Children of Bellevue

2014 Annual Report

Because Children Need More Than Medicine to Thrive
A Few Words From Marc Bothwell

Dear Friends,

We take great pleasure in delivering to you our 2014 Annual Report. Each year builds on the one before and we are pleased to share with you last year’s accomplishments.

In 2014 we implemented even more of our mission to provide children in Bellevue Hospital Center with “more than medicine”. With the combined vision and passion of our board of directors, hospital leadership and excellent program staff, we:

• Added two new forms of therapy for both inpatients and outpatients. An Emmy award-winning animator provides animation art therapy and a talented musician opens up a whole new world of expression for children as young as newborns to teenagers with a music therapy program.
• Increased support for the Behavioral Rewards Program in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry by providing structure and consistent support. Patients earn points throughout the day that can be redeemed for books, games, toys, and other incentives – reinforcing positive rather than negative behaviors.
• Read aloud to thousands of children in the clinic waiting area, and then sent them home with more than 12,000 brand-new, age-appropriate and developmentally-appropriate books.
• Sent special needs children to day camps geared just for their needs, and sent destitute newborns home with complete new sets of infant clothing.
• Celebrated patient birthdays including cake and party games. Regardless of their ages, some of our children and teens experience their first birthday party in the hospital!
• Intervened early for thousands of children at risk for autism, ADHD and diagnoses of other developmental or behavioral disorders.
• Made life brighter for children and teens in psychiatric crisis who have given up hope at a young age and now have the strength, desire and confidence to go back to their communities and dream of their futures.

Ultimately, however, all credit and honor is due to the generosity of foundations, corporations and people like you listed in this Annual Report. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Marc E. Bothwell
President, Board of Directors

Our Mission

Children of Bellevue (CoB) is a non-profit organization founded in 1949 to initiate, fund, and develop programs that improve the health and well-being of children at Bellevue Hospital Center. We are advocates for pediatric patients and their families, and are dedicated to alleviating the pain, loneliness, and fear that can accompany childhood hospitalization. We also seek to enhance early development and school-readiness in children at risk of falling behind due to family poverty. All of our life changing programs are made possible solely through philanthropic donations.

Because Children Need More Than Medicine to Thrive

Children of Bellevue was founded by a group of determined women with a vision – to create an organization that would consistently improve the quality of care children receive at Bellevue Hospital Center. Our mission has expanded and evolved and today CoB funds innovative, best practice programs throughout Bellevue’s pediatric and psychiatric programs, including:

• Child Life and Development
• Child Protection and Development
• Fellowship in Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics
• Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
• Reach Out and Read
• Video Interaction Project

The six program areas supported by CoB together provide services for an estimated 35,000 children annually. The children treated at BHC have diverse cultural backgrounds, often living in single-parent households or with limited economic and social resources. Many are new immigrants with little or no support network in this country. It is unlikely that many of these families would be able to find care for their children without the services and support that we provide.

To learn more about Children of Bellevue please call 212-562-4130 or go online at ChildrenOfBellevue.org.
It all started with a neighbor who was in trouble,” said Jacqueline. “She knocked on our door and pleaded with my mother. She said, Please, please help me, they are going to take away my kids. I don’t want my kids to go into the system. I know you and trust you. Please take my kids!”

Jacqueline’s mother Miladyas is one of those special women. After raising three children, now adults, she adopted her neighbor’s children, Edwin, just ten days old, and his two year old brother.

Edwin was a happy baby who met all his developmental milestones, he rolled over at five months, sat up unsupported at six months, was able to walk alone at one year, and was toilet trained by the age of two. Miladyas says he was a very easy baby.

“We didn’t realize there was a problem until he started school,” said his big sister, Jacqueline. When Edwin was four, his Head Start teachers complained that he jumped up and down and ran around uncontrollably. He refused to sit still during lunchtime.

“Once they pointed it out, we became more aware that he was hyperactive,” Jacqueline said.

Edwin’s pediatrician referred him to the Developmental Behavioral Pediatric Clinic at Bellevue Hospital Center. Currently in the U. S., there are only five developmental pediatricians for every ten thousand children at risk for a diagnosis of autism, ADHD and other disorders, yet early intervention is critical to good long-term outcomes. In our clinic, we evaluate more than four hundred new cases each year, and treat more than one thousand children with some type of developmental or behavioral disorder.

