Ten years ago, Goryeb Children’s Hospital opened its doors, becoming the hospital of choice for families throughout the region. In this issue of the Journal, a timeline recounts some of Goryeb’s milestones over the last decade.
Brett

On November 14, 2011, two coworkers and I were struck by a speeding car while standing at a job site in Newark. Two of us were immediately rushed to the emergency room at University Hospital; one of us did not make it that far. Most of the bones in my face were crushed. At first it was thought that my brain was not severely struck, but further investigation showed that there was an area leaking fluid.

One of my first memories after the accident was of Melissa telling me, “You’re doing great.” Doing great? What was I doing great from? I was lying in a bed with tubes and wires, somewhere in and out of consciousness. I also remember Melissa saying, “You’re here at Morristown. You were in an accident.”

I’ve been working at Morristown for the past eight years as a project manager with William Blanchard Co., a company that has been managing construction projects on campus for over 20 years. I have spent many hours in the hospital – but none as a patient.

Because of the quality of care I witnessed while making my “construction” rounds, I told Melissa if anything were to happen to me or the kids, be sure to get us to Morristown. I’m glad she remembered and had the courage to move me against other well-meaning suggestions.

Melissa

Many close friends, coworkers of Brett’s, and family members were by my side with suggestions of other hospitals and doctors in New Jersey and New York, but the words that Brett had said – “if anything happens go to Morristown” – kept gnawing at me. He had felt so strongly about the care that he had seen here, yet the idea of moving Brett, at that time in a stable, safe environment, was creating a difficult decision. I just kept having this feeling that, if I could tell Brett that he was in Morristown, this alone could create a positive recovery environment for him.

In the end, a familiar place was not all that we experienced during Brett’s almost three-week stay. The doctors, nurses and staff who helped change the ICU from a place of tears to a place of hope were amazing. I’m in awe at what these people do.

Dr. Catherine Mazzola and Dr. Lawrence Gorzelnik, who along with other doctors and assistants, like Dr. Hani Braidy [of UMDNJ] and Tom Sernas, PA, worked on Brett for almost 16 hours, first with neurosurgery and then with facial reconstructive surgery. Their positive attitudes, the pride in their work, the excitement they had in making Brett better was and is amazing.

Though being in the ICU is about saving lives, so often the outcome was not nearly as positive as Brett’s. But I know what I saw day in and day out – every individual had been treated with the utmost respect. There was nonstop passionate and devoted care. It is a place where angels seem to be roaming.

Brett

I will end with a [quote from a] speech that I have heard many times ... Coach Jim Valvano receiving the Arthur Ashe Award. It has helped me reflect on the small things, which are now big things during my recovery: “There are three things we all should do every day. ... Number one is laugh. ... Number two is think. ... Number three is ... have your emotions moved to tears. ... If you laugh, you think, and you cry, that’s a full day. That’s a heck of a day. You do that seven days a week, you’re going to have something special.”
A Dozen Distractions

It’s hard to distract a hospital patient who is in pain or fearful, but some new technology is doing the trick. This past year, the Women’s Association of Morristown Medical Center, along with various local Twigs, donated 12 iPads for use in the Barbara D. Tomlinson Medical Intensive Care Unit, the Edward and Joan Foley Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and the Child Life program.

Adult patients who are unable to talk are using the iPads to take their minds off their circumstances and to communicate with family and staff. Pediatric patients love the bright pictures and games and soon will have story hour videos to watch during long procedures.

“What’s great is one app can be put on 10 different iPads so the donated dollars go farther,” says Beth Wipperman, president of the Women’s Association. “It’s a win-win situation for all.”

Combo Event Earns Gold

To watch children make healthy food choices, learn local history and explore nature was a dream come true for Basking Ridge resident Christine Borowsky. It also earned her a Gold Award in scouting.

The 12-year Girl Scout veteran organized Get Out • Explore • Get Fit • 2012, held in September at Jockey Hollow National Park in partnership with the National Park Service, the Kid-Fit program at Goryeb and the Health Barn in Wyckoff. The event focused on childhood obesity, while kids learned the colonial history of this Morristown-based park.

