

FoundationFocus

The official publication of the TGH Foundation

Winter 2013

39th Foundation Annual Dinner

A group of over 280 donors, physicians, elected officials, community leaders, and employees attended the 39th Tampa General Hospital Foundation Annual Dinner at Palma Ceia Golf & Country Club on October 3. The event was sponsored by **The Bank of Tampa**.

Outgoing Foundation Board Chairman Rick Kouwe provided a recap of the Foundation's major accomplishments during the past year and highlighted goals for next year.

Six Tampa General employees were recognized as recipients of the Tampa General Hospital Foundation's annual Innovative Nursing Scholarships. Since inception, the Foundation has funded over \$850,000 in scholarships. The scholarship winners were: Brittany Ellis, Rehabilitation; Shawntisa Harrison, Orthopedics; Mercedes Pastuizaca, Dietetic Services; Sydney Sanders, Cardiac Telemetry Unit; Wilson Villamizar, Trauma Surgery; and Alan Williams, Burn Unit.

Robin DeLaVergne, Senior Vice President and the Foundation's executive director, presented the James M. "Red" McEwen Award to longtime major Foundation supporters Gene and Patsy McNichols. The award is named in honor of "Red" McEwen, one of the Foundation's founders.

Gene is the vice chairman of the hospital's governing board and a past Foundation trustee. Patsy is a founding member of the Foundation's Women's Leadership Council. They've contributed major gifts to the campaigns for the Bayshore Pavilion and the Jennifer Leigh Muma Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and are major supporters of the Night at the Circus, gala and annual golf tournament. The couple also donated the original photography that lines the walls on the Adult Stepdown and Transplant Units.

President and CEO Jim Burkhart highlighted the new affiliation agreement with USF Health and the recent partnership to develop new services with Florida Hospital's Tampa Bay Network.

"You will be amazed what we will look like five years from now," Jim said. The hospital needs to be an integrated network, with the goal of taking care of patients in the least costly setting possible, he said.



The Bank of Tampa



Florida Health Sciences Center Board Chair David Straz with Gene McNichols, recipient of the James "Red" McEwen award.



Simon Wheeldon, Emcee Stacie Schaible and Mayor Bob Buckhorn



A special thank you to The Bank of Tampa for sponsoring the Annual Dinner

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From the Chair



The Tampa General Hospital Foundation is off to an exciting start. Our fall events, thanks to our generous sponsors, were highly successful. Volunteers and staff continue to ensure these events are of the highest quality while continuing to raise significant funds for TGH.

Our annual dinner meeting was held October 3, at Palma Ceia Golf & Country Club. The event was attended by more than 280 Foundation supporters and guests. This was the third year in a row the dinner sold out. It was great to have so many of our physicians and USF partners in attendance. Their commitment and support of the Foundation continues to grow. Of course, without their professional and dedicated service, TGH would not be the number ONE hospital in Tampa Bay. I'd like to extend special congratulations to Gene and Patsy McNichols, recipients of the 2013 James M. "Red" McEwen Award.

Skanska sponsored the 6th Annual Fishing Tournament, which raised \$40,000 for the cardiac and transplant programs. And the Tower Foundation chose the Foundation's Transplant Campaign to be the beneficiary of their Annual Bowling Tournament. A big thank you goes to these organizations that put on these special events to raise money for Tampa General.

This time last year, the Foundation announced that the board of trustees voted to undertake two mini campaigns. The campaigns

focus on raising money for two specific initiatives, the transplant and palliative care programs. It is with great pleasure that I announce that both of these campaigns have raised over 75 percent of their goals.

We are strongly committed to making these campaigns successful. If you are interested in contributing to one of these campaigns, please use the return envelope included in this newsletter.

We are fortunate to have so many special contributors, one of whom recently passed away. Dottie Berger MacKinnon was known as an advocate for abused and neglected children. However, her reach into the Tampa Bay community went much further than that. She truly was a champion for anyone in need of help. In 2009, the TGH Foundation recognized Dottie for this, along with her support of Tampa General, by presenting her with the 2009 James M. "Red" McEwen Award. Dottie will be missed by us all, and just as she was a catalyst to get so many things done in our community, her memory will spur us on in the future.

Hopefully, you have received your invitation to our Annual Night at the Circus on January 3, 2014, benefiting the TGH Children's Medical Center. This is a wonderful, fun-filled family event.

Pam Muma
Chair, Tampa General Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees

TGH Opens Two New Family Care Centers



Karl Metzger, M.D.