“They gave him medications,” shared Jacqueline, who accompanies her mother and brother to the clinic whenever she can. “It really calmed him down. He’s much more relaxed.” The doctors also intervene on Edwin’s behalf, making sure that he receives speech and occupational therapy in school, and that his IEP (Individual Education Plan) is being followed.

“I am so glad they have this program for kids like my little brother,” Jacqueline exclaimed. “And they help my mom so much, too. I think it’s great that they interact with the school to make sure that he is getting the programs and services he needs there—it has really made a difference. I can’t begin to describe the patience and love those doctors have for my little brother and my mother. The team is amazing!”

Edwin’s challenges are now more easily managed. “We aren’t getting called as much,” Jacqueline explained. “We’ve seen a big difference in school. He gets along with his teachers and his friends.” Though on the shy side, when asked what he likes to do with his friends, Edwin said he likes to play tag.

Edwin just turned twelve and will enter middle school this fall. His challenges are now more easily managed. “We aren’t getting called as much,” Jacqueline explained. “We’ve seen a big difference in school. He gets along with his teachers and his friends.” Though on the shy side, when asked what he likes to do with his friends, Edwin said he likes to play tag.

Edwin’s challenges are now more easily managed. “We aren’t getting called as much,” Jacqueline explained. “We’ve seen a big difference in school. He gets along with his teachers and his friends.” Though on the shy side, when asked what he likes to do with his friends, Edwin said he likes to play tag.

Edwin just turned twelve and will enter middle school this fall. He doesn’t handle change well and Jacqueline is anticipating the first week will be a rocky one for both Edwin and Miladyas. She plans to take the week off from work so she can be on hand to help with the transition. “He’s my little brother and I’m going to be there whenever he needs me,” she said.

Throughout my life, I struggled with mental health issues and self-destructive behaviors. I spent six years bouncing between hospitals and treatment centers and outpatient programs, frequently in crisis.

My parents sought treatment in many different places with little to no effect. I was overmedicated and misdiagnosed again and again and again. I was diagnosed with a personality disorder when I was only thirteen (crazily) and felt no one cared/understood or wanted to actually help me.

By the time I came to Bellevue, I felt truly hopeless and had low expectations.

But my team of doctors at Bellevue worked to earn my trust, worked with me and with each other and actually spent time talking to me in order to understand what was going on and what would help me. I was part of my own treatment; part of “the team” too.

For the first time in my life, I received therapy that reached my deepest thoughts and emotions instead of just my behavior. Instead of taking the easier route (diagnose almost immediately based on obvious external symptoms, medicate/sedate, discharge), my Bellevue team took the time and effort to pinpoint the root of my behaviors and find treatment that addressed the root instead of solely the symptoms.

Moreover, they paid attention to my passion for art and took special care to arrange extra art therapy time for me. Having space to create and express myself and practice coping creatively was an important aspect of my healing.

After my discharge from the inpatient unit, I came back daily for the partial hospitalization program. This helped me practice transitioning environments and building independence, preparing me to gently transition back to my home and school life. The Bellevue support system grew with me instead of pushing me off the cliff, per se.

It was rocky for a while, but now here I am as a young adult with consistent outpatient care, almost straight. As in school (one B in pre-calc!), a high school graduate starting college in the fall, free of self-injuring behaviors for over a year and actually happy to be alive and excited for the future.

If that doesn’t say something about the specialness of Bellevue, I don’t know what does. If there is any source of treatment that I want to see supported and nourished and aided, it is Bellevue.
The Video Interaction Project was supported in 2014 by New York City Council Members Daniel Garodnick, Stephen Levin, Rosie Mendez, Antonio Reynoso and Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker of the New York City Council. Other major support came from The Marks Family Foundation, the Tiger Foundation, and generous individual donors like you.

Major support for the Child Protection and Development Department in 2014 came from The New York State Office of Victim’s Services, The Richard & Natalie Jacoff Foundation, Inc., Dr. Margaret McHugh and Mr. Richard Schulhoff, Frances B. Perry, and compassionate people like you.
Reach Out & Read

How many children do you know who look forward to a visit with their pediatrician? Marla, the mother of four year old James and five year old Susanna, recently visited her primary care doctor in the clinic at Bellevue Hospital Center and then picked the children up from school.

