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Winter 2011/12

news & events at Blythedale Children's Hospital

Blythedale Opens New Inpatient Building

Two-and-a-half years after breaking ground, Blythedale Children's Hospital celebrated the grand opening of its \$65.3 million new inpatient facility with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

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Moving Day at Blythedale

On December 6th, 11-year-old Henry (pictured at left) and Blythedale President and CEO Larry Levine made an historic walk from the Hospital's old adolescent unit to Henry's new room in Blythedale's 56,000 square-foot replacement inpatient facility. Blythedale staff cheered as Henry, the first of 75 patients moved, was wheeled into his new room.

With clockwork precision, Henry's friend and roommate, Jacob, was ushered to the new room just three-and-a-half minutes later.

Having arrived on the new Pediatric and Adolescent Unit, the boys were eager to test out the new remote controls on their beds and start exploring their new surroundings. All of

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Letter from the CEO

Dear Friends,

Early in December I had the distinct pleasure of accompanying 11-year-old Henry from his inpatient room in our "old" building to his room in our newly opened inpatient hospital. This was significant because Henry was designated as the first patient to move in a meticulously orchestrated procedure to transfer all of our medically fragile patients into our new building.

Our shared enthusiasm was palpable, though not for the same reasons. Henry was awed by the high-tech remote for his bed, the flat screen tv, and the elephants outside his window. I, on the other hand, was seeing the realization of a dream, nine years in the making. A dream in which an extraordinary children's hospital would one day call home to a facility that mirrored the exceptionally high quality of the level of its patient care. And there we were. The nurse call system, beeping reassuringly as ventilators were plugged in, assured me that this was indeed not just a dream. We did in fact build a state-of-the-art hospital that will provide limitless opportunities for future generations of children. We have so much to be thankful for, and offer our deepest gratitude to our Board of Trustees, donors, staff, volunteers, and countless friends and supporters, for helping to make this dream a reality for our children and their families.

From our "home" to yours, we wish you the very best in the new year.

Sincerely,



Larry Levine

President and CEO



Above, L-R: Blythedale Drs. Agnes Banquet, M.D., Kathy Silverman, D.O., and Chief of Pediatrics Laura Mirkinson, M.D., listen to a clinical case study, via Skype. Right: Clinicians from ALYN offer an assessment on a case.



International Collaboration

Blythedale has embarked on an innovative international collaboration with ALYN Children's Hospital in Jerusalem, in order to create a forum between the two specialty children's hospitals and enhance the quality of patient care to children with complex medical conditions. Key staff from both hospitals have travelled overseas for on-site visits, and both facilities now participate in regularly scheduled interdisciplinary patient care grand rounds, via the internet videoconferencing tool Skype. Clinical teams from each hospital come to the "virtual" table with a patient case study to present, in order to participate in a real-time evaluation.

"This collaboration is vitally important on many levels," said Blythedale President and CEO Larry Levine. "The beauty of these web platforms is in their ability to enable our clinical partners in Jerusalem to feel as though they are in the same room with us, participating firsthand in a multidisciplinary evaluation. This has enabled us to pool our extraordinary clinical resources in order to advance the quality of patient care."

ALYN Director General Mauri Beer, MD, said, "Our two hospitals share much in common, including a great deal of innovative thinking as it relates to how to improve the delivery of healthcare to children."

In the coming year, Blythedale and ALYN plan to continue to conduct bi-monthly grand rounds, focusing on specific patient cases, as well as work to develop innovative and path-breaking clinical protocols in areas such as wound care, traumatic brain injury, gait analysis, and feeding therapy. The hospitals are also working together on projects related to pain care protocols and interventions, transition of adolescents from pediatrics into an adult-oriented health-care system, and measurement of patient outcomes.

"We are utilizing every tool in our collective toolkit to ease the flow of information, and improve medical services for children," said Levine.



Ribbon-Cutting

(continued from page 1)

Filling the rotunda of the new lobby for the first time, Hospital administration and Trustees were joined by current and former patients, donors, elected officials, community leaders, staff and volunteers as the 56,000 square foot inpatient hospital was formally opened.

“The thing that is most special about Blythedale is that it has been constantly changing and adapting for the last 120 years,” said Blythedale Board Chair Owen Gutfreund, during his opening remarks. “Blythedale has been here not to do its own thing, but to figure out what medically fragile children need. Medicine changes so Blythedale changes. This new facility is part of that constant process of adaptation.”

