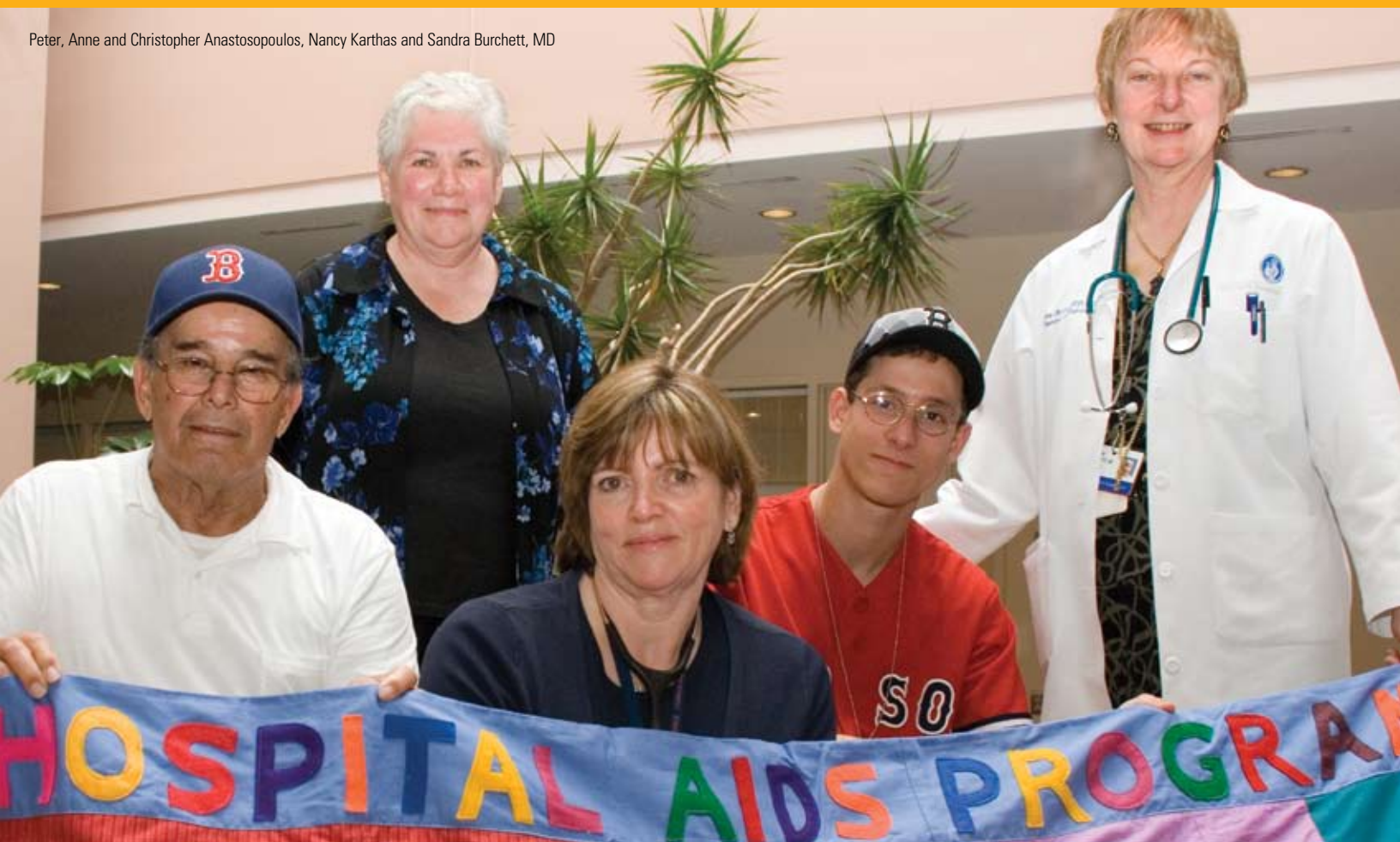


Children's News

For Children's Hospital Boston employees, staff and volunteers

December 2007 | childrenshospital.org/chnews

Peter, Anne and Christopher Anastosopoulos, Nancy Karthas and Sandra Burchett, MD



Children's Hospital AIDS program success story

When Christopher Anastosopoulos, 19, was brought to Children's Hospital Boston as a 10-month-old baby, doctors confirmed that he had been infected with HIV before he was born. Both of Christopher's parents had HIV (and later AIDS) and passed away before he was 10, and his relatives sought treatment in his home state of Maine. When Christopher was 13, his grandparents, Pete and Anne, were awarded custody and immediately brought him back to Children's for care.

