

The Miriam *Memo*

2021



The Miriam Hospital
Lifespan. Delivering health with care.®

Timothy Flanagan MD
Infectious Diseases
The Miriam Hospital



If the pandemic has taught us anything, it's that we're better when we work together.

At The Miriam Hospital, "together" means being a part of the state's largest academic health system and collaborating with world-class clinicians, researchers, and educators to ensure our patients have access to the very best care. Right here in Rhode Island.

Together also means partnering with an incredible donor family—people like you—whose generosity knows no bounds and enables us to advance our mission of *delivering health with care*.

Thank you for your unwavering support.



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Chairman, The Miriam Hospital
Board of Trustees

COVER: Grateful patient Marc Thibault embraces Dr. Timothy Flanigan (both vaccinated). See page 4.

ABOVE: Intensive Care Unit CNAs Chelsea Laporte and Françoise Monteiro smile behind their masks.



Maria Ducharme

Maria Ducharme, DNP, RN

President,
The Miriam Hospital

More than 30 years after beginning my career at The Miriam as a cardiac nurse, the awe and appreciation I have for this hospital and, most importantly, its people grows deeper by the day.

The reasons that have kept me on Summit Avenue are simply too many to count, but there is one that consistently rises to the top. And that is how every member of The Miriam family—our dedicated staff, philanthropic friends and stakeholders—reveals their very best when our community needs it most.

While there’s no question the past sixteen months have been difficult, it has been powerful to see the ways our already amazing Miriam people took their love for our hospital to new levels. Our staff has always been the driving force of unparalleled patient care, and our donor community has always been the driving force that inspires us to be our best.

The post-pandemic world may be uncertain, but I am confident that we will face it with the same perseverance, thoughtfulness, and compassion that define our rich tradition of excellence.

I could not be more grateful for the community and people who stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our hospital and give so much of themselves to others. It is because of all of you that The Miriam stands in a league all its own.

WELCOMING A NEW CNO

Anne Schmidt, DNP, joined The Miriam Hospital as Senior Vice President Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer on May 10. Dr. Schmidt, who has had a 30-year nursing career, comes from a regional hospital system in Virginia and previously held nursing leadership posts at other hospitals in Rhode Island.



“We are emerging from an extremely challenging pandemic and my top priority will be ensuring the health and well-being of our patients and our staff,” said Dr. Schmidt. “The Miriam has received accolades for the quality of its patient care service and nursing and I look forward to enabling the staff to maintain the hospital’s lofty standards.”



The Miriam People Society was founded by past chair and Miriam Hospital visionary Stanley Grossman to encourage and recognize supporters who give \$1,000 or more on an annual basis, and Founders who have cumulative giving of \$25,000 or more to the hospital over their lifetime. These special Founder supporters are recognized as members of The Miriam People Society for life.

To learn more and become a member of The Miriam People Society, please call 401-793-2004.

COVID-19: THE PAST AND THE FUTURE

Suffering from shortness of breath and dehydration, Marc Thibault, of Coventry, stepped into The Miriam Hospital's emergency room on February 27, 2020. He soon became the first patient diagnosed with, and, in the long days and weeks that followed, successfully treated for, COVID-19 in Rhode Island. From then on, hospital staff in various roles rallied together like never before to battle the coronavirus pandemic. They provided compassionate, evidence-based care to thousands of patients, worked overtime to sanitize surfaces, volunteered to staff vaccination clinics and screening checkpoints, and much more. And while hope is here for a post-pandemic future, the world is forever changed.

Here, Marc and the health care heroes who supported him share their reflections.



Marc Thibault

The first patient diagnosed and treated for COVID-19 in RI

"Some people look back at 2020 and they talk about how miserable of a year it was, but I think about how fortunate and blessed I was. COVID knocked me to the ground completely, and it was a terrifying experience, but I learned a whole new level of perseverance. And I was just so moved by the mercy and compassion that the ICU nurses, the CNAs, the doctors, and everyone else at The Miriam Hospital had towards me. I could feel it, and I'm alive because of them. This was back when no one knew much about the virus, and I'm looking at these people putting their lives on the line for me. I remember saying to one of the nurses, 'You're doing God's work. You are like angels.'"

