


THIS IS WHERE

# Care Changes Lives

2017 PHILANTHROPY HIGHLIGHTS

A photograph of a woman with long brown hair, smiling warmly at the camera. She is holding a newborn baby wrapped in a blue and white striped blanket. The baby is lying on its back, and its face is visible. The background shows a hospital room with a white sink and a blue tube. The woman is wearing a light blue hospital gown.

*Henry Vincent, born 2 lbs. 4.7 oz.,  
resting with his mother, Kristen.  
Read his inspiring story on page 27.*

— THE —  
**University of Vermont**  
MEDICAL CENTER  
—  
**FOUNDATION**



Our community's cohesive culture starts with pride in the things we accomplish together. Philanthropy plays a role in both our culture and our accomplishments, as charitable support helps make our achievements possible, while generosity strengthens and unites us.

At The University of Vermont Medical Center, we are buoyed by the philanthropy of today and of the past. Every day, gifts of yesterday bolster the care experience of our patients and their families, the learning experience of our trainees and the exceptional work of our providers and staff. The hospital itself is an example, having been seeded by philanthropy nearly 140 years ago by the Fletcher family, to bring the most advanced medical knowledge to the suffering and to secure care for future generations.

We are still guided by these ideals and inspired by our patients to push the boundaries of clinical care, research and training — to find cures, to bring relief and to set a new standard in patient- and family-centered care. The Robert E. and Holly D. Miller Building is one very tangible reflection of this pursuit and a testament to the dedication and vision of our community, without whom this facility would not be possible.

In the pages that follow, we celebrate the powerful connections among the UVM Medical Center, our patients and their families, our academic partners at UVM and our donor community — past and present. We hope the stories make you feel, as we do, appreciation for what we have created together and excitement about what's to come.

**The UVM Medical Center, including the UVM Children's Hospital and the UVM Cancer Center, is a not-for-profit hospital that depends on private philanthropic support to achieve its mission.**

**Thank you!**



John Brumsted, MD  
CEO, UVM Medical Center  
President and CEO, UVM Health Network

Eileen Whalen, MHA, RN  
President and COO, UVM Medical Center



THIS IS WHERE

You Shape Our Future . . . . . 2

We Say Thank You . . . . . 8

Vermont Leads the Nation . . . . . 10

Patients Come First . . . . . 12

Employees Go Above and Beyond . . . . . 14

Bandits Are Heroes . . . . . 16

We Nurture Talent . . . . . 18

We Search for Answers . . . . . 24

Children Are Champions . . . . . 26

Academic Health Sciences Development  
and Alumni Relations Team . . . . . 30

UVM Medical Center Foundation  
Board of Directors . . . . . 31

UVM Medical Center Mission and Values . . . . . 32



“A project this size  
truly takes a village.”

— John Brumsted, MD, CEO, UVM Medical Center,  
President and CEO, UVM Health Network





## A New Era in Health Care

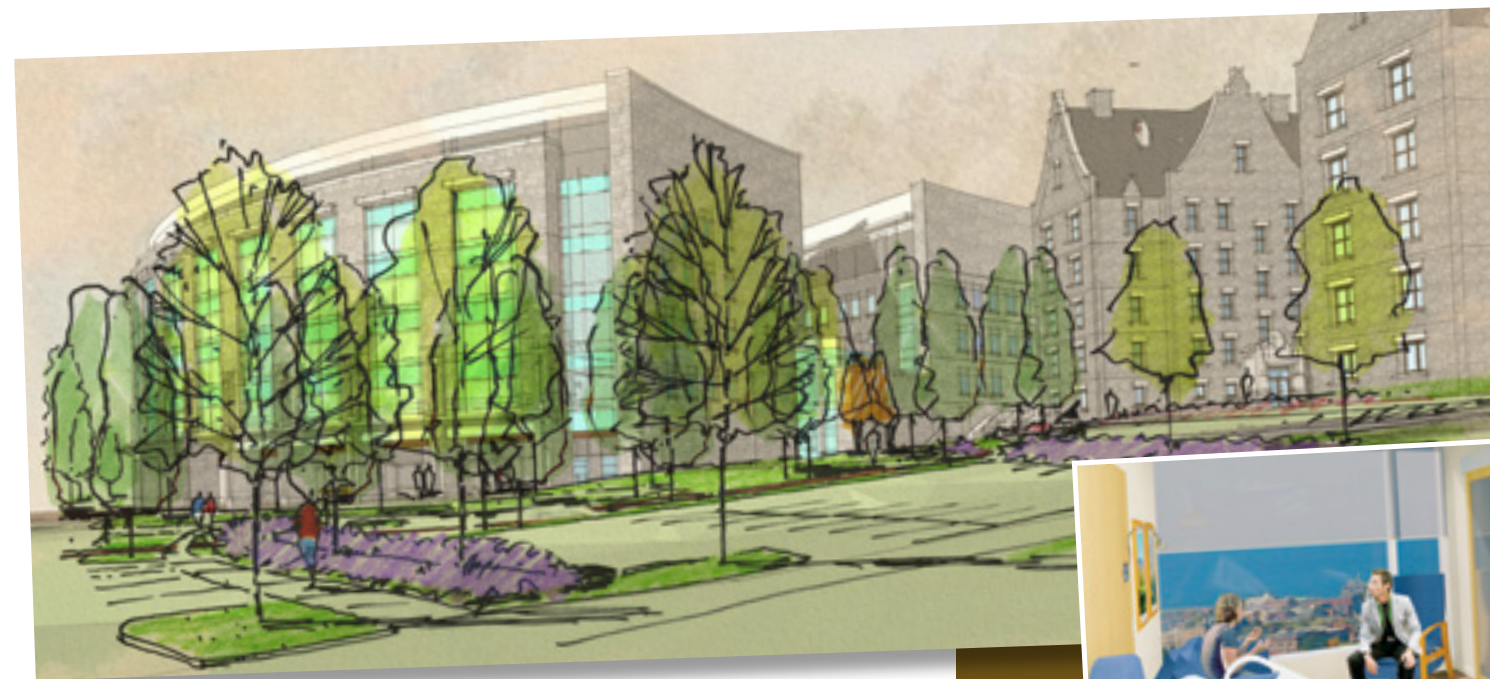
The Robert E. and Holly D. Miller Building moves ever closer to fulfilling its promise of patient- and family-centered features and comforts, of modern technology, of efficiency and sustainability and of enhanced service to our community.

The seven-story, 180,000 square foot inpatient facility, designed with input from staff, families and patients themselves, will offer 128 single-patient rooms plus key consultation and service areas for those delivering care and those training to become tomorrow's providers. Patients will enjoy increased privacy and a soothing, restful environment for healing, while family members will have the space they need to integrate seamlessly into their loved ones' care.

