Donor Gift Helps Launch Telemedicine Program at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center

Joyce Lagnese knows a thing or two about telemedicine. She is so well-versed in it, in fact, the Hartford attorney was eager to help launch the first telemedicine program at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, providing children in distant areas of the state with greater accessibility to the hospital’s pediatric specialists.

In effect, telemedicine brings the doctor to the patient’s bedside, no matter where that bedside may be. The new system at Connecticut Children’s is expected to be the first synchronous telemedicine program in the state in which clinicians can evaluate, diagnose and treat patients remotely in real time.

“To see Connecticut Children’s at the forefront of pediatric telemedicine is very exciting,” said Lagnese, who provided a gift in the amount of $110,000 to purchase the specialized equipment needed to implement the program. "It's primary purpose is to bring greater access to high-quality care for children who might otherwise not have that access," she said.

With Attorney Joyce Lagnese’s generous donor gift, Connecticut Children’s was able to purchase a telemedicine cart, which will help the Medical Center launch its new telemedicine program. She is pictured here with James Moore, MD, PhD, Neonatology Division Chief, who chairs the multidisciplinary team implementing the program. (Photo Credit: Erin Blinn-Curran)

This year’s 17th Annual Concorso Ferrari & Friends rolled into West Hartford on Sunday, June 25, in support of Connecticut Children’s Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders. Here, Concorso Committee Member Tim Prete poses with Bianca Mollica, who is among five Connecticut Children's patients pictured on the car hood. Learn more about this exciting event on page 6.
WHAT IS TELEMEDICINE ANYWAY?
Telemedicine – also referred to as “telehealth” – is a means by which patients can be diagnosed and treated at a distance by two-way telecommunications technology. But it’s much more than a visual conference call. Synchronous telemedicine relies on the high-tech capabilities of specialized diagnostic equipment and a communications partner – in this case, Avizia and its CA200 telemedicine cart – to make real-time exams possible.

“I led a grand rounds at the Medical Center and had done a ton of research on what this technology could mean for Connecticut,” said Lagnese, a founding principal of DanaherLagnese, PC, who devotes a significant portion of her professional time giving lectures to medical professionals and working with hospital risk managers and quality officers on strategies for improving patient safety.

“I had discovered a hospital in Texas that uses telemedicine for remote care,” Lagnese explained. “In Texas, you could easily be 500 miles from a Level 1 Trauma Center, which means children requiring emergency care would have to be airlifted to Dallas. Today, care providers now have direct access to those same doctors without the costs and risks associated with transports.”

TELEMEDICINE EXPERTISE
While giving her grand rounds presentation, Lagnese met a physician who had raised his hand to comment. That physician was James Moore, MD, PhD, the new Neonatology Division Chief at Connecticut Children’s who had worked previously at the Children’s Medical Center of Dallas, where he had implemented the successful telemedicine program she was citing.

“We had a number of different uses for telemedicine, particularly in Neonatology,” said Dr. Moore, who chairs the multidisciplinary team of experts implementing the new telemedicine program at Connecticut Children’s. “Nearly 40 percent of infants consulted on by the TeleNICU program were able to obtain care at medical centers close to home instead of being transported to Dallas for treatment.”

The telemedicine program also had applications in the Dallas County school system, enabling children to get needed routine preventive visits, flu shots, vaccinations, and sick-care consults. “The program has grown since I left and they’ve since expanded it to other school districts,” he said.

A BROAD FIELD
According to Dr. Moore, the field of telemedicine is very broad. “Within telehealth, there are multiple applications, many of which we have already implemented.”

Under telehealth, there are two broad categories: asynchronous and synchronous encounters, he explained. Asynchronous consultations are those that are not conducted in real time. For example, a physician may provide a consult on a patient after reviewing a case, X-rays or other medical information, which is referred to as an e-consult.

“Synchronous consultations is what Joyce is helping us achieve,” Dr. Moore said. “Synchronous consultations will give us the ability to do complete patient exams in real-time with partner hospitals equipped with specialized telemedicine technology.”

Each telemedicine cart comes with a high-definition screen and two cameras. The cart itself is wheeled and wireless, so it can be easily moved and used in any area of the hospital where it might be needed – the Emergency Department, the NICU or other inpatient areas. The unit comes with a variety of accessories, such as stethoscopes and otoscopes, allowing the doctor to perform a complete exam, just as if the patient were right there in the office.

“A doctor from far away will be able to do a thorough exam on a patient with the exception of touching the patient,” Dr. Moore said.

