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Happy New Year!

As we ring in 2012, it’s a time to celebrate with family and friends. It’s also a time to look back on the year gone by. As we reflect on the goals and accomplishments we achieved at Akron Children’s in 2011, we’d like to thank each of you, the members of our extended family, for what you mean to us all year long.

Your generous support of the hospital’s mission and programs was significant in 2011. We were most fortunate to welcome many new donors and grateful for the thousands who continued to support Akron Children’s Hospital. Our donors, be they individuals, businesses, private foundations and local, state and federal government agencies, are truly representative of the many communities we are privileged to serve.

This issue of Children’s Progress is devoted to those dedicated individuals who turn everyday actions into miracles at our hospital. You’ll hear how two parents heard their child laugh for the first time, thanks to the hospital’s ENT specialists. You’ll also learn about a special volunteer organization that was recognized on National Philanthropy Day for more than a half-century of service to the hospital. Within these pages, you’ll also find recaps of recent events that made a large impact on our organization, and learn about upcoming fundraisers we hope you’ll attend.

As we look forward to great things in 2012, we want to thank you for the gifts you give us. Whether it’s your time, your financial support or other resources, we appreciate your commitment to Akron Children’s Hospital.

Sincerely,

John Zoilo
Executive Director
Akron Children’s Hospital Foundation

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Akron Children’s Hospital embraces a philosophy of family-centered care. We believe that every child has the right to world-class medical care, regardless of a family’s ability to pay.

Member, National Association of Children’s Hospitals and Related Institutions (NACHRI).

Member, Children’s Miracle Network

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Akron Children’s Hospital realizes that individuals enjoy learning more about our services, programs and developments. We also fully respect the privacy of our patients. If you do not wish to receive fundraising materials from Akron Children’s Hospital, you may make the request by sending your name and address to the Akron Children's Hospital Foundation, One Perkins Square, Akron, Ohio 44308. We will use our best efforts to honor such a request.
Bill Considine, president and CEO of Akron Children’s Hospital, received the Bert A. Polsky Humanitarian Award at an evening-long celebration on Oct. 18 at the Hilton in Fairlawn.

More than 500 community leaders attended the sold out ceremony during which Considine was recognized for his lifelong commitment to the Akron community, both personally and professionally.

“It would be difficult to find a CEO in modern times who has chaired more organizations, led more fundraising drives, and volunteered for more worthwhile community boards than Bill Considine,” said Akron’s deputy mayor and event emcee, Dave Lieberth.

“Never take more than you give. My dear, late friend Peter Burg had that belief,” Considine said. “You get so much more back when you give. You learn more about others, and you learn so much more about yourself,” he added.

Each year, the Akron Community Foundation presents the Polsky Award to the individual or individuals who best exemplify Bert Polsky’s selfless dedication and his contributions to humanitarian causes in greater Akron.

A complete list of winners, as well as photos from this year’s event can be found at akroncommunityfnd.org/polsky.
New telemedicine project to help children with mental health concerns

With a generous gift of $463,593 from the Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation, Akron Children’s Hospital will begin addressing the needs of children with mental health problems in underserved areas through a pilot telemedicine project.

Many of the children residing in Akron Children’s Hospital’s 28-county service area suffer from limited access to specialty mental health services. Community agencies struggle to recruit and retain mental health specialists, and in the past have utilized Akron Children’s Hospital’s psychiatric services on a consultant basis. The pilot program will provide mental health services using live, interactive videoconferencing with a physician in one physical location and the patient in their home community.

According to the American Telemedicine Association, research has shown that patients can be reliably assessed, diagnosed, and treated with pharmacology and psychotherapy in outpatient clinics with a variety of videoconferencing equipment. Patients surveyed say they felt that the communication between their physicians had improved their outcomes.

A tele-mental health project team has been created to oversee the pilot, and the team will utilize National Rural Health Association guidelines and assistance from the American Telemedicine Association for the development of the new program, which will be implemented in phases.

This is not the first time Akron Children’s has received support from the Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation. The Foundation previously provided a $1.2 million grant that led to the development of the Psychiatric Intake Response Center at Akron Children’s Hospital, which has served nearly 10,000 children since its inception in 2007.

NorthCoast 99 designates Akron Children’s as one of the best

For the fifth time, the Employers Resource Council (ERC) named Akron Children’s Hospital one of the best places to work in northeast Ohio.

“It’s exciting to be recognized once again among the region’s top employers,” said Betty Lucci, director of Human Resources at Akron Children’s. “We believe that the satisfaction and wellbeing of our employees is directly related to our ability to carry out our mission to care for all children, regardless of their ability to pay. Receiving this honor is a testament to that commitment.”

NorthCoast 99 is an annual recognition program that honors the 99 best workplaces for top talent in northeast Ohio. The program was developed by the ERC, Northeast Ohio’s largest employers association. Since 1999, the NorthCoast 99 award has recognized a number of organizations for their ability to maintain great workplaces that support the attraction, retention and motivation of top performers.

