They were wholly committed to ensuring their community not only had a hospital, but that they were always able to maintain it," she explains. "From the very start, they were investing in and building for the future—and we're so fortunate to be part of that journey." Orla adds that today's hospital staff also fosters the founders' philosophy of putting the patient first and creating a work environment that promotes health and well-being.

"The people are still the glue that keeps this hospital together," she says, "and it's still all about the culture. That local, small, community hospital feel is ever-present, and there's a great sense of connection here."

Former Chief Medical Officer, **Tom McGue, MD**, echoes Orla's sentiments. Dr. McGue, who has extensive experience in both civilian and naval health care systems, began practicing at Newport Hospital in the late 1980s.



Tom McGue, MD

He describes the culture as "a commitment and ownership of the quality of what goes on at Newport Hospital by the people who work there."

Moreover, he says patient-staff relationships are uniquely strong on the tight-knit island. "We always felt like we were taking care of our own," he explains, "because we were." On any given day, staff—many of whom were born at Newport Hospital—could see a friend, neighbor, or someone else they know come through the door.

But just because the health care is close to home doesn't mean it's not out of this world. Magnet designation for nursing excellence, best-in-class rehabilitation services, award-winning women's health, neuro care, and emergency medicine are just a few examples of the hospital's many areas of expertise these days.

"It is exceptional for a community hospital to deliver the level of care we do. This is due in part to having access to many diverse advanced technologies," says **Sufala P. Sapers, MD**, a Diagnostic Radiologist at Newport Hospital.

"The imaging resources at our disposal, for example, are truly the best of the best." Of course, generous support from the community it serves is what has sustained Newport Hospital throughout the years.

"We would not be able to do all the things we do—advance and educate staff, acquire equipment, improve our physical space, launch innovative programs... you name it—without philanthropic support," Dr. McGue concludes. "It is critically important to our hospital, and we are grateful for our donors' amazing support."



Sufala P. Sapers, MD

SNAPSHOTS FROM OUR YEARLONG CELEBRATION

These images taken at various 150th anniversary events and happenings throughout the past year are a snapshot of what has always mattered most to Newport Hospital and its family of supporters: Caring for and partnering with the Aquidneck Island community.



Carol Bazarsky, Crista F. Durand, and Sister Therese Antone at the The Annual Meeting of the Corporators



Third Beach Cleanup in Middletown, RI. Volunteers featured: (from left: Patricia Duponte, Rosetta Izzi, Sam Silvia)



Newport Lab technicians pictured together in their 150th anniversary t-shirts



Volunteers at the Newport International Boat Show



Hospital staff with Newport Hospital float at St. Patrick's Day Parade

CREATING A HEALING SPACE FOR NEWPORT'S MOST VULNERABLE TEENS

Summarizing the effect of the current pediatric mental health crisis on Newport Hospital's emergency department, Director of Emergency Services Lisa Lima-Tessier, RN, says: "We're keeping kids safe, but we need to do better."

Increased demand for acute adolescent behavioral and mental health care—which began before the pandemic and has only intensified since—has led to what Lisa describes as a "bottleneck" in the ED. Often, teenagers board in the hospital's emergency department for days or weeks because they have no place to go while waiting for an appropriate inpatient bed to open on a dedicated psychiatric unit at another hospital.

This situation is anything but ideal for patients, who are in crisis and must wait to begin much-needed treatment, including therapy. It is also difficult for staff doctors and nurses, who are not able to serve these patients as well as they would like while simultaneously managing the critical needs of those who walk through the doors with an array of emergency medical conditions, from heart attacks to broken bones.



"We simply don't have the resources to properly take care of these kids in the ED, and we all want them to get the help that they desperately need," says Lisa.

Given this dire situation, the planned development of an eight-bed Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit at Newport Hospital is a "wish come true for these kids, for their families, for the community, and for our organization," Lisa adds.

Fundraising to create the unit — by renovating an existing area of the hospital —kicks off at this year's *A Salute to Health* summer celebration on July 12.

Once the unit is complete, care will be provided in partnership with East Providence-based Bradley Hospital, the country's first psychiatric hospital for children. This will allow Newport Hospital to deliver Bradley's world-class pediatric behavioral and mental health care to more families closer to their homes on and around Aquidneck Island.

It will serve adolescents ages 12 to 18 years old who are struggling with things such as suicidal ideation and self-injury and need short-term stabilization, assessment, and treatment. Patients will spend time in safe individual rooms and bright and modern group therapy areas, and they will have access to an outdoor enclosed garden area.

