This fall, Blythedale Children’s Hospital held a very special ribbon-cutting ceremony to formally open The Steven and Alexandra Cohen Pediatric Long Term Care Pavilion, a unique 24-bed facility dedicated to the highly specialized needs of infants and children who require extended medical care and rehabilitation. This extraordinary program and facility is generously supported by a transformational $8 million gift from the Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation.

The event was attended by more than 140 guests, including Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation President Alexandra Cohen and Executive Director Jeanne Melino.

Above: Blythedale President & CEO Larry Levine cuts the ribbon alongside supporters and government officials; At left: Senior Occupational Therapist Jean Marie Florkowski works with Bentley, the first resident in the new long-term care pavilion.
A Q&A with Dr. Dennis Davidson

Dr. Dennis Davidson is Chief of the Infant and Toddler Unit at Blythedale Children’s Hospital, a role he assumed in August.

A graduate of the Loyola Stritch School of Medicine in Illinois, Dr. Davidson completed his residency in Pediatrics, as well as fellowships in Pediatric Pulmonary Medicine and Neonatology, at Columbia University.

Dr. Davidson is board certified in Pediatrics and Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine. He most recently held the title of Attending Neonatologist and Professor of Pediatrics at Stony Brook School of Medicine/LI Children’s Hospital. Prior to that he served as the Chief of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at Northshore-LIJ.

Dr. Davidson has been the recipient of several awards for outstanding teaching, academic and clinical performance, and is widely published. He has also been involved in a wide range of clinical research and was heavily involved in the development of inhaled nitric oxide to treat babies with severe respiratory disorder or pulmonary hypertension. This drug was approved by the FDA in 1997. He was also an investigator in a study of brain cooling for the treatment of perinatal hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy (HIE), a brain injury caused by oxygen deprivation. Brain cooling is widely considered to be the most effective treatment for newborns with HIE.

What drew you to Blythedale?

I grew up a mile from Blythedale. When I was a teenager I would volunteer with teen boys with cerebral palsy. Little did I know I would be coming back all these years later in a different capacity.

What types of patients are you treating on the Infant & Toddler Unit?

We see a wide variety of diagnoses on the Unit, ranging from post-cardiac transplantation, premature infants outgrowing their chronic lung disease, as well as children with neurological disorders. There is a lot of acute care going on here. It’s not just chronic illness we are seeing in these babies.

What are some of the most significant changes or advances you are currently seeing in your field?

I was very involved in the development of a drug to treat babies with severe respiratory disease, as well as a brain cooling protocol to treat infants with HIE. These advances are not silver bullets though; they help, but babies still need additional rehab care. That’s what makes Blythedale special. These babies have only partially had their problems resolved in the NICU, and Blythedale takes it from there.

> continued on page 6
We offer our deepest gratitude to Steven and Alexandra Cohen for their extraordinary generosity in supporting a program that will set the national standard for the way care should be delivered to these children,” said Blythedale President & CEO Larry Levine. “Their gift was the catalyst for moving this important project forward. Steven and Alex have been amazing philanthropists supporting so many vital pediatric projects throughout New York to impact children’s health. Literally, hundreds of thousands of children are getting medical care because of their vision and generosity.”

The event was also attended by many government officials, including New York State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, New York State Senator Terrence Murphy, State Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, State Assemblyman Tom Abinanti and Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino, all of whom offered words of support during the program. Attendees also heard a heartfelt message of gratitude from Darecia Pryce, the mother of a former patient who was among the first children admitted to the new Pavilion.

The opening of the Pavilion addresses a desperate need for facilities specializing in pediatric long-term care. Due to a severe shortage of beds in New York, these children often are sent to pediatric nursing homes in Albany or New Jersey, placing an enormous emotional and financial burden on their families.

“Nowhere will you find a greater commitment to family-focused healthcare,” said Blythedale Board Chair David Pedowitz. “Each and every one of our patients is the most important child in the hospital. That’s how we think, and that’s how we operate. Our extraordinary staff, and their exceptional dedication to our patients and their families, is second to none. That is Blythedale.”

The 17,000 square-foot unit will serve children who may require a longer period of time to be weaned from the ventilator, as well as traumatic brain injury patients with ongoing medical, therapy and behavioral needs. The unit will also treat other medically complex patients, such as premature infants with feeding difficulties, congenital conditions or neurological disorders, whose families are currently unable to bring their child home.

