

The Miriam *Memo*

2024



The Miriam Hospital

Lifespan. Delivering health with care.®



COVER: Community paramedic, Kyle Jackson. Read more about Mobile Integrated Healthcare, including paramedicine, on *page 15*.

ABOVE: Nick Aridano, BSN, PACU; Sophia Batalau, RN, OR; Jolene Berthiaume, BSN, PACU.

A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

After many months of hard work and thoughtful consideration, this past June we made the exciting announcement that Lifespan and Brown University are expanding our long-standing affiliation. For all of us, this is tremendous news that will strengthen top-quality patient care, medical education, and biomedical research in Rhode Island, and support a healthier, more vibrant state.

You have likely heard that as part of this deepened collaboration we will change our name from Lifespan to Brown University Health later this year. While we want to stress that this is not a merger—we remain two distinct and independent organizations—this rebranding supports our vision of greater reach and recognition as an academic medical center. It also reflects a deeper alignment between our clinical care and research and Brown’s academic and research focus.

For Lifespan, this change in our journey to becoming a thriving healthcare system and national provider is rooted in three things: people, jobs, and the economy. This move will help us retain and recruit more doctors, nurses, scientists, and other staff. As the state’s largest employer, we know the importance of keeping jobs local and generating new employment opportunities for years to come. And we embrace the fact that a successful health system and biomedical research community is critical to our economy.

You’ll be hearing more about this in the months to come, as this work comes to fruition. Our community has long been by our side and there is no question that philanthropy will remain a powerful driver of what sets us apart from others. For your continued generosity, we will forever be grateful.

We are confident that with this collaborative approach, the future is bright for our healthcare system and for our state.

With appreciation,



Lawrence A. Aubin, Sr.



John Fernandez



Lawrence A. Aubin, Sr.
Chairman, Lifespan Board of Directors
Chairman, The Miriam Hospital
Board of Trustees

John Fernandez
President and Chief Executive Officer
Lifespan



Maria P. Ducharme, DNP, RN

President, The Miriam Hospital
Chief Quality Executive, Lifespan

Welcome to *The Miriam Memo*! On behalf of our outstanding team of dedicated doctors, nurses, and support staff, we are excited to share with you important news and updates about the beloved hospital so many in our community rely on—and that your amazing generosity supports.

In these pages, we share the latest on a bold initiative in the works that will transform the future of care at The Miriam Hospital: a once-in-a-generation construction and renovation project. This has been a long time coming and we are thrilled to outline our ambitious plan to replace our oldest building on campus with a new one that will greatly improve efficiency and enhance patient experience and outcomes. We are also excited about Lifespan’s strengthened academic affiliation with Brown University and plans to rebrand the health system later this year.

With many exciting things on the horizon, we hope you enjoy and are inspired by the enclosed highlights of next-gen medicine, innovative care programs, and grateful patients’ experiences.

We know none of the success stories would be possible if we did not have the unwavering support of our donor family. Your caring generosity enables our lifesaving and life-changing work. So, thank you for being there for us and the patients, families, and communities we serve.

Sincerely,

Maria P. Ducharme, DNP, RN

Susan H. Kaplan

WITH
Gratitude

**FEELING GRATEFUL? GREAT!
TELL US ALL ABOUT IT.**

If you or someone you know has had a meaningful experience at The Miriam Hospital and are grateful for the care received, please let us know. Doing so will help us spread an important message, which growing evidence supports: Being grateful may not only bring good feelings, but it could also lead to better health.

To share your story or show your support, please visit: giving.lifespan.org/The-Miriam/gratitude.



THREE QUESTIONS WITH KATHARINE FRENCH, MD

The fund-a-need from The Miriam's 2023 Gala & Auction was dedicated to helping the hospital acquire groundbreaking technology capable of detecting coronary artery abnormalities unique to women. Below, Katharine French, MD, Director of the Women's Cardiac Center at the Lifespan Cardiovascular Institute, provides an update and shares her thoughts on the power of philanthropy.