*The Miller Building is an investment in our collective health and philanthropy is making this facility possible. From Bob and Holly Miller's lead gift, which inspired the naming of the building in their honor, to contributions at all levels from grateful patients,*

*families, providers, staff, community members and local businesses, philanthropy is helping to bring the promise of the Miller Building into reality.*

**Here are some of their stories. >**



MILLER BUILDING GOAL:  
\$30 MILLION

\$24.6  
MILLION

Raised as of 12/31/17

*Renderings of the Miller Building on campus and a patient room. The building is scheduled to open in the summer of 2019.*

## Gift Celebrates Community Roots

*The following are Northfield Savings Bank President and CEO Tom Leavitt's remarks when presenting a \$100,000 gift to the Miller Building. The Bank will*



*name a Team Room and a Conference Room with their contribution.*

I have a personal stake in this gift. My grandfather, Allston H. Fogg, UVM '27, MD '30, was a decorated World War II Army colonel and physician. He never aspired to the big money; he always applied himself to the same principles you represent. He wanted to support his community and heal people. I'm proud of that. He learned his trade here.

So many life events have happened at UVM Medical Center. Dr. Ittleman with his incredible, gifted hands but also his temperament, calming our family when my father at the age of 60 urgently needed open heart triple bypass surgery just to keep going. And he did for another 14 years thanks to Dr. Ittleman. I'll not forget that, ever. I could go on about all the moments. I'm sure you hear that from all your grateful patients and families.

What's going on in the Miller Building in terms of patient-centered care and family-centered

“So many life events have happened at UVM Medical Center. Dr. Ittleman... calming our family when my father at the age of 60 urgently needed open heart triple bypass surgery just to keep going.”

involvement, is groundbreaking. You've done this because you want each patient to have the very best environment to get well and care teams — doctors, nurses, and technicians — to have the space and the resources they need to deliver the very best care. I buy in fully to this vision and that's where this gift is coming from.

Northfield Savings Bank has roots planted firmly in Vermont and is now the largest Vermont-based bank, celebrating our 150th anniversary year. This gift goes well with the theme of longevity and commitment to communities in the Green Mountains and Champlain Valley. We don't pay shareholders a stock dividend; we instead pay a community dividend and this is part of that giving.

So from us to you, thank you so much. •

“We admire Bob and Holly Miller's commitment to our community and want to do our part. Having exceptional health care means a higher quality of life for the people of our region. We chose to donate to the Miller Building because we believe that single patient rooms will offer dignity and privacy for patients and their loved ones.” — Bruce and Kyla Lisman



*Bob and Holly Miller sign the final structural beam at the Miller Building Topping Off Ceremony in August, 2017.*



## Sights Set on Leading-Edge Ophthalmology Research

When Don Sinex went for a routine eye appointment in Rutland, the optometrist asked him an unexpected question after taking images of part of his eye.

"He looked at me and he asked 'are you a diabetic,'" says Sinex. "I said 'no.' He said 'I think you are.'"

The optometrist was right. Sinex had, in fact, developed diabetic retinopathy, which was affecting the blood vessels in his eye. With chronically high blood sugar, these tiny blood vessels can leak, affecting sight and potentially leading to permanent vision loss.

The optometrist referred him to the ophthalmology team at UVM Medical Center. Sinex went in not knowing what could be done to restore his vision, which had deteriorated greatly as a result of the condition.

"Take a glass of milk and drink it, and look through the bottom," he says. "That's what it looked like."

UVM Professor of Ophthalmology Robert Millay, MD, recommended what was at the time an experimental treatment: A drug originally developed to treat breast cancer was seeing results for Sinex's condition. It required a number of injections into the affected eye for a series of months, but it worked almost immediately.

"Within a day it was like holy smokes. My vision has improved. It was really something," says Sinex.

It's been about two and a half years since the initial treatments ended, and his vision has been fine ever since, although he does go in for regular check-ups, and he must still receive occasional injections.

The rapport Sinex developed with Millay and Brian Kim, MD, who has taken over his care, in part prompted him to make a gift in support of the medical center's ophthalmology program, which includes a robust clinical research enterprise and one of the larger retinal research programs in New England.

"They're very genuinely engaging people," he says. "They have good doctor bedside manner."

Although he runs his real estate business out of New York City, Sinex has owned a home in Rutland for 20 years, a move in part prompted by the quick and easy drive to see his son's hockey games while he was a high school student in Massachusetts. And now, he's spending more time in Burlington since embarking on a project to renovate and restore the Church Street Marketplace mall, getting to know the community as a result.

Sinex's gift will help to open up new opportunities in teaching and research, says Kim, who is chief of ophthalmology. His team hopes to establish a residency training program, bringing some of the best and brightest new physicians to Vermont, as well as continue crucial research in the treatment of previously blinding diseases such as diabetic retinopathy and macular degeneration.

"We are so grateful for the support," says Kim. "This gift will help us advance care in important ways."

For Sinex, giving back to the medical center, an important Vermont institution and one that helped



Don Sinex

preserve his eyesight, is one way to pay it forward.

"If they can help me, maybe they can help other people," he says. •



Dave Farrington, Jr.  
and his son, Jack

“Our family business has now proudly engaged the third generation and we’ve had many encounters as patients over the years, luckily all with great outcomes. **The UVM Medical Center has for me become much more than a place to go and get repaired.** It’s part of our community — part of what keeps my family, our employees and their families, our friends and neighbors — well. We live here. We work here. Jen and I are delighted to support the hospital that takes care of us all.” — Dave Farrington, Jr.

## Friends Honoring Beloved Friends

Two dear friends, both taken too young by cancer. Kim Davis, an engineer and project manager at IBM, died at 51. Barbara Bardin, a Burlington business owner and entrepreneur, succumbed to complications from ovarian cancer at 63.

Essex, NY resident Scottie Emery-Ginn chose to remember them by naming patient rooms in the Miller Building in their honor. She enlisted the help of friends and family, and received an outpouring of support with more than 60 donors contributing.

Emery-Ginn calls the successful effort a testament to each of her friends' spirit and the outsized impact they had on the community. During a career at IBM that spanned close to three decades, Davis was known not only as an expert in her field, but as a kind person who was always

ready to listen or lend a hand. "A lot of people felt close to her," says Emery-Ginn.

Bardin had a reputation as the premier caterer for weddings and other events as the founder of Let's Pretend. Her restaurant, called Splash!,

located on the Burlington waterfront, embodied her love of good food and penchant for bringing people together. "She was incredibly fun," says Emery-Ginn. "A huge personality."

As chair of the board of trustees for UVM Medical Center, Emery-Ginn understands the need for single patient rooms that the Miller Building is poised to meet — a need further cemented by the experience her friends had in the current patient

rooms at the medical center.

"These people were much loved," she says, "and this was a way for friends and family to all contribute and honor them." •



Scottie Emery-Ginn



Moving Mountains for Our Patients

The UVM Medical Center is leading the drive to improve the health of our population, improve the care experience, make health care affordable and reduce costs. *Move Mountains: The Campaign for The University of Vermont*, a collaborative campaign of the UVM Medical Center and our academic partner UVM, is the philanthropic engine behind this drive.

Gifts to the medical center, The Robert Larner, MD College of Medicine, and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences are a significant component of the *Move Mountains* campaign. Your charitable contributions are helping us provide the most progressive treatments for our patients, delivered by capable and compassionate healthcare experts in environments proven to enhance health and healing.

Thanks to you, we are making unprecedented investments in the education of tomorrow's caregivers and pursuing research that will someday change medicine. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.



