

# Philanthropy Highlights

University of Vermont Medical Center



We are continually learning and evolving—as a health care organization, a teaching hospital, a research driver and a hub of expertise and support for **1 million people** who depend on us each year.

We are deeply grateful for your continued partnership, advocacy and philanthropic support. You connect and inspire us, elevate our work and extend our reach.

With you beside us, our employees shine and find fulfillment; our patients and families rest easy knowing that they are receiving the best, most compassionate care possible; and the path toward greater accessibility, affordability and sustainability opens wider.

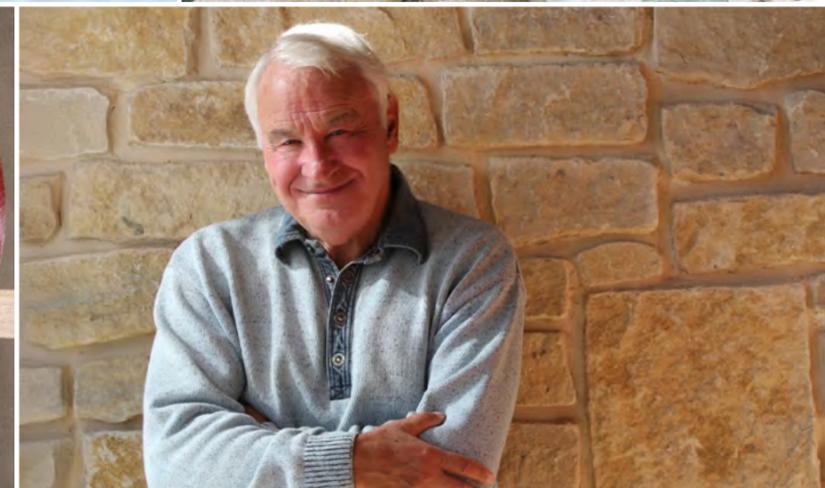
In the stories that follow, you'll find examples of philanthropy's impact on our mission, our people, and the patients and families we have the privilege of serving. **Please know that your support is transformational.**



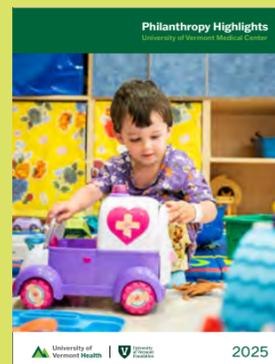
Stephen Leffler, MD, Chief Executive Officer, University of Vermont Health, and President and Chief Operating Officer, University of Vermont Medical Center



Ginger Lubkowitz, Senior Vice President and Chief Development Officer, University of Vermont Health



**On the cover ►**  
**As we begin to implement Tom Golisano's milestone gift to our children's hospital, we join an alliance aimed at advancing pediatric medicine worldwide.**



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## Marlene's Cardinals

### One Vermont Artist's Fight Against Glioblastoma

Some say that when a cardinal appears after the loss of a loved one, it's a sign of their continued presence, offering comfort from beyond. Norton Latourelle knows this well. For years, the Vermont-based folk artist has carved wooden cardinals and sold them at his namesake gallery, Norton's Gallery of Woodcarvings, in Shoreham, Vermont.



Housed in a barn, the gallery was part of the home Norton and his wife, Marlene, built in the 1990s near Lake Champlain—"best views of the lake in the whole state," he says. While Norton created his signature wood carvings, Marlene ran the business. "She designed the website, took all the photos, handled the accounting and communicated with everyone while tending the gardens and making the place look good for visitors," he says. "Marlene put it all together so that all I had to do was create art."

In 2024, Marlene was diagnosed with glioblastoma, an aggressive brain cancer for which there is no cure. Facing a long road of arduous treatments, the couple closed the gallery and made frequent trips to University of Vermont Health - UVM Cancer Center in Burlington. After an intense journey, Marlene died on March 12, 2025, and for the first time in 35 years, Norton found himself on his own. The days that followed were unfamiliar and heavy; grief had upended the rhythms of a life once shared. He stopped creating art. "I was going through a terrible time, and I thought, what can I possibly do?" he says. "And then I remembered: For years, we'd made thousands of cardinals to honor people's loved ones. It just seemed a natural extension of what I already knew."

Norton started carving again. He carved cardinals on nights when he couldn't sleep and during the day to keep focused. "Making cardinals gave me a process for thinking about Marlene, and it kept me sane," Norton says. He developed a plan: Sell the cardinals and donate the proceeds to UVM Cancer Center. The more cardinals Norton carved, the more money he could give to people whose suffering he understood.

Soon Norton had a team of about 10 people helping him paint cardinals: a local firefighter, two friends from down the road, his sister-in-law and her daughter, and the mail carrier, who took cardinals home to sand and paint. A local sawmill committed to donating all the wood Norton would need.

He calls the project Marlene's Cardinals. "A lot of people don't survive financially after fighting cancer, so this can help." Rather than selling the cardinals, Norton sends a cardinal to donors of \$100 or more. Every donation goes to UVM Cancer Center to support glioblastoma patients, their families and caregivers, and the research and clinical trials needed to fight this disease.

The donation is important, but so, too, is the comfort Norton hopes each cardinal will bring to people who have lost a loved one. "Marlene would be proud."

To date, Norton has raised over \$50,000 for the cause.



