

twigs

Newsletter of
Children's Hospital Branches, Inc.
Spring 2022

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I am very honored to assume the helm from my gifted, talented, and dedicated predecessors. Although I do not have a familial relationship with our hospital, I assure you that my dedication and love is equal to many. When I joined the Board under the capable reins of Betty Jo Olsen, I learned so very much. Then, Kristina Smith took over with a focused, mission-driven approach, which I have since adopted. Our past president Lucy Talbot steered our ship tremendously well under

tumultuous conditions. I can only aspire to continue the course they set for this incredible organization. After 107 years, we have accepted the challenge to find new ways to achieve our goals for our beloved hospital.

As 2022 commenced, we fully anticipated some new normalcy, only to be hit once again with canceled in-person events. In the past few days, we are finally seeing unmasked faces once again. Every Branch is feverishly stepping up and Branch members HAVE their wheels in motion working on their respective events. Lilac Branch unfortunately had to postpone their spring luncheon and fashion show, but they will still

as well as telehealth equipment and ophthalmoscopes. Lilac Branch will be raising funds for rehabilitation equipment which will produce measurable mobility improvements for patients with a motor neuron disease or injury. At our General Meeting, we heard from Dr. Jennifer Michlitsch about the importance of the tumor bank to advance research in pediatric oncology. Other areas on the list include grocery cards for families of patients treated at the Claremont Clinic, iPads and comfort cubs for Palliative Care, updates to the Blood and Marrow Transplant House, supplies for Integrative Medicine to support holistic patient care and a phone charging station for the Emergency Department so that families can be in touch during moments of crisis. I hope that each Branch can find one or more areas that will inspire their efforts this year.

Our families come to our hospital for compassion, innovation, and hope - all of which our doctors and nurses provide 24/7 regardless of the family's ability to pay. Our Branches stand willing to enthusiastically continue in our mission of supporting this unique hospital's efforts to make excellent medical care available for all children.

Spring signifies rebirth and rejuvenation. We anticipate this for our Branches AND the world as we hope and pray this pandemic becomes an endemic. We look forward to filling our next Twigs issue with colorful images of events

"Our families come to our hospital for compassion, innovation, and hope"

deliver with as much excitement in the fall. Lombardy Branch has a jewelry shopping event on April 14th. On April 20th, we are looking forward to the all-Branch event celebrating our volunteers of the year. The highly-anticipated annual Notes & Words event, sponsored by the Foundation, will be celebrated on April 23rd. Rowan Branch is very excited to deliver their 21st Shopping Spree, Fashion Show and Luncheon on May 3rd. These are just a few events we already have scheduled for 2022. All of our Branches wholeheartedly support each other by attending one another's events.

After fully funding our 2021 wish list for the hospital, the Board has approved a new wish list to guide our fundraising efforts in 2022. Rowan's focus this year will be to support the Pediatric Neurology program. Our goal is to purchase ambulatory EEG machines that can be worn by the child at home

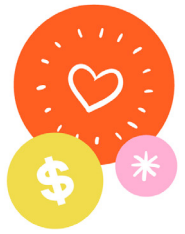
illustrating how friendships flourish as we bring our fundraising efforts to fruition. There is no limit to what we can achieve for OUR children.

2022 Board of Directors

Eileen Caponio.....	Rowan, President
Sheila Challey.....	Rowan, V.P.
Wendy Dunn.....	Lombardy, Treasurer
Gretchen Gibson.....	Hill, Secretary
Lucy Talbot.....	Hill
Kristina Smith.....	Rowan
Julie Davidson.....	Lombardy
Fredora Darmstedt.....	Chinquapin, Family House
Marianne Malenk.....	Chinquapin, Bud Branch
Sandra Carpenter.....	Cacao
Carol Miller.....	Teak, Bambino
Kerry Plain.....	Garden
Clare McDonald.....	Lombardy
Julie Parodi.....	Lilac
Linda Webber.....	Lilac

Cece Werson..... Parliamentarian, Advisory

Your Funds at Work



Congratulations Branches Members! Your tireless efforts are paying off. With moneys raised during a challenging 2021, we have funded:

- Injury Prevention Program Safety Supplies
- CHAMPS Program Practice Equipment
- Tools & Tech for Enhanced Patient Services

Injury Prevention Program Safety Supplies

Injuries are the nation's #1 cause of child death and disability. Most of these incidents are preventable. Injury prevention staff evaluates patients during emergency and routine visits to assess the home setting, then provides essential equipment and education to insure kids stay safe.