“Growing up I struggled with making healthy nutritional choices,” says the 17-year-old high school senior. “I want to help others in this area.”

The Gift of Laughter

Raising thousands of dollars to help premature infants is serious business, but the Third Annual Comedy Night, held on April 27 at the Hanover Manor, had the audience bursting with laughter. The evening’s proceeds of more than $75,000 will go to Sam’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Goryeb, which helps the most at-risk newborns in the community and is named after event organizer Steve Salzberg’s late daughter Samantha.

Mr. Salzberg and his wife, Doris, already have next year’s fundraiser in the works: “We are thinking of an upscale comedy event with a sit-down dinner and passed hors d’oeuvres in a more intimate setting.”

Come Hear the Music Play

A sold out crowd of 300 guests sipped champagne, purchased original artwork, and listened to the delightful sounds of live piano and song at a cabaret fundraiser held this past spring at Morris Museum’s Bickford Theater.

More than $30,000 was raised to benefit Atlantic Health Healing Arts and the Jeffrey F. Wacks Music Therapy programs.

“It was a remarkably elegant evening,” says Jeanne Jaeckle, a cabaret committee member. “Being entertained by our very own Bob Egan and his cabaret singers was extraordinary. We have been blessed with Bob’s music for the past 11 years as part of our Music in the Atrium program.”
The Power of a Smile

Emily Vaughn knows the contagious power of a smile. It spurred her to start her own foundation. And at 7 years old that is no small undertaking.

It began a few years ago when she saw a television commercial with hospitalized children receiving gifts at Christmastime. Their smiles lit up the room. Emily knew instantly she had to be a part of that dynamic.

For the last several years, she has given toys to children at Goryeb during the holidays to make them smile. Collecting the toys has been a pretty seamless task for this elementary school student. She ventures to shops in the community with her mom and explains her purpose to store managers. She scores about a 95 percent participation rate.

“She understands that kids are sick, and she wants to make them happy,” says Kim Wertheim, Emily’s mom.

Last Christmas, her toy sacks bulged with more than 4,000 items even though she began her toy-collecting pursuit just a few months prior.

Now busy collecting toys for the 2012 holiday season, Emily is also preoccupied with her new foundation. Part of its purpose will be to fund college scholarships for children who have been ill. It’s another guaranteed smile-maker for Emily.

Kids Helping Kids

On a sunny Saturday in June, squeals of delight wafted over the sounds of water splashing, music playing and hula hoops whirring – the Kids4Kids Carnival was in full swing. The merriment did carry a deeper meaning: Organizers wanted to purchase a child-size trauma wheelchair for kids at Goryeb in the intensive care unit so they could get to their physical therapy sessions.

Kids4Kids volunteer Scott Thomas hosted the event on the front lawn of his Bernardsville home: “We raised $10,000 for a great cause,” says the eighth grader, who has participated with Kids4Kids for three years.

To join the Kids4Kids committee, call Gerri Kling at 973.593.2414 or geraldine.kling@atlantichealth.org.

Cards and Clubs Raise Cash

If anyone ever thought of fundraising as boring and somewhat difficult then they never spent the afternoon playing bridge and rounds of golf at the Roxiticus Golf Club to raise money for Carol G. Simon Cancer Center. The Women’s Golf Division and Women’s Bridge Group of this Mendham-based country club had lots of laughs on May 24 as they raised more than $3,700 for the Cancer Education and Early Detection (CEED) Program at the hospital. A buffet lunch and raffle rounded out the day for the 36 women who found a fun way to help others in need.
An Artful Gesture of Thanks

Beautiful art can be a memorable gift, and the recent contribution of more than $30,000 worth of artwork from Jeff Giniger is one present Morristown Medical Center will never forget.

Giniger’s donation of 11 Susan Sahall prints was submitted for review and accepted by the art committee of the Women’s Association. The new pieces will adorn the walls of the Center for Advanced Medicine in Pediatrics (CAMP). CAMP will house a new Pediatric Inflammatory Disease Center, run by Joel Rosh, MD, the physician who helped Mr. Giniger’s son.