FY12-FY19 Total Campaign Goal  
\$500 million

Academic Health Sciences  
\$242,457,552  
*Raised as of 12/31/17*

UVM Medical Center \$75 Million Goal  
\$49,518,609  
*Raised as of 12/31/17*

Because of You

On October 7, 2017, more than 150 guests and donors to Academic Health Sciences gathered to celebrate how philanthropy is having an impact on the future of health care in our community, in our region and around the world. Those who attended were fortunate enough to hear four inspiring stories where gifts to our research, teaching and clinical mission are making a big difference.

Thank you to all who've made a gift to Academic Health Sciences. Your contributions support our patients and families, our students, our nurses, our trainees, our researchers, our physicians and our staff in countless ways. It's a great privilege to work side by side with you.



From Left to Right: Jenna Page, MSN, RN, OCN; Chris Veal '20; Mary Cushman, MD, MSc; Kayla O'Toole '17; and Kevin McAteer



Kevin McAteer

“ This evening we’ve gathered leadership donors and campaign supporters who’ve made donations to Academic Health Sciences, which includes UVM Medical Center, UVM Cancer Center, UVM Children’s Hospital, the UVM College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and the UVM Larner College of Medicine. **So while you may or may not know the person sitting next to you, you all share two really important things: you care deeply about the health care of our community and you understand what it means to give back.** We’re just here tonight to say thank you.”

— Opening remarks from host Kevin McAteer, chief development officer, Academic Health Sciences Development and Alumni Relations



## Population Health: Everyone Benefits

UVM Medical Center is taking a lead role in discovering how healthcare institutions can more broadly meet the health and wellness needs of the people they serve. Such initiatives fall under the umbrella of “Population Health” and form the basis of an entirely new approach to medicine. What is the goal? An expansion of care, a measurable reduction in costs and an across-the-board improvement in the fundamental well-being of all who live here.

We asked UVM Health Network’s Chief Population Health and Quality Officer Stephen Leffler, MD, a native Vermonter and UVM undergraduate and medical school alumnus, to explain.

**Q: “Population Health” is a big term...almost too big to grasp. What does it mean for someone living here in Vermont or upstate New York?**

**Steve Leffler, MD:** It means you have a good job that pays well. You have good schools to send your children to. You have good child care. You have a warm house that’s safe, with no mold. You have streets to walk on so you can get exercise. You have a community that supports you so you’re not alone. You have neighbors that check on you.

**That sounds wonderful, but what does it have to do with health care?**

**SL:** That’s what’s so exciting! We’re finding that if we can get upstream and help address some of the conditions I mentioned, people are healthier. If there are good jobs, good schools, safe streets, food security and people have warm, safe houses to go home to, our entire community benefits and healthcare costs go down. It’s the future of medicine: spend less and give higher value care.

Interested in learning more about UVM Medical Center’s Population Health initiatives? Contact Susie Posner-Jones, (802) 656-4334, or email at [Susie.Posner-Jones@UVMHealth.org](mailto:Susie.Posner-Jones@UVMHealth.org).

Your gift can help fund critical-need programs for current patients and their families or strengthen our Community Health Investment Fund, which awards grants to community-based programs that address food access, chronic conditions, mental health, substance use disorders and supportive housing.

**How do we know these upstream investments will work?**

**SL:** In January 2018, we began a five-year experiment with the Federal Government to prove they work. The historical trend of five to six percent annual increases in healthcare costs is unsustainable. We can’t afford it. The country can’t afford it. This pilot program puts Vermont at the leading edge of change and the nation is watching.

**UVM Medical Center is a teaching hospital. How does this program affect our training of tomorrow’s medical professionals?**

**SL:** It will help them understand how managing the health of our population, thinking more broadly than just the patient in front of them, will benefit our greater community. Most people who enter this field are interested in this. It’s part of why we choose to work in health care.

**Why is philanthropy important?**

**SL:** Philanthropy is key because we’re going to need partners to figure out how to have safe, clean homes for everybody, how to bring good exercise opportunities to children and adults so they don’t become overweight, how to ensure every patient we serve has enough to eat. It will take hospital dollars, charitable contributions and partnerships with our community. It’s a chance for us all to come together in a way we never have before.

Vermont is small enough that we can succeed and we’re small enough for individual contributions to make a huge difference. I would say to anyone, whether they have \$5 to give or \$1,000,000, this is a chance to be part of something extraordinary. •

“Vermont is small enough that we can succeed and we’re small enough for individual contributions to make a huge difference.”

Steve Leffler, MD



## “Memories of Love:” Honoring Critical Care Nurses

After losing their son in a tragic skiing accident, Melinda and Mike White established an education fund in his memory. Hear in Melinda’s own words about their patient care experience and what inspired them to support critical care nursing.

*The following is an excerpt from Melinda’s presentation of The Riley Olson Critical Care Nursing Award at the May 11, 2017 UVM Medical Center Nursing Awards Ceremony.*

My husband, Mike, and I are here to honor the professionals who fought so hard for our son, Riley, during his 33-day stay at UVM Medical Center. On February 27, 2016, Riley was hospitalized due to a skiing accident. From the very first social worker we met in the ER to the day we had to say goodbye to our new friends, our lives were changed forever.

Because of Riley’s injuries, he never woke up. But I often told him about the wonderful staff that was caring for him. When your child is sick, desperately critical, you want the best.

One day, I was sitting in Riley’s room watching the next shift take care of him. I focused on the nurses and

everything they had to juggle: the constant critical aspects of his care, the bells and beeps, the hospital protocols, being ready to advise the doctors of his status, the emotional struggles that must come with their job and being the frontline caregiver for the family.

We tried to stay out of their way but we had questions. We were always met with kind eyes, soft words, and when our son’s condition was becoming clearer, gentle guidance to help with our decision to do what was best for him.

We soon learned Riley would not be coming back to us as the Riley we knew. Mike and I wanted to honor this hospital that fought so hard for him and lovingly took care of him and us so we set up The Riley Olson Memorial Nursing Education Fund. We chose to honor the nursing profession because they juggled it all.

Because of Riley’s care, we were given memories of love and the knowledge we did everything we could for our son. Ideally, Riley would be here personally thanking you for your wonderful care and dedication. In his absence, we’ve created a legacy to remember him and make a difference in others’ lives.

We are honored to work hard on your behalf to continue to fund The Riley Olson Critical Care Nursing award. Thank you for everything you did for Riley, Mike and me. •

Mike and Melinda White



“The nursing care our daughter received in her two long weeks in the neuro ICU was perhaps the most remarkable part of our year. **There were many and varied kindnesses, from technical prowess and precise calibration of her meds to shampoos, braiding and good cheer on long shifts.** The care Addie received was awe inspiring, and we give this donation in the nurses’ honor with gratitude.”

— Mary Peterson, UVM Medical Center Foundation Board Member



Mary Peterson's daughter, Addie

## Oncology Nurse Education Fund Opens Doors

Ellen Seuss Evans was an avid tennis player, a successful local realtor and one who reveled in the camaraderie and kindness of our community. What happened to Ellen makes no sense; but with cancer, little does. Ellen was a healthy, effervescent person embracing life one day then fighting for it the next.

