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BetterConnected

MultiCare Health System
PO Box 5299
Tacoma, WA 98415

EVENTS CALENDAR



39th Annual Roman Meal Sound to Narrows
June 11, 2011

Every year, participants of all ages hit the road in support of a healthier community. Proceeds from Sound to Narrows benefit MultiCare's Center for Healthy Living, which provides fitness, nutrition and health screening programs to families. For details, visit www.soundtonarrows.org.

20th Annual Alaska Airlines Courage Classic
August 6-8, 2011

A fun event with a serious cause, the Courage Classic benefits the Child Abuse Intervention Department at Mary Bridge Children's Hospital. Riders pedal their hearts out for three days, supporting crisis intervention, legal advocacy, and other services for abused children and their families. To learn how you can help us meet our \$1 million goal, visit www.courageclassic.org.



3rd Annual Rock the Foundation
September 16, 2011

This truly entertaining evening features a dinner, an auction, and a live concert. (The Pointer Sisters rocked the crowd last year.) The goal for the 2011 event is \$500,000, which will fund the purchase of Dräger Babylog ventilators for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Tacoma General Hospital. For details, visit www.multicaretrockthefoundation.org.

PHYSICIAN'S CORNER

"I'm very passionate about my job," says Dr. Brian Boville, Pediatric Intensivist at Mary Bridge Children's Hospital. "I always knew I wanted to do this." In 2005, he helped launch the Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) program, a sophisticated and complex procedure involving an artificial heart-lung machine. For children like TaVaughn Taylor, it's been a life-saving machine.



A few days after undergoing surgery for a congenital heart defect, TaVaughn's heart stopped and his lungs collapsed. Fortunately, the Mary Bridge Children's Foundation had recently purchased three ECMO machines—thanks to contributions from many generous donors.

Since then, Dr. Boville and his specially trained ECMO team have saved the lives of 14 more children. "It's immensely gratifying to the families of these patients and our staff," says Dr. Boville, who has two young children of his own. "I want to thank the donors for changing the lives of these families who otherwise wouldn't have had hope for their children's survival."

The ECMO program at Mary Bridge is the only one in southwest Washington, and one of only two in the state.

Page 4
Warriors in the fight against breast cancer.

Tree House offers comfort and companionship.

Page 10
Enriching lives through art and music.

MultiCare
BetterConnected

SPRING 2011

Touching LIVES

ALLENMORE HOSPITAL • MARY BRIDGE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL • TACOMA GENERAL HOSPITAL

A publication of the
Mary Bridge
Children's Foundation
and the
MultiCare
Health Foundation

“What Makes It Easy To Be Involved Are The People”

Philanthropy started at an early age for Luke Xitco, John Xitco and Frank Pupo, Jr.— the partners of Associated Petroleum Products (APP) in Tacoma. This family-owned business, which serves commercial and residential customers in the Pacific Northwest, is now in its second generation of ownership.

“One thing my dad taught us is to give locally and to give what you can in a focused way,” says Luke, President and CEO. His brother, John, serves on APP's board of directors, in addition to overseeing the family's properties and investments, and managing two local restaurants that he co-owns.

“Giving back was definitely instilled in me by my father and mother,” says Frank, APP's Executive Vice President and COO. “My family was always very philanthropic.”

The company is committed to supporting families and children in need, education and health care. Meanwhile, employees are encouraged to give back to the community through volunteer work and a dollar-for-dollar matching program.

Along with Goodwill Industries, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, United Way, food banks, and schools, APP contributes to the Mary Bridge Children's Foundation and the MultiCare Health Foundation. As part of their efforts, the company has co-sponsored the Festival of Trees since 2001. And they give generously to Tree House and the Neonatal Intensive

Care Unit (NICU) at Tacoma General Hospital.

For all three partners, “supporting the foundations is automatically driven,” Frank says.

In 2001, the Pupos were expecting their first child. Although the pregnancy went smoothly, Frank's wife suffered a dangerous amniotic fluid embolism during labor at Tacoma General. “I had no idea what the fate of my daughter was,” Frank recalls, “and my wife needed major surgery.”

After two weeks of intensive care, both mother and child were on the road to recovery. Today, the couple's family has grown to include a seven-year-old daughter, who was treated at Mary Bridge after she broke her arm. “How can you resist supporting that? It's a no-brainer.”

In 2004, Luke's second son was born four months prematurely and spent 100 days in the NICU. During that time, his little boy underwent heart surgery and battled vision problems. “One hundred days is a long, long time,” Luke points out. Now six years old, his son is “doing absolutely fantastic. We're very fortunate.”



L to R: APP partners Luke Xitco, John Xitco and Frank Pupo, Jr.

Thankful for the care his son received, Luke joined the MultiCare Health Foundation Board. Since then, he has chaired two fundraising events for the NICU and established the Xitco Family NICU Technology Fund. Recently, he was invited to join the MultiCare Health System Board. “It's quite an honor, and I'm excited to commit my time.”

Luke's wife, Alisa, helped form the NICU Parent Advisory Committee, a group of on-call volunteers that offers emotional support to parents with critically ill children.

The premature birth of his nephew motivated John, who has a 12-year-old son and 10-year-old daughter, to join

the Mary Bridge Children's Foundation board. Currently, he is Board Chair.

“My goal is to focus on one cause and make as big a difference as possible,” John says. “What makes it easy to be involved are the people. The hospital staff and volunteers and the different organizations involved all care so much.”

“Our hearts lie there pretty strongly,” Frank says.



Counter clockwise from upper right: Sara Long, Diane Cecchetti, Hollie Bostrom, John Xitco.

24TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF TREES:

Giving the Gift of Hope

"This event really gets people into the holiday spirit," says Amy Bettesworth, Festival of Trees Manager.

The 2010 Festival was no exception. "Everyone was so excited to be here and help support Mary Bridge."