“Our son was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis at Goryeb Children’s Hospital,” says Mr. Giniger. “Dr. Rosh brought his condition quickly under control. We are so grateful. The art is just one small token of our thanks.”

If you are interested in making a donation of art, please contact Cynthia W. O’Donnell, JD, director of gift planning, at 973.593.2418 or cynthia.odonnell@atlantichealth.org.

Komen Widens Outreach

The chance at a cancer free life should be available to everyone and a recent $69,000 grant from the Susan G. Komen For The Cure Foundation is trying to make that happen. African American women, for example, have a lower incidence of breast cancer than their Caucasian counterparts but a higher mortality rate. This grant will fund a new outreach position to help the African American community receive cancer awareness education including grant-funded mammograms.

“With these monies we can also continue providing outreach and education to the South Asian, Latino and other uninsured and at-risk populations in our community,” says Martha Lehlbach, RN, program coordinator at the Morris County Cancer Screening Program at Carol G. Simon Cancer Center.

Walls Trust Extends a Hand

Cancer patients need many helping hands while facing new challenges in body and mind. A new outpatient position funded through a $150,000 grant from the Marion E. C. Walls Trust will address these challenges while working with patients who have entered into the advanced stages of a cancer illness.

The new nurse practitioner will work directly with the Pain and Palliative Care Program at Carol G. Simon Cancer Center to educate seriously ill patients about the benefits of palliative care. Some of the tasks at hand will be to teach patients how to live as active a life as possible and also to guide families in building strong support systems.

Baskets Full of Goodwill

Countless staffers at Morristown Medical Center are thankful for a helping hand at just the right time. This year, the Annual Employee Basket Raffle provided that assistance in force.

“In recent years, many employees have looked for ways to help their colleagues who suffered hurricane and flooding damage to their homes,” says Kathy Sortino, a manager in the human resources department.

The Employee Relief Fund was established to help those whose homes were damaged by a natural disaster.

In March, the fund swelled when 110 donated baskets were raffled off, raising more than $16,000, which the Foundation then matched. In total, $33,000 was donated toward this much-needed relief effort.
Defying Gravity

Walking on air is not just for astronauts anymore. Thanks to the David M.C. Ju Foundation, patients at the hospital can now take advantage of a new anti-gravity treadmill that has made the rehabilitation process quicker with less impact on a patient’s joints.

“The Alter-G treadmill has the unique ability to decrease the weight on an injury and helps to get patients walking faster,” says Lawrence Nisivoccia, PT, of Atlantic Sports Health Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation. “This has had a tremendous effect on their progress. Probably most important is that it keeps them from developing compensation strategies that will need to be addressed later in their rehabilitation.”

A Gift of Time and Treasure

A check for $50,000 arrived at the Foundation unexpectedly, tucked in with a note from former volunteer Nancy M. Bray, who had recently relocated across the country. Mrs. Bray and her late husband, who was known as Dick by his friends at Morristown, volunteered regularly right up until he took ill.

The enclosed check is in loving memory of Allen Richard Bray Jr. My dear husband was treated in the Carol G. Simon Cancer Center, plus other parts of the hospital with such loving care. I can’t thank you enough.

We both spent many years as couriers for the hospital. Everyone was so appreciative. However, we felt blessed that we were allowed to help.

I’ll always have a special place in my heart for Morristown Medical Center and the wonderful people who make it so outstanding.

God Bless,
Mrs. Allen R. Bray Jr.

Starlight Lays Down the Rhythm

There is no denying that music is powerful in its ability to brighten moods. And thanks to the Starlight Foundation’s recent $40,000 grant for Child Life’s music therapy program, kids at Goryeb can continue to experience this special magic even when their lives have been turned upside down.

Starlight has been a long-time contributor to the hospital with more than $295,000 given to the Child Life program, since 2004.

“Hospitalization can disrupt normal living patterns,” says Lisa Ciarrocca, systems manager for Child Life at Goryeb. “The music therapy program minimizes this disruption by providing sensitive, creative interventions. Music is a wonderful medium to promote a calm environment for everyone.”
All children experience sickness at one time or another. It’s an unfortunate but natural part of childhood. What shouldn’t be a part of childhood is a debilitating, chronic disease that impedes normal growth and deters activities. Unfortunately, the rate of chronic disease among children has doubled in the last two decades.