Car seats Motor vehicle crashes remain the number one cause of death for children. Most of these deaths are preventable. Studies have consistently shown that inequities and disparities exist across the age span and that socioeconomic status and race determine injury risk. The hospital goes above and beyond to address the whole family and their needs. The staff provides resources and support when patients are discharged from the hospital as well as when they are seen in the clinic. Our donations funded 350 car seats.



Safe Sleeping The hospital teaches safe sleep practices to parents/foster parents/caretakers/legal guardians to decrease Sudden Infant Death Syndrome occurrences in the home. The hospital program gives a free Halo sleepsack (approx. \$25) to every infant under 1 year of age and a safe crib (approx. \$165) to those parents/caregivers who do not have a safe separate sleep surface for their infant at home. We contributed \$20,000 to the Safe Sleeping Program.



Bike helmets Bicycle, scooter, skate board, and in-line skate injuries have skyrocketed during the pandemic. The effects of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), for example, are devastating on individual families, emotionally, and to our society, economically. We funded about 600 helmets.



Supporting the Success of CHAMPS

The Community Health & Adolescent Mentoring Program for Success (CHAMPS) is a three-year internship program that annually introduces about 95-100 underrepresented minority high school students to health professions through a comprehensive academic program that includes career planning and clinical shadowing experiences. A significant percentage of CHAMPS students go on to 4-year universities and graduate health profession programs, including medicine, nursing, public health and social work.



CHAMPS Program practice equipment for medical procedures These simulation tools/kits will provide students the opportunity to practice some of the procedures they see but are not allowed to do during their clinical internships. The Branches funded Basic Life Support Starter Kit (for CPR and first-aid classes), Venipuncture Arm (for IVs and blood draws), Suturing Practice Kits and Injection Pads.

Tools and Technology for Enhanced Patient Services

From enabling the latest procedures to easing mobility for families carrying medical supplies, these items would allow hospital staff to serve a wider and deeper set of needs for our kids.



iPads for Gastroenterology out-patients

Many patients have difficulties connecting for telehealth due to lack of equipment. This will allow providers to loan iPads to patients for up to six months. These ongoing appointments help bridge the cultural gap and encourage proper nutrition and diets. The Branches contributed \$3,500 towards the purchase of iPads.



Enhanced EEG monitoring capabilities for NICU babies

Overnight EEG monitoring can be a tricky proposition with the tiniest patients. This upgrade will provide special overnight caps (\$10K for 100) and a new EEG machine (\$50K) to enhance our neurologists' ability to perform these tests, and make it easier for nurses and babies to get through the night. Our gifts funded one EEG machine and 100 caps.



Spirometry machines for the Claremont Clinic

The hospital's Federally Qualified Health Center provides primary care for some of the most at-risk patients, including a large portion of those who are uninsured and/or experiencing homelessness. This population is also more likely to have asthma or other breathing difficulties. The spirometry machines allows the clinic to provide diagnostic testing services on-site. The Branches provided funding for four of these machines.

EP/EMG machine for Neurology

This machine allows neuromuscular specialists to expand electromyography services at the hospital. It also allows for a new procedure which can be helpful as a prognostic tool in patients after anoxic brain injury. Our gift of \$40,000 funded a brand new machine for the neurology department.



Lombardy

Holiday Sip & Shop



Lombardy member Joy Marlow Braitberg with her friend Marcella.



Anne Bone (Hill Branch) and Mary Newman enjoying the holiday ornaments.

In early December, the Lombardy ladies organized a shopping event with Shop Emerson Grace Design in Lafayette. It was a sunny and gorgeous winter afternoon and guests gathered for some indoor/outdoor holiday shopping and champagne on the patio.

Lombardy's own Beautycounter consultant, Lauren French, advised on everything from clean skin care to the perfect shade of lipstick. Proprietor Stefanie Cannizzo and her design assistant Taber Reiner created a lovely holiday atmosphere in the shop with mini holiday trees and a wide selection of ornaments. Raffle prizes included a crab feast basket donated by Sur Le Table, a bountiful wine basket donated by Lucy Talbot, an Emerson Grace design consult gift certificate and of course the coveted grand prize: a gorgeous necklace generously donated by JBJ Curated Goods in Walnut Creek.

What a lovely way to kick off the holiday season! Fun was had by all and Lombardy happily donated \$5,000 to benefit the hospital as a result.



Emerson Grace Design Assistant Taber Reiner with guests Ruth Donner and Beth Rudin, who snagged one of the potted holiday plants.



Acorn Branch is winding down, but Denette Accornero and Nina Fadelli remain steadfast in helping their mothers Yvonne Oberto and Patti Fadelli to support the hospital, continuing their life-long mission. Acorn's latest campaign recently wrapped up, resulting in an impressive **\$17,445** to be directed towards the Safe Sleep Program. Congratulations, Acorn ladies!