NorthCoast 99 designation is based on a detailed application and survey of top performing employees. The ERC specifically examines the policies and practices that address the quality of seven, fundamental workplace characteristics: flexibility, opportunity, recognition, development, security, support and talent integrity.
New general counsel brings law, nursing and parent perspective to role

There’s a lot more to Mary Link, Akron Children’s new vice president and general counsel, than meets the eye.

Link has been practicing exclusively in the area of health care law for more than 20 years and has spent the majority of her career working for the Akron law firm of Brouse McDowell in its health care practice group. While with Brouse, Link provided legal services to Akron Children’s, particularly in the areas of compliance, regulatory affairs and reimbursement.

“Mary brings a tremendous depth and breadth of legal experience to Akron Children’s,” said Shawn Lyden, executive vice president. “She is well known to the executive and administrative teams at Children’s and has already hit the ground running.”

Link reports to Lyden, who served in the role of general counsel until January 2010.

While Link has extensive legal experience in health care law, she also brings significant nursing and advocacy knowledge to the table as well.

After graduating from Marquette University in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science in nursing, Link went to work at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, formerly Milwaukee Children’s Hospital.

“I really loved nursing and working in pediatrics,” said Link.

Link moved to New York and worked in Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center’s pediatric unit while attending graduate school at New York University (NYU).

While at NYU, Link took some courses in health care policy and advocacy. “I really liked the legal issues around health care and research,” said Link. “A professor suggested that I combine my interests and pursue a law degree.”

After receiving her master’s degree from NYU, Link moved to Illinois where she worked at Children’s Memorial in Chicago while pursuing a law degree with a specialty in health care law from Loyola University.

“My nursing background has been really helpful because I can communicate with providers and payors,” said Link. “I understand how things work in a teaching institution and the importance of providing quality bedside care.”

In her role at Akron Children’s Link is responsible for corporate compliance and risk management, in addition to overseeing all of the hospital’s legal affairs. Her areas of interest include fraud and abuse, regulatory and reimbursement matters, patient care and consent issues, and licensing and medical staff.

Recently, Link and her family moved from Wisconsin, where she had a home-based office with Brouse, to Hudson. Link has four children; Eleanor, 13; Joe, 14; Madeline, 17; and Charlie, 19. Her daughter Madeline has cystic fibrosis and is majoring in biology at the University of Wisconsin.

“As the parent of a child who has a serious chronic condition and has been hospitalized, it gives me a different perspective,” said Link. “I know what it’s like to be a parent of a sick child and it gives me insight to appreciate what other parents are going through.”

Link is excited to be at Akron Children’s and is already familiar with many employees and the hospital’s culture.

“It was important to me to be part of a mission driven nonprofit provider rather than an outside advisor,” said Link.
Akron Children’s Hospital Foundation recently inducted three new members to its ranks: Paul M. Dutton, Valerie A. Geiger and Kara Hannum Lewis.

“Each new member brings his or her own specialized set of skills and experiences,” says John Zoilo, executive director of the Akron Children’s Hospital Foundation. “We’re honored to have them as a part of our organization and look forward to working together and using their talents to serve the children and families of our community.”

Paul M. Dutton
Mr. Dutton is a member/partner in the law firm of Harrington, Hoppe & Mitchell, Ltd. in Youngstown. He also serves as solicitor to the Village of Lordstown and general counsel to the Mahoning Valley Economic Development Corporation and its affiliated enterprises. A Youngstown native and an advocate for the Mahoning Valley, he’s a graduate of Youngstown State University and Case Western Reserve University School of Law. Mr. Dutton lives in Liberty Township, Trumbull County, Ohio, with his wife Sallie. He enjoys spending time with his six children and seven grandchildren.

Valerie A. Geiger
Ms. Geiger is a senior vice president in Corporate Banking at PNC Bank. A graduate of The University of Akron, she serves on the board for the university’s College of Business Administration Advancement Council. Ms. Geiger also sits on the boards of the Akron Automobile Association, the Community Improvement Corporation of Summit, Medina and Portage counties, Seton Catholic School, United Way of Summit County and Walsh Jesuit High School, where she’s a member of its finance committee.

Kara Hannum Lewis
Ms. Lewis is the president at Winslow Asset Management Inc. in Beachwood. A 1995 graduate of Denison University with a bachelor’s degree in economics and a minor in East Asian studies, Ms. Lewis serves on the finance committee of the American Quarter Horse Association and is a former corporate sponsorship chair of the March of Dimes Walk for Babies.