Over the years, Christopher battled many infections, and by the time he arrived at Children's, his body had built up such a resistance to his medications that they became ineffective and he suffered a stroke that caused lasting developmental delay. When

his grandparents brought him in, he weighed just 59 pounds.

At Children's, Christopher became part of the Children's Hospital AIDS program (CHAP), which started in 1985, during the height of the epidemic. CHAP is made up of physicians, nurses, social workers, counselors and nutritionists who offer HIV/AIDS clinical treatment, participation in HIV clinical trials, counseling and mental health services. Each patient is assigned a team, and **Sandra Burchett, MD, MSc**, director of CHAP, **Nancy Karthas, CPNP, RN, MS**, nurse practitioner, and a social worker, now **Jackie Miranda, LICSW**, took charge of Christopher's case and started him on a new treatment regimen. "The team approach

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Children's Hospital Boston

What's inside

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Genomics: “Master switches” for muscular dystrophy?

Informatics: A weekend project grows up



Have research news you would like to share?
Email nancy.fliesler@childrens.harvard.edu.

In the muscular disorder puzzle, MicroRNAs may supply missing pieces



In the 1980s, **Louis Kunkel, PhD**, director of Children’s Hospital Boston’s Program in Genomics, led the way in understanding the basis for muscular disorders by identifying the gene that causes Duchenne/Becker muscular dystrophy. Yet while scientists continue to link specific genes to muscular dystrophy and related disorders of muscle weakness and wasting, their understanding of these disorders is far from complete. It’s largely unknown how the genes cause disease, and more importantly, how to translate the discoveries into treatments.

For instance, while scientists know that muscular dystrophy begins with mutations that cause small sections of muscle to die, they don’t know what additional genes are involved in the subsequent, debilitating muscle loss.

Now, Kunkel and **Iris Eisenberg, PhD**, post-doctoral fellow in Genomics, offer the first study of microRNAs—tiny snippets of code that influence gene activity—in muscular disorders. Going after microRNAs, which have only recently been discovered, may uncover new genes and pathways involved in these devastating disorders and supply promising targets for stopping muscle loss.

As reported online in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* on October 17, the researchers studied muscle samples from 88 people with 10 different types of muscle loss. Using gene chips, they compared microRNAs in wast-

ing versus healthy human muscle, and found that 185 microRNAs are either too abundant or too scarce in wasting muscle. They then made lists of genes and pathways the microRNAs may control. Since microRNAs can regulate many genes at once, Eisenberg believes they may help orchestrate the tissue death, inflammatory response and other major degenerative processes that lead to muscle wasting.

The researchers will next validate which genes and events the microRNAs actually control in living muscle cells, and investigate whether restoring a healthy balance of microRNAs could be efficient therapy for muscle wasting, as flipping the master switch is more efficient than turning out lights, one by one.

CHIP’s HealthMap gets a boost from Google

HealthMap, a Web-based, automated system that monitors disease outbreaks worldwide, began as a weekend project for **John Brownstein, PhD**, and **Clark Freifeld** of the Children’s Hospital Informatics Program (CHIP). Then, Google.org, Google’s philanthropic arm, caught wind of HealthMap and offered \$450,000 in grant support—positioning it to become the world’s top real-time emerging-disease surveillance site.

Launched in 2006, HealthMap (www.healthmap.org) is accessible to anyone with an Internet connection, public health professionals and visitors alike. Its automated text processing system scans for close to 200 infectious disease categories, from E. coli to Ebola, as well as foodborne, veterinary and agricultural outbreaks. Users can get a quick global view or drill down on local hotspots, clicking on the map for the original reports.

Under the grant, official as of October 1, HealthMap will broaden its reach, hiring translators to mine for data not just in English and Spanish, but in French, Italian, Russian, Chinese and, eventually, Arabic. It will monitor not just news reports and official alerts, like those from the World Health Organization, but also blogs, email listservs and online chat rooms, to detect outbreaks at the earliest possible stage. “Chat rooms provided some of the earliest indications of the 2002–03 SARS outbreak in China,” notes Brownstein.