Tell us about the new technology.

The CoroFlow Cardiovascular System is an advanced platform that allows us to perform coronary function testing (CFT), a new protocol for patients with angina and no obstructive coronary artery disease. Typically, patients who develop chest pain—a concern for heart attack—undergo testing to look for blockages caused by cholesterol build-up in the large heart arteries. If none are found by traditional testing such as a stress test or coronary angiography, patients are often told that their chest pain is not cardiac related. They may be told, inappropriately, that their pain is musculoskeletal, gastrointestinal, or related to anxiety.



Katharine French, MD

However, we know that people can have cardiac pain related to insufficient blood flow to the heart even in the absence of significant plaque build-up. We also find that these conditions affect women disproportionately. With this new technology, CFT now provides a more complete physiologic assessment of blood flow to the heart. As a result, we can identify the cause of chest pain in up to 90 percent of patients allowing providers to tailor therapy appropriately and improve patient symptoms. Today, we are the only hospital in Rhode Island offering CFT.

What's the future of women's cardiac care at The Miriam look like?

Here in Rhode Island, we have a very unique program in that we have an incredible wealth of faculty that are experts in the field of women's cardiac health and have a passion for advancing the field. Our staff is very excited about not only integrating this new technology and filling a gap in women's cardiac care needs, but also about the prospects of expanding the program's overall capabilities. By expanding our areas of expertise and attracting more volume and diversity of medical conditions, we can strengthen our research efforts in women's cardiac care. Becoming a center of excellence is a goal of ours, and we're well on our way.

What role does philanthropy play?

The impact of donor funding cannot be overstated. Case in point, the CoroFlow acquisition. We're launching a whole other arm of technology in our cath lab, which requires a lot of resources to standup and operationalize successfully. For example, training our personnel and improving our referral base to ensure we're reaching the appropriate patients and getting them the care they need. Without philanthropic support, we just wouldn't be able to tackle any of this work in a comprehensive and effective way.



BUILDING A BETTER BEST

Ambitious capital campaign will transform the future of care at The Miriam

Year in and year out, The Miriam sits atop hospital “Best of” lists locally and regionally by delivering exceptional, compassionate, and patient-centered care to the community it has served for nearly a century.

But the hospital has been racking up those well-deserved accolades against the backdrop of a pressing, sober reality: the need for its emergency services far outpaces capacity and long overdue major infrastructure upgrades can be put off no longer.

An emergency department emergency

The Miriam’s emergency department (ED) has always been a busy place. But since the 2018 closing of Memorial Hospital in Pawtucket, the numbers have skyrocketed. In 2023, for example, the ED saw 73,000 patients. In comparison, a prominent Boston hospital with more than triple The Miriam’s 247 beds, sees about 60,000 patients annually in its ED.

This exponential patient growth has led to extended wait times, too. Again from 2023, more than 5,100 patients, or seven percent, left The Miriam’s ED without being seen by a provider because of long wait times and a lack of adequate space.

“Fortunately, the hospital is poised to undertake an ambitious \$125 million construction and renovation project aimed at addressing these daunting issues and transforming the future of care delivery at The Miriam—making the ‘Best’ hospital even better,” states Maria P. Ducharme, DNP, RN, President of The Miriam and Lifespan’s Chief Quality Executive. “Philanthropy will play a big role in bringing the new facility build to fruition and The Miriam will soon be launching a capital campaign to raise \$50 million to support the project.”

Maximizing Available Space

Because of The Miriam’s location within a neighborhood, there is little to no room for physical expansion to accommodate the hospital’s needs. So, improving flow

and throughput will be achieved by creating more efficiently designed layouts and adding built-out, slightly expanded spaces within the current footprint.

