Thank you to our monthly supporters

Craig Hospital Foundation would like to thank our monthly recurring donors who provide generous support of the patients at Craig Hospital through automatic deduction from their checking account or credit card. Monthly recurring donors allow the Craig Hospital Foundation to eliminate costly postage and mailing expenses so that more of each donation helps patients in need. It is one of the most efficient and impactful ways to give. The following list is of individuals who have been giving monthly since June of 2014.

- aluminum
- Fred Bier
- Sharon Blackburn and Theresa Chase
- Suzanne Ellison
- James and Erma Bailey
- Heidi and Richard Arsenault
- Corey and Jennifer Arnold
- Joseph Brucker
- Theresa Chase
- Sharon Blackburn and David Birkle
-Debi Schumann

SpeediCath Do What You Love Campaign

With the help of Coloplast, the makers of SpeediCath catheters, and generous donors, the SpeediCath Do What You Love Campaign raised $574,445.25 for Craig Hospital’s Therapeutic Recreation Department.

Belair Sporting Clays

More than 225 people gathered on the plains of Bennett, Colorado on May 16 for the 12th annual Belair Sitework Services Sporting Clays shooting benefit for Craig Hospital’s Therapeutic Recreation Department.

Craig graduate Richard Sanchez shoots at the Belair Sporting Clays benefit on May 16.
An avid Colorado Avalanche fan, Fraser was also surprised by a visit from the Avalanche Ice Girls and Mark Randall, Nuggets community ambassador. Nearly 50 people attended the celebration, including Fraser’s family members, friends, Craig staff members and fellow patients.

Fraser, from Overland Park, Kansas, was paralyzed after diving into a wave while on a family trip in Mexico. He is an Eagle Scout, a member of the Blue Valley High School drum line, and a championship swimmer.

The party was planned by Karen Jensen, Fraser’s clinical care manager, and was paid for by the Craig Hospital Foundation’s donor-supported Patient Assistance Fund. The fund provides financial support to patients and families at Craig, helping purchase adaptive equipment, remediated homes for accessibility, train caregivers, pay mortgages and meet other needs. The Patient Assistance Fund also provides funding for patients who are celebrating milestones or other important events while at Craig.

“The party was planned in advance and a lot of people came to support him. It was a big deal for Alex,” says Jensen. “When we know that Alex wouldn’t be able to attend his graduation back home, we knew we wanted to help him make a special memory.”

The party was covered by Denver’s KUSA-TV.

During the party, Fraser participated in his high school graduation ceremony via Skype and was presented with his diploma by his parents under a shower of confetti. When the TV segment about the party, visit craighospital.org/foundation.

Redefining ROI: The Campaign for Craig Hospital

As the construction of the east building addition wraps up, and the ROI campaign enters its final phase, the Craig Hospital Foundation continues to raise funds for phase two of the project. As of June 2014, $36 million of the $50 million goal has been raised for the capital project, and $15.6 of the $18 million goal has been raised for Craig Hospital programs and unrestricted funds.

Personalized engraved pavers are currently available for purchase. These pavers will be installed in the new facility, and will allow donors to make a mark on our new campus while supporting Redefining ROI: the Campaign for Craig Hospital. Individual pavers start at $50 or shared pavers are available for $250. Flexible 12-month payment plans are available starting at just $21/month. Visit mycraigpaver.org to learn more. There are also naming opportunities for spaces in the building for gifts of $50,000 or more. Call 1-800-789-8500 for information.

Construction Update

By Tonya Murray, Patient/Staff Liaison & Superintendent, GE Johnson Construction Company

It’s been almost three years since the first meetings to brainstorm the concept of Craig Hospital expanding and it’s hard to believe we are nearly complete with Phase One of construction. The new four-story addition will be complete in August! The finishing touches are getting installed in the new addition, including the word “Craig” in the bottom of one of the new PEAK pools, the custom flooring in the new PEAK and the Corian countertops in the Admissions Department. Outside, everything north of the pedestrian bridge is wrapping up. The main drive and cul-de-sac, new trees, bushes and flowers bring a welcoming feel to the campus.