Expansion of the hospital's primary care services continues throughout Hillsborough County with the opening of its two newest locations – the Tampa General Medical Group (TGMG) Family Care Center Sun City Center and Tampa General Medical Group (TGMG) Family Care Center Westchase. Establishing primary care facilities throughout Hillsborough County is central to TGH's long-range strategic plan. Since 2012, the hospital has opened eight new TGMG Family Care Centers in the county, and more are planned.



Jeffrey Lester, M.D.

The Sun City Center office, at 1647 Sun City Center Plaza, was the hospital's seventh location. The Tampa General Hospital Foundation donated \$400,000 toward the building renovations and start-up expenses.

Internal medicine physician Jeffrey Lester, M.D., provides medical care to patients who are 18 years old or older. Services include chronic disease management, wellness exams, physicals, adult immunizations, and routine and acute illness exams.

Dr. Lester graduated from Ross University School of Medicine and completed his residency in internal medicine at the University of Oklahoma-Tulsa. He is board-certified in internal medicine and fluent in English and Spanish.

The center is open weekdays, from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Same-day appointments

are available. Call 844-4700 to make an appointment.

The Westchase Center—located at 10718 Countryway Blvd.—is also open weekdays, from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 844-4800 to make an appointment. Same-day appointments are available.

At the Westchase location, Karl Metzger, M.D., provides primary care and chronic disease management for all age groups. Services include routine and acute illness exams, well-woman and well-child checkups, and school and sports physicals.

Dr. Metzger is board-certified in family medicine. He graduated from the University of Kansas School of Medicine and completed his family practice residency at Morton Plant Mease Health Care and the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine.

The next center is slated to open in Tampa Palms in early January. The hospital also operates family care centers in Brandon, Riverview, Carrollwood, and at three Tampa locations. Visit www.tgm.org for more information.

TGH Partners with Florida Hospital's Tampa Bay Network

Tampa General announced in late September that it is partnering with Florida Hospital's Tampa Bay Network to jointly develop new clinical services and programs.

"We wanted a clinical partner that shared a common mission and philosophy, and Florida Hospital is the perfect fit for us," said President and CEO Jim Burkhart. "Working together allows us to provide a wide range of services without duplicating efforts, which will help hold down the cost of medical care in the Greater Tampa Bay Area."

Officials of both hospitals stressed the agreement does not constitute a merger of existing operations or the sale of either one.

A new operating board comprised of officials from both organizations will be created to determine the potential new services and how best to deliver that care to the community.

The new partnership will give Tampa residents greater access to a spectrum of community-based healthcare services and broaden the geographic reach of TGH and Florida Hospital.

"Tampa General Hospital is an outstanding hospital that has been providing care for decades," said Mike Schultz, President and CEO of Florida Hospital's Tampa Bay



Jim Burkhart, President and CEO, and Mike Schultz, President and CEO, Florida Hospital's Tampa Bay Network, at the partnership announcement. Also pictured: John Harding, left, President and CEO, Florida Hospital Tampa; and Brian Adams, President and CEO, Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel.

Network. "It is an honor to partner with them to develop programs that will allow Tampa residents to live healthier lives at a lower cost."

While specific plans will need to be determined by the newly formed partnership, Jim mentioned the two may consider jointly owning ambulatory centers or building a new rehabilitation center on the Kennedy Boulevard site TGH purchased for a new

rehab facility. Other joint services might include home healthcare services, wellness programs, post-acute care facilities, insurance products and an expanded network of primary care services.

"We are very excited by the services that could emerge from this new partnership," said Jim. "We believe we have a model that can be successful in this marketplace."

A Visit with Winter



Pediatric patients enjoying the show at the aquarium.

Young rehabilitation patients who haven't had an easy time this summer got a big boost from local movie star, Winter the dolphin. The clouds and wind couldn't wipe the smiles from these children's faces as they got up close to a living legend at Clearwater Marine Aquarium. The kids receive therapy for a wide range of issues at Tampa General Hospital. Their field trip to see Winter brightened their day and offered many physical benefits. "We brought the kids here today for a support group and therapeutic outing. We wanted them to see Winter because she has a prosthetic tail and many of them have to wear ankle or foot orthotics," said Bonnie Rice, ANRP, Tampa General Hospital.

Bonnie says many of the children were so excited for the trip, they pretended to be dolphins on their therapy equipment during rehab sessions. "We encourage them to walk with their assistive devices, perform gross and fine motor skills with their arms, and use language skills to express themselves while enjoying the dolphins," said Rice.