“Where are the books?” they asked her, repeatedly. She was confused until children explained, “You went to the hospital. When we go, we always get books.” Marla laughed and explained that they would get books the next time they had a check-up. And now they repeatedly ask her when they can go see the doctor!

Children of Bellevue’s Reach Out and Read (ROR) program optimizes routine pediatric primary care visits to “prescribe” books to young children, ages six months to five years, (the period that experts tell us is when the most critical brain development takes place), and to encourage parents to read aloud to their children daily. In 2014, Children of Bellevue’s Reach Out and Read program gave out more than 12,000 brand new books. Gently used books were also given to everyone who wanted one, regardless of age or reason for the visit. In addition to books in English and Spanish, we offer books in French, Russian, Bengali, Chinese, and Arabic.

The program is simple but effective:

• In the clinic waiting room, trained volunteers read aloud to children waiting to see the doctor, modeling book-reading techniques for parents watching nearby.

• A trained parent educator circulates throughout the waiting area, providing advice about reading, stressing the importance of language and literacy, and setting the stage for the doctor in the exam room.

• The pediatrician represents an authority figure to most parents and so the doctor gives the child a book during every regular check-up and reminds parents about the importance of reading aloud regularly at home.

The results speak for themselves. Children in our Reach Out and Read program demonstrated a six-month developmental advantage compared to their peers in a control group; parents reported reading aloud more often to their children, and most children started kindergarten with a home library of at least ten books. For some of our families, the books we give them are the only ones they own.

Reach Out & Read in 2014 was supported by grants and major gifts from: The Solon E. Summerfield Foundation, The Brownstone Family Foundation, Richard Serra, Congregation Rodeph Sholom, Seventh District Foundation, Jane G. Burton, The Stone Family Fund, Inc., Alliant Energy Foundation, Inc., The Women’s Alliance of the Unitarian Church of All Souls, and by individual donors like you.

In 2014, Reach Out and Read was supported by grants and major gifts from: The Solon E. Summerfield Foundation, The Brownstone Family Foundation, Richard Serra, Congregation Rodeph Sholom, Seventh District Foundation, Jane G. Burton, The Stone Family Fund, Inc., Alliant Energy Foundation, Inc., The Women’s Alliance of the Unitarian Church of All Souls, and by individual donors like you.

Child Life & Development

Jacob has soft brown eyes and a charming smile. He jokes with his fiancée about how they met in the Infectious Disease (ID) Clinic. “We were about eight or nine years old and she says I stole a piece of her birthday cake. I don’t remember that, but it does sound like something I would do.”

“I was born at Bellevue twenty three years ago and it has been my home-away-from-home. I think I’ve slept more nights in the hospital than in my own home!” Jacob remembers. “I had pneumonia a lot. My mom didn’t force me to take my medicine so I would get sick frequently.”

Jacob’s mom was never able to find the words to tell him that he had been born with HIV. He found out when he was eleven, and only after she had died of AIDS.

If Bellevue is Jacob’s home-away-from-home, the Child Life Specialist he has met throughout the years are his extended family. They have supported him through some of the toughest times and helped him pursue his talents and dreams.

“We listen to kids when they are afraid or worried,” explained Child Life Specialist, Natalie. “We validate their feelings and help them cope with the things they are dealing with.”

“Natalie did that all the time,” admin Jacob. “She would ease into it. We would play games and eventually I would just start talking and everything I was feeling would come out.”

One hospital stay led Jacob to pursue acting and comedy after creating a ‘little movie’ with Tom, an art therapist. “And it was Natalie that got me into my first theater company! I was driving her crazy so she searched the internet until she found a program and helped me enroll.”

“The Infectious Disease Clinic is a truly special place,” explains Natalie. “The staff is always there to support the children and teens, most of whom have lost at least one parent. Many have grown up in foster homes or adoptive families. Often, the group provides the greatest sense of stability they have ever had in their lives. They feel safe here.”

“At first I thought I was by myself, that it was just me,” claimed Jacob. “But being in the ID Clinic gave me the knowledge and social support I needed to deal with my disease.” Jacob now works as a Consumer Advocate at Bellevue Hospital Center.

Jacob is starting Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) School in September. Asked why he wants to be an EMT, he says, “I have acquired all this medical knowledge and I want to put it to use helping others.” Jacob is “really healthy,” he says. “I haven’t been admitted to the hospital since I was about thirteen!” Thanks to the advances in HIV medicines, Jacob’s viral load is undetectable, which means the likelihood of his transferring the virus is close to zero.