Elizabeth Fortes, RRT

Respiratory Therapist

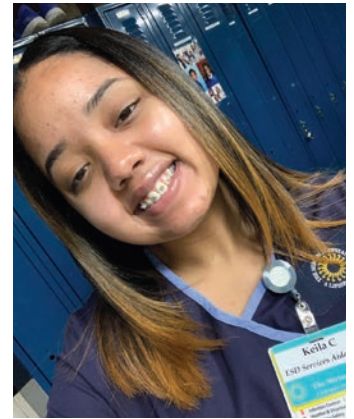
"The pandemic has shined more of a light on the role of respiratory therapists. We're the frontline, too, alongside the doctors and nurses. Respiratory therapists are at the head of the bed right next to the doctor who is intubating, if not intubating themselves. As soon as the breathing tube goes in, the respiratory therapist is the one verifying that it is actually in and securing it. It's not a difficult procedure, but it's invasive. The most rewarding part was when we were able to see a patient who had been on a ventilator for weeks on end finally weaning off of it and starting to initiate their own breath."



Keila Comas

Environmental Services Aide, Emergency Room

"I took the position as a cleaner in the ER in February of 2020, and then the pandemic started, so I was thrown right into it. For the rooms where COVID-positive patients have stayed, we clean literally everything—bottom to top, top to bottom. We put on PPE, and it takes longer than a typical room. One thing that helped was getting two new disinfecting machines during the pandemic. They use ultraviolet light to destroy pathogens. We use the machines as a last step after cleaning a room to make sure everything is sanitized, and we will continue to use them in the future."



Timothy Flanigan, MD

Immunologist, Infectious Diseases

"The history of humankind has been marked by different pandemics, and we will have more in the future. Because of this one, we now have a much better sense of how to prepare and respond to them. Our ability to identify the disease quickly, discover good diagnostic tools, and learn from each other rapidly to develop treatments and vaccines has been unprecedented. When I think back to the beginning of the pandemic, there's no question that we were all overwhelmed. And yet it was really incredible to see how the entire health care community stepped up so remarkably. There's no doubt that a special shout-out has to go to our nurses. They took care of our patients day in and day out."

Maria Ducharme, DNP, RN

President, The Miriam Hospital

"Health care providers are good at giving care to others. That's sort of how we're hard wired. But we're not always the best at taking care of ourselves. From this pandemic, we've learned that in order to give that care, and give as much as we want to, we have to take care of ourselves as well. I think that concept of well-being is a little more salient in our culture now. For some people that means exercise, yoga or meditation, but for others it may be as simple as having someone to express their frustrations, fears, and concerns to. When I round on our patient care areas, I try to elicit these appropriate and meaningful conversations as I believe, and have been told, that it is therapeutic. I believe we have to normalize these feelings so that we seek the support that is necessary."



Continued on next page



Andrew Levinson, MD

Critical Care Physician, Assistant Director, Intensive Care Unit

“One of the reasons I’ve always loved working at The Miriam Hospital is because it’s a wonderful community-based hospital with compassionate care, but it’s also very evidence-based and rigorous. So we can provide care that a lot of other hospitals this size cannot. Throughout the pandemic, the hospital has been evaluating treatments in real time through clinical trials. For example, the clinical trial based at The Miriam for treating COVID-19 with the antiviral medication Remdesivir is the fourth leading enroller of those trials globally—a remarkable achievement that let the hospital contribute to the knowledge base about when Remdesivir is helpful and when it is not.”

Tiffany Correia, RN

Intensive Care Unit Nurse

“The time when patients couldn’t have visitors had the greatest impact on me. We were seeing a lot of death. Normally, if someone is going to pass, the family comes in and you excuse yourself from the room so the family can talk privately. In COVID times, those last conversations had to be done virtually. So, you’re the one holding the phone for the video call, and you’re in the room and can’t help but listen. These are husbands and wives talking to each other for the last time, or a family talking to a patient who is intubated. These are conversations that nobody ever hears, and to be present during that was very emotional at times. It’s not a normal part of nursing.”



