Dedication celebrates new children’s hospital!
New Golisano Children’s Hospital Dedication Celebrates Kids, Community and Future

For the future families who will spend time here, know that it’s state of the art and built with love.
— Jennifer Johnson
“3 – 2 – 1 – Miracles!”

As the crowd chanted, the legion of Miracle Kids cut the ribbon to UR Medicine’s new Golisano Children’s Hospital, and a dream and vision 90 years in the making became a reality.

Finally, it’s here: A new, state-of-the-art hospital that will serve countless patients and families from across the Rochester region and beyond.

“The investment made by Tom Golisano in this hospital will pay off in the health and well-being of many families and generations to come,” said Pediatrician-in-Chief and William H. Eilinger Chair of Pediatrics Nina F. Schor, M.D., Ph.D.

The May 27 ceremony was a historic moment for the University of Rochester, as the new children’s hospital represents the largest capital project in the university’s history.

Miracle Kids, grateful families, University of Rochester leadership, and significant building donors, including hospital namesake B. Thomas Golisano, celebrated on a beautiful sunny day. Children welcomed community leaders and the many donors, who Schor described as “community champions.”

Grease Paint Alley Clowns, area Miss America pageant holders and Golisano Children’s Hospital child life staff entertained younger attendees on the new building’s ground floor before everyone made it to their seats outside.

“For the future families who will spend time here, know that it’s state of the art and built with love,” said Jennifer Johnson, 13WHAM anchor and Golisano Children’s Hospital board member.

Remarks followed from University of Rochester President Joel Seligman, University of Rochester Medical Center CEO and Dean of the School of Medicine and Dentistry Mark Taubman, M.D., Schor, and others.

“We wouldn’t be able to create this facility without our community and the thousands who made this possible,” said Seligman. “Thousands of physicians, nurses and staff make this the exceptional institution it is and will be.”

“The children’s hospital has always been a destination for the most specialized care,” said Taubman. “We already have some of the best, brightest, and most qualified physicians, but the new hospital will attract even more. Medical staff will be practicing with the latest research, in a beautiful new facility with innovative technology.”

Last to speak was the man for whom the hospital is named.

“A wise man once said “The only wealth that you get to keep is that which you give away,” said Golisano, who has given a total of $34 million to the children’s hospital, including $20 million to jumpstart the campaign for the new building.

A “Parade of Miracles” followed, complete with drummers and a color guard from Greece Blue Knights Marching Band. More than 20 children, including current and former patients, paraded through a crowd of more than 600 attendees while carrying their own symbolic ribbon. In addition to the customary ribbon cut by leadership, the ceremony included a colorful paper chain made up of hand-drawn pictures, stickers, and messages of thanks from patients and families.
The Parade of Miracles made its way to the front of the stage and, with a joyous countdown and awe-inspiring confetti cannons, the ribbons to the new Golisano Children’s Hospital were cut!

The new eight-story, $145 million hospital is 245,000 square feet, and every inch of it has been built with patients’ and families’ needs in mind. For the first time, the children’s hospital will feature all-private rooms and specialized technology, including the first integrated PET/MRI in a children’s hospital in the nation. The new space is set to open in mid-July for the 74,000 children across the Finger Lakes region who come to Golisano Children’s Hospital for care each year.

A Hospital Built by the Community

Recognized as “the hospital the community built,” the new children’s hospital is a product of years of planning by visionary leaders. Nearly 8,500 individuals and community groups have given more than $53 million in philanthropic gifts to the new hospital to date. Donors have come from 38 states, the District of Columbia, and two of Canada’s provinces. One-third of donors, many of whom are children, have given $25 or less.

Leading gifts include:

• A $20 million pledge by Golisano which launched the project’s fundraising campaign
• A $7 million commitment from the Wegman Family Foundation
• $5 million from Georgia Gosnell to name the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
• $3 million from Rick Aab in honor of the Ganatra family, for which the atrium is named
• More than 120 spaces in the new hospital are named in honor of commitments by generous donors.
The new eight-story, $145 million hospital is 245,000 square feet, and every inch of it has been built with patients’ and families’ needs in mind.
The new children’s hospital will allow us to take our goal of patient- and family-centered care to a new level.
— Nina Schor, M.D., Ph.D.
An Environment Designed with Children and Families in Mind

Golisano Children’s Hospital is the leading pediatric hospital in the Finger Lakes region. It offers specialized services including cardiovascular, neonatal care, critical care, hematology, oncology, bone marrow transplant, nephrology, gastrointestinal (GI), renal transplant, urology, surgery, pulmonology, sleep medicine, burn care, trauma, plastic surgery, ear, nose and throat (ENT), adolescent medicine, gynecology (GYN), endocrinology, and orthopaedics, just to name a few.

The new hospital environment was designed to minimize stress, fear and anxiety for patients and families. The interior of the hospital showcases the many beautiful landscapes of upstate New York, with each floor featuring a different theme, including lakes, meadows, parks, and cities.

The hospital will fully embrace the need for play and normalcy, with a fun element at every turn — even on the building’s elevators. A new two-story Play Deck on the seventh and eighth floors will allow kids to get away from their rooms for activities. The Play Deck offers an expansive view that stretches all the way to the Bristol Hills.

“The new children's hospital will allow us to take our goal of patient- and family-centered care to a new level,” said Nina Schor, M.D., Ph.D., William H. Eilinger Chair of Pediatrics and Pediatrician-in-Chief of Golisano Children’s Hospital. “Children heal faster and more comfortably when their families are close by and when the family is a part of the care team. Our new building now allows us to better accommodate these needs.”

Phase two of the children’s hospital construction will include building an operating suite on the fourth floor and moving the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) to the sixth floor. Construction is scheduled to start later this year and be completed in 2017.

To donate, call 585-273-5948 or visit givetokids.urmc.edu.

The first floor is home to the Walmart and Sam’s Club Pediatric Lobby, the Sibling Club House, the Ronald McDonald House Family Room, a family library and resource center, the Mark and Marcia Siewert Pediatric Conference Room, and entrances to two healing gardens. | The greatly expanded Gosnell Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) will add 44 new private rooms for our region’s tiniest patients and sickest babies. It’s located on the third floor and will provide intensive care in rooms three times that of the current space. | The seventh and eighth floors of the new building are dedicated to general inpatient care. | The seventh floor is a Park theme, and is also home to the Play Deck.