THE FUTURE OF TELEMEDICINE
For Lagnese, the implementation of the telemedicine program at Connecticut Children’s is just the humble beginning. “I’ve lectured on what telemedicine provides,” Lagnese said. From uses in dermatology and ophthalmology to primary care, the possibilities seem endless.

“For inner-city children whose parents are not able to get them to a doctor, they could go to a local kiosk and connect to a portal,” Lagnese said. “They are starting to put these kiosks in schools around the country. I’m foreseeing these types of applications.”

“I expect in time, telemedicine at Connecticut Children’s will continue to evolve,” Dr. Moore said. “We will continue to rapidly expand its uses because this is where the future of medicine is evolving, utilizing technology to improve access to care.”

In the meantime, the rollout of the program continues.

“The first real-time, synchronous remote exam will be coming up this fall with one of our patients. Without Joyce, we would not be in the position to do this at this time,” Dr. Moore said.

“The good that Connecticut Children’s has done over the years is so heartwarming to me,” Lagnese said. “I am happy to do whatever I can to help.”
Making the Biggest Impact Possible…

Endowed Fund Matching Gift Campaign Underway

At Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, we rely on philanthropy to bring hope and healing to pediatric patients from across our region.

With the availability of a new Endowed Fund Matching Gift Campaign – The Perfect Match: One Gift – Limitless Possibilities – donor gifts of $50,000 or more will make an even larger impact, supporting the Medical Center with a gift that spans generations.

With $2 million in seed money provided by a generous donor for investment in new technologies, people and research, gifts of $50,000 to $250,000 will be matched dollar for dollar, doubling their value. Meanwhile, gifts of more than $250,000 will be matched by $250,000, transforming a potential $750,000 gift into a $1 million endowment.

WHAT ARE ENDOWMENTS?

“Endowments are gifts that provide critical funding for the programs and services our donors care about most,” said David Kinahan, President of Connecticut Children’s Medical Center Foundation. “At Connecticut Children’s, establishing an endowed fund is perhaps one of the most meaningful ways to create a family legacy while supporting the hospital with a gift that lasts forever.”

An endowment offers a permanent, self-sustaining source of funding in which the principal is invested and a fixed percentage of the income is spent each year to fulfill a donor’s philanthropic wishes. The remaining portion of the income is returned to the principal to ensure that the balance and the donor’s impact continue to grow.

An endowment creates financial stability, allowing Connecticut Children’s to be less reliant on unpredictable sources of income that can vary from year to year. Endowments support a rich variety of purposes, such as staffing and research.

As a donor to The Perfect Match campaign, you will get to determine how the funds are used – either designated to a specific program of interest to you, or given without restrictions to Connecticut Children’s to fund the most critical needs.

To learn more, please contact the Foundation at 860.837.5700.

Hyundai Hope on Wheels Presents $50,000 Impact Award for Cancer Research

Connecticut Children’s was chosen this year to receive a Hyundai Hope on Wheels Impact Award to support pediatric cancer research. The $50,000 grant was presented to Connecticut Children’s oncologist Eileen Gillan, MD, Neuro-Oncology and Connecticut Children’s Medical Center in a June 27 ceremony.

“Brain tumors are now the most common malignancies in children,” Dr. Gillan said. “We have had 22 new cases in the last six months. At Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, we are able now to get DNA targets isolated from all of the tumors, and based upon the personalized targets for each child, we are able to choose drugs specifically designed for that child. We have come a long way toward getting cures for these kids.”

In addition to the check presentation, the highlight of the event focused on Connecticut Children’s oncology patients, who coated their hands with paint and covered the official Hope Vehicle – a Hyundai Santa Fe – with colorful handprints representing pediatric cancer patients’ collective journeys, hopes and dreams.

LONGLTIME SUPPORTER

The Hyundai Hope on Wheels program is dedicated to funding pediatric cancer research and treatment and has been active for 18 years, with more than $130 million raised.

“This is the eighth consecutive year that Connecticut Children’s has received support from the program,” said Connecticut Children’s President and CEO Jim Shmerling, “and this year’s $50,000 grant brings the total amount raised to $750,000, which is just amazing.”

“We strive for a day when no child ever has to lose the battle against this disease again,” said Bryan Thompson, Hyundai Senior Manager of Merchandising, Eastern Region.
Where There’s a Will, There’s a Way—Anyone Can Make a Planned Gift to Connecticut Children’s Medical Center

When you hear terms like “bequest” and “estate planning” in relation to Connecticut Children’s Medical Center Foundation, it might be natural to assume they apply only to people who are very wealthy, who have large estates to manage. But in fact, making a planned gift to Connecticut Children’s is something anyone can do.

