Meet the new president and CEO of Akron Children’s Hospital, Grace Wakulchik
An executive committed to her profession and her community

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Orr family helps establish new behavioral health center and endowed chair in pediatric psychiatry
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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.

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Meet the new president and CEO of Akron Children’s Hospital, Grace Wakulchik
Meet the new president and CEO of Akron Children’s Hospital, Grace Wakulchik

An executive committed to her profession and her community

On Nov. 1, Grace Wakulchik, MSN, MBA, became the new president and CEO of Akron Children’s Hospital. With her, she brings more than 30 years of leadership expertise, community advocacy and a keen understanding of the patient experience.

“During her 27 years at Akron Children’s, Grace has held various leadership roles, and was named president in July 2017,” said John Orr, chairman of Akron Children’s Board of Directors. “We are extremely fortunate that we have someone so well prepared to take on this role. Grace has both a clinical and business background, which will serve the hospital well. She has enormous credibility with the Children’s family and embodies the hospital’s culture, heritage, mission and focus on family-centered care.”

Bringing 30-plus years of health care leadership experience

Ms. Wakulchik began her career as a registered nurse after earning bachelor’s degrees in nursing and sociology from Case Western Reserve University in 1979 and 1978, respectively. In 1982, she earned her master’s degree in Nursing Care of Children from Case Western Reserve. After periods of working as a neonatal intensive care unit nurse manager, a director of nursing and nursing faculty, she joined Akron Children’s in 1992 as a program coordinator for the nursing career ladder.

Her focus has always remained on doing what’s best for the children in our care.

“That lens is always there – I can always envision what happens at the bedside,” Ms. Wakulchik said. “It’s a partnership between the caregivers, patients and families.”

In 1996, Ms. Wakulchik earned a master’s degree in business administration from Kent State University and was promoted to director of nursing, inpatient units. In 2002, she completed the Johnson & Johnson Wharton Fellows Program in Management for Nurse Executives at The Wharton School and Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics at the University of Pennsylvania.

“I like bringing the team together to make decisions – the fun is in solving problems as a group,” Ms. Wakulchik said. “I believe if you bring the right people in and give them what they need to do their job, they will be successful, stay with the organization and deliver wonderful outcomes.”

“Grace is a visionary, transformational leader,” said Chief Operating Officer Lisa Aurilio, RN, MSN, MBA. “She advocates for patients and families first as a top priority. She leads by engaging stakeholders in decisions at the point of impact and celebrating wins across the team. She inspires others to make a difference every day.”

Outside the hospital, Ms. Wakulchik brings this collaborative leadership philosophy to her community-development efforts through the Development Finance Authority and the Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce.
“When I go home at night and think about the possibilities – the things that we could do with such a great team of providers and staff, and their vision and areas of expertise – the possibilities are limitless.”

Grace Wakulchik
president and CEO of Akron Children’s Hospital
“I’m passionate about regional economic development,” Ms. Wakulchik said. “An important part of treating children is providing good jobs so that families can meet their basic needs.”

As vice president of the Akron Regional Hospital Association, Ms. Wakulchik collaborates with other health care leaders to prepare for major events such as the Republican National Convention and coordinate services such as trauma care.

“Grace is a leader who has the passion and vision necessary to guide Akron Children’s Hospital to a successful future,” said Mark Smucker, president and CEO of The J.M. Smucker Company. “Her dedication to the children and families Akron Children’s serves will ensure the hospital continues to be a leader in pediatric health care. We are excited to support Grace and the entire staff in 2019 and beyond!”

Of all her accomplishments, Ms. Wakulchik counts her four grown children, twin girls and two boys, among her greatest successes.

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Of all her accomplishments, Ms. Wakulchik counts her four grown children, twin girls and two boys, among her greatest successes.

“I love my job, but knowing my children are in a good space — that they are all successful, happy adults — that is the best,” she said.

Envisioning the future at Akron Children’s

Ms. Wakulchik describes her vision for the future of Akron Children’s as “evolution, not revolution.” As she continues to lead Akron Children’s through regional growth, technological and clinical advancements, shifts in the business of health care and a changing regulatory landscape, she’s committed to promoting our culture of caring employees who are focused on our mission of service above self.