Google’s support will also help HealthMap strengthen its filters, screening out “false alarms.” A new postdoctoral fellow with expertise in machine learning, Freifeld will help upgrade HealthMap’s artificial intelligence tools to capture truly relevant health data. “Once we start monitoring chat rooms and blogs, this system will have to handle a significant amount of noise,” he says.

HealthMap has some 50,000 Web users and provides direct feeds to the U.S. Departments of Defense and Health and Human Services. A long-term goal is to open HealthMap to outside infectious-disease experts who can add and edit information, similar to the Wikipedia model.

Disease hotspots

Methicillin-resistant Staph. aureus (MRSA) is among the nearly 200 diseases tracked by HealthMap. This map displays reported U.S. outbreaks of this difficult-to-treat infection as of mid-November.



AIDS program

enables the family to have a trusting, therapeutic relationship with consistent care providers who know their particular situation," says Karthas.

A few years ago, Christopher's HIV progressed to AIDS. "HIV affects everybody differently," says Karthas. The transition from HIV to AIDS occurs when a patient comes down with an illness enabled by the AIDS virus. In Christopher's case, the virus attacked his neurological system, leaving him with speech difficulty. "But we were able to get him on track," says Karthas.

Christopher's CHAP team coordinates all of his care, including physical and occupational therapy and neurological appointments, and helps manage his home care in Maine. They taught Anne and Peter, his grandparents, how to administer feedings through Christopher's gastrostomy tube and medication injections when he wasn't able to keep down food or medicine. When his medication regimen changed from two shots a day to a pill, the team taught them to keep a meticulous chart of his medications and stick to nutritional guidelines. If Christopher refused to eat his vegetables just once, Anne made note of it and reported it back to the team. "We can prescribe all the medicine in the world, but if you don't eat well and get the right amount of rest, they won't work," says Karthas.

Christopher's family was confident in Children's care. CHAP, one of a small number of pediatric HIV/AIDS centers, is on the cutting edge of new research to improve patients' outcomes and continually enrolls patients in clinical trials to test

Nancy Karthas, Christopher Anstosopoulos and Sandra Burchett look at his photo album.



AIDS Day observed

Children's observed national AIDS Day (Dec. 1) on Nov. 30 with a day-long program of events. Since last year, CHAP has worked with patients' family members, friends and volunteers to create an annual AIDS Memorial Quilt. The quilt will be displayed for the public throughout December in the Farley Building.

new medications. Christopher participated in several HIV research trials. "The doctors explained that he wasn't only helping himself, he was helping a lot of other children down the road," says Peter. Christopher appreciated another perk. "My favorite part was the money you get for participating!" he says.

Throughout the set-backs and triumphs of his treatment, Christopher used the tranquility of Children's Prouty Garden and a surprise visit from Red Sox pitcher Tim Wakefield to motivate him when he was at his sickest in 2001. "Take one day at a time, that's how I did it," he says.

In a way, Christopher has grown up with the CHAP team. When it started, CHAP patients weren't expected to live past grade school. Now, the new and constantly improving medications have completely changed the focus of CHAP and are helping patients like Christopher lead full lives. "We've really seen HIV/AIDS go from a terminal to a chronic illness," Karthas says.

In October, Christopher came to CHAP for his last appointment. He reached the bittersweet age when patients graduate into adult-centered care. Now, he'll receive care from an adult AIDS specialist in Maine recommended by Karthas and Burchett. It's a good time to move on, as Christopher just graduated from high school, his virus is completely in control and he's feeling healthy. Anne and Peter can't say enough about their CHAP team on the day they bid Children's farewell. "We would have been lost without them," says Anne. "CHAP got him to where he is today and if it wasn't for them, he wouldn't have made it. They're like family to us."

GRATITUDES

The following letter was sent to **Dan Nigrin** and **Elizabeth Bitner** in Information Services from **Myra Fox**, director of Child Life Services.