39th Foundation Annual Dinner (continued from cover)

Ambassador David A. Straz, Jr., Chairman of the governing board, also spoke about the hospital's future. "We've been described as the last remaining stand-alone hospital, but I find that misleading," he said. "For more than 40 years, we've prospered from our solid partnership with USF. The academic medical staff has continued to work collaboratively with community doctors, even as the hospital and medical school experienced some growing pains that success can bring."

The new affiliation agreement automatically renews every year and "is significant not only because of our long-standing history, but for the potential it holds for the future," he said.

The building of the Jennifer Leigh Muma Neonatal ICU, with the Foundation playing a key role, "demonstrates what we can do together ...," he said.

Guest speaker Christopher Neal shared his experiences after receiving a heart transplant at TGH two years ago. Christopher was a mountain climber and sailing enthusiast, but that ended while he waited for a donor heart. Since his transplant, he has scaled mountains in Argentina and has climbed to the top of Mount Rainier in Washington. And, he has returned to sailing.

"I'm energized and empowered now," he said, as he thanked the hospital and physicians for giving him a second chance at life.



Foundation Executive Director, Robin DeLaVergne, with TGH Foundation Transplant Mini-Campaign Chair Drew Graham and his wife Betsy.



Jim Murman, County Commissioner Sandra Murman and Judy Genshaft, President of USF



Former Foundation Board Chairman Rick Kouwe and past Foundation board member, Mclver Grim



TGH CEO Jim Burkhart, TGH Chief of Staff Dr. Bruce Zwiebel, and TGH Foundation board members Carin Zwiebel and Catherine Straz



Speaker Christopher Neal shares his story as cardiac transplant patient.



Suzanne Taggart, FHSC board member Joe Taggart, and former Foundation Chair Stella Thayer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Circus is Coming!

Thursday, January 2, 2014

SAVE THE DATE! The Tampa General Hospital Foundation will present the 23rd Annual Night at the Circus on Thursday, January 2, 2014, at the Tampa Bay Times Forum. This year's event will be chaired by Alexis Ciesla and Jennifer Stauffer. We are very excited that **The Bailey Family Foundation** has agreed to be our Big Top Sponsor again. We are also honored that **SunTrust** will return as our Three Ring Sponsor and that the **Lightning Foundation** will return as our Patrons' Party Sponsor. This event is a great way for families to spend priceless time together and experience the thrills of the *Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey® Circus – The Greatest Show on Earth®*. Proceeds will benefit Tampa General Hospital's Children's Medical Center.

17th Annual Gala

Saturday, April 5, 2014

SAVE THE DATE! The TGH Foundation's 17th Annual Gala will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2014, at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay. This year's event will be co-chaired by Catherine Christie-Zanghi, Heidrun Divers and Gretchen Dominguez. The presenting sponsor is **Skanska USA Building, Inc.** and the media sponsor is **Tampa Bay Times**. The Gala benefits Tampa General Hospital's Fund for the Future, helping TGH achieve its vision of being the leading medical center in West Central Florida. Contributions ensure that our dedicated physicians and patient care staff have all the necessary tools to provide excellent medical care and to advance teaching, research and service in our community. It will surely be an event to remember.

CALL (813) 844-7262 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

6th Annual Skanska Fishing Tournament

On Friday, August 9, 2013, **Skanska** sponsored the 6th Annual Skanska Fishing Tournament. The \$40,000 in net proceeds will benefit the cardiac and transplant programs at TGH.

The winners were:

Largest Snook, at 34.5 inches: Brophy Contracting with Captain Greg McCullough, Christine Wright, Ali Hulmes, Katrina Pasteur, and Loren Frissell.

Largest Redfish, at 32 inches: McCann and Baird Flooring with Captain Brett Norris, Bill Newby, Dave Jansen, and Ron Pinero.

Largest Trout, at 24 inches: Howards Electric with Captain Kevin Little, Rob Bentz, Leonard Topping, and Ken Fred.

Grand Slam, at 82.5 inches: Phoenix Architectural with Ron Barber, John Miller and Jeff Jay

Trash Can Slam, at 61.5 inches: APG Electric with Captain Michael Murray, Ron Mueller, John Lafuze, and Brian Millian.