The Akron Children’s Hospital Foundation Board is comprised of 35 community supporters who are actively engaged in the role philanthropy plays at the hospital. To learn more, call the Foundation at 330-543-8340.
A gift that keeps on giving

Celebrating the 30th year of the Holiday Tree Festival

Each year, the Cap and Bootie Tree is displayed at the Holiday Tree Festival. The tree features knitted items that will be given to babies in the hospital’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), as well as photos of current patients and NICU “graduates.”

Gifts come in all shapes and sizes.

Some come wrapped in boxes; others fit in bags. In the case of Akron Children’s Hospital’s annual Holiday Tree Festival, one gift can fill an entire convention center.

“The Holiday Tree Festival is Akron Children’s gift to the community,” says Heather Jalbert, who just finished her sixth year as the festival’s chairperson. “It’s become a family holiday tradition that spans generations. It means so much to the people in our community.”

Originally founded in 1982 as a way for families to celebrate the holiday season, the event has grown into a larger-than-life spectacle, held at the John S. Knight Convention Center in downtown Akron. It requires 87,000 strands of lights, more than 1,000 volunteers and features hundreds of glimmering trees, each with its own theme.

“My favorite part of the event is the set up,” says Lori Baker, who began volunteering for the festival in 1993 and serves as the current public relations chairperson. “I love to watch the transformation of the trees as the decorators bring their creations to life.”

This year, the festival kicked off with the Preview Gala on Nov. 18. Attendees enjoyed a sit-down dinner and dessert and had the first opportunity to purchase trees and other decorations. William Considine, president and CEO of Akron Children’s Hospital, and a special pair of siblings, Children’s Miracle Network Hospital’s Champion for the state of Ohio Brad Harris and his sister Miracle, had the honor of opening the festival at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Nov. 19.
The 2011 festival ran through Nov. 27. In addition to a magical display of trees and holiday decorations, visitors enjoyed music, entertainment, face painting and visits with Santa.

“It’s incredible to see how much this event has transformed in 30 years,” says Madeline Bozzelli, who started volunteering during its very first year, when there were just 70 decorated wreaths and trees. “None of this would be possible without our tree sponsors and decorators. This year was bigger and better than ever!”

The festival also is a gift to the patients of Akron Children’s. Proceeds from the sale of trees, wreaths and bows, as well as gift tables, donation boxes and more, benefitted the hospital’s areas of greatest need. The festival also included a car raffle, and its proceeds benefitted the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. The 2011 Holiday Tree Festival was the largest ever raising more than $240,000 for the hospital.

Preparation for the event takes months of work by volunteers, some of whom spend a full year making this happen. But volunteers insist that the joy of the event is a gift that more than makes up for the time they sacrifice.

“The excitement in the air at the festival is contagious,” says Margie McDonnell, a former event chairperson who’s also decorated trees since 1992. “You develop true friendships and camaraderie when you’re involved in a worthwhile event like this. It’s just so special for all of us.”
Hope peaks in the Valley

Mahoning Valley’s Miracles & Promises Radiothon raises more than $163,000

A clear, optimistic message rang through the main lobby of Building D on Akron Children’s Beeghly Campus in Boardman, Ohio, during the third annual Miracles & Promises Radiothon: hope.

From Thursday, Sept. 22 to Saturday, Sept. 24, children, families and physicians shared their stories of tribulations and triumph across the airways of 570 WKBN and Mix 98.9. They were messages of personal hope and achievement, as well as hope for the future of pediatric health care in the greater Mahoning Valley Region.

When the soundboards finally switched off, more than $163,000 had been raised for the areas of greatest need at the hospital, including unreimbursed programs and services, charity care, and child-sized medical equipment and supplies.

For JoAnn Stock, director of development at Akron Children’s Hospital Mahoning Valley, the event provided her an opportunity to meet patients and families who’ve been helped by the hospital. It also provided an outlet to educate the community.

"Radiothon provides a wonderful opportunity to teach our listeners about our programs and services, giving us the chance to put a spotlight on our physicians, staff and, most importantly, our patients."

In addition, the hospital sponsored the annual Children’s FunFest on Saturday. Visitors received complimentary health screenings and participated in games, crafts, a safety fair, teddy bear clinics and more.

"We’re extremely grateful for the support of Mix 98.9, 570 WKBN and the entire ClearChannel Youngstown team for its support," said Stock. "Radiothon would not be possible without our ClearChannel partners."

Since its inception in 2009, the Miracles & Promises Radiothon has raised approximately $405,000 for programs and services at Akron Children’s Mahoning Valley Beeghly Campus.
On Nov. 18, the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) honored the Friends of Akron Children’s Hospital on National Philanthropy Day with a “Special Recognition Award” for the group’s 56 years of service.

A model of constant, tireless service since 1955, the Friends of Akron Children’s Hospital is an auxiliary organization that encourages women to become involved in the community and volunteer their time to the hospital.

In 1962, the Friends initiated the Harness Race Rally, which grew into their largest annual fundraising event. The event marked its 50th anniversary in 2011 with a special Golden Gala at Portage Country Club on Aug. 10, with the race held Aug. 12 at Northfield Park.