Vegas Richemond

Dear Dan and Beth,

I was absolutely frantic today because I noticed that one of my folders labeled Child Life documents was missing from my folder list. I called the Help Desk and **Vegas Richemond** answered the phone.

He knew I was frantic from the tone of my voice and helped me through it and called another one of your department's employees for help and re-established my folder.

I cannot tell you how grateful I am and how calm and helpful he was. This was an example of Exceptional Care, Exceptional Service beyond belief, as I just could not believe I lost the folders.

I do not know how long Vegas has worked at Children's, but I have thanked him and I hope you will convey thanks as well. This is just another example of the exceptional service you provide and today really topped it.

Myra Fox
Director, Child Life Services

The fiscal year in review and our financial forecast

Last month, Children’s announced that we met our 2007 financial goals. The hospital finished the fiscal year with an **operational surplus of \$47 million** on **total operating revenues of \$1 billion**.

The biggest reason for this success is increased volume—in inpatient discharges, outpatient visits and surgical procedures—at Longwood and our satellite locations. To recognize the hard work that led to this success, all employees received a bonus at the end of the fiscal year. “The combination of dedicated staff, effective contracting and a focus on providing efficient, high-quality care is what made it possible for Children’s to pay such bonuses for the sixth straight year,” says **David Kirshner**, senior vice president and chief financial officer.

In 2007, the hospital made significant investments in certain areas:

- We added staff, improved access to Children’s care throughout Eastern Massachusetts and invested in quality and safety initiatives, such as the CHAMPS effort. We also expanded the number of beds to 377, including 11 beds in Waltham.
- We put significant funding in our employee training efforts, including management training, and in building the hospital as a workplace of choice by improving the affordability of benefits

While this was certainly a terrific year, **Sandra Fenwick**, chief operating officer, anticipates more modest operating results in 2008, along with significant financial challenges (see sidebar at right). “When we look to the future, we’re focusing on quality and cost to create the best value for our patients, families and the insurers. Insurers are not going to pay double digit increases for health care and we need to find innovative ways that don’t compromise the quality of care to respond to the market.” In 2008, she says that all our surplus from the prior year will be reinvested in our missions. Investments will focus on:

- Expansion of inpatient care capacity
- Completion of phase two development of the Waltham campus
- Program for Patient Safety and Quality initiatives
- Expansion of research space with the opening of the new floors in the Center for Life Sciences
- A new and expanded Devon Nicole House, our patient family housing

With the support of all employees, the hospital is well positioned to meet our 2008 financial goals.



Sandra Fenwick and David Kirshner

Looking ahead

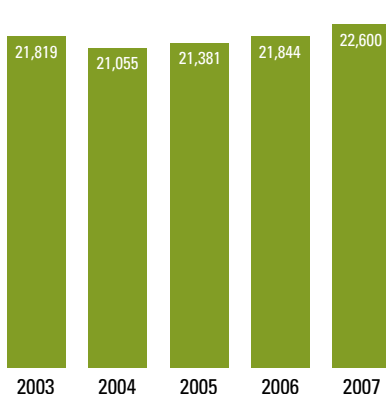
Two crucial financial challenges Children’s faces in 2008 and beyond:

Managing the rising cost of providing care in response to:

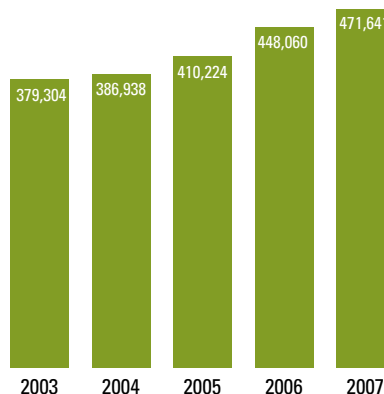
- The continued challenges in recruitment and retention of the best and brightest doctors, researchers, nurses and staff, as well as the need to invest in information technology and the increasing cost of medical and surgical supplies, pharmaceuticals and energy

Continuing to win fair reimbursement from government and private payers:

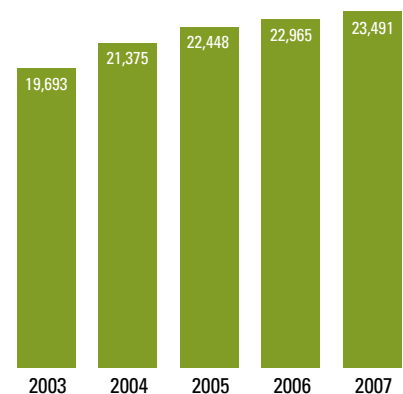
- State and federal reimbursement for Medicaid patients have not kept pace with medical inflation
- Because employers continue to be very sensitive to health insurance costs, private sector insurers in Massachusetts will continue to try to limit premium increases—which also means limiting payments to hospitals and doctors



Total discharges



Outpatient visits



Surgical cases



Photo prep for pros

- Use the highest quality setting on your camera. Put the camera phone away—the resolution won't be big enough.
- If the photos are for a print publication, they should be at least 300 dpi (dots per inch).
- If the photos are for a Website, they should be 72 dpi.
- If the photos are for PowerPoint, they should be at least 72 dpi at 10" wide or 7.5" tall to fill in a normal PowerPoint slide. (If the slides are going to be printed, use the print guidelines above).
- Err on the side of too big. It's a lot easier to make a picture smaller than to make one that's too small look good.

Ethan Bickford knew he wanted to be an artist when he was in first grade. Two years later, he started taking pictures with his very first camera—mostly of nature—and hasn't stopped since.

He graduated with a photography degree from Massachusetts College of Art, where he completed a photography project that was close to his heart: His sister's battle with cancer, which she sadly lost. "That's definitely a part of the reason I'm here doing what I do," Bickford says.

Despite his dedication and credentials, Bickford found professional photography a tough field to break into, and he took a day job as a receiver and delivery person for Materials Management at Children's Hospital Boston, while pursuing photography on the side. After two years, Bickford filled in for **Kristin Johnson**, the Vascular Biology Program's photographer, while she was on maternity leave. "We both went to the same college, so I had the training to fill in for her," says Bickford. During that time, he learned many of the ins and outs of medical photography, which served him well when he got the photographer position in Multi-Media Services, replacing **Wendy Newman**, who had moved on.

Eight months later, Bickford's busily running from shoot to shoot, having been hired to take photographs for various departments. His primary responsibility is patient photography, so he spends the majority of his time in the and Craniofacial Anomalies Program and Vascular Anomalies Center. Occasionally, he'll take portraits of employees who need them for external publications, Websites and book covers, and sometimes he's asked to cover check presentations and hospital events, like graduations, dinners and award ceremonies. No matter whom the photos are for, he prefers taking candid shots. "I like to catch people when they aren't aware of the camera," he says. "I like to try to catch people making a particular expression or with a certain look in their eyes."

One of Bickford's current projects is documenting the clinical trial of children with progeria, a disease that causes premature aging and is so rare that it affects only about 40 children in the world. "Taking photos for clinical trials is very scientific," he says. "I'm basically documenting any physical changes in the children."

Bickford says he's come a long way since his first snapshots at age 8, and that he finally considers himself to be an artist. "I'm not surprised I'm a photographer, but I'm surprised I get to do what I love here at Children's. I'm glad to be a part of it."

 **Bickford's tips on posing for photos:** childrenshospital.org/chnews

NEWS BY NUMERALS



Congratulations to the winners of this year's Recipe Challenge, from left: Angela Thomas, Sarah Wylie, Scott McCarthy, (not pictured: Andrew Kiss and Timothy Crowe). Their recipes will be featured in the Café the five weekdays prior to the Season of Hope event on Dec. 6.

45 employees submitted recipes

10 countries are represented in this year's recipes

5 recipe challenge winners' recipes will be served in the Café through Dec. 5.

25 recipes have eggs in them



9 poultry dishes were entered, making chicken the most popular meat

4 varieties of soy are used in the recipes: milk, margarine, oil and sauce

1 click takes you to the recipes: childrenshospital.org/chnews/recipes

Many options at Multi-Media Services

Multi-Media Services provides hospital-wide services, including audio-visual support, video production, graphic design and print services. For these services, contact Multi-Media Services at ext. 8-4478.