John Lonks, MD

Infectious Diseases Physician

“Getting through this has truly been a team effort. It has been remarkable to see how everyone worked together to take care of patients and get things done. I’ve been here over 30 years, and that’s the thing that makes The Miriam, The Miriam. It’s not like, oh, that’s not in my job description, so I can’t do that. Take monoclonal antibodies, for instance. Where can COVID patients get this therapy? Okay, an infusion center. But that’s where we’re treating cancer patients, and we don’t want to expose them to COVID-19. So we worked it out with the terrific staff at the tuberculosis clinic, and started giving infusions a few days each week. The monoclonal antibody infusion clinic was successful, and the need was such that it expanded outside of the TB clinic into adjacent space. Some people gave up their offices to make room for it.”

ADDRESSING EMERGENCY ROOM NEEDS

New Behavioral Health Navigators to Support Patients



Since the closing of Pawtucket’s Memorial Hospital in early 2018, The Miriam has experienced skyrocketing demand of its emergency department, with patient volume sometimes exceeding capacity. The overflow is challenging, but particularly concerning has been the disproportionate number of visits involving patients with behavioral health-related emergencies; an increase of 36 percent.

“Many of these patients present with significant mental health conditions that we want to be better equipped to manage,” explains Denise Brennan MS, RN CNL, Director of Emergency Services. “More than ever, patients come to us under the influence of narcotics, alcohol or other substances, or in severe withdrawal. They are also often experiencing suicidal ideation, depression, anxiety, or psychosis.”

Such patients, Denise says, are both difficult to treat in an ED setting and a risk to release back to the community without significant supports in place, which can result in poor outcomes and frequent readmission. Moreover, their length of stay in the ED is double those of

patients who do not have behavioral issues.” Unfortunately, these patients can be here for days or more than a week while they await transfer to appropriate services,” Denise points out. “Behavioral health patients have unique needs and often require observation to ensure they are not a danger to themselves or others.” A CNA, security staff, or video monitoring system may conduct the observation. Whichever the case, it often means valuable resources are being consumed that could be employed elsewhere.

But an innovative solution is on the way.

The Miriam is adding two Behavioral Health Nurse Navigators to its staff to act as a point person for patients and their families or caregivers throughout their ED experience, collaborating with other hospital staff and resource providers in the community to ensure timely and appropriate quality care.

Key responsibilities include working with ED staff and providers to ensure an evidence-based plan of behavioral health care that is coordinated with any required medical care; building relationships with community resources and contacts, such as treatment centers, Rhode Island’s Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals; and assisting with risk assessments. The navigators will also be trained to provide staff education and support de-escalation measures as needed.

“The Miriam has a psychiatry liaison team and engages Gateway Healthcare to provide supplemented support, but we’ve never had a dedicated program like this before,” Denise explains. “The people coming into these positions will be pioneering the role and providing an enhanced level of patient-centered behavioral health care. The benefits for the patient and our hospital will be significant.”

WORKING ON TOMORROW'S BREAKTHROUGHS TODAY



Laura Stroud, PhD

qualitative methods, and the role alternative interventions—like yoga, mindfulness, and tai chi—can have on the prevention and/or management of various diseases.

“Our research scientists and their teams focus on the role human behavior plays in health and disease, and they work to discover new and improved approaches to prevention, diagnosis, and treatment,” explains Laura Stroud, PhD, director and senior research scientist at the center.

“Together, we seek to integrate the social, behavioral, and biomedical sciences through clinical, community, and laboratory-based research.”

Although new to her current role—she was named director in November 2020—Dr. Stroud is not new to the center. After completing her undergraduate work in human biology at Stanford and her graduate studies in clinical health psychology at Yale, Dr. Stroud’s postdoctoral studies brought her to Brown University and soon after the center, in 1998. “I didn’t have a plan to stay in Providence when I arrived,” she admits, reflecting back, “but I fell in love with the city and the research community here.”

Moving forward, Dr. Stroud says her plan is to capitalize on the center’s core strengths to build new collaborations and research areas, recruit new faculty, and to expand the center’s overall capabilities. Goals, she points out, that are being helped along by the power of philanthropy.

“The Miriam’s donor family has been very supportive of our center’s work and we are deeply appreciative of their generosity,” she says. “They understand that when you support research, you are helping to shape the future of medicine.”

For a hospital, one of the many great benefits of being part of a world-class academic health system—which The Miriam is, through its Lifespan affiliation and partnership with The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University—is that you get to both participate in and lead cutting-edge medical research and clinical studies today that result in the health care breakthroughs of tomorrow.

