

twigs

Newsletter of
Children's Hospital Branches, Inc.
Fall 2021

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Oakland, CA 94609-1673
Phone: (510) 428-3355



We CAN do it! Reflecting on the past three years, this phrase comes to mind to sum up my feelings about the Branches. When I stepped into the role as your Board President in 2019, I was filled with excitement about the possibilities of what we could achieve. 2019 was an abundant calendar of unique activities. Fashion shows, shopping sprees, Jazz Jam, Holiday Open House, Winter Ball and an unforgettable

Sips in the City event brought all of us together. We exceeded our fundraising goals and had great fun in the process.

Building on 2019 successes, the plans for 2020 and beyond looked bright—or so we thought! Many fundraising organizations could not navigate the challenges COVID-19 presented, but the passion, skill and dedication that defines the Branches would not allow for retreat. Our collective recognition that the hospital's needs were never greater gave us a focus to continue on.

on the support I've had from those around me during the past three years. It really fills me with so much gratitude. Kristina Smith as Vice President has been an exceptional mentor and friend. Office Manager Sara DeVries has stepped up to supply invaluable support to the changing needs of our organization. Renu Pal, the Branches Accounting Manager along with Branches Board Treasurer, Wendy Dunn, were instrumental in navigating our 'ship' through COVID's rough waters. Renu's ability with COVID Federal Funding programs aided the Branches in receiving much-needed support through the Payroll Protection Plan. Finally, I am thankful for the philanthropic spirit my mom, Dee Farkas, instilled in me over my lifetime through her membership in Fir Branch.

Despite the disruptions to our traditional fundraising methods, the Branches have continued to embrace the spirit of friendship and fun, and I know we all want to return to our signature events. I've seen the beginnings of good things to come when I joined a few in-person Branches get-togethers over the past few months, including the all-member Bocce party. These

"It is heartwarming to see the creativity you have displayed"

We might have been restricted in gathering, but were not hindered in our ability to reach out and ask for our generous donors' support. It was heartwarming to see the creativity you have all displayed.

The dedicated Chinquapin and Teak volunteers at the Bambino Shop found a way to reach their primary customer base. Email blasts were the perfect way to sell those irresistible 'must haves'. As soon as guidelines allowed, these members masked up and opened the doors to customers willing to wait in line for a chance for in-person shopping.

Rowan Branch inspired their donors to go online and raise their paddles from the comfort of their own homes for two virtual events in less than a year. Hill Branch encouraged their donors to 'unmask their generosity' in a year when a letter-writing campaign replaced what would have been the 63rd annual Winter Ball. Our junior Branch, Bud Branch, coordinated a virtual 'fun run' as an alternative to their fashion show.

I am thrilled to be passing the gavel to my friend and fellow board member, Eileen Caponio, who I know will provide outstanding leadership in our fundraising mission moving forward.

As I pass my duties along to Eileen, I want to reflect

on the support I've had from those around me during the past three years. It really fills me with so much energy among our members was electric.

I celebrate the efforts of each one of you and I will be there for our future events in whatever form they may take. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for allowing me to serve as your president.

2021 Board of Directors

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

Cece Werson..... Parliamentarian, Advisory

Introducing New Branches Board President

Eileen Caponio



We are so thankful to Lucy Talbot of Hill Branch for her tireless efforts during her tenure as Board President of Children's Hospital Branches. Now we are excited to welcome a new fearless leader, Eileen Caponio of Rowan Branch.

Since Eileen joined Rowan Branch in 2004, she has taken on nearly every leadership role possible including several multi-year stints as Rowan Co-Chair. Eileen is always the first to say yes and always ready to roll up her sleeves to get things done. All Branch events like the Rubber Ducky Derby and the Festival of Trees benefited from Eileen's hard work and tenacity. Even before she joined the Branches Board seven years ago, Eileen could be found cheerfully attending and supporting other Branch events. Since she has been on the Branches Board, her commitment to Children's Oakland and the Branches has deepened further. Eileen has been Board Secretary, taking excellent notes and keeping us informed and on track. She and her husband Peter even donate storage space to the Bambino Thrift Shop for their overflow merchandise. Her daughter Ashley often volunteers at Rowan events.

In addition to the hundreds of hours of volunteer time Eileen gives to the Branches, she is also a doting grandmother who sews amazing Halloween costumes and bakes elaborate birthday cakes for her sweet grandkids. She has a wicked backhand and when not at a Branch event, she can be found on the tennis court competing for Round Hill Country Club. The Branches Board of Directors enthusiastically and wholeheartedly welcomes Eileen Caponio as Board President of the Branches.