Children with chronic conditions are repeatedly hospitalized. It may even take multiple hospitalizations before an accurate diagnosis is reached. And the treatment itself can sometimes lead to further complications. This problem can easily overburden a parent who simply wants to help a child feel better. And the wearying rounds of doctor visits and hospital stays take their toll on the patients themselves, leaving little time for kids to just be kids.

Enter The Farris Family Center for Advanced Medicine in Pediatrics (CAMP). Opening next spring at Morristown Medical Center, CAMP will offer highly specialized care for pediatric patients with complicated illnesses, providing both diagnostic and therapeutic interventions.

“CAMP will trigger insights into illnesses that may not have surfaced in a traditional pediatric setting.” —Dr. Rosenfeld

In a new approach to treating childhood diseases, CAMP specialists will share expertise and services across many pediatric programs, drawing on the considerable strength of Goryeb Children’s Hospital. CAMP patients will benefit by receiving comprehensive care under one roof from medical experts who span numerous disciplines.

“Some of this information exchange is already going on,” says Dr. Walter Rosenfeld, chair of pediatrics at Goryeb Children’s Hospital. “What’s not happening is there is not yet a central location where patients with overlapping symptoms are seen by teams of doctors working side by side collaborating and learning from one another to continuously improve outcomes for their patients.”

A behavioral health component will also be a part of CAMP care with a psychologist, social worker, and psychiatrist on board to help manage a patient’s psychological challenges, including the adjustment issues that affect both families and patients who struggle with chronic disease.

“The set-up of this program is truly unique and will likely trigger insights into illnesses that may not have surfaced in a traditional pediatric setting,” says Dr. Rosenfeld.

CAMP, which will be located in the current F&H Building next to Goryeb, will house several multidisciplinary programs. The new Pediatric Inflammatory Disease Center will be the largest part of CAMP. It will be dedicated to the evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of children with Inflammatory Bowel Disease (Crohn’s, ulcerative colitis) and celiac disease; pediatric rheumatologic disorders (juvenile arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus); and immunologic and infectious diseases (inherited immune disorders, Lyme disease).

“Because we are grouping disorders together that have the common link of inflammation, we will be able to make new inroads in research, diagnoses and treatment that assure the highest level of family-centered quality care,” says Dr. Joel Rosh, director of pediatric gastroenterology, who will be overseeing the Pediatric Inflammatory Disease Center. “Merging rheumatology, inflammatory bowel disease and immunology is a progressive and innovative concept. Colleagues at other medical facilities hear this and say it is a very clever idea.”

The Pediatric Inflammatory Disease Center will include an infusion center, physicians’ offices and an outdoor healing garden, where patients can relax during their regularly scheduled infusion appointments. The exam rooms will have areas with couches nearby where doctors can discuss difficult news with families in a private, relaxed setting.

“All of the CAMP programs will be sharing information among many different clinicians and disciplines, but each in very different ways,” says Dr. Rosenfeld.

The Long-term Follow-up Program for Pediatric Oncology treats former cancer patients whose systems may have been adversely affected by the cancer or by radiation or chemotherapy administered during treatment. Some of the patients will need consultations with endocrinologists, cardiologists and adolescent medicine experts all available within the CAMP program.

“Psychologically, these patients don’t want to go back to the hospital,” says Dr. Rosenfeld. “They have progressed to a new stage of recovery.”

The Craniofacial Program specializes in cleft lip, palate and cranial malformations under the direction of Dr. Catherine Mazzola. Its multidisciplinary approach makes it a perfect partner in the CAMP program. Neurosurgeons, plastic surgeons, oral surgeons and otolaryngology experts are regularly consulted for these complex and delicate treatment plans.

CAMP will also house the Aerodigestive Program for patients with complex upper and lower airway problems. Some of these patients also struggle with gastrointestinal issues. Many of these children have both stomach and airway problems that can hamper their ability to receive proper nutrition. Pulmonary experts along with ear, nose and throat specialists will regularly confer in these cases.