▲ Norton's cardinal figures  
Norton Latourelle with his wife, Marlene ►

Photos courtesy of Anthony Thornton Photography



Explore giving pathways to advance our cancer mission

contact  
Lindsay Longe

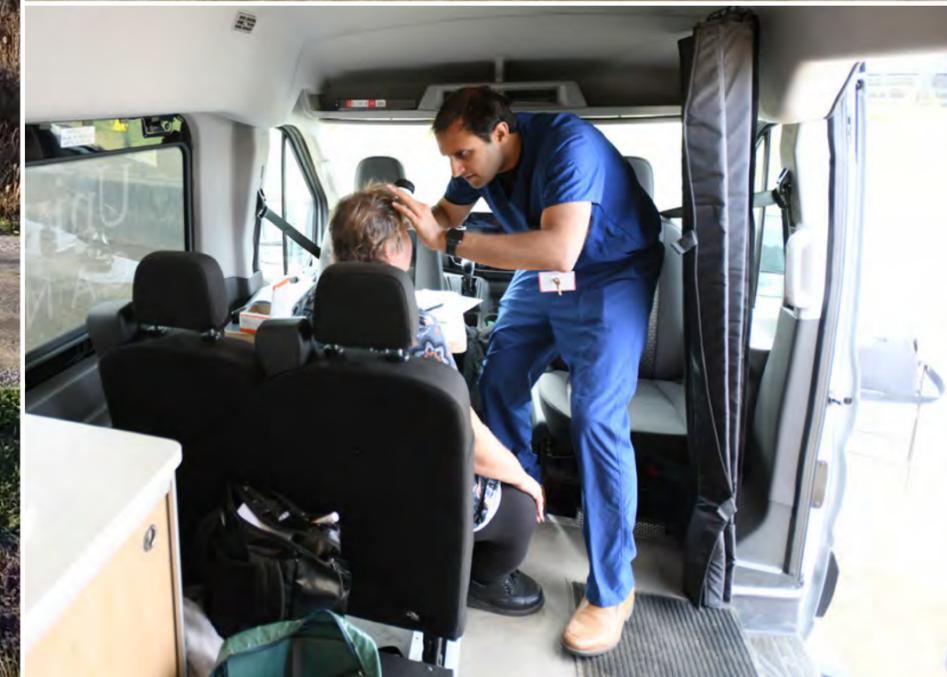
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▲ A new philanthropy-funded mobile screening, prevention and education program hits the road.

UVM Cancer Center and UVM Health Dermatology teamed up to offer community-based skin cancer screenings. In 2025, over 200 people were screened. ►



## Redefining Rural Health A New Path for Cancer Care and Human Connection

Since its launch in May 2025, UVM Cancer Center’s Community Outreach and Education (COE) van—funded entirely by philanthropy—has brought cancer screening, prevention and education services to rural residents throughout Vermont and northern New York. This mobile resource quickly met its intended purpose: to deliver vital services, overcome barriers to care, address health disparities and put cancer research innovations into action.

But amid skin checks for early melanoma, conversations around cancer screening recommendations and distribution of sun safety materials, something rich and unexpected unfolded. In the privacy of the van, parked on familiar turf—their local fairgrounds, food shelf or community center—patients opened up

about their health struggles. They talked about what they need and what their families need. They talked about what they’re afraid of.

Rural patients’ sense of isolation and the myriad obstacles they face—from not knowing where to turn with health-related questions to not having resources to access help—clarified the startling distance between what many of our rural neighbors have and what they need. Entire communities exist outside the labyrinth of guidance and services that many of us take for granted.

A feedback loop formed, and the project leapt forward. The COE team brought cancer care to rural communities in

need and brought what they learned back to UVM Cancer Center partners and researchers who are actively working to better support those communities.

Without philanthropy, this initiative wouldn’t be operational, much less be a growing engine of quality, sustainability and trust. Donors have made it possible to envision a rural outreach program that includes HPV vaccinations, at-home screening tests for high-risk cancers, nicotine replacement therapy support, genetic testing and more. With additional charitable investments, the COE team can expand their reach, broaden their offerings, and step closer to sustaining these free services in perpetuity.



Help us bring cancer care to rural communities

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▲ Dr. Lawrence Weed and Dr. Laura Weed



To support the Drs. Lawrence and Laura Weed Research and Teaching Endowment, please visit [go.uvm.edu/drsweed](https://go.uvm.edu/drsweed) or scan the QR code.

## Honoring Mentors

### Gift Cultivates Inquiry, Education and Innovation

**Lawrence Weed, MD, changed** the practice of medicine with the creation of the problem-oriented medical record and advocacy for problem-solving (as opposed to memory-based) medical education. Laura Weed, MD, served as a mentor and teacher who embodied strength and profound compassion at a time when women represented just a small percentage of practicing medical doctors. A new endowment in the Division of Internal Medicine at the UVM Larner College of Medicine honors their legacy at UVM and their impact on generations of medical professionals.

The Drs. Lawrence and Laura Weed Research and Teaching Endowment, established by Kurt Lauenstein, MD'77, and Sherry Dickstein, MD'78, supports faculty and student work at the intersection of research and teaching, continuing the Weeds' commitment to improving patient care through education and inquiry. The couple's generosity was inspired by the mentorship they received from the Weeds—and by the career paths they modeled.

"These members of UVM were a beacon of excellence for us as we navigated medical school and our careers. We are forever in their debt for their counsel, their dedication, and their leadership," said Drs. Lauenstein and Dickstein.

A professor of medicine from 1969 to 1981, Dr. Larry Weed worked to couple patient-specific data with the current body of medical knowledge. Through the creation of the problem-oriented medical record, he established a national model for rigorous clinical reasoning and documentation. And, as director of the PROMIS Laboratory at UVM, he laid the groundwork for the integration of medical data in what can be considered the forerunner of individually directed artificial intelligence.

Equally meaningful is the example set by Dr. Laura Weed. Her focus on primary care and human connection made a lasting impression on students and colleagues. She was one of the founders of Given Health Care, a long-standing primary care center in Burlington, Vermont, and helped implement the problem-oriented medical record. Together, the Weeds exemplified a life of service, innovation, and advocacy for thoughtful care.

