

## Grant Domogala: A different kind of superhero

*An inside look at Pediatric Cardiology*

# Dear Friends



Whether you spend your days sitting at a desk or running merchandise from place to place, your heart takes the oxygen you breathe

and the food you eat to your muscles, your brain, your kidneys, your liver – to everywhere in your body. Without the energy that this process allows your cells to create, nothing in your body could function. But imagine that, sometime when your heart was forming inside of your mother's womb, something went wrong. Perhaps the wall between two chambers of your heart did not form completely, leaving a hole through which blood could escape before going to the lungs to pick up oxygen. Perhaps the cells of your heart have abnormal

mitochondria – the “generators” in the cells – and cannot use food to make energy. Or perhaps the electrical wires in the walls of the heart have a “short” and cannot send impulses to the heart muscle to make it beat in perfect rhythm. These are the challenges that face our patients and their families, in Buffalo, in Syracuse, in Rochester, and everywhere in between, each and every day.

Luckily for them, our regional heart center is here for them wherever they live. Our outstanding pediatric cardiologists in all three cities make the diagnosis close to home. Our gifted pediatric cardiac surgery team plans and performs the necessary surgery in Rochester or Syracuse. Our pediatric cardiac intensive care team cares for the child pre- and post-operatively. And everyone – doctors, nurses, child life specialists, social workers, clergy, therapists – work to keep the family informed, ensure that the

child is safe and optimally cared for, and hopefully provide for the child's discharge to home in the care of their local pediatric cardiologist and primary care pediatrician.

It does not take much imagination to envision the enormous amount of coordination, creativity, skill, and compassion that goes into this process. It is also not hard to imagine that the technology and the teamwork involved is extraordinarily expensive and could be hard to come by in a region the size and population of Upstate NY. That is why we and our regional heart center team are so lucky to have you! Enjoy reading the successes and new initiatives of the team you and people like you made possible!

**Nina F. Schor, M.D., Ph.D.**  
**Pediatrician-in-Chief,**  
**Golisano Children's Hospital**  
**William H. Eilinger Chair of Pediatrics**

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# Adults with Congenital Heart Disease: A New Frontier

*New children's hospital program helps teens transition to adult care*



“Children are not just small adults.”

It's a common refrain among care providers when describing how drastically different the care of a young patient can be, relative to an older person with the same ailment.

But as medicine has improved, children who used to succumb to congenital ailments early in life survive well into adulthood, and now, physicians are finding that the opposite is true as well: adults are not just large children.

“A few decades ago, there wasn't any kind of treatment available for children born with, for example, a single ventricle in their heart. Today, we're seeing those children thrive well into adulthood,” said Michael Joynt M.D., assistant professor of Pediatrics, Cardiology at Golisano Children's Hospital. “The challenge as physicians is that we don't know what a 'normal' 40-year-old single-ventricle heart looks like, because these patients didn't exist until recently.”

The new set of patients — adults with congenital heart disease — created a dilemma among care providers. Pediatric cardiologists weren't used to following patients into their 20s, 30s, and 40s.

Meanwhile, adult cardiologists didn't have much experience dealing with congenital heart ailments, since most patients with these ailments didn't grow old enough to age into their care. But the need was rising quickly; adults with congenital heart disease were the fastest-growing group of patients in any area of cardiology over the past decade.

Joynt is among the physicians helping to cross this new frontier in medicine. As a graduate of the UR School of Medicine and Dentistry's Med-Peds program, he is double-boarded in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, giving him expertise in both areas. And after graduating, he spent four years in fellowship at the University of Michigan — three in pediatric cardiology, and an additional year in Adult Congenital Cardiology.

Now, he's prepared to help patients with a variety of conditions — single ventricle hearts, Tetralogy of Fallot, transposition of the great arteries, and Ebstein's Anomaly and others — transition from pediatric care starting in their teenage years.

“There are now more adults with congenital heart disease than children,” said Joynt. “So we're really looking to build this program and make sure these patients get the care they should.”

# Checking our pulse

A conversation with the Chief of Pediatric Cardiology, Dr. Roger Vermilion



The Children's Heart Center at URMC provides cardiac and cardiovascular surgical care for children and adults born with structural heart disease or children with acquired heart problems. The center provides a full range of outpatient and inpatient services and works closely with pediatric cardiologists across upstate New York to provide comprehensive cardiac care to patients throughout the region.

Below, Roger Vermilion, M.D., Chief of the Division of Pediatric Cardiology, discusses the Center's recent growth and its plans for the future.

