On a gorgeous day in early April, Columbia Construction’s heavy equipment paused for a small number of Anna Jaques Hospital (AJH) leaders, board members, and elected officials to gather with members of the Byron J. Matthews family for a socially-distanced, ceremonial groundbreaking for the Stepping Forward project.

David LaFlamme, Chairman of the AJH Board of Trustees, served as emcee of the event and congratulated both the AJH Building Committee and the Stepping Forward Campaign Steering Committee for their extraordinary work over the last several years that brought the project to this important milestone.

Wayne Capolupo, Chair of the AJH Building Committee and Co-Chair of the Stepping Forward fundraising team, emphasized that the project will serve the surgical needs of local patients for decades to come, and allows AJH to exceed expectations for excellent quality outcomes and patient-centered care, close to home.

The highlight of the event included remarks about the Matthews family’s contributions to building a vibrant community, especially when Byron served as Mayor, and their dedication to AJH in particular. A video compilation of congratulatory messages was shared that included remarks from Governor Charlie Baker; Dr. Kevin Tabb, President & CEO of Beth Israel Lahey Health; Newburyport Mayor Donna Holaday; and many other dignitaries and leaders with whom Byron and Helen Matthews have worked on behalf of Anna Jaques Hospital and the community for the last 60 years.

Donor support for the Stepping Forward Campaign has been strong. Over 220 individuals, businesses, and foundations have pledged or donated over $3.9 million towards the Campaign’s $4 million goal. With a small gap to close, the Anna Jaques Community Health Foundation is reaching out broadly for donations large and small to help meet its target.

The Foundation is accepting outright gifts, multi-year pledges, matching gifts, and planned gifts as ways local donors can participate. Donors can also purchase inscribed bricks for the hospital courtyard for donations of $500 and $1,000. See brick flyer on pg. 8 for more information.

Learn more or donate: www.ajh.org/steppingforward
Dear Friends of Anna Jaques Hospital,

Everywhere I look, our communities are starting to bubble with activity again, sparking the feeling of optimism about the future. That same enthusiasm is clear throughout the AJH campus, where we see new faces and the return of some familiar smiles—our volunteers who serve the hospital in so many capacities.

With more people being vaccinated, we are beginning to plan and safely participate in social events that reconnect us. Thank you to so many in the community who supported the AJH Aid Association’s Great Chefs’ Reimagined week-long festivities in April. And thank you to the dedicated members of the Aid Association for this creative pivot that benefitted our local restaurants as well as the hospital. BRAVO!

Even though we still may use Zoom, it has been so enjoyable to slowly begin to meet with co-workers, volunteers, and donors face-to-face again! As a result of these important conversations, GREAT things are happening at AJH, including the groundbreaking for the Stepping Forward project, renovations to the AJH Chapel and Employee Comfort Room, and support for the expansion of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Unit in Amesbury.

Community philanthropy is at the core of all of these projects and it makes possible the exceptional care we provide to our patients. AJH is very grateful to every donor who supports the often life-saving work of our community hospital, whether it be by playing in the golf tournament, purchasing an inscribed brick, or making an Annual Fund contribution. Every act of support makes a difference.

Thank you,

Mary Williamson
Executive Director, Anna Jaques Community Health Foundation
Vice President for Development
mwilliamson@ajh.org  |  978-463-1211

P.S: Thank you to everyone who supported Anna Jaques Hospital in FY2020. To view the donor honor roll, please visit www.ajh.org/giving/donors-make-a-difference.

Renew your Annual Gift to AJH

For nearly 140 years, AJH and its dedicated staff have been here to serve the healthcare needs of our growing community. Donor support makes certain that we will be here for you, your family, and neighbors, providing safe and compassionate medical care today, tomorrow, and into the future.

A tax-deductible gift made to the AJH Annual Fund allows us to invest in needed clinical services, state-of-the-art equipment, key staff recruitment, and supports AJH through the dynamic circumstances we are all living through today.

Donate online: www.ajh.org/giving
Rotary Gift Aids Clinical Decision-Making in Two AJH Departments

The Rotary Club of Newburyport’s recent gift of $10,800 provided new equipment for two departments to assist in clinical decision making, benefitting patient care. A highly specialized pediatric scale that can weigh to an accuracy of one gram will help Birth Center and Neonatal Care Center staff adjust all feeding needs and caloric intake based on the precise weight of an infant upon delivery and each day that inpatient care is required.