“The Friends of Akron Children’s Hospital are extremely devoted to the hospital and the community,” said Pam Holtz, director of annual giving at Akron Children’s Hospital. “We’re proud to honor them, and the 50th annual Harness Race Rally committee, for this ‘Special Recognition Award.’”

More than 60 volunteers dedicated countless hours to selling $1 raffle tickets at local establishments to make the anniversary event a success. The event raised $70,000; $50,000 was donated to rehabilitative services, $10,000 to palliative care and $10,000 to the general fund.

In addition to the Harness Race Rally, the Friends are known for creating “Pinkie the Puppet” in 1956. This program, which continues today, ensures that patients 12 and under receive a hand puppet upon their admission to the hospital to help ease their fears and provide entertainment during their stay.

Many Friends also perform in-service volunteer duties and participate in other functions such as the Holiday Tree Festival. Additionally, the Friends sponsor an annual jewelry sale at the hospital. Throughout the years, the group has raised more than $3 million for the hospital.

National Philanthropy Day, formally supported by the AFP, pays tribute to the contributions that philanthropy - and the people active in the philanthropic community - have made to our lives, our communities and our world.
Helping miracles happen

Annual Radiothon celebrates its 13th year

On Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012, 98.1 WKDD will hit the airways once again for the annual ‘Have a Heart, Do Your Part’ Radiothon benefitting Akron Children’s Hospital.

Now in its 13th year, the 2012 Radiothon will begin at new times and new days:

• Thursday, Feb. 9 – 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
• Friday, Feb. 10 – 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
• Saturday, Feb. 11 - 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Radiothon is one of the most magical weekends of the year for Akron Children’s Hospital. Broadcast live from the atrium of the hospital’s main campus, the Radiothon features families and patients sharing their stories of hope and healing and discussing their experiences with the Akron Children’s staff and family.

Last year, the event raised $450,000, and nearly $7 million has been raised through Radiothon since the event’s inception in 2000. Listeners can call in and make a donation, and there are ways for individuals, families and businesses to make a difference, too, through our Change Bandit program.

The popular, grass-roots fundraising effort asks individuals, schools, organizations and businesses to collect spare change in their homes, offices and communities. Change Bandits turn in their ‘loot’ during the event and help raise considerable funds for the hospital. The annual Change Bandit Bash, which kicks-off our Radiothon, will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 8, at the Sheraton Suites in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. All bandits are invited to attend the Bash.

Sign up to become a change bandit today by visiting akronchildrens.org/changebandit. For more information, contact Nicci Avalon, Children’s Miracle Network program manager, at 330-543-8340 or navalon@chmca.org.

Sign up online at akronchildrens.org/changebandit to be a Change Bandit for the 2012 “Have a Heart, Do Your Part” Radiothon this February.
Children’s Cheer Classic rallies for Reach Out and Read® at Akron Children’s

Akron Children’s Hospital’s early literacy program, Reach Out and Read®, is looking forward to the yearly shot of adrenaline it receives from its annual Children’s Cheer Classic fundraiser.

Scheduled for Jan. 29 at the John S. Knight Center in downtown Akron, the Children’s Cheer Classic is a youth cheerleading competition, attracting teams from all over Northeast Ohio. Now in its seventh year, this popular event has raised more than $87,000 for the Reach Out and Read program. All event proceeds fund the purchase of books, which are distributed by hospital physicians.

“All Akron Children’s pediatric and primary care physicians present children from age 6 months to 5 years with a new book at each well visit,” explains Karen Carbaugh, program coordinator for Reach Out and Read. “They also talk to the parents about the benefits of early literacy and reading aloud to their children,” says Carbaugh. “We go through these very quickly, so for this event to bring in thousands of books every year is huge.”

The 2012 Children’s Cheer Classic is open to the public and tickets can be purchased at the door. Tickets are $7 for adults, $5 for ages 12 and under, and children under three receive free admission. For more information about the Reach Out and Read program at Akron Children’s, visit akronchildrens.org, keywords ‘Reach Out and Read.’

An ‘American’ classic

Historical fashion shows benefit Akron Children’s Hospital Mahoning Valley

Akron Children’s Hospital’s Mahoning Valley Beeghly Campus is proudly hosting four American Girl Fashion Shows.

• Saturday, April 28: 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.
• Sunday, April 29: 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The shows are entertaining for fans of all ages and feature local models donning fashions that are part of the American Girl book series, which span many different periods in American history. A luncheon is included at each show.

To make your reservation or to learn more about the event, please call 330-746-9122. All proceeds benefit the areas of greatest need at the hospital.
One of the most underutilized methods of charitable giving is the donation of appreciated investments such as stocks, bonds, or mutual funds. A cash donation may be tax deductible, but a donation of an appreciated security is effectively more tax-efficient because it allows the donor to avoid capital gains taxes.