## Tell us about the Children's Heart Center's growth over the past decade or so.

We've grown in two very significant ways. The first is from a service-line standpoint. We have always strived to treat every type of pediatric heart ailment, but in recent years we've enhanced our ability to provide even more specialized services within what is already a very specialized field and we have developed multiple subspecialized clinics. For example, if your child has an elevated cholesterol level and you bring them to Golisano Children's Hospital, you won't just see a pediatric cardiologist — you'll see a pediatric cardiologist who has specific interest and expertise in lipid disorders. We now offer many other subspecialized clinics in areas such as Marfan syndrome and other connective tissue disorders, heart failure, electrophysiology or rhythm disorders, and adults with congenital heart disease.

The second way we've grown is geographically — we have worked very closely with the pediatric cardiologists across upstate New York to ensure comprehensive

pediatric cardiac care to patients across the upstate New York region. Inpatient surgical and more complex catheterization and electrophysiology procedures have been centered here at Golisano Children's Hospital. This allows children across upstate New York to take advantage of the only dedicated pediatric cardiac intensive care unit in the region when they need it, while they can continue to receive outpatient care with their cardiologist closer to home.

## Can you speak a little more about our expertise? Why should families seek care here?

Well, first, we treat everything. This includes all forms of congenital heart diseases — atrial septal defects, ventricular septal defects, Tetralogy of Fallot, transposition of the great arteries, to name a few — as well as lipid disorders, acquired heart diseases like Kawasaki's syndrome, rheumatic fever and myocarditis, heart rhythm problems, and adults with congenital heart disease.

But it's our approach to

treatment that really differentiates us. At URMC, we are surrounded by pediatric specialists in every field of health, and we take full advantage, as patients at the Children's Heart Center are treated via a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary, team-based approach, often seeing pediatric specialists from several different divisions. This ensures that children with heart ailments — which are often accompanied by other issues — are able to see multiple specialists to ensure they're getting the best care for all of their needs.

Additionally, as mentioned, even within our division our physicians are highly specialized. Just in the past three years, we've added several new cardiologists to our team including Dr. Carol Wittlieb-Weber, who sees patients with heart failure; Dr. Rajiv Devanagondi, an interventional catheterization specialist; Dr. Jeffrey Vinocur, an electrophysiology specialist; and Dr. Michael Joynt, who specializes in treating adults with congenital heart disease. That level of specialization can't exist without a robust, centralized team.



Rendering of the Clay E. and Rita M. Buzzard Pediatric Cardiac Cath Lab, scheduled to open in 2017.

### **How has the new children's hospital enhanced your care?**

The new inpatient rooms are wonderful, but what's really going to affect our division most is what we're building right now as part of Phase II. We are constructing a brand new pediatric cardiac operating room, where our world-class surgeons, Drs. George Alfieri and Francisco Gensini, will have the most state-of-the-art equipment at their disposal. We're also building the Clay E. and Rita M. Buzzard Pediatric Cardiac Cath Lab, which is a dedicated pediatric cardiac catheterization suite. Cardiac catheterization procedures are used to diagnose and define cardiac anatomy, gauge the success of surgical treatments, and perform interventional procedures and electrophysiology

studies. Having a lab specifically designed for pediatric procedures is going to ensure that our patients get the best possible care. Finally, Phase II includes an expanded 16-bed pediatric cardiac care center. As the only dedicated pediatric cardiac intensive care unit in the upstate region, this enhanced capacity will improve our ability to meet the needs of children in the region.

### **What do you envision for the future?**

I'm truly excited for the future. As medicine advances and as our division grows, we're able to take better care of more children with heart ailments, and give them the best possible chance at a long, happy, and healthy life. That's why we all got into this line of work.

So in terms of looking forward, I first look backward and see how care has evolved and improved since I began my career as a pediatric cardiologist 26 years ago. During that time there have been remarkable advances in our ability to diagnose and treat congenital heart disease. That really inspires me and I can't wait to see the things we'll be able to do 10 or 20 years from now, and beyond.



# ***EIGHT YEAR OLD IS "TRULY LIVING" IN HEART FAILURE***

***GRANT DOMOGALA IS A DIFFERENT KIND OF SUPERHERO.***

He doesn't wear a cape, a costume, or a mask. He's not a star in any Marvel or DC Comics movies, although he'd probably like to be. He isn't going to overwhelm anyone with his size or stature. But he will inspire the masses with his courage. For a child who is living in heart failure, he shows a tremendous amount of heart.

Grant, an eight-year-old boy from Hamburg, NY, is fascinated with superheroes of all shapes and sizes. He greets visitors who enter his hospital room with a smile, and doesn't let his new friends leave until they answer who their favorite superheroes are, along with their favorite villains.

Born September 7, 2008, smiles and happiness filled the room as Justin and Jessica Domogala welcomed their baby boy to the world. It wasn't until doctors began running routine tests that they recognized something abnormal with Grant's heart.

