

Blythedale Celebrates Groundbreaking

Hospital Begins \$65.3 Million Modernization Project



L-R: State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Westchester County Executive Andy Spano, Blythedale President and CEO Larry Levine, Blythedale Board Chair John L. Furth, State Assemblyman Adam Bradley, and State Senator Suzi Oppenheimer dig in to kick off Blythedale's modernization project.

After days of dismal weather, the clouds parted and the sun shone on cue, as enthusiastic supporters gathered to kick off the first major renovation of the Hospital in 40 years.

"While we continue to provide the exceptional medical care that has always been the hallmark of Blythedale, it is no longer feasible to continue retrofitting the existing space to accommodate the extraordinary advances made in pediatric medicine," said Blythedale Board Chair John L. Furth.

"As our clinical programs have evolved, so have the complex needs of the medically fragile children we serve. Hence, the plans to build a better Blythedale unfolded,"

said Blythedale President and CEO Larry Levine.

The project will replace Blythedale's inpatient beds, by constructing a new hospital building which will incorporate the latest medical technology in a warm and child-centered environment. The 56,000 square foot

On June 19th, Blythedale Children's Hospital celebrated a major milestone in its 118-year history as hospital executives and trustees joined with government officials and invited guests for the formal groundbreaking of its \$65.3 million modernization project.

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building will also feature larger inpatient rooms, in which parents will be able to room-in overnight, a spacious new entrance and lobby, and additional amenities for families, including a Family Resource Center. Designed to address the dramatic changes in Blythedale's patient population and diagnoses over the past several decades, this transformational project is scheduled to be completed in two years, with no interruption in service to patients.

During the ceremony, Levine thanked the numerous individuals and groups who have supported the Hospital's efforts, likening the process of fostering the growth and development of a children's hospital to that of raising a child.

"Truly, it takes a village to raise a child," he said. "And it has taken a village to bring Blythedale to where it is today."

Levine was joined at the podium by Blythedale Board Chair John L. Furth, Capital Campaign Chair Larry Cohen and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Joelle Mast, as well as Westchester County Executive Andy Spano, State Senator Suzi Oppenheimer, State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, and Assemblyman Adam Bradley. Representatives of

Congresswoman Nita Lowey and Senator Chuck Schumer were also in attendance at the event.

"When I was first elected in 2007, Larry (Levine) was one of the first people to reach out to me," said Senator Stewart-Cousins. "He made sure I knew that love, hope, care and resilience were abounding at Blythedale. He wanted me to know that when I went to Albany that I was representing some place very special. Blythedale is about building futures.



L-R: Bruce Wolf, Jeanne Bernstein, Linda Miller and former Blythedale President Bob Stone gather before the event.

What happens here is a model for what should happen everywhere."

Blythedale's ground-breaking ceremony follows years of planning, and more recently, the securing of all

required state and local approvals, in addition to extensive fundraising for the \$65.3 million expansion. \$27 million in bonds will be combined with \$38.3 million in philanthropic donations to fund the project. Blythedale has received approximately \$28 million in commitments from donors to date.

"Blythedale has been extremely fortunate to have a long-standing tradition of philanthropy," said Chief Development Officer Betsy Bowman. "Certainly though, a project of this magnitude requires us to reach out beyond our walls and look to the community-at-large for support. As we do not have a vast pool of donors from which to draw, it makes every gift that much more important."

Several of the Hospital's campaign supporters were in attendance for the groundbreaking, including members of the Bernstein family – long-standing trustee Linda Miller, her husband, Bruce Wolf, and mother, Jeanne Bernstein – as well as trustees Marty and Sandy Rappaport. Both families were thanked for their generous leadership gifts to the campaign.

The final speaker to address the crowd was Doug Harter, accompanied by his wife Katie, their two-year-old son, Jack, and five-month-old twin daughters. Jack was admitted to Blythedale shortly after his birth in 2007. Doug spoke of



Members of Blythedale's Board of Trustees join President and CEO Larry Levine in kicking off the construction.



Long-standing Trustee Linda Miller and Capital Campaign Chair Larry Cohen at the ground-breaking ceremony.

foundation of our magnificent new inpatient facility, but also a foundation of good health for future generations of children,” said Levine enthusiastically. “What could possibly be more gratifying?” ■

For further information on making a gift, or on naming opportunities, please contact Chief Development Officer Betsy Bowman at (914) 592-7138, ext. 411 or email to betsyb@blythedale.org.

his family’s experience at Blythedale, remarking that “the new hospital will have all the strengths of Blythedale and more,” stressing the importance of accommodating parents during their child’s hospitalization. “Blythedale has truly become a part of who we are as a family,” he said.