For proof of that idea, you need look no farther than Bill Hutt and Pat and Tom Forgetta, hardworking people who recently included Connecticut Children’s in their wills. They are not captains of industry or movie stars; in fact, they insist that they are unremarkable people. But they are remarkable, because they have made a commitment to provide world-class medical care to children they will never meet, children who will be born decades from now. There is nothing ordinary about that.

MEET BILL HUTT

The first thing Bill Hutt wants you to know about him is that he’s not a hero. He says this because otherwise you might naturally come to that conclusion. As a young man he joined the Marines, rose to the rank of E-5 Sergeant, and served in the Da Nang region during the Vietnam War.

After four years in the Marines, he came back home to East Hartford and, apparently not having done enough service, took a job with the East Hartford Fire Department in July 1968. He spent the next 25 years risking his life putting out fires, saving homes and businesses, and helping people in traffic accidents, retiring on July 1, 1993.

By civilian standards, anyone going from Marine combat in Vietnam to 25 years of firefighting would have to be considered heroic. But the word “heroic” implies a noble motivation, and for Bill Hutt, that’s not what being a firefighter is about. In his mind, he’s simply doing his job, no different than the other men and women doing that job.

If you ask him about moments of high drama in his career, he will quickly and forcefully steer the conversation in a different direction. Of course, as with any firefighter, there were moments of high drama, extreme risk, and extraordinary courage. But for Bill, that’s just part of the job, and something that all his fellow firefighters did, and did without fanfare or glory.

A NO-NONSENSE KIND OF MAN

In general, Bill Hutt is a no-nonsense kind of man. He lives modestly, appears to have no vices or indulgences of any kind, does not use email, and has never been on the Internet. He’s not a large man, but he is vigorous, fit and gives the impression of being tough. That’s an impression reinforced by the circumstances of his birth.

“I was born in Hartford Hospital February 9, 1944,” he said. “But there was some damage to my head, and they thought I wasn’t going to make it. They told my mother, ‘You’re young; you’ll have another baby.’ But I’m still here!”

He’s a faithful Catholic, a 30-year member of the Elks and a life member of the VFW and the Volunteer Hose Company No. 3. Although he had an active dating life, he never married.

“When people ask me about that,” he says, “I tell them that my drill sergeant in the Marines told us, ‘If the Marine Corps had wanted you to have a wife, it would have issued you one.’ And I always lived by that motto.”

A DESIRE TO GIVE BACK

When it came time to make his will, Connecticut Children’s came immediately to mind. “I always admired what the Medical Center does for the kids,” Bill says. “I never had children, and I just want to do something for kids, to give back a little bit. I first became involved in the Stuff-a-Cruiser campaign at Christmas, and then I took a tour of the Medical Center. There’s so much good they do, and the people really care.”

Continued on page 5.
MEET PAT AND TOM FORGETTA
Most of us were told as kids that we should work hard and plan for the future. And most of us completely ignored that advice until we were old enough to see its wisdom—and too old to use it.

But Tom and Pat Forgetta apparently took it to heart. They met in high school in 1955 and were married five years later. They bought their first house when they were 21, made their will when they were 31 and bought their cemetery plots and prepaid their funeral expenses when they were in their 40s. Tom says they even decided on the order of their cemetery plots: “I told the cemetery person that it had to be Pat’s mother, then Pat, then me. I’m not going to be in between those two for eternity!”

Pat is the planner in the household. She had a career in banking and at Aetna, doing accounting and collections, so the planning is second nature to her. And their home in Rocky Hill reflects that. It’s beautifully designed, elegantly decorated and remarkably tidy. They entertain regularly, which gives Pat a chance to indulge her passion for cooking.

Tom is the epitome of the childhood admonition to work hard. He held down three jobs at once during their early years (how else can a 21-year-old couple afford a house?). And he spent 30 years as a specialist in refrigeration systems for First National and Stop & Shop grocery stores. Then he tried retiring, but couldn’t stand not working, so he took a position with a friend’s company, where he worked full time for another 17 years. Today, at 78, he still works there from time to time when they need his expertise.

Tom is also the person everyone in their housing development calls when they have something broken in their house. He knows how to fix just about anything, and he enjoys the problem solving.