Rushed to the Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (PCICU) at Golisano Children's Hospital, the Domogalas didn't know what was in store for their less-than-one-day-old son. After running countless tests, Grant was diagnosed with Tetralogy of Fallot with pulmonary atresia, a severe congenital heart defect. Doctors found a hole in his heart between his left and right ventricles and serious abnormalities of the pulmonary arteries, which carry blood to the lungs.

The Domogalas were told that Grant's condition wasn't curable. Little did they know, Grant was about to channel his inner superhero for the first time.



## GRANT DOMOGALA

**SURGERIES:** 3      **ANGIOGRAMS:** 10  
**FAVORITE SUPERHERO:** HAWKEYE  
**FAVORITE VILLIAN:** THANOS  
**FUN FACT:** HATES THE WORD BLOOD,  
CHARGES PEOPLE \$5 WHO SAY IT AROUND  
HIM, ALSO REFERS TO THE PIG'S VALVE THAT  
WAS SURGICALLY IMPLANTED INTO HIM AS  
"EVIL DR. PORK CHOP."

"WE HADN'T SEEN A CASE LIKE GRANT'S IN QUITE A WHILE... HE TRULY WAS LIVING IN HEART FAILURE, AND THE SURGERIES WERE QUITE COMPLEX."

"There have been a few times we were worried that Grant wouldn't make it through the night," said Jessica. "We were told he'd need lifelong surgical intervention and that his outlook was bleak."

George Alfieris, M.D., Director of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery, performed open-heart surgery when Grant was just three weeks old, placing a shunt connecting some of his pulmonary vessels to his aorta as an attempt to stimulate growth. The surgery was difficult for Grant, but he pulled through.

"We hadn't seen a case like Grant's in quite a while," said George Alfieris, M.D. "He truly was living in heart failure, and the surgeries were quite complex."

Over the next eight months, Grant had four angiograms performed by Glenn Leonard, M.D., who is Grant's primary cardiologist in Buffalo and also works as a pediatric interventional cardiologist at Golisano Children's Hospital. These minimally invasive procedures helped reduce the troublesome excessive blood flow reaching some parts of Grant's lungs via his major aortopulmonary collateral arteries (MAPCAs), which had developed because his pulmonary artery was obstructed.

At eight months old, Alfieris performed a second open-heart surgery on Grant. This time, the goal was to place a conduit that would connect Grant's right ventricle to his pulmonary artery. This was successful, but Grant's heart and lungs were not ready for complete repair, so the large hole was left open.

The Domogalas took residence in the PCICU at Golisano Children's Hospital for over two months after that surgery.

"The second surgery was so much harder than the first," said Jessica. "His right diaphragm was paralyzed and he contracted a cold that forced him onto a ventilator for five weeks."

In April 2015, Grant had to undergo a third open-heart surgery where Alfieris and colleague Francisco Gensini, M.D., replaced the six-year-old conduit with a larger one containing a pig's heart valve to serve the purpose of the pulmonary valve

**"WE STILL HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO, BUT HE'S A SPECIAL KID, AND ALWAYS MAKES A GO OF IT."**

Grant had been missing since birth, and added cadaver tissue to his pulmonary artery to try to expand it. Again the hole had to be left open, and again Grant had a long recovery with months in the PCICU.

With everything Grant has gone through, his heart continues to struggle. While the catheterizations and surgeries have certainly helped Grant's heart function, his heart muscle and lungs remain weak, and earlier this year he had to be hospitalized because of worsening heart function.

But the 8-year-old keeps fighting.

Since Grant's second surgery, Leonard has performed six more angiograms on Grant, each with a different goal, always working at optimizing his heart's performance.

He also recently met with Jeffrey M. Vinocur, M.D., a heart rhythm specialist at Golisano Children's Hospital. Because Grant's heart is weak and creating extra beats, he's currently trying out a LifeVest, which is a wearable defibrillator that will shock his heart if it goes out of rhythm. Vinocur has also prescribed different medicine for Grant that

has improved his outlook.

He's also trying new therapies that Grant has been responding well to.

"We've taken steps in the right direction in the last few months," said Vinocur. "We still have a lot of work to do, but he's a special kid, and always makes a go of it."

The Domogalas are currently weighing other treatment options, such as cardiac resynchronization therapy (CRT), or possibly a heart and lung transplant. Because the left and right sides of Grant's heart beat out-of-sync, he might benefit from CRT, where a special pacemaker is implanted to keep things coordinated. However, this would mean undergoing another surgery.

For now, they'll continue their routine of meeting with Leonard and Vinocur, and enjoying milestones they never thought would be possible.

"Each birthday has been so meaningful for us because, for anyone you don't know how long you're going to have with someone," said Jessica. "Grant's odds are stacked so high above him, and yet, he just keeps going. His will is so much stronger than the average person. With all of the advancements in technology, we're hopeful for what the future holds."



