

twigs

Newsletter of
Children's Hospital Branches, Inc.
Winter 2018

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This is my last letter as President of the Children's Hospital Branches. The next Twigs you read will feature a message by your new President Lucy Talbot. It has been an honor to lead this talented, dedicated and compassionate group for the past three years. With my time as your leader coming to an end, I have been reflecting on our accomplishments during that period.

We created a Mission Statement, putting into words for the first time our purpose, aspirations and goals. Our mission is to raise funds and awareness throughout the Greater San Francisco Bay Area for UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland while providing service, friendship, leadership and education opportunities for our dedicated and diverse membership.

We created a set of Core Values under which we now operate: Service, Evangelism, Education, Teamwork and Fun.

We have enriched our minds and spirits by developing meetings with engaging speakers and panel discussions.

We worked closely with the Foundation on a three-year \$1.5 million-dollar donation ensuring our legacy. The NICU will be named for the Branches when it is completed in the next phase of construction.

Together we have forged a closer and more open relationship with the hospital Foundation. As a result, we now have effective input in the types of departments, equipment and programs that we fund and how and when we fund them.

We have accomplished much as a vibrantly diverse yet cohesive group of women. There is still so much for us to do. UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland still needs our time, talent and funds. Sick kids still need our compassion and care. Children's Hospital Branches still needs dedicated volunteers to carry out this work and carry the message of the good works of our beloved Children's Oakland. Together, we can continue our mission.

"Sick children need our compassion and care"

We conducted a thorough search for a new Office Manager, hiring the uber capable Susanne Simas. Bringing on Susanne has made possible, among many other things, our new branding and Twigs overhaul.

We also overhauled the Branches website and have assisted individual Branches with website creation.

We have made "Branching Out" a top priority and are actively supporting each other's events. I have so enjoyed attending nearly every Branch and Bambino event these past three years.

We created and executed our first all Branches event in many years, the Festival of Trees. We will continue to explore options for other all branches events.

My mission will continue as I serve our Branches organization, our Board of Directors and Rowan Branch. I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

2018 Board of Directors

Kristina Smith.....	President
Lucy Talbot.....	V.P.
Wendy Dunn.....	Treasurer
Mary Lou Carter.....	Secretary
Cece Werson.....	Parliamentarian
Eileen Caponio.....	Rowan
Debbie Civello.....	Rowan
Sheila Challey.....	Rowan
Julie Davidson.....	Lombardy
Wendy Dunn.....	Lombardy
Jeannie Graham.....	Garden
Mae Ritz.....	Acorn
Lynne Wilson.....	Acorn
Fredora Darmstedt.....	Chinquapin
Marianne Malenk.....	Chinquapin

October All Branches General Meeting

From the Arcade to the OR, video game technology has come to UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland. At the recent General Meeting held in the CHORI Library, Branches members were among the first in the U.S. to see and experience the cutting edge Virtual Reality (VR) technology.

During the interactive "Revolutionizing Neurosurgery with Virtual Reality" presentation, pioneering Neurosurgery Division Chief Dr. Kurtis Auguste donned specialty VR goggles to take members on a remarkable 3 dimensional tour through the brain of a child with a malignant tumor. By seeing the brain in 3-D, Dr. Auguste and his team can more accurately plan a complicated and highly technical brain surgery. In addition to aiding in the treatment plan, Dr. Auguste uses VR to show his young patients and their parents the child's tumor and explain his gameplan to remove it in a way that they can see and understand.

Teenaged brain cancer survivor Mathias Hahn joined in the presentation. Dr. Auguste used VR to plan Mathias' incredibly complex surgery. Mathias' mother Lindsay told the 50 Branches members in attendance that VR

allowed her family and Mathias to understand the issue and feel a part of the solution. Dr. Auguste said that the VR technology has changed the accuracy of brain surgery and the patient experience.

More innovations are to come. Dr. Auguste is planning the next phases of VR where Children's Oakland Neurosurgeons can consult on surgeries thousands of miles and oceans away.

If all of that wasn't enough, most members even geared up with VR goggles to take an immersive 3-D tour around Mathias' brain. After everyone had a chance to experience the 3-D goggles, we heard about Branches business including recaps of recent Branches event, the funds raised to date in 2018, and pitches for upcoming events. We were then treated to a delicious lunch by the hospital Foundation.

The next General Meeting will be held in the OPC auditorium on February 25, 2019. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend!



Surgical Theater Program Lead Alexandar Smith with Hill Branch member Shand Green and Rowan member Nazanin Shakerin



Lindsay and Mathias Hahn with Branches President Kristina Smith

A Young Brain Tumor Patient and VR Neurosurgery

Mathias Hahn is an amazing 15-year-old in every way. He is a cross country runner, a basketball player and an excellent student. But perhaps most amazingly, he has recently recovered from brain surgery. About a year ago, Mathias woke up with a terrible and persistent headache. His mom, Lindsay, soon realized this was more than a regular headache and brought him to the ER where he was diagnosed with a brain hemorrhage. Due to the bleeding and swelling in his brain, Mathias lost his ability to speak and was paralyzed on one side while in the ICU. This is when he first met Dr. Kurtis Auguste, Pediatric Neurosurgeon at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals.