BRANCHES OFFICE UPDATE:

The Branches no longer maintains an office space on the CHORI Campus

We still receive mail at:
Children's Hospital Branches
5700 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
T-2
Oakland, CA 94609

Leave a message: 510-428-3355 Branches Office
Manager Sara DeVries will return your call

The fax number is no longer in service

Please make a note of this change! Thanks for your support!

Rowan's E-Spree Fiesta

Rowan Branch consists of a group of women who never slow down, much less give up. In May, they decided to arrange an event to support the hospital despite current COVID restrictions. They did so by hosting a second annual e-spree, in lieu of what would have been their 20th annual in-person shopping event. The theme was "Fiesta!" and the evening was festive indeed! Guests were skillfully guided on how to make fresh guacamole, green salsa and shrimp ceviche in an online cooking class with cookbook author Jenyfer Aranda Berg. Mixologist Steven Kurpinsky demonstrated how to make Margarita Negras.

Rowan Co-Chair Kristina Smith and Branches Board President Lucy Talbot cohosted the event, inspiring and engaging guests throughout the evening. In addition to the cooking and mixologist tutorials, the robust program also featured a wonderful silent auction and a Fund-a-Need giving opportunity, led by longtime Rowan emcee Joe Cunningham.

The focus of the evening's Fund-A-Need was spirometry machines to assess asthma patients' lung function. Dr. Gena Lewis, Medical Director at the Claremont Clinic, took viewers through the importance

of accurate assessment of young asthma patients. She shared some staggering statistics:

- The Claremont Clinic is the only Federally Qualified Health Center in the nation to serve only children
- The clinic serves 11,000 children annually
- 92% of the patients live in poverty
- 30% of the patients experience homelessness
- 3,500 of the patients suffer from asthma

Due to the vulnerability of the population and volume of asthma patients seen at the clinic, they are in desperate need of more spirometers. "Assessing the lung function of an asthma patient is as important as checking any vital signs like respiratory rate, heart rate and blood pressure," explained Dr. Lewis. "Anything you can do to help us get a few more of these machines will be a huge help to these children."

Overall, the evening netted just over \$70,000, \$20,000 of which was specifically designated for the purchase of two new spirometers for the hospital. Thank you, and congratulations, Rowan Branch!



Kristina Smith and Lucy Talbot served as event co-hosts



Steven Kurpinsky mixed a mean Margarita Negra



Jenyfer Aranda Berg taught guests how to make some wonderful dishes



The evening's efforts funded two new spirometry machines for the Claremont Clinic



Alice Bullard Lifetime Achievement Recipient

Cece Werson

Cece grew up in San Francisco with her twin siblings (a brother and a sister); in the fourth generation of her family to do so. Cece attended college at UC Berkeley and worked in the General Counsel's office as a receptionist. After graduating from Cal, Cece went on to get her law degree at UC Hastings, working her way up and becoming the first woman appointed by the UC Regents to be their Legal Counsel. In this role, Cece got to know then Governor Ronald Reagan who was an ex-officio member of the UC Regents. During his presidential tenure, Reagan appointed Cece to serve for two years as a liaison with the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington DC.

In addition to this illustrious legal career, Cece made a significant impact on the work of the Branches. Back in 1959, when she was a senior at Cal, Cece joined Hawthorne Branch on the recommendation of a coworker at the General Counsel's office, and her lifelong involvement in the Branches began. With her fellow Hawthorne Branch members, Cece helped to raise funds for the hospital by hosting fashion show events, including a specialty fashion show featuring dresses from Mexico. She also participated in All Branch events, including the annual wine tasting event and the Holiday Bazaar, where Hawthorne Branch was known for their natural wreaths made with materials they gathered themselves.

Cece has held numerous leadership roles in the Branches, including serving as chairman of Hawthorne Branch for 10 years. Shortly after joining Hawthorne, Cece was recruited by Betty Jo Olson (whom she knew from their work together on the Oakland Symphony Guild) to join the Branches Board where she served two three-year terms as the board's youngest member. She later rejoined the board and has served in almost every board role (with the exceptions of Treasurer and Secretary). She currently serves on the board as an emeritus member. Over the years, not surprisingly, some of Cece's



Cece Werson (Hawthorne Emeritus Branch member) is this year's Alice Bullard award recipient

most valuable contributions to the Board have been as a parliamentary and legal resource, most recently leading a committee to update the Branches bylaws.

We are so grateful to Cece for all of the time and energy she has devoted to the Branches over the years. We cannot think of anyone more deserving of this honor.



Fall at the Bambino Shop

Our Bambino Shop has been bustling with activity!

Every second Saturday since mid-August, the shop has participated in the Rockridge Merchants' Association "Rock and Stroll" event. For the month of October, shop manager Jena dressed in a different costume every day!

In the shop, there is a Dia de los Muertos altar, where the community was invited to display photos of their lost loved ones to honor and commemorate them.