"This unit will be a wonderful step forward in addressing the state's pediatric mental health crisis," Lisa says.

To learn more about how you can support the Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit, contact Sara Meirowitz at 401-845-1617.

Together, we can expand essential services for our community's most vulnerable teens.

MEET LIFESPAN'S NEW PRESIDENT AND CEO: JOHN FERNANDEZ



John Fernandez

Working hard behind the scenes since his appointment was announced, John Fernandez hit the ground running when he officially started as President and CEO of Lifespan on January 30. He brings more than three decades of health care leadership experience to his new role, most recently, as President of Mass Eye and Ear in Boston. As he continues to meet the community, donors, and staff, he recently answered a few questions to help everyone get to know him.

What do you want people to know about you and what you bring to Lifespan?

One of the key qualities of my leadership style is to recognize and value the talents of our team. I've been so impressed with the commitment and talent I've seen so far at Lifespan—it's one of the things that brought me to Rhode Island. I also talk a lot about kindness. It's the foundational part of great teams. When building a team, I often say I hire for kindness, which sometimes stumps the most hard-charging, and achievement-oriented candidates. Kindness, teamwork, and getting stuff done are what people often remember most about me. I look forward to working with great teams to get stuff done here at Lifespan.

What are your main areas of focus as you settle into your new role?

Our first priority is finalizing a plan for Lifespan's future. This includes revising and refocusing the existing Lifespan 2025 strategic plan and improving our financial, operational, and quality performance. Reducing length of stay, expanding services and increasing access for patients, championing diversity, equity and inclusion, and retaining and recruiting more employees to work at Lifespan are all areas for immediate focus. Working together, with employees, the community, and our generous donors, I know we can leverage the tremendous talent, intellect, generosity, and kindness to realize Lifespan's most ambitious goals and plans.

How do you see philanthropy supporting and driving Lifespan's mission of *Delivering health with care?*

Philanthropy is critical to driving Lifespan's mission into the future. At all locations, including Newport Hospital, it helps cover the costs for providing millions of dollars of care each year for those individuals who are unable to pay, as well as strengthening the organization and helping us become a destination for health care services, not only in Rhode Island and New England, but nationally. While all philanthropy is important, strategic philanthropic investments in priority areas are what will help get us to the next level. Key to this is continuing to build a culture of philanthropy and physician partnerships as well as fostering gratitude from patients and family members after receiving care. I'm confident we are just at the beginning of realizing the potential of philanthropy for the benefit of our patients and the community.

LIFE TRUSTEES: HONORING EXTRAORDINARY DEDICATION AND SERVICE

Last year, Newport Hospital Foundation introduced a “Life Trustee” designation to honor special individuals who have exhibited extraordinary dedication and exemplary service to the hospital over an extended period of years. To date, the special status has been awarded to three pillars of the Newport community, whose contributions of time and talent has been unwavering.



DAVID GORDON

A former Newport Mayor, David had a unique perspective about his community and Newport Hospital’s role in it. He saw firsthand how the hospital was depended on during times of emergency and also for routine care. Of course, his personal connection to the hospital extended far beyond his time in office. David served on the Newport Hospital Board of Governors for more than 15 years, and as a member of the hospital’s Foundation Board of Trustees for 12 years, during which time he held Vice Chair and Secretary roles. Through his dedicated service, David fostered fundraising success that has had a profound impact on patient care and helped to keep Newport Hospital on the leading-edge of medicine while supporting its vision for the future. Sadly, David passed away in November of 2021. But he left a legacy deserving of this recognition.

JIM PURVIANCE

A mentor, leader, and steadfast financier, Jim has shared his leadership and financial expertise serving on the Lifespan Investment Committee, as Chairman of the Newport Hospital Quality Committee for 10 years, and as a member of the Newport Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees for more than two decades. Deeply committed to the health and wellness of his neighbors, Jim is a longtime, generous supporter of the hospital who leads by taking action. One example was in 2017, when he and his wife, Ginny, were honorees at the hospital’s *A Salute to Health* Summer Celebration and championed the event’s special fund-a-need. The appeal was a tremendous success and supported the expansion of the hospital’s behavioral health services program by launching a new partial hospitalization initiative for patients struggling with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders.