Whether by underwriting a promising pilot study, supporting medical education innovation or enabling mentorship between clinicians and students, the endowment will empower the kind of thoughtful, ethical, community-oriented work that defined the Weeds' careers.



▲ Sherry Dickstein, MD'78 and Kurt Lauenstein, MD'77



### March 20, 2026: Match Day Inspires and Transforms

Medical education is full of milestones (first white coat, first live patient), but few occur simultaneously, nationwide. On the third Friday of March—known as Match Day—fourth-year medical students across the country learn their residency placement, marking both the culmination of years of hard work and the direction of their next chapter in training.

Match Day at UVM's Larner College of Medicine is joyous, uniting graduating medical students and loved ones, friends, faculty, staff and generations of UVM medical alumni. One of the ways this dedicated network shows support is through donations to the Match Challenge between February and the fundraiser's culmination on Match Day. For years, a handful of donors have bolstered excitement and participation by committing matching gifts that unlock at specified thresholds. In 2025, two donors committed \$25,000 each for the first 10 gifts of \$2,500 and 100 gifts of \$250, respectively, helping to inspire giving and raise nearly \$180,000.

Generosity at every level is valued and serves our students and faculty, our curriculum and our contributions to medicine in

“ My education at UVM College of Medicine changed my life for the better in many ways, especially by giving me a gratifying, lifelong profession. I believe in giving back. Amplifying the impact of my donation by supporting Match Day is an easy choice.”

– JOSEPH KVEDAR '79, MD'83, PROFESSOR OF DERMATOLOGY, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

myriad ways, including student wellness, scholarship support and research grants. Every gift strengthens our community; every gift elevates learning.

Contribute to the Match Challenge at [go.uvm.edu/matchchallenge](https://go.uvm.edu/matchchallenge) or contact [Danielle Buchanan](mailto:Danielle.Buchanan@med.uvm.edu), [Danielle.Buchanan@med.uvm.edu](mailto:Danielle.Buchanan@med.uvm.edu), 802-847-2887



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## Minor Emergency Care UVM Alumni Spur Research and Best Practices

In 1973, Philip Buttaravoli '66, MD'70, became one of the first five physicians in the U.S. to enter the newly established specialty of emergency medicine. Since then, he has been a trailblazer in optimizing emergency care. Early in his career, Dr. Buttaravoli focused on training clinicians to identify and treat non-life-threatening emergencies—conditions that were often overlooked in traditional medical education. He believed emergency departments should deliver high-quality, competent care for minor emergencies that, while not life-threatening, are frequently painful, frightening and disruptive to patients' lives.

That conviction ultimately led Dr. Buttaravoli to write *Minor Emergencies*, a textbook dedicated to the effective management of these conditions. For decades, *Minor Emergencies* has served as a trusted resource for health care professionals in emergency medicine, urgent care, family practice, nursing and emergency medical services.

◀ Funds will help sustain this go-to resource in emergency medicine

A generous gift to UVM Medical Center from Dr. Buttaravoli and Jennifer Stanley '68—an old friend and now his life partner—will ensure that this important work continues for generations to come. Through the newly established Philip M. Buttaravoli, MD Minor Emergency Research Fund, UVM Medical Center practitioners, including residents, will have the opportunity to lead up to two research projects each year focused on effective medical and surgical management of topics covered in current or future chapters of *Minor Emergencies*.

“Throughout my career in emergency medicine, I recognized a gap in my own medical education—one that was common among medical schools at the time,” Dr. Buttaravoli said. “We were not taught how to manage the minor emergencies that bring people to the emergency department or, today, to urgent care centers. These problems are often not life-threatening, but they require competent medical attention.”

UVM Medical Center is well positioned to advance this work. Stephen Leffler, MD'90, president and chief operating officer of UVM Medical Center, and Ramsey Herrington, MD, FACEP, president and CEO of UVM Health Medical Group—

both emergency medicine physicians—have cowritten *Minor Emergencies* for two editions. The new fund creates opportunities to bring additional clinicians into the project and expand the book's impact.

“For many of the topics covered in the book, there is limited research to guide improved management techniques,” Dr. Buttaravoli explained. “Recognizing this, I wanted to provide funding for original research that could improve patient care while strengthening the evidence base behind the book.”

The first research project to inform the next edition of *Minor Emergencies* is already underway. Led by two residents, the study focuses on the use of a head injury decision tool for minor pediatric head trauma. Its goal is to reduce potential harm by helping emergency department practitioners decrease unnecessary CT scan utilization, improve efficiency and lower the risk of radiation-induced cancers.

Together, the establishment of the research fund and the continued publication of *Minor Emergencies* position UVM Medical Center as an academic leader in the often-overlooked field of minor emergencies—shaping how emergency care is delivered in Vermont and around the world.

▼ Phil Buttaravoli, MD, and Jennifer Stanley (center) with Emergency Department research team

“For many of the topics covered in the book, there is limited research to guide improved management techniques... Recognizing this, I wanted to provide funding for original research that could improve patient care while strengthening the evidence base behind the book.”