As such, the bold plan calls for the demolition of The Miriam’s administrative building, which is located on the southeast corner of the hospital campus at Summit Avenue and Fifth Street. The outdated structure cannot serve clinical purposes being it is wood-framed and will not meet current building requirements. Internally referred to as “Building A,” this is the oldest building on the hospital’s campus; built in 1926 and originally constructed as an orphanage.

Once removed, a new building will be erected on the same site, which will include a basement, three above-grade stories, and a rooftop penthouse for mechanical equipment. The redesigned ED will occupy the building’s first floor, and 49 single-patient rooms will occupy the second and third levels. Once complete, 151 of the 247 licensed beds will be private.

Single-patient rooms have become the industry norm. Among other things, they allow for increased privacy and confidentiality, provide space for family, better accommodate the technology and equipment that have become vital parts of healthcare, and offer improved infection control.

A redesigned main entrance and new ED walk-in entrance are also part of the scope of work, as is a dedicated area for behavioral health patients, an additional ambulance bay, and the relocation of the hospital’s inpatient oncology unit.

What’s next?

The State of Rhode Island and the Department of Health’s Health Services Council are currently reviewing The Miriam’s proposed plan and will render their decision in the fall. When approved, the project will begin in the spring/summer of 2025 and take 30 to 36 months to complete. Work will be executed in phases to ensure minimal disruption to existing operations and care of patients.

“In order to preserve the quality and culture of care that The Miriam was founded upon and is still known for, we must make some significant changes,” Dr. Ducharme concludes. “Doing so, with our supporters’ help, will ensure that our patients receive the care they need and deserve—*when they need it*—for the generations to come.”



THE MIRIAM GIVES BRUCE A ‘NEW LEASE ON LIFE’



Bruce Balemian with his daughter Marie

Retired auto repair shop owner Bruce Balemian could fix any car problem he encountered. But when a serious health issue threatened his mobility and quality of life, Bruce needed someone else in the driver’s seat to get back on the road to wellness.

“My last few years working, I started developing pain in my back and both legs on long walks,” Bruce recounts. “As time went on, the pain became unbearable even on short walks; it would come on after just 50 to 75 feet, and I would have to stop and sit for 15 minutes then continue.”

Initially, his primary care physician thought the discomfort may be linked to Bruce’s type 2 diabetes. But that was ruled out. Later, an orthopedist determined he had lower lumbar spinal stenosis and recommended spinal injections. Bruce’s back pain got better, but his leg pain was getting worse.

On one of his visits, the orthopedist took a stethoscope and listened to his ankles and feet. “He said ‘You don’t have a pulse in your feet,’” Bruce recalls. So, he was sent to a vascular specialist at a non-Lifespan hospital. There, a CT scan with contrast revealed many blockages in Bruce’s lower aorta and surrounding area.

In similar cases, aortobifemoral bypass surgery, which redirects blood from the blocked vessels through a graft sewn into existing arteries, is often an option. But Bruce had such severely calcified blockages, that the surgeon didn’t feel they would be able to cross clamp his arteries during surgery. It was simply too risky to attempt.

Fortunately, the chief of surgery at that hospital knew a colleague practicing elsewhere who was engaged in advanced, groundbreaking vascular medicine that could help Bruce. The colleague was Peter A. Soukas, MD, Director of the Peripheral Vascular Interventional Laboratory at the The Miriam.

Dr. Soukas performs an innovative, minimally invasive procedure called Shockwave Intravascular Lithotripsy (IVL) to treat patients like Bruce. “The technology sends a shockwave of sonic pressure waves through the blocked arteries that causes the plaque deposits to fracture, much like a windshield does when hit by a rock,” Dr. Soukas explains. “As a result of the fracturing, the blockage becomes softer, more malleable, and the artery can be expanded and blood flow restored with the placement of a stent—and without unnecessary complications.”

The Miriam was the first hospital in New England to offer such procedures in July 2017, and Bruce was the first patient in the region to be treated with the new larger L6 Shockwave balloons, which is designed for severely calcified large vessels.