SISTER M. THERESE ANTONE

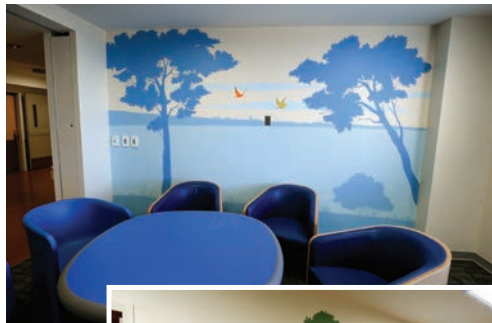
For more than 20 years, Sister M. Therese Antone’s name has been synonymous with giving back to the Newport County community. From 1994 to 2009, she served as President of Salve Regina University and was appointed Chancellor shortly thereafter. Passionate about public health and well-being, Sister Therese has been an active, tireless advocate for Newport Hospital’s healing mission and played key roles in advancing the Foundation’s mission of supporting excellent, compassionate, and state-of-the-art care through philanthropy. A Trustee of the Newport Health Corporation from 1998 to 2007, Sister Therese was also a member of the Lifespan Board of Directors for 10 years—serving as Chair of its Governance Committee during her tenure.

AN UNBREAKABLE COMMITMENT TO NEWPORT HOSPITAL AND ITS PATIENTS

“Serving on the Newport Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees is both an honor and a responsibility I take very seriously,” says Elizabeth Leatherman, who joined the board in early 2019.

Elizabeth is one of two dozen individuals who have taken their commitment to Newport Hospital and the patients it cares for to the next level by serving on its Foundation Board. The group is comprised entirely of volunteers who are appointed by leadership and invited to join. Members have a deep connection to the hospital and care greatly about their neighbors. They are invaluable ambassadors in the community who foster the important impact philanthropy has on patient care.

“It is impossible to overstate the contributions of our Foundation Board trustees and the ways they help us to meet the needs of our community,” said Crista F. Durand, President of Newport Hospital. “They are, without question, among the most dedicated and selfless people I know.”



Elizabeth Leatherman with artists

The project to create an even more inviting healing environment was completed last November and represented a multi-year effort led by Elizabeth and a group of fellow trustees. It brought the Switzerland-based nonprofit to Aquidneck Island and made Newport Hospital the first in the U.S. to feature its therapeutic murals. It was a project funded entirely by the generosity of local donors’ gifts to the Anouk Foundation.

Among the colorful murals is a tranquil, blue-based tree scene with contrasting birds in flight painted in one of the behavioral health pods. Another, completed on a corridor wall of the emergency department, features a grass-lined waterfront punctuated by trees and horses. Every color and feature used were deliberate and intentional, and meant to add depth and a sense of openness to the space.

The response from patients, staff, families, hospital volunteers—everyone who sees the murals—has been nothing short of amazement. The murals are an incredible, outward example of the dedication of Newport Hospital’s Foundation Board trustees. “The environment of care plays an important role in patients’ healing process, and the mural project is one we are all especially proud of,” added Elizabeth. “Whenever there’s an opportunity to elevate and support the hospital that anchors our community, the Foundation Board is first in line.”

There is no shortage of ways trustees make a difference for Newport Hospital. Sometimes their influence is quiet and behind-the-scenes, such as by inviting prospective donors to tour the hospital and hosting special giving events in their homes. Other times, their impact is especially visible and seen by all. The beautiful Anouk Foundation murals that now adorn 27 walls in the hospital are the latest example.

THE POWER OF A WET NOSE



Jane Regan with Willoughby

There may be times when the last thing anyone wants is dog hair on their clothes, but one of them isn't when Jane Regan and her Labradoodle, Willoughby, come around.

"It doesn't matter where in the hospital he goes, Willoughby is instantly surrounded," says Pamela McLaughlin, MS, LDN, Newport Hospital's Director of Patient Experience. "In just seconds with him, you can see people's anxiety leave their body."

Jane and Willoughby are veterans of Newport Hospital's pet therapy program, having come aboard as volunteers in the fall of 2019 to visit with patients in the different units. By March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated all volunteer programs be suspended, and outside a brief return in 2021, the program did not resume fully until last August. When it did, it came back better than ever.

"Once we began again with pet therapy, it was so obvious that staff needed visits, too," explains Pam, "so much so that Jane and Willoughby could not keep up with the demand."

As fate would have it, and when the program needed it most, two local owners of registered therapy dogs reached out to Pam on getting their pups involved with

the hospital: Celeste Catterall and her Aussiedoodle, Roxy, and Lynn St. George and her Pomeranian, Stella.