“The culture is the bedrock of our organization,” Ms. Wakulchik said. “All of our strategic objectives — quality, strategic growth & collaboration, research & innovation, and access & patient experience — they all rest upon the culture. It’s helped deliver on our mission, and it’s really been about doing the right thing for kids. My responsibility is to role model that culture and really be kind, put service above self and do the right thing.”

Most importantly, Ms. Wakulchik is excited about the future of Akron Children’s.

“When I go home at night and think about the possibilities — the things that we could do with such a great team of providers and staff, and their vision and areas of expertise — the possibilities are limitless,” Ms. Wakulchik said. “Donors play a crucial role in supporting the initiatives that turn these possibilities into realities. To think that we could help support a clinical or program vision, resource it, help make dreams possible is really a privilege. I get a lot of energy out of that.”

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Four decades of growth

In 1979, at just 32 years old, Bill Considine became president and CEO of Akron Children’s Hospital. At the time, Akron Children’s had an annual operating budget of $35 million, 900 employees and one hospital building in downtown Akron.

Today, the hospital has:
• A budget of $1.8 billion.
• More than 6,000 employees.
• More than 1 million patient encounters each year.
• Two hospital campuses.
• Sixty-plus locations.
• Three regional health centers under construction.
• A reshaped downtown Akron campus thanks to the newly expanded Considine Professional Building and the Kay Jewelers Pavilion, which opened in 2015.

This growth – coupled with financial stability – has continued during a climate when other hospitals have closed their doors or merged. His steady leadership and commitment to keeping Akron Children’s an independent, locally-governed children’s hospital has set it apart and become the key to its success.

Mr. Considine and Becky, his wife of 46 years, have devoted countless hours to Akron organizations and civic causes. Hoping to make an impact on children now and in the future, they have donated $2.2 million to a variety of hospital projects including the creation of the Rebecca D. Considine Research Institute in 2009 and in 2014 to support the new neonatal intensive care unit in the Kay Jewelers Pavilion.

The year ahead

In his new role as CEO emeritus, Mr. Considine will focus his attention in 2019 on child advocacy, in particular, continuing his work with individuals, corporations, foundations, and state and federal lawmakers to establish stable and equitable funding for children’s hospitals. Hospital events throughout 2019 will celebrate his four decades of service, including a child advocacy conference in June and a celebration in October at Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens. He will retire on Jan. 1, 2020.

To thank Mr. Considine for his decades of service to children, consider a gift to the Akron Children’s Hospital Foundation in his honor. You can make a donation at akronchildrens.org/donate (be sure to select “honor or memorial gift”) or by calling 330-543-8340.
Philanthropy supports growth of Considine Professional Building

Donors critical to the success of newly expanded facility

On Oct. 27, Akron Children’s Hospital gave the community its first look at the “new” William H. Considine Professional Building.

It was the culmination of a $79 million expansion project that nearly doubled the facility’s size from 250,000 to 480,000 square feet. It now provides one convenient location to most of the hospital’s outpatient services. It also includes new welcome centers for patient families and connector bridges to other Akron campus buildings and parking lots.

And philanthropic support played a pivotal role in opening the doors to the renovated facility.

“We’re grateful to all the donors who helped make this possible,” said Grace Wakulchik, president and CEO of Akron Children’s. “Not only does your support make it easier for families of children with complex medical conditions, it helps secure brighter futures for all our children.”

“Our donors were an integral part of the expansion project,” added John LaGuardia, vice president of development for Akron Children’s. “This amazing space is a direct result of our supporters and their generosity.”

“The Considine Professional Building addition was designed with patient families in mind, providing a convenient, modern space with access to our many specialties and clinics,” said Ms. Wakulchik. “The addition also offers more space on the hospital campus for clinical areas that are growing, so we can serve more children and their families.”

Top: Grace Wakulchik, president and CEO of Akron Children’s, speaks to guests at the VIP event for the opening of the expanded William H. Considine Professional Building.

Middle: (From left) Virginia Drosos, CEO of Signet Jewelers Limited; and Lisa Aurilio, chief operating officer of Akron Children’s Hospital, attend the VIP event.