Such is the case at The Center for Behavioral and Preventive Medicine at The Miriam. Over the course of its 30-year history, the center has conducted research in fields as diverse as cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease to smoking cessation, exercise, and neuroscience.

Today, its focus includes, but is not limited to, the effects of psychological stress and trauma on disease; the patient experience of COVID-19 “long haulers”; women’s health and pregnancy; smoking cessation and e-cigarette use;

ONCE A LEADER, ALWAYS A LEADER

From his first day as a 16-year-old working the stock room at Addison Gilbert Hospital to his last as president of The Miriam Hospital some five decades later, it's been quite the ride for Arthur Sampson.

"My job was to deliver the supplies doctors and nurses needed to care for patients—talk about being important from day one," he jokes. "I just fell in love with the hospital environment and knew then it was where I was meant to be."

While Arthur's retirement at the end of 2020 wasn't a surprise—he had announced his intentions months earlier—how The Miriam family honored its outgoing president sure caught him off guard.

Behind the scenes, foundation chair Susan Kaplan, and Miriam stalwarts Alan Litwin and Ed Feldstein put in motion a plan that would ultimately honor Arthur's legacy in more ways than one.

Recognizing his commitment to leadership, mentorship and professional development, the hospital's donor community generously established The Arthur J. Sampson Endowed Fund to provide tuition assistance annually to a Miriam employee pursuing an advanced degree, such as a MPH, MHA, or MBA.

The goal was to collectively raise \$25,000 to create the scholarship fund. But when all was said and done, the total hit \$70,000.

"I don't know that there's a better way to honor Arthur than to pay forward in retirement what meant so much to him throughout his career, and that is lifting up others," says Susan. "Arthur is truly one-of-a-kind, and this fund is one more way his impact on The Miriam will be felt for years to come."

Further proof of what Arthur meant to The Miriam now adorns the intersection of Fifth Street and Summit Avenue: a street sign proclaiming Arthur J. Sampson Square. The area was aptly renamed after the hospital's volunteer leadership presented the idea to local Councilwomen Helen Anthony and Nirva LaFortune, and Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza.

"I didn't see that coming, at all," says Arthur with a smile. "I am so humbled by that sign. Everyone wants to go see

it and take pictures with me—it's kind of taken on a life of its own."

Although his days are now filled with house projects instead of meetings, being a strong leader is forever ingrained in Arthur's DNA.

"It is incredibly important to me to help educate and train the next generation of leaders," he says. "This is a field that is increasingly complex, but if you push people to strive for perfection, you'll always end up with excellence and that is the absolute definition of The Miriam Hospital."



Arthur Sampson

GIFT ENABLES NEW CANCER REGISTRY



Dr. Dragan Golijanin with patient

promote prevention, address treatment disparities, and improve health outcomes for Rhode Island residents. To create the HIPAA-compliant registry, researchers from the institute are studying decades' worth of medical records from patients previously treated at Lifespan hospitals for genitourinary cancers, including those of the prostate, kidney, and bladder.

"We're looking at over 200 different data elements—everything from a patient's age to where they lived, their diet, possible chemical exposure, the type of cancer, and the extent of the disease," says Christopher Tucci, RN, Manager of the Minimally Invasive Urology Institute. The project highlights the institute's commitment to not only treating but also preventing the development of urologic cancers in the community.

"By better understanding risk factors, we will be able to promote healthy behaviors and lifestyles, improve screening and prevention to Rhode Islanders while reducing the burden of disease," said Dragan Golijanin, MD, Co-director of the Minimally Invasive Urology Institute and Director of Genitourinary Oncology at The Miriam Hospital.

To learn more about this project, please call the foundation office at 401-793-2805.

More than 1,300 Rhode Islanders will face a diagnosis of genitourinary cancer this year, and the state has disproportionately high rates of bladder cancer, in particular.

Thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the Rhode Island Foundation, experts from The Miriam Hospital's Minimally Invasive Urology Institute (MIUI) are now conducting research to learn more about the reasons why.