For example, let’s assume that Mary and Bob purchased 50 shares of Coca-Cola stock several years ago and paid $40 per share. The stock is worth $70 per share today. The total value of their shares is $3,500, and there is a capital gain of $1,500. If they were to sell these shares, they would have to pay capital gains tax on the gain. For all but those in the lowest tax brackets, the current capital gains tax rate is 15 percent for long-term gains (investments held for at least one year). This means that if they sold all their shares, Mary and Bob would have a federal tax bill of approximately $225. Long-term capital gains tax rates are scheduled to increase to 20 percent in 2013, meaning the taxes on the above example would be $300 at that time.

Mary and Bob decide they would like to give $3,500 to charity. Rather than writing a check, they donate their stock. They get the same tax deduction for that $3,500 gift as they would if they had written a check but they avoid the capital gains taxes and forgo the commission they pay to a broker.

Other considerations:

• If Mary and Bob had sold their stock and then donated the proceeds to charity, the advantage of giving stock in lieu of cash would have been lost, as they would have incurred a tax bill on the sale.

• If the stock is carried at a loss, meaning it is currently worth less than what was paid, it makes more sense to first sell the stock, which would trigger a capital loss and then donate the proceeds to charity.

• The greater the unrealized gain in the stock, the greater the tax benefit from donating stock rather than cash.

• While long-term capital gains tax rates are scheduled to rise to 20 percent in 2013. It is possible that they will go even higher, thereby increasing the benefit of donating stock instead of cash.

• The above example applies only to stock that has been held for at least one year. For gifts of appreciated stock that has been held for less than a year, deductibility is limited to the donor’s cost basis.

• Mary and Bob didn’t have to donate their entire position of stock. If they wished, they could have donated only a portion of their shares.

• This strategy works for bonds and mutual funds as well.

For more information about donating appreciated stock to Akron Children’s Hospital, visit our website, akronchildrens.org/giving or contact Gretchen Corp Jones, director of principal giving, at 330-543-4167 or gjones@chmca.org.
Two new ventilators help children breathe easier

Akron Children’s Hospital recently received $80,000 from the Walter Born Foundation to purchase two ventilators for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the hospital.

Many premature infants experience breathing difficulties as a result of underdeveloped lungs, and in fact, nearly 25 percent of the infants in our NICU require ventilator services each year. The ventilators used are specifically designed to meet the needs of these tiny immature lungs and improve the child’s oxygen levels, thus increasing the chance for survival.

The two ventilators that will be purchased through this grant, called Servo Ventilators, are technologically advanced and have sensors that can quickly determine the infant’s breathing pattern, which ensures comfort and prevents the patient fighting the ventilator.

Last year, Akron Children’s Hospital treated 1,289 infants in the NICU on the Akron campus, as well as the special care nurseries at Akron General Medical Center, Summa Akron City Hospital, St. Elizabeth Health Center and on the Beeghly campus in Boardman.
MUSIC TO THEIR EARS

Akron Children’s ENT specialists help toddler find his voice
Laughter, they say, is the best medicine. For one local family, there’s simply no sweeter sound in the world.

A series of procedures performed by a specialized team of physicians at Akron Children’s Hospital’s Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Center allows them to experience something that was once impossible: heart-warming giggles and belly laughs from their son.

**Hunter’s Tale**

Hunter Kascask entered the world four months ahead of schedule on Aug. 22, 2008. At 25-weeks and weighing only 460 grams – barely more than a pound – Hunter spent four months in Akron Children’s Neonatal Special Care Nursery at St. Elizabeth Health Center in Youngstown, Ohio. His parents, Melissa and Chadd, were finally able to bring him to their Niles, Ohio, home in December, the month he was supposed to be born.

However, less than two weeks later, as his health diminished, his parents took him to Akron Children’s Mahoning Valley Beeghly Campus. Melissa and Chadd made the decision to send him to Akron Children’s main campus via Air Bear®, the hospital’s pediatric-dedicated transport helicopter, for observation.

“His tenacity is the reason Hunter’s here and doing so well today,” said Hunter’s mother, Melissa, about Anton Milo, MD, DDS, who is pictured here with Hunter.
“We spent our first night on a general pediatric floor, and then they moved him to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) when he started having breathing difficulties,” recounts Melissa. “He really started to improve, but not even two minutes after they released him to go back to the pediatric floor, he turned blue.”

Hunter was diagnosed with bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD), a lung condition that can occur in premature infants. BPD causes inflammation and scarring within the lungs and makes breathing tremendously difficult. Hunter also had a condition known as secondary pulmonary hypertension, in which the vessels between the right side of the heart and the lungs are narrowed. This triggers a lack of oxygen exchange in the lungs, and blood flows back into the right chamber of the heart, causing it to swell.