During the first week of December, over 12,000 people gathered at the Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center, enjoying one of the private celebrations or public days. Contributions exceeded \$1.4 million, benefitting Mary Bridge Critical Care Services, the Helping Hands Fund, and Tree House: A Place for Families.

66 works of art

More than 100 local businesses, organizations and individuals donated over \$116,000 to sponsor 66 themed trees—each one designed by a talented group of volunteers. One tree was shaped to look like a hot air balloon, another was transformed into a sparkling butterfly. Some trees were covered in candy and stuffed animals. Others were surrounded by toys, games and even snowmobiles.

Fan favorites included "The Olde Firehouse," the SpongeBob themed "Christmas Under the Sea," and the elaborate "Sheldon's Great Toy Emporium." Created by MultiCare's lead horticulturist, Sheldon Arkin, this awe-inspiring evergreen won both the People's Choice and Kids' Choice awards.

6 special events

Festival of Trees kicked off on December 1 with the Bridge Builders' Luncheon, a thank-you for members of our donor recognition club. On December 2, a special party for nursing home residents featured live entertainment, refreshments and a tour of the trees. That evening, the 2nd Annual Ladies Night Out—sponsored by Cascade Regional Blood Services and Protiviti—hosted over 700 guests for sips, bites and holiday shopping. The sold-out event raised \$48,000 for Critical Care Services plus the Helping Hands Fund, which provides financial assistance to Mary Bridge families in need.

On December 3, a black-tie crowd of 550 attended the Gala Auction and Dinner, sponsored by Abbott Construction. Guests bid on a wide range of unique tree packages, raising over \$344,000. An additional \$300,000 in Fund-a-Need contributions helped purchase bedside cardiac respiratory monitors. JingleBell Jam on December 4, sponsored by CB Richard Ellis, treated nearly 350 guests to dinner and dancing until midnight. The event's silent and live auctions raised nearly \$141,000, including \$54,000 for Tree House.

On Thursday, Saturday and Sunday—the Festival's public days—hundreds of families strolled among the trees, listened to live holiday entertainment, and enjoyed various kid-friendly activities.

1,000+ hard-working volunteers

Throughout the year, volunteer stay busy planning and preparing for the upcoming Festival of Trees. Our deepest appreciation to the over 100 committee members who brought the 2010 event to life. And a heartfelt thank-you to the 1,000+ volunteers—including 80 tree designers—who generously contributed over 50,000 hours of service.

Planning committees are already planning the 25th Annual Festival of Trees. "We have big plans!" says Amy.



L to R: Molly Rondeau, Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, and Teresa Ferreira enjoy the bidding action at Gala.

No child will grieve alone. This is the mission of BRIDGES: A Center for Grieving Children. It is the oldest and largest grief support program in the state, and the only program of its kind in Pierce County. Since 1988, the center has served children ages 4-18 and their families, who are facing the serious illness or death of a loved one. Families like the Osbornes.

When David Osborne passed away in August 2008 from cancer, "I knew I needed to find some counseling for the girls," says his wife, Angie. Eldest daughter Kelsey was open to the idea of attending BRIDGES. But Malia, who was 15 years old at the time, resisted.

"I didn't want to be there," Malia recalls. "I'm not the type of person who wants to be 'therapized.' And to be honest, I didn't want to deal with it. But gradually, I started to like going."

Now, over two years later, 17-year-old Malia and her mother continue to attend the twice-monthly BRIDGES meetings. The evenings begin with a potluck dinner, then the children and adults are divided into small groups for discussion and activities. Each group is led by trained facilitators. "It's very warm and supportive and non-threatening," says Angie.

Because of the program, Malia has

"I Knew I Wanted To Do Something For BRIDGES."



Malia with a photo of her father, David Osborne.

gained a tremendous amount of inner strength. "I feel more independent," she says. "And I don't care as much what people think." When it came time to select her Gig Harbor High School senior project, "I knew I wanted to do something for BRIDGES."

"Watching what BRIDGES does—more than anything they need money," Angie says.



L to R: Angie Osborne with her girls, Malia and Kelsey.

So Malia set an ambitious goal of raising \$10,000 for the program, which is funded, in part, by the Mary Bridge Children's Foundation. But she was also

determined to do something fun for fellow BRIDGES families. "We decided to have a holiday party, but I didn't want families to have to pay," she says.

Malia sent out a letter to relatives, friends and members of the community, inviting donations toward her senior project goal, as well as separate contributions for the holiday party.

With some assistance from family and friends, the high school senior spent over two months managing her fundraising projects and organizing the Good Grief party, which was held on December 11, 2010. The turnout was better than expected, with over 90 people attending. Each party-goer received a treat bag, which contained a raffle ticket for one of two fully decorated trees, gift cards, and

other goodies. In addition to the raffle, guests enjoyed music, refreshments, a visit from Santa, and holiday-themed crafts. "Watching all the little kids and how excited they were was the most rewarding part," says Malia.

"I think the parents were really grateful to just see their kids being kids," says Angie.

On top of hosting the successful Good Grief party, Malia surpassed her \$10,000 goal, raising nearly \$11,000 for BRIDGES. She also contributed over 50 hours of service to her senior project—double the number of required hours.

"Her biggest concern was that she wasn't doing enough," Angie says with a laugh.

BRIDGE BUILDERS' LUNCHEON:

Celebrating our Supporters

Every December, the Mary Bridge Children's Foundation hosts a special thank-you event for members of our annual donor recognition club. Contributions from these caring Bridge Builders help fill critical gaps in funding, so that Mary Bridge Children's Hospital can be there for our youngest patients.