A LOVE OF CLASSIC CARS
One of the central parts of their lives has been classic cars. It started with a 1957 Thunderbird (Colonial White and Cumberland Green seats with Willow Green inserts), which Tom had repainted, including the engine. He even buffed the aluminum valve covers. That was followed by a black ’67 Mustang, and his current car, an electric-yellow ’93 Mustang.

“I ran into our neighbor a couple of days ago,” Pat said, “and she said, ‘I saw Tom go out this morning with the top down and his yellow cap, and that car’s a chick magnet!”

Tom belongs to a classic car club and participates in car shows regularly. “He won a lot of awards with those cars,” Pat says, “over the years at the many shows he attended. We had so darn many trophies we ran out of places to store them and had to get rid of some.”

CARING FOR CHILDREN
The Forgettas decided to put Connecticut Children’s in their will because of its reputation. “We have no children of our own,” Pat says, “and I remembered how they took such good care of my twin brothers when it was Newington Children’s Hospital. What could be a better cause than caring for and saving the lives of little children?”

In fact, when their investment portfolio did particularly well with the rebounding stock market, they revised their will to give an increased amount to Connecticut Children’s, thus ensuring that the Forgettas won’t be forgotten.

For more information about helping children in the future by making a bequest to Connecticut Children’s Medical Center Foundation, please contact Rob Keane at Rkeane@connecticutchildrens.org or at 860.837.5714.
Many Events, One Great Cause . . .

ACES SHATTERS PREVIOUS FUNDRAISING RECORDS

The 15th Annual Aces for Kids Golf Outing shattered its previous fundraising records this spring, raising more than $90,000 for Connecticut Children’s Advanced Cancer Care Program, which provides access to state-of-the-art therapies for children with resistant or recurring cancers.

One hundred and fifty players participated in the event held May 20 at the Blue Fox Run Golf Course in Avon, with the aircraft equipment supplier Bauer, Inc., emerging as the winning team. Kevin Negandhi, the anchor for ESPN’s “SportsCenter”, served as emcee.

This year also marked the first event under the chairmanship of William Gonet and Roy Goldsmith from Barnes Aerospace, who took over from former Aces for Kids co-chairmen Glen Greenberg and Alan Kick. That’s not to say the two are no longer involved: This year, for example, Greenberg played in a foursome with Connecticut Children’s President and CEO Jim Shmerling, Robert Bouvier and Jeffrey Greenberg.

SECOND ANNUAL NATE’S JUNIOR WARRIOR RUN A SUCCESS

More than 260 “Junior Warriors” crawled through mud, carried sandbags, and jumped over a “Warrior Wall” during the vie for the kids Nate’s Junior Warrior Run to raise crucial funds for cancer clinical trials, cancer research and family support at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center.

The Junior Warriors, ages 10-18, raised more than $22,000 during the second annual event held Saturday, June 3, at Rosedale Farms in Simsbury.

Thanks to all the Junior Warriors who participated, once again showing that kids can make a difference. For information on upcoming events, please visit www.vieforthekids.org.

CONCORSO FERRARI & FRIENDS: CELEBRATING CARS, BENEFITING CARE

The 17th Annual Concorso Ferrari & Friends rolled into town Sunday, June 25, raising more than $100,000 for Connecticut Children’s Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders.

This year’s festivities kicked off with the “Parade of Kids” in which 40 Connecticut Children’s patients were paired with drivers for the exhilarating experience of taking an escorted ride into the heart of downtown West Hartford, Connecticut. Upon reaching their destination, they were greeted by the cheers of thousands of spectators and a red-carpet welcome.

Concorso Ferrari celebrates all makes and models of Italian automobiles – from vintage Alfa Romeos, Fiats and Lamborghinis to the supercars of Ferrari, Pagani and Maserati – all to benefit Connecticut Children’s.

Please save the date for next year, Sunday, June 24, 2018! For more information, please visit www.FerrariandFriends.com.

Many Events, One Great Cause, Continued on page 7
Many Events, One Great Cause . . ., continued from page 6.

Geno Auriemma’s Charity Golf Tournament . . .

FUNDRAISER SCORES IMAGING EQUIPMENT “FORE THE KIDS”

Coach Geno Auriemma joined 160 golfers on the links in late June to raise the remaining funds needed to purchase specialized imaging equipment for Connecticut Children’s Orthopedics Division.

The 2017 Geno Auriemma’s “Fore the Kids” Charity Golf Tournament, which celebrated its 15th year of play June 26th, raised approximately $130,000 toward the purchase of an ultra-low-dose imaging system to benefit patient care.