Bickford is taking requests from employees who need print or digital images of patients, staff and hospital events. He's also happy to answer questions about photography and digital images and file sizes. Contact him at ext. 8-4476. If you hire him to take pictures, he'll take your department's cost center number and Multi-Media Services will bill your department internally. For pricing information, go online to web2.tch.harvard.edu/multimedia/pricelist.html

This column is a new forum for Children's Hospital Boston employees to get answers to questions they have about any aspect of the hospital. If you have a question, send it to news@childrens.harvard.edu. We'll ask the appropriate person to answer your question and print the response. (You can ask questions anonymously.)

Question: I was wondering why smoking is allowed (or if it's prohibited, why it's not enforced) in front of the hospital near the bus stop. Patients and employees have to walk through there and it's often hard to breathe.

Answer: Children's maintains a smoke-free environment for the health and safety of its employees, staff, patients, families and visitors. All areas of the facility, including the Prouty Garden, building entrances and shuttle stops, are designated as non-smoking unless clearly marked as Smoking. The designated smoking area is located adjacent to 55 Binney Street near the ambulance bay.

The sidewalks, including the intersections along Longwood Avenue and Blackfan (or any city street) are property of the city of Boston. Unfortunately, the city currently does not have a smoking ban, so it is allowed in this area.

It is expected that all employees abide by Children's no smoking policy. Smokers are reminded that they must use the designated smoking area, or go off hospital property to smoke: We've placed No Smoking signs at many locations such as exterior doors and shuttle stops.

Additionally, Security conducts regular and random patrols of both the interior and exterior of the facility and enforces the No Smoking policy any time they see a violation. We appreciate everyone's assistance in this matter.

Let me take this chance to ask each and every one of you for your help. Employees are encouraged to remind individuals who are smoking outside the designated area of our hospital's policy. Or, you can always call Security.

Thanks for asking!

— **Henry Tomasuolo**
Vice President, Support Services

BEADS of courage

A new program helps young patients along their cancer journey

Unless you're a survivor, it's impossible to understand the relentless challenges of cancer treatment. In addition to hurdles like chemotherapy sessions, patients must also endure a constant barrage of uncomfortable tests and procedures. For children, the incessant poking and prodding can become overwhelming. To help young patients treated through Dana-Farber/Children's Hospital Cancer Care (DF/CHCC) stay positive and face future treatments, resource room and Child Life Specialists **Ingrid Dahlin, Sara Mastrofrancesco, Summer Menefee** and **Amber Soulvie** of Children's Hospital Boston, Julie Gauguet of Brigham and Women's Hospital and Martha Young of Dana-Farber, created Beading Each a Different Story (BEADS).

BEADS offers children a special glass bead for achieving a treatment milestone. For example, a yellow sun represents a radiation session, while a smiley face sporting a bandana signifies hair loss. When strung together, patients have a visual record of their cancer journey. More than 100 patients have participated in BEADS since its September launch, and its impact is visible. "They really feel like badges of courage," says Jennifer Kisiel, whose 6-year-old daughter, Rebecca, was recently diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. "Rebecca's string validates what she's endured."

BEADS is free for DF/CHCC patients, thanks to donations from 8-year-old Sarah Norton's family and friends. Sarah received a stem cell transplant in January and spent a lot of time with Soulvie during her stay. "Even though Sarah is out of Children's now, we can't get Children's out of us," says her father, Patrick Norton. Jessie Doktor, a 9-year-old who battled leukemia for six years, was one of the first to use BEADS. Her string represented each experience she had since her initial diagnosis in 2001. "BEADS gave Jessie a personal way to characterize her experience and collapse it into the size of one small piece of art and self-expression," says Gail Doktor, Jessie's mother.



Six-year-old leukemia patient Rebecca Kisiel's colorful string of beads detail the early weeks of her cancer treatment.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Congratulations to **Cathy Irvin**, Reception Services, who's been chosen as Children's Hospital Boston's employee of the month for December. During her four years behind the main lobby reception desk, Cathy has become the face of Children's to thousands of visitors. She gives every family she encounters her undivided attention and unfailing respect (always using 'sir' or 'ma'am'), and often escorts families to their appointments and gives hugs to distressed moms. The patient family thank-you letters addressed to Irvin are a testament to her outstanding service: Some write to thank her for her welcoming smile, careful answers to their questions and ability to put them at ease. One family wrote to thank her for the time she went out to get their child French toast after they asked her where they could get some.