LOMBARDY BRANCH AND JBJ CURATED GOODS INVITE
YOU TO A SPECIAL JEWELRY SHOPPING EVENT

BUBBLES & BLING



BENEFITING
UCSF BENIOFF CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OAKLAND

THURSDAY APRIL 14 • 2-6 PM
1513 CYPRESS STREET WALNUT CREEK

CONGRATS!



POP-CORN SALE

Congrats to Cacao on the successful popcorn fundraiser, where you generated an impressive **\$4,600** to benefit the hospital!



Bambino Shop Updates

In January, the shop closed for 11 days while Jenna and her team of volunteers rearranged the floor layout and the team received training. Significant floor changes included relocating housewares to the front, expanding vintage, moving the children's section to the back, and giving art its own section. These changes have been well received by the community and the volunteers. If you have not yet checked out the refreshed shop, we welcome you to stop by!

Follow Bambino
Shop on Instagram



@bambinothriftshop



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR SHOP LINKS

1.

Open the camera app on your phone and line it up with the QR code to the right.

2.

Once it scans, it should read 'Open 'carrd.com' in web browser.' Tap this.

3.

You will be redirected to your web browser! And that's it!



Links to shop website, Facebook,
Instagram, Etsy, eBay, and Depop!

Also links to information about
donations!

Bambino Hours

Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	11AM - 3PM
Wednesday*	CLOSED*
Thursday	11AM - 3PM
Friday	11AM - 3PM
Saturday	11AM - 4PM
Sunday	CLOSED

*Open for donations by appt. only.
Wed/Sat 11AM-1PM.

Call the shop at 510-658-7473 on Tuesdays
to make a donation appointment.

Rowan Holiday Boutique

The ladies of Rowan Branch welcomed in the festive spirit with a holiday boutique on Saturday, November 13th. The well-attended day at the Danville Women's Club featured beautiful succulent potted plants, elegant holiday wreaths, alluring jewelry, gorgeous linens, delicious holiday toffee, unique clothing and more. Shoppers were treated to light refreshments and a jolly atmosphere. Vendors donated highly coveted raffle prizes. The most sought after raffle items were stunning flower arrangements in hollowed out pumpkin centerpieces created by Rowan's own Debbie Civello and Margie Petersen. All vendors gave 20% of their sales to Rowan Branch and one vendor, Maddy Jane Designs, gave a whopping 50% of their sales! This generosity and liberal spending by attendees, helped bring in \$3,700 in net profit from this event. The Rowan members loved finally being together in person again to do what they love most—raising funds to support our beloved hospital.



Russ Stephens,
Hahn Kent of Maddy
Jane Designs, Becky
Ip and Kate Ahearn.



Rowan's
Deirdre Henry,
Margie Petersen,
Debbie Civello and
Kristina Smith serving up
some holiday refresh-
ments.

**\$3700
raised!**



Rowan
Co-Chair Ellen
Miller sampling deli-
cious holiday treats
offered by Beverly's
English toffee



Boutique guests
shopping sparkly
wares.

2021 Winter Ball



Debutantes & Escorts

In alphabetical order

Miss Ashley Lynette Abramson escorted by Mr. Tyler Allen Abramson
Miss Eleanor Ingrid Andersen escorted by Mr. Thomas Frank Smegal IV
Miss Morgan Elizabeth Bouch escorted by Mr. Harrison James Bouch
Miss Ava Isobel Caldwell escorted by Mr. Nicolas Paul Manolis
Miss Anna Elizabeth de Petra escorted by Mr. James Edward Manolis*
Miss Avery Elizabeth Hastings escorted by Mr. Sean Donald Stein
Miss Heidi Mei Mei Helm escorted by Mr. Jake Christopher Hart
Miss Ava Elaine Murphy escorted by Mr. Matthew Peter Murphy Jr.
Miss Caroline Jane Sween escorted by Mr. Colton Lawrence Griscavage
Miss Caroline Claire Wiesbrock escorted by Mr. Taggard Ronin Walter

**Ms. de Petra and Mr. Manolis were unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances,
and are therefore not pictured here*

2021 Winter Ball

Hill Branch is thrilled to present a check for \$118,000 to the hospital! Funds raised from the Ball will be used to buy life-saving equipment, including caps to monitor infants and protect them from potential life threatening and often undetected seizures. Additional revenue from the ball will fund a variety of injury prevention items such as car seats, bike helmets and other much needed equipment families are often challenged to be able to afford.