Grant and his father, Justin, wheel around the Playdeck in the new children's hospital.



Dr. Jeffrey Vinocur and Grant talk dinosaurs after an appointment in mid-September 2016.

## 5-Year-Old Gives Back to Golisano Children's Hospital

# Molly Frasier's selfless nature an inspiration to all



The Frasier family (left to right) - Amanda, Molly, Jonathan, Sierra, and Jon.

Looking at 5-year-old Molly Frasier, you'd never know she was born with a congenital heart defect. Her infectious spirit has led countless toy donations to Golisano Children's Hospital, a place that had a big impact on her during her first year of life.

Molly's parents, Amanda and Jon, found out when Molly was just 1 month old that she had a heart condition during an appointment with their pediatrician. They had scheduled an appointment with the Children's Heart Center at Golisano Children's Hospital to find out what was wrong with Molly, but prior to her appointment, Amanda noticed her daughter was turning purple and needed medical attention sooner.

"The prevailing memory that I have from the experience was the support we received from the care team at Golisano Children's Hospital," said Amanda. "I remember them being very honest, telling us that they would do their best to care for our little girl, and that they would hope for the best."

Molly would need open heart surgery at just five weeks old to fix her aorta, which was too narrow to pump oxygenated blood to her body. Her heart was forced to pump harder to get blood through the coarctation, which ultimately was what hospitalized her.

Francisco Gensini, M.D., and George Alfieri, M.D., cut Molly's aorta from her heart and

reconstructed a new one from her heart tissue.

"Molly's repair required deep hypothermia and circulatory arrest for 37 minutes," said Gensini. "We froze Molly down to 20 degrees Celsius in order to completely stop blood circulation for the repair to be completed."

Molly needed 8 weeks to recover in the pediatric critical intensive care unit. But after struggling to get off a ventilator, Molly pulled through and was able to head home to Lyndonville, Orleans County.

However, Molly's journey continues today. She still has a heart murmur which Alfieri and Gensini left alone. Once Molly gets older, she'll need valve replacements. That won't be for a while, as she'll need to be full-grown because the valves won't grow with her.

Until then, Molly will remain a source of joy in Lyndonville. Each year, she and her brother, Jonathan, have collected toys and donated them to the sick kids at Golisano Children's Hospital.

"They raise the money on their own and love being able to help others," said Amanda. "Because of the kindness that was shown to our family at the children's hospital, we hope to continue this tradition for the foreseeable future."



# 20<sup>th</sup> annual Golf Classic a Hole-in-One

The 20th annual Golisano Children’s Hospital Golf Classic has been one of the largest fundraisers for the children’s hospital and this year was no different, raising \$340,986. Held on Aug. 29 at three of Rochester’s most pristine courses – Monroe Golf Club, Oak Hill Country Club, and Country Club of Rochester – more than 360 golfers came together to support the sick and injured kids staying at Golisano Children’s Hospital.

2016 Miracle Kid Craig Winter and his parents, Kim and Tim, were the honorary guests at this year’s

dinner, held at Monroe Golf Club. Craig, age 6, was diagnosed with a rare tumor that had spread throughout his brain and spinal cord. He’s endured over 100 procedures and continues to fight every day.

Special thanks to our presenting sponsor, Vizient and to all of our donors who helped make this year’s event a tremendous success. We’re also thankful to the VanDeVoorde, White, Noyes and Mitchell families for working the lemonade stand, and all of the volunteers who came out to help.



Little  
Hearts,

Big Hope



## Mended Little Hearts Thrives in its 6<sup>th</sup> Year Serving Rochester

**T**he emotional roller-coaster of having a child with a congenital heart disease can evoke a wide range of feelings: shocked, scared, heartbroken, or even numb. Parents must make decisions on how to care for their newborns quickly to ensure their baby's well-being and put their unwavering trust in caregivers while wondering what's next for their little ones.

The same can be said for Andrea Francis, a mother of twin boys from Farmington. She and her husband, Shawn, learned while their twins were in utero that one of them, Keegan, would be born with transposition of the great arteries (TGA), which occurs when the two main arteries going out of the heart—the pulmonary artery and the aorta—are switched in position.

When Keegan and his brother, Aiden, were born in April 2013, Andrea and Shawn were scared, holding onto hope and wondering what the future would hold. Keegan was rushed to the neonatal intensive care unit at UR Medicine's Golisano Children's Hospital after birth. Shortly thereafter, his condition worsened to a point that he was transferred to the pediatric cardiac intensive care unit. Keegan was placed on extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) to provide respiratory and cardiac support prior to his surgery.

Keegan would need to have an arterial switch

operation. All Andrea and Shawn could do was watch and hope for the best.

That's where Mended *Little* Hearts of Greater Rochester came in.