Bottom: (From left) Brian Hollingsworth, senior major gifts officer at Akron Children’s, with hospital donor Marci Matthews.
Bolstering advocacy for kids

GAR Foundation awards grant supporting efforts of CEO Emeritus Bill Considine

CEO Emeritus Bill Considine’s work in the public sector on behalf of children and health care is a cornerstone of his 40 years at Akron Children’s Hospital.

Many supporters have stepped up to help fund this effort including the GAR Foundation, which recently awarded the hospital a $50,000 grant.

In his new role, Mr. Considine will focus on advocacy to ensure the children in northeast Ohio, and throughout the country, have access to high-quality health care and other programs that promote a healthy, successful future.

Christine Mayer, president and CEO of the GAR Foundation, recognizes that this kind of work not only supports the health of our children locally, but has far-reaching consequences for the state of Ohio and for the nation.

“The advantage of Bill Considine’s advocacy work is that it will advance the well-being of the child in a much broader sense,” said Mayer. “The decisions of lawmakers directly impact the welfare of current and future generations. There isn’t just one strategy that will improve the lives of children. We need to care about the whole child and that is at the heart of Bill Considine’s new role.”

Through his work, Mr. Considine hopes to:

• Increase awareness of pediatric needs among the public and elected officials at all levels of government.
• Reform government programs that serve children and, more specifically, their health care.
• Gain philanthropic support for pediatric health care.

The GAR Foundation believes that Mr. Considine is the perfect person to work on this agenda.

“In his 40 years serving children, Bill Considine has built enormous credibility to the highest level,” Mayer said. “He has the passion, energy and willingness to do the work. You couldn’t find a better, more respected advocate for children.”
Donor generosity focuses on mental health

Orr family helps establish new behavioral health center and endowed chair in pediatric psychiatry

Roughly 20 percent of all adolescents suffer from mental health issues that are severe enough to impair their daily functioning. Of those, only 20 percent get the help they need. This means that 80 percent of adolescents urgently needing care go untreated.

Thanks to the generosity of Lois and John Orr, Akron Children’s Hospital is working to close this gap.

The Lois and John Orr Family Behavioral Health Center opened in October. At the same time, the Lois C. Orr Chair in Pediatric Psychiatry was established. These new resources are making it easier for children, teens and their families to access mental health services. They also allow our hospital to focus on advancing treatment to address childhood and adolescent mental health issues.

The Lois and John Orr Family Behavioral Health Center

The new behavioral health center brings outpatient behavioral health services under one roof.

It provides a continuum of outpatient mental health services to give children and teens the treatment and support they need. Mr. Orr explained that this center is especially important as pressures they face seem to increase year after year – whether from bullying, drugs, mass media or social media.

“We wanted to make sure that kids today, if they do have pressures and issues they’re facing, have a place to go to get help,” said Mr. Orr.

John Orr, chairman of Akron Children’s Hospital Board of Directors, celebrates the opening of The Lois and John Orr Family Behavioral Health Center with his family. (First row from left) Grandchildren Audrey Carter, Avery Carter and Kalden Orr-Bills (son of Mr. Orr’s daughter Natalie Orr-Andrea, not pictured). (Second row from left) Grandson Evan Carter, daughter Kathryn E. Carter, Mr. Orr and daughter Jennifer L. Wilson.
“If we’re going to reach out and treat the 80 percent of children who aren’t receiving treatment, then we will need to find a way to provide services,” said Dr. Jewell.

One program Dr. Jewell wants to pursue would push mental health services into primary care offices. It would train primary care physicians to recognize potential mental health issues and give them a way to consult with mental health providers over the phone or via email. It’s a service that isn’t currently reimbursed by health insurance.

Dr. Jewell said services offered through primary care providers may also help reduce the stigma associated with mental health – something that’s important to Mr. Orr, too.

By allowing youth to go to the primary care provider instead of a community-based mental health agency, youth and their families may feel more comfortable seeking treatment. It also could give physicians and other providers a better understanding of mental health issues.

In the end, it’s about the children – making sure they have the access and support they need to tackle these difficult issues.

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“This endowed chair brings things to another level,” said Mr. Orr. “It helps raise the behavioral sciences to a level on par with other issues and helps recruit physicians who are working to heighten awareness of this issue and how it can be treated.”