The Winter Ball is Hill Branch's primary fundraiser; it celebrates and honors young women for their achievements as they graduate from high school and begin their lives as young adults. The focus of participation in Winter Ball is philanthropy and Hill Branch strives to instill in these young women the importance of giving back to the community through their support of Children's Hospital Branches and UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland. The combined 2020/2021 Winter Ball class will be invited to continue their philanthropic endeavors in the coming years through Hill Branch outreach.

The 63rd Winter Ball, chaired by Sydney Proctor, was held on Tuesday, December 21st at the Westin St Francis Hotel in San Francisco. The cocktail party

preceded the presentation and dinner was held on the 32nd Floor of the hotel and guests enjoyed the spectacular views of Union Square and the sparkling lights of the city. The Starlight Strings provided the perfect musical backdrop to the presentation and dinner. Guests then danced the night away to the lively notes of Dick Bright's orchestra.

Ten young women from the East Bay were presented during the event which was graciously emceed by the hospital foundation's wonderful Director of Volunteer Programs, Beverly Ingram.

Nearly 300 guests joined in the celebration this year and the venue buzzed with the pent up enthusiasm from last year's ball, postponed due to COVID restrictions. One guest aptly described the experience as a "wonderful way to spend the holidays surrounded by family and friends while contributing to such a worthwhile cause."

Hill Branch is actively working on preparations for the 64th Ball and all young women who are currently seniors in high school are welcome to join the 2022 event. Please send any inquiries to sydneyproctor66@gmail.com



From left to right: Lucy Talbot, Molly Metheny Lewis and Jill Knowland of Hill Branch, Ball Co-Chair Sydney Proctor (Hill), Branches Board President Eileen Caponio (Rowan), Sheila Finney Kintz (Hill), Beverly Ingram (UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals Foundation), Kristina Smith (Rowan) and Ann Bone (Hill) all enjoying the festivities.

Photo credit: Jim Fidelibus, James Brian Studios

2022 Hospital Wishlist

Food Farmacy Grocery Gift cards



\$10,000

Rehabilitation Tools: Bioness Leg and Hand Rehabilitation functional electrical stimulation system



\$10,000

Blood & Bone Marrow Transplant House Appliance Upgrade

\$2,000

Emergency Waiting Room Charging Station



\$500

Integrative Medicine: massage table, bolsters, heat lamp, VR headsets and acupuncture needles



\$2,000

Palliative Care: iPads and Comfort Cubs



\$10,000

Oncology Tumor Bank

\$48,500

Neurology: Ambulatory EEG machines and Telehealth Equipment, Ophthalmoscopes and Otosopes



\$45,000

Children's Hospital Branches

is a registered 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Our Tax ID# is 94-2227650

Use the enclosed pre-addressed envelope to mail your donation. Thank you for providing your own stamp.

Donations can also be made online:
childrenshospitalbranches.org/donate

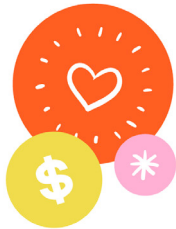
Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

APRIL 20, 2020
SEQUOYAH COUNTRY CLUB

More details to come soon!



Joyce Spinelli



Our beloved Lilac member Joyce Spinelli has passed away. Joyce's name is on the Children's Hospital "Wall of Fame" for her 10,000+ hours of Community Service. A devoted Lilac member for 30+ years.

The 21st Annual
ROWAN BRANCH
*Shopping Spree,
Fashion Show, &
Luncheon*
Benefiting UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland

MAY 3 2022

10am - 3pm Blackhawk
Country Club
\$100 Per Attendee
Includes one door prize entry

Ticket Purchase & More Info at
Rowanbranch.org





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UPCOMING BRANCHES EVENTS

Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

Wednesday April 20 at Sequoyah Country Club
4550 Heafey Road, Oakland

Lombardy Bubbles & Bling Jewelry Shopping Event

Thursday April 14 from 2 pm to 6 pm at JBJ Curated Goods
1513 Cypress Street, Walnut Creek

Rowan Branch Shopping Spree, Fashion Show & Luncheon

Tuesday May 3 from 10 am to 3 pm at Blackhawk Country Club
599 Blackhawk Club Drive, Danville
For tickets and more information, visit rowanbranch.org

Lilac Luncheon & Fall Fashion Show

Thursday September 8 from 11 am to 2 pm at Hilton Garden Inn, Fairfield
Please email lilacbranchch@aol.com your contact information to receive an invitation

Please consider donating on our website: childrenshospitalbranches.org/donate
You may also mail your donation to the office. Look for the donation envelope inside.