Phil Etheridge and Richard Chazal, from Skanska, presented a check for \$40,000 from the 6th Annual Skanska Fishing Tournament to Foundation Executive Director Robin DeLaVergne and Vice Chair Doug Dieck (far right). The proceeds will benefit the cardiac and transplant programs at Tampa General.

Tournament Sponsors were:

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Tampa General, USF Health Morsani College of Medicine Approve New Affiliation

Tampa General announced in September it approved a new three-year affiliation agreement with the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine.

"Tampa General and USF are joined at the hip and have been for 40 years," said David A. Straz, Jr., chairman of TGH's Board of Directors during a news conference. "The relationship has never been better."

The agreement is evergreen and automatically renews each year.

"Today is the day we reaffirm our commitment to Tampa General Hospital, our primary hospital partner and the heart of our teaching program," wrote Harry Van Loveren, MD, interim dean of the Morsani College of Medicine. "We are confident that this framework offers us both the flexibility and the strength to carry our partnership forward."



Harry Van Loveren, MD, interim dean of the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine

15th Annual TGH Foundation Golf Tournament

The pre-tournament Pairings Dinner Party was held on Sunday, October 20, 2013, at the Tampa Yacht & Country Club. Rev. Bill Baugh, director of pastoral care at TGH, offered an entertaining invocation comparing life's experiences with the game of golf. During the evening, golfers and their guests enjoyed cocktails and dinner while Foundation Executive Director, Robin DeLaVergne, thanked this year's Pairings Dinner Party sponsor, the **LifeLink Legacy Fund**, and presented Dr. Dana Shires, co-founder and chairman of the board of LifeLink Foundation, with a special gift. Chair, Mark Nouss, also thanked our tournament sponsor, **The Yerrid Foundation**, and our Old Memorial sponsor, **Baldwin Krystyn Sherman Partners**. Following this presentation, Dr. Victor Bowers, associate medical director of LifeLink of Florida, provided an update on the LifeLink Legacy Fund. Following Dr. Bower's presentation, our friend, auctioneer extraordinaire and WFLA anchor, Stacie Schaible, led our live auction.

On Monday, October 21, 2013, golfers enjoyed a clear afternoon, hitting shots from immaculate fairways, tortuous sand traps and fast greens. Chair Mark Nouss and Vice Chair Danny Jackson led this year's committee and helped raise net proceeds of over \$260,000 to benefit the transplant program at Tampa General Hospital, one of the busiest programs in the country.

2013 GOLF COMMITTEE

Mark Nouss (Chair)
 Danny Jackson (Vice Chair)

Brian Adcock
 Chris Coram
 John Faircloth
 Stephen Fluharty
 Jim Henning

Brad Johnson, MD
 Rick Kouwe

Ryan Lee

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Lynn Fluharty
 Special Events Manager

Caitlin Weber
 Development and Special Events
 Coordinator

WINNING TEAMS

Gross

1ST PLACE TEAM

Gary Harrod
 Chad Harrod
 Greg Iglehart
 Graham Mavar

2ND PLACE TEAM

Steve Yerrid
 Marc Johnson
 Bob Joyce
 Matt Mudano

3RD PLACE TEAM

Jamie Cannon
 Ryan Lee
 Rich Pettitt
 Duffy Thaxton

Net

1ST PLACE TEAM

Mike Azzarelli
 Rex Farior
 Mark Nouss
 Jon Swensson

2ND PLACE TEAM

John Brabson
 Claude Macari
 Steve Short
 Rich Thompson

3RD PLACE TEAM

Brian Adcock
 Johnny Adcock
 Danny Jackson
 Brandon Jones

CONTEST WINNERS

LONGEST DRIVE

Graham Mavar

STRAIGHTEST DRIVE

Bharat Patel, M.D.

PUTTING CONTEST

- Ryan Lee – 1st Place
- John Brabson – 2nd Place
- Graham Mavar – 3rd Place



First Gross Winners Greg Iglehart, Gary Harrod, Graham Mavar and Chad Harrod

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Webb Mason

Wright's Gourmet House



Craig Cascio; Ken Atwater, President, Hillsborough Community College, and Jeff Cowley and Randall Reid



Dr. Dana Shires and Samantha Eide from LifeLink with Anne and Hal Mullis

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Rehab Patient Makes Remarkable Progress, One Step at a Time

Robin Fleischaker will always remember May 21, 2010. It's the day her life—and the life of her daughter, Abigail—changed forever.

Abigail, then 18 years old, was walking home after an early-morning breakfast. As she crossed Fowler Avenue, a car traveling 45 miles per hour hit her.