Dr. Jewell hopes this chair will serve as part of the effort to recruit and encourage physicians to pursue psychiatry. Today, there are 8,000 child psychiatrists nationwide. But it’s estimated that there needs to be 30,000 to meet current demands.

The new chair will also provide income from the endowment’s investments to explore new services that could support innovative ways to treat mental health issues.

Help support mental health care for children. Contact Shelly Brown, senior director of principal giving, at 330-543-8340 to contribute to the Lois C. Orr Endowed Chair in Pediatric Psychiatry.
Supporting the spiritual side of care

Chaplaincy program in the Mahoning Valley gets updates thanks to generous donor

Having a child in the hospital is one of the scariest moments in a parent’s life.

It’s during these times, and so many others, that families may need special spiritual and emotional support. That’s why Akron Children’s Hospital Mahoning Valley recently welcomed Sean Drummond as its first full-time staff chaplain in 2018.

Supported from the Akron campus by his colleagues and the director of chaplaincy services, Drummond oversees the new chaplaincy initiatives in the Mahoning Valley and serves as a shoulder for families to lean on. He also counsels physicians on the emotional and spiritual well-being of parents.

His arrival comes at an exciting time for the chaplaincy program. Not only was the new position created, but the chapel on the Beeghly campus recently underwent a renovation to better serve the spiritual needs of patients and their families.

And it’s thanks to the generosity of one special donor, Kathy Kennedy.

Continuing a longtime connection

Kathy grew up in Boardman, and she lived there with her husband, Tom, and their son. Because of his charitable nature, Tom always gave back to the causes he believed in.

“He was so generous and kind,” she said. “It was very important to him to give back to the community he lived in. I think Tom would be honored by this tribute.”

Thanks to the generosity of donor Kathy Kennedy, the chapel on the Beeghly campus recently underwent a renovation to better serve patients and their families.
But it was his close friend, Bill Knecht, and Bill’s wife, Connie, who taught Kathy the true meaning of philanthropy through their deep involvement in the Mahoning Valley. Connie was a charter member of the hospital’s Community Leadership Council and a former member of the Board of Directors. It was she who first introduced Kathy to Akron Children’s and encouraged her to become more involved.

“Connie was the one who got me enthusiastic about the future of Akron Children’s Hospital in the Mahoning Valley,” Kathy said. “I have much to be thankful for, and I am glad to help bring this all together.”

Kathy also has a connection to the Akron Children’s Beeghly campus location. While she was in junior high she became friends with Carol Beeghly and was invited several times to the property that would one day become the Beeghly campus. Kathy also worked for the Beeghly family from 1964 to 1974.

**Serving spiritual well-being**

Several events in Kathy’s life led her to a better understanding of the importance of spiritual support during difficult times.

The recent death of a friend allowed her to get to know the chaplain who offered them spiritual support. Kathy saw the direct impact the chaplain had on the lives around her and how her support meant so much to every person she touched.

Kathy hopes that Drummond will be able to make the same kind of impact on patients and families in the Mahoning Valley. And with the recent expansion of palliative care services in the region, she knows that more families will be looking for spiritual support.

Drummond sees his role as helping families tap into their own resilience during some of the most difficult times in a family’s life.

“When people feel listened to, they feel genuinely cared for and that can change their whole outlook,” he said.

Drummond also recognizes the importance that the philanthropic support plays in the expanded program. While Kathy’s gift provides funding for a position that’s valuable to the health of patients, it’s not a traditional medical service that can be billed.

“Using philanthropic support for this kind of avenue of care is an amazing gift,” Drummond said.
Robert “Boomer” Burnstine, MD, and his wife, Jill Burnstine, have given much to the children in our community – and to Akron Children’s Hospital. Dr. Burnstine has dedicated his career to helping children with some of the most difficult vision challenges. His practice has flourished as a physician with privileges at Akron Children’s Hospital. And Jill has been a volunteer and leader on The Women’s Board of Akron Children’s Hospital since 1982. They’ve also been long-standing donors to our Vision Center.

Now, they’re ensuring their support continues far into the future by establishing The Dr. Boomer and Jill Burnstine Endowed Chair in Pediatric Ophthalmology.

It’s the first endowed chair ever established by a pediatric physician at Akron Children’s. It will provide a sustainable funding resource to support research studies. It also will deliver financial backing to push the division in new and exciting directions, ensuring the hospital’s ongoing leadership in the field.