“He had to be sedated, paralyzed and put on a ventilator to control both conditions,” says Melissa. “After meeting with his pulmonologist, we made the decision to put a tracheotomy in place to help him breathe.”

The tracheotomy was placed in January 2009, and it took until June of the same year for Hunter to become stable enough to go home. He was now 10 months old, but developmentally, Hunter was like a newborn.

**Uncovering New Obstacles**
Hunter made great strides in the months following his homecoming. He didn’t require any additional hospitalizations and, a year after his discharge, he was taken off the ventilator. Once his pulmonologists gave the Kascask’s their approval, Melissa and Chadd were ready to have their son’s tracheotomy removed.

“We decided to contact the ENT specialists at Akron Children’s to check his throat before his tracheotomy was removed,” says Melissa.

The ENT Center at Akron Children’s Hospital evaluates and treats infants, children and teens who have disorders of the ear, nose, throat, head and neck. The center’s specialists see between 40 and 50 patients each day with a wide range of issues, from chronic ear infections and enlarged tonsils to tumors and those needing groundbreaking cochlear implants. The center also helps patients like Hunter who struggle with complex airway issues.

“Tracheotomies can sometimes cause scarring and tightening of the airways,” says Anton Milo, MD, DDS, of the ENT Center. “The first step was to ensure Hunter’s airway was entirely clear before we removed the tracheotomy.”

Dr. Milo performed an endoscopy, a procedure in which a small camera attached to a long, thin tube is used to examine the throat. There, Dr. Milo discovered a rare laryngeal cyst on Hunter’s vocal cord, which obstructed his airway.

“We had no idea it was there,” says Melissa. “In fact, the tracheotomy made breathing a lot...”
easier for him. If he didn’t have the tracheotomy, the cyst could have fully obstructed his airway and cut off his air supply.”

Dr. Milo surgically removed the cyst. After Hunter was fully healed from the surgery, he underwent another examination called a bronchoscopy to examine his upper, middle and lower airways. During this second examination, Dr. Milo found a large fibrous growth called a fibroma, which is made of dense, scar-like tissue, above Hunter’s tracheotomy. Working with his airway team of specialists, and during the course of two surgeries, Dr. Milo used specialized tools to remove the fibroma.

“We love Dr. Milo,” says Melissa. “He’s phenomenal at finding the one thing that nobody else expects. His tenacity is the reason that Hunter’s here and doing so well today.”

After his second surgery, though, Hunter was having trouble sleeping. Dr. Milo diagnosed sleep apnea from enlarged tonsils and adenoids, which he removed last November. Hunter healed once more, and was finally able to have his tracheotomy removed.

Melissa says the ENT Center made the trial of the procedures much easier for her family to endure.

“‘We never had to wait, and his surgical scheduling was always handled promptly and efficiently,” says Melissa. “Everyone was always more than personable. We weren’t treated as numbers. We were treated as people.”

The day Hunter was discharged after his tracheotomy removal still resonates in the minds of both his parents and Dr. Milo.

Advanced treatment, traditional care

Patients receive the best of both worlds at ENT Center

In August 2011, the specialists at the Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Center at Akron Children’s Hospital gave two patients a remarkable gift: the ability to hear for the first time ever using their new cochlear implants.

The implantation of this revolutionary technology was a ground-breaking event for the children, their families and the hospital, as these were the first two successful implants performed at Akron Children’s.

For Anton Milo, MD, DDS, director of the ENT Center, it was a milestone he had dreamed of since the center first opened in 2009.

“It’s a wonderful example of how we’re reaching the goals that we set when we first started – providing care that should be available to kids and families in our region,” said Milo.

Dr. Milo and his fellow specialists, Sam Albert, MD, and Marc Nelson, MD, helped 8,409 patients in 2011 with everything from ear infections and tonsillitis to more specialized services such as complex airway problems, head and neck tumors, congenital masses and others. Performing 2,320 surgeries in the center in 2011, the center has fast become a vital service to the hospital’s 28-county region.

Located in the Considine Professional Building on the Akron campus, the ENT Center is a one-stop shop for families, including numerous exam and treatment rooms, two audiology booths, radiology services, an endoscopy suite, a cochlear and hearing aid room and a service area where families can purchase and service hearing aids. The Center recently received $107,000 from the Timken Foundation in Canton to fund the purchase of additional equipment to support
“I remember walking into Hunter’s room, and his parents had cell phones in hand and tears in their eyes. I asked if everything was ok. They told me that it was the first time they’d ever heard Hunter laugh – really laugh. They wanted to capture it on video,” recalls Dr. Milo.

Melissa tries to describe how it felt to hear her son laugh for the first time.

“We’ve come so far. We didn’t know where we were going or how things were going to end. It’s one of those moments that teaches you as a parent, and as a person, just how precarious life is, to take every moment and just fill it with joy.”

