A beacon of hope and inspiration for seriously ill children and their families.
Our Mission
Blythedale Children’s Hospital is dedicated to significantly improving the health status and quality of life of infants, children, and adolescents who have complex and disabling medical conditions/illnesses. We accomplish this in four ways:

Patient Care
Blythedale is a national leader in the diagnosis and treatment of children with disabling and complex medical conditions.

Research
Blythedale is a research center dedicated to discovering ways of improving the care of children with special needs.

Teaching
Blythedale is training the next generation of healthcare professionals in the diagnosis and treatment of children with complex medical needs.

Advocacy
Blythedale advocates tirelessly at the federal and state levels to ensure that the highly specialized needs of all children are met. We serve children without regard to religion, race or ability to pay. Although we treat children from any locality, we consider the greater New York metropolitan area, Hudson Valley and Connecticut to be our primary communities.
Dear Friends,

At Blythedale Children’s Hospital, we dream big. We grow not by small increments, but by leaps.

You have seen the remarkable changes that have taken place over the last decade, with the opening of our new inpatient hospital, Day Hospital and Early Childhood Center, and The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Center for Speech & Audiology. This year we will open The Steven and Alexandra Cohen Pediatric Long Term Care Pavilion, a 24-bed long term care unit which will significantly expand our ability to meet the critical needs of infants, children, and adolescents.

Throughout our 125-year history, and as medical practice has gone through extraordinary changes, we have maintained a steadfast singular focus on improving the health and quality of life of children with medical complexity - serving as a beacon of hope to some of the region’s sickest and poorest children, and their families. We couldn’t do this without you, our dedicated supporters.

For this reason, we are very proud to share the 2015 Annual Report of Blythedale Children’s Hospital.

We have been fortunate to count on an extraordinary group of donors - individuals, foundations, corporations, and the community - to help us reach our goals throughout this historic time at Blythedale, as well as a Board of Trustees who generously support our mission and vision. We also gratefully acknowledge those individuals whose foresight and gift-planning are providing for Blythedale’s future. Your commitment provides the gift of health to future generations of children.

On behalf of the thousands of children whose lives you have touched through your support, we offer our heartfelt thanks.

Sincerely,

David Pedowitz
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Larry Levine
President & CEO
The Blythedale Value Proposition

How do we measure success?

We are a safety net hospital.

71% Dependent on Medicaid

Blythedale is a major provider of children’s health services in the State.

64,491 Patient Days

61% of our patients come from the five boroughs of NYC

BCH treats children with medical complexity.

Despite significant medical conditions and enormous social obstacles, most of our children return home.

65% Referred from ICU

91% Discharged Home

Treated 11% more patients

More patients benefited from our specialized care in 2015.

94% of Families Recommend Blythedale

Press Ganey surveys show our families are highly satisfied.

Our patient care results - including infection rates and ventilator-weaning success - are second to none.

Beat benchmarks 90% over time

43% Over Last Three Years

Expenses Increased by Only 3%

With expense increases well below the national average, minimal debt while adding new facilities and technology, and breakeven from operations, Blythedale is a financially responsible organization.
Patient Care

Providing exemplary patient care is central to everything we do. With more than 120 years of experience, Blythedale is a nationally recognized leader in developing innovative, multidisciplinary inpatient programs. As one of only 19 specialty children’s hospitals in the United States, Blythedale has the combined staff, expertise and resources – including the largest pediatric therapy department in New York State – to provide exceptional comprehensive care for medically complex children and support for their families.

Blythedale cares for children with a wide range of complex and often catastrophic medical and rehabilitative conditions, including complex respiratory disease, traumatic brain injury, heart disease, cancer, neuromuscular disorders, and other serious genetic conditions. Through its inpatient and day hospital programs, Blythedale treats more than 300 children daily, making it one of the largest providers of children’s health services in the State. Ensuring care of the whole child, Blythedale is the only hospital in New York State with its own public school on-site serving its patients.