“CAMP is one part of our vision to have a program like no other,” says Dr. Rosenfeld. “Patients and their families will seek us out from all over the Tri-State Area and beyond. These kids will be cared for in a way that we would want our families and ourselves to be cared for.”

A leadership gift from Dave and Jill Farris has been given toward CAMP. To offer your support, contact Gerri Kling, major gifts officer, at 973.593.2414 or geraldine.kling@atlantichealth.org.
CAMP will offer highly specialized care for pediatric patients with complicated illnesses, providing both diagnostic and therapeutic interventions.

Top: The site plan for level 2 shows a conference area and physician offices at the top, infusion areas and exam rooms at the center and lower left, a circular nurses station at the center, a family and patient lounge on the right and a healing garden. Left: an exterior rendering.

Renderings courtesy of Francis Cauffman
Hope for Hospice and Palliative Care

Morristown resident and retired hospice nurse Nancy Weinstein, RN, has spent years helping others say goodbye. She has seen firsthand how important it is to both patients and families that a life ends well. Her lifework in hospice care prompted a lead gift, given by her and husband Skippy, for the new Weinstein Inpatient Hospice and Palliative Care Center at the hospital.

The 11-bed unit located off the main hospital is expected to open in 2014 with the look and feel of a comfortable home. Palliative care patients seeking treatment for long-term chronic illnesses along with hospice patients who have stopped curative action and are being treated for pain management will be cared for in this new unit.

“It is a privilege to be a part of a process that brings comfort and dignity to patients and their families at a very important and unique time in their lives,” says Mrs. Weinstein, who now volunteers at the hospital in hospice and palliative care and also as a patient liaison. “As a medical center, we need to provide this kind of service to our community.”

Mansion in May: A Cinderella Story

An English castle, crowds of spectators and a king’s ransom usually stay on the pages of a storybook. But the Women’s Association of Morristown Medical Center breathed life into this fairy tale and named it the 16th Annual Mansion in May.

Glynallyn, a 32,000 square-foot English Tudor castle in Convent Station, shattered previous Mansion in May records, drawing 27,500 visitors and raising $1.25 million – a quarter of a million more than pledged – for the new Inpatient Hospice and Palliative Care Center at the hospital.

Sixty interior and landscape designers transformed the castle into a Designer Show House and Gardens like no other. Built by New York businessman George Marshall Allen between 1913 and 1917, the castle is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is currently for sale.

“Over 1,000 volunteers, along with our Women’s Association members, worked tirelessly to put this event together,” says Beth Wipperman, Women’s Association president. “We are very happy to have broken our records on just about every committee. We pledged $1 million and even beat that. This is the best Mansion In May ever!”
The Division of Pediatric Surgery tops 2,500 visits annually and performs 1,200 procedures yearly. The Atlantic Neonatal Research Institute is established to find ways to prevent brain injury. A Pediatric Research Fund is established in honor of departing pediatric chairman Dr. Leonard Feld.

2007

Groundbreaking takes place for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit expansion. The Child Life Department has grown to four specialists and a music therapist. Dr. Walter Rosenfeld becomes chairman of pediatrics.

2008

Kid-Fit is launched to incorporate good nutrition and exercise into the daily lives of children. The Pediatric Ambulance takes its first patient to Goryeb. Teenagers Emily Weber and Katie Curtin start the youth philanthropy committee Kids4Kids. Parents are invited to be present during medical rounds and procedures, launching Family-Centered Care in the Joan and Edward Foley Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). The PICU expands to nine beds and receives an advanced medical simulator mannequin to improve education and training. Goryeb implements a Pediatric Early Warning/Rapid Response System to intervene with quickly deteriorating patients. The Pediatric Headache Center opens.

2006

The Division of Pediatric Surgery tops 2,500 visits annually and performs 1,200 procedures yearly. The Atlantic Neonatal Research Institute is established to find ways to prevent brain injury. A Pediatric Research Fund is established in honor of departing pediatric chairman Dr. Leonard Feld.

Pet therapy dogs mark a full decade of volunteering in pediatrics.