“As someone who has been involved in research in ophthalmology, I understand the importance of money to support that work,” said Dr. Burnstine. “That’s why we wanted this chair to support the work that will change the future of ophthalmology.”

Richard Hertle, MD, FAAO, FACS, FAAP, director of pediatric ophthalmology at Akron Children’s, will be the endowment’s first chair holder. Dr. Burnstine
and Dr. Hertle are long-standing colleagues. And through the endowment, the Burnstines hope to support Dr. Hertle’s research and patient care. These investments would elevate the stature of the division, its medical director and encourage growth that meets community needs.

Dr. Hertle said it will give him the opportunity to expand the department and efficiently continue his research.

“Funding of this type will sustain the legacy of the Vision Center,” said Dr. Hertle. “Research can’t be done on service dollars (funding brought in through payment for service). This type of work must rely on endowments, gifts and grants.”

Dr. Hertle added that this funding also will play a key role in attracting young researchers to the hospital.

“This money will help support their early research until they are established and able to pursue other funding sources,” he explained.

“Endowments are so important to Akron Children’s Hospital. They provide financial support through the interest that’s earned on the endowments’ investments. This means they generate a permanent, annual source of income that lets an endowed chair holder seek out advancements in their respective fields. Endowed chairs also ensure that we are attracting and supporting the talent needed to tackle some of the greatest health challenges children face.”

– John LaGuardia, vice president of development, Akron Children’s Hospital

Create a gift that will make a sustainable impact on pediatric care in your community. Contact Shelly Brown, senior director of principal giving, at 330-543-8340 to learn how you can establish an endowment at Akron Children’s.
Giving back to grow a community

How an IRA charitable rollover gift helped one family support pediatric care in its hometown

Family first.

It’s the guidepost for the way Anton Lambos and his late wife, Olga, approached life.

Together, the couple raised three sons in the tight-knit town of Massillon, Ohio, where they lived for 70 years. And today, through a $100,000 IRA charitable rollover gift to support Akron Children’s Hospital’s future office in Massillon, the Lambos family is preserving and growing the pediatric medical services for their community family.

“We’re proud of our Massillon roots,” said Anton. “It’s where we were married, where our kids grew up, where we go to church, where we started our business. This is our way to give back to the place that’s given so much to us.”

The site of Akron Children’s new Massillon office, which will offer primary care and rehabilitative services, is right in the family’s backyard – literally. Once open, it will sit adjacent to the headquarters of the Lambos family’s business, Kendall House Inc. Anton and his sons Ernie, George and Nick decided to make the gift through Olga’s IRA after she passed away in December 2017.

“It was a very easy process to give, and it’s a tax-free gift,” said Nick. “We connected with members from Akron Children’s Hospital Foundation and the IRA administrator. Then, we just had to sign off on an OK to pull the funds and have the check issued.”

With the satisfaction of giving back to their community and their roots, the Lambos family felt comfortable that Akron Children’s would be good stewards of those dollars. In honor of their gift, the lobby of the new office will be named after Anton and Olga. The family is proud that the couple will be recognized by members of the community who need Akron Children’s care today and in the future.

“They showed us by example what it meant to give back,” said Nick. “They believed in doing things right, and doing right by others. We’re fortunate that Akron Children’s is expanding to serve the children of Massillon even more. It gave our parents the opportunity to make this donation in their backyard.”

The Lambos family is preserving and growing the pediatric medical services for their community family in Massillon, Ohio.
Compassionate and tax efficient giving

You have worked all your life to contribute to and grow your qualified retirement assets. Then, at 70 ½ years of age, the Internal Revenue Service requires you take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) each year from your IRA, Simple IRA, SEP IRA or retirement account. These distributions are taxed at the federal and state levels as ordinary income. Depending upon your income, your federal marginal tax rate could be as high as 37 percent and your Ohio marginal tax rate could be as high as 5 percent. This certainly could dramatically impact what you receive, as you may only net 58 percent of your RMD.

However, there is a silver lining in the tax code that allows individuals who have turned 70 ½ to donate up to $100,000 of their RMDs directly to a charitable organization(s) each year. Couples filing joint returns can exclude up to $200,000 from their income tax. This contribution is not taxed at any level, thus reducing the amount of your RMD that is subject to ordinary income taxation.