Ellen’s husband, John, was keenly aware of the road they faced in her battle with ovarian cancer. At the time of her diagnosis, John Evans, PhD was Executive Dean of UVM’s Larner College of Medicine, where he’d been a faculty member since 1976. Although he traversed the route between his office and Ellen’s hospital room almost daily, he trusted the care UVM Medical Center’s oncology team was providing, particularly the nurses.

“I visited Ellen at every opportunity, but it was deeply comforting to know that when I couldn’t be by

her side, she was in good hands,” said Evans. “The nurses set me most at ease; their attentiveness and compassion were unparalleled.”

When Ellen’s prognosis declined, Ellen refocused her energy as one might expect from a person like her: she thought of others. She thought of how she could

make a difference and who best to entrust with that responsibility.

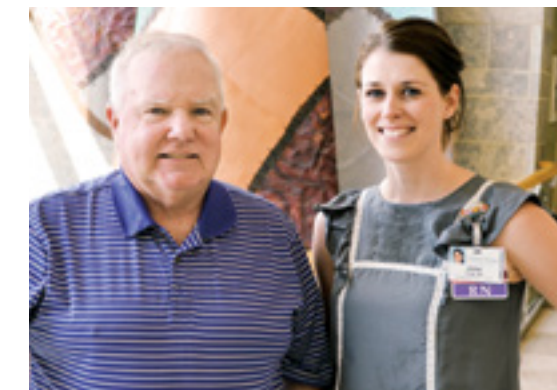
She chose oncology nurses.

John and Ellen quickly established The Ellen Seuss Evans Nursing Education Fund to provide annual support for UVM Medical Center oncology nurses seeking advanced training. Since Ellen’s death in 1998, the Fund has supported certification and continuing education, professional development, and tuition

reimbursement for numerous oncology nurses.

For Jenna Page, MSN, RN, OCN, the Fund has enabled her to complete her master’s degree, attend a national conference, and assume leadership roles through which she can have widespread impact on oncology nursing and patient care.

“I know Ellen would be proud,” said Evans. •



John Evans, PhD, and Jenna Page, MSN, RN, OCN



Community Philanthropy Fuels Staff Innovation

Two years ago, the UVM Medical Center added a gym on the sixth floor of the Shepardson wing, where psychiatric patients could exercise. UVM therapists recognized that patients with behavioral diagnoses, such as depression and bipolar disorder, could also benefit from exercise. However, most of those patients, on the third floor of Shepardson, had no access to the new gym.

David Tomasi, PhD, an inpatient psychiatry therapist also teaching at UVM’s Integrative Health (a collaboration of leaders from the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, the Larner College of Medicine and the medical center), grew determined to pursue a second exercise space. Identifying funding for alternative programs, in the face of more urgent needs, is a challenge, Tomasi says.

But he had a chance to apply for a grant from a new pool of money set aside from the UVM Medical Center Fund, supported by donations from community members, patients and employees for programs outside the hospital’s operating budget that enhance patient- and family-centered care. Initiatives are chosen by a committee comprised of leadership, staff, patient and family advisors and volunteers from across the medical center.

In spring of 2017, staff were invited to apply for grants of \$25,000 to \$100,000. Tomasi’s project, in collaboration with Sheri Gates and Tabatha Leahy, was one of five funded initially. Another four proposals were awarded in the fall.

Tomasi incorporates nontraditional therapies — mindfulness, meditation, music and art — with more conventional interventions. The benefits of such alternative approaches, including exercise, are difficult to measure in mental health, he says. “It’s not like



From Left to Right: David Tomasi, PhD, with Tabatha Leahy, and Sheri Gates in the new exercise area for psychiatric patients.

healing from a wound that’s on your skin.” That’s why his proposal included a research component. Therapists or other staff will schedule group exercise therapy or individual exercise sessions and will record patients’ vital signs such as heart rate and blood pressure before and after exercise. In addition, patients will give feedback about their mood, self-image and self-esteem — crucial indicators for people navigating behavioral mental health challenges. “In the long run, the whole institution will benefit, because we’ll have more data into why the mind-body connection is important,” Tomasi says. The study will cover 12 months, but the grant will pay dividends by providing information that the psychiatry staff can use to improve and expand the program, he says. “We will not quit doing exercise,” Tomasi says. “We’ll just have a better way of doing it, because with this grant, we’ll have the data.” •



Employees’ ID badge holders reflect the depth of their commitment.

Recognizing Employee Generosity

University of Vermont Medical Center employees who philanthropically support medical center programs can now wear their generosity on their sleeves — or, more precisely, on their chests. In October, the UVM Medical Center Foundation distributed employee ID badge holders that say “I Give” to recognize those who have made a gift to the medical center.

The Foundation, which manages charitable giving, wanted a way to recognize employee contributions in a low-key but visible way, says Allison Searson, the Foundation’s director of annual giving. “We wanted to make sure that employees understand the importance of their gifts — no matter the size or area of support,” Searson says. “Every gift truly makes a difference.” Last year, nearly 1,700 medical center employees gave a total of \$379,500. Searson distributed the

badge holders at many of the medical center’s locations accompanied by members of the Philanthropy Advisory Group, an employee committee that comes together to offer an employee perspective on philanthropy. Melinda Dutka, a Philanthropy Advisory Group member and therapy support specialist in the UVM Speech/Language Pathology and Audiology Center, said her colleagues have appreciated the recognition. “It’s a way to celebrate employees’ generosity, to

make it noticeable that they give,” Dutka says of the Foundation. “The badge holder makes it obvious that we support the hospital.” Dutka came to UVM Medical Center eight years ago from a small community hospital in Illinois where employees were very philanthropically active, she says. She was pleased to find an equally high level of engagement at the medical center and at UVM. “The employees have to feel empowered,” she says, “and I think the badge holder really helps.” •





Russ Clark with members of his Cambridge Elementary School posse

## Russ Clark Knows What Counts

Around the UVM Children's Hospital, Russ Clark is known as the guy with the dolly and the buckets.

Buckets of coins, that is. For the past nine years, Clark has ranked as a top "bandit" of the Big Change Roundup For Kids, the signature annual fundraiser for the children's hospital.

Through his family's truck sales and service business, Clark's Truck Center in Jericho, Clark collects pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters — and a few checks — with the help of friends, relatives, employees and customers who have joined his "posse." He also coordinates a drive at Cambridge Elementary School.

Clark then comes to the hospital on the last day of the campaign, rolling in a giant tub of change on a two-wheeled hand dolly. Last year, he needed two buckets and two dollies to drop off \$13,220 in coins. Since 2009, he and his posse have raised a total of \$53,000.

Years ago, Clark's wife helped found an annual golf tournament fundraiser in honor of Thomas Cook, her close friends' young son, who died of leukemia. Clark saw the personal reward and satisfaction his wife got from that effort, and he wanted to throw himself into a similar cause. Then he heard an announcement for the Big Change Roundup on 98.9 WOKO, the fundraiser's radio partner.

He registered to become a bandit and started carrying a small sack on visits to customers as Clark's Truck Center sales manager, his position at the time. When customers asked about the bandit badge he wore, he'd take out his "loot bag" and suggest they drop in some coins.