The grant has allowed the MIUI to establish a first-of-its-kind registry of urologic cancers to advance research,

A SIMPLE WAY TO GIVE: BENEFICIARY

When you include The Miriam Hospital Foundation in your estate plans, you create a legacy that helps ensure that future generations will continue to receive the very best in health care. Bequests are by far the most popular type of estate gift, and while we often think of bequests as something that would be included in a will or trust, they can also be as straightforward as naming the hospital as a full, partial, or contingent beneficiary of **Retirement Accounts, Life Insurance Policies, or Donor-Advised Funds.**

These simple gifts can be made by contacting the financial institution holding your account and requesting a beneficiary designation form. We're here to help; please contact Chris Josephson, Senior Planned Giving Officer, at 401-444-6412 or chris.josephson@lifespan.org if you have any questions. Additionally, please notify us if you have included us in your estate plans so that we may recognize you as a member of our Living Heritage Society.

A SINGLE MIRIAM EXPERIENCE CREATES A LIFETIME BOND

At a very young age, The Miriam Hospital made an imprint on Jim Rosati. So much that he continues to show his gratitude to this day.

One morning, Jim knocked a hot pan of milk off the stove, scalding his torso. Panicked for her preschool-age son, his mother removed his pajama top and with it came his skin, and she called an ambulance. Responders took him to the nearest hospital—it was the 1950s and The Miriam was on Parade Street.

At the hospital, doctors removed the remaining fabric from his pajama top, covered his burns with salve, wrapped him up, and comfortably restrained him so he could heal. Several weeks later, and after preparing his family for the likelihood of significant scarring, doctors removed the bandages to find not a single scar.

“My grandmother and my family prayed every day, but I know it was also the forethought of the doctors in caring for my burns that led to my positive outcome,” says Jim. “Had I been badly scarred, my life would have been very different from a very young age. Fortunately, that wasn’t the case and I have The Miriam to thank for that.”

Decades later, Jim was reintroduced to The Miriam when he met his wife Janet, who worked there as a medical technologist. In the years that followed, he became friendly with several hospital administrators and physicians. Feeling the pull toward the place that changed his life as a child, he joined the board of governors as an ambassador for the hospital.

“The Miriam gives you the feeling of a small and intimate caring hospital—it offers everything you want in a hospital,” says Jim. “My family has a lengthy and strong relationship with The Miriam Hospital, and I hope it

continues for another 100 years.” Jim’s daughter, Kayla, also worked for many years as director of the Brown University Oncology Research Group (BrUOG), working closely with Dr. Howard Safran, the medical director of BrUOG, who is also chief of oncology at The Miriam Hospital.

“I want to help, but I’m not a doctor, so what I can do is donate and support the hospital to ensure it remains at the forefront of new technologies and research,” explains Jim.

And that’s just what he does, time and time again. Whether it’s gathering friends together at the Dunes Club in Narragansett to share the advances in urology care at The Miriam, or making a leadership gift to support the creation of a dedicated cancer clinical research space, Jim always shows up for The Miriam.

“What The Miriam provides in health care is hard to find,” says Jim. “And we need to continue to support it and help maintain its best-in-class status.”



Jim Rosati

Q&A WITH DR. TIMOTHY J. BABINEAU



Dr. Timothy J. Babineau

Timothy J. Babineau, MD, is president and chief executive officer of Lifespan. Prior to his current role, he previously led Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital.

Where do you see philanthropy impacting care at both the affiliate hospital and system level?

At our hospitals, donations make it possible to offer extra programs and supports for our patients across cancer care, neuroscience, women's medicine, pediatrics, and more. System-wide, philanthropy provides funding for resources and technologies that support innovative clinical care and groundbreaking research. In both cases, contributions go towards better treatment, care, and outcomes for patients and their families.

Donors came out in force in response to COVID—what struck you the most about the support The Miriam received?

It was particularly touching to experience how our donor community was so concerned about the well-being of caregivers and the many ways they helped to lift them up. There were thousands of gifts of meals, heartwarming cards and notes that showed our care teams how much they're appreciated and valued. Financial donations helped to establish the Caring for Our Caregivers Fund to provide wellness supports like Reiki, massage, and pet therapy for staff, as well as fund the creation of new respite rooms at the hospital. The Miriam workers have been on the frontline throughout the pandemic and our community has been tremendous in expressing its thanks.

What is your vision for Lifespan and its hospitals in a post-COVID world?

