



Quinn Wardell

## Miracles of the Heart

On April 28, Quinn Wardwell, a healthy 16 year-old, suffered a major cardiac event while playing basketball in his driveway. Although something in Quinn's body went terribly wrong, he was surrounded by people who did everything right: CPR from his father, Duncan; a call to 9-1-1 by his brother, Alex; Richmond Rescue's skilled transport; and the UVM Children's Hospital's expert care.

Two days later, Quinn remained intubated and sedated but showed signs of healing. In brief moments of consciousness, he was able to respond to requests from nurses and doctors to wiggle his toes and squeeze hands. Quinn's liver and kidney functions stabilized but a fever and a lung infection took hold so the extent of damage to Quinn's heart could not yet be assessed.

It was an extremely difficult time for the Wardwell family. But they were not alone.

"We were blown away, and so incredibly thankful, for the outpouring of support and love our family and communities showered us with. The prayers and positive thoughts on our behalf were humbling. It gave us a miracle," says Quinn's mother, Amy.

Amazingly, testing revealed no structural damage or defect in Quinn's heart. After two minor procedures, Quinn went home - on the day of his 17th birthday. The Wardwells have deep ties to Mount Mansfield Union High School, Champlain Valley Union High School, and Milton Middle School and recognize the connection between the Children's Hospital and the well-being of all the young people in their lives.

"The Children's Hospital literally brought Quinn back to life. Our family owes them a debt we can never repay," says Amy. On April 28, Quinn Wardwell, a healthy 16 year-old, suffered a major cardiac event while playing basketball in his driveway. Although something in Quinn's body went terribly wrong, he was surrounded by people who did everything right: CPR from his father, Duncan; a call to 9-1-1 by his brother, Alex; Richmond Rescue's skilled transport; and the UVM Children's Hospital's expert care.

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Collins Oguejiofor '22

### Honoring Collins Oguejiofor '22

When Collins Oguejiofor '22 died unexpectedly in Norwalk, Conn., in June of 2020, where he was about to begin his clinical clerkship at the Connecticut branch campus, the UVM Larner College of Medicine community experienced a deep loss. Collins' teachers and fellow medical students know what a great physician he would have been.

To honor Collins' memory in a meaningful way, the Oguejiofor family worked with Academic Health Sciences Development and Alumni Relations to establish a diversity scholarship fund in his honor, with an initial goal of raising \$50,000 to endow the fund. By early September, family, students, faculty, staff and friends of the College had made gifts and commitments that, combined with matching funds from the Medical Alumni Association's Challenge Program, met the initial goal.

Collins' family deeply appreciates that Collins is remembered in the Larner College of Medicine community for his kind, warm nature. They established the Collins Oguejiofor Diversity Scholarship in the hopes that students with similar backgrounds can benefit from a medical education at UVM.

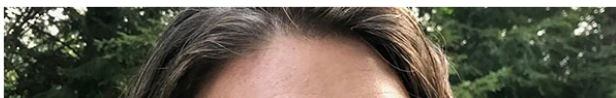
"Students like Collins—gifted, engaged and compassionate—enrich medical education and medicine from the moment they step on campus," says Christa Zehle, MD, Larner College of Medicine senior associate dean for medical education and UVM Medical Center pediatrician.

Help clear a path to medical education and support a future physician. Consider a gift to the [Collins Oguejiofor Diversity Scholarship](#).



### A Better World through Planned Giving

A message of thanks and appreciation to UVM Cancer Center donors for their continuing generosity and support. [Watch Video](#)





Bradley Fletcher, JD

## A Better World through Planned Giving

If you can get Bradley Fletcher, JD, talking about Kentucky you'll hear their home state accent; otherwise, you might think the Green Mountains are their lifelong home.

The new UVM Health Network Senior Planned Giving Officer is building a program to connect community members today with philanthropic opportunities that will impact lives tomorrow—not just in Chittenden County, but across the Network's six-hospital and home health & hospice system.

Born and raised in Louisville, KY, Bradley, a first generation college student, attended Berea College, the first interracial co-educational college in the South. After graduating, Bradley went on to law school in Lexington, then returned to Berea and practiced "a little bit of everything in law as far as Kentucky goes." From an estate practice to county prosecutor, public defender to corporate law, Bradley spent nearly every day in the courtroom.

"Part of why law practice was tough for me was that I was working so hard and seeing all these problems in society and feeling like I wasn't able to fix anything," Bradley says.

Bradley left law practice to join the planned giving team at Berea, and later at Ohio State University.

"Planned giving donors are lifelong partners in an organization's mission. And with a range of gift options, donors can make a significant impact without a huge investment," Bradley explains.