"The representatives from Mended *Little* Hearts were a tremendous resource for us," said Andrea. "They were there just to talk, share their story, be a shoulder to cry on, and comfort us because they had been through what we were going through."

Mended *Little* Hearts, a nationwide group with local chapters, was started in Rochester in 2010 when Jennifer Kowal saw a need for a peer-to-peer support group for families getting procedures and treatment at Golisano Children's Hospital. She saw a need for a local chapter after her daughter was diagnosed in utero with an underdeveloped heart. Its mission was simple: to provide hope and support to families affected by general heart defects.

Keegan was just 13 days old on the date of his open-heart surgery. The procedure, performed by George Alfieris, M.D., was successful, and Keegan is now three years old.

The impact that Mended *Little* Hearts made on Andrea was so profound that it empowered her to get involved with the mission. She felt a need to help families who were going through what her family did.



Baby Keegan prior to his open heart surgery.

“I know how scary it is. It feels unfair during the moment,” said Andrea. “But you have to hold onto hope, trust in the doctors and nurses, knowing they’ll do everything they possibly can to save your child and give them an opportunity at a healthy life.”

The care team at Golisano Children’s Hospital knows the importance of having a support group like Mended *Little* Hearts, too.

“At Golisano Children’s Hospital, we know that providing support and resources for families is fundamental in the care of our children with congenital heart disease,” said Jill Cholette, M.D., assistant professor of Pediatrics. “The nurses, physicians and staff at the children’s hospital are active participants in the Mended *Little* Hearts organization and we strive to work together to improve the health and well-being of the children and families we care for.”

Since Keegan’s surgery in 2013, Andrea has become increasingly more involved in Mended *Little* Hearts. She is now the Lead Coordinator and helping families like hers navigate through the difficulties of congenital heart disease.

To get in contact with Mended *Little* Hearts of Greater Rochester, visit <http://www.mlhrochesterny.shutterfly.com>.



Keegan, October 2016.



# ROYAL GALA RAISES \$750,000 FOR PHASE II

It was a truly "Royal Celebration" at the Golisano Children's Hospital Gala on Oct. 22. Honorary chairs Jennifer Johnson and Vinnie Esposito welcomed guests to the ballroom of the Rochester Riverside Convention Center, which was flanked by royal guards and adorned with decorations befitting a palace. Jenni Ralph, owner of Wisteria Flowers & Gifts, and her amazing team, transformed the venue with beautiful flowers and decorations.

The evening was filled with great auction items, food and entertainment. The band, Sixwire, from ABC's Nashville, led a raucous celebration along with performers Steve Augeri, formerly of the band Journey, Wally Palmer from The Romantics, Terri Nunn from Berlin, and Jenna Renae, Rochester native and American Idol finalist.

More than \$490,000 was raised to support new monitors

for the surgical suites, and in total, the overall event raised \$750,000 for the children's hospital.

Special thanks to The Cabot Group, which has been the Gala's presenting sponsor since 2008, and to all of our other sponsors, supporters, and attendees for helping out our kids!

We'd like to thank the following Major Sponsors for their tremendous support:

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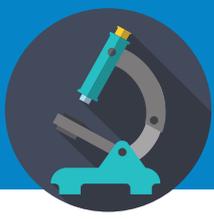
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# Research Round Up

## NDBP study on refugee children published in Pediatrics

Numerous challenges face providers who are administering developmental screenings for refugee children, including differences in cultural and religious beliefs, language barriers, and disparate education levels, according to a study from **Abigail Kroening, M.D.**, assistant professor of Neurodevelopmental and Behavioral Pediatrics.



Kroening's study, published in the prestigious research journal *Pediatrics*,

involved interviews with 29 refugee parents, community collaborators and providers, and turned up a number of cultural differences that may create barriers when identifying developmental milestones.

"For several of the languages spoken in these refugees' home countries, there isn't even a word for 'development' that is used in the way pediatricians use it in the United States," said the study's lead researcher. "We hope this study will help providers to bridge some of these gaps and help refugee parents engage more with their child's development."

## Neuroblastoma protein EYA1 causes cancers to become more aggressive



Aggressive forms of neuroblastoma contain a specific protein in their cells' nuclei that is not found in

the nuclei of more benign forms of the cancer. The discovery, made through the lab of pediatrician-in-chief **Nina Schor, M.D., Ph.D.**, could lead to new forms of targeted therapy.

"Neuroblastoma is one of the most common and deadly forms of childhood cancer, and this discovery allows us to identify drugs that prevent the change in EYA1 structure and potentially minimize the danger to a child who has this disease," said Nina Schor, professor of Pediatrics and Neuroscience and the William H. Eilinger Chair of Pediatrics at URMC.