“To keep up with these advances, and the increasing medical complexity of our patient population, a plan was born,” said Blythedale President and CEO Larry Levine. “We needed to dream big... and we did. Today is the culmination of many years of planning, advocacy and fundraising.”



Clockwise from above left: the Zuzzulo and Harter families catch up during the reception following the ribbon-cutting. (L-R) Blythedale Campaign Chair Larry Cohen, former patient Madison Coffey, Day Hospital patient Mary Zuzzulo, Board Chair Owen Gutfreund, former patient Saverio Sportella, and President and CEO Larry Levine officially mark the opening of the new building. (L-R) Blythedale Trustees Pat Stanley, Judy Goodhue, Jeanne Savitt, Peggy Tanner, Owen Gutfreund, Heidi Schwartz, Nancy Pundyk, Lucy Schmolka, and Honorary Trustee Peg Michelman, (L-R) Owen Gutfreund, Larry Levine, Trustee Terri Herenstein, State Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins, State Senator Suzi Oppenheimer, County Executive Rob Astorino, and Larry Cohen. Congresswoman Nita Lowey offers her congratulations.





15th Annual Golf & Tennis Classic raises more than \$200,000

Our Annual Golf & Tennis Classic at Sunningdale Country Club was a tremendous success this year, with 108 golfers, and over \$200,000 raised for Blythedale’s new inpatient facility. Stanley Cup Champion Mike Richter, from the New York Rangers, was the event’s Honorary Chair and auctioneer for the night. Thank you to all of our sponsors and donors, as well as our 2011 Golf Committee, including co-chairs Dan Kortick and Carmine Lippolis.



L-R: Eagle Sponsor and Former Blythedale Board Chair, John L. Furth, Blythedale Board Chair Owen Gutfreund, Former NY Ranger and event’s Honorary Chair Mike Richter, and Board member and event committee member Merwin Haskel.



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Clockwise from top left: Presenting Sponsor BlueMountain Capital Management: David Sachs, Alan Gerstein, Paul Degan, and Lee Copeland; Title Sponsor The Dreyfus Corporation: Bernie Kiernan, Former NY Ranger and event’s Honorary Chair, Mike Richter, Dreyfus’ President Charles Cardona, and Syd Gordon; The Dreyfus Corporation: Tracy Hopkins, Pete Henshaw, Michele Molfetta, and Carol Moses; Brunch Sponsor TD Bank: Deney Chau, Emmet Conlon, Ben Rosenschein, and Paul DeMarco.

For more information, please contact Carey Dalton at (914) 831-2513 or careyd@blythedale.org.

In the Spotlight

Entergy Charitable Foundation

Blythedale Children's Hospital recently received a \$10,000 grant from the Entergy Charitable Foundation to provide funding for a certified preschool teacher in the Hospital's Early Childhood Center.

Blythedale's Early Childhood Center provides a specialized preschool program to medically fragile children from birth through age five who are inpatients and Day Hospital patients at Blythedale Children's Hospital.

"Grants such as these are vital to the work we do at Blythedale," said President and CEO Larry Levine. "We are deeply grateful to corporations like Entergy that recognize the importance of funding programs that directly impact the lives of children."

"The opportunity for Entergy to provide funding for Blythedale Children's Hospital's Early Childhood Center is something we take pride in," said Lori Sheldon, communications specialist for Entergy. "The program's unique, hospital-based services help strengthen these young children both physically and developmentally at a crucial period during their stays at the hospital or while they are preparing for kindergarten, and we are so happy to be a part of it."

For information on Blythedale's Corporate and Foundation Giving program, please contact Andy Loose, Director of Grants and Foundation Relations, at (914) 831-2514 or by e-mail at andrew.loose@blythedale.org.

Making a Difference

TJ Steintal, an eighth-grader at the Resurrection School in Rye, NY, was inspired by his weekly visits to Blythedale for speech therapy to give back to the children whose needs were greater than his own.

"Every week when I go for speech, I work on making learning easier for me," said TJ, in a letter he wrote to encourage others to support his campaign. "It is hard, especially when my friends get to go into town or the library or sports, but I know it will help me achieve my goals. But the other children, with more severe physical and mental disabilities have a harder time achieving their goals."

TJ decided he could make the greatest impact by holding a book drive for Blythedale. He encouraged friends, family and community



members to donate new books, in English and Spanish, and DVDs for the children. During his weekly visits, TJ drops off his latest collection.