After closing from November 4 to 6 to decorate, the shop will open for holiday shopping on November 7, including new Sunday hours for the remainder of the year.



Shop manager Jena as "Sally" from the movie "Nightmare Before Christmas"; one of her many Halloween costumes



"Rock-n-Stroll" Rockridge neighborhood event poster



Spooky fun decor vignettes created by Bambino volunteers

For donations, please

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

This will help us manage crowding. We will gladly accept your donations, and ask that you kindly call to make an appointment ahead of time: 510-658-7473

Thank you for your support!
~ Bambino Shop Management

November & December Shop Hours:

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

Welcome in!



CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL
BRANCHES

Dear Friends,

Be a Miracle Maker for UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland!

Happy Holidays from Children's Hospital Branches! We thank you for your past support and once again ask for your help in the form of a special holiday gift to Children's Hospital Branches.

For more than a century, the Branches have been able to fund a wide variety of hospital programs and departments. We are proud to be Children's longest and most loyal supporters. We need your financial support to reach our 2021 funding goals, which include purchasing important injury prevention equipment (e.g. bike helmets, car seats, cribs), support for the Community Health & Adolescent Mentoring Program for Success (CHAMPS), and vital equipment to help better assess and monitor patients. The children need us more than ever!

Please help us give the gift of health to the children in our community by supporting the high quality of care offered at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland, regardless of a family's ability to pay. All donations are tax deductible.

Wishing you a warm and festive holiday season,

Lucy Talbot
President, Children's Hospital Branches

Tax ID: 94-2227650

Please go online to donate: childrenshospitalbranches.org/donate

If you prefer to mail in your donation, please use the pre-addressed envelope we have enclosed in this issue of Twigs. Thank you for adding postage and for supporting the children!

WHY YOU WANT TO SUPPORT THE BRANCHES



WHAT WE DO



Our sole purpose is to raise funds to benefit
UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland.

The Branches have been around since the hospital was first formed in 1914,
making us the longest-serving fundraising organization for the hospital.



HOW TO DESIGNATE YOUR GIFT

You'll want to be sure to designate your gift specifically to
Children's Hospital Branches.

We are a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit
EIN: # 94-2227650

YOUR DONATIONS FUND ITEMS & PROGRAMS WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE NOT BE FUNDED



In recognition of our ongoing support
for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit,
the remodeled NICU facility will be
named in honor of the Branches.

UCSF Awarded High Rankings for All 10 Pediatric Specialties

UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals have been recognized among the nation's best pediatric medical centers in all 10 specialties assessed by the U.S. News & World Report's annual survey of Best Children's Hospitals for 2021-2022, reflecting the quality of specialty care the hospitals provide for children in Northern California and beyond.

Together, UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals in Oakland and San Francisco ranked fourth nationwide in newborn specialty care (neonatology) and were the top-ranked children's hospitals in Northern California in both pediatric cancer and urology. They also placed among the top 20 children's hospitals nationwide in diabetes and endocrinology, kidney care (nephrology), and neurology and neurosurgery, and received high marks in four other pediatric specialties: cardiology and heart surgery, pulmonology, gastroenterology and GI surgery, and orthopedics. Overall, they tied for third place in the entire Pacific Region, which includes Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington.



Source: ucsfbenioffchildrens.org



DONATIONS NEEDED FOR FAMILY HOUSE

Kitchen trash bags 13 gallon size
(with or without the drawstring)

CLEAR recycle bags 11 ml
(or any large or extra large size)

50 gallon trash bags

flimsy paper plates

8 or 8.5 inch paper plates

4 gallon small wastebasket liners for bedrooms in
white, cream, or clear

2 gallon and 1 gallon size zip lock bags

Amazon, Trader Joe's and Safeway gift cards



ORDER ONLINE AND DELIVER TO
OR DROP OFF:
FAMILY HOUSE
5222 DOVER STREET
OAKLAND, CA 94609



EMERSON GRACE DESIGN & LOMBARDY
BRANCH PARTNER FOR

LOCAL HOLIDAY SIP & SHOP

JOIN US FOR HOLIDAY SHOPPING AND
CHAMPAGNE

HOLIDAY GIFTS, FRESH HOLIDAY FLORALS,
HOME ACCESSORIES & HOLIDAY DECOR

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 2, 2021
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
3620 MT. DIABLO BLVD.
LAFAYETTE, CA
925.954.7331



amazon**smile**

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com.

The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

If you shop on Amazon, please set up a Smile account designating **Children's Hospital Branches Inc** as the recipient of these funds. Thank you!



**The Bud Branch Ladies raised
\$1500 for the hospital in a virtual
5K race! Well done!**

General Meeting

Disappointed not to be in person in the CHORI Library, but excited to see each others' smiling faces again, we gathered via Zoom to get inspired by one another and our mission.