$3M Grant Advances Integrative Medicine

The MCJ Amelior Foundation has awarded a generous $3 million grant to support the Center for Well-Being, which will open in 2014 at 435 South Street and feature comprehensive holistic, integrative and lifestyle management programming.

Ray Chambers, his wife Patti and his daughter Christine Gilfillan, president of The MCJ Amelior Foundation, have long supported integrative medicine (IM) at Morristown Medical Center. The Chambers family has been part of Atlantic Health System’s pioneering efforts in mind-body medicine for decades, providing access to key IM resources.

“Atlantic Health began its IM program in the early 90s, well before other health care systems embraced the concept,” says Joseph Trunfio, PhD, president and chief executive officer of Atlantic Health System. “The MCJ Amelior Foundation has been there supporting us along the way. We are a leader in this field today with much thanks to them.”

The center will be a focal point for community health and wellness, focusing on patient care, health improvement and practitioner education. Patient-centered care and programming will be delivered in a thoughtfully designed holistic environment. “The goal is to reach area residents before they become ill,” says Dr. Trunfio. “We want to empower them to make positive lifestyle changes.”

Dedicated to changing health outcomes, the center will provide the latest complementary therapies and lifestyle management programs, including massage, healing touch, acupuncture and meditation along with yoga and tai chi. Lifestyle coaching, exercise programming and stress reduction will be important components of the center’s offerings, and an on-site kitchen will serve up healthy cooking and nutrition classes.

“This is our conviction: integrative medicine partnered with conventional medicine and lifestyle changes generates positive health outcomes,” says Mrs. Gilfillan. “The future of health care is empowerment. It’s not about prescribing a pill when you are ill. It’s about learning how to live in a new way and making your own health a personal priority.”
$2.6M for New Inpatient Psychiatric Unit

In the last decade, drastic cuts in state funding have forced psychiatric facilities to close, overwhelming those that remain and pushing patients to emergency departments for mental health assistance. But thanks to a recent $2.6 million gift from The Head Family Charitable Foundation, Morristown Medical Center is moving forward with plans to devote an entire wing – approximately 13,000 square feet – to a new inpatient unit designed specifically for this population.

This state-of-the-art facility, whose total cost is estimated at $5.7 million, will provide 24 beds, including single rooms with private baths. Currently, bottlenecks occur in the existing 1960s-era unit of 16 double rooms when a bed is not available with a person of the same gender or a disruptive patient needs to be alone. Patients sometimes have to wait days in the ED to receive the treatment they need.

“In New Jersey there is a shortage of psychiatric beds, which has driven our occupancy rate to its highest ever at 92 percent,” says Tom Zaubler, MD, chair of psychiatry and behavioral health at Morristown Medical Center. “We often have patients waiting for a bed. A larger unit will help us get patients the care they need much more quickly and effectively.”

To join The Head Family Charitable Foundation in support of this vital project, please contact Cynthia O’Donnell, director of gift planning, at 973.593.2418 or cynthia.odonnell@atlantichealth.org.

Making a Gift of Stock?

If you are transferring stock or other marketable securities as gifts to the Foundation, please note that our brokerage house is Morgan Stanley SmithBarney, located at 10 Madison Avenue, First Floor, in Morristown. Our contact there is Jeffrey J. Berns, who may be reached at 973.993.5212, 800.524.2423 or 973.993.5276 (fax). Our DTC number is 0015 and our account number is 263-110241-306.

To ensure that your gift is properly credited to your account, please notify Rosemary Stallone, manager of finance for the Foundation for Morristown Medical Center, at 973.593.2421, 973.290.7561 (fax), or rosemary.stallone@atlantichealth.org.

GORYEB MILESTONES

2009

Sam’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, named for the late daughter of lead donor Steve Salzberg, opens. It is the first Level 3 NICU in the state to have private rooms for patients and families.

The Pediatric Hospitalist Division is created for patient transfers who need specialized care and may not have a pediatrician in the area and for the increasing numbers of patients with multiple medical problems.

TeenFitFX, an online nutrition and fitness program for teens, is launched.

Goryeb obtains an EEG machine dedicated solely to pediatrics.

Pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center treats its 1,000th patient.

The Pediatric Echocardiology Laboratory converts fully to digital technology.