Features of the new unit include 11 double-bedded rooms and two private rooms, all with piped-in oxygen, a spacious dining and recreation area, dedicated therapy space, an infant play room and teen lounge. An attractive courtyard includes play areas, walking paths and sitting areas for residents and their...
A Memorable Celebration of Blythedale

The iconic Rainbow Room in Manhattan served as the perfect backdrop for the Hospital’s 125th anniversary gala - A Celebration of Blythedale. The event raised more than $810,000 for Blythedale’s Early Childhood Center (ECC), and recognized the extraordinary achievements of its honorees, Blythedale’s Chief of Neurology, Dr. Jay E. Selman; annual golf classic co-chairs, Dan Kortick and Carmine Lippolis; and Blythedale’s Dietary and Environmental services provider, Sodexo.

Attendees watched a short video on the services the ECC provides through the lens of grateful families whose lives were changed by the program. Charity Auctioneer CK Swett followed with an engaging “mission moment”, which netted nearly $200,000 in pledges in less than 10 minutes.

For more information about this event or to make a donation, please contact Christina Caras, at (914) 831-2512 or ccaras@blythedale.org.

Blythedale was excited to participate in The Corporate FunRun Westchester 5K for the third time this past July. The event, which took place at SUNY Purchase, provided a perfect setting for Blythedale staff and their families to celebrate the Hospital’s 125th anniversary, after completing the three-mile course.
The Stuart H. Dix Memorial Golf Outing Raises More than $400,000

The Stuart H. Dix Memorial Golf Outing and Dinner - co-hosted by Michael Brown, Blythedale Trustee Farrel Starker, and her husband, Steven - raised more than $400,000 to help support Blythedale.

More than 100 golfers participated in the outing held in June at The Stanwich Club in Greenwich, CT, while a group of more than 20 of the Starker’s family members and friends spent the afternoon volunteering at Blythedale.

The Hospital extends its deepest gratitude to the family and friends of Stuart, for their extraordinary support of Blythedale in his memory.

Dreyfus Golf Classic Hits a Hole in One

The Dreyfus Golf Classic for Blythedale, held in September at GlenArbor Golf Club in Bedford Hills was a tremendous success. The event featured a full day of golf, a putting contest, raffle, dinner and an exciting auction hosted by Stanley Cup Champion New York Ranger Mike Richter. Many thanks to our generous sponsors and the 80 golfers who participated in the event for raising nearly $225,000 for Blythedale’s Transportation Program!

BTIG Charity Day

Big thanks to BTIG Co-founder Steven Starker and his wife, Blythedale Trustee Farrel Starker, for including Blythedale in its annual Charity Day! BTIG has raised more than $250,000 for Blythedale over the last four years. Far left: Journalist David Muir signs former patient Emilie’s shirt; Left: Blythedale Advisory Council member Robb Costomiris, former Jets running back Curtis Martin and Blythedale Celebrity Trader and former Jets fullback Tony Richardson.
Offering Heartfelt Thanks to enCou rage Kids

On October 6th, Blythedale welcomed Michelle Hall-Duncan (Executive Director of enCourage Kids Foundation) and Staci Friedwald (Blythedale volunteer and wife of enCourage Kids Foundation board member Andrew Friedwald) to our campus for a check presentation marking 20 years and over $500,000 of giving in support of various projects within the hospital – ranging from the provision of funding for an adaptive computing room in 1996 and a hospital-wide television system in 1999, to supporting the retention of a Child Life Specialist between 2005 and 2012, and funding the launch of our Music Therapy Program in 2013. The foundation’s most recent grant of $20,000 was also given in support of Music Therapy. On hand to receive the check were Music Therapist Julie Sherwood, Director of Child Life Kelsey Mayer, Senior Child Life Specialist Jessica Dadigan, and Director of Institutional Giving Ursula N. Embola.

Research has proven that Music Therapy has the ability to decrease stress hormones, stabilize heart rate, and stimulate brain activity and recovery, even when patients are in vegetative or minimally conscious states. This makes it a highly valuable form of support for patients admitted to Blythedale’s Traumatic Brain Injury Unit. Sherwood works with children at the Hospital several days a week, serving approximately 100 kids each year since 2013. The enCourage Kids Foundation’s most recent grant has made it possible for Blythedale to offer this critical service throughout the 2016-2017 program year.

