Building on Our Legacy

A NEW School of Nursing at Brockton Hospital

The Brockton Hospital School of Nursing has a long history dating back to 1897, graduating hundreds of nurses who have gone on to provide unprecedented nursing care to hundreds of thousands of patients. The 122-year-old building is reaching the end of its functionality. The original building where this storied program began still houses the School today with no capacity for growth or expansion.

Work has already begun to build the new school.

Key improvements, in response to recommendations of students and faculty, include a state-of-the-art simulation program, a modern Student Success Center, and improved wireless technology and learning access.

The new School will be built on Adams Street, across from the School of Nursing Parking Lot, close to the location of the current School. Special attention will be placed on preserving the legacy of the Brockton Hospital School of Nursing and honoring those who have made it possible. This will include space for artifacts, photographs, donor recognition, and the garden and pavers.

To learn more or to make a donation contact Lisa Pedranti at 508-941-7187 or lpedranti@signature-healthcare.org.
For Todd Goulston of East Bridgewater, the care and support he is receiving at Signature Healthcare’s Greene Cancer Center has been a life saver and a “Godsend.”

One day after carrying his granddaughter during a walk, he experienced some pain in his neck area which persisted for several days. After a visit to his primary care physician, and some follow-up testing, he received the bad news.

The words from his doctor, “You have stage 4 lung cancer,” hit him like the sledgehammer he often swung as part of his work as a construction laborer. “When I asked what stage 4 lung cancer was, and I heard it was an advanced and often fatal presentation of lung cancer, I turned on my inner fight mode. I set a goal for myself right then and there to do everything I could do to beat this,” Todd explained.

“My granddaughter wasn’t talking yet and my first goal was to make sure I heard her say my name.”

Nearly two years have passed since Todd began a long road of treatment at the Greene Cancer Center located on the campus of Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital. “When I was originally diagnosed, I went into Boston for an opinion,” Todd stated. “I left depressed and told my wife I would never go back to Boston again.”

Todd’s first visit to the Greene Cancer Center was an appointment with Rolf Freter, MD, PhD, Chief of Medical Oncology, who took the time to explain to Todd exactly what he was dealing with and how, together, they would attack this lung cancer. “Dr. Freter was excellent,” remarked Todd. “He laid it all out in laymen’s terms — not doctor talk. He was honest with me and did not sugar coat what was ahead of me.”

What was ahead for Todd was a rigorous course of treatment including both radiation and chemotherapy, all administered at the Greene Cancer Center. “The staff in the Center is tremendous,” Todd remarked. “Everyone in this building is so positive and upbeat and they made me feel that I was here to be cured.”

“In addition to receiving outstanding medical care, I also met with Lisa Rule, a clinical licensed social worker at the Greene Cancer Center who helped me through this process. As the main provider for my family, not being able to work took its toll financially and also beat me up emotionally. We quickly exhausted our savings and paying the bills was a real challenge. That’s when Lisa threw me a lifeline by providing me with financial support from Signature Healthcare’s HOPE Fund to help pay a monthly mortgage installment,” Todd explained as he fought back the tears.

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The HOPE Fund, supported by grants from many generous donors (including a large grant from a generous donor of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center to help patients of their affiliated cancer programs), helps support patients during their cancer battle with such things as rent and fuel assistance, transportation, food, and other items not covered by insurance. “That help came at a very low point,” stated Todd. “I was broke. Words can’t express how meaningful and uplifting that gift was for me and my family.”

Todd’s initial chemoradiation treatment largely wiped out the lung cancer in his right lung. Todd’s treatment at the Greene Cancer Center will continue for the next year, with regular immunotherapy treatments to harness his immune system in the fight against his lung cancer, and to support the “cyberknife” treatment he received recently to attack a large second mass in his left lung. The need for further treatment will be known once his current immunotherapy is completed.

“I would never wish for anyone to have cancer and to have to go through what I have experienced, but I highly recommend the Greene Cancer Center,” Todd remarked. “The people here make this difficult experience almost enjoyable, and often when I hear my granddaughter say my name I think of them.”
Your Investment in Superior Care is Growing
New Medical Oncologist and New Services Begin in the Greene Cancer Center

As a result of more patients seeking superior cancer care without leaving the area, we have added a third medical oncologist to our cancer care team. Reve Shields, MD, recently joined Rolf Freter, MD, PhD, Chief of Medical Oncology, and Lisa Manera, MD, in providing exceptional cancer care for our patients. Like Drs. Freter and Manera, Dr. Shields also trained at Dana-Farber. As a member of the Harvard Medical Faculty and the Medical Staff of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, she brings a vast amount of skill and knowledge to the team.