2010

Goryeb has more than 100 pediatric subspecialists caring for patients.

The Eating Disorders Program expands to include intensive outpatient, partial hospital and inpatient care.

Condition H gives patients’ families a way to request immediate assistance.

Kids4Kids members and community volunteers create Mickey’s Garden.

Doc2Doc, a direct line for outside physicians to contact pediatric specialists, begins.

Apple ‘i’ technology is used to teach and entertain throughout pediatrics.
Giving from a Grateful Heart

When a doctor goes above and beyond the call of duty in treating a patient sometimes it sets in motion a tide of thankfulness. In the case of cardiovascular patient Sandy Irene, this gratefulness took on the form of a $100,000 donation toward the $2 million goal to fund the Parr Chair of Cardiovascular Surgery at Gagnon Cardiovascular Institute. When this new endowed chair is established, Dr. John M. Brown III will be the first physician to hold it. Dr. Brown also just happened to be Mr. Irene’s surgeon for a heart bypass operation last year.

The gift was given as $50,000 from Armada Healthcare, LLC, a healthcare company based in Florham Park that is owned and operated by Mr. Irene, his sons Lawrence and Robert, and daughter Lauren. The remaining $50,000 was a personal gift from Mr. Irene.

“My sons were instrumental in making this whole thing happen,” says Mr. Irene. “All the accolades should go to them.”

The new chair position will honor Grant Van Siclen Parr, MD, physician-in-chief of Gagnon and former chief of cardiac surgery, who founded the cardiovascular surgery program at Morristown Medical Center in 1988. Over the years the program has surged to a top 50 ranking in the country while maintaining a highly personal approach to patients and their well-being.

“Dr. Brown didn’t just operate on me and forget about it,” says Mr. Irene. “He took the time to sit and talk with me after my surgery, which is unusual with the schedule he had. I even had some unfortunate complications after the surgery, and he was always there, staying up on the pulse of my condition from the beginning until I was released as a patient. His care truly went above and beyond.”

To join the Irene family in supporting the Parr Chair, please contact Hyona Revere, director of major gifts, 973.593.2429 or hyona.revere@atlantichealth.org.
While her high school friends were spending their summers sleeping until noon or hanging out at the beach, Lauren Wagner was dashing up and down Morristown Medical Center corridors with medical records, blood samples, and anything else that needed swift transport. And all around her, she was seeing her future.

For the past three summers and during holiday school breaks, Ms. Wagner has been up at dawn so she could drive to the hospital with her mom, Christine, a nurse in pediatric endocrinology, and clock in for an eight-hour shift as a courier.

She remembers, as a young girl, reading the beautiful thank you notes and seeing the colorful crayon drawings on her mom’s desk from children her mom had treated in her unit.

“She helps kids with diabetes,” says the 18-year-old Mountainside resident. “It was great to see how much they appreciated her.”

Moved by the outpouring of love and gratitude from the pediatric patients under her mom’s care, Ms. Wagner knew she wanted to be a nurse caring for children in some way.

“Even though my mom introduced the idea of becoming a nurse to me, she never pushed me toward it,” Ms. Wagner says. “But she’s so happy that’s what I’ve decided to do. I’ll be able to share my experiences with her, and she can share hers with me. She has been a nurse for 35 years so I know there’s a lot I can learn from her.”

As a hospital volunteer, Ms. Wagner has been in her element, going everywhere in the hospital and meeting people from all walks of life. Her fellow volunteers have made a big impression on her.

“I loved meeting all the older volunteers and working with them,” she says. “It’s amazing; I got to work with a 95-year-old man who is still volunteering. He is so sharp. It was fun to work with him and see all of his enthusiasm. He put me to shame.”

Ms. Wagner is now a freshman at the University of Delaware enrolled in the nursing program. Her years of volunteering taught her to be a self-starter, a skill that will serve her well in college. Whatever was on the docket for the day from delivering flowers to showing visitors where to go, she was all about getting the job done.

In high school, she also volunteered on her town’s rescue squad and passed the state EMT exam, bringing her future into sharp focus.