People he knew would save their change for him, he says. "Some places, I would go in every week and they would reach in their pocket."

One longtime customer leaves a big shopping bag

full of change for Clark every year, he says. Another customer's son recently took all the money from his piggy bank and said, "I want to do more next year," Clark recounts.

He set up an online donation page, which now accounts for about one-quarter of his total collection, and he has expanded his efforts to include Clark's Truck Center in Plattsburgh, NY.

In 2014, he and his sons got their school involved. Clark does an annual presentation at Cambridge Elementary, with the help of the "sheriffs" who arrive in "Bandit 1," the Big Change Roundup RV, and show a video. He pays for a pizza party for the class that

raises the most money and cake and ice cream for the class that designs the most creative bucket.

"The younger ones, especially, get so excited," he says. One year, the winning kindergarteners collected \$1,000 alone.

In recent years, he has set a Big Change goal and met or exceeded it. The digital sign in front of Clark's Truck Center, at the corner of Route 15 and Browns Trace Road, broadcasts the final annual tally.

Big Change Roundup For Kids launches in January and ends in March with a wrap-up live broadcast. During this finale Clark and his "posse" roll in the dollies with the bounty of loot they've collected.

Clark enjoys the fanfare, but that's not why he's such a dedicated bandit. When he talks about some of the

young hospital patients who come to the round-up event in wheelchairs, or of the children he memorializes through his fundraising efforts, his eyes grow moist with tears and his voice chokes up.

"It's not the fact of collecting the money," Clark says. "It's the fact of bringing it to the hospital and being part of that day."

He's just happy, he says, to do what he can to help those kids. •

“The younger ones, especially, get so excited.”  
— Russ Clark





## Investing in Our Teaching Mission

At the UVM Medical Center, innovation and learning are at the core of everything we do. Thanks to our strong partnership with the UVM College of Nursing and Health Sciences and the UVM Larner College of Medicine, patients benefit from an influx of bright, young trainees eager to improve care at every turn. Medical students, nurses and other health professionals learn side-by-side with practitioners, infusing the patient care teams with an ethos of continuous education.

World-class research — often with collaborators from across the University — informs treatment at the bedside and ensures that top-quality care is available right here in Vermont. As the pace of medical knowledge accelerates, so too does our commitment to continually learn and grow.

*The following are a few examples of how philanthropic investments in medical education are helping to fuel these efforts and cultivate compassionate, skilled, patient-and family-centered caregivers of tomorrow. >*

Rebecca Romac, nursing student,  
College of Nursing and Health Sciences



## Bolstering Emotional Health and Resiliency

As a surgical resident at UVM Medical Center, Megan Cavanaugh, MD, experienced the unthinkable. Her mother — whom she has called “my pillar of strength, my hero” — was diagnosed with a terminal illness.

When she left for home as her mother’s health deteriorated during the final weeks of her training in 2003, her fellow surgical residents swiftly took action. As Cavanaugh mourned her mother and settled her estate in Schenectady, NY, they logged all of her remaining surgical cases, and even packed up her apartment and helped move her to Cleveland, OH where she was to start a fellowship in colorectal surgery.

The boundless support she received from her residency “family” during this difficult time in her life prompted Cavanaugh to make a \$50,000 gift to establish a fund to help surgical residents who experience personal challenges during their training. Named for her mother, the Paula R. Cavanaugh Memorial Fund for Surgical Resident Wellness provides assistance to residents who need to travel to see ill or dying relatives and close friends, and address “other unexpected and financially challenging circumstances.”

“The support that my fellow residents, the nurses and in particular the colorectal surgeons provided during this trying time was heartwarming and career-sustaining.”  
— Megan Cavanaugh, MD

“The support that my fellow residents, the nurses, and in particular the colorectal surgeons provided during this trying time was heartwarming and career-sustaining,” she says. “The financial assistance that one of the surgeons offered me to help care for my mother was unimaginable.”

Cavanaugh — now a colorectal surgeon with the Northwest Center for Colorectal Health in Oregon — has honored her mother’s spirit by helping surgeons in training thrive, as the Fund may also be used to more broadly support the well-being of residents. Future cohorts will have the opportunity to participate in initiatives to nurture their physical, mental and emotional health and resiliency, and promote their professional development and social cohesion, all in the name of fostering healthy future physicians. •



Megan Cavanaugh, MD (left),  
with her mother, Paula.  
Above: Paula Cavanaugh







*Current Larner College of Medicine students who are achieving their dream of becoming physicians with help from a Bennett Loan. Inset: Elinor B. Tourville Bennett*

### Low-Cost Loans Pay it Forward

In 2007, a \$6.8 million estate gift from Burlington, VT, native Elinor B. Tourville Bennett established a charitable trust to provide no-fee, no-interest loans to Vermont residents pursuing their medical education at the Larner College of Medicine.

Now one decade later, hundreds of students and alums practicing medicine across the country have benefitted from Bennett's generosity. Since its inception, the Elinor Tourville Bennett Charitable Trust has provided more than \$2.6 million in no-interest loans to deserving students, helping to alleviate some of the financial stress new physicians experience as they enter residency training.

"The Bennett Loan is an ingenious way to kick-start a medical education without the anxiety of compounding interest," says Lauren Struck '21. "And when I do start to repay the loan, I will do so with pleasure, since it is essentially 'paying it forward' to the next recipient."

A long-standing love of Vermont, and her positive experiences with physicians and physicians-in-training in her home state, motivated Bennett's giving. Born in

Burlington on May 6, 1920, Bennett was the daughter of the owners of a Cadillac dealership on North Avenue. A 1938 graduate of Burlington High School, she worked for years as a dental assistant in the Burlington area. Her family had a camp on Appletree Point, which became her main Vermont residence in later years. In 1960, she married Wilfred Tourville, who passed away in 1969. Then in 1976, she married Thomas Bennett, who died in 1979.

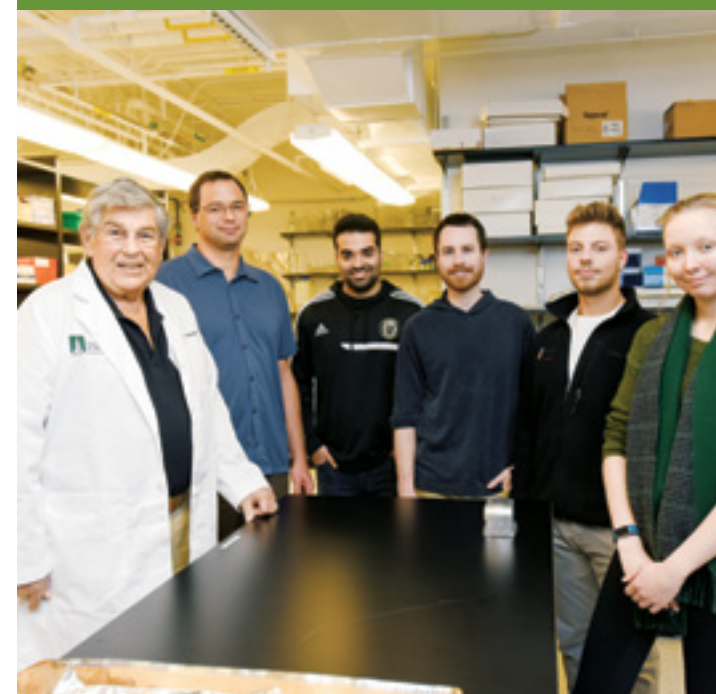
Bennett was a Florida resident beginning in the 1970s, but she always returned to her Appletree Point home during the summer. Despite her Florida residency, she retained a strong affinity for Burlington and considered Vermont her "home."