With a ceremonial tossing of dirt, the event concluded but left guests buzzing about the beginning of a new era at Blythedale.

“Today, we stand on what will soon be not only the

Doug Harter and his family, attended the Hospital’s ground-breaking ceremony.



Building at a Glance

Infant, Toddler and Post-Neonatal and Post-Pediatric Intensive Care Unit

Blythedale’s new Infant & Toddler Unit will be equipped with the latest technology and optimized for the care and treatment of the Hospital’s most medically complex patients. The new wing will allow these young patients to be grouped together in a single unit where they will benefit from a combination of the finest medical talent and high technology



available, and where the Hospital, where appropriate, will be able to achieve the important

clinical objective of weaning them off mechanical ventilation.

Traumatic Brain Injury Unit

In the new 10-bed Traumatic Brain Injury Unit, each room will be private, soundproof and optimized for the specialized, multidisciplinary care that patients with TBI require. The TBI Unit will also feature its own facility for physical, occupational and speech therapy. Blythedale, which is a leader in the rehabilitation of children recovering from Traumatic Brain Injury, has seen its TBI program grow as major medical centers discharge TBI patients to Blythedale earlier in the recovery process.

Adolescent Inpatient Unit

The new 16-bed Adolescent Inpatient Unit is designed to create the optimal environment for recovery and rehabilitation for adolescents. The new Adolescent Inpatient Unit will include a teen lounge.

Pediatric Rehabilitation Unit

The Hospital’s new 14-bed Pediatric Rehabilitation Unit is designed to suit the needs of children who require extensive inpatient physical, occupational and speech therapy before they can return home.

Family Resource Center

To accommodate the needs of parents and family members who must spend extended periods of time visiting patients at the Hospital, the new inpatient building

will feature a Family Resource Center. The Family Resource Center will have a kitchen and dining area, TV and family room and a meditation room for spiritual reflection.

To support parent education and help families stay in touch while their children are in the Hospital, the Family Center will also include a medical library and computers.



An “Up”-lifting Storyteller Comes to Visit

Patients in Blythedale’s Early Childhood Center were treated to a special visit by the president of Disney Publishing Worldwide. Russell Hampton read the book *Up: Interactive Play-a-Sound* to his engaged audience of preschool-aged patients. Disney Publishing employee volunteers visit the Hospital once a month, reading to students in the school and leaving books for the children. ■



Russell Hampton reads *Up: Interactive Play-a-Sound* to preschool-aged patients.

Regeneron Scientists Mentor Blythedale Students

This spring, patients attending the Blythedale School participated in their annual Science Fair, but this year, the teens were mentored by scientists from Tarrytown-based Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. The volunteer mentors helped patients learn how to conduct research, develop hypotheses, and purchase supplies for the projects.



Approximately 15 scientists from Regeneron volunteered for several weeks leading up to the fair, and then were on hand, proudly accompanying their protégées

at the event. The well-prepared students were very enthusiastic about sharing their work with visitors to the Science Fair, and school staff were grateful for the dedicated efforts of the mentors. Regeneron employees have been volunteering at Blythedale in a variety of capacities since last year, through the company’s grassroots effort, Regeneron in the Community. ■



Pictured: Walkers, including Blythedale’s Director of Pulmonology, Dr. Milicent Mitchell (second from left), Blythedale Trustee Peggy Tanner (far right), and Blythedale staff prepare to hit the course.

Walkers Raise \$17,000 for New Teen Lounge

This year’s walkathon, held at the picturesque Hackley School in Tarrytown in May, drew more than 100 Blythedale supporters despite the chilly conditions. The day featured three different walks, a scavenger hunt, clowns, activities and more, and has raised \$17,000 for the Teen Lounge in the new building. According to Director of Community Relations Lena Cavanna, “It just goes to show how dedicated our supporters are... while the weather didn’t fully cooperate, there was certainly no shortage of enthusiasm at Hackley. We are so grateful to all those who helped us raise so much money for our adolescents.” ■

Maid Brigade Gives Family Housing a Green Clean

As part of Blythedale Children’s Hospital’s Corporate Partners in Care Program, Maid Brigade kicked off their partnership on Earth Day by giving Blythedale’s on-campus family housing a “Green Clean” makeover. “Family Housing looks magnificent!” said Blythedale Director of Community Relations Lena Cavanna. “It looks so warm and inviting from top to bottom. They’ve given such a wonderful gift to our parents.” ■



Pictured left to right: Maid Brigade’s Robin Murphy and Gary Murphy, and their expert cleaning crew, join Blythedale’s Chief Operating Officer Maureen Desimone and Lena Cavanna.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Blythedale Supporters Celebrate at “An Evening at 42”

More than 300 people recently gathered in downtown White Plains for “An Evening at 42”, to benefit Blythedale Children’s Hospital. The annual fundraiser, held on May 12, was hosted by Anthony Goncalves (chef/owner of 42) and Vasken Demirjian (Vasken Salon) and raised more than \$100,000 toward the Hospital’s modernization project (see cover story).