Living, Laughing, Loving
Today Hunter enjoys his new-found freedom, without the obstruction of the tracheotomy. After taking his first steps in February 2011, he hasn’t stopped running. Melissa says that the change has been fantastic for the curious toddler, who started pre-school in the fall and loves playing with his older brother, Christian.

the development of a second video endoscopy examination/treatment room.

“We do everything here,” said Milo. “The goal was to make things as convenient as possible for parents so that all of their children’s ENT needs could be handled at one location.”

With the number of children visiting the center steadily on the rise, Dr. Milo expects the center to expand, leading him and the other physicians to ask “what’s next?”

Dr. Milo anticipates several new developments at the center throughout the next several months and years:

• A voice and swallowing clinic – one of the few of its kind in the country – to help children struggling with acute and chronic voice and swallowing disorders.
• The Chronic Airway Clinic, which will offer a multi-disciplinary approach to creating treatment plans and support for children with congenital and acquired airway issues and who need tracheotomies removed. (See Music to their ears on page 16 to hear Hunter’s story.)
• Research projects to develop state-of-the-art airway techniques, as well as basic science and clinical research projects.
• Formalized residency programs to train a new league of ENT specialists and development of a pediatric ENT fellowship.
• Investment in new technologies and invention of new medical devices, such as a revolutionary suction mouth gag to help during throat surgeries.

The ENT Center is a component of Akron Children’s ENT division, which also includes the area’s private practice physicians who have been strong supporters of the hospital. During the last two years, 11 surgeons, including Thomas E. Bruderly, DO, Mark S. Brigham, DO, Michael A. Freedman, DO, Janet L. Griffin, MD, Philip L. Khalil, DO, Steven L. Kutnick, MD, Jeffrey S. Masin, MD, Kenneth E. Mooney, MD, DDS, Riffat H. Qadir, MD, FACS, Sidney J. Steinberger, MD and Bruce Sterman, MD, FACS, have cared for their patients at Akron Children’s.

To learn more about the specialists and services at Akron Children’s ENT Center, visit akronchildrens.org.
To hear Hunter laugh was amazing.

“It’s been such a huge change for all of us,” she says. “We are doing the typical things that so many people take for granted, like bringing both of our boys to the grocery store or taking them to the park. We’re able to be together as a family no matter what we’re doing.”

Dr. Milo is currently working with pulmonologists and other specialty areas at Akron Children’s to develop the Chronic Airway Clinic, which offers a multi-disciplinary approach to developing treatment plans and support for children like Hunter who suffer from various forms of airway obstruction and may need tracheotomies removed.

“After watching Hunter’s recovery and hearing him laugh for the first time, I thought, ‘This is what it’s all about,’” says Dr. Milo. “Everyone at the ENT Center considers it an honor and a privilege to serve every child who comes through our doors. I like to say I have the world’s biggest family, because every child I treat becomes my own.”

“Akron Children’s Hospital is a life-saver...literally,” says Melissa. “They allowed us to have our son home with us not for a short period of time, but his whole life. I can’t credit the physicians enough. They helped work a miracle. If we need to go anywhere for medical care in the future, it will be Akron Children’s.”
Whether you’re a parent, healthcare professional, career seeker, reporter or donor, Akron Children’s redesigned website and mobile app aims to get you to the information you need simply and quickly.

“Our new site is all about the user experience,” said Andrea Joliet, assistant director of Interactive Marketing and Public Relations. “The redesign was based on a lot of user and secondary research to make sure we met the different needs of all our audiences.”

This includes providing groups of pull-down menus, segmented by audience, which allow users to quickly select what they want to do. Options for medical professionals range from referring a patient to downloading a medical staff directory to viewing available jobs.

From the homepage, visitors can also quickly find a location using the Google map and learn about a medical condition, including which departments treat it and what family supports and clinical trials are available for that condition.

Other sections are for those interested in research and education, members of the media and those interested in giving to the hospital or getting involved in philanthropic activities, such as learning about planned gifts, volunteering at the hospital or attending a fundraiser.

The redesign also included a mobile version of the site to make navigation easier for the increasing number of users who access the Internet on their smartphones or tablet devices. Akron Children’s last website redesign was in 2005. To experience the new website, please visit akronchildrens.org or akronchildrens.org/mobile.

In addition to the new website, Akron Children’s recently launched its first mobile app, Care4Kids. Developed especially for parents, Care4Kids is currently available for iPhone® and Android devices.

Care4Kids has general health and hospital information and also lets parents store their family’s medical history, including insurance and provider information, medications, allergies, emergency contacts and more. Parents can password-protect this information and easily share it using Bluetooth technology.

“Our goal was to develop a mobile app that parents would find useful,” said Joliet. “As a parent, I know how important it is to have easy access to this type of information, when I need it, wherever I need it.”

To download the app, search for “Care4Kids” in the iTunes® App Store or the Android Marketplace.