2015 Highlights

• Blythedale recorded 626 unique patient admissions in 2015, totaling 27,293 inpatient days. The average length of stay was 53 days. The Hospital received admissions from 51 hospitals and leading academic centers in 2015, including New York Presbyterian (Columbia and Cornell), Westchester Medical Center, Montefiore Medical Center, Steven and Alexandra Cohen Children’s Medical Center, Mount Sinai, Jacobi Medical Center, Yale New Haven Hospital, Albany Medical Center and Maimonides Medical Center.

• In May, Blythedale hosted a Medical Staff Open House. The more than 50 attendees included pediatric leaders from a variety of academic medical centers. Discussion surrounded Blythedale’s strategic vision and new plans to serve children with complex medical conditions.

• In 2015, the Hospital began a deep analysis of New York State’s Health Home for Children initiative, in order determine the most effective way for Blythedale to be a part of the process. This mission-critical service ensures appropriate care coordination for medically fragile children and their families.

• Blythedale continued contracting with school districts in Westchester and Rockland counties to provide on-site Physical Therapy (32 schools in 7 districts), Occupational Therapy (23 schools in 4 districts) and Speech Therapy (13 sites in 8 districts) for students. In addition, the Hospital provided Audiology services in two districts.

Bringing Emilie Back

Eight-year-old Emilie recognized recording artist and American Idol judge Harry Connick, Jr. the moment he entered her room... but not for his musical prowess. Emilie was delighted to meet the star of one of her favorite movies, A Dolphin Tale. Emilie’s recall of the movie also marked something far more important. It spoke volumes of her dramatic recovery from the fractured skull and subsequent traumatic brain injury she sustained in October 2015, after being thrown from a horse.

Upon admission to Blythedale’s Traumatic Brain Injury Unit, just three weeks after the accident that left her comatose, Emilie was unable to walk, eat or communicate. Her frightened parents worried that they wouldn’t get their daughter back. But Emilie’s tenacious spirit, combined with a customized care plan developed by her dedicated clinical team, left no doubt that her recovery would be nothing short of miraculous. A highly specialized light-and-sound controlled room on Blythedale’s TBI Unit provided a perfect environment for Emilie’s trauma recovery. An intensive regimen of physical, occupational and speech therapy was integral in getting Emilie up and moving. What began with a simple hand squeeze progressed to sitting, standing and ultimately walking independently. Her first words quickly became sentences, followed by songs. The girl affectionately called “perpetual motion” by her parents had returned.

Today, Emilie attends Blythedale’s Day Hospital program and looks forward to returning to her home school district in the fall.
Advocacy

Advocating on a federal, state and local level for programs that benefit children with special healthcare needs is paramount to our mission. Blythedale is also committed to providing health-promotion services to minimize the incidence of disease among all children.

2015 Highlights

• Blythedale continued to work with the New York State Department of Health advocating for policies that would protect medically fragile children in the State’s transition to Medicaid managed care.

• Hospital leadership remains in frequent contact with United States Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, and Congresswoman Nita Lowey, Congressman Eliot Engel and Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney, as well as local members of the New York State Legislature.

• Blythedale also continued its participation in the Westchester County Department of Health’s initiative to promote healthy infants and children by increasing breastfeeding through a program to raise awareness of the benefits of breastfeeding with staff and patient families, enhancing staff knowledge through annual in-service programs, and supporting lactating mothers during their child’s hospitalization at Blythedale.

Funded by a generous grant from Kohl’s Department Stores, Blythedale’s “Eat Well, Be Well” program teaches healthy eating habits to children in kindergarten through eighth grade by providing general nutrition guidelines to students, parents and school faculty. In 2015, the program reached more than 17,500 students in 27 school districts.