On December 1, 2010, over 430 members and other supporters were treated to a luncheon and a preview of the Festival of Trees at the Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center. The Mary Bridge Children's Foundation staff was delighted to honor the following heroes, who go above and beyond to make our community a better place for children:

Karen Lynch (Individual/
W.W. Philip Lifetime Legacy Award)

Melissa Wells (Ben Weymiller
Golden Rocking Chair/Youth Hero)

Andrina MacDonald (Patient Hero)

Dr. Martha McCravey
(Physician Hero)

Sheldon Arkin (12th Man)

**Washington Fraternal Order of
Eagles** (Service Organization Hero)

Ben B. Cheney Foundation
(Foundation Hero)

Abbott Construction
(Corporate Hero)

If you'd like to learn more about Bridge Builders, please contact the Mary Bridge Children's Foundation at 253.403.1599.



Top L to R: Sara Long, Karen Lynch, Mady Murrey. Bottom L to R: Mady Murrey, Sheldon Arkin, Sara Long.



L to R: Registered Technologist Susan Carter, Quilter Kandice Carnahan, Donor and Volunteer Delaine Gately.

GIG HARBOR QUILT FESTIVAL:

Stitching Lives Together

The annual Gig Harbor Quilt Festival is about “women supporting women, standing united against breast cancer,” says Cindy Niemi, Major Gifts Officer at the MultiCare Health Foundation. On October 15 and 16, 2010, the festival celebrated its 10th year of quilt artistry and sisterhood. During the Quilt Festival Luncheon, guests bid on a variety of auction packages, including 27 stunning quilts created by local artists.

All proceeds benefit local breast cancer charities. To date, the festival has raised over \$200,000, including \$26,000 for the MultiCare Mammogram Assistance Fund, which offers mammograms and ultrasounds to underserved women.

The event is dear to the hearts of everyone behind the scenes. Susan Carter, who has served as master of ceremonies at the luncheon for several years, is also a Registered Technologist in Radiology & Mammography at the MultiCare Gig Harbor Medical Park. “Every person who has served on the festival committee or contributed as an artist has been touched by breast cancer in some way,” she says. “We, as a group, are determined to make a difference.”

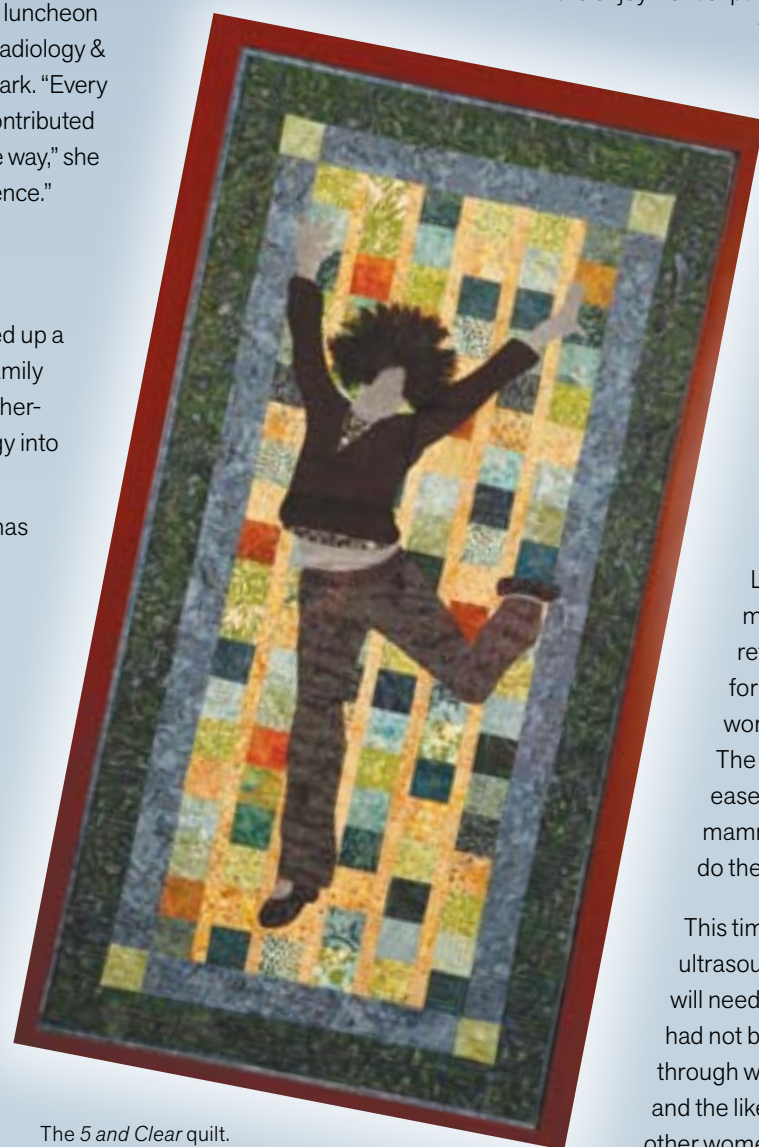
The power of patchwork.

Local quilt artist Kandice Carnahan picked up a needle and thread 12 years ago after losing several family members to cancer in a short period of time. “My mother-in-law and I needed to find a way to channel our energy into something creative and fulfilling,” she says.

For the past six years, Kandice, a hairdresser by day, has donated her work to the Quilt Festival. “It is my way of supporting their efforts in bringing awareness to the community, and helping out our local centers that try to help women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer.”

She explains the concept behind her quilt, *5 and Clear*: “Having been around loved ones who have experience dealing with cancer, I knew that the five-year mark after treatment was a huge milestone. There was such a sense of accomplishment and relief at the same time. I could just imagine the real joy that would have come over them, and this is how I portrayed that feeling.”

Longtime festival volunteer Delaine Gately, who lost a dear friend to breast cancer, was delighted to place the winning bid on Kandice’s quilt. *5 and Clear* holds a lot of meaning for Delaine, a self-described quilt-a-holic. “The quilt represents so much exuberance and joy, marking the five-year cancer-free milestone,” she says. “We just celebrated my husband crossing that line—it was six years in March for us.”