Virtually awesome
Akron Children’s new mobile website and app put health information in your hand
Presentations


Blaise L. Congeni, MD, Director, Division of Infectious Diseases, “Approach to the Patient with Pneumonia,” Ohio University College of Medicine for ER Physicians, Sept. 2011; “Pediatric Infectious Disease Update,” Southwest General Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio.


Sarah Friebert, MD, Director, Haslinger Family Pediatric Palliative Care Center, “Closing the Gap on Palliative Care,” 24th annual meeting of the American Society of Pediatric Hematology Oncology, Baltimore, Md., April 2011; “Concurrent Care for Children: Section 2302 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act” and “Building for the Long Run: Care and Feeding of the Pediatric Interdisciplinary Team,” with Margaret Farrar-Laco, CPNP, National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization 12th Clinical Team Conference and Pediatric Intensive, San Diego, Calif., Oct. 2011.

Ellen Kempf, MD, Oak Adoptive Health Center, “Adrenal Cortisol Levels and Predictors of International Adoption Success” abstract presentation, A.A.P. national annual meeting in Boston, Mass.

Publications


Blaise L. Congeni, MD, Director of Division of Infectious Diseases “Acute Otitis Media” Netter’s Infectious Diseases, pages 172-176; Elsevier Publishers.


Awards and Honors

Joseph A. Congeni, MD, Medical Director, Sports Medicine Center, Member, America’s Best Children’s Hospital Orthopaedic Working Group 2012-2013 U.S. News and World Report, 2011 to present; Associate Team Physician, University of Akron, 2000 to present; Medical Advisor, WAKR AM Radio-Weekly Sports Medicine Segment, 1997 to present; Coordinator, Physicians Faith-at-Work Group (Heart to Heart Communications), 1990 to present; Medical Advisor, Akron Area Christian Youth Organization/CYO, 1995 to present; Team Physician, Archbishop Hoban High School, Akron, Ohio, 1989 to present; American Medical Society for Sports Medicine, 1991 to present.

Sarah Friebert, MD, Director, Haslinger Family Pediatric Palliative Care Center, was named the Sarah Elizabeth Friebert, M.D. Leadership Chair in Pediatric Palliative Care, May 2011.
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Boardman Medical Pavilion

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M s. Janel Yeater

Edward L. Wentzel
Independent Hose Company

Melissa Lee Whitaker
M s. Cheryl Sandquist

Mr. Robert Wickiser
M s. Karen Wickiser

Betty Wilson
M r. Arthur R. Wilson

O. Richard Winter
M r. and M rs. Justin Jones
M rs. Emma J. M cCurry
M s. Linette M. Stratford

Steven D. Wise
M r. and M rs. Greg K. M cMains

Glen Patrick Wolford
M r. and M rs. William M. Nicholas
M r. Donald L. Wolford

BrittNie Wolosyn
Deer Pass Golf Club Inc.

David E. Wood
M r. and M rs. Daniel B. Pren

Melba Wood
M r. and M rs. Arthur E. Bailey

Lucy Works
M s. Lucy W Works

Marie Wylie
M s. Agnes M cGurr
M s. Jamie L. Walker
M r. and M rs. John F. Willett

Ella Faith Young
M r. and M rs. Donald E. Baney
PNC Matching Gifts Program

PATHS Program of Akron Children’s Hospital
PATHS
calendar of events

january

Sunday, January 29
Cookie Carnival and “Hugs and Kisses and Cookies for Kids” Cookbook Recipe Contest Judging
Antone’s Banquet Centre, Boardman
1 - 4 p.m.

Sunday, January 29
Children’s Cheer Classic
John S. Knight Center, Akron
11 a.m.
(See page 13 for details.)

February

Wednesday, February 8
Change Bandit Bash
Sheraton Suites, Cuyahoga Falls
6 p.m.

Thursday, February 9-11
“Have a Heart, Do Your Part” Radiothon presented by 98.1 WKDD
Times Vary
(See page 12 for details.)

April

Friday, April 27
An Evening of Wine & Wishes
Quaker Station, Akron
6 p.m.

Saturday, April 28
Sunday, April 29
American Girl Fashion Show
Stambaugh Auditorium, Youngstown
Times Vary
(See page 13 for details.)

May

Friday, May 11
Courage for Carina Wine Tasting
Skyview Lodge Event Center, Brunswick Hills
7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 15
Champions for our Valley’s Children
The Lake Club, Poland
Time TBD

Thursday, May 24
Champions for Children’s Donor Recognition Dinner
Firestone Country Club, Akron
5:30 p.m.

For information about these events or how you can become a special event coordinator, contact: Nicole Carnivale, coordinator, Mahoning Valley development special projects, at 330-746-8726 or Sara Lundenberger, special events coordinator at Akron Children’s Hospital, at 330-543-8037.