At the end of August, we will launch phase two of construction, which will finish the interiors of the South Hall of the new fourth floor Spinal Cord Unit. The new bistro, SCI therapy gym and Adaptive Technology Lab will be built out during this phase, scheduled to complete February 2015. The entire project is scheduled for completion in 2016.

Craig Hospital alumnus runs the Colfax Marathon to raise funds for other patients

His race preparation began last summer with workouts, and in February 2014 he started training, working out on the treadmill at his gym when he couldn’t run outside.

“Race day was fantastic. It was very gratifying that I recovered so much in one year that I was able to complete the race. It meant so much to have friends and family there to support me. My 15-year-old son and the son of family friends also ran the race. We were all greeted at the finish line with hugs and high-fives,” Wilson says.

He ran the race to express his gratitude to Craig Hospital, and he raised more than $1,500 for Craig in the process. The funds will benefit Craig’s Therapeutic Recreation program, which provides recreation opportunities to help patients participate in activities they used to enjoy or to learn new exciting activities.

Wilson became part of the Craig Family in 2013. After collapsing at home with a pulmonary embolism, he survived the trip to St. Anthony’s Hospital, but once there, cardiac arrested three times. During the last cardiac arrest, when he was for an extended time, his brain suffered from a lack of oxygen. He spent two months at St. Anthony’s and was transferred to Craig for inpatient therapy for a month.

“I like to say St. Anthony’s saved my life, and Craig Hospital gave me back my life. My experience at Craig was unforgetting. The kindness of the therapists and staff is unsurpassed. Craig’s focus on treating all its patients like family is special, and I want to be a good family member and do my part,” Wilson says.

Wilson says the residual effects from the brain injury are minor, and his health is better than ever. He is back to working full-time in his growing consulting business. He and his family hike in the mountains regularly. The entire family was able to go to Hawaii in the spring, taking the trip they missed in 2013.

“Every day is a bonus!” he says.

Studies look at program to teach self-advocacy to individuals with brain injury

A brain injury can affect every aspect of a person’s life, and require the individual and/ or a family member to advocate for services and acceptance as the individual attempts to re-enter social, vocational, and community roles. Unfortunately, the very skills required for successful self-advocacy—communication, problem solving, organization and emotional control—are frequently disrupted by the injury.

With funding from the Craig Hospital Foundation, Craig’s research department is conducting two pilot research studies on the efficacy of an intervention program designed to empower people with skills of self-advocacy.

The Self-Advocacy for Independent Life (SAIL) program is a series of four workshop sessions spread over six weeks for individuals with traumatic brain injury or brain injury.

Developed and taught by Lenny Hawley, LCSW and research clinician, the sessions focus on physical and emotional self-care, identification of available resources, organizational skills, and assertive communication.

“After brain injury, people are in need of services such as rehabilitation, housing, income and vocational assistance,” says Hawley. “They get a lot of help in the beginning, but over time, it’s back in their own hands. This program was developed for individuals with brain injury, and the family members who might be helping advocate for them.”

In the first of the related pilot studies nearing completion, one group of individuals with brain injury participated in the in-person workshops, while the other control group received the program materials and workbook to review at home. Both groups have undergone pre-and post-program assessment.

The program will next be offered to caregivers and support people.

The second pilot study is helping the research department develop the specific measurement tools to be used to assess self-efficacy for self-advocacy and self-advocacy behaviors in individuals with brain injury and their significant others. This study surveyed brain injury survivors and family members through the Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado and Rocky Mountain Human Services to gain further information regarding the proposed measurement scales.

According to Hawley, the lead principal investigator on each study, when completed these two pilot studies could lead to a full scale randomized controlled trial.

“After looking at the data, we’ll determine if this study could be expanded, if the SAIL program could be made available at Craig through our outpatient department, or for spinal cord injury patients,” she says. “Self-advocacy skills are needed by everyone.”

The Research Department is currently recruiting family members or caregivers of brain injury survivors to participate in the SAIL study in the late summer. Contact Clare Morey at cmorey@craighospital.org or call 303-789-8621 to learn more.