The *5 and Clear* quilt.

“The quilt represents so much exuberance and joy, marking the five-year cancer-free milestone.”

DELAINE GATELY

But as much as she loves the quilt, Delaine wanted to share it with others. “I did not feel right about just hanging the quilt in my home. It needed to be seen.” With Susan Carter’s assistance, Delaine was able to donate it to the MultiCare Gig Harbor Oncology/Hematology Clinic, where it now hangs in the waiting room for the enjoyment of patients and their families. “Passing that five-year mark is an obtainable goal, and it is happening more and more to cancer patients. I wanted others to find hope from this quilt and to not give up.”

MultiCare patient Rebecca Copeland spoke at the Quilt Festival Luncheon about how much the Mammogram Assistance Fund has meant to her. Rebecca, a respite care provider, doesn’t receive insurance through her employer. “I keep researching and trying to figure out options for insurance,” she says, “but I run into roadblocks.”

Last September, when the results of her mammogram were abnormal, she was referred to the Carol Milgard Breast Center for further testing. Rebecca was doubly worried: about her health and the expense. The Mammogram Assistance Fund quickly eased her financial concerns. After a second mammogram, “They told me they were going to do the ultrasound. That’s when it hit me.”

This time, the results were more promising. The ultrasound showed several benign cysts; Rebecca will need a mammogram every six months. “If it had not been for the incredible work that is done through wonderful events like this auction, donations and the like . . . I would not have been able—as are other women—to have the mammogram, let alone the diagnostic treatment. It gave me great peace of mind.”

Rebecca, who is also a photographer, jewelry designer, needlework artist and quilter, hopes to donate one of her creations to a future event. “I feel like we should all try to pay it forward.”

Kicking For A Cure

The Kentlake and Kentwood girls’ soccer teams have always been crosstown rivals. But on October 7, 2010, they traded their team colors for shades of pink to compete against a mutual opponent: breast cancer.

Now in its second year, the Kicks for the Cure charity soccer match was inspired by Kentwood coach Aaron Radford and his wife, Tara—whose mother and grandmother have battled breast cancer. The 2010 match, which also counted as a league game, raised \$4,800 for the MultiCare Mammogram Assistance Program, which provides diagnostic services to women in need. This vital service is offered through the Breast Health Centers in Gig Harbor, Covington and Auburn, as well as the Carol Milgard Breast Center in Tacoma.

“The girls felt strongly that they wanted the money to support a local cause,” says Laura Miccile, mother of one of

Kentlake’s team captains. In addition to gifts from the community, money is raised through T-shirt sales, car washes, and other activities.

Kicks for the Cure holds a heartfelt meaning for many of the players. “At least 80 percent of the girls know someone who’s been touched by breast cancer,” says Laura. “My mother is a breast cancer survivor, so Katherine played in honor of her grandmother.”

During halftime, a local triathlete spoke about her experience with breast cancer. The final score was a poetic 1-1 tie.



The Kentlake team (light pink) and the Kentwood team (dark pink) present their check to MultiCare.

The Kentlake and Kentwood teams will think pink again this October. “I’m really proud of them, and you can see how proud they are of themselves. They’re really excited about what they’re doing.”

Fighting Breast Cancer With Knitting Needles

Ten years ago, Fiber Friends—a small circle of women at the University of Washington Tacoma (UWT)—started meeting for coffee, conversation and crafts. When one of their members was diagnosed with breast cancer, the group rallied around her.

“While we were supporting her, we learned that breast cancer had touched each member of the group in some way,” says Carolyn Maxson, Program Coordinator at UWT. These Fiber Friends were inspired to fight back by organizing their first sale in 2003, benefitting local breast cancer charities.

Today, the group continues to meet every Tuesday to knit, crochet and macramé their hearts out—creating one-of-a-kind scarves, hats, bracelets, bags and more. “We work all year on projects in anticipation of the sale,” says Carolyn. “It’s really a team effort.”

Half of all proceeds go to the MultiCare Mammogram Assistance Fund, which provides mammograms and breast ultrasounds to underserved women. The other half is dedicated to the Katterhagen Cancer Resource Center, which offers information, classes and support services to patients and their families. To date, Fiber Friends has raised more than \$17,000 for these two programs. “It’s been a win-win for all of us,” says Carolyn.

The annual two-day sale has become a popular campus tradition. “The UWT Tacoma Fiber Friends sale is my most anticipated event each year,” says Dannah Madden, UWT Nursing and Healthcare Leadership Adviser. “It is amazing the hours that each of the knitters donate in order to make all the wonderful items.”

“The UWT community has been extremely supportive, purchasing items every year for this cause,” says Carolyn. “When they see what it’s for, they’re touched.”



Dimpal Kaur, UWT student and Fiber Friends volunteer.

Mammogram Assistance Fund

The Mammogram Assistance Fund at MultiCare provides financial assistance to women in our community who can’t afford the cost of mammograms and breast ultrasounds. “The need is great because so many people don’t have insurance,” explains Shelly Garl, Program Manager. “The women are incredibly appreciative.” The fund is fully supported by donations to the MultiCare Health Foundation.

Carol Milgard Breast Center

In 2009, the MultiCare Health System, the Franciscan Health System, and TRA Medical Imaging joined forces to provide comprehensive screening and diagnostic services. The center—named in honor of Tacoma philanthropist Carol Milgard, a 30-year breast cancer survivor—was made possible by the Gary E. Milgard Family Foundation. The American College of Radiology recently awarded the Carol Milgard Breast Center the highest designation possible for a breast imaging program.