Additionally, our cardiologists can now better determine if a patient’s heart is working properly or requires further treatment using the new Holter Monitor, also known as a portable heart rhythm monitoring system. This ultra-small, portable, battery-operated electrocardiogram measures a patient’s activity as they perform normal everyday activities over a 24- to 48-hour monitoring period.

Swasey Fund Provides Gift for Laboratory Ultra-Centrifuge

Newburyport’s Swasey Fund was originally created in 1909 as the Newburyport Anti-Tuberculosis (TB) Association to support the care of Newburyport TB patients in their homes and in the hospital. Interestingly, in August of 1919, the Julia Moseley Tuberculosis Ward was opened at AJH and its expenses were underwritten by the Association until 1926. Today, the Swasey Fund offers small grants and scholarships specifically targeted to healthcare related needs in our community. Recently, the Swasey Fund provided support for the purchase of an ultra-centrifuge for our laboratory which will improve efficiency and turn-around times for lab results. This much-needed equipment will help the lab to better service COVID-19 positive patients and our clinician’s diagnostic testing needs to support better patient outcomes.

Facebook Fundraiser Supports Healthcare Heroes Fund

Acclaimed local artist Ron Emmerling celebrated his 85th birthday in March by expressing his gratitude to our Healthcare Heroes in the AJH Emergency Department. He and his family held a Facebook fundraiser, raffling an Emmerling original painting as a way to say thank you for the compassionate care he and his wife have received in this department over the last year. We are grateful to the Emmerling family for offering these proceeds to our Healthcare Heroes Fund. Thank you, Ron, and congratulations to painting winner, Lisa Bourdeau Guthro of Newburyport, featured right.

A Father Remembered

Each year, in loving memory of their father, Richard Kaplan, and to celebrate the anniversary of his birth, Richard’s family donates a gift basket to be given to a new baby girl born in the AJH Birth Center on (or around) February 10th.

The son of AJH physician Dr. Louis Kaplan, Richard grew up on Beach Road in Salisbury, graduated from Newburyport High School in 1964 and worked as a social worker for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for over 27 years. All three of his daughters were born at AJH and enjoy this special annual connection to their dad and with their community hospital.
Mary P. Barton Charitable Foundation Propels Campaign Forward

The community-minded legacy of Mary Plumer Barton lives on through the targeted philanthropy of a foundation established in her name by her son, Robert A. Barton. Two gifts, totaling over $130,000, were received by the Mary P. Barton Charitable Foundation to benefit the Stepping Forward Campaign. The hospital is pleased to honor Mary P. Barton’s memory by naming a semi-private care room as part of this project.

Mary Plumer (Humphreys) Barton was born in 1901 in Newburyport, the wife of Augustus J. Barton and mother to their son, Robert A. Barton. A lifelong resident of Newbury, she was a descendant of the Plumer family, first settlers of Newbury. Mrs. Barton was the president and treasurer of the William T. Humphreys Insurance Agency until she retired in 1977. She remained active in her church and local cultural heritage organizations including the Historical Society of Old Newbury, Sons and Daughters of the First Settlers of Newbury, and the Newbury Historical Commission. She passed away in 1997 at the age of 96.

Renovations Offer Refuge and Respite

In-Kind Gifts from Jacalyn Stuart Bennett

A JH patients, visitors, and staff now have beautifully renovated places for quiet reflection thanks to the generosity of local business leader and international philanthropist, Jacalyn Stuart Bennett.

Ms. Bennett has been a leading advocate for employee wellness and for creating a sanctuary for staff to process their emotions in private. It is important to her “to help the people whose job it is to help everyone else.”

Working with AJH, Ms. Bennett and her team from Bennett & Co. planned renovations to an Employee Comfort Room which was hastily created out of necessity at the height of the pandemic. The room was used by staff as a quiet place to decompress from stress, process grief, or just regroup. This room has received a welcome facelift – fresh paint and flooring, new furnishings, and resource materials to encourage mindfulness and renewal.