Bradley, partner Carrie—an elementary school teacher at Johnson's Laraway School—and their two children live in Cambridge, VT.

When asked about missing the courtroom, Bradley says, "I get to be part of making cutting-edge health care available for generations to come. It's a better fit for me."

Learn more about supporting the health of our community through a planned gift, explore our [online tools](#) or contact [Bradley Fletcher](#) to begin a conversation.



## Driving Employee-Led Innovation in the Age of COVID

Thanks to community-wide philanthropic support, a small cohort of UVM Medical Center employees will soon tackle COVID-19 in new ways. Through the 2020 UVM Medical Center Fund Grant Program, supported entirely by charitable gifts, employees will receive funding to get promising projects off the ground, or join larger studies, in order to advance our understanding of COVID-19 or address its impact.

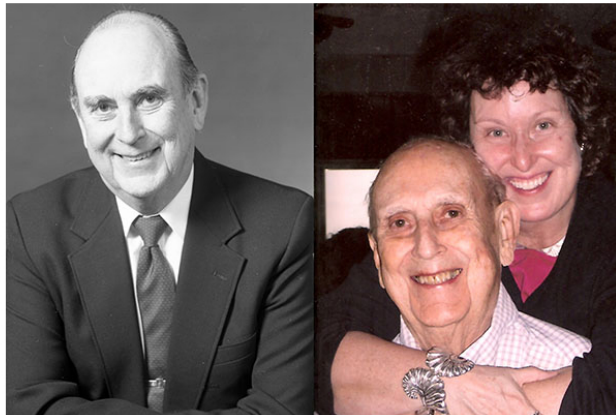
This article is part of a series of articles about the impact of philanthropy on the UVM Medical Center.

This year's grants seek to answer a variety of questions, such as: how can we better address food insecurity during a pandemic? What are the long-term impacts of the virus on lung function? In what ways does obesity increase one's susceptibility? How can volunteers in patient service roles be better utilized? Patients hospitalized for COVID-19 have an abnormally increased tendency toward blood clotting – can therapeutic anticoagulation reduce the need for critical care support?

Each project is measurable and aligns with the Medical Center's clinical, research and educational missions, including employee well-being. Findings will impact a large number of patients and families or the community as a whole. Grantees will have 18 months to spend their funds and are required to submit progress reports every six months.

Since inception, the Grant Program has supported employee-led projects that address a high area of need. This year, directing the innovative power of our employees toward COVID-19 aligned perfectly with the spirit of the Program and the intentions of the Fund. Read about several [past grantees](#) or contact [Allison Searson](#), Executive Director of Annual Giving, to learn more about the Grant Program.

**Thank you to our many loyal UVM Medical Center donors whose generosity makes programs like these possible.**



*Dr. Albert Smith and daughter Dr. Margaret Rosenfeld '74*

### **Gift Honors Family Legacy, Strengthens Collaborative Research**

Dr. Margaret "Peggy" Rosenfeld '74 characterizes her father, Dr. Albert Smith, as an important and visionary leader, a beloved professor and advisor, and a tireless champion of quality teaching for UVM students. Dr. Rosenfeld and her husband saw, through philanthropy, an opportunity to honor her family's legacy at UVM as well as create collaborative research and teaching opportunities in their respective fields of study.

"The two professorships will be inclusive of my father's career, my career in nutrition and dietetics, and my sister's nursing career," says Dr. Rosenfeld.

Their gift will establish two Dr. Albert and Patricia Smith – Dr. Margaret and Harvey Rosenfeld Professorships, one for nutrition research in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS), and another for integrative health and culinary medicine in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS). The professorships are intended to be a collaborative, complementary endeavor across both colleges.

"The Rosenfelds recognize the value of interdisciplinary approaches to care and creating healthy societies," says UVM Provost Patty Prelock. "The integration of nutrition, dietetics and integrative health is a natural collaboration as we look to more 'whole health' approaches to ensuring the well-being of both healthy and compromised patients."

[Read the full story.](#)

### **Read About Some of the Many Ways Your Generosity is Changing Lives**





[2020 Impact Report](#)



[2019 Philanthropy Highlights](#)

## Resources and Opportunities You May Have Missed

**Registration now open:** The UVM Health Network's FREE HealthSource classes have gone virtual! Learn about a variety of topics from the comfort of your own home. [Click here](#) for a list of classes and to register.



Kevin McAteer  
Chief Development Officer  
Academic Health Sciences  
The University of Vermont Medical Center Foundation  
The University of Vermont Foundation  
111 Colchester Ave  
Burlington, VT 05401  
(802) 656-4469

[Kevin.McAteer@uvmhealth.org](mailto:Kevin.McAteer@uvmhealth.org)

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