Bennett endured several serious health issues during the 20 years before her death on June 25, 2006. The positive experiences and relationships she developed with the physicians who cared for her during that time, including the medical students who became integral members of her care team, inspired her to bequeath most of her estate to the Larner College of Medicine, helping to nurture generations of Vermont physicians for decades to come. •

### Early Career Research Funding

The inaugural Martin E. Bloomfield '56 MD'60 and Judith S. Bloomfield '59 Early Career Professor in Cardiovascular Research marks the first time at the University of Vermont that an early-career professorship has been endowed, helping to launch promising young careers with the potential to benefit not only UVM, but society at large. In July of 2017, the Larner College of Medicine celebrated Benedek Erdos, MD, PhD, an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacology, as the inaugural Bloomfield professor. Established by Dr. Bloomfield, a dual-degree UVM alum and retired cardiologist, and his wife Judy, a fellow Catamount and retired psychologist, the Bloomfields' decision to focus their philanthropic impact on an early-career professorship is based on personal experiences. At the time when Dr. Bloomfield was beginning his own career, research funding was not readily available. Years later, the Bloomfields' son Dan — also a cardiologist — benefited early in his career from an endowed assistant professorship that serves as the inspiration for their gift. •

*Martin Bloomfield '56 MD'60 (at left), with Benedek Erdos, MD, PhD (second from left), and members of the Erdos lab*



*Robert Langer, DSc*

### World-Renowned Innovators

Larner College of Medicine alumnus's personal experiences highlighting the impact of technological advances in medicine inspired the founding of a lecture series dedicated to bringing world-renowned scientists and innovators to campus.

UVM alumni John W. Stetson '56 MD'60 and Roberta B. Stetson '57 established the Stetson Lecture through a fund supported by a \$100,000 estate gift. A Rutland resident and UVM Wilbur Fund scholarship recipient, Stetson had a 39-year career as an orthopaedic surgeon. Two personal experiences drove home for him the value of technological innovation in medicine: The first was his own double-knee replacement in 2015 and the second, which occurred during his post-surgical rehabilitation, was learning about how an innovative and minimally-invasive procedure called TAVR (Trans Aortic Valve Replacement) had completely changed the life of an elderly woman who had formerly struggled to breathe.

The generosity of the Stetsons has so far led to two widely acclaimed innovators hosting lectures at the College. In September of 2017, MIT Professor and influential scientist and inventor Robert Langer, DSc, visited campus. The College hosted Boston Scientific Corporation co-founder and medical device pioneer John Abele for the inaugural Stetson Lecture in 2016. •





*From Left to Right: Paula Deming, PhD; Kayla O'Toole '17; and College of Nursing and Health Sciences Dean Patricia Prelock, PhD, CCC-SLP*

“It’s very meaningful to me to see my education and training benefitting patients.”

Kayla O'Toole was working in a Medical Laboratory and Radiation Sciences lab at the UVM College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS) when she and her colleagues made a notable discovery.

It involved PKA, an important enzyme that is mutated in many types of cancer. O'Toole, an undergraduate in CNHS, and her lab partners, identified a novel protein that binds to PKA and they believe regulates it — a finding that could lead to

breakthroughs in the understanding of tumor development.

In the summer of 2016, after her junior year, O'Toole hoped to immerse herself full-time in research, but she needed a paying job in order to afford her high Burlington rent.

She applied but didn't get chosen for a grant from UVM, then she heard about funding through charitable donations to Medical Laboratory and Radiation Sciences programs.

O'Toole was awarded that funding, allowing her to work in Paula Deming's lab, where she ultimately completed her undergraduate honors thesis. Deming, PhD, MT, endowed professor of Health Sciences and chair of the Medical Laboratory and Radiation Sciences Department, focuses her work on cell signaling and became a trusted mentor for O'Toole.

“It totally changed my life,” O'Toole says.

Philanthropic support ultimately led O'Toole and her lab to discover not only the novel binding partner of PKA but also O'Toole's true passion for research.

She started at UVM thinking she might go to medical school. That same summer after her junior year, O'Toole squeezed in an internship at the Vermont Medical Examiner's office, which helped her recognize her true interests.

“I realized I would rather learn about a cell-signaling cascade than how the blood flows through the heart,” she says.

In April, O'Toole presented her findings at the Experimental Biology conference in Chicago. She hopes to publish the research after Deming's lab has collected a little more data, she says.

Since graduation, O'Toole has been working in the UVM Medical Center's chemistry lab, where she's analyzing blood and urine tests for patients.

“It's very meaningful to me to see my education and training benefitting patients. Since day one of my studies, the collaboration between UVM and the medical center has enhanced both my learning and my belief that I can have a real impact on human health.”

O'Toole plans to pursue doctoral programs and eventually teach. •



## Endowment Reflects Donor's Insight

For some patients undergoing treatment at The University of Vermont Hematology and Oncology Clinic, the fight against the illness is but one of many concerns.

Simply getting to the hospital for care can be difficult, especially for those lacking transportation or the money to put gasoline in their cars. Obstacles such as these can pose a significant threat to patients' success with treatment.

Direct patient support is one of several areas where the Buffum Endowment has provided meaningful help. Victoria Buffum, a former hematology-oncology patient at Fletcher Allen Health Care, now UVM Medical Center, created the Endowment to address the needs of hematology-oncology patients and to help them navigate the care system.

The Endowment was created when Buffum passed away in 2002. Each year, earnings from the Endowment support grants reviewed by a unique committee of providers, staff and community members who have a special understanding of patients' needs.

"The Endowment pays for programs that make the

patients' experience better," explains Marie Wood, MD, UVM professor of medicine, director of the Familial Cancer Program at the UVM Cancer Center and chair of the Buffum Review Committee.

The range of programs funded includes education for patients with specific cancers; harp players in the clinic and hospital; and massage therapy, yoga, and mindfulness practice to help reduce patients' stress. The Endowment has also helped establish and continues to fund a support group for young adult cancer survivors, who struggle with issues involving body image, self-esteem and sexuality — in addition to their disease. "A young adult with cancer doesn't have a peer group, because they're not supposed to have cancer," Wood says.

Direct financial support is also offered through an emergency fund for patients identified by social workers as needing help with bills, child care or other essentials.