She was rushed to Tampa General Hospital's Emergency & Trauma Center with multiple injuries, including a traumatic brain injury, a broken back and neck, broken ribs, a cracked pelvis, a broken leg and a collapsed lung. Abigail was so badly injured that Robin didn't recognize her when she arrived at the hospital.

She underwent numerous surgeries, including neurosurgery, and spent weeks in intensive care and months in the hospital.

"They're incredible here," said Robin. "I can't say enough about the nurses and the team on the Neuro floor. They're on top of their game. Everyone looked out for her."

For months, Abigail, who was always outgoing, was unable to speak. But eight months after the accident, she spoke her first words, "I love you," to her aunt.

Eventually, Abigail's personality, sense of humor and compassion also returned. "We hold on to the fact that she's still there. She's still Abigail," Robin said.

She later began speech, occupational and physical therapy at Tampa General's Rehabilitation Center.

Occupational therapist Heather Shaw worked with Abigail on basic skills, like sitting up without assistance, brushing her teeth and feeding herself.

"Her mom was really good about getting her to practice everything I asked," Heather said.

"She has some of the best follow-through of anyone I've treated."

Now she's able to do all of her grooming and dressing and other self-care tasks, Heather said.

"It's nice to see your hard work pay off in the end," she said.

Physical therapist Steve Wesenhagen has worked with Abigail



Physical therapist Steve Wesenhagen guides Abigail as she walks during a therapy session.

since her first day, when she came to the Rehab Center on a stretcher. She's received physical therapy twice a week ever since and has made remarkable progress.



Abigail rides the MOTomed machine to improve her leg flexibility and strength. "She keeps getting stronger and hasn't plateaued yet," said Steve.

A few months ago, Abigail reached a major milestone: she started walking. During her therapy sessions, Steve puts a gait belt around her waist and holds it from behind to guide her as she walks around the therapy room. She recently began extending her walks throughout the first floor of the Rehab Center. Her balance and posture are consistently improving, too.

"I'm excited about walking around," said Abigail with a

smile. She walks around the house and helps with setting the table and putting away her laundry.

Thanks to her progress, Abigail can now go on outings for the first time, too. She and her mother recently went to see her first movie since the accident.

Robin is grateful for the care Abigail has received at the Rehab Center. "The rehab team has been phenomenal," she said. "Steve has been consistently aware and interested in looking for the next best thing to help her. He's a godsend and has been amazing." Abigail looks forward to her therapy sessions too, she said.

Karen Zinszer, the Rehab Center's outpatient outcomes manager, has witnessed Abigail's improvements since the first day she arrived on a stretcher.

"I've watched her progress from that phase to now being able to carry on a conversation and function much more independently," Karen said. The therapy has improved the quality of life for her, as well as for her mother, she said.

For Robin, the biggest reward of all often comes directly from her daughter.

"Abigail will tell me she appreciates what I do," Robin said. "She says she's very grateful she has another chance at life."

15th Annual TGH Foundation Golf Tournament (continued from page 7)



Golf Tournament committee member, Ryan Lee, measuring out a piece of his 10-foot string



Danny Jackson, tournament Vice Chair, presenting an award to Steve Yerrid, representing the Yerrid Foundation, sponsor of the Golf Tournament for the eighth year in a row



Chris Mallory, USF Golf Coach; Robin DeLaVergne, Executive Director of TGH Foundation and John Brabson



Jeff and Dawn Eckhart, John and Stephanie Hernandez, and Lin and Win Weber representing Pairings Party Sponsor LifeLink Legacy Fund

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National Philanthropy Day Awards



Congratulations to the Tampa Bay Rays! The TGH Foundation, the Children’s Dream Fund, Moffitt Cancer Center and the Pinellas-Pasco Heart Gallery are all fortunate to have the Rays as partners and supporters of our nonprofit organizations. We jointly nominated them for the Association of Fundraising Professionals’ 2013 Philanthropic Corporation of the Year Award; and from all the nominees, the Rays were selected to receive the award, which was presented during the National Philanthropy Day Awards Luncheon on November 13. The award is presented annually to a corporation or corporate foundation that has demonstrated outstanding commitment through financial support and volunteerism and that encourages and motivates others to take philanthropic leadership roles in the community.