Katterhagen Cancer Resource Center

Patients and their families who are dealing with a cancer diagnosis will find information, support and hope at the Katterhagen Cancer Resource Center, located inside the MultiCare Regional Cancer Center. In addition to computer workstations and classes, the center offers nurse navigators and social workers, who will connect visitors to support groups, financial aid, and other outside resources. The center was made possible by the Katterhagen Endowment—established in 2006 by George and Dion Russell in honor of their friends, Dr. Gale and Anne Katterhagen. Gale, who lost his battle with cancer in 2001, was an oncologist and the medical director of the MultiCare Regional Cancer Center. Anne, who has survived cancer numerous times, is a registered nurse, a former board member of the MultiCare Health Foundation, and the founder of Hospice of Tacoma.

Don't miss the 2011 event benefitting MultiCare's Mammogram Assistance Fund.

Enjoy wine tastings, door prizes, and the chance to bid on a one-of-a-kind quilt, September 6–10, at the Wine Studio in Gig Harbor.



Alyssa Christensen-Lindsay and her grandfather, Steve Short.

“Mary Bridge Has Done So Much For Us”

For months, two-year-old Alyssa Christensen-Lindsay had been battling frequent colds. “When her glands became swollen, her pediatrician told us it was strep throat,” says her mother, Rachel. But the antibiotics didn’t help. So on the morning of October 13, 2009, Rachel and her husband, Stephen, brought their daughter to the Emergency Department at Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital. “The day we took her in, she was extremely pale. She had no energy, and was walking with a limp because her glands were so swollen.”

Blood tests soon revealed the devastating diagnosis: leukemia. “The first time we heard they diagnosed cancer—just that one word scares the pants off of you,” says Alyssa’s grandfather, Steve Short.

Pediatric Hematologist-Oncologist Dr. Robert Irwin and his team launched into action, starting with blood transfusions to raise Alyssa’s red blood cell count.

That evening, she received her first chemotherapy treatment. A bone marrow test the following day offered the family a ray of hope. Alyssa was suffering from the most common childhood cancer, acute lymphoblastic

leukemia, which has a survival rate of about 85 percent.

For the next 17 days, the family—which included baby Alexander—camped out in Alyssa’s hospital room and tried to process what was

happening. “You don’t want to cry, but that’s how you feel,” says Steve.

“We had to be strong for the kids,” adds Alyssa’s father, Stephen.

In the months that have followed, Alyssa has demonstrated her own strength. “She’s doing really well,” her mother reports. “She knows that chemo makes her feel sick, but helps her get better.”

Now three years old, Alyssa takes a chemotherapy pill each day, and receives inpatient chemotherapy once

a month at Mary Bridge. “She loves going to the clinic to see her friends,” says Rachel. “It’s not a scary thing for her. They’re great with the kids, and they’re great about making sure we have answers to all our questions.”

In appreciation of Mary Bridge’s care, and to help raise awareness about childhood cancer, Steve began hosting monthly fundraisers via his company’s Facebook page. (Rachel and Stephen also work for the business.) For every Facebook user who “Likes” their page, A Steve Professional Truck Mounted Steam Cleaning donates 50 cents to the hospital.

In September, just in time for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, the business made a donation to Pediatric Oncology Charity Care, which assists Mary Bridge

families with medical bills insurance didn’t cover. October’s fundraiser was devoted to filling the clinic’s Red Box. Every time young patients receive a “poke”—a blood draw, a port access, etc.—they receive a token. Once they’ve accumulated four tokens, they’re invited to choose a toy. “That’s a big deal for Aly,” says Rachel.

Other fundraisers have supported Tree House, and helped purchase toys and activities for Child Life Services—which also holds a special meaning for the family. Child Life Specialist Robyn Carper has worked closely with Alyssa to help ease her fears during treatment. “Robyn’s her buddy,” says Rachel. “When Aly was first diagnosed, they had a hard time getting access to her port because she was so squirmy, so Robyn would

blow bubbles and play games with her.”

The family looks forward to continuing their Facebook fundraisers, selecting a different pediatric cause each month. “Mary Bridge has done so much for us . . . and people like to help,” says Rachel.



Three generations, L to R: Alexander, Stephen, Alyssa, Steve and Rachel.



Fundraiser Mike Backus.

“I Believe In Paying It Forward”

When Gig Harbor resident and business owner Mike Backus was diagnosed with stage IV esophageal cancer, instead of withdrawing, he reached out to others.

During one of his weekly appointments at MultiCare’s Gig Harbor Oncology-Hematology Clinic, “I overheard the nurses talking about taking money out of their own pockets to help one of the patients,” Mike says. “I thought it was terrible.”

So he decided to turn the annual summer party he’s hosted for years into a charity event. A fund was created in Mike’s name to assist his fellow clinic patients who are struggling financially. “If someone needs a helping hand, you give a helping hand,” he says. “I believe in paying it forward.”

The Wing of Hope Bash took flight in August of 2009. Close to 200 friends, family, neighbors and clinic staff gathered at Mike’s home for a potluck feast, games, dancing and three live bands. Guests happily purchased raffle tickets for donated items, ranging from flat-screen TVs to homemade pies. A box was set up for additional contributions.

The amount of money raised exceeded everyone’s expectations. “The return blew us away,” says Mike.

“We thought it would be a couple hundred dollars,” says Clinic Supervisor Connie Werner. Instead, the Wing of Hope Bash raised over \$2,800. “Mike was grinning from ear to ear.”

Funds assisted clinic patients with medical bills, prescriptions, rent, gas, groceries and car payments. “It truly makes a difference in these people’s lives,” says Connie.

The 2nd Annual Wing of Hope Bash drew a bigger crowd and higher returns—benefitting even more clinic patients. Last year, 250 guests contributed over \$3,500.

“I bring the box up to the clinic, we all hug each other, and cry a little,” says Mike. He also gets “such joy from reading the notes from families. It’s very heartfelt.”