— PHILIP BUTTARAVOLI '66, MD'70



Fuel excellence in medical research and training

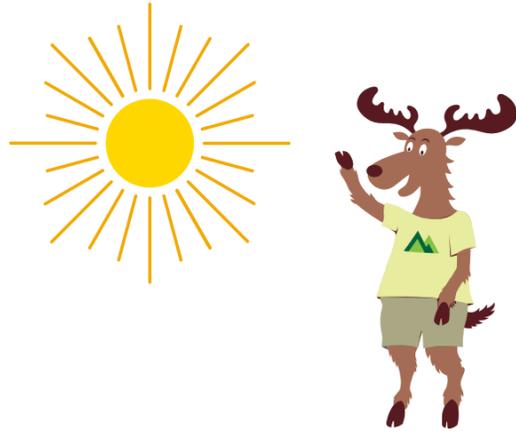
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## Legacy of Love

### Promoting Careers in Rural Vermont Pediatric Primary Care

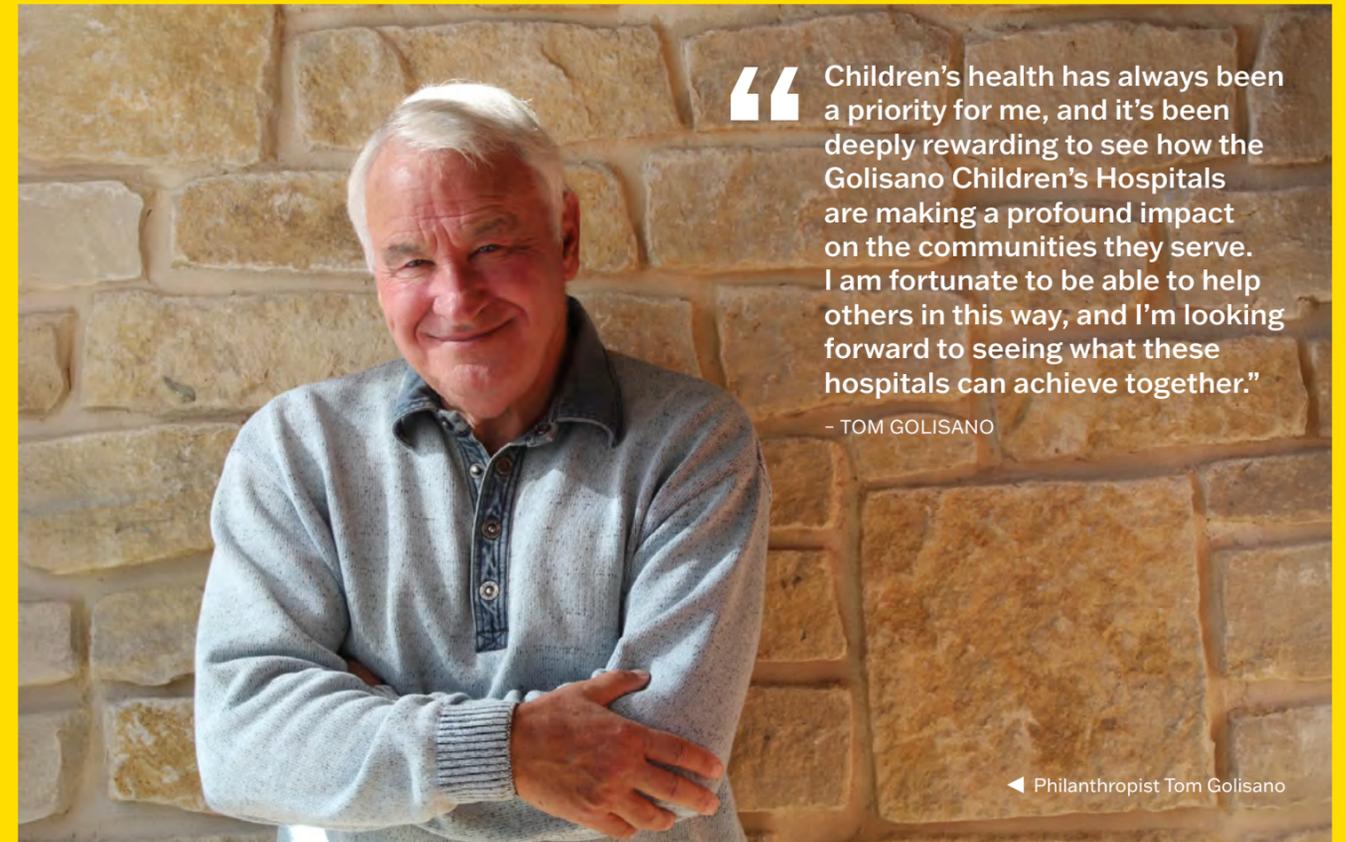
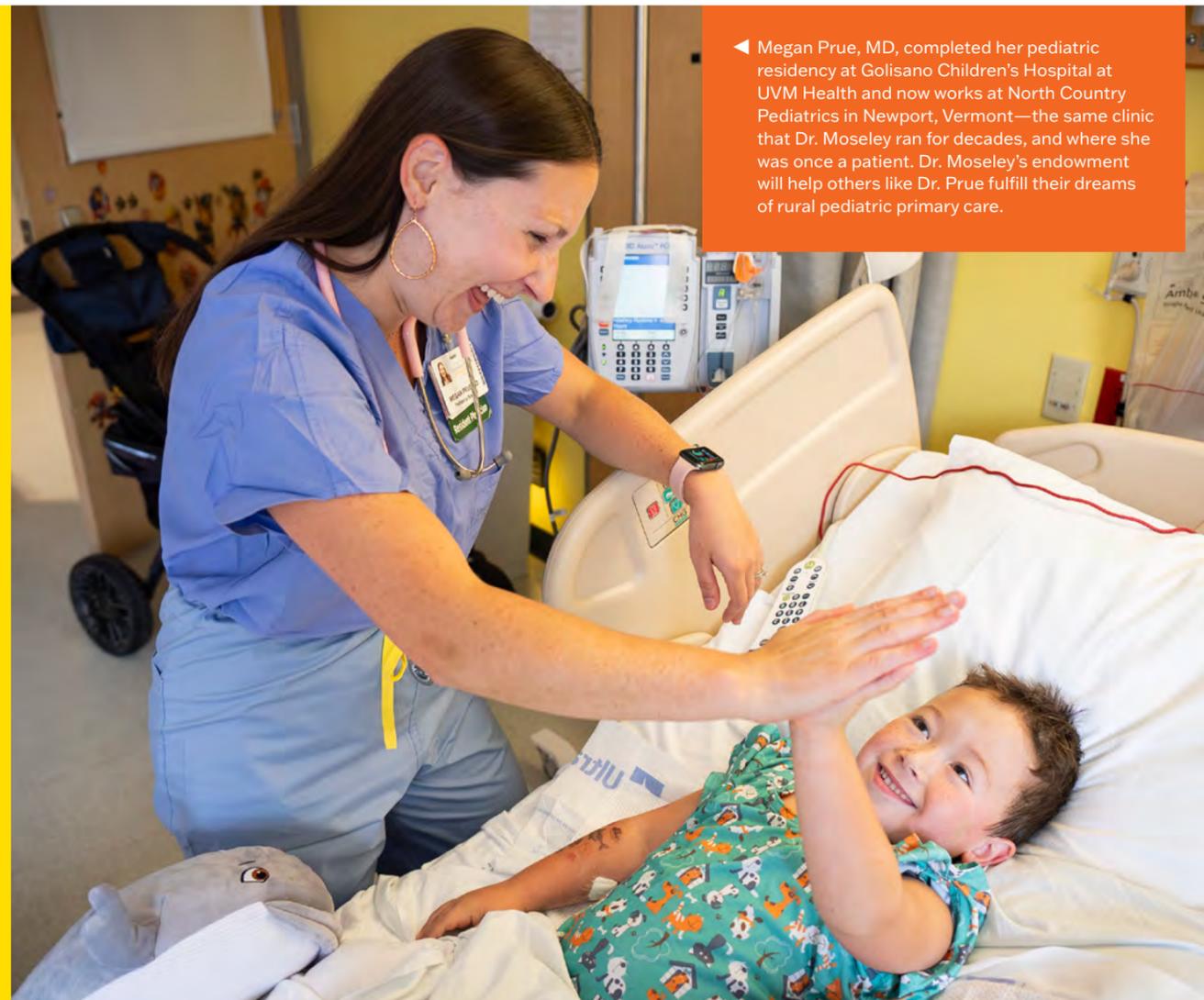


