



Miracle Makers

WINTER 2018

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Welcome to Miracle Makers!

Welcome to the latest issue of *Miracle Makers*, a biannual publication of Connecticut Children's Medical Center Foundation, prepared especially for our Children's Miracle Network Hospitals friends. Read on to learn more about upcoming events, hospital information, campaign highlights and more!



**Children's
Miracle Network
Hospitals**

Connecticut Children's Medical Center is a proud member of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. Children's Miracle Network Hospitals

helps to raise funds and awareness for 170 children's hospitals across North America, helping more than 17 million kids each year. Funds generated through this organization stay in the local community in which they are given. For more information, please visit www.cmnhospitals.org.



Walmart & Sam's Club...

Celebrating 30 Years of Helping Children



In celebration of 30 years of supporting Children's Miracle Network Hospitals nationally, Walmart and Sam's Clubs are donating funds raised in Connecticut Children's market to help fund a new Infusion & Dialysis Center at Connecticut Children's. Associates at Sam's Club in Newington were among those fundraising in the fall.

Here's a figure to think about: \$1 billion. How big is a billion?

Here's a handy gauge: It's the number you would get if you counted every man, woman, and child living in every city, town, and farmstead in every country in the Western Hemisphere.

Now think about amassing \$1 billion

one dollar at a time. That's exactly what Walmart and Sam's Club associates, customers and members have done over the past 30 years, and all of that money is going to children's hospitals across the country, including Connecticut Children's.

The program is coordinated by the

Continued on page 2.



Radiothon 2017

Aliana Fichera, pictured here with her mother, Tina, and her sister, Grazia, was among the patients sharing their stories of inspiration at Connecticut Children's 2017 Radiothon. **Read more on page 3.**



Walmart & Sam's Club Celebrating 30 Years of Helping Children, continued from page 1.

Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, of which Connecticut Children's Medical Center is a member. While the program is national, all of the funds raised are given to their local member hospital. So, the money raised by most of the Connecticut Walmart and Sam's Club stores helps pay for the cutting-edge equipment and world-class care that Connecticut Children's provides.

Local Walmart and Sam's Club locations have been tremendous supporters of Connecticut Children's in other ways, too. For example, associates volunteer every year for Connecticut Children's Radiothon and conduct in-house fundraisers.

Last year, Connecticut Walmart stores and Sam's Clubs raised more than \$300,000 for Connecticut Children's, bringing their support to \$4.6 million since their partnership began.

A New Infusion & Dialysis Center

"Connecticut Children's Medical Center is proud to have partnered with Walmart and Sam's Club since we opened in 1996," said Scott Organek, who is Associate Vice President of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals

at Connecticut Children's. "This year, to celebrate their 30th anniversary of supporting Children's Miracle Network Hospitals nationally, all funds raised in our market will be used to help fund our new Infusion & Dialysis Center."

The existing infusion room in the Gastroenterology Division at Connecticut Children's measures 363 square feet and is equipped with only six chairs. With more than 3,000 infusions administered each year, the existing facility built in 1996 can no longer comfortably accommodate the growing need.

The new Center will offer 10 times the space, with three chairs dedicated to pediatric outpatient dialysis – a service not currently available in the state. Connecticut Children's will be the first pediatric outpatient dialysis center in Connecticut.

A 30-Year Partnership

The partnership between Walmart and Sam's Club and the Children's Miracle Network began in 1987 with Sam Walton himself being heavily involved. The money that Walmart and Sam's Club raises comes mostly from customers and members making small donations at the



checkout register. The total of \$1 billion is the largest corporate donation ever to children's hospitals.

"Walmart and Sam's Club are honored to celebrate 30 years of helping raise funds for local Children's Miracle Network Hospitals," said Julie Murphy, Executive Vice President, Walmart U.S. People. "We are humbled by the generosity displayed by our associates and customers during this special time of year and look forward to supporting local children and their families when they need it most."

"We would like to thank all of our local Walmart and Sam's Club associates for their amazing support," said Organek. "They are truly #allforkids."

Associates "All In" for Connecticut Children's

All of the work and passion behind the fundraising efforts of Walmart stores and Sam's Clubs over the past 30 years have made a huge difference for the children served by Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, including Connecticut Children's.

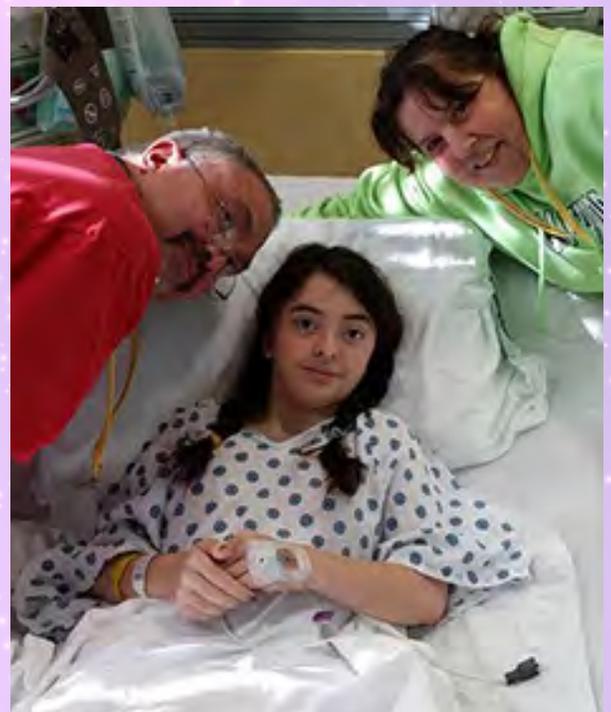
Dorothy Chamberlain, who works at the Walmart store in Old Saybrook, can attest to that. Her daughter, Ashlyn, was born prematurely, at 30 weeks, weighing just three pounds. She had multiple challenges, but the most serious was a heart problem and hydrocephalus (excess cerebrospinal fluid in the brain). At four weeks, she had the first of 11 brain surgeries. But she responded well, and she was able to go home on New Year's Day, a week sooner than expected.