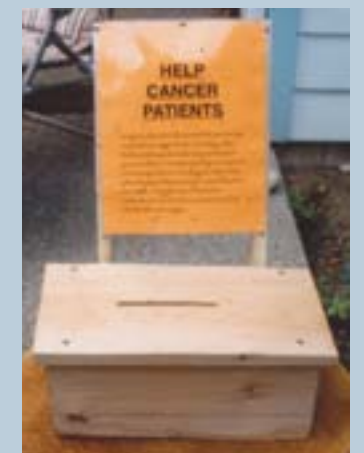
But the story doesn’t end here.

The Wing of Hope Bash has had a surprising ripple effect that has reached halfway across the world. When a friend of Mike’s, who’s involved in Haiti’s relief efforts, learned about his diagnosis and fundraising efforts, she and her family made a generous donation to the Mike Backus Fund. Then they went a step further. This spring, the family will start constructing a cancer hospital in Haiti called the Wing of Hope.

“I know it sounds weird,” says Mike, “but sometimes I think it’s a good thing I got cancer.”



Guests gather at the Wing of Hope Bash—a party with a purpose.



To date, donations have totaled more than \$6,300.

MultiCare & SCCA

The MultiCare Regional Cancer Center, which recently celebrated its first anniversary, offers the most comprehensive cancer care in Tacoma. And it’s the only center in the region that’s a network member of Seattle Cancer Care Alliance (SCCA). This affiliation gives our patients convenient access to pioneering research, clinical trials, and world-renowned experts—no trip to Seattle required.



CyberKnife Robotic Radiosurgery System

CyberKnife System

In October 2010, MultiCare introduced a groundbreaking treatment for cancer patients. Our CyberKnife Robotic Radiosurgery System is the only one in Pierce County, and the only tool in the world that can treat tumors anywhere on the body. Despite the system’s name, there’s no cutting involved. Instead, the non-invasive CyberKnife delivers high doses of radiation to the tumor with sub-millimeter accuracy—minimizing damage to surrounding

healthy tissue and nearby critical structures, such as the spinal cord. Treatment time is faster and recovery time is quicker. For patients with tumors that are surgically complex or otherwise inoperable, the CyberKnife is a revolutionary option.

“We Felt So Relieved To Be Only A Block Away”

First came the sore throat. Then the chest pain started. Despite a trip to the doctor, 17-year-old Dane Bohlmann continued to get worse. “He told us he felt miserable,” says his mother, Betsy. “He’s not a complainer, so that was a red flag.”

On July 14, 2010, his father, Tracy, took him back to the doctor. “They said, ‘we can’t find anything wrong, but we know you’re sick.’”

At Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital, the infectious diseases team diagnosed the athletic high school junior with Lemierre’s syndrome. This rare disease—which is often mistaken for the flu—develops when fusobacterium invades the bloodstream. In Dane’s case, the bacterium was attacking his chest muscle.

Although he was alert upon arrival, his condition deteriorated. That night, he went into septic shock. “His organs were starting to shut down,” explains Betsy. “The doctor came in and said, ‘I don’t know if he’s going to survive.’”

The following day, the right side of Dane’s chest muscle and part of his sternum were removed. He was then moved to Mary Bridge’s Level II Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). He remained on a ventilator in a drug-induced coma for 14 long days.

Although the family lives in Bremerton, nearly an hour’s drive from the hospital, they were able to stay just minutes from their son’s bedside—thanks to Tree House. “We felt so relieved to be only a block away,” says Betsy.

The Bohlmanns’ younger children joined their parents at Tree House when they weren’t staying with family or friends. “It was fun there,” says ten-year-old Brent. His nine-year-old sister, Emry, especially liked their room.

In addition to the housing facility’s close proximity to Mary Bridge, the family was “so grateful” for the sense of community. “The place was amazing. It was a sanctuary,” says Betsy. “I felt like the staff cared.”

“When you go in, you’re numb,” says Tracy. “You don’t know where to turn. But then there’s someone there with a kind word and a morale boost. It was greatly appreciated. The people down there are just phenomenal.”

The couple was also thankful for the food vouchers they received through the Mary Bridge Children’s Foundation Helping Hands fund. “Being able to run over to the cafeteria and get some soup or salad was really great,” says Betsy.

Despite enduring invasive surgery and severe pneumonia, Dane was off the ventilator and on his way home less than three weeks after he was admitted. “When I went back for visits and they were amazed to see me,” he says, “that’s when I realized it was pretty serious.”

“To go through that fight, man, he’s a tough cookie,” says his father. On October 4, Dane’s multidisciplinary care team declared that he was “good to go. The doctor couldn’t stop smiling.”



Dane Bohlmann with his football jersey—and big plans for the future.

Today, Dane says, “I feel fine. I feel normal.” He can hardly wait to join his football team on the field next season (he’ll wear a protective vest). And he’s looking forward to pursuing a teaching degree when he graduates. “I really like the idea of teaching.”

Recently, the family gave a collection of movies and books to Mary Bridge as a thank-you for Dane’s care. And Betsy’s parents made a donation to Tree House. “They know how much the place meant to us,” she says. “I don’t know what we would have done without it.”



“We Are So Very Blessed”

There were no signs of complications during Jordan Selby’s pregnancy. “Logan had a good heart beat and was growing well,” she says. During labor, however, his heart rate kept dropping, calling for an emergency C-section. Logan entered the world on June 6, 2010, weighing a healthy eight pounds, eight ounces. But he was in serious trouble.

“The doctors couldn’t get a pulse for fifteen minutes,” says father Dan Selby, First Class Petty Officer at the Kitsap Naval Base.

Finally, Logan’s heart started to beat again. He was soon rushed from Naval Hospital Bremerton to Tacoma General Hospital’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). The region’s only Level III NICU also offers the region’s only Cool-Cap System. This pioneering therapy helps reduce the risk of brain injury in newborns who have been deprived of oxygen during delivery.

Even with the Cool-Cap, Jordan and Dan knew that their baby’s chance of survival was low. Logan was suffering from seizures and couldn’t breathe on his own. “I didn’t think I’d ever get to see him again,” Jordan says.