Thank you for helping to make this possible through your gifts to the Greene Cancer Center!

In addition to comprehensive cancer care, including Radiation Oncology, Medical Oncology and Hematology offered on the first floor of the John, Steven and Caryll Greene Cancer Center, the second floor will now be home to several additional Signature Healthcare services including the following:

- Non-interventional cardiology, moving from Brockton Hospital to accommodate patient need
- Pulmonology
- Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Having these services in the same suite will provide a more integrated, multidisciplinary approach to patient care.

Thank you

Signature Healthcare Highlighted in New Book on Safety

ZERO HARM – How to Achieve Patient and Workforce Safety in Healthcare

A new book edited by Craig Clapper, PE, James Merlino, MD, and Carole Stockmeier of Press Ganey features a chapter on Learning Systems that includes Signature Healthcare and its successful journey to create a high reliability safety culture. The authors discuss how Signature Healthcare instituted our safety system and highlighted several examples of how Signature Healthcare has made systems safer for employees and patients, resulting in vast improvements in safety.

The inclusion of Signature safety improvements in this book is a further validation of the impact one small, stand-alone health system can make on employee and patient safety when safety is treated as the top priority.

Thank you for supporting us in our journey toward Zero Harm!
Encore Society Welcomes New Member

Gift Earmarked for School of Nursing

As a 23-year employee of the Brockton Hospital School of Nursing, Marlene Bohn understands the value of a quality nursing education and the impact of legacy giving. In her role as Registrar, Marlene is responsible for information about enrollment, class schedules, and student academic records.

Marlene chose to make Signature Healthcare a remainder beneficiary of her retirement plan in order to help the school in the future. “This was an easy way for me to contribute,” she explained. “I logged into my fund administrator’s website and was able to update my retirement plan to include my intent to contribute a percentage of the remainder of my retirement plan to the Brockton Hospital School of Nursing. I then notified the Office of Development at Signature that I had done so.

“Since 1897, Brockton Hospital has a rich legacy and prestigious reputation of providing outstanding nursing education,” stated Marlene. “I want to do my part to ensure the School exists long into the future and that’s why I’ve chosen to support the School in this way. Knowing that the School will benefit by receiving money from my retirement plan on my passing is very comforting to me as is making this gift intention in honor of my parents, Ronald and Shirley Bohn.”

For more information on joining the Encore Society please call Jeff Miller, CFRE, at 508-941-7078 or visit www.shbhlegacy.org where you can also register for our complimentary electronic newsletter.

Signature Healthcare Foundation is Now…

The Signature Healthcare Office of Development

In order to better reflect our status as a department of Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital, sharing the same not-for-profit tax identification number and status, we have changed our name to the Signature Healthcare Office of Development.

Our name change has not changed our function and mission of raising much needed funding to support programs and services to benefit our patients. Your generous support continues to provide vital help for our patients in so many different ways.

If you have any questions regarding this name change please call us at 508-941-7078.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

*Your gifts remain tax-deductible in accordance with laws associated with charitable contributions.
Benchmarking Awards Movement Drives Employee-Led Improvements at Signature Healthcare

Thanks to a generous gift from Signature Healthcare’s President and CEO, Kim Hollon, and his wife Ellen, employees of Signature Healthcare are implementing innovative changes and bringing best practices to Signature Healthcare.

Each quarter, staff are invited to submit applications identifying initiatives they have adopted from other organizations with the goal of bringing world-class care to our patients.

“Ellen and I started this program with the hopes of establishing a culture of constant improvement by motivating our employees to seek out best practices from other organizations and pilot them here at Signature,” Hollon explained. “To be a world-class organization we need to constantly look for ways to better serve our patients. This benchmarking program encourages our employees to reach beyond our walls to discover new ways of doing things that will have a positive impact on safety and quality for our patients and staff,” he said.

The Benchmarking Award program has already recognized amazing improvements implemented by teams across the health system, with the annual award winner receiving $5,000.

Awardees in 2018 included:

**A Breath of Fresh Air** – This smoking awareness program was very successful in helping Signature Medical Group patients quit smoking receiving national recognition for its success. The program was submitted by Service Line Director of Primary Care Larry Nolan on behalf of the Signature Medical Group staff.

**CT Low Dose Screening Program** – Designed for patients who have a history of smoking, this program has screened over 1,000 patients and identified 27 early stage lung cancers. It provides low dose CT screening for smokers between the ages of 55-77 for early signs of lung cancer. The new service was submitted by Radiology Quality Assurance Manager Holly Avery, RT(R)(CT) on behalf of the Radiology Department.