"Using VR technology, I was able to get a full view of Mathias' brain," explains Dr. Auguste. "What I found was a tumor lodged right underneath the edge of Mathias' skull. His tumor had caused some bleeding so it was also hidden behind a large blood clot. With the very detailed information I saw in his virtual 3-D model, I was able to plan the surgery, determine the best road map and remove his tumor in a way I never could before."

"I finally feel like a normal kid again. I am so thankful to Dr. Auguste and to UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital"

What was previously very difficult to see is now available thanks to the VR technology. "With the goggles on, I can basically 'fly' into a 3-D model of the brain, and see in 360-degree detail every part of it from every possible angle," says Dr. Auguste. This provides the surgeon with the incredible benefit of rehearsing the surgery ahead of time.

Equally important, it also helps the surgeon communicate with patients and families. "It's incredibly powerful for the patient and their family members to be fully immersed in a 3-D view of their own brain. They can understand their procedure on a whole new level," Dr. Auguste explains. Needless to say, this was a very scary time for the Hahns. Says mom Lindsay, "It was very chaotic for our family. Mathias was paralyzed and had lost his speech and we

didn't know what was happening. Hearing that he had a brain tumor was very difficult. When Dr. Auguste handed us the VR goggles and invited us in to take a tour around Mathias' brain, it counterbalanced the chaos and scariness with clarity. It gave us a feeling of control to know exactly how Dr. Auguste was planning on safely approaching and removing the tumor."

Thankfully, the surgery was successful; the tumor was safely removed, and Mathias has recovered beautifully. Now back in school, he is healthy and cancer free.



Lindsay Hahn, Dr. Kurtis Auguste and Mathias Hahn

"I finally feel like a normal kid again. I am so thankful to Dr. Auguste and to UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital and am really glad they were able to have so much precision using this VR technology," says Mathias.

The CHB Board is exploring how the Branches can help support a Virtual Reality Suite at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland in the future.

For more information about this amazing technology, please visit [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITO-pS6VAfk) for an interesting video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITO-pS6VAfk>

"Surgical Theater & UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital - Patient Video"

65th Anniversary Gala

Acorn Branch

Acorn Branch hosted its 65th Anniversary on Saturday, October 20, 2018 at the Berkeley Country Club in El Cerrito. Ten active members were honored, each with more than 50 years of service and dedication to Acorn and to UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland. Acorn is thrilled and honored to have several members of the Branches board in attendance, as well as more than 20 associate and contributing members of Acorn Branch. Many thanks to the 120 guests who supported this event that raised nearly \$20,000 to benefit the hospital. Acorn salutes the wonderful heroines who have devoted countless hours and vast amounts of energy to this amazing cause.



Bill Fernando and Yvonne Oberto



Barbara Bacon (right) with guests



Barbara Reeves (right) with daughter and guest



Kristina Smith and Betty Jo Olson



Mae Ritz and Kathy Navalier

General Meeting

Monday, February 25, 2019

9:30-11:30

9:30 Coffee & Pastries

10:00 CHB Business

10:30 Hospital presentation and Q&A

OPC Auditorium

UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland

747 52nd Street

Oakland, CA 94609

Children's Hospital Branches
Highlights NEW Board Member:

Carol Miller



Carol Miller is one of our newest members of the Children's Hospital Branches Board of Directors. She has been very active with Teak branch since around 1982. Her friend Sandra Humphries was a member of Teak, and invited Carol to join while Carol was attending one of the Holiday Bazaars. At the time, Carol was working full time for Chevron Corporation, and this was something she could easily do in the evenings and on weekends.

The Rubber Ducky Derby was Carol's absolute favorite Branches event. She fondly remembers being the Teak coordinator in 1988. Her group was responsible for selling hot dogs and drinks. She also happened to be pregnant during the event, awaiting the birth of her son whose due date was the very next day after the race! Luckily the baby behaved and Carol didn't go into labor until about 10 days later. Nowadays, Carol spends most of her Branches volunteering time in the Bambino Thrift Shop, where she can be found most Mondays and Wednesdays. "I love working in the shop with all the other dedicated volunteers and with Lani. We have a lot of fun while we work supporting the hospital," says Carol. "What makes the Branches so special is how everyone has such varied backgrounds and talents, and we all work towards the common goal."

Carol has been married to Dean Miller for 36 years. Together they raised a son who is now 30 and recently married. The couple grew up in Piedmont, where they also raised their son, and still live in the house where Dean grew up! Welcome to the Board of Directors, Carol!

Family House



Holiday Help



Main courses and sides are needed for upcoming holiday meals. Items can be dropped off:

December 23rd or 24th ANYTIME
On Christmas Day December 25th, you are welcome to drop off between 9am and noon.

Please call Family House at (510) 428-3100 to let them know which dish you plan to bring!