Teaching & Training

2015 Highlights

• Twenty medical residents and four fellows spent at least a portion of their residencies at Blythedale in 2015. These physicians were graduates of the leading medical schools in the U.S. and abroad, and completed rotations in Rehabilitation Medicine, Pulmonology and Psychiatry. Blythedale also hosted 15 medical students and observers from several major teaching hospitals, including New York Presbyterian - Columbia University Medical Center, NYU Langone Medical Center, and Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

• Blythedale’s comprehensive Nursing Education Program provides extensive training and education for nurses and nursing assistants. In addition to providing clinical training experiences to more than 200 nurses from eight schools in 2015, the Hospital provided clinical internship opportunities to students in a wide range of departments.

• In 2015, Blythedale continued its vital community service as a certified Training Center for the American Heart Association (AHA) in both Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) and Basic Life Support (BLS). In addition to bringing these vital programs out into the community, the Hospital offered a variety of courses on-site. In 2015, 3,956 people were trained in CPR, PALS and first aid through Blythedale’s Training Center. In addition, 109 parents and caregivers were trained last year. Of this number, six parents were taught in Spanish and two parents were taught in Creole.

We have 120 instructors registered with our Training Center. 109 employees were taught in BLS and 36 employees were renewed in PALS.

After extensive renovations, Blythedale re-opened its free, on-site parent housing in 2015. Our two-story, five-bedroom residence provides temporary housing to more than 100 families a year, many of whom live far away or cannot afford other accommodations. Many thanks to Goldman Sachs’ Compliance Division, Bob’s Discount Furniture Charitable Foundation, SwissRe, Knights of Columbus/Sacred Heart Church of Scarsdale, and numerous others for making our house a home.
Research

Our Research program is a natural outgrowth of our commitment to children and our culture of innovative clinical and multi-disciplinary care. The goal of The Burke-Blythedale Restorative Neurology Program is to translate advances in basic neuroscience made at the Burke Medical Research Institute into improved treatment for children with neurological impairments at Blythedale Children’s Hospital.

2015 Highlights

• Three research projects being jointly conducted by Blythedale and Burke made significant progress in 2015. Blythedale researchers, in conjunction with the Hospital’s Occupational Therapy Department, continued their study of children with hemiplegia participating in an Upper Extremity Summer Program. The study includes analysis of the evaluations for the last five years of the program. Researchers also studied vision loss due to brain injury, and impaired consciousness after brain injury.

• Between 2009 and 2014, the Andor Capital Management Foundation contributed a total of $650,000 to Blythedale in support of both capital projects and the Early Childhood Center. In 2015, as the Foundation prepared to shut down operations, it made its final gift of $250,000 to our research program. Blythedale is enormously grateful for the long relationship it has enjoyed with Andor and for its incredibly generous commitment to our mission.

More than 65% of patient referrals came directly from PICUs and NICUs in 2015.

Doubling Up on Patient Care

Twins Kassius and Keaton were born in June, 2015, at just 30-weeks gestation. During the pregnancy, parents Krissy and Sam learned the boys were monochorionic/diamniotic identical twins, sharing a placenta, but not an amniotic sac. This put the boys at greater risk for significant complications. While Keaton received sufficient nutrients from the shared placenta, Kassius’ growth slowed and he became increasingly dependent on his brother’s heart to pump on his behalf.

Upon delivery, Kassius and Keaton both required mechanical ventilation, though Kassius’ medical needs were far more complex. In mid-August, Keaton was admitted to Blythedale, still reliant on a nasal cannula for oxygen and a naso-gastric tube for feeding. While Keaton settled in at Blythedale, his brother underwent heart surgery to repair his aorta and prevent excess blood flow into his lungs. Keaton recovered beautifully at Blythedale, and was weaned from his supplemental oxygen and feeding tube. He was discharged home after just two weeks. Kassius, however, required more care. He was admitted in October, fully dependent on a stationary ventilator and a naso-gastric tube for all feeding.