A deeply spiritual person, and frequent visitor to the AJH Chapel, Ms. Bennett also offered to renovate this space, which had been officially dedicated in 1976 as a Prayer and Meditation Room, honoring AJH Physician, Dr. Daniel Lyons Leary, Sr. The renovations provided by Ms. Bennett and her team included the repair and painting of the walls, new ceiling tiles, flooring, soft, dimmable lighting, stained-glass window panels and new furnishings, as well as a stunning stained-glass tree of life on one interior wall.

With a calm mind, you can calm your heart in a world that is complex.
With a calm mind and heart, we can better equip ourselves to function in a more compassionate way in our lives.
-Jacalyn Stuart Bennett
In April, AJH received long-awaited approval and funding from the MA Department of Public Health to increase the number of inpatient beds in the Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Unit from 12 to 16. The announcement was welcome news to AJH and to Kim Rock, Executive Vice-President at the Institution for Savings (IFS). As an advocate for families experiencing mental health challenges, and a local representative on the Beth Israel Lahey Health Behavioral Health Advisory Council, Kim recognizes the increasing need to support families in crisis.

The Institution for Savings Charitable Foundation has made a significant multi-year commitment to the AJH Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Program. Adding to funding provided last year, a new two-year committed gift of $75,000 per year will support the incremental addition of clinical staff and the operations of the expanded capacity. As a result, AJH will be able to increase access for these vulnerable patients, and to compassionately care for more children and families in mental health distress.

The stress of the last year has taken its toll. The national statistics are alarming: 27% of parents reported worsening mental health for themselves, and 14% reported worsening behavioral health for their children. According to a recent report from the Centers for Disease Control, children ages 5 to 11 made emergency room visits related to mental health about 24% more often over the last year during the pandemic, than in 2019; visits from children ages 12 to 17 increased 31% in this same period.

“Hospital emergency departments, including at AJH, have been experiencing long waits or “boarding time” for children awaiting inpatient placement who are in a mental health crisis,” said Denise Klier, Director of the Amesbury-based Unit. “Children and adolescents who are overcome with anxiety, depression, or feelings of self-harm, can wait days or weeks in emergency department settings due to a lack of inpatient psychiatric beds. This experience is not a healthy one for children, despite the best mitigation efforts of hospital staff to find appropriate placement,” she added. The COVID-19 pandemic has only heightened this placement emergency.

AJH is grateful to the Institution for Savings Charitable Foundation for the opportunity to play a pivotal role in providing care to more children and families in distress. Their generous commitment to this program will support these patients as they respond to their individualized treatment plans and make a healthier return to their home and school lives.
The isolation imposed on a patient with COVID-19 during a hospital stay effects not only the patient, but also their worried family and their AJH clinical care team. Based on a similar employee volunteer program created at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center-Plymouth, fully vaccinated AJH clinical employees can volunteer to be a compassionate conduit between COVID-19 inpatients and their families.

Newburyport native Scott Childs was the first AJH staff member to raise his hand as a COVID-19 volunteer visitor. As a Patient Care Assistant (PCA) on the Newburyport Five Telemetry Unit, he has been caring for COVID-19 patients for the last year, and witnessed first-hand the loneliness some patients can experience without visits from loved ones. While he spends time during his work hours helping patients to physically heal from the coronavirus, his volunteer visits offer a chance for emotional healing. Family is important to Scott, and he and our other COVID-19 volunteers provide an important physical presence and link to the family. They spend time with the patient, hold their hand, bring in gifts from families, assist with video and phone calls, and offer comfort in a time of need.

AJH Welcomes Back Volunteers After Nearly Year-Long Hiatus

Scott, who started as a junior volunteer at Anna Jaques when he was 17, recently graduated from UMass Lowell with a B.S. in Biology and is preparing his applications to medical school. Luckily for AJH, he plans to stay in the area.
Great Chefs’ Reimagined | Beloved Annual Event a Community-Building Success

For over 30 years, local restaurants have donated their time and culinary creativity to support the AJH Aid Association’s signature annual fundraiser—Great Chefs’ Night. This year, the event took an inspired turn, providing a week-long celebration of dine-in or take-out at 14 participating area restaurants, with half the proceeds from a $50 meal voucher going directly back to the eatery, and the other half benefitting the hospital. There was also an option for the public to donate $50 vouchers to AJH frontline healthcare workers as a thank you for their efforts amid the pandemic. Over 600 vouchers were sold, with 150 donated to AJH staff.