A “Toast” To The Children

Special events provide vital support that sustains all of our programs throughout the year. Each spring we gather for our signature event, A Toast to the Children, a wine and food tasting extravaganza hosted by Tom Colicchio.

Our 19th annual “Toast” was held on April 22nd at Riverpark and raised $650,000 to help care for economically disadvantaged children at Bellevue Hospital Center.
Financial Report

Together, we raised $1.4 million to support ground-breaking research, special programs, and care for economically disadvantaged children in our communities.

Operating Support
Unrestricted and Restricted support $1,055,388
Special Events (net) $269,133
Interest and Dividends; Gains on Investment $98,697
TOTAL $1,423,218

Operating Expenses
Administration $118,283
Camp/Layette $7,707
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry $104,259
Child Life and Development $387,020
Child Protection and Development $400,221
Developmental/Behavioral Pediatrics $68,000
Fundraising $210,586
Reach Out and Read $33,139
Video Interaction Project $343,999
TOTAL $1,625,214

Expenses $(1,625,214)
Increase/Decrease in Net Assets $(201,997)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year $1,814,917
Net Assets, End of Year $1,612,921

Board Of Directors

We all work together to care for children and their families. Our mission is advanced with the support, passion, teamwork and tireless commitment of our boards, advisors and dedicated staff.

Marc E. Bothwell
President

Shannon Bell
Mary Ann Chiasson, Dr. PH
Y. Daphne Coltho-Adam, Esq.
Tom Colicchio
Stacey Cook
Jennifer Davidson
Rebecca S. Gordon
Karen Hopkins, MD
Judith A. Keating
Ron Longe
Jeffrey A. Meckler
Kristina Moris
Kevin M. O'Leary
Cheryl Reich
Nicole Shearman
Helen Stephan, MBBS, FRACR
David Temkin
Juan E. Torruella
Benjamine Valle

CORPORATE MEMBERS
Mrs. Stanley Arkin
Mrs. Stephen Bassock
James A. Beha, II
Mrs. William J. Benedict
Cathryn Burchill Block
Lorrie Buckley
Sean T. Collins
Mary Elliott
Stuart M. Goode
Elizabeth Duer Jennings
Kevin Martyn
Elizabeth Martin
Judith Murray
Deborah D. O’Kain
Mrs. Randolph H. Post
Nicole Robbins
Mary A. Susnjara
John C. Wobensmith

LIFE MEMBERS
Mr. James R. Borynack
Mrs. John C. Burton
Michelle R. Clayman
Mrs. Stewart B. Clifford
Mrs. Walter J. P. Curley
Mrs. John W. Emby
Mrs. Bruce A. Gimbel
Mrs. Winthrop Rutherfurd, Jr.
Mrs. Norton Stevens

ADVISORY COUNCIL
Dr. Peter Catapano, Jr.
Dr. Benard P. Dreyer
Dr. Arthur Fierman
Dr. Jennifer Havens
Dr. Amir M. Moursi

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
Jean L. Folsom

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION
Mary-Lee Kvietkus

DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE
Patrick Tekula

GRANT WRITER
Debra Feldman
We Thank Our Donors For Caring

You are a valuable member of the Children of Bellevue community, because every gift you make has the power to change lives. Thank you for trusting us to use your valuable resources carefully on behalf of the economically disadvantaged children in our care. We work diligently to keep our overhead and administrative costs to a minimum. Children of Bellevue, Inc. thanks all those foundations, corporations and individuals who contributed in 2014.

To protect our donors’ privacy, this page is intentionally blank.
If you would like a printed copy of this report, you may request one by calling the office: 212-562-4130 or emailing Ptekula@childrenofbellevue.org.
With Your Help
We Can Accomplish
So Much!

334 children with HIV/AIDS found care, comfort, resources and support in 2014
12,452 brand new books were given to children between 6 months and 5 years of age
25,000 outpatient visits annually from all 5 boroughs and beyond
365 days of the year, children and families count on your support

To learn more please call 212-562-4130
or online at ChildrenOfBellevue.org.

Bellevue Hospital Center
462 First Avenue, ME-15
New York, NY 10016