The same tax advantage also applies to IRAs that are included in an estate before they are distributed. This is applicable irrespective of the age of the deceased. In the case of longtime friend Olga Lambos, upon her death, her family was able to amplify the impact of a donation by directly transferring a portion of her IRA to the hospital. Rather than the beneficiaries receiving only 58 percent, or less, of the distribution, the hospital received 100 percent. This truly is a win-win situation.

There are a couple of points that need to be emphasized:

1. Not all of your RMD has to be donated to charity. Often clients will take a portion of it as ordinary income for living expenses and give a portion to their favorite charity.

2. The donations do not have to go to just one 501(c)(3). They can go to multiple organizations that the donor chooses.

3. The donations must be transferred directly to the organizations. You cannot take the distribution yourself and turn around and write a check. This is also the case of the IRA of a deceased owner.

4. The organization must be a qualified 501(c)(3). Ask before you donate!

5. There are tax advantages of giving regardless of your income level. You are making a gift with no tax reductions to the principle.

6. Consult your accountant and investment advisor to ensure this concept works in your particular situation.

Olga Lambos would have been proud to be able to give to Akron Children’s Hospital. Her donation, posthumously, is an excellent example of compassionate and tax efficient gifting.

If you’d like to donate a portion of your RMD from an IRA to Akron Children’s, contact Maureen Katanic, senior director for planned giving, at 330-543-8343.
Are you friends and followers of the new social media channels for Akron Children’s Hospital Foundation and our supporters?

Like us on Facebook. Follow us on Instagram. You’ll be connected to causes you care about most while experiencing how our community generously rallies around our patients and our hospital.

facebook.com/akronchildrensfoundation
@akronchildrensfoundation

One of the best things about the annual 98.1 KDD “Have a Heart, Do Your Part” Radiothon is that the giving doesn’t have to end!

While it was once a seasonal fundraiser, Akron Children’s Hospital Change Bandits can now raise dollars for Radiothon all year long. Here’s how the program works:

- Change Bandits round up their friends, family and co-workers to collect pocket change to benefit Akron Children’s.

- Dollars can be raised online through individual fundraising pages. Just go to giving.akronchildrens.org/changebandits and select “Start Fundraising.”

- You’ll turn in your change during the 2020 Radiothon.

Encourage your kids and their schools, your co-workers and others in your community to join the Change Bandit movement. They can sign up at giving.akronchildrens.org/changebandits.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Nicci Avalon, Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals program manager, at 330-543-8340.
Gifts received July 1 – Nov. 30, 2018

Sophia A. Allen
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calendar of events

April

April 1 – 30
Ace Hardware Round-Up Campaign
Participating Akron and Mahoning Valley locations

Now – July 31
Petitti Garden Center Campaign
Tallmadge, Canton and Boardman locations

Friday, April 5
Casino Night
La Pizzaria – Canton
VIP celebration – 6 p.m.
Event – 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 13
Zippython
The University of Akron Dance Marathon
11 a.m.

Saturday, April 13
Purses Are Like Friends Luncheon
The Hilton Akron/Fairlawn
11 a.m.

May

May 1 – 31
Costco Campaign
Boston Heights location

Tuesday, May 7
Champions for Our Valley’s Children
The Lake Club – Poland
5:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 18
Celebrate the Plate
Akron Children’s Hospital
6 p.m.

Sunday, May 19
The Friends Charity Golf Tournament
Shale Creek Golf Club – Medina
11:30 a.m.

May 30 – June 26
Giant Eagle Campaign
Participating Akron and Mahoning Valley locations

May 31 – June 7
Piano-a-thon
Akron Children’s Hospital – Atrium Lobby

For more information about these events or how you can become a special event coordinator, contact:

Akron
Kristen Carpenter, special project coordinator at Akron Children’s Hospital
330-543-5022
KCarpenter2@akronchildrens.org

Mahoning Valley
Sarah Podolan, development assistant at Akron Children’s Hospital Mahoning Valley
330-746-8714
spodolan@akronchildrens.org

For a complete listing of all Akron Children’s Hospital events, visit akronchildrens.org/events.

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