

community-based, not-for-profit



Stacie Bennett, M.D., cares for a NICU baby.



Critical Care Transport Team Members, Michelle Fernandez, RN, and Robert Gales, RCP, with Jane Willemsen at the vehicle's unveiling event.

## BRIEFINGS

# Caring for Children and their Families

## ENHANCING AND EXPANDING OUR WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Women's and Children's Services is the third largest program at John Muir Health and has enjoyed many significant achievements over the past ten years, including:

- Expanded Children's Specialty Services in partnership with Stanford Children's Health
- Opened the first and only Pediatric Intensive Care Unit in Contra Costa County in partnership with Stanford Children's Health
- Began a Music Therapy program
- Added Child Life Specialists to the Pediatric Care Team
- Implemented the Beads of Courage program
- Established a No Baby Unhugged program
- Designated as a Baby-Friendly® hospital
- Expanded Breastfeeding and Lactation Services
- Commissioned a Pediatric Transport Vehicle and Team in partnership with Stanford Children's Health

**Philanthropy played a very important role in all of these accomplishments—generous donor and community support helped make all of these achievements possible.**

## LEADERSHIP MESSAGE



**Jane Willemssen**  
EVP AND PRESIDENT,  
HOSPITAL OPERATIONS

Five years ago, John Muir Health embarked on an endeavor to create the very best-in-class Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. Thanks to your tremendous support and a flourishing and collaborative partnership with Stanford Children's Health, John Muir Health's Children's Services has become a hallmark program in the Bay Area.

I am incredibly proud of the work that has been accomplished over the past five years, including the addition of the only Pediatric Intensive Care Unit in Contra Costa County, and most recently, our ability to transfer the tiniest patients between our health care networks via the John Muir Health Pediatric and Neonatal Transport vehicle. Your generous support helped fund the state-of-the-art vehicle, which provides a very safe and efficient means of transportation for our frail pediatric patients who may require additional medical consultation or a higher-level of care, closer to home. Each member of our Critical Transport Team is highly trained in pediatric critical care and pediatric transport medicine.

Though 2020 has been an extremely challenging year for health care, John Muir Health is persevering and remains committed to our mission more than ever—to improve the health of the communities we serve with quality and compassion.

Thank you for your continued support—it is greatly appreciated and is truly what distinguishes John Muir Health as a world-class health care provider.

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# Breastfeeding and Lactation Services

## JOHN MUIR HEALTH RECEIVES BABY-FRIENDLY® DESIGNATION

In 2017, John Muir Health's Women's and Children's Services began the process of becoming designated as a Baby-Friendly® Hospital. The Baby-Friendly® Initiative, a world-wide program launched by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), aims to improve the role of maternity services in order to make it easier for mothers to breastfeed their babies at the start of life. Key components of attaining the designation include that John Muir Health "foster the establishment of breastfeeding support groups and establish in-house breastfeeding support services..."

Earning a Baby-Friendly® designation is no easy task. "It took a lot of hard work," says Rachelle Menconi-Shipp, RN, Manager, Mother/Baby Unit. With pooled funding from donors,



Amy Ciotola, RN, with mom, Whitney, and twins, Quinn and Harper.

new breast pumps were purchased and a brand-new lactation consultation room was built-out and remodeled to include updated furniture and artwork, making the environment more comfortable and spacious for both mom and baby.

"Recently," explains Anne Elle, John Muir Health Lactation Consultant, "one new mother from Napa was having a difficult time receiving a hospital grade breast pump through her insurance due to the fires, evacuations, and subsequent temporary closure of the Women's, Infants & Children's (WIC) office. Fortunately, we were able to supply her with one of our donor-funded pumps until she secured one from WIC once they re-opened, allowing her to continue to provide her preterm baby with the best, most nutritious and healthy start. Mom was eternally grateful to John Muir Health...and so am I."

Amy Ciotola, RN with Harper

*Our workflow procedures changed and the implementation process took many months, but today, we are proud to be the first hospital in Contra Costa County to have received this prestigious recognition, furthering our commitment to providing the best possible breastfeeding support for mothers and their babies.*



## A Dedicated Transport Team for our Youngest Patients

In 2015, the community rallied to help fund the first and only Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) in Contra Costa County at John Muir Health. This early support included a generous gift of \$1.25 million from Nancy and Bill Sabin. “We wanted to do something that would help children and we chose to support John Muir Health because it’s our community hospital,” says Bill.