EYA1, a protein that contributes to ear development, is present in the cytoplasm of many neuroblastoma tumors, but this protein migrates to the nucleus in the cells of more aggressive forms of the disease.

The results were published in two journals: the *Journal of Cancer Research and Therapy* and *Oncotarget*.

## Golisano Children's Hospital receives \$1.5M to join family-based obesity study

UR Medicine's Golisano Children's Hospital is joining several other universities on one of the largest family-based childhood obesity studies ever conducted. The study, led by **Stephen Cook, M.D.**, associate professor of Pediatrics, will discern the effectiveness of a treatment program that teaches both a child and their parents how to change their behaviors and attitudes regarding food,



exercise, and stressful situations. This method deviates from traditional efforts that

emphasize patient education.

"At least 4 percent of children and teens have what is considered severe obesity," said Cook, the study's lead researcher locally. "This program will help them get their weight under control through a change in mindset and by behavior change for the child and family that targets problem-solving mechanisms."

UR Medicine is receiving \$1.5 million from the National Institutes of Health to participate.



## Save the Date!

for the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Drive for Miracles radiothon! Tune in to WHAM1180 and 100.5 The Drive between 5 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Feb. 9-10 and help support Golisano Children's Hospital!



# Special Thanks to all of our sponsors



## Miracle Treat Day a Sweet Success

On July 28, 2016, Dairy Queen held their annual Miracle Treat Day, where \$1 from every Blizzard sold at Rochester area locations was donated to Golisano Children’s Hospital. To date, they have raised over \$68,000 to donate to the children’s hospital, and are committed to a \$100,000 pledge that will go toward naming rights in the new hospital.

“Supporting Golisano Children’s Hospital fits our mission to a ‘T,’” said Mark Goldberg, business partner at Rochester area Dairy Queen’s. “We’re incredibly fortunate to be able to support such a wonderful place that does so much good for the children in our community.”

## Costco’s Inaugural Year Exceeds Expectations

In Costco’s first year in Rochester as a part of Children’s Miracle Network they were able to raise over \$20,000 for Golisano Children’s Hospital. Every May, Costco participates in a month-long Miracle Balloon Campaign at all warehouses in the United States and Canada. The annual Miracle Balloon Campaign is the primary source of the fundraising effort made by Costco and its partnership with Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals. Members are invited to make a donation at the time of checkout and encouraged to write their names on the balloons, which are often displayed at the front of the warehouse.

Regional golf tournaments, a corporate match, and other creative fundraising activities increase the fundraising total.

# Holiday Giving

At this time of year, gift-giving is on a lot of our minds as we seek to find just the right gift for people we care about. Think back to the best gift you ever gave someone; what made it so great? Chances are, it brought someone joy, fulfilled a great need, or made wonderful new things possible.

At Golisano Children’s Hospital, every gift we receive does all that, and so much more.

Gifts of all sizes from thousands of people in our community helped build the new eight-story Golisano Children’s Hospital. Nearly 8,500 individuals and community groups have given more than \$53 million in philanthropic gifts to the new hospital to date, and many of those gifts were from individuals and children who contributed \$25 or less.

If you were one of the people who made a gift to Golisano Children’s Hospital in the past, you have so much to be proud of. If you are considering a gift, you will be investing in a brighter future for thousands of children and families: Phase II of the new hospital

construction will bring new pediatric operating rooms, a pediatric cardiac surgery center, and a new pediatric intensive care unit.

Your gift to Golisano Children’s Hospital is tax-deductible. To claim a donation on your 2016 taxes, you will need to make your gift by December 31.

To give using a credit card, visit [www.givetokids.urmc.edu](http://www.givetokids.urmc.edu) and click on the “Make a Gift” button.

Checks can be made out to Golisano Children’s Hospital and mailed to:

Golisano Children’s Hospital Office of Advancement  
300 East River Road, PO Box 278996  
Rochester, NY 14627

If you’re a donor or potential donor and would like to speak with us directly or have questions, please feel free to call us at (585) 273-5948.

# Thank You

Many thanks to these and all generous supporters and event organizers that benefit Golisano Children's Hospital!

If you are interested in hosting a fundraiser please contact Stephanie Sheets at: [stephanie.sheets@rochester.edu](mailto:stephanie.sheets@rochester.edu) or 585-275-2268

participated in Martha Brown's Kid 2 Kid. You all donated an incredible \$10,662.82!