Such assistance is in high demand. "The amount of time we're funding fuel or other necessities is astounding," Wood says. "Vicki had a deep understanding of what a patient needs and a vision for how to help. It is truly heartwarming to see our patients benefitting from her generosity year after year after year." •

*Buffum Review Committee members Tom Gauntlett (Victoria Buffum's brother), wife Melissa Gauntlett (left) and Committee Chair Marie Wood, MD (right)*



"Vicki had a deep understanding of what a patient needs and a vision for how to help." — Marie Wood, MD

# 1,339 DONORS

HAVE GIVEN IN SUPPORT OF CANCER-RELATED CAUSES OVER THE PAST YEAR

*Gary Stein, PhD, invested as the Inaugural Perelman Professor in Cancer Research*



## Long-Term Leadership in Research

The October 2017 investiture ceremony for the inaugural Arthur Jason Perelman, MD'52 Professor in Cancer Research celebrated the accomplishments of Gary Stein, PhD, and honored the Perelman family for their steadfast support of cancer research at the Larner College of Medicine.

The endowed professorship was created in 2014 by Arthur Perelman, who received his medical degree from UVM in 1952. It was fully funded through Dr. Perelman's estate when he died in 2015. Dr. Perelman had previously established a separate fund in memory of his beloved wife — the Charlotte E. Perelman Cancer Research Fund — affectionately known as the "Charlotte Fund." Together, these two distinguished endowed funds will support crucial work in cancer research for generations to come. The Perelmans' children have carried on their family's legacy by also contributing to both funds.

Stein is director of the UVM Cancer Center and professor and chair of biochemistry and professor of surgery. He also co-directs a lab that has pioneered unique mechanisms that control stem cell proliferation. •

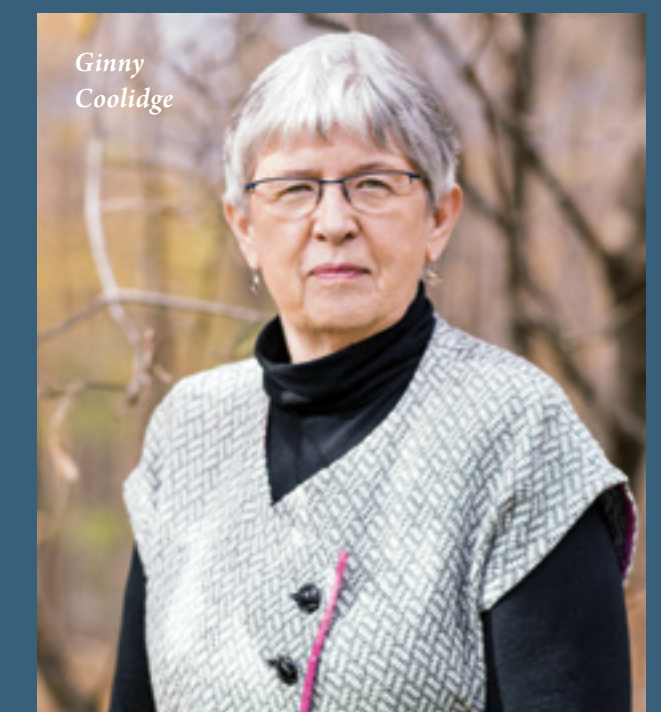
## A Bequest to Meet Future Needs

Virginia "Ginny" Coolidge'60 is on a mission to ease the burden of those suffering from cancer.

"I want to see cancer be a thing of the past," she says. "Until it is, I want to do all I can to help cancer patients and their families get the best care possible."

A resident of Shelburne, VT, and a 1960 graduate of the University of Vermont, she serves as a key member of the community advisory board for the UVM Cancer Center. The 15 members of this group act as ambassadors and advocates for cancer survivors, and provide important leadership for fundraising and awareness campaigns.

Coolidge also supports the vital work of the cancer center philanthropically. In 2014, she named the UVM Medical Center the beneficiary of a charitable remainder trust, providing important assistance to the cancer center as it continues to break new ground in research and provide excellent patient care to patients across Vermont and northern New York. Membership in the Mary Fletcher Society pays tribute to the donors, like Coolidge, who have made provisions in their will or other planned gifts. •







Jacquelyn Grev, MD (left), and Marilyn Benis, NNP

### Neonatal Fellow Leads Unique Study

When it comes to caring for the tiniest of new babies, every millimeter counts. This is especially true for a tool called the umbilical venous catheter (UVC), which NICU teams use to deliver medication or IV fluid to critically ill newborns. Since the umbilical cord has no pain receptors, it is a key alternative to placing a central line in a baby's small veins. But keeping the UVC in the optimal location could be challenging when the baby moves or there are position shifts for certain procedures, like X-rays or diaper changes.

Neonatology fellow Jacquelyn Grev, MD, is using ultrasound technology to study how the tip of the UVC shifts when the baby moves, with a goal to provide recommendations for physicians on position modifications and best practices, and images for future training. Her research, funded by a grant from Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, will allow her to enroll 30 patients in a study, and work with a radiologist and ultrasonographer at the UVM Children's Hospital to document how the UVC is affected by the babies' movements or by being placed in different positions. Not only does the fellowship

research stand to contribute to ongoing patient safety and quality improvement initiatives at the hospital, it is a unique use of point of care ultrasound in the NICU as a tool to monitor patients. As the technology has advanced, medical centers are turning to it to provide high quality images with fewer side effects than X-rays.

Grev, who received her undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Minnesota, completed pediatrics residency at the Mayo Clinic before joining UVM's Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Program in 2015. A career in neonatology seemed like a good fit ever since she went on her first rotation in the NICU as a third-year medical student. "You get to be a part of this special and critical time in these babies' and families' lives" she says. "You are supporting them and helping them to improve."

Through her project, she has the opportunity to contribute new knowledge to the field, and lay the groundwork for future interdisciplinary initiatives.

"This research has helped to guide my career towards wanting to become a leader in neonatal point of care ultrasound," she says. "I'll be able to collaborate with others interested in this technology and bring the field forward in terms of how best to teach and use it in the NICU." •

### Small but Mighty: A NICU Baby Gets the Time He Needs

*Henry Allen Vincent entered the world at only 2 lbs. 4.7 oz. From Henry's mother, Kristen Vincent, hear the story that inspired the Vincent family's gift to the NICU.*

I was pregnant with my second child when I found out, at 20 weeks, that I was at risk for preterm labor. Bed rest at home quickly turned into an extended stay at the hospital. Then an infection necessitated an emergency C-section at only 27 weeks 6 days.

Henry was born 2 lbs 4.7 oz. When I met him for the first time and held his tiny little hand through the isolette window, my heart hurt, but I knew he was ready for the fight ahead. Those ten days I spent in the Mother-Baby Unit had let him grow a little stronger and I was thankful for that time.

The NICU can be a scary place — with all the beeping, the alarms when heart rates drop, respirators, conversations during rounds, and non-stop movement as the NICU team cares for all the babies. Nurse Karen was assigned to Henry and I immediately liked her. She took the most amazing care of our boy and kept a close watch on him. The entire team was wonderful.

Henry was in the NICU for ten weeks. He needed time to grow, to develop, to moderate his temperature, and to learn how to eat and breathe on his own. I spent countless hours at the hospital watching him.

We just celebrated Henry's first birthday, an incredible milestone for him and our family. Our little man continues to amaze us and we are truly lucky to have him.

My husband, Jared, and I wanted to find another way to say thank you to the NICU team, so we made a charitable gift. We will always have a special place in our hearts for preemies! •

“Our little man continues to amaze us and we are truly lucky to have him.”  
— Kristen Vincent



Henry Vincent



## First and Foremost

In May of 2017, Lewis First, MD, received the highest faculty honor bestowed by the University of Vermont Alumni Association: The George V. Kidder Outstanding Faculty Award.