COVID forced many systems and institutions to pivot and adapt quickly to rapid change and uncertainty. We became more nimble in response, with an example being the incorporation of telehealth and realizing its efficacy in our ability to provide even greater access to care to our community, and I hope that we will continue to innovate and collaborate in the health care space. The pandemic made clear just how important a well-oiled health system is to Rhode Island, and it's imperative that we use the current momentum and support for clinical and academic medicine to the benefit of everyone in this state. And I'm confident that Lifespan and its hospitals are well-positioned to lead this as an attractive destination for the world's top physicians, scientists, and healthcare workers.

Proceeds from this year's gala will benefit *The Miriam's Greatest Needs Fund for a New Generation*, which supports programs and improvements at The Miriam that have the most crucial and pressing needs.

Dollars raised through this year's auctions and fund-a-need will support the creation of *The Center for Innovative Cancer Research at The Miriam Hospital*—a warm, peaceful space designed exclusively for our cancer patients diagnosed with advanced illness, whose only hope is to participate in promising, yet experimental therapies. For patients receiving this news, travelling out of state and leaving one's care team to access the latest treatments can be devastating. This center will ensure they don't have to.

TAKE 2



THE MIRIAM HOSPITAL
GALA & AUCTION

09.11.2021

WATERFIRE ARTS CENTER, PROVIDENCE, RI

SHOWING GRATITUDE

GratITUDE is becoming an everyday topic, and for good reason. The act of mindfully recognizing gratitude has been proven to be good for your health, both mind and body. The Miriam Hospital regularly receives letters from patients expressing their gratitude. We are grateful for each and every one.

Here is an excerpt from one:

I'm writing this letter to inform you of a wonderful and meaningful experience I had with Dr. Sevdenur Cizginer while at The Miriam Hospital. I am 78 years old and was admitted for a removal of a malignant tumor in my colon. After successful surgery, I was discharged with a temporary ileostomy. My reversal surgery was in January 2021. During both hospitalizations Dr. C (as she said to call her) came to see me. The time she spent with me was very comforting. She is thorough, informative, kind and compassionate, a very good listener, and an excellent communicator.

The elderly are a growing population and have specific medical and social needs. We need doctors who know how to deal with our issues. This requires patience, knowledge, and compassion and Dr. C possesses all of these qualities. She certainly is a valuable asset to your hospital, and I am very grateful that I had the opportunity to meet her.

—Kathy Legein



Kathy Legein with her granddaughter

You can practice gratitude today by honoring a caregiver. To learn more, please contact Cheryl Cusson at 401-793-2805 or ccusson@lifespan.org.

“Gratitude is the best medicine. It heals your mind, your body and your spirit. And attracts more things to be grateful for..”

—Unknown

With donor support, we will build this center at The Miriam and hire two specially trained research nurses who will collaborate with colleagues in palliative care, nutrition, and meditation to provide that extra level of support that is so vital to keeping our patients' physical and psychological selves strong. Together, they will guide patients and families through their often-bewildering journey, which is marked with both hope and despair.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit giving.lifespan.org/The-Miriam/Gala or call (401) 793-2062.



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CENTER HAS NEW NAME, RENEWED PURPOSE

Since 2005, The Center for Prisoner Health and Human Rights at The Miriam has been helping those incarcerated or otherwise impacted by the criminal justice system; a population with a disproportionately high prevalence of infectious diseases, addiction, and mental illness. Recently, the center has broadened and diversified its outreach to better serve the ever-changing needs of this vulnerable population and changed their name to The Center for Health + Justice Transformation (CHJT). Mavis Nimoh,

CHJT's new executive director, explains why:

"The disparities in our health care system are mirrored in our criminal justice system," she says. "That's why, over time, the center's scope

of work has evolved to include addressing decriminalization, criminal justice planning and reentry issues. It also focuses on social determinants of health, including health care access and quality, education access and quality, social and community participation, economic stability, and housing and neighborhoods. So, changing the center's name more accurately reflects our future direction."

Advocating for justice-involved individuals has always been challenging, because of public perceptions. But the reality is, we're all in this together. "Our well-being is mutually tied together," Mavis points out, "and we cannot X out a certain population of people and think that we are going to be healthy or maximize our fullest potential as a community. The number of lives we're talking about is eye-opening, too—particularly among people of color. So, let's give people a second chance, lean into our humanity and think of more dignified ways of addressing these complicated issues."