By September 2022, the pet therapy program effectively tripled its capacity.

Now with a pack of tail-wagging therapy dogs ready to bring smiles to faces, Pam set off to devise the program's most comprehensive schedule yet. Planning eight weeks at a time, the dogs visit with patients throughout the Turner building, the cancer center, at Vanderbilt rehab, and the hospital's award-winning birthing center. There are also scheduled sessions for the emergency department, behavioral health pod, surgical services, transport, the pharmacy, and diagnostic imaging. Simply, where there are people, the dogs will go.

"I don't think I could have imagined the reactions we would get," says Jane. "For patients and those on the frontline, their days can be difficult and we are a welcome distraction. Willoughby makes people very happy and those people also make him happy—it's like having a friend in every room of the hospital."

While there's no shortage of anecdotal evidence for the positive effects of our canine friends, the science is equally convincing.

Research shows that just petting a dog lowers the stress hormone cortisol, while the social interaction itself can increase the amount of the feel-good hormone oxytocin—the same hormone known to bond mothers to their babies.

"Dogs have such a calming presence; when people are with one of the dogs, they aren't thinking about anything else, and that's incredibly powerful," Pam finishes. "But make no mistake, their owners are so key to the program and in tune to our culture—we're extremely fortunate to have these beautiful people share their companions with us."

ADVANCED VIRTUAL REALITY TOOLS IMPROVING REHAB PATIENT EXPERIENCE

For decades, Vanderbilt Rehabilitation Center at Newport Hospital has been known for its excellent outcomes and patient-focused care. But over the last year, it's also become known as home to some of the most sophisticated technologies in health care.

The center treats patients recovering from a variety of serious conditions, including stroke, spinal cord, brain and traumatic injuries, cardiac issues, orthopedic problems, and other medical illness. Therapy focuses on helping patients regain basic functions like swallowing, coordination, balance, or memory—and virtual reality tools are accelerating those efforts.

“These devices allow patients to see their progress on-screen in real time,” explains Mustapha Kemal, MD, the center’s Medical Director. “That positive feedback is integral to the recovery process and enables them to progress faster and return to their lives safely and sooner than with traditional therapies.”

One example is the EksoNR, a wearable exoskeleton that provides power and support to the legs of patients unable to use their lower extremities. This state-of-the-art “suit”—acquired thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor—promotes correct movement patterns in all phases of recovery, challenging patients on their journey towards walking on their own. *(Read Andrea’s patient story on page 6.)*

“The benefits of enabling a paraplegia patient to tolerate an upright posture are immediate,” Dr. Kemal says. “Cardiovascular and pulmonary improvements, better kidney flow, bladder getting drained, and pain relief, just to name a few.” In addition to Andrea’s experience, Dr. Kemal says two recent Ekso patients, who haven’t walked in over 20 years, were able to ambulate assisted by this amazing machine. “These were life-changing experiences for both,” he adds, “and showed them what’s possible. That’s why these technologies are so powerful.”



Exoskeleton Therapy

The Bioness Integrated Therapy System (BITS)

An interactive touch screen therapy device designed to improve hand-eye coordination, reaction time, depth perception, and working memory in patients with a variety of neurological conditions.

GaitBetter

A walking platform that uses a harness system, treadmill, and sensors to simulate real-world obstacles—like stepping over a soda can and on to a curb—to improve dynamic balance, endurance, and cognitive functioning.

REAL y-series helmet

Fully immersive, goal-oriented tool that involves wearing sensors around the body to track head, hand, arm, and body movements. Once on, the helmet can “transport” a patient to a lake house, a restaurant or garden, and ask them to do a variety of tasks.

Synchrony

A dedicated biofeedback system that uses interactive games to treat dysphagia and swallowing disorders. Measures electrical activity in tongue and other muscles.



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 11 Friendship Street
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NEWPORT HOSPITAL'S
 — SUMMER CELEBRATION —
A SALUTE TO HEALTH

CELEBRATING **150** YEARS

WEDNESDAY

JULY
12
2023

SIX PM

BELLE MER

2 GOAT ISLAND ROAD, NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Our evening's special fund-a-need invites the community to support the development of an eight-bed, adolescent behavioral health unit at Newport Hospital in partnership with the world-renowned Bradley Hospital. To learn more see page 10.

Newport Hospital, a publication of Newport Hospital Foundation, is published for our friends and supporters.

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