- A big thank you to Shane Rothenburgh for hosting the 1st Wingfest at Jeremiah's in Gates. Over \$1,000 was raised!
- Much appreciation to the employees at IBM for thinking of GCH, our kids, and our families with their recent donation.
- We are grateful to Nick's Fight to be Healed organization for their \$1,000 donation for our patient care bags.
- Thank you to Kittelberger Florist & Gifts who held their annual golf tournament and raised \$1,500 for the kids of GCH!
- We are grateful for Holy Trinity Church who donated \$357.79 for pediatric cancer. Thanks!
- A big thank you to Red Jacket Jr. Hoops who donated \$2,000 from a tournament to fight pediatric cancer!
- We are grateful to all who organized and attended the John P. Clary Tribute Run and Brunch and made your donation possible. Thank you.
- Thank you to all who collected change for the Pennies for Penelope Change Collection. You were able to donate \$289!
- The Kiwanis Kids Club of St. Joseph's school in Batavia raised \$200 for the kids of GCH, THANK YOU!
- Much appreciation to the youth group of Holy Cross Church of Rochester who held a soup dinner and raised enough money to purchase a glider for our NICU; thanks!
- Thank you to The Young Ladies of Grace for your recent \$50 donation.
- We are deeply grateful to Brockport High School whose dance marathon for leukemia research raised \$3,132.40. Way to go!
- University IT recently held a Valentine's Day bake-off and raised \$516 for the kids of GCH. Thank You!
- The Prattsburgh Central School Districts JV girls and V boys basketball teams held a heart fundraiser in honor of Brody Michael Sullivan and raised \$100. Thank you!
- Thank you to Kako Beauty for their \$245 donation.
- Much appreciation to Raymond Feng, Amy Feng, Sam Nitsch, and Jackie Hager for performing in the Music for Love Program at St. John's Meadows. They chose GCH as the recipient of choice for their concert proceeds.
- Thank you to Levi's Egg Hunt – you all donated \$790 to help our kids!
- A big thank you to the Pittsford Crew Team who raised \$3,662 at their April erg-a-thon and raised \$279 at their semi-formal!
- Delmonico's Italian Steakhouse held their grand re-opening as a fundraiser and raised \$8,719.18 for GCH. Thank you!!
- A huge thank you to all who organized and participated in Martha Brown's Kid 2 Kid.
- Thank you, Raymond Feng, who held a piano recital and raised \$250 for music therapy.
- East Bloomfield Central School District held a Bloomfield's Got Talent and raised and donated \$1,000. Thank you!
- Thank you, thank you, thank you, to Team Ali-Gaiters for hosting another wonderful clambake and to all who came and supported the clambake. You all were able to donate over \$22,000. Thank you!!!
- We are grateful to the Waterloo Middle School who held a service project in honor of Courtney Wagner and donated \$250.
- Thank you to Lewis Tree Service's Giving Tree who recently donated \$2,500 for our kids!
- Thanks to Coleman Wilmot and his friends for hosting a lemonade stand and donating the \$250 proceeds to help our kids!
- Much appreciation to Johnny the Balloonist who donated \$105 from participating in The Choir at The Legacy Talent Show.
- A big thank you to The Power of Dance for your \$875 donation.
- Ruby Brotherton celebrated her birthday by asking for financial donations she could donate to GCH. Thank you for your \$350 donation and Happy Birthday, Ruby!
- A huge thank you to B&L Wholesale for organizing and hosting their annual golf tournament, and to all who participated. You raised \$160,350!
- Thank you to Amy Bell and her team from Premium Mortgage who raised \$2,532.95 at her annual golf tournament.
- Flowers 4 Julia raised and donated \$3,000. THANK YOU!
- Thanks to the American Legion Riders of Post 529 for hosting a dice run and donating \$250 to our kids.
- Thank you to The Friendly Sons & Daughters who donated \$2,000 from their 2016 annual dinner to Crosby's Fund.
- Thank you to the First Republic Bank for their generous donation to Crosby's Fund.
- Abigail Chiantera celebrated her 5th birthday by letting her guests know she wanted to make a donation to GCH – she donated \$50. Thank you and Happy 5th birthday Abigail!
- Bernard Hartman who donated \$110 from golf ball sales. Thank you!
- Orchard Park Central School's Entrepreneurship in Graphic Design class donated \$500 by selling their custom vinyl stickers. Thank you!
- Thank you to Highland Family Medicine's "I care club" who held a jeans day and were able to raise \$57.
- Kudos to Olivia & Lilliana Ivy for hosting a lemonade stand that raised \$101 for the kids here at GCH. Thanks!
- Thank you to Pebbles and Stage Stores for your recent \$250 donation through your Community Counts program.
- A big thank you to Lewis General Tires who hosted a classic car show and was able to donate \$4,550.
- Thank you to Creative Themes Day Camp for your \$1,000 donation.
- The Blue Knights Law Enforcement celebrated Christmas in July with a \$200 donation to GCH. Thank you!
- Finn Mahan, Ben Vitale, and Jackson Cypher hosted a lemonade stand to benefit GCH. They raised \$20 – thank you.
- The Tot Spot in Ontario held their 5 Cent Popsicle Day and raised \$25 for our kids. Thank you.
- Thank you to all who organized, participated, and attended the Roc City Rib Fest. We appreciate your \$2,000 donation!
- Thanks to the WNY National Corvette Restorers' Society for their \$425 donation.
- Much appreciation to Kohl's Cares for Kids program and all who purchased Kohl's Cares for Kids merchandise. Through this program, Kohl's was able to donate \$58,024.
- A big thank you to all who organized and played in the Prince Elite Beach Hockey tournament. You all raised \$17,719.
- Samantha & Philip Fantaza held a lemonade stand to raise awareness for pediatric cancer and raised \$11.95. Thank you!
- The village of Nunda held a Wish Upon a Star concert to benefit the NICU at GCH. You raised \$1,886 – thank you!
- Thank you to Cathy De Wispelaere and all the kids involved with 4th of July Picnic lemonade & cookie stand. We appreciate your \$200 donation.
- Kudos to all involved with the Redneck Summer Throwdown Volleyball tournament. You raised \$1,450!
- GrandeVie Senior Living Community recently donated \$350 that they raised from their basket raffle to bring awareness to pediatric cancer. Thank you!
- Thank you to the Buddha Foundation for hosting their 19th Annual Golf Tournament and raising \$1,500 for the kids at GCH.
- The WNY Flash held a jersey raffle and raised \$1,301 for the kids here at GCH. Thank you!!
- Kudos to Premium Mortgage's Phyllis Haberer and Kellie Williams who chose GCH as the recipient of the Chairs for Charity \$182 donation.
- Many thanks to friends Tori Ferguson, Brianna Whalen, and Paige VanAlstyne, who held a lemonade stand that raised \$135 to be donated to GCH.
- Thank you to the 2016 Kindergarten Class of Temple Beth El who chose to donate their Tzedakah to GCH.
- The Student Government and Council at Geneva High School raised \$118 for our patients. Thank you!
- Many thanks to Medianetti Jojo for your recent \$1,000 donation in support of Crosby's Fund and GCH.