"TJ's spearheading of this project is nothing short of monumental,"

said Blythedale Director of Volunteer Services Jabeen Dinzey. "The books and DVDs that he has donated will provide immeasurable pleasure to both our patients and the children visiting our Family Resource Center."

For further information on volunteer opportunities, please contact Jabeen Dinzey at (914) 831-2428 or jdinzey@blythedale.org.



Blythedale is pleased to announce the formation of The Leadership Circle. This generous group of donors will help secure Blythedale's future as the pre-eminent children's specialty hospital serving our region's most medically fragile children.

Leadership Circle members provide a foundation of support for the Hospital on an annual basis. The Leadership Circle will enable Blythedale to continue to grow as a national leader in developing innovative, multi-disciplinary medical

The Leadership Circle

and therapeutic programs, as well as strengthen our position as a community resource for children with a variety of complex medical challenges. Membership begins at the \$1,000 level and includes various benefits that help members stay connected to Blythedale.

"We are able to accomplish so much through the generosity of our donors," said Blythedale President and CEO Larry Levine. "By joining our Leadership Circle, our supporters become a vital part of our team, improving the lives of medically fragile children."

For more information, please contact Carey Dalton at (914) 831-2513 or careyd@blythedale.org.

Moving Day

(continued from page 1)

Blythedale's inpatients were moved in less than five hours.

The move follows months of preparation and training of staff, particularly with respect to the many new technologies available in the new inpatient hospital. As patients were checked into their new rooms, the cycle continued with parents immediately undergoing orientation sessions to familiarize them with the many new features and amenities available in the new facility.

Clockwise from right: Henry and Jacob settle in; Kayden gets snuggled into his new crib on the Infant and Toddler Unit; physicians familiarize themselves with the new nursing "pods"; Maryelis is transported quickly to her new room; training for parents began following the transfer of each patient.



For Nancy Reyer, mother of 15-year-old Michael, tears flowed easily upon seeing her son's new room. Michael was admitted this fall for intensive rehabilitation after suffering severe burns (and a subsequent acquired brain injury) as the result of an exploding gel candle.

"The new Hospital is so beautiful," she gushed. "We are so happy with the care Michael has received at Blythedale. The new building just makes all aspects of hospitalization a little easier, for both of us."

With the move complete, the second phase of the building project will now begin. This will include extensive renovations to the old hospital building.



John Fox Helps Patients Find Their Voice



In an extraordinary event coordinated through Blythedale's Child Life department, internationally recognized poetry therapist John Fox was on site for two days running small-group sessions and visiting with patients bedside. This was Fox's third visit to Blythedale in the last four years. Fox, a process-oriented therapist, strives to empower people to give voice to their experience.

According to Blythedale's Child Life Coordinator Lisa Levinson, poetry therapy is a natural extension of the Child Life philosophy to provide creative outlets to process emotions and foster self-esteem. "John's orientation melds perfectly with our Department's. We are all about creating the "right space", an environment of support, letting each person feel "heard" and validated, all while promoting acceptance."

Poetry therapy is described as the intentional use of poetry and other forms of literature for healing and personal growth.

"Writing allows us to discover how vulnerabilities and strengths can co-exist, even thrive together," said Fox. "Poems can give voice to what is raw and wounded in your life and that honesty can bolster and guide you through rough times."

Preventing Brain Injuries

This fall, Blythedale presented an important Town Hall meeting on “Student Athletes & Head Injuries: Everything Parents, Coaches and Kids Need to Know”. Dr. Chris Rackley and Dr. Jay Selman, co-directors of Blythedale’s Traumatic Brain Injury Program, were joined by former NFL running back and Super Bowl champ Dorsey Levens to discuss how to recognize and manage a brain injury, as well as new legislation surrounding brain injury treatment.

“With the growing popularity of football, lacrosse and other contact sports, it’s more important than ever to educate parents, coaches, school nurses and teachers about the very real dangers of concussions on the field and on the floor,” said Dr. Selman, Chief of Neurology at Blythedale. “And we’re pleased to have an athlete of Dorsey’s championship caliber to help us lead this very important and timely discussion.”

Nearly 100 were in attendance, participating in vital discussion surrounding the prevention and management of head injuries in young athletes. The discussion came one day after Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed a bill that requires students who may have suffered a concussion in a school sport or gym class to be sidelined for at least 24 hours. The legislation will prevent students from returning to play until they have been without symptoms for at least one day and have been cleared by a physician. It also requires education and training for coaches, teachers and other school personnel on the symptoms and treatment of mild brain injuries.