"Having Connecticut Children's right in our backyard enabled us to be with her every day without the extra financial burden of having to travel and stay in another state," Dorothy said. "We have become what I

affectionately call 'frequent flyers.' Having had more than 17 surgeries in total and countless admissions, it can feel like a second home."

Dorothy says the money raised by Walmart's efforts doesn't just pay for amazing doctors, care providers, medical services and research: "It pays for things you'd never know existed – until your family is the one needing help."

Thanks to the caliber of care Ashlyn received at Connecticut Children's, the infant who was born 10 weeks early and had 11 brain surgeries, is in her freshman year at Three Rivers Community College in Norwich, where she is majoring in Art Therapy and one day hopes to work at Connecticut Children's



Dorothy and Guy Chamberlain with their daughter, Ashlyn, in 2015, prior to one of 11 brain surgeries.

Radiothon 2017 Inspires Giving

On Aug. 31, the ground floor and first floor of Connecticut Children's were bustling, filled with patients, staff, phalanxes of volunteers, and broadcast tables with a rotating roster of radio DJs, all gathered for the 2017 Connecticut Children's Medical Center Radiothon with 102.9 The Whale and 1360 The Talk of Connecticut.

All through the day, starting at 5 a.m. and running through 6 p.m., radio hosts encouraged their listeners to contribute to Connecticut Children's. And contribute they did: By the end of the day, the total was \$76,000—a number that is even more impressive considering that the event took place at the same time that statewide and national relief efforts for victims of Hurricane Harvey were underway.

Hurricane Harvey made landfall on the



102.9 The Whale host Michael Picozzi (left) interviewed Ching Lau, MD, PhD, Martin J. Gavin Endowed Chair and Chief of Hematology/Oncology, about his cutting-edge research into a cure for pediatric cancers.



Talk of Connecticut co-hosts Dan Lovallo and Brad Davis were among the celebrities from WDRC-AM who participated in the 2017 Radiothon.

Texas Gulf Coast Aug. 25, with winds topping 130 mph, leading to catastrophic flooding in southeast Texas and beyond.

The radio programs that broadcast from the first floor and the One World Café level included "Picozzi in the Morning," "Klonk" and "Keith Dakin" on 102.9 The Whale, as well as "The Brad and Dan Show" and "Ed Says" on 1360 The Talk of Connecticut.

Inspiring Patient Stories

Among the patients who were interviewed on the air was Aliana Fichera, who was born eight weeks early with a heart murmur and weighed just 3 pounds,

11 ounces. When she was 5, she was diagnosed with common variable immune deficiency (CVID), which, despite its name, is anything but common: It affects one in 500,000 people.

CVID is a condition in which the patient lacks functional antibodies, which means they are extremely susceptible to recurrent infections. Even a cold can be lethal to Aliana. But the doctors at Connecticut Children's are keeping the problem under control with monthly infusions of the needed antibodies. Aliana was one of five patients who went on the air to tell their stories.

Playing Games to Heal Kids...

Extra Life Gamers Finish Strong in 2017

Extra Life, a year-round fundraising initiative that culminates in a 24-hour gaming challenge, completed its most successful year yet, with some 578 participants across the region raising more than \$123,000 for Connecticut Children's Medical Center, a Children's Miracle Network Hospital.

The concept behind Extra Life is simple: People pledge their support to Extra Life gamers, who play any game they wish for a specified amount of time. From PlayStation to Monopoly, participants can play from the comfort of their own homes while supporting their local Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

Participants are also encouraged to

participate in a 24-hour National Game Day, which was held most recently on November 4—but any day of the year will do. Fundraising begins each year on January 1 and ends on December 31.

Since 2012, Extra Life has raised more than \$364,000 for Connecticut Children's, benefitting patient care.

Play games, heal kids and join the community today at www.extra-life.org.



Harrison Guzman and Gary Pope, who are members of the Extra Life Hartford Guild, participated in Extra Life United in Orlando, Florida, in 2017.

Spring Campaign Season a Success

Spring is a very exciting and special time in the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals world.

Throughout the 2017 spring season, local Chico's, Costco, IHOP, Rite Aid, Soma and White House | Black Market locations all participated in campaigns to help raise funds for Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

Results

Our corporate partners here in Connecticut raised more than \$365,000 throughout the spring for Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

Thank you all for supporting local kids at Connecticut Children's!

2018 Upcoming Dates

- **HuskyTHON**
February 17th-18th
- **QTHON**
February 24th
- **IHOP National Pancake Day**
February 27th

ABOUT CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER

Connecticut Children's Medical Center is the only hospital in Connecticut dedicated exclusively to the care of children and is ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the best children's hospitals in the nation. With a medical staff of more than 1,000, Connecticut Children's provides comprehensive, world-class health care in more than 30 pediatric specialties and subspecialties. Connecticut Children's Medical Center is a not-for-profit organization, which serves as the primary pediatric teaching hospital for the UConn School of Medicine, has a teaching partnership with the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University and is a research partner of The Jackson Laboratory. Connecticut Children's Office for Community Child Health is a national leader in community-based prevention and wellness programs.

Connecticut Children's Medical Center complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.
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Miracle Makers is a biannual publication of Connecticut Children's Medical Center Foundation, prepared especially for our friends of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. To be added to or removed from our mailing list, please contact Scott Organek, director of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals at Connecticut Children's, at cmnhospitals@connecticutchildrens.org. Visit us at www.connecticutchildrensfoundation.org.