# Upcoming Community Events

## December 23, Rainbow Classic

The Palestra at the University of Rochester, 6 p.m.

The heated rivalry between Pittsford Mendon and Pittsford Sutherland always makes for great entertainment. Every penny from admission and the commemorative program sales from this year's event will support the furnishing of the teen lounge in the new Golisano Children's Hospital. Tipoff for the girl's game is at 6 p.m., followed by the boys at 8 p.m. For more information about tickets, please call the Pittsford Athletics Office at 585.267.1062.

## January 14 – Wingfest II

Jeremiah's Tavern, Gates

Wing lovers, assemble. Join Jeremiah's for their annual Wingfest, where you can compete in a wing eating contest. \$30 per team to compete and 3 people required per team. For more information about Wingfest II, email [s\\_rothenburgh@yahoo.com](mailto:s_rothenburgh@yahoo.com).

## January 26 & February 11, Battle of the Beaks

Nazareth & St. John Fisher College

Cross-street rivals Nazareth and St. John Fisher battle in Men's and Women's Basketball with all proceeds from ticket sales, prize raffles, and commemorative T-shirt sales benefitting the kids at Golisano Children's Hospital. The game on January 26 will be held at Nazareth College's Kidera Gymnasium in the Otto Shults Center, while the February 11 contest will be held at St. John Fisher's Manning & Napier Gymnasium. For more information, please contact Becky Fahy at [rfahy6@zimbra.naz.edu](mailto:rfahy6@zimbra.naz.edu) or call 585.389.2735.

## February 4, Cycle For Hope

Participating Fitness Centers

Local fitness clubs help support the kids at Golisano Children's Hospital at URM and Camp Good Days and Special Times one revolution at a time with this spinning event. Donations of \$20 per hour are requested from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at participating locations. For more information please visit: [www.cycle4hope.org](http://www.cycle4hope.org)

## February 6, Ski Day

Bristol Mountain

Ski lovers will gather for the 15th consecutive year to enjoy the day of snowy slopes in support of Golisano Children's Hospital. If interested in sponsoring the event, please contact Stephanie Sheets, assistant director of community affairs, at (585)275-2268 or [stephanie.sheets@rochester.edu](mailto:stephanie.sheets@rochester.edu).

## April 1, Ugly Disco

Rochester Riverside Convention Center

Come get your groove on from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at this '70s celebration. The Ugly Disco is a night of fun that features live music, Twister, and more. For more information, visit [www.uglydisco.com](http://www.uglydisco.com).

## Save the Date 2017

February 9-10 – Radiothon

June 3 – Stroll for Strong Kids Walk and 5K Run

August 19 – GCH Gran Fondo

August 28 – Golisano Children's Hospital Golf Classic

October 21 – Golisano Children's Hospital Gala

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