*It was important to us that adding a pediatric intensive care unit would not only save children’s lives, but also alleviate the stress of traveling to access this level of care for parents during a very difficult time.*

The Pediatric Program quickly grew and expanded its offerings to include specialty services such as oncology/hematology, neurology, and endocrinology. Budi Wiryawan, M.D., Medical Director, PICU, is not surprised by how quickly and broadly the program has grown. “We have rapidly gained the trust and confidence of families and physicians throughout the Bay Area, which attests to the high-quality team of specialists, subspecialists, nurses and other key staff from John Muir Health and Stanford Children’s Health.”

But, Dr. Wiryawan and the team wanted to treat even more critically ill children and babies in our community and ultimately save more lives. “Having the ability to provide an immediate, safe, reliable, and consistent way to transfer ill children and fragile newborns to our hospital is an integral part of every best-in-class Pediatric and Neonatal Critical Care Program...and because we have the capacity, we also have that responsibility,” says Dr. Wiryawan.

John Muir Health proudly introduced its Pediatric & Neonatal Transport program on June 1st. In August alone,



twenty-three patients were transferred to John Muir Health.

“The John Muir Health Pediatric and Neonatal Transport Team includes three respiratory therapists, three nurses, and two NORCAL Ambulance Emergency Medical Technicians,” says Beth Lannon, Executive Director, Pediatric Services, “and they are the eyes, ears, and hands of the physicians who rely on their assessment while the patient is in transit.” The Team is available in 12-hour shifts and are specially trained to stabilize and resuscitate neonates and pediatric patients during inter-hospital transports. Denise Johnson, Director, Women’s and Children’s Services, adds “...and the team members are excellent educators—they assist with the professional development of the staff they encounter at both John Muir Health and the referring facilities.”

“Just five years ago, children needing intensive care would be transported away from John Muir Health, and now we are able to transport them to us,” says Dr. Wiryawan.

# Pediatric & Neonatal Transport



From left to right: Andy Wen, M.D., Stacie Bennett, M.D., Budi Wiryawan, M.D.



*We can serve a lot of patients. Our transport team can be dispatched and activated immediately and very sick children can arrive at our medical center within thirty to forty-five minutes.*

—Kirby Jacobs, R.N.

Women's and Children's Services

John Muir Health's Pediatric & Neonatal Transport Team ensures that our tiniest patients are getting the critical care they need, close to home. And, since each team member is an East Bay resident—just like the patients and families they serve—they are part of our local community and care deeply about delivering the best care possible to their neighbors and friends.

And it is the ongoing support from our community that makes it possible to add services like the PICU and Pediatric Transport Program and continue providing world-class care for youngsters in our community...and beyond. Bill Sabin, once again, volunteered to help provide early funding for the Pediatric Transport Program, but it is the collective support of many generous and caring donors that allows John Muir Health to continue enhancing our pediatric services to best care for the children in our community and sustain these important programs.



# Connected by Virtual Engagement

While 2020 has put a damper on our in-person social gatherings and fundraising events, it has opened up other opportunities for engaging and communicating with our loyal donors and supporters!

## 2020 Celebrate John Muir Health! Gala



(L To R) Margie Murphy, Gala Co-Chair, Maureen Knight, Gala Co-Chair, and Wendy and Mike Thomas appeared during the live broadcast of this year's gala event.

## \$2 MILLION RAISED IN HONOR OF OUR HEALTH CARE HEROES

Live streaming on YouTube provided a great escape for our "Camp JMH" guests for this year's flagship fundraising event, *Celebrate John Muir Health!* Unlike years past where we gathered at the the Hofmann Hangar at Buchanan Field Airport, guests this year watched the live event from the comfort of their own homes and with the option of ordering meals from select restaurants in the East Bay.

"Our community generously supported John Muir Health's response to COVID-19 and paid tribute to all of our brave Health Care Heroes at this year's gala. Amazing!" says Patrick Carew, President, John Muir Health Foundation.

## Virtual Town Hall



On Thursday, October 8th, John Muir Health Foundation presented its first-ever Virtual Town Hall event through Zoom to the community. Guests heard from three panelists about John Muir Health's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Family Medicine physician, Dr. Ravi Hundal, provided an up-close look at how John Muir Health's Outpatient Services swiftly pivoted its current practices in order to protect patients, front line staff, and the community.