But it's not just families who appreciate Cathy's dedication. Her main desk co-workers are grateful for her sense of camaraderie and how she frequently covers for their days off and vacations. Clearly, Irvin loves her job and it shows: Just ask anybody in Reception Services. She tells them how much she loves her job at least once a week.

To nominate a co-worker for employee of the month: web2.tch.harvard.edu/eces/recognize.cfm.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: HOSPITALITY HOMES HOST DIANE BUTKUS

Six-year-old Rachel giggles as our kitty, Sophie, leaps after the toy being tickled across her tail. Eleven-year-old Ibrahim sports a strawberry milk mustache as he poses his Spiderman figure on our kitchen table. Four-year-old Adam spies his favorite food—the unlikely tomato!—ripening by a sunny window; on orders to not eat before surgery, we promise to save it for him for when he returns to our home post-surgery.

After years of empty-nesting, our Mission Hill home has been blessed again with kindergarten concertos at the piano, stick-figure drawings on our hallway message board and the patter of little feet up and down our musical, albeit squeaky, stairs. As hosts with Hospitality Homes, an organization of volunteers providing housing to patients and their families coming to Boston for medical treatment, my husband, Mark Bourbeau, and I have welcomed families from across the United States and from as far away as South Africa, Pakistan and Italy. Hosts are asked to provide a clean and comfortable place for families to sleep, access to a bathroom and, occasionally, light kitchen use. When we settle our guests into their third-floor room, they receive a key so they can come and go on their own. We also invite them to join us in the kitchen for a light breakfast or help themselves to the fruit, cereals and muffins we keep on hand.

Our guests have ranged from age 4 to 82, and we've been privileged to witness the grace, stamina and often remarkable cheer with which each is managing sometimes chronic, sometimes life-threatening conditions. All of them have given us a sense of deepened appreciation for life, yet it is our connection with families treated at Children's Hospital Boston that has been especially life-affirming.

I am often touched by the easy familiarity and openness of families' disclosure, often within hours, sometimes within minutes, of arrival. In our home, away from their own, I'm mindful of our guests' right to privacy, yet concerned and interested if they want to talk. All seem blessed by supportive family, yet eager, in some tender way, to tell their stories once more: diagnosis, treatment, prognosis. It may, perhaps, seem strange to share such intimacies, of shunts and surgeries, medications and mortality, yet in the golden light of our kitchen, around the glossy oak of my grandma's old table, it seems both extraordinary and ordinary, unusual but not uneasy.

My at-home schedule offers a lot of flexibility and when I am able, I'm happy to drive our guests to an appointment or to South Boston for Castle Island's lovely harbor view—a treat for families who've never seen the ocean—or past



Diane, Mark and Sophie the cat have hosted families in their home.

the Public Garden's graceful swan boats. I love showing guests our beautiful city and have learned much about the various places they call home. And while we are more than bountifully enriched by our experience as hosts, we have learned to accept gracefully the earnest kindnesses our guests extend. Jonathan helped his dad fix us biscuits and gravy when they learned we Bostonians had never eaten them. A hand-embroidered table runner the color of rubies graces our guest room, courtesy of our Pakistani guests. One dad, a plumber, cheerfully lent a hand when our toilet became cranky the night he arrived.

We hope the children who stay with us, playing Candy Land with our granddaughter or nestling on our TV room couch watching *The Cat in the Hat*, will feel, as much as possible, like kids and not patients. We hope, too, that their parents feel some comfort of our home while they're far from theirs. In these quiet hours, they've become our teachers; their lessons of steadiness and faith amid illness and uncertainty are ones we carry with gratitude.

Hugs are warm and goodbyes are bittersweet as our guests depart for the airport, our promises to stay in touch

fulfilled in large and happy measure over the years. Adam returned with his mom and grandma, and surprised us with palm tree'd message-in-a-bottle greetings from their Florida vacation. Jonathan sent news of graduation from high school, where he was drummer in the rock band. Ibrahim, now 16, recently posed on our porch for a handsome photo with his family when they visited for his five-year follow-up.