“I hope that by working with institutions like Blythedale, we can shine a light on what shouldn’t be a dark secret in sports: the very real threat of traumatic brain injuries on the playing field, and what steps parents and others can take to prevent them,” said Dorsey Levens.

Blythedale Brings National Food Day to Westchester County

This fall, Blythedale Children’s Hospital joined forces with Kohl’s Cares for Kids, and Westchester County Department of Health to celebrate National Food Day. This nationwide initiative aims to inspire adults and children to prepare and serve healthy, sustainable, affordable food.

Held at the County Center in White Plains, nearly 1,000 attendees participated in food demonstrations and tastings with some of Westchester’s signature chefs, and learned how to prepare healthy, tasty, and easy-to-make recipes. Missy Chase Lapine, author of “The Sneaky Chef”, was on hand showing parents how to incorporate vegetables and fruits into their children’s diets. In addition, fitness experts got kids up and moving, and nutritionists, including Blythedale’s Marie Roth, offered nutrition tips and advice. The event also featured the participation of local farmers’ markets, and treats provided by health food vendors.

Blythedale’s involvement was a natural fit, given the Hospital’s commitment to health and wellness through the Kohl’s sponsored Eat Well, Be Well program.

“Blythedale is proud to be a participant in National Food Day,” said Blythedale Children’s Hospital President and CEO Larry

Levine. “The health and well-being of children is central to everything we do. Supporting an initiative such as this is a natural extension of what we do every day.”

Since 2000, Blythedale has received more than \$1.9 million from the Kohl’s Department Stores “Kohl’s Cares for Kids” program. The generous retailer has funded a variety of programs at Blythedale, including the Hospital’s highly successful Eat Well, Be Well program, which to date has reached more than 50,000 children in the area. At the event, Kohl’s District Manager Joe Fusaro presented Blythedale Director of Community Relations Lena Cavanna with a check for \$231,199 in support of Eat Well, Be Well in the coming year.

“We are so grateful to Kohl’s for their support of this vital program,” said Cavanna. “It’s one in which you can clearly see the positive impact you are making on children, at a time when obesity has become a national crisis among school-aged children. We are proud to partner with Kohl’s in this important fight.”

For more information about Blythedale’s Eat Well, Be Well program, please contact Director of Community Relations Lena Cavanna at (914) 831-2410, or email to lenac@blythedale.org.



Eat Well, Be Well volunteer Brenda Costabile helps young attendees make healthy snacks.



95 Bradhurst Avenue
Valhalla, NY 10595-1697

Inspired is designed to inform our friends in the community about the services of Blythedale Children's Hospital. This issue represents the debut of our reformatted newsletter, along with our new logo. If you know someone who would like to be on our mailing list, or if you have ideas for future issues, please let us know.

**Call Connie Cornell at
(914) 592-7555, ext. 71461 or
email conniec@blythedale.org.**

Visit us at our website
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SAFE KIDS

Don't Toy With Safety

Naturally, you want your children to have a safe play environment with safe toys. Did you know that in 2009, there were an estimated 181,900 toy-related injuries? And that children under 5 accounted for nearly half of these injuries?

Blythedale Children's Hospital, the local coalition leader for the national Safe Kids campaign recommends the following safety tips to keep your little ones free from harm:

- Be sure your children play with toys that are age-appropriate. Read the warning labels before buying toys for your children.
- Look for well-made toys.

- Check toys regularly for damage that could create hazards. Repair or discard damaged toys immediately.
- Make sure that discarded toys are out of children's reach.
- Watch your children while they play. Be aware of potential dangers like small parts, cords and strings, moving parts, electrical or battery-powered cords or wheels.
- Do not allow riding toys near stairs, traffic or swimming pools.
- Teach children to put toys away after playing. Toys intended for younger children should be stored separately from those suitable for older children.
- Make sure toy chests are open (no lid) or have safety hinges.

For more information, please contact Sue Larkin at (914) 592-7555, ext. 71647 or email her at suel@blythedale.org.

A Celebration of Blythedale

Tuesday, April 17, 2012 – Join us for our fifth annual spring fundraiser to benefit the children of Blythedale! This year we will honor Larry & Randi Cohen at The Lighthouse at Chelsea Piers. For more information, please contact Carey Dalton at (914) 831-2513 or email her at careyd@blythedale.org.