Dr. Tom Greely, Vice President of Clinical Affairs, discussed John Muir Health's inpatient and administrative response efforts to the pandemic and the importance of not delaying needed medical care at our hospitals.

And, Stephanie Rivera, Director, Community Health Improvement, provided information on how her team utilized community partnership organizations and programs to address the effects of COVID-19 on our underserved population in Contra Costa County.

# Looking for Income & Social Impact?

Have you ever wondered if it is possible to make a measureable impact in your community while also generating reliable income either for yourself or someone close to you? If so, you may want to consider how a Charitable Gift Annuity might fit into your overall financial and philanthropic planning.

A Charitable Gift Annuity is a gift that can help you arrange for savings in retirement, manage income during retirement and provide welcome support for the mission of John Muir Health.

The financial benefits of a Charitable Gift Annuity as well as the social impact of improving the health of the community through your generosity are worth exploring. Let us demonstrate how you might personally benefit, through income and impact, from our popular Charitable Gift Annuity program.



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## Benefits of a Charitable Gift Annuity Include:

- Guaranteed fixed lifetime income for you and/or your loved ones
- Annual or quarterly payments that may be partially tax-free
- A current charitable income tax deduction
- Ability to designate a specific area of support within John Muir Health

### Sample One-Life Charitable Gift Annuity Rates\* and Payments For a \$50,000 Annuity

Age	Rate	Annual Payment	Tax-Free Portion	Estimated Tax Deduction
70	4.70%	\$2,350	\$1,960	\$18,800
80	6.50%	\$3,250	\$2,775	\$23,900
90	8.60%	\$4,300	\$3,823	\$31,200

\*Rates are subject to change. Please contact our office to verify current rates.

Babak Edraki, M.D., meets with a John Muir Health patient.



## WHY WE GIVE

# Pediatric Cancer Care at “Henry’s Hospital”



Danielle and Henry in front of the End of Treatment bell.



Henry provides a fundraising check to the John Muir Health Cancer Team in January, 2020.

Seven-year-old Henry Graham calls John Muir Health, “Henry’s Hospital.” “That’s because he has so many wonderful memories,” says mom, Danielle. From the toy room on the Pediatric floor, music therapy, vending machines, after treatment gifts and Spider-Man visits, Danielle says Henry looked forward to his “sleep overs” at the Walnut Creek Medical Center!

Three days before Henry’s aunt’s wedding, at which he was to be the ring bearer, a mild fever suddenly spiked. When antibiotics weren’t enough to reduce the fever, Henry was unable to act as ring bearer and, instead, watched the wedding from his grandmother’s lap. After several antibiotics proved to be ineffective, blood tests confirmed that Henry was suffering from Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL), a type of cancer in which the bone marrow makes too many immature lymphocytes (a type of white blood cell).

Through collaboration with Stanford Children’s Health, John Muir Health provides comprehensive and personalized care for children and young adults diagnosed with cancer and blood disorders. Care teams include a pediatric Hematologist/Oncologist physician, nurses, Child Life Specialists, and other health care providers who have advanced training in treating children and teens.

“We were incredibly blessed by the knowledge demonstrated by the John Muir Health and Stanford doctors and the wonderful, wonderful John Muir Health nursing staff and care teams,” says Danielle. “Dr. Balagtas was our super star and ‘Nurse Nancy’ was one of Henry’s favorites. She even extended her retirement so that she could be with Henry as he started his maintenance treatment plan.”

The Graham Family wanted to find a way to show their gratitude for the extraordinary care Henry received while undergoing cancer treatment at John Muir Health. “Our church and school family at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Walnut Creek made our dream a reality,” says Danielle. More than two-hundred families came together in the school gym to raise \$10,000 to support John Muir Health Pediatric Cancer Services. A portion of the funds were used to purchase an End of Treatment Bell in the Pediatric Oncology Unit.

Today, Henry is thriving. “He is appreciative of everything—he loves life, he is happy, determined, optimistic, inquisitive and compassionate,” says Danielle. “Having almost half of his life in and out of the hospital has equipped him with the ability to handle the world today. John Muir Health gave him the best care imaginable.”