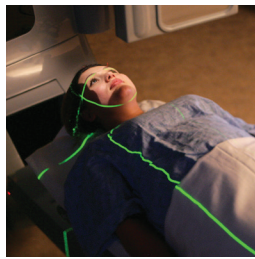




IMPACTReport



SPRING
2014



Welcome, Supporter!

I must say that the unifying theme of this edition of the *Impact Report* is **inspiration**.

I think you will be inspired to read about Sheila Ghisolfo who, along with her husband, wanted to make a difference to others through their estate plan. After both received devastating cancer diagnoses, Mrs. Ghisolfo decided to help VMC improve access to the best cancer treatment available.

Who isn't moved by the story of Harold Schapelhouman, a local hero who returned to his job at the Menlo Park Fire Department only nine months after sustaining a devastating spinal cord injury? His desire to serve others is, well...inspiring!

And when we hear from grateful patients and their families about their medical care, it confirms what I see each and every day. I am continually inspired by the excellent care provided by our doctors, nurses, therapists, technicians and others.

Finally, I am inspired by all of you, our donors and champions. Your generosity and support of healthcare excellence in our community inspires me to come to work each day! For that, I am eternally grateful. Thank you!

Chris Wilder, Executive Director

The Ghisolfo Legacy: Making Cutting-Edge Cancer Care Available for All



The Ghisolfos discussed making a significant contribution through their estate, but their planning came to a halt when Mr. Ghisolfo received the news that he had terminal cancer. When Sheila Ghisolfo received her own cancer diagnosis, she vowed to improve the chances of survival for others fighting this dreaded disease. Seeking ways to help, she turned to her neighbor, Madeleine Kalsched, who is a radiation therapist at VMC's Sobrato Cancer Center.

Madeleine told Mrs. Ghisolfo that the Cancer Center team needed to replace one of its two linear

accelerators. "I explained that the number of patients we are treating each day has risen from 15 to more than 40. We are now the second busiest department in the hospital," Madeleine recalls.

She explained that the new linear accelerator technology would deliver a precise dose of radiation, sparing tissue around the cancer. It would also improve patient comfort and reduce treatment time, which would allow more patients to receive care each day. This is important when each day matters so much.

Mrs. Ghisolfo worked with the VMC Foundation to make a gift to the Sobrato Cancer Center through her trust. The Ghisolfo gift will be the first from the community in support of this cutting-edge technology, estimated to cost approximately \$3.6 million. Because of its importance to cancer care in our community, the VMC Foundation will continue to seek funding to support this project.

We thank Sheila Ghisolfo for her vision. The Ghisolfos' generosity will be memorialized with a special donor plaque in VMC's Sobrato Cancer Center.



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Spinal Cord Injury Patient Returns to Work

We love sharing inspirational patient stories and are happy to report that VMC patient, Harold Schapelhouman, has returned to work as fire chief at the Menlo Park Fire Department.

Last spring, Harold suffered spinal cord injuries after falling from a ladder outside his home. Paramedics rushed him to VMC's Level 1 Trauma Center where doctors performed neurosurgery to stabilize his injuries. Harold then began his long journey to recovery in VMC's world-class rehabilitation unit, where he worked closely with his therapists for months.

Not satisfied with the option of early retirement, Harold has resumed his duties as chief on a part-time basis. "I thank my family, my doctors and therapists, and the community for helping me reach this goal." Congratulations, Harold!

Your Donations at Work

\$51,500 for *Nicview* web-enabled cameras so parents can stay connected to their baby during admission to the NICU.

\$24,000 for a *Brainz* monitor for bedside aEEG, real-time EEG, and continuous measurement of brain function in babies.

\$18,000 for a regional oximetry system to assess the cerebral and somatic oxygen saturations in babies.

\$10,000 for the *NICU Knowledge* patient education program that helps parents of NICU babies learn about caring for their baby and preparing to take their baby home.

VMC...What Healthcare Should Be

David Chin and Jacquelyn Yeh are both pharmacists and educated healthcare consumers. As such, they always thought they could navigate the terrain of an often-complicated medical delivery system. That confidence was shaken in 2010 after the premature birth of their twin daughters, Audrey and Alexandria. A brain injury for baby Audrey resulted in a severe form of Cerebral Palsy, and a lifetime of care needs.

When the Chins relocated to Santa Clara, they continued to seek what they hoped to be the best medical care for Audrey. Expressing frustration by long waits and often "fragmented care," Jacquelyn states, "We just lost faith in the medical system." Then they were referred to Dr. Steve Harris, a pediatrician at Valley Medical Center.

"I'm embarrassed to say that we'd never heard of VMC," recalls Jacquelyn. "I was so surprised by the kindness, and the good continuity of care. After one visit, the receptionist remembered Audrey's name!"

Jacquelyn adds, "Dr. Harris took charge. There was an issue with Audrey's feeding tube and Dr. Harris called in Dr. Garcia, the gastroenterologist, to take a look. Issues were addressed on the spot and the doctors and nurses taught us how to care for our daughter. The care and level of dedication that VMC provided was really such a big and pleasant surprise."

Audrey will turn four years old this May. Her parents are so pleased with the care she has received at VMC. "VMC has changed the way we view healthcare!"



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