Mavis Nimoh

NEW LUCAS MACHINES HELP SAVE LIVES

Thanks to a \$25,000 gift from the Helene and Bertram Bernhardt Foundation, The Miriam added two state-of-the-art LUCAS chest compression systems to the list of lifesaving technology being used in the emergency department. The easy-to-use mechanical devices enable automated and continuous closed chest compression to sudden cardiac arrest patients or those being transported to other advanced lifesaving therapies.

Kathryn Conceicao, BSN, RN, CEN, is an ED nurse at The Miriam. She responded to a "code blue" patient call shortly after the department started using the LUCAS devices.

"At the time, we had COVID-19 safety protocols in place, which meant limiting the amount of staff in the room," she says. "But that also meant fewer helping hands to perform manual compressions on the patient over a prolonged period. Fortunately, we only had to perform manual compressions for less than 10 seconds while the patient was being connected to the device—the remainder of the code was run using the LUCAS to provide compressions." Kathryn says the LUCAS device increased the efficiency of the caregiving team, while also adding a calming effect on the scene. But more importantly, it freed up extra pairs of hands so staff could focus even more closely on the patient's underlying conditions. Kathryn and her colleagues in the emergency department are grateful to have the LUCAS devices among the available tools to care for patients even after COVID-19 safety protocols are a thing of the past.



FOUNDATION BOARD SPOTLIGHT



Susan Kaplan

Susan H. Kaplan

Chair

The Miriam Hospital Foundation
Board of Trustees

When I last wrote for this space, it was impossible to imagine what the next year-plus would bring. We've seen our lives, and our world, turned upside down. Many of us, sadly, have lost loved ones. There are new concerns, needs, and challenges.

But one thing our community will never need to worry about is the outstanding care found at The Miriam. And never will The Miriam worry about how deeply its community cares about its hospital.

The relationship we all have with our jewel of a hospital cannot be overstated, and the same is true about your incredibly generous support. During a year unlike any other, The Miriam donors took their already robust philanthropy to an entirely new level. Words alone cannot describe the overwhelming sense of gratitude I have for each and every one of you. In the face of adversity the entire Miriam Hospital family showed just how resilient we are, and just how much we put the needs of our neighbors above our own.

I am grateful for your support and for your friendship, and I have no doubt The Miriam will emerge from this pandemic stronger than ever before. On behalf of the Foundation Board of Trustees, thank you for your commitment to our hospital.

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THE HEART OF HART ENGINEERING



David Rampone

Hart Engineering Corporation is a leader in the management and construction of complex projects for a variety of sectors. It's also a leader when it comes to supporting The Miriam.

The Cumberland, Rhode Island-based company is a longtime contributor to the hospital, and its owner and president, David Rampone, and his wife, Belle, have been extraordinarily generous toward The Miriam on a personal level as well.

"The people of Rhode Island deserve a world-class hospital, and that's exactly what The Miriam is," David says. "But the community needs to support The Miriam to ensure it remains this way. So, that's what we do." Sponsoring hospital galas and golf tournaments and supporting fund-a-need campaigns are just a few examples of the Rampones' philanthropy in action. But their impact is demonstrated in other ways, too. David helps secure corporate sponsorships for hospital events, endows The Rampone Family Nurses Education Fund, and serves on the distribution committee of The Edward J. and Virginia M. Routhier Foundation, a

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major donor to The Miriam. A trustee of The Miriam Hospital Foundation, David also provided his professional expertise to the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Belle is a life member of The Miriam Hospital Women's Association and has served on several of the hospital's annual gala committees. Their son, Daniel, is on The Miriam's Foundation board of governors, and daughter, Jennafer, is active in events as well. "Our love of The Miriam is definitely a family affair," David adds. Two decades ago, David had colorectal surgery at The Miriam. Soon after, his mother was treated here for breast cancer and then for leukemia. "The way The Miriam took care of my family was amazing," he explains. "Everyone was so kind and caring and compassionate." Those experiences moved David and activated his advocacy of the hospital, which, he says, will remain forever strong. "The Miriam will always be near and dear to my heart," he says . . . and his "Hart" too!

The Miriam Memo, a publication of The Miriam Hospital Foundation, is published for our friends and supporters.

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