**Rural pediatric practitioners'** numbers are on the decline, and many barriers, including medical school debt, deter medical students from pursuing the path. Early exposure to rural practice is a powerful and proven magnet for recruitment and retention, but rural clinics in Vermont often lack the time and financial resources to educate early career learners.

Newport, Vermont, pediatrician Thomas Moseley III, MD'79, SM Hyg, and his wife, the Rev. Christine Moseley, RN, have dedicated their careers to caring for rural Vermont youth. Recognizing an opportunity to increase pediatric residents' exposure to rural medicine—grounded in community, purpose and real impact—and inspire them to practice in rural Vermont, they established The Moseley Family Pediatric Rural Health Endowment at Golisano Children's Hospital. The fund will provide myriad pathways of support, including decreasing the financial burden of rural health rotations, bolstering pediatric residency program resources, supporting residents' scholarly pursuits related to rural pediatric primary care and more.

"Rural America's primary care system is under increasing stress," said Dr. Moseley. "We hope that our gift will be a stimulus for Vermont children to continue to receive well-trained pediatric care close to home."

◀ Megan Prue, MD, completed her pediatric residency at Golisano Children's Hospital at UVM Health and now works at North Country Pediatrics in Newport, Vermont—the same clinic that Dr. Moseley ran for decades, and where she was once a patient. Dr. Moseley's endowment will help others like Dr. Prue fulfill their dreams of rural pediatric primary care.



“Children's health has always been a priority for me, and it's been deeply rewarding to see how the Golisano Children's Hospitals are making a profound impact on the communities they serve. I am fortunate to be able to help others in this way, and I'm looking forward to seeing what these hospitals can achieve together.”

— TOM GOLISANO

◀ Philanthropist Tom Golisano

## Golisano Children's Hospital at UVM Health Fueling Excellence and Sustainability

**Philanthropy makes big leaps possible** and infuses progress with pride, positivity and hope. In 2025, a transformative \$25 million gift from entrepreneur, philanthropist and civic leader Tom Golisano is helping to foster such a jump here in Vermont.

Golisano founded Paychex, Inc., the nation's largest human resources company for small to medium-sized businesses, and has made an indelible mark on a variety of issues touching human lives. His philanthropic contributions to education, hospitals and numerous other organizations now exceed \$1 billion.

At his October 28, 2025, announcement from the Golisano Institute for Business in Rochester, New York, Golisano committed significant charitable gifts to six children's hospitals in the East. To date, 12 hospitals across 10 states have received major philanthropic infusions. Together, these hospitals now form the Golisano Children's Alliance, tasked with advancing pediatric medicine by exchanging knowledge, fostering innovation and aligning efforts to relieve suffering and improve outcomes for children everywhere. Our children's hospital was selected for its high-quality care, collaborative culture, strong leadership and notable impact on patients and families across Vermont and northern New York.

"I want to thank Tom Golisano from the bottom of my heart for recognizing the excellent care the pediatric clinicians and staff at our children's hospital provide, and for investing in the futures of the children and families we serve in Vermont and northern New York in such a meaningful way," said Lewis First, MD, chief of pediatrics.

To recognize Golisano's gift, which will be distributed as \$5 million over five years, our children's hospital has been re-named Golisano Children's Hospital at University of Vermont Health. This gift will help expand critical services for children with complex medical needs; support initiatives that advance safety, quality, accessibility and affordability; and bring specialty care closer to home to reduce families' travel time and stress.