**Postpartum Hemorrhage Prevention** – This effort included a number of process changes to implement best practices in prevention of postpartum hemorrhage, a relatively infrequent occurrence at Brockton Hospital, but a leading cause of patient morbidity and mortality worldwide. Submitted by Nurse Manager-Maternal Newborn Pavilion Sarah (Sally) Howland, RN, BSN on behalf of the maternity team.

**Anticoagulation Management** - Created to improve treatment of patients receiving anticoagulation medication and reduce complications of managing their chronic disease, this program won the grand prize for 2018. This initiative was selected because of its comprehensive benchmarking efforts with various providers and its impact on hundreds of patients. The application was submitted by Manager of Non-Invasive Testing and Anticoagulation Management Services Kim Lavoie, RN, BSN, CACP on behalf of the cardiology team.

“I was pleased to see the participation in 2018 and especially the strong impact of all of these programs on patient care,” Hollon stated. “I look forward to another strong year of submissions in 2019.”
Generous Grant Provides Community Support for Opioid Addiction
New Office Now Open in Abington

With funding from a recent grant from Substance Abuse Management Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Signature has opened its first Office-Based Addiction Treatment (OBAT) facility. Under the tutelage of Medical Director Michael Dern, MD, and Program Director Kathleen Kassay, LICSW, the program provides patients with Medicated-Assisted Treatment using FDA-approved medications. This treatment is combined with helping to connect patients to counseling and behavioral therapies, to provide a “whole-patient” approach to the treatment of substance use disorders.

“Opioid addiction is a problem that impacts people from all walks of life,” explained Dr. Dern. “Our goal is to help people to take back control of their lives by providing the support to make that happen.”

Signature’s OBAT program follows the Boston Medical Center (BMC) model also referred to as the “Massachusetts Model.” This service delivery model facilitates access to lifesaving treatment and improving treatment outcomes in patients with opioid use disorders, and has been expanded to include treatments for other substance use disorders as well. BMC’s OBAT Program is integrated into the organization’s primary care and specialty outpatient clinics.

Under the BMC model, nurses take a lead role in patient care. Signature’s nurse care manager Nancy Francis, RN, partners with Dr. Dern, who assesses the patient and prescribes medication for addiction treatment. The patient’s other health care needs are addressed at the same time as their substance use disorder, similar to the way other chronic medical conditions are managed.

The nurses’ expertise in chronic disease management and patient education makes them ideally suited to deliver ongoing care for substance use disorders. At the same time, nurse care management enables a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician’s assistant to safely prescribe medications for addiction treatment to a greater number of patients, increasing overall access to these lifesaving medications.

Other members of the Signature OBAT care team include Ken Feldstein, Peer Recovery Coach, and Catherine Happeny, CMA, Medical Assistant.

For more information call 508-894-0575.
You Helped Us Do It Again!

National Recognition for Safety and Quality and Top Teaching Hospital

For the 13th straight time over seven consecutive years, Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital has achieved an “A” Safety Grade from Leapfrog, a national watchdog group that measures hospital safety.

Leapfrog guidelines were developed by an expert panel and uses 28 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to assign grades to more than 2,600 U.S. hospitals twice per year. Signature Healthcare is one of only 57 hospitals nationally and eight in Massachusetts to achieve 13 straight As since the program’s inception.

Also, for the second year in a row Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital was recognized as one of Leapfrog’s Top Academic Hospitals. Less than six percent of hospitals nationwide receive this great honor. Awardees must perform better than the national average on mortality for heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and stroke.

Please know that we are putting your gifts to good use, creating a nationally recognized, world-class health system, right here in Brockton!

Flip your investment for a higher Return

If you own a highly appreciated, low-income-producing and hard-to-sell asset such as real estate and are interested in selling the asset for a higher investment income, consider the benefits of transferring your asset to a FLIP Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT).

- Tax-free reinvestment: bypass the capital gains and resulting taxes on the sale of the contributed asset
- Increase your lifetime income and financial security
- Obtain a substantial income tax deduction
- Make a significant legacy gift to support our cause
- Transfer tax dollars to charitable dollars

To learn more, please contact us.

We would welcome the opportunity to answer further questions and provide you with an illustration of this plan.

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www.MySignatureCare.org
Dedicated

Your Signature Moments is dedicated to the friends of Signature Healthcare whose contributions allow us to carry out our mission to be the leading community-based healthcare delivery system in Southeastern Massachusetts providing the full range of primary care, specialty care, hospital care, and related ancillary services on a coordinated basis. Signature Healthcare physicians and Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital strive to be recognized as the “providers of choice” by staff, patients, and the community.

We strive to live by our vision statement:

Exceptional Quality, Service and Compassion: That’s Our Signature