Funds raised at the past three charity golf tournaments, hosted by Coach Auriemma at the Hartford Golf Club, will be used to purchase the technology, which will provide Connecticut Children’s orthopedic surgeons with state-of-the-art image quality that will allow more rapid and accurate X-rays while significantly decreasing the radiation exposure for patients.

The new imaging equipment, called the EOS® Imaging System, is a low-dose, three-dimensional imaging system that scans a child while standing. The application of EOS imaging is especially useful in relation to scoliosis and in treating vertical imbalances in the spine. Its use has also been helpful in the study of pelvic and lower-limb deformities and pathology in adult and pediatric patient populations.

The new equipment is expected to be installed later this year.

A Wondrous Place for You and Me…

2017 Connecticut Children’s Gala Will Present a Whole New World

This year’s Connecticut Children’s Medical Center Gala promises to be even grander than previous years, perhaps because we have a genie at our disposal. The genie is part of this year’s theme, which is “A Wondrous Place for You and Me,” based on the Disney movie “Aladdin.”

The event will once again be held at the Connecticut Convention Center, on Saturday, November 11, from 6 to 11 pm.

There will be a silent auction, a dinner fit for a sultan, engaging speakers, a live auction, and star-studded entertainment. Best of all, you don’t have to rub a brass lamp to get into the palace—you can simply reserve a table and buy tickets, donate an item for the auction, or become an Honorary Committee member.

And by doing that, you will become a genie yourself, helping us provide care that is truly wondrous.

To learn more, visit the Foundation website at https://connecticutchildrensfoundation.org/gala.

26th Annual Isidore Wise Scholars Named at Connecticut Children’s

This year’s “Aladdin” cast includes (l-r) Connecticut Children’s patients Lily Velez as Jasmine, Drew Fowler as Aladdin, Jordan Strom as the Genie, and Charlie Arvin as Abu, the monkey.

The 2017 Isidore Wise Scholarship winners were (l-r) Nathan Bergin, Miriam Holsbeke, Flora Klise, Stephanie Marquez, and Alexander Bohr.

This year’s recipients of the 26th annual Isidore Wise Scholarship were honored in a ceremony at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center June 9. The recipients were Nathan Bergin of Farmington, Miriam Holsbeke of West Hartford, Flora Klise of Mystic, Stephanie Marquez of East Hartford, and Alexander Bohr of Coventry.

Each year, the Wise scholarship program at Connecticut Children’s selects five high school seniors who exhibit outstanding academic achievement, community service and strength of character. Each Scholar – all past or current patients of Connecticut Children’s – receives $5,000 to use for his or her post-secondary education.

This year’s recipients, chosen from 100 outstanding applicants, are remarkably accomplished: in academics, most are members or officers of the National Honor Society; in sports, some have overcome disabilities to compete and win, including on the international level; and in the arts, they perform at adult levels, including one who co-wrote a play performed at Edinburgh’s Fringe Festival.

The Isidore Wise Scholarship Awards program at Connecticut Children’s was established through the bequest of Mr. Isidore Wise, who was a member of the Newington Children’s Hospital Board of Directors for 45 years.
Our NICU Care...

Connecticut Children’s Medical Center’s highly skilled neonatology staff provides exceptional care to premature or critically ill newborns in two state-of-the-art neonatal intensive care units (NICUs): one located at Hartford Hospital, and the other at the University of Connecticut Health Center. Nearly 1,000 newborns are admitted into Connecticut Children’s NICUs from hospitals across the region each year. Here, Nahomie Bernard holds her three babies who were cared for in the Hartford NICU this spring.

A Proud Member...

Connecticut Children’s Medical Center is a proud member of Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals. Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals helps to raise funds and awareness for 170 children’s hospitals across North America, helping more than 17 million kids each year. Funds raised through this organization stay in the local community in which they are given. For more information, please visit www.cmnhospitals.org.

Be a Partner in Caring

Your gift, large or small, makes a difference in the lives of children. Donations toward equipment, technology, research, people and programs bring hope and health to those who entrust their care to Connecticut Children’s. Won’t you please consider making a tax-deductible donation today? Your generosity helps us provide our region’s children with the best care possible—each and every day.

To learn more, please contact the Foundation at 860.837.5700, or visit our website at www.connecticutchildrensfoundation.org.

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Partners in Caring is a quarterly publication of Connecticut Children’s Medical Center Foundation, highlighting the programs and services of Connecticut Children’s. To be added to or removed from our mailing list, please contact snapolitano02@connecticutchildrens.org.