Family House is happy to accept gift cards from Safeway, Whole Foods, Trader Joe's and Costco.

Katrina Rozelle Pastries has generously donated desserts so none are needed.

Thanks for your support!

5222 Dover Street, Oakland CA 94609

PLEASE JOIN US ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22 AT THE BEAUTIFUL WESTIN ST. FRANCIS HOTEL IN SAN FRANCISCO AS WE HONOR OUR YOUNG PHILANTHROPISTS. THIS WILL BE THE 6TH CONSECUTIVE DEBUTANTE BALL, AND PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS FUNDING THE \$150K NEONATAL TRANSPORT ISOLETTE. FOR TICKET INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT CAROL PHILLIPS AT: THEWINTERBALL52@GMAIL.COM

IF YOU KNOW YOUNG WOMEN WHO ARE NOW SENIORS IN HIGH SCHOOL, AND WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT OF UCSF BENIOFF CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OAKLAND IN 2019, AND WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THIS TIMELESS TRADITION, PLEASE FORWARD THEIR NAMES, ADDRESSES AND EMAILS TO SUE SMEGAL AT: SUBSMEGAL@COMCAST.NET.

PUT ON YOUR DANCING SHOES AND JOIN US AT THE WINTER BALL SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22.

Diamonds & Pearls Gala des Enfants

Rowan Branch

An elegant evening of Diamonds and Pearls was had at the 30th annual Gala des Enfants hosted by Rowan Branch at Diablo Country Club on October 13th.

Rowan Co-President Deirdre Henry said, "Our 30th annual Gala proved to be an absolutely wonderful and very successful evening which we could not have done without the strong support of so many of our members and sponsors."

Guests enjoyed wine tasting from local vintners and live piano music as they nibbled and vied for a diverse selection of silent auction items. The program featured a delicious meal, fun heads or tails game, a spirited live auction and announcement of raffle winners. The evening's highlight was the moving testimony of grateful parent Laura Ryken. Her son Christian spent four months as a preemie in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) most of which was in a Giraffe Isolette. Her heartfelt story of Christian's lengthy stay and extraordinary care greatly helped Rowan raise **\$47,450** to purchase another much needed specialty Giraffe Isolette. In total the event netted an astonishing **\$171,700**.

First time attendee Kate Rose remarked,
"This evening was the best gala event we have been to. And we have attended many!"



Kay Goldstein, Kate Rose and Barry Rose



Sameer Hilal with wife, Rowan member Melissa Hilal, chatting with guest Khira Griscavage



Rowan member Sharon Burke and Greg Kosich

Photo credit: Andrea Stenquist

Featured Branch Member:

Susan Candell – Lombardy Branch



Photo credit: Ron Rothenberg

Susan Candell is a Lafayette resident with deep roots in Lombardy. As a matter of fact, she grew up in Lombardy with her mother, who was a decades-long member. These memories with mother Sharon Plomgren inspired Susan to do the same, so she joined Lombardy 15 years ago. She just loves working with terrific ladies towards the common goal of supporting the hospital!

One of Susan's favorites moment was at Lombardy's first Fashion Show event, in a reluctant modeling debut. The best part for her was that she was joined by some of her best friends and fellow reluctant models, and even as a self-proclaimed non-fashionista, they were able to pull it off.

The person Susan admires the most is her mother, along with all of the 'senior members' who keep volunteering for the Branches for as long as they are able! Their wit, tribal knowledge about the way it used to be, and their decades-long dedication to the Hospital is so very admirable for young members. Susan's goal is to stay with Lombardy until she is old enough to make the kinds of jokes they get away with (!), and to try to provide insight and inspiration to younger members.

Susan and her husband raised their two kids in Lafayette, where she is a freshly elected member of the City Council. She has a background in Nuclear Engineering, and she used to be a competitive water-skier.



Mark Dewese and Christine Lopez, President of the McKesson Foundation



Rowan Co-Chair Deirdre Henry with husband Steven Kleigman



Long-time Rowan supporters Patti and Ken Kosich



Rowan member Sheila Challey with husband Bob Challey



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UPCOMING BRANCH EVENTS

Dec 22, 2018 (Saturday)

Winter Ball

Hill

Westin St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco 7pm

No host bar. Complimentary champagne and light hors d'oeuvres, deb presentation, dinner and dancing

Tickets \$375 (Guests age 16-30 \$225) For more information, email WBChair@hillbranch.org

Feb 25, 2018 (Monday)

General Meeting

All Branches

OPC Auditorium UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland. 9:30am-11:30am

March 21, 2018 (Thursday)

Shopping Spree

Lombardy

Save the date! Details TBD

April 17, 2018 (Wednesday)

Pretty Woman Luncheon & Fashion Show

Lilac

Hilton Garden Inn, Fairfield. Featuring helen lyall fashions.

For information email Lilacbranchch@aol.com or visit www.lilacbranch.org

April 24, 2018 (Wednesday)

Volunteer Recognition Appreciation Luncheon

All Branches

Sequoyah Country Club. RSVP to Branch Chair