Logan made it through the night—and the next night and the next. Seventy-two hours later, the Cool-Cap was removed, and he remained in the NICU, battling respiratory issues.

The Selbys, who live over 90 minutes away in Suquamish, couldn’t imagine spending a moment away from their critically ill son. “We were worried that

we wouldn’t have that parent-child bond,” Jordan says. Fortunately, Tree House made it possible for the family to stay just a block away from Logan. “They really tried to make it a home away from home. The staff was so great to us. They made everything so much easier and more comfortable, and tried to help any way they could.”

Tree House also welcomed the couple’s two other children, Lily and Gabe, who “loved it there,” says Jordan. Her parents, along with Dan’s mother and her husband, were overnight guests, as well. “It was wonderful they could accommodate all of us. Having our support group there made a bad situation so much easier to deal with.”

The entire Selby family also attended the facility’s 1st birthday party on July 11. A crowd of 160 parents, children,



“They really tried to make it a home away from home. The staff was so great...and tried to help any way they could.”

JORDAN SELBY



L to R: Jordan, Logan, Gabe, Dan and Lily.

volunteers and staff gathered at Wright Park for the celebration.

“It was a really nice time,” Jordan says. “We got to see a baby who went through a similar situation as Logan, and it was helpful to hear how well she’s doing now.”

Once Logan could breathe without assistance, he was moved to Tacoma General’s Intermediate Care Nursery. Then on July 20, he returned to Suquamish with his grateful mom and dad.

In appreciation for all that Tree House had given to them, the Selby family donated some much-needed items for the kitchen, the laundry room, and the playroom. “We hope in the future to do that again because they were so great to us,” Dan says.

The Selbys report that Logan is making excellent progress. “Some days are still hard for him to eat all that he should,” says Jordan, “and he has been diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy... but even with these setbacks, he tries his hardest to do the things that babies of his age normally would, and is such a happy little guy. We are so very blessed to have our Logan, and are so thankful for MultiCare, Tree House, and everyone that is helping us along the way.”

A (New) Roof Over Our Heads

When Tree House opened almost two years ago, funds were focused on creating a comfortable and homey environment for families. “We knew we’d eventually have to replace the roof,” says Morgan Moulongo, Major Gifts Officer for the Mary Bridge Children’s Foundation.

That time came when the aging roof started leaking. In the summer of 2010, Tree House kicked off a fundraising campaign with a goal of \$90,000. Thanks to contributions from many caring individuals, local businesses and members of the Rotary Club of Tacoma #8, the goal was met. The new roof was completed in February of this year.

“People definitely understood that supporting the roof project supports Tree House families,” says Morgan.

A Noteworthy Donation

On October 1, 2010, Tree House received the gift of music from Dr. Ronald Louie, Director of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital. Dr. Louie generously donated his family’s upright piano, and funded the cost of moving the instrument to its new home. The piano is now settled in the corner of the Great Room.

Musically inclined Tree House parents “really enjoy having it available,” says Heather Courtney, Tree House Coordinator. “And the families and staff get a lot of enjoyment from listening to them play.”



The Bohlmann family, L to R: Emry, Tracy, Dane, Betsy, Brent and Casey.

Shining Stars



For nearly four decades, the MultiCare Adult Day Health Center (ADHC) has helped older adults and those with special needs live as independently as possible—while offering support and peace of mind to their families. "I've seen participants grow unbelievably," says Tanya Imke, ADHC Manager.

Each week, the center offers a warm welcome to over 250 men and women from across Pierce County and part of Thurston County. ADHC's team includes nurses, therapists, case managers, a social worker, support staff and volunteers—all dedicated to ensuring the physical, mental and emotional well-being of their participants.

An important part of each day involves therapeutic group activities, such as movement and music therapy, painting, pottery, gardening and cooking. (Music and movement therapy is an essential component of treating individuals with dementia, Alzheimer's, and other cognitive and physical challenges.) Many of the center's vital programs are funded by gifts from the community—including a recent contribution from an anonymous donor.

"These programs truly have a profound impact," Tanya says. "There are people here who didn't speak or socialize before, and their families will call us crying with happiness because their loved ones are talking."

The tremendous benefit of these programs inspired Tanya, along with Activity Coordinator Colleen Schmidt, to create an event showcasing the talents of ADHC's participants. "I love to see them perform, and they love to perform," says Colleen.

After months of careful planning and hard work, Starry Night debuted on October 28, 2010 to an audience of 150. Local musicians and vocal artists led a large group of "very excited" participants in a scripted show of poetry, music, song and dance. The performers received a standing ovation.

Tanya and the rest of the ADHC team have just finalized plans for their next talent showcase, which will take place September 9, 2011 at the South Park Community Center. "Art and music really change peoples' lives..." says Tanya. "We are excited to make the showcase an annual event, and to invite the community."

To learn more about ADHC and its upcoming talent showcase, please contact Tanya Imke at 253-459-7220.



The Starry Night event also featured artwork created by participants.



Above: Participant Douglas Rouch proudly performs at Starry Night.

L to R: Participants Raymond Mader and Lloyd Reed at the Adult Day Health Center.



"There are people here who didn't speak or socialize before, and their families will call us crying with happiness because their loved ones are talking."