On December 8, 2023, Bruce underwent the successful surgery and is grateful to be back to his old self. “Thanks to The Miriam, Dr. Soukas, and the Shockwave device, I function like a normal 66-year-old,” he smiles. “I walk all over the place with no pain. I was given a new lease of life!”

ROUTHIER GIFTS HELP ADVANCE CARE EXCELLENCE AT THE MIRIAM

For decades, The Edward J. and Virginia M. Routhier Foundation has generously supported many not-for-profit organizations and hospitals within our community—including The Miriam. Recently, the Foundation made two gifts to The Miriam, enabling the hospital to launch a new nursing scholarship program and acquire leading-edge laparoscopic equipment.

Supporting academics, procuring next-gen technology

The Routhier Foundation was established in 1995 to memorialize the charitable couple, who did not come from wealthy families but achieved success through hard work and education. Ed established and ran the Cormack-Routhier Insurance Agency, while Ginny was a registered nurse at Rhode Island Hospital for 25 years.

Because of her experience, supporting the professional development and furthering the education of Rhode Island nurses has always been a priority of the Foundation. Aligned with this belief, The Routhier Nursing Scholarship Fund at The Miriam Hospital was created from a \$50,000 gift to help nurses in their pursuit of academic advancement.

“This donation enables us to offer nursing scholarships to eligible recipients actively enrolled in an accredited Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program,” explains Vanzetta James, SVP of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer at The Miriam.

As an American Nurses Credentialing Center Magnet® designated hospital, The Miriam strives to maintain a high percentage of BSN prepared nurses, and these impactful donations, Vanzetta says, provide financial assistance to help nurses with associate degrees obtain their BSN.

“We want to express our deep appreciation and gratitude for the generous donation from the Routhier



Foundation,” she adds. “Their financial support is a testament to their commitment to the nursing community.”

The Foundation also made a \$75,000 gift to the hospital for the procurement of sophisticated laparoscopic equipment. The Miriam’s colorectal surgical team will be the primary users of the new devices—a high-tech camera and state-of-the-art laparoscope—which are vital for minimally invasive cancer surgeries and to diagnose and treat conditions within the abdomen and pelvic areas.

A History of Giving

The Routhier Foundation gifts not only help The Miriam Hospital, but they also help to honor a family’s lasting legacy of giving.

“Throughout their lives, Ed and Ginny were deeply invested in endeavors that sought to improve the community’s health and well-being and they built many strong connections with organizations who shared that driving purpose,” a Foundation spokesperson explains. “The Routhier’s wealth was earned in Rhode Island, and they lived in Rhode Island, and we want to continue their legacy of giving in the state by providing necessary funds to partners, like The Miriam, who are doing important work and serving the greater good here.”

PATIENT ASSISTANCE FUND HELPS MOST VULNERABLE



“The goal is to help keep our whole community healthy... We are grateful to the Carpionato family for their ongoing support and for caring enough to make such an incredible gift.”

—Megan Mack, LICSW

Thanks to the generosity of a well-known family with a long history of supporting The Miriam, the hospital’s most vulnerable patients now have access to basic necessities and resources that can help enhance their quality of life, improve their health outcomes, and reduce their risk of re-admission.

The Carpionato Family Patient Assistance Fund, which was established with a gift of \$100,000 from the family’s charitable trust, provides critical support to those in need and fills gaps between patient discharge and retaining community services, says Megan Mack, LICSW, Lifespan’s Director of Clinical Social Work.

“Our most vulnerable patients are most often the ones experiencing social determinants of health—stable housing is a challenge, along with reliable income to purchase healthy food options or afford their medications, and limited access to transportation to get to their appointments,” Megan explains. “As a result, these are the patients we often see back in our

emergency department. Their emergency department utilization could decrease with access to some of these basic things—or their health is far worse because these basic needs aren’t being met.”