Since his admission, Kassius has made incredible strides. He was successfully weaned to a portable ventilator, significantly improving the family’s quality of life. Kassius also began attending the Infant Program at Blythedale, where - under the loving care of his developmental specialists - he began meeting typical developmental milestones, such as grasping for toys and smiling at his caregivers. Many infants who spend a prolonged amount of time in a NICU arrive at Blythedale unaccustomed to being held and touched in a non-threatening way. It’s also typically the first time parents are able to provide hands-on care for their child. Kassius’ devoted parents were fully committed to learning every aspect of his care, and quickly became comfortable performing tasks such as trach suctioning and tube feeding. Under the expert care of his pediatric pulmonologist and Blythedale’s nationally recognized ventilator weaning protocols, Kassius now only requires the need of supplemental ventilation at night, and his parents are preparing to bring him home to join his brother.
New Unit Receives $8 Million Gift from the Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation

Last fall, Blythedale Children’s Hospital was proud to announce it received an $8 million gift from the Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation to help fund the construction of the Hospital’s new 24-bed 17,000 square foot pediatric long term care unit. The Cohens’ gift is the largest single donation ever received by Blythedale.

“We are deeply grateful to the Cohen Foundation for this historic gift,” said Blythedale President and CEO Larry Levine. “There is a desperate need for facilities specializing in long-term care for medically fragile infants and children in New York. Through their generous gift, Steven and Alex are ensuring that we have the opportunity to extend our exceptional care to children who require a longer hospital stay.”

The Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation is deeply committed to supporting children’s health and has made landmark gifts to several hospitals and organizations in the tri-state area. “It is very important to Steven and me that all children have access to the best healthcare and facilities, regardless of their financial situation or where they live,” said Alexandra Cohen, President of the Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation. “We are happy to support Blythedale and the children and families right here in our community.”

Blythedale Board Chair David Pedowitz expressed his appreciation to the Cohens for their commitment to Blythedale and advancement of specialty pediatric healthcare. “We are thrilled to be the recipient of this transformational gift, and grateful for their recognition of the importance of our mission.”

The Steven and Alexandra Cohen Pediatric Long Term Care Pavilion will replace a former inpatient unit vacated in 2012 when the Hospital opened its new 86-bed inpatient wing. The unit will include 11 double-bedded rooms and two private rooms, all with piped-in oxygen. It will also include appropriate ancillary and support space, including a dining-recreation area, infant play room, teen lounge and dedicated therapy area.

The Pavilion will serve three types of patients:
- Patients who require a longer period of time to be weaned from the ventilator;
- Traumatic brain injury patients with ongoing medical, therapy and behavioral needs; and
- Other medically complex patients, such as premature infants with feeding difficulties, congenital conditions or neurological disorders, whose families are currently unable to bring the child home.

The new unit will open in the fall of 2016.
The Leadership Circle honors the special generosity of individuals who provide a foundation of support for the Hospital on an annual basis. Leadership Circle donors enable Blythedale to continue to grow as a national leader in developing innovative, multi-disciplinary medical and therapeutic programs, and strengthen our position as a community resource for children with a variety of complex medical challenges.

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1891 Society

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Raymond Vitolo

The 1891 Society honors donors who have made a legacy gift to Blythedale. These donors follow directly in the tradition of generosity and compassion that began in 1891 when a group of charitable women created programs to improve the health of children, and created the beginnings of Blythedale as we know it today.
The Board and Staff of Blythedale Children’s Hospital express their gratitude to the generous foundations, corporations and organizations listed on pages 10 and 11 that made new gifts and pledges to Blythedale during 2015. These gifts supported operations, capital projects, programs and our Endowment Fund.
Institutional Supporters (continued)

Conditioning, Inc.
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Wechsler Foundation
Welby, Brady & Greenblatt, LLP
The Westchester Bank
Westchester County Licensed Electrical Contractors Association
Willow Ridge Charitable Foundation
World Cup Enterprises Ltd.

Due to limited space, only donations of $1,000 or greater are listed.