Dr. Davidson (cont.)

Dr. Davidson, and his wife, Diane, divide their time between Tarrytown and Amityville. He tremendously enjoys time spent with family, particularly his two infant granddaughters, and he and his wife enjoy boating and skiing.

Long Term Care (cont.)

enCourage Kids Foundation encourages all kids facing health challenges to be carefree children by creating environments and experiences that help them through each step of their medical journey. The foundation’s programs reach kids facing a variety of health issues – from those receiving chemo treatments in a clinic, to those who live with a chronic illness that may not be visible. What they all have in common is that they deserve the same opportunities to laugh, to play, and to have fun – whether they are being treated in the hospital or living with their struggles at home.

“On behalf of the many children and families who have benefitted from their faithful support, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to enCourage Kids Foundation,” said Blythedale President & CEO Larry Levine. “We look forward to many more years of partnering with this wonderful organization as we work to achieve our mutual vision of ensuring that children facing health challenges are given optimal care in an optimal environment.”
Kohl’s Donates $131,354 to Eat Well, Be Well

Thanks to yet another generous grant from Kohl’s, Blythedale Children’s Hospital kicked off the 10th year of its Blythedale and Kohl’s Eat Well, Be Well Nutrition Outreach Program. This year, Blythedale received a check for $131,354 in support of the Hospital’s highly successful nutrition program.

“We are deeply grateful to Kohl’s for so generously providing us with the resources to reach so many children with vitally important messaging about nutrition,” said Connie Cornell, Blythedale’s Director of Strategic Communications. “As obesity rates among children soar nationally, we are able to make a significant impact, thanks to Kohl’s, in the greater metropolitan region. They have set an important standard for community support.”

Eat Well, Be Well is an innovative outreach program designed to bring health and nutrition education to schools throughout Westchester and Putnam counties, in addition to distributing nutrition tips and guidelines online and at local health fairs. Since its inception in 2006, the program has reached more than 100,000 students in the greater metropolitan region.

Kohl’s has donated more than $2.5 million to Blythedale Children’s Hospital since 2000.

2016 Corporate Partners Making a Difference

Welcome to our latest Corporate Partners! Blythedale is proud to welcome Apple, Magnakron, MAM Baby, Neuberger Berman, Regeneron, Robert Half, Team Success NY at Keller Williams, and Teladoc.

In August, Teledoc, along with George Comfort and Sons and The Good Table, organized Rock the Courtyard to Benefit Blythedale at The Centre at Purchase. The happy hour fundraiser was attended by nearly 300 people and raised more than $10,000 for Blythedale through ticket sales, raffles and Corporate Sponsorships. Thank you to all involved for making this our most successful community fundraiser, to date, in 2016!

Last month, Regeneron employees, spent time with our patients and brought some holiday cheer to the Hospital. The Medical Affairs team conducted fun and educational science experiments with our kids, while the Therapeutic Proteins department decorated and donated more than 20 pumpkins to help make the Hospital look fun and festive. Thank you, Regeneron, for bringing your knowledge and creative talents to Blythedale!

If your company is interested in becoming a Corporate Partner, please contact Teagan O’Connor at 914-831-2545 or toconnor@blythedale.org to discuss sponsorship and benefit opportunities.
Inspiration is designed to inform our friends in the community about the programs and activities of Blythedale Children’s Hospital. 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 914-831-2570 or email to ccornell@blythedale.org.

Visit us at our website
www.blythedale.org

Subaru “Shares the Love” at Blythedale
Blythedale is delighted to once again be chosen as Curry Subaru’s Hometown Charity for its annual Share the Love Campaign. For every car sold or leased during the campaign (which runs from November 17 through January 3), Subaru will donate $250 to a customer’s selected charity of choice. Last year’s campaign raised more than $40,000 for the Hospital, and Subaru of America, Inc. donated an additional $9,500, for a grand total of nearly $50,000. Thank you, Curry Subaru, for your support of our children! Pictured above - during a check presentation ceremony at Blythedale - are Blythedale President & CEO Larry Levine, Curry Automotive CEO Bernard Curry, Curry Automotive General Manager Brad Candullo, and Subaru Distributors Corporation’s Director of Sales and Marketing Samuel Spagnuolo.