Megan and her team are working swiftly to address this population’s immediate needs. Creating a giving closet stocked with essential clothing and footwear; filling string backpacks with hygiene products and reusable water bottles; setting up a food pantry; and purchasing bus passes or booking transportation for patients through an online rideshare platform are all initiatives already underway.

“The goal is to help keep our whole community healthy,” Megan adds, “and we absolutely would not have the capacity to do this work or to be creative and think outside the box without this fund. We are grateful to the Carpionato family for their ongoing support and for caring enough to make such an incredible gift.”

HONORING A LEGACY



Sheryl and Alfred Carpiionato

Alfred Carpiionato was one of the region's most influential real estate developers as well as a quiet philanthropist whose generosity knew no bounds. His wife, Sheryl, explains how the family's latest gift to The Miriam pays tribute to his legacy and helps improve the lives of others in meaningful and tangible ways.

"My late husband, Alfred, and I have been longtime supporters of The Miriam Hospital. When the hospital came to me and said there was a critical need for patients facing consequences related to social determinants of health, I didn't hesitate. I immediately set to work with my fellow board members to ensure The Carpiionato Charitable Trust could make an impactful gift. In honor of Alfred, we established the Carpiionato Family Patient Assistance Fund. This fund was put into action to provide patients medical appointment transportation and help patients facing food insecurity.

"Alfred and I have always admired the first-class patient care The Miriam Hospital gives to every one of their patients no matter their financial condition, pushing the benchmark on healthcare excellence and medical advancement. This gift will not only support The Miriam Hospital's continuation of their award-winning level of care, but it will also contribute to the full potential of health and well-being for our communities here in Rhode Island."



LEAVE A LASTING IMPACT

Planned giving provides donors, like you, with a meaningful opportunity to leave a lasting legacy by supporting The Miriam Hospital and positively impacting the future of patient care for generations to come.

This type of philanthropy—whether you designate The Miriam as a beneficiary of your estate, retirement account, donor advised fund, or life insurance policy—enables the hospital to remain focused, in the long term, on its unyielding pursuit of excellence in the delivery of healthcare, pioneering research, medical education, and technology.

For more information about planned giving and how it helps advance The Miriam's lifesaving work, **visit us at lifespan.org/TMHLegacy** or **contact Chris Josephson, Senior Philanthropy Officer, at 401-444-6412 or email chris.josephson@lifespan.org.**

GALA & AUCTION RAISES OVER



L-R: Theresa E. Jenner, Susan H. Kaplan, Jenna Rose, David F. Rampone, and Maria P. Ducharme, DNP, RN



Mobile Integrated Healthcare Team



Gala evening fun

The Miriam Hospital hosted more than 490 donors, friends, and supporters on Saturday, May 11 at its 2024 Gala & Auction, which took place at the Longplex Family & Sports Center in Tiverton, Rhode Island.

Themed “A Night of Champions,” the event was co-chaired by the father-daughter duo of longtime hospital supporters, David Rampone and Jenna Rose. The pair served as captains for a sold-out evening of fun and fundraising, and played up the fact that healthcare is the ultimate team sport. “Because when you win in this arena, you don’t just get an award,” David reminded attendees, “you get to save lives and improve the health of the community.”

Celebrating the champions and all-stars—the staff, donors, and patients – who help make the beloved hospital everyone’s favorite home team was a central message that reverberated throughout the soiree. As was the importance of raising much-needed funds to help support and advance the world-class, compassionate care practiced at The Miriam. In total, over \$972,000 was raised.

During the reception, guests enjoyed classic sports activities including foosball, air hockey, cornhole, and hoop shot games before being escorted by a marching band and cheerleaders to center court for the evening’s main event.

Susan H. Kaplan, Chair of The Miriam’s Foundation Board of Trustees, opened by welcoming guests and acknowledging their collective generosity. “I’m so proud of what we have accomplished together over the years by harnessing the power of philanthropy and our shared love of The Miriam,” she said.