“Having a community hospital during this time has been so invaluable, whether it’s just been for regular testing or people that have had a family member there getting the care that they needed over the last 12-plus months,” said Kristin Hunter, event committee member.

In addition to featuring specially-designed Great Chefs’ menu selections from a range of Greater Newburyport restaurants, the event offered an online auction which showcased a diamond necklace from M.K. Benatti Jewelers and a raffle for a $5,000 vacation for two donated by BNY Mellon. Congratulations to raffle winner Megan Keane.

30th “Fore Your Health” Golf Tournament

Save the date! The 30th “Fore Your Health” Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, August 23rd at Haverhill Country Club. Proceeds from this year’s event will benefit the Stepping Forward Campaign to build two new operating rooms at AJH.

Ways to participate:

- **PLAY:** Individuals and foursomes are invited to play in the morning flight with tee-off at 7:30am. The $175/player (or $700/foursome) fee includes 18 holes, continental breakfast and lunch. The afternoon round is reserved for sponsors and includes a BBQ lunch and dinner.
- **SPONSOR:** Sponsorship opportunities at varying levels are still available and include golf (above $1,500), recognition, and signage.

- **VOLUNTEER:** Be a part of the action on the course or assisting with registration for either the morning or afternoon flights. Contact Amanda Ross at amross@ajh.org or call 978-463-1176.

- **BID:** Early and often on the tournament’s week-long online auction of golf experiences and merchandise. The auction will run from Sunday, August 22nd to Sunday, August 29th. Learn more: www.ajh.org/golf

Celebrating Survivors: Get Involved

Each October, AJH works to raise awareness and promote the prevention of breast cancer in our community. We have already begun planning fun and engaging ways to safely bring this community of support and survivors together. Interested in getting involved? Contact the Foundation at 978-463-1176 or helpwithgiving@ajh.org.
Thank you to everyone who has participated in the brick program to support the Stepping Forward Campaign. Join the community members below* by purchasing a commemorative brick to fill the walkways at AJH.

Anonymous (2)
Elizabeth S. Abby Stearns
Dr. Samuel D. Allen / Tallman Eye Associates
Mark and Angela Anderegg
Anna Jaques Community Health Foundation
Board of Trustees
The Honorable Christopher J. Armstrong
and Mrs. Elizabeth Armstrong
Diana and James Baker
Dr. and Mrs. Robin S. Blair
Jack Bradshaw and Denise Marien
Peter B. Carzasty
Dawn and Steve Coulombe
John M. Dodge and Ann E. Dooley
Robert Tommasino and Patricia Dorfman
Carol Ann Doyle
Dorene E. Dupuis
Ellen Fitzgerald
Dr. Paul and Maria Freedberg
Stephen and Allison Gadd
Jill Gourley
Donna Greco
Lisa Greene / Beach Plum Flower Shop
Denise A. Grenier
Penelope D. Halkiotis
Thomas D. Haywood
Geraldine Heavey
Jim Hughes
Dr. Mohammed Jaleel / New England Inpatient Specialists
Robert Jones
The Kelly Family
Allison Lehane
Gerry Mack
Nicholas and Olga Matthews
Charleen Maunsell
Dr. James and Katherine Morse
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Pendergast, III
Patti and Cornelius Reardon
Patricia Robinson
Tam Schwartz
David C. Smith
Jonalyn Sullivan
Brian and Heidi Sullivan / Dietz & Lynch Capital
Geoffrey and Josette Walker
Lauren Wendel and Christopher Dougherty
Mark and Lisa Werner
Meg Wiley and Jim Cunha
Mary Williamson
James G. Zafris, Jr.
Christine M. and James C. Zampell

*Brick orders received as of May 19, 2021

Contact Information:
Name: __________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
City:____________________State:____ Zip:_____

I wish to purchase (please check selection):
☐ 4 x 8 brick ($500)  ☐ 8 x 8 brick ($1,000)

Payment Options:
☐ Check made payable to AJCHF is enclosed
☐ Charge my credit card:
Visa ___ MasterCard ___ AMEX ___ Discover ___
Expiration Date: ___ / ___  CVV#: ______

Print your brick inscription in the boxes below:
4 x 8 Brick: You may use up to 3 lines and 22 characters per line.
8 x 8 Brick: You may use up to 6 lines and 22 characters per line.

Notes: Numbers, symbols, and punctuation marks count as characters. Lines will be centered by engraver.