"As we put this donation to work, we're going to be listening to the voices of the people we serve and making sure the dollars are directed to programs and service improvements that address the needs of our region," said Steve Leffler, MD, CEO, UVM Health, and president and COO, UVM Medical Center.



Invest in high-need programs that serve local children and families

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# Community Unites

## Keeping Alive the Dream of Wellness for Every Child

**2025 was a year of milestones** for our children's hospital, including standout achievements by several of our community fundraising partners. Every day, we witness the joy and camaraderie that charitable giving engenders and the impact of that generosity on our patients and families, providers and staff. Our children's hospital operates at a loss, so philanthropy makes possible what would otherwise be unattainable: charitable care, vital (but unbillable) patient services, research that drives breakthroughs and cures, and employee-led grants

that address critical or emergent patient needs. Philanthropy also helps fill the gap between what insurance and Medicaid will cover and the true costs of care. While Tom Golisano's generous \$25 million charitable investment will enable us to fast-track service improvements in targeted areas of need, gifts from our community will continue to anchor the high-quality, child-friendly care on which families across our region depend.

We extend heartfelt thanks to all who contribute to this mission, and we welcome your continued partnership.



Expand support for our pediatric patients—  
in mind, body and spirit

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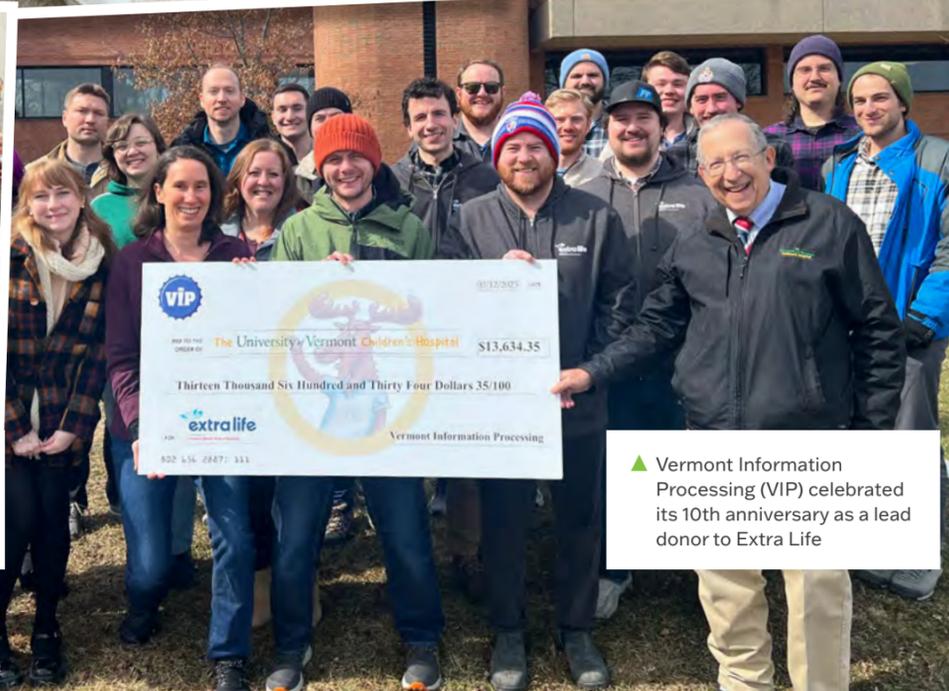
▲ Maplefields raised \$195,000 for Radiothon/Big Change Roundup for Kids, the single largest gift in Big Change's 20-year history



▲ UVM student-run RALLYTHON/Dance Marathon reached a 10-year fundraising total of \$1 million



▲ Colchester, Vermont, Costco Warehouse raised a record-breaking \$95,213 for our local Children's Miracle Network Hospitals campaign



▲ Vermont Information Processing (VIP) celebrated its 10th anniversary as a lead donor to Extra Life



Dear Dr. First,

Thank you

For attending hundreds of our events

And treating each one as your favorite.

For arriving at 5 am for our WOKO 98.9 Big Change Roundup Radiothons

And never complaining.

For sending midnight videos to spur on our RALLYTHON Dance Marathoners

And singing.

For participating in our annual Golf Classic

And letting other players win.

For emceeding, presenting,

And rhyming.

For meeting with us weekly

To ask how you can support our work.

We no longer wonder when you sleep.

Who can sleep when they have as much to give as you do?

It's been a privilege to walk beside you, lifting children's spirits, helping families feel special and celebrating our incredible community together.

- The Development Team



Consider making a gift to the newly established **Lewis R. First, MD, Chair of Pediatrics Endowment** and help secure a legacy of support for programs and services that reflect the heart and mind of Dr. First, a beloved leader, teacher, clinician and advocate.

We asked Dr. Bemis what Nancy might say to incoming CNHS nursing students.

“You are entering a course of study that will not only provide a college degree but will open a chapter in your life of service to your fellow humankind. The care you provide will, at times, test your training and your inner emotions.

Nursing is in many ways the cornerstone of medical care. I wish you well and much success, not only while at UVM, but throughout your career in a time-honored profession.

Remember that as a true professional, learning is lifelong. The instructors, the courses and the patients who you care for as a student nurse will provide a foundation for your career. Keep your mind open, challenge yourself and study hard—not simply for the grade but to be skilled in your profession.”