“I would love to work at Morristown Medical Center someday,” says Ms. Wagner. “I want to work in pediatrics and have a connection with the children. That has been my dream for a while.”

She’s reminded of the chant from the crowd at her high school football games: ‘You Gotta Believe!’

“I loved hearing that!” says the former marching band drum major. “I would say believing is a big part of your life. You should always reach for your goals and never stop believing you can achieve them.”

In its latest available state-by-state numbers, Independent Sector valued a New Jersey volunteer’s time at $25.64 per hour. With volunteers clocking more than 118,000 hours last year, Morristown Medical Center received a gift of services topping $3,025,520.
Three hundred donors and volunteers turned out for the 2012 Chairman’s Dinner on May 17 at the Hanover Marriott in Whippany. The biannual event gives the Foundation the opportunity to thank donors and the more than 200 volunteers who work with the Foundation on the hospital’s behalf. This year’s event featured a performance by the Mayo Performing Arts Company and testimonials from patient Brett Lewis and his wife, Melissa (see an excerpt on page 3). In addition, the Foundation honored 13 physicians who were cited for their outstanding and compassionate care by multiple patients and families, earning each of them the gold Healing Hands Award: Kenneth R. Adler, MD; Mark A. Blum, MD; William L. Diehl, MD; Ellen M. Early, MD; Charles M. Farber, MD; Sarada Gurubhagavatula, MD; Christopher J. Magovern, MD; Steven W. Papish, MD; Dominick N. Randazzo, MD; Stephen M. Schreibman, MD; Michael J. Scola, MD; Mark D. Widmann, MD and Stephen L. Winters, MD. The highlight of the evening, however, was the awarding of the Augusta Stone Award for meritorious service in philanthropy to William D. and Susan S. Bruen.

Visit the video archive at f4mmc.org to view the night’s presentations.
Tailor Your Gift to Your Goals

If you would like to … Then consider … How you may benefit
Support Morristown Medical without depleting your cash reserves and avoid capital-gains tax A gift of appreciated stock Provide support to Morristown Medical while decreasing the out-of-pocket cost to you by avoiding capital-gains tax
Make a significant future gift without affecting your current lifestyle A charitable bequest Reduce estate and death taxes and retain control over your assets during your lifetime
Leave assets to Morristown Medical and your heirs upon your death but you’re not sure what to leave to whom Naming Morristown Medical as a beneficiary of your retirement-plan benefits Avoid estate tax on retirement-plan assets while making other property available to pass to your heirs
Make a significant gift to Morristown Medical and retain an income for yourself A charitable gift annuity or a charitable remainder unitrust Receive an income stream and an immediate income-tax deduction
Minimize taxes on the transfer of a business you own and provide support for Morristown Medical A gift of closely held business stock Receive an income-tax deduction and avoid capital-gains tax

Gillam Named New Chair of Cardiovascular Medicine at Gagnon

Linda D. Gillam, MD, MPH, has been named Dorothy and Lloyd Huck Chair of the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine for Gagnon Cardiovascular Institute. Dr. Gillam joined the hospital in 2011 as vice chair of cardiovascular medicine and program director of the Cardiac Fellowship Program. Previously, she was the medical director of the Cardiac Valve Program and a professor of clinical medicine at Columbia University in New York City.

“My passion for cardiology started within the first month of medical school and has never wavered,” says Dr. Gillam.

She is particularly interested in gender differences in heart disease, advanced imaging and valvular heart disease: “My goal is to implement a women’s heart program that is gender optimized to prevent and treat heart disease. Another priority of mine is a new valve program to treat patients with narrowed or leaky heart valves, which will include advanced imaging and state-of-the-art surgery techniques, as well as new ways to treat valve disease without surgery.”

Rounding out Dr. Gillam’s list of top priorities is a program for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, a form of heart disease that is often the culprit when athletes die suddenly.

About the Staff

The Foundation for Morristown Medical Center is a nonprofit public foundation whose mission is to inspire community philanthropy to advance exceptional health care for patients at Morristown Medical Center. Our objective is to utilize philanthropy to preserve and expand the hospital’s programs and services in direct patient care, clinical research, medical and public health education and preventive medicine.

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