TANYA IMKE

ANNUAL REPORT

Mary Bridge Children's Foundation

2010 REVENUE

Unrestricted Gifts and Bequests	\$ 427,572
Fundraising Events ¹	1,818,509
Donor Restricted Gifts	6,944,534
Endowment Gifts	154,425
Total Gift Revenue	\$ 9,345,040
Investment Income	3,355,615
Unrealized Gains from External Trusts	1,244,182
Total Revenue	\$ 13,944,837

2010 EXPENSES

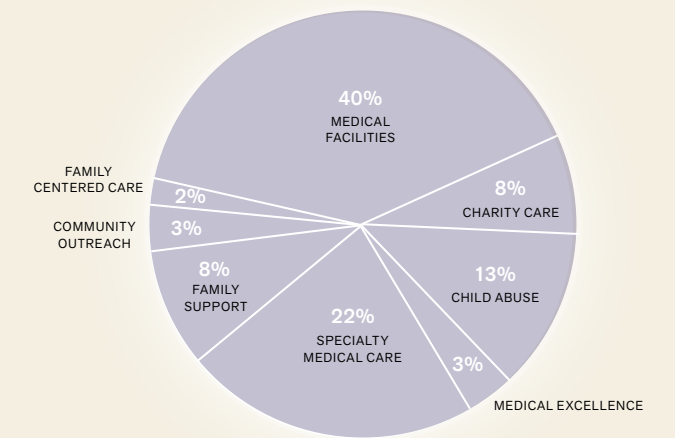
Foundation Operations	\$ 2,194,004
Fundraising Events	1,120,590
Total Expenses	\$ 3,314,593

¹ Event fund-a-need gifts included in Donor Restricted Gifts

FOUNDATION ASSETS	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENT ENDOWMENTS
Asset Balance as of 12/31/2009	\$12,138,969	\$13,406,228	\$24,797,238
Contributions and Net Income	2,247,189	6,944,534	154,425
Hospital Program Support	(1,519,510)	(4,262,191)	
Facility and Equipment Capital	(675,528)	(3,729,618)	
Other Changes		60,654	
Realized Investment Gains	1,838,764	983,813	462,384
Transfer of Assets	10,000	28,631	(161,852)
Unrealized Gains on External Trusts			1,244,182
Asset Balance as of 12/31/2010	\$14,100,538	\$13,371,397	\$26,496,377

All financial information based on unaudited 2010 MultiCare Health System consolidated financial statements.

\$10.2 Million to Support Medical Care for Children



Child Abuse – Medical intervention and prevention efforts to help young victims of abuse and neglect.

Family Support Services – Assisting families with basic non-medical needs in time of medical crisis. Includes Helping Hands funds, Tree House: A Place for Families, and BRIDGES: A Center for Grieving Children.

Family Centered Care – Creating a healing environment for patients and their families, including Child Life Services, child play therapy, and other comfort items.

Medical Facilities – Renovation and expansion of hospital buildings, including the new Mary Bridge Emergency Department and expansion of the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.

Medical Excellence – Providing the necessary medical equipment, caregiver and parent education to achieve optimum patient outcomes.

Specialty Medical Care – Ensuring access to advanced treatments and therapies for a range of childhood illnesses, from open-heart surgery to asthma, cancer, diabetes, etc.

Community Outreach – Advocating and promoting childhood health, safety, injury prevention, immunizations, and health screenings.

MultiCare Health Foundation

Allenmore Hospital • Tacoma General Hospital

2010 REVENUE

Unrestricted Gifts and Bequests	\$ 179,041
Fundraising Events ¹	440,955
Donor Restricted Gifts	4,893,681
Endowment Gifts	253,374
Total Gift Revenue	\$ 5,767,051
Investment Income	1,795,259
Unrealized Gains from External Trusts	106,212
Total Revenue	\$ 7,668,522

2010 EXPENSES

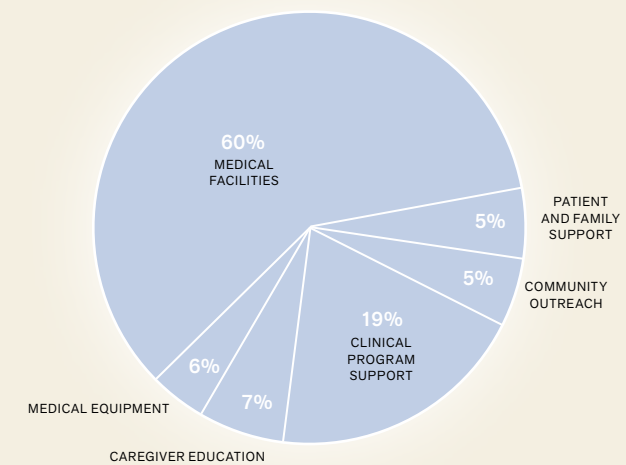
Foundation Operations	\$ 1,275,122
Fundraising Events	508,663
Total Expenses	\$ 1,783,785

¹ Event fund-a-need gifts included in Donor Restricted Gifts

FOUNDATION ASSETS	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENT ENDOWMENTS
Asset Balance as of 12/31/2009	\$ 5,365,855	\$ 6,223,730	\$ 6,271,106
Contributions and Net Income	616,084	4,893,681	253,374
Hospital Program Support	(531,071)	(1,904,242)	
Facility and Equipment Capital	(1,214,748)	(3,432,679)	
Realized Investment Gains	1,072,417	295,317	384,029
Transfer of Assets	48,183	49,000	84,221
Unrealized Gains on External Trusts			106,212
Asset Balance as of 12/31/2010	\$ 5,356,720	\$ 6,124,807	\$ 7,098,942

All financial information based on unaudited 2010 MultiCare Health System consolidated financial statements.

\$7.1 Million Invested in Your Health Care



Caregiver Education – Maintaining the highest level of competence of our nurses and other medical staff.

Clinical Program Support – Financial support for the Katterhagen Cancer Resource Center, cancer research, hospice care, emergency preparedness, and perinatal outreach services.

Community Outreach – Advocating and promoting healthy lifestyles in our community through the Center for Healthy Living.

Medical Equipment – Purchasing new equipment to achieve optimum patient outcomes.

Medical Facilities – Funding for new buildings and renovations, such as the new Tacoma General Emergency Department, to create a healing environment for patients and their families.

Patient and Family Support – Financial assistance for patients and families with basic needs and psychosocial support in time of medical crisis. Includes Helping Hands funds and Tree House: A Place for Families.