At the same luncheon, A.D. “Sandy” and the late Dottie MacKinnon were named as the Philanthropists of the Year. This award is presented to an individual or family with a proven record of exceptional generosity to a variety of philanthropic causes and who, through direct financial support, has demonstrated outstanding civic and charitable responsibility and encourages others to take philanthropic leadership roles in the community. Dottie and Sandy have been longtime supporters of Tampa General and the Foundation. Dottie is a former member of the hospital’s governing board and was the 2009 recipient of the Foundation’s James M. “Red” McEwen Award. Dottie was a tireless child advocate who has left behind a legacy of giving.



Ron Hytoff presented the “Red” McEwen award to Dottie Berger MacKinnon during the Foundation’s 2009 Annual Dinner.



Mike Lambria, with Hess Express, enjoyed the Rays game with TGH pediatric rehabilitation patient Jacob Meachum, who was injured in an ATV accident.



Matthew Berardino and Jacob Meachum, Children’s Medical Center patients, and their families joined Karen Vancleaf, Jean Mayer and Robert DeLaVergne for the presentation of the check—proceeds from the Hess Express Hitter of the Game program—by Mike Lambria prior to the first pitch at the Rays vs. Orioles game.

15th Annual TGH Foundation Golf Tournament (continued from page 9)



First Net Winners; Jon Swensson, Rex Fariior, Mark Nouss and Mike Azzarelli



Lea and Dick Beard and Foundation Chair Pam Muma, and her husband Les



Blake and Tate Casper with Bert Martin at the 2nd annual Pairings Party.

Tampa General Earns Its Eighth Consumer Choice Award

Healthcare consumers once again ranked Tampa General as having the best doctors and nurses and the highest quality and image – earning it the 2013-14 Consumer Choice Award for the eighth year in a row.

The hospital received its first Consumer Choice Award in 2006. This year, TGH is the only hospital among the counties of Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, and Hernando to earn the recognition. It is also one of only 17 hospitals in Florida to make the list.

“We know that there are many options for services in the region, and we are honored that the community looks to us as the leader in healthcare,” said President and CEO Jim Burkhart. “We strive for the best possible

experience for our patients, and the public’s opinion is consistent with that.”

Since 1996, the National Research Corporation has presented the award to the most preferred hospitals in markets throughout the U.S. Winning hospitals are selected from the National Research Corporation Healthcare Market Guide, the most comprehensive nationwide consumer healthcare profile. Its data represents consumer surveys from more than 270,000 of the nation’s households.

No other study measures hospital performance and preferences and contains more consumer responses than this study. Hospitals named by consumers in the survey are analyzed and ranked based on their Core Based Statistical

Areas as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, with the winning facilities ranked as the highest. The study has a margin of error of + or – 0.2 percent at a national level.

The winning facilities are listed in *Modern Healthcare* magazine and at <http://www.nationalresearch.com/about/consumer-choice-awards>.

For more than 30 years, National Research Corporation has been at the forefront of patient-centered care. The company’s visionary focus on customer-centric healthcare extends patient-centered care to incorporate families, physicians, long-term care communities, post-acute agencies and programs, caregivers and employees, and many other stakeholders.

Support for Pediatric Trauma Patients



Generous donors to the TGH Foundation provided money so the Pediatric Trauma Center could purchase custom-made stuffed toy dogs for children in the trauma, transplant and pediatric surgery centers. Each child will receive the special dog, whose stomach serves as a pouch containing small stuffed versions of a bone and several internal organs, including a kidney, liver, spleen, and brain. Doctors and other healthcare providers will use the dog and the organs to help children understand their illnesses or injuries while they’re recovering in the hospital, said Dawn Lewis, interim trauma program manager.

The children can also treat their dog like their own patient as they go through their own treatments, explained Kristyn Carter, a pediatric trauma nurse practitioner and clinician. They’ll have the dogs throughout their hospitalization and rehabilitation and can take them home, too.

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FoundationFocus is the quarterly newsletter published by the Tampa General Hospital Foundation, 1 Tampa General Circle, Room H-149, Tampa, FL 33606. Additional copies may be obtained by calling (813) 844-3528. The Foundation's mission is to support and promote the programs and services of Tampa General Hospital. Tampa General Hospital is committed to serving **all** residents of West Central Florida. We provide comprehensive health services, ranging from wellness and primary care to the most complex specialty care and post-acute services. Our care reflects a patient-centered approach, and our services are delivered in an exceptional manner—with benchmark performance in clinical outcomes, care processes, cost-effectiveness and patient experience. With our unique blend of academic and other healthcare partners, we play a special role in supporting medical education and research in our region.

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