George Bemis '60, MD, with his wife, Nancy ▶



Photo courtesy of the Bemis Family

## A Tribute to Nancy

### Landmark Bequest to Reshape Nursing Scholarship Landscape

**Nancy Wicks overcame** countless obstacles in her pursuit of nursing. She began her education at UVM but had to pause her studies in 1958, after marrying George Bemis '60, MD—at the time, married students were not permitted in the nursing program. Distance put her UVM degree out of reach when Bemis was accepted to medical school in Ohio. Still, her desire to be a nurse endured. After raising a family, she completed her nursing education at age 50 at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minnesota, intending to pursue missionary health work. Three months later, she was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer and given a 3% chance of surviving five years. She lived 26 more years, traveling with Dr. Bemis and using her nursing skills throughout his military tours. Nancy passed away in 2017, at 77, after being diagnosed with ALS.

In honor of his wife, Dr. Bemis has made a landmark estate commitment—currently valued at \$16 million—to UVM's College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS). As the largest gift in CNHS history, the Nancy Wicks Bemis, RN, Endowment will transform access to nursing education through scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students, with priority given to Vermont residents. Once fully invested, the endowment is predicted to more than double donor-funded nursing scholarship aid.

“UVM was and is of great importance to us,” said Dr. Bemis, who has been a steadfast supporter of UVM, and a strong proponent of nursing and medical student education. After graduating from UVM in 1960, he earned a medical degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1964 and had a distinguished 30-year career as an OB/GYN physician in the U.S. Air Force. He earned an MBA from the University of St. Thomas in 1988 and retired from the Air Force in 1991 while on track for promotion to full colonel.

“Nancy and I were married for 58 years,” said Dr. Bemis. “She had a deep caring for everyone she knew. She represented her profession at its best. I'm pleased to make this commitment to CNHS as a lasting tribute to her.”

#### BY THE NUMBERS

2024-2025 UVM COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

518

UNDERGRADUATE NURSING STUDENTS (141 FROM VERMONT)

120

GRADUATE NURSING STUDENTS (83 FROM VERMONT)

78%

PERCENTAGE OF UNDERGRADUATE NURSING STUDENTS SEEKING FINANCIAL AID

70%

PERCENTAGE OF NEED WE ARE ABLE TO MEET

\$21,931

AVERAGE FINANCIAL NEED DEMONSTRATED

96.4%

NCLEX-RN (LICENSING) PASS RATE FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

100%

NCLEX-RN PASS RATE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS (76.8% NATIONAL PASS RATE)



Open doors for the next generation of health care professionals

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▲ A midwifery education program will facilitate a significant and necessary leap forward in maternal health care.



▲ Claire Lintilhac

“Midwifery care has been part of UVM Medical Center for more than 57 years, thanks to Claire Lintilhac. It’s been my honor to practice here for 32 years.

I have loved being part of this community by sharing in the births of local families. When I meet people and they show me photos of their babies now grown into children or young adults, my heart is touched. Training more midwives through a midwifery education program will be a lasting legacy for Vermont families.”

– MARTI CHURCHILL, CNM, MSN, LEAD MIDWIFE, MIDWIFERY SERVICES, UVM MEDICAL CENTER; CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR, DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS, MIDWIFERY, GYNECOLOGY AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, UVM LARNER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE



## Answering the Call

### A New Midwifery Education Program Is Born

**Midwives offer expectant mothers** prenatal care, guidance through holistic, high-quality natural childbirth, hands-on assistance during labor and delivery, counseling, and postpartum support. Stowe resident Claire Lintilhac, who’d trained as a nurse-midwife in England and spent nearly two decades as a traveling nurse in rural China, cofounded the midwifery service at UVM Medical Center in 1968 in partnership with then chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology, John Maeck, MD. Claire’s legacy of support has continued for decades through the Lintilhac Foundation, with Claire’s son, Phil, and his wife, Crea, as trustees.

Today, our certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) attend nearly 25% of deliveries, a rate more than double the national average. Demand for reproductive health care is escalating, but the midwife workforce is not keeping pace with demand. Many midwives are retiring, the number of midwifery education programs remains static, and financial and geographic barriers are deterring interested learners. Maternal health care deserts are taking root, leaving pregnant women in our region without reproductive care, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

In 2026, a new midwifery education program at UVM

Medical Center will be launched thanks to formative gifts from the Lintilhac Foundation and from David and Eleanor Ignat, a local couple whose giving has fueled health care workforce development throughout our state. The program will recruit and train CNMs from a variety of backgrounds and will offer a curriculum informed by the unique needs of the rural, low-income and underserved communities we support. Recruitment efforts will focus on people who are interested in remaining in our region and working in rural areas and areas that have been declared maternal care deserts. Qualified applicants from low-income and underserved backgrounds will be given priority access. Once fully funded, with state approval

and accreditation, this program will increase access and affordability for learners, expand the midwife workforce and bring skilled services to the women and families who need it.

“The state of Vermont has an incredible track record in terms of reducing maternal and infant morbidity and mortality, and midwives play a key role! In the years ahead, our workforce need for CNMs will grow. Our Midwifery Education Program will help train this workforce and will be an important strategy to provide essential care to women across the state,” said Jeffrey Peipert, MD, PhD, professor and John Van Sicklen Maeck Chair, Obstetrics, Midwifery, Gynecology and Reproductive Health, UVM Medical Center.



Improve access to local, high-quality maternal health care

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**Inspired to Give**  
**Grateful Patients**  
**Pay It Forward**

**Contributions to the UVM Medical Center Fund** have a significant, immediate impact on the health care available in our region. These unrestricted gifts from grateful patients, families, local businesses, employees and many others are pooled and redirected to areas of critical and emerging need, such as expanding access to care, fueling innovations in treatments and providing resources for direct patient support. Read more from two grateful patients paying it forward through their own gifts.



Barbara Strife faced rheumatic fever as a child, leaving her with lasting heart damage. ▶



**Where Care Feels Personal: Barbara Strife**

The rheumatic fever Barbara Strife had as a child left her with lasting heart damage. So when she moved to Vermont, she knew she needed to find a heart care team she could trust. She found those experts and more at UVM Medical Center.