Maria P. Ducharme, DNP, RN, President of The Miriam and Lifespan’s Chief Quality Executive, echoed Susan’s sentiments

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\$972,000

while praising the hospital’s staff of dedicated caregivers and speaking to a shift in what *Delivering health with care* will consist of moving forward. “We need to think outside the walls of The Miriam, outside the formal constructs of medical facilities, to ensure that those who need care get it where they’re at,” she explained, “and that’s where Mobile Integrated Healthcare comes in.”

One hundred percent of the proceeds from the event’s auctions and fund-a-need will support the expansion of Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) at The Miriam. The focus of a moving video shown during the event, MIH is a vital population health management approach that delivers care outside the hospital setting using mobile resources, including street medicine, community paramedicine, and community health workers. Specifically, the money raised will support the hiring of a second community health worker dedicated to The Miriam’s emergency department, as well as a MIH program coordinator, and provide the funds needed for staff and patient care supplies for the next 18 months.

Sponsorship and ticket sale proceeds from the event benefit The Miriam’s Greatest Needs Fund, which provides resources to support patient care services, educational programs, and innovative research projects.

The Miriam Hospital extends its sincere gratitude and appreciation to everyone who helped make the 2024 Gala & Auction possible, including their event and sponsorship committees, sponsors, auction donors, and entire community of supporters.



Scan this QR code to watch the moving video about Mobile Integrated Healthcare



Platinum Sponsor:



RICH PAYS IT FORWARD (AND GETS PAID BACK)



“I’m lucky to be in a position to support them, but we’re all lucky to have a place like The Miriam right in our backyard.”

—Rich Rudert

To say Rich Rudert has a strong connection to The Miriam would be an understatement. The retired electrical engineer not only lived near and volunteered at the hospital for many years, but he’s also been a patient there and a longtime donor. Recently, Rich took his support of The Miriam up a notch by establishing a charitable gift annuity (CGA) with his beloved community hospital.

An agreement between a donor and The Miriam Hospital Foundation, CGAs are fairly straightforward. The donor makes a gift of \$10,000 or more, and in exchange they receive a fixed stream of income for the remainder of their life, along with tax deductions if they qualify. After the donor passes, The Miriam keeps the remaining balance of the gift.

“I saw this as a win-win,” Rich explains. “I wanted to support The Miriam and all the great work they do but I wasn’t in a position to just give the money away—I still needed to have an income. So, for me, a charitable gift annuity was the way to go because it offered the best of both worlds. It really is the gift that pays you back.”

In addition to providing a safe investment and secured fixed rates guaranteed for life, CGAs also enable donors,

like Rich, to create a legacy of support and often make a larger contribution than they would be able to if they just made an outright gift.

Rich also has CGAs set up with Ronald McDonald House and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, his alma mater. But he says the one he has with The Miriam might be his most meaningful.

“When I started looking around for organizations to support, The Miriam was at the top of my list, because of my excellent experiences with the hospital,” he recounts. “Volunteering in the emergency department gave me great appreciation for the exceptional job they do. It was very enlightening to see the staff in action and how they, especially the nurses, hold the hospital together. I’m lucky to be in a position to support them, but we’re all lucky to have a place like The Miriam right in our backyard.”

Find out more

If you’d like to learn more about charitable gift annuities or other planned giving opportunities, **please contact Chris Josephson, Senior Philanthropy Officer for Planned Giving, at 401-444-6412 or email chris.josephson@lifespan.org.**

MOBILE INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE BRINGS CARE INTO THE COMMUNITY

The Miriam Hospital opened nearly 100 years ago with the goal of ensuring care was accessible to all. Today, that mission continues as caregivers work tirelessly to bring care to those in the community who need it—even beyond the walls of 164 Summit Avenue.

With increased wait times in emergency departments (ED) impossible to ignore, The Miriam and Rhode Island hospitals looked closely at ways to reduce barriers to accessing care for patients using the ED for non-emergent issues. As a result, in 2021, Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) began bringing care into the community.