We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the names included on this list.

Please accept our sincere apologies for any names that may have been inadvertently omitted.

Please feel free to contact the Development Office at 914-831-2547 with any corrections.
2015 - A Very Eventful Year

Blythedale’s event calendar was full in 2015 with events ranging from an elegant spring gala, to a fun-filled Casino Night. Proceeds from events raised more than $1,300,000. For more information on Blythedale’s events, please visit www.blythedale.org/special-events.
Blythdale Advisory Council

Blythdale’s Advisory Council is a non-governing committee compromised of young professionals who are committed to Blythdale’s mission and want to make a difference in the lives of children with complex medical conditions. This group serves as ambassadors for Blythdale by introducing friends, family and colleagues to the Hospital, participating in service projects with our young patients, and giving back to Blythdale through philanthropy and fundraising.
Blythedale Stars

Blythedale Stars recognizes individuals, businesses, clubs and organizations that coordinated a fundraiser to benefit Blythedale Children’s Hospital and cumulatively raised $5,000 or more.

Byram Hills High School Dance Troop
Club Fit
Bill Ferrara
Joshua Goldenberg
Goldman Sachs Global Compliance Division
Larchmont Professional Firefighters Association
Rory & Declan McTigue
Hannah Nemerever
Old Oaks Country Club
Ray Catena AutoGroup
Saint John the Evangelist Church
Young CPA’s of Westchester

In 2015, Blythedale began an exciting new partnership with Apple, Inc.’s White Plains store. Each month, employees join our Therapeutic Recreation staff to bring technology and fun to our young patients, especially our teens. From interactive group games using iPads, to facilitating creative expression by developing iMovies, Apple, Inc. volunteers help brighten the lives of our children. In addition to hands-on participation, the company makes a financial contribution to Blythedale based on the time each employee spends at the Hospital.
Financial Information

Dollar amounts in thousands. Audited.

Operating Expenses

Total Expenses $64,122

- Patient Services - $52,707
- Administrative & General Expenses $10,518
- Fundraising - $897

Operating Revenues

Total Revenues $67,502

- Spending Policy - $3,375
- Other Income - $2,469
- Grants & Donations - $2,372

Net Patient Revenue - $59,286
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Vice Chair
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Chief Medical Officer & Chief of Pediatrics
Jane MacDonald
Chief Development Officer
Susan Murray, L.C.S.W.
Chief Engagement and Experience Officer
Jill M. Wegener, M.S.N., R.N., C.C.R.N.
Chief Nursing Officer
How to Make a Gift to Blythedale

When you make a gift to Blythedale, you are helping miracles unfold.

At Blythedale Children’s Hospital, children and their families are at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to improving the health of children with complex medical needs and providing their families with peerless support and services. Our goal is to help children reach their maximum potential and return home as soon as possible.

This year alone we have treated many amazing children, such as a one-year old from Japan, who came to us for intensive rehabilitation following heart transplant surgery. We delighted in her recovery and are thrilled to help her family prepare for their return home. And an eight-year-old who suffered a traumatic brain injury after being thrown from a horse. Her progress on our Traumatic Brain Injury Unit, as she relearned how to walk, talk and return to her beloved activities, was nothing short of miraculous. Her return home to her family was the ultimate reward for our work. We witness miracles such as this every single day.

We are inspired by all of our patients, and every day become more devoted to providing them with every opportunity to dream, aspire and achieve. Philanthropy is key to offering the broad range of services necessary to address their medical and rehabilitative needs and transform their dreams to reality.

There are many ways to support Blythedale and help advance the finest in specialty pediatric care for medically fragile children. You can make a difference. To learn more about ways to give to Blythedale, please visit our website at www.blythedale.org/ways-to-give or call Chief Development Officer Jane MacDonald at 914-831-2544.
As we continually advance the finest pediatric medicine in the region, we acknowledge the generosity and encouragement of our many supporters.