Hospital Update

We heard some very exciting news from the Foundation Director of Volunteer Programs, Beverly Ingram. She shared with us that the new PICU department has finally opened! The reimagined PICU is four times the size of what it used to be and offers a greatly modernized experience. One amazing feature is built-in equipment that is completely customizable, utilizing overhead booms and tracks so that the nursing staff can treat their patients without having to move them at all. Another huge improvement is that children can now receive anesthesia right in their room without needing to go through pre-op (which can be quite scary for young children). The overall feeling in the new space is welcoming and healing with commissioned artwork throughout.

Another exciting development is that the Oakland Campus just received the largest research grant in the hospital's history to launch an innovative clinical trial that aims to actually cure Sickle Cell Disease. UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland is truly a national leader in the study of this disease. The \$16M grant (over 4 years) will involve a gene correction therapy using the patient's own blood-forming stem cells. The study is now actively enrolling adults who were patients seen as children since the 1970s. Phase two will enroll local children in the study.

Injury Prevention

We also heard from Rigoberto Del Toro, Injury Prevention Coordinator at the hospital. He explained how "An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure". Injury prevention materials, training and events are financially supported by grants and philanthropic donations. Branches support will allow this program to continue and to expand its services. Some of the crucial injury prevention items the Branches have committed to funding are:

- Car seats
- Safe Sleeping Program
- Bike Helmets

Those of us who have raised children have all experienced these safety issues and know how challenging they can be. If your family struggles to pay rent and to put food on the table, these items might be ones you can't afford!

Board President Vote

After diligently serving as Board President for the past three years, Lucy Talbot is finishing up her term at the end of this year and handing the gavel to Eileen Caponio of Rowan Branch. Eileen's nomination by the board was unanimously approved by representatives from each active Branch. Thank you, Lucy, and welcome, Eileen!

Branches Updates

Branches Board Treasurer, Wendy Dunn, gave members a financial update. She was very happy to report that our overall finances are solid despite a challenging environment. She expressed how inspired she is by the creative new events and the "can-do" attitude among the Branches. Further, the Branches were able to keep all employees on payroll via the Payroll Protection Program.

In addition to the financial updates, members also heard from Rowan's Sheila Challey about the upcoming Bocce Social and Rowan's Holiday Boutique. In December, Lombardy will be hosting a Winter Wonderful Sip & Shop event and Hill Branch their annual Winter Ball. Check the back page for details and be sure to mark your calendar! The spring promises a Garden Teddy Bear Tea, a Rowan Shopping Spree and Cacao is planning for a pop-corn fundraiser before the end of the year—and whatever other fun events Branches will conjure up in support of our amazing hospital! Stay tuned for details on these events!

Bocce Social

On a warm and sunny fall afternoon, about 30 cheerful Branches members and friends gathered in Sycamore Valley Park in Danville. After a long time not seeing each other in person, this was a perfect opportunity to meet up and socialize over a game of bocce. Members from Hill, Rowan, Lombardy and Teak came out to play!

It did get competitive at times, with teams measuring to the fraction of an inch which one was closer to the pallino. After some fun competition, the group enjoyed delicious burritos around the picnic tables and some wonderful prizes were awarded. Thank you to the Branches Board for organizing this fun social event!



From left to right:
Kathy Sommers with incoming
Board president Eileen Caponio
and Office Manager Sara DeVries
enjoyed the Sunday afternoon.



A few younger Branches' friends
joined the fun—William, Luca and
Drew in action!



Hill Branch member and Board member
Gretchen Gibson with her husband and a
friend of Hill Branch.



Board President Lucy Talbot rolled
beautifully for her team.





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@CHORI Campus

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Oakland, CA 94609-1673

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SUPPORT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS!

Branch Holiday Boutique, Rowan Branch

November 13, 2021 (Saturday), 10 am - 1 pm

Danville Women's Club, 242 West Linda Mesa, Danville

Winter Wonderful Sip & Shop, Lombardy Branch

December 2, 2021 (Thursday), 10 am - 6 pm

Holiday gifts, fresh holiday florals, home accessories and holiday decor + Beautycounter

Emerson Grace Design 3620 Mt Diablo Blvd., Lafayette CA

Winter Ball, Hill Branch

December 21, 2021 (Tuesday)

Westin St. Francis, Union Square, San Francisco

Cocktail Party featuring signature cocktails & light appetizers.

Tickets \$225 for guests 21 and under; \$375 for guests over 21 years of age.

For more information, visit www.hillbranch.org

Please consider donating on our website: childrenshospitalbranches.org/donate

You may also mail your donation to the office; look for the donation envelope inside.