MIH brings care to patients outside the traditional hospital setting using mobile resources. Skilled medical staff, paramedics, and community health workers (CHW) collaborate to provide patients with the care

they need, wherever their home is. This includes helping them access primary care, receive follow up care after a hospital admission, wound and burn care support, and chronic disease management. There are also food and housing insecurity resources.

MIH services include paramedicine, which involves paramedics going to a patient's home to deliver care following a discharge from the hospital. It is especially beneficial for Minimally Invasive Urology Institute patients who have had their bladder removed.

"These patients are at higher risk for infection and dehydration, so we're piloting a program that brings paramedicine to a patient's home twice a week for

four to six weeks to supplement visiting nurse services," explains Alicia Corey, Director of Case Management, who works closely with MIH at The Miriam. "Thanks to this care, we have been able to get patients home, where they are most comfortable, days and sometimes weeks sooner, than if paramedicine wasn't available. It's a win-win all around."

Incorporating a community health worker in The Miriam's emergency department has been another important piece to expanding MIH efforts. Jessica Bucci has been in that job since August 2023. As part of her work, she is also a peer recovery specialist and

plays a critical role connecting individuals with resources they may not have access to on their own.

"It's a good support for people, and especially for the most vulnerable in our community," says

Jessica. "Everyone's situation is different and I'm here to help with everything from housing and food applications to primary care appointments—the list goes on. Our goal is that everyone gets the care they need."

"The addition of community health workers is an enormous strength in our ED and we need more of them!" explains emergency medicine physician, Nick Asselin, DO. Thanks to support from this year's gala, that will become a reality (learn more on page 13).

"If it wasn't for Lifespan [and the support from CHWs] I don't think I'd be here [alive] anymore," says one unhoused patient who was receiving support from Jessica.





The Miriam Hospital
Lifespan. Delivering health with care.®
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GIVING BACK IS THE NAME OF THE GAME FOR IGT

You'd likely be hard-pressed to find a company more committed to people and communities than IGT. The worldwide leader in regulated gaming technologies boasts nearly 11,000 employees around the globe, and it provides each one a voice to make a difference through the causes most important to them. And with a significant presence in Rhode Island, IGT has been a steadfast supporter of The Miriam Hospital.

"Hospitals are incredibly important resources and we need to support them in the same way they take care of our families, friends, and neighbors," says Wendy Montgomery, IGT's Senior Vice President of Marketing, Communications and Sustainability.

The foundation of IGT's philanthropy to The Miriam is built upon its generous support of the hospital's signature Gala & Auction. Beginning in 2010, and continuing each year since like clockwork, IGT serves not only as a high-level sponsor, but also has contributed exciting live auction packages, such as a Patriots experience in their suite at Gillette Stadium. Their sponsorship funds help to advance patient care services and innovative research projects.

"The Miriam is a world-class hospital, right here in our own backyard," adds Wendy, who deepened her personal connection by becoming a Governor of the hospital's Foundation Board. "So many of our local colleagues have relied on The Miriam."



Employees at a Global Giving event

Wendy is quick to point out the reach of IGT's corporate social impact, which extends worldwide thanks to its team members and customers. The company hosts Global Giving Month each May, when all employees are given a day off with pay to volunteer that time at a nonprofit of their choice. IGT also offers a matching gift

program for employees who donate to certified nonprofits, and a "Dollars for Doers" program that provides grants of up to \$250 to charitable organizations when an employee volunteers at least 12 hours there in a calendar year.

"We truly enjoy a culture where our people believe in the community initiatives we're involved with, and where we return that same belief in the causes that matter most to them," finishes Wendy. "At every level of IGT, we are committed to our robust Sustainable Play™ strategy, which includes supporting good health and wellbeing."

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

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We invite you to learn more by contacting the Development Office at 401-793-2004 or visit lifespan.org/TMH-giving.