Dr. Herbert Newman, a White Plains pediatrician, was honored at the event for his more than 40 years of service to Blythedale.



Benefit co-host and 42 chef/owner Anthony Goncalves surveys the event.

Attendees enjoyed the spectacular panoramic views provided by the restaurant, which occupies the 42nd floor of the Ritz-Carlton in White Plains, as well as the culinary prowess of its renowned chef.

“We are deeply grateful to Anthony Goncalves and Vasken Demirjian for all their extremely hard work in making this event so successful,” said Blythedale Board Chair John L. Furth. “Their vision for this evening, combined with the tireless efforts of the event committee, have not only raised a significant donation for our building project, but have also helped us in our efforts to raise awareness surrounding Blythedale and the many varied services we provide.”



Benefit committee member Connie Cappelli and co-host Vasken Demirjian

Many thanks as well to BlackRock, Inc. for sponsoring the event for the second consecutive year. ■



Paul and Stefanie Feidelson, and Maxine and Jay Friedman



Blythedale Trustee and event committee member Nancy Pundyk joins Keating Hagmann (BlackRock, Inc.), and his wife, Ann.

L-R: Citadel Broadcasting Chairman and CEO Farid Suleman, Jenna Smith, Trish Shannon, and WPLJ Program Director and Morning Co-Host Scott Shannon



Blythedale Board Chair John L. Furth, honoree Dr. Herbert Newman, and Blythedale President and CEO Larry Levine

Students from the Hackley School in Tarrytown assisted during the event.



NEW DEVELOPMENTS...

Living His Basketball Dream...Chauncey's Story

Last year, 15-year-old Chauncey was actively pursuing his dream to play basketball in the NBA. While he was an extremely talented ballplayer and an honors student, unbeknownst to Chauncey, he was suffering from hypertrophic cardiomyopathy – a heart condition widely recognized as a leading cause of sudden cardiac death in young athletes. On April 18, 2008, Chauncey suffered a near-fatal heart attack while playing the sport he loves. He was revived and had emergency surgery to install an internal defibrillator, but was deprived of oxygen long enough to leave him with several cognitive impairments, along with strict physical limitations.

Upon admission to Blythedale's Day Hospital, Chauncey's clinical team began devising ways to help him meet his therapy goals and stay involved with the sport he loved. This spring, assisted by Speech Therapist Juliet Tackler and Child Life Coordinator Lisa Levinson, Chauncey coordinated and refereed a three-on-three basketball game, played by teachers in the Blythedale School. The game was also videotaped in order

to enable Chauncey to provide play-by-play commentary for Tackler. With her assistance, he also wrote a sports article about the game – an exercise that targeted many of his cognitive goals related to short-term memory loss.



Chauncey and his Speech Therapist Juliet Tackler enjoy a time-out before the game.

The premise, according to Tackler, was to find a way for him to continue to stay involved with his favorite sport. On game day, patients, teachers and

his proud therapists lined the outdoor basketball court with posters and colored clothing to support each team. Cheering and laughter filled the court, and Chauncey, in his black and white-striped referee shirt, seemed at ease in front of the crowd.

“Juliet was working on goals that centered on cognitive strategies to support all facets of life... academic, social and physical,” said Levinson. “I knew my role would be to focus on the emotional part of Chauncey's healing, supporting his self-esteem and providing creative and healthy outlets for expression. He needed an environment in which he could process the altered life-style he would need to embrace, where he would receive support and opportunities to discuss his future. The work of Speech Therapy and Child Life was a natural integration.”

According to Levinson, despite the unexpected hurdles he has faced, one thing remains the same. “He is a motivated young man with broad potential,” she said. ■

Planned Giving... Have You Named Blythedale in Your Will?

Planned gifts provide opportunities for people to contribute significant gifts to Blythedale Children's Hospital, while protecting their estates for children and heirs.