Every year, one full-time faculty member receives the award for “excellence in teaching and extraordinary contributions to the enrichment of campus life.” First, who for 25 years has served as chief of the UVM Children’s Hospital and professor and chair of UVM’s Department of Pediatrics, is known for his wit and boundless energy and the meaningful connections he makes with medical students, pediatric residents, and the countless children and families for whom he has cared. Hear how Dr. First is described by a colleague and a former student:

*“You just won’t find a more productive, more engaged educator, clinician, leader in pediatrics in the country. Lewis is part of the fact that, relative to the size of the place, Vermont is overrepresented in leadership and recognition around the country in pediatrics by 100 to 1.”*

— Rick Morin, MD, Dean,  
UVM Larner College of Medicine



Lewis First, MD,  
receiving The George V.  
Kidder Outstanding Faculty  
Award in May 2017.

*“Dr. First was always making sure we were taking time out of our day to care for ourselves so that we could learn to be the best doctors for our patients. He taught me how to stay human throughout the process of becoming a surgeon, which has been one of the most important lessons from medical school.”*

— Molly Hubbard, MD’12, Neurosurgery Resident,  
University of Minnesota

“I never considered myself a philanthropist. Then my grandson, Grayson, was born prematurely and his life was in the hands of the NICU team. I was blown away by the care he received.



Dana Kittel (left),  
with his wife, Judy,  
and their grandson,  
Grayson

The NICU team put everything they have into their work. They’re driven by life and death and true compassion. I now donate to the NICU and I can’t imagine giving to anything more important.”

— Dana Kittel



Matt Grev, Information  
Systems technician (left)  
and Lewis First, MD

## Children’s Miracle Network (CMN) Hospitals

CMN Hospitals, a non-profit organization that raises funds and awareness for 170 pediatric hospitals nationwide, helps to ensure that kids faced with pediatric illness or injury have the best care possible. The UVM Children’s Hospital, the local CMN Hospital, serves all of Vermont and northern New York. As the sole full-service children’s hospital in the region, the community has rallied behind the cause in a multitude of ways. One hundred percent of the funds raised stay local, making a real difference in the lives of our community’s children and families.

## Corporate Partner Campaigns

CMN Hospitals corporate partner campaigns foster community ties and raise funds and awareness for the UVM Children’s Hospital.

**\$475,000+ raised**

## Extra Life

Extra Life mobilizes passionate gamers of all types to help CMN Hospitals treat sick and injured kids in their communities. Extra Lifers raise money year-round, culminating in a 24-hour fundraising and gaming marathon that unites thousands of players around the world. Local Extra Life events raised over \$76,000 to support the UVM Children’s Hospital’s care of our region’s youth.

**276 participants • \$76,000+ raised**

## Miracle Network Dance Marathon

The end goal: To raise money for the UVM Children’s Hospital. The task at hand: Dance your heart out. That’s the simple idea behind Miracle Network Dance Marathon, a national campaign from CMN Hospitals. In Vermont, St. Michael’s College, Middlebury College, and The University of Vermont hosted events that attracted hundreds of participants and raised over \$104,000.

**890 Dancers • \$104,000+ raised**

## Big Change Roundup For Kids

Now a beloved annual event, the Big Change Roundup for Kids is a rollicking whirlwind of a fundraiser, featuring “posses” of self-proclaimed “bandits” at schools and businesses across the region donning their “bandit” bandanas for the UVM Children’s Hospital. The Roundup kicks off with a party featuring guest speakers, games, snacks, and more, and concludes with a finale tour that includes an RV rolling up to events across Vermont and northern New York, with DJs from local radio station 98.9 WOKO in tow. This year, Big Change Roundup set a record netting over \$368,000.

**\$368,000+ raised**



## Academic Health Sciences Development and Alumni Relations Team

The Academic Health Sciences Development and Alumni Relations team secures and manages private philanthropic support for the UVM Medical Center (including the UVM Children's Hospital and the UVM Cancer Center), the UVM College of Nursing and Health Sciences and the UVM Larner College of Medicine. This collaborative work involves close partnerships with leadership, clinicians, and faculty, and a vast, dedicated community of donors. Members of the Alumni Relations team serve as a resource for alumni and friends, and help graduates, students, residents and fellows stay connected to the medical center, UVM and to each other.

Kevin McAteer, *Chief Development Officer*  
Frank Ittleman, MD, *Faculty Associate*  
Meredyth Armitage, *Senior Director of Major Gifts*  
Carol Boardman, *Director of Major Gifts, UVM Cancer Center*  
Karen Bowser, *Staff Assistant*  
Drew Brooks, *Executive Assistant*  
Hannah Burnett, *Assistant Director of Annual Giving*  
Erica Corliss, *Assistant Director of Administration and Stewardship*  
Michael Costello, *Supervisor of Operations*  
Deb Dever, *Senior Director of Major Gifts, College of Nursing and Health Sciences*  
Hunter DiGangi, *Major Gift Programs Coordinator*  
Yael Friedman, *Major Gift Officer*  
Cristin Gildea, *Director of Alumni Relations*  
Ruth Henry, *Director of Major Gifts*  
Ginger Lubkowitz, *Senior Director of Administration*  
Shelby McGarry, *Events Specialist*  
Stacey Pape, *Research and Development Strategist*  
Susie Posner-Jones, *Director of Development, Population Health Initiatives*  
Allison Searson, *Director of Annual Giving*  
Penny Severance, *Development Coordinator*  
Annie Seyler, *Donor Relations and Communications Strategist*  
Emily Stoehr, *Major Gifts Coordinator*  
Dan Suder, *Alumni Relations and Annual Giving Coordinator*  
Lisa Townson, *Associate Director for Foundation Relations, UVM Foundation*  
Sharon Whitaker, *Lead Development Coordinator*  
Alexa Woodward, *Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, UVM Foundation*  
Jackie Woodwell, *Events Supervisor*  
Ben Yousey-Hindes, *Major Gift Officer*



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1. as of March 2018  
2. completed term December 2017

“The Miller Building represents a new era for the hospital and for our greater community. I can think of no better gift to the people of our region than a healthcare facility that matches the world-class care UVM Medical Center already delivers.”

— Brian Boardman, chair,  
UVM Medical Center Foundation Board



### UVM Medical Center Mission

Our mission is to improve the health of the people in the communities we serve by integrating patient care, education, and research in a caring environment.



*Pamela Puthoor, MD*

### UVM Medical Center Statement of Values

- We respect the dignity of all individuals and are responsive to their physical, emotional, spiritual and social needs and cultural diversity.
- We are just and prudent stewards of limited natural and financial resources.
- We foster a climate which encourages both those receiving and providing care to make responsible choices.
- We strive for excellence in quality and care and seek to continuously learn and improve.
- We acknowledge a partnership with the community to ensure the best possible care at the right time, in the right place and by the right provider.
- We are caring and compassionate to each other and to those we serve.
- We communicate openly and honestly with the community we serve.



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THE  
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MEDICAL CENTER

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