“Every person I meet, from the reception desk to the cardiology lab, takes the time to get to know me, not just my chart,” she said. “UVM Medical Center isn’t just where you go for treatment—it’s where care feels personal.”

Strife praises the excellent care coordination and access to specialists close to home. And when symptoms like dizziness and fatigue recently became unmanageable, she was able to undergo a procedure right at UVM Medical Center that regulated her heart rhythm.

“I felt vibrant and whole in a way I hadn’t experienced for years,” she said. “I now enjoy every day with renewed energy and peace of mind.”

◀ Grateful patient and donor Barbara Strife calls the care she received from the UVM Medical Center heart care team “modern, compassionate health care at its best.”



**Seamless, Coordinated Care: Tom LaRocque**

In rural Malone, New York, where Tom LaRocque lives, UVM Health provides a lifeline, ensuring that hospitals like Alice Hyde Medical Center in his hometown are connected to the most advanced care available through the Reddy Cancer Treatment Center and UVM Cancer Center.

When LaRoque’s prostate cancer progressed to Stage 4 metastatic, he knew he needed options—and found them through Steven Ades, MD, a medical oncologist at UVM Cancer Center. He introduced LaRoque to a new therapy called Pluvicto. At the time, UVM Cancer Center wasn’t a designated site to administer it, but Dr. Ades and staff worked to change that. Because of their dedication, and the support of the Alice Hyde team, LaRocque was among the first patients at UVM Cancer Center to get this treatment.

“Their combined expertise and collaboration ensure that I receive the most advanced treatments available while still being able to stay close to home,” LaRocque said. “It’s this kind of seamless, coordinated care that makes UVM Health so essential for patients like me.”

▲ Tom LaRocque and his wife, Suzanne, support Alice Hyde Medical Center and UVM Cancer Center in gratitude for the care Tom received.



Share your grateful patient story

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▲ Philip Ades, MD (1951-2024)

## Heart to Heart

### Sustaining Resilience and Hope for Cardiac Rehab Patients

**Philip Ades, MD**, a prominent cardiologist, inspiring teacher and pioneer in the field of cardiac rehabilitation, passed away in 2024, but his legacy lives on. Over the span of 40 years, Dr. Ades focused his career on improving recovery following a cardiac event, having established the Cardiac Rehabilitation and Prevention Program at UVM Medical Center in 1983. He strived to optimize treatment strategies in order to elevate clinical outcomes in cardiac patients, as evidenced by his contributions to the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology.

Over the years, the cardiac rehab program has grown exponentially, not only improving care in the community but also allowing clinical trials and research to advance the field of science. This has placed a strain on gym equipment, but

thanks to charitable support, some of the aging equipment has been replaced. Ongoing maintenance is essential to delivering high-quality care, so philanthropic investments will continue to play a vital role.

To honor Dr. Ades and to maintain the work he so passionately cared for, his wife, Deborah Rubin, MD, a retired radiation oncologist, has made a generous gift to establish a cardiac rehabilitation endowment and open the door to a perpetual source of support for the program. More contributions are needed to reach the full potential of this fund, which could help generations of cardiac patients return to whole and productive lives. On behalf of those patients, we extend special thanks to Dr. Rubin, the UVM Medical Center Auxiliary, David and Beth Daigle and other generous donors for their support.



Help grow cardiology rehabilitation, care and clinical trials

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“ I first engaged with UVM Medical Center when my father was diagnosed with Parkinson’s. Dr. Boyd and the Binter Center team not only cared for him with thoughtful attention but supported my mother as his caretaker. The experience opened my eyes to the incredible quality of our hospital.

Years later, my mother was diagnosed with bile duct cancer. It was very sudden. She had only a few weeks to live. I thought my mother and I would have to navigate the prognosis alone, but the surgeon brought in a nurse, a medical resident and Bob Gramling, a palliative medicine physician. Dr. Gramling asked my mother how she felt about death and fostered a conversation so transformative that it gifted my mother and me with extra closeness over her final weeks.



After she passed, I looked for ways to give back to the hospital. I even tried to get my dog certified as a therapy dog. He failed. Philanthropy provided the channel I was seeking, and when I was invited to join the foundation board, I jumped at the opportunity.

We are fortunate to live in a community in which people take care of one another. Thank you for supporting UVM Medical Center and, in turn, all of us.”

– KATE LAUD, CHAIR, UVM MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION BOARD

UVM Medical Center, including Golisano Children’s Hospital and UVM Cancer Center, is a nonprofit hospital that relies on private philanthropic support to achieve its mission.

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#### 2025 Philanthropy Highlights

- ▶ Annie Seyler, UVM Medical Center Foundation, Editor and Principal Writer
- ▶ Ann Howard, UVM Larner College of Medicine, Graphic Designer

- ▶ Erin Post, Contributing Writer
- ▶ Jane Teeling Chou, UVM Cancer Center, Contributing Writer
- ▶ Christina Davenport, UVM Foundation, Contributing Writer



UVM Medical Center, together with UVM's Larner College of Medicine and College of Nursing and Health Sciences, is our region's premier academic medical center, and the founding member of University of Vermont Health, a system of seven hospitals and a home health provider that share expertise, leadership and resources to ensure the highest quality of care for patients. One important reason our caregivers, scientists, educators and learners can change so many lives: **philanthropic support from our community.** Your charitable gifts help us push the boundaries of clinical care, research and training—coming ever closer to treatments and cures for the health conditions that affect thousands of people throughout Vermont and northern New York, and millions more around the world. Our collaborative work relies on close partnerships, innovation, shared passion and a vast, dedicated community of donors.

## Thank you.

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