If you have already included Blythedale Children's Hospital in a bequest or planned gift, we hope you will let us know. If you have not included Blythedale in your estate plans and would like to explore options or discuss language for your will, please contact Chief Development Officer Betsy Bowman at 914-592-7138, ext 411 or betsyb@blythedale.org. ■

Playing it Safe in the Pool

Drowning remains the second leading cause of injury-related death among children ages 1 to 14. Drowning can occur in a variety of circumstances – during water recreational activities (swimming and boating) or when a young child is left unsupervised for a short period of time in the bathtub or around the home with access to nearby pools and spas. Drowning, which can happen in as little as one inch of water, is usually quick and silent.

Blythedale Children's Hospital, the local coalition leader for the national Safe Kids campaign, offers the following suggestions to ensure a safe, fun-filled time at the pool or beach:

SUPERVISION

- Never leave a young child unsupervised in or around water, even for a moment.
- Never allow children to swim without adult supervision.
- Supervisors should maintain continuous visual and auditory contact with children in or near the water, and should stay in close proximity (waterside) so that they can effectively intervene if an emergency situation should arise.
- Supervisors should not engage in distracting behaviors such as talking on the phone, preparing a meal or reading.
- Supervisors should keep children who cannot swim within arm's reach at all times.

ENVIRONMENT

- Four-sided isolation fencing, at least 5 feet high and equipped with self-closing and self-latching gates, should be installed around pools and spas to prevent direct access from a house or yard. Never prop open the gate to a pool barrier or leave toys that may attract young children in or around a pool.
- Install barriers of protection around your home pool or spa in addition to the fencing such as pool alarms, pool covers, door alarms or locks. Professional Floatation Devices:
- Children should always wear appropriately sized U. S. Coast Guard approved PFDs when on boats, in or near open bodies of water or participating in water sports.
- The PFD should fit snugly and not allow the child's chin or ears to slip through the neck opening.
- Air-filled swimming aids, such as "water wings" and inner tubes, are not safety devices and should never be used as a substitute for a PFD.
- Rescue equipment, a telephone and emergency phone numbers should be kept poolside.

EDUCATION

- Children should be enrolled in swimming lessons by age 8.
- Parents and caregivers should learn infant and child CPR.
- Educate children about the rules of water safety, including:
 - a. Always swim with a buddy and an adult present;
 - b. Never swim in an open body of water or participate in water sports without wearing a PFD;
 - c. Never dive into a river, lake or ocean; and
 - d. If someone is in trouble in the water, call for help and throw something that floats to the victim. A child should never enter the water to try to save someone. ■

For further information or if you would like to schedule an injury prevention program for your school or community group, please contact Director of Community Relations Lena Cavanna at (914) 592-7138, ext. 374 or email her at lenac@blythedale.org



Follow us on **twitter!**

For those of you familiar with "Twitter" – the rapidly growing social networking site used by more than 9 million people throughout the world – you can now follow Blythedale on the site! To see our profile, visit

www.twitter.com/blythedale. There is also a "Twitter" icon on the homepage of our website that will direct you to the Hospital's updates.

Twitter is a micro-blogging site which encourages users to share information

through brief messages (140 characters). Blythedale has been utilizing this tool to provide followers with up-to-date news from the Hospital, share photos from special events, and disseminate information about upcoming events.

today



95 Bradhurst Avenue, Valhalla, NY 10595-1697

Today is designed to inform our friends in the community about the services of Blythedale. 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) 592-7138, ext. 461
or email conniec@blythedale.org

Visit us at our website
www.blythedale.org



Everything's Coming Up Roses for Mom

Joe Pugni of Grayrock Florist and Memorials in Valhalla helped Blythedale's young patients make Mother's Day memorable at the Hospital. The florist donated all the supplies to enable all the patients in Blythedale's Early Childhood Center to pot beautiful flowers for their moms. ■

Pictured at left: Joe and his new floral assistants get to work.

save the date

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2009 13th Annual Golf and Tennis Classic

Join us at the beautiful Sunningdale Country Club in Scarsdale for a day of golf or tennis, followed by dinner and a live auction to benefit Blythedale. Golf and tennis spots and sponsorship opportunities are still available. Registration information and sponsorship forms can be found at www.blythedale.org

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2009 18th Annual 95.5 WPLJ Holiday Benefit Broadcast

Tune in to 95.5 between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. as our friends from WPLJ's "Scott and Todd in the Morning" broadcast live from Blythedale Children's Hospital!

For more information about these events contact Chief Development Officer Betsy Bowman at (914) 592-7138, ext. 411 or email at betsyb@blythedale.org