Some friends have been surprised by our trust in having strangers carry our key, cook in our kitchen and be home alone—and I understand. It does take faith and I'm glad that comes easily to us. But I'm equally mindful of the trust it takes to make the call, walk up to our porch, ring the bell and put themselves under a stranger's roof at a time of complex and sometimes life-threatening vulnerability. Against the modest gifts of shelter, a bed and a cup of tea, our rewards have been rich; our community an ever-growing tapestry of families with whom we share but a brief past yet a blessedly hopeful future.

Hospitality Homes' home-away-from-home lodging provides a caring response as well as relief from emotional and financial challenges for families. If you're interested in becoming a host, call Christine Godbout at 617-482-4338.

Diversity job fair

Children's Hospital Boston participated in a diversity recruitment job fair on Oct. 30 at the Hynes Convention Center. Children's recruiters had the opportunity to provide candidates with information about the hospital, what it means to work here and which positions are available.



Champions play hard for Children's

Boston's sports teams are proving they're winners during game time, but their out-of-uniform efforts to help seriously ill children make them true champions for Children's. On Oct. 30, many sports stars joined Boston's local business leaders to support Champions for Children's, our largest annual fundraising event, which this year raised \$5.2 million. Go to childrenshospital.org/chnews to read all about the event.

Art for Plastic Surgery

On Nov. 8, Japanese children's book illustrator Amiko Hirao worked with Children's patients to create a new piece of art for the Department of Plastic and Oral Surgery's waiting room.



Sugar Ray visit

In town for the season finale of ESPN's "The Contender," boxing legend and six-time World Champion Sugar Ray Leonard stopped by Children's to visit patients, pose for photos and sign autographs. He also donated a pair of signed boxing gloves to the Center for Families.



Celebrity chef event

On Nov. 16, Richard Vellante, executive chef and executive vice president of Legal Sea Foods, teamed up with Children's Food Services Department for a day of extraordinary cooking. During lunch, they served four Legal dishes in the Café and Vellante did a pasta making demonstration for patients. The event kicked off Legals' annual holiday gift certificate program, during which Legals donates a portion of its gift certificate sales to Children's.



Michael Shannon's new video

Michael Shannon, MD, MPH, a pharmacologist/toxicologist, recently testified in front of the Food and Drug Administration about the dangers of giving cough and cold medicines to children under age 6. In a video interview on our Website, Shannon discusses these dangers and offers advice to parents. Check it out at childrenshospital.org/chnews.



More at childrenshospital.org/chnews

- Children's nurses rally at the State House
- Costco's employees support Children's
- Josie Worrell, our 95-year old volunteer on 8 East
- Boston magazine's list of "Top Docs 2007" features almost 200 Children's doctors

Open Meetings

Open Meetings will be **Dec. 4** at noon and **Dec. 5** at 8:30 a.m. in Enders Auditorium. Valerie Ward, MD, MPH, of Radiology, and Michelle Gordon-Seemore Human Resources, will be the guest speakers. For those at remote locations, these sessions will be available by Webconference. More information will follow in Small Talk.

Taste the recipe challenge winners' dishes

The Season of Hope event kicks off in the Café, where Food Services will serve five dishes created by Children's employees who won the annual recipe challenge. The dishes will be served in the Café the first week of December, **through Dec. 5**.

Season of Hope event

The annual Season of Hope celebration takes place **Dec. 6**, starting at 4 p.m. in the Patient Entertainment Center. Employees and patients can enjoy a live performance and watch the holiday tree light up while sipping cocoa and cider.

Holiday party in the Café

The festivities will be held in the Café on **Dec. 12**, from 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. for lunch, and from 4 to 6 p.m. for dinner. For employees who work the overnight shift, there will be a holiday meal on **Dec. 13**, from 10 to 11:30 p.m. Go to childrenshospital.org/chnews for satellite party information.

MLK/Black Achievers celebration

Children's annual Martin Luther King observance day and Black Achiever presentation will be **Jan. 17** at noon, in Enders Auditorium. Stay tuned for details.

Employee Assistance Program reminder

Holidays can be a stressful time of year. Remember, the hospital's Employee Assistance Program (through Kathleen Greer Associates) provides you with confidential services and resources to ease these challenges. You can log onto their Website at kgreer.com/eap_login.aspx or call 508-879-2093.

Children'sNews

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