

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



BROWNHealth
UNIVERSITY

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Transforming Care, Creating a Thriving Healthcare Organization

A Message from the President and Chief Executive Officer and the Chairman of the Board

The past year has been one of transition, as we planned and prepared for two transformative changes—the expansion of our longtime affiliation agreements with Brown University and launch of our new identity as Brown University Health, and our expansion into Southeastern Massachusetts.

Both of these historic milestones were finalized in the fall of 2024, in the weeks immediately following the close of the 2024 fiscal year. Although our acquisition of Saint Anne's and Morton hospitals and affiliated physician practices was very much a part of our focus throughout the period covered by this annual report, they are thus absent from our financial and other reporting. They will be featured in next fiscal year's report.

And while we were officially “Lifespan” throughout the FY24 fiscal year, we are now proudly Brown University Health. It seemed fitting that this report be the first to publish under our new name and logo.

The move to grow our regional footprint, care for more patients and positively impact additional communities in Massachusetts was a critical part of a long-term strategic investment in our organization and our people. The same applies to our closer affiliation with our academic partner, and our rebranding under a common name. While we remain two separate organizations, our enhanced partnership is intended to help us attract and retain the nation's best clinicians, medical faculty, students, and residents who in turn can provide world-class medical care to the people of Rhode Island and Massachusetts. It's also an essential step to building and sustaining a top medical education program and creating a 21st century biomedical research structure.

Expanding our services into Massachusetts, recruiting more physicians and staff, building our new brand and delivering better financial results are all part of our broader strategy—and there is much more to do.

Yet there's another crucial factor in this work: the role of government in supporting a sustainable healthcare delivery system in Rhode Island. Over the past months, as we have seen primary care and other practices closing and hospitals on increasingly shaky financial ground, we have joined the state-wide advocacy campaign calling on the legislature to invest in Medicaid. Rhode Island's Medicaid program pays healthcare providers far less than it costs to care for Medicaid patients, and significantly less than our peers receive in neighboring states. Without a change to these reimbursement rates, the state will continue to lose providers, patient care will suffer, and our healthcare crisis will continue to build.

As we chart a course in this increasingly volatile and challenging healthcare environment, we remain committed to our core mission: delivering the outstanding care our patients and community deserves.

The impact of that care, and of our committed caregivers, is at the heart of the patient stories shared in these pages.

Sincerely,



Lawrence A. Aubin, Sr.
Chair, Brown University Health
Board of Directors



John Fernandez
President and Chief Executive Officer
Brown University Health





BROWNHealth
UNIVERSITY



20,000 employees. One promise.

Mission and Values

Our patients are at the heart of our mission: *Delivering health with care.*

Our shared **CARE** values of **Compassion, Accountability, Respect** and **Excellence** are deeply embedded in everything we do.



They speak to how we treat our patients and each other, and who we are when we are at our best.

COMPASSION

Delivering care and comfort with empathy and kindness.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Taking ownership of actions and consequences.

RESPECT

Placing the highest value on every individual's well-being, regardless of personal and professional differences.

EXCELLENCE

Always providing safe, high-quality, innovative care and service.



Statistical Digest

13,715

EMPLOYEES

1,165

LICENSED BEDS

57,937

PATIENT DISCHARGES

243,124

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS

893,461

OUTPATIENT VISITS

24,924

OUTPATIENT SURGERIES

13,854

INPATIENT SURGERIES

BROWN UNIVERSITY HEALTH FINANCIALS

FISCAL YEAR 2024

(\$'s in thousands)

BROWN UNIVERSITY HEALTH

Financial Performance

Total operating revenue	3,532,734
Total operating expenses	3,474,368
Income (loss) from operations	58,366
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	105,542
Net patient service revenue	2,895,140
Total assets	3,288,520
Research funding revenue	154,476

Statistical digest

Employees	13,715
Licensed beds	1,165
Patient discharges	57,937
Emergency department visits	243,124
Outpatient visits	893,461
Outpatient surgeries	24,924
Inpatient surgeries	13,854
Home health care visits	2,615

Net cost of charity care and other community benefits

Charity care	36,128
Medical education, net	120,749
Research	16,208
Subsidized health services	54,862
Community health improvement services and community benefit operations	1,677
Unreimbursed Medicaid costs	47,916
Total cost of charity care and other community benefits	277,540

RHODE ISLAND HOSPITAL/ HASBRO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Employees	7,473
Affiliated physicians	1,956
Licensed beds	719
Total assets	1,836,806
Patient discharges	33,520
Emergency department visits	138,542
Outpatient visits	331,384
Outpatient surgeries	14,623
Inpatient surgeries	9,393
Net patient service revenue	1,790,151
Research funding revenue	90,298

Net cost of charity care and other community benefits

Charity care	23,626
Medical education, net	104,549
Research	12,287
Subsidized health services	23,724
Community health improvement services and community benefit operations	765

Unreimbursed Medicaid costs	21,405
Total cost of charity care and other community benefits	186,356

THE MIRIAM HOSPITAL

Employees	2,757
Affiliated physicians	1,370
Licensed beds	247
Total assets	800,046
Patient discharges	17,580
Emergency department visits	70,494
Outpatient visits	142,235
Outpatient surgeries	8,029
Inpatient surgeries	3,961
Net patient service revenue	621,321
Research funding revenue	51,745

Net cost of charity care and other community benefits

Charity care	8,082
Medical education, net	14,213
Research	2,882
Subsidized health services	7,191
Community health improvement services and community benefit operations	368
Unreimbursed Medicaid costs	-
Total cost of charity care and other community benefits	32,736

NEWPORT HOSPITAL

Employees	742
Affiliated physicians	694
Licensed beds	129
Total assets	368,653
Patient discharges	5,898
Births	489
Emergency department visits	34,088
Outpatient visits	52,094
Outpatient surgeries	2,272
Inpatient surgeries	500
Net patient service revenue	151,823

Net cost of charity care and other community benefits

Charity care	1,903
Medical education, net	-
Research	-
Subsidized health services	4,243
Community health improvement services and community benefit operations	407
Unreimbursed Medicaid costs	-
Total cost of charity care and other community benefits	6,553

EMMA PENDLETON BRADLEY HOSPITAL

Employees	700
Affiliated physicians	74
Licensed beds	70
Total assets	173,271
Patient discharges	939
Outpatient visits	3,320
Home health care visits	2,615
Net patient service revenue	110,607
Research funding revenue	12,433

Net cost of charity care and other community benefits

Charity care	66
Medical education, net	1,987
Research	1,039
Subsidized health services	2,787
Community health improvement services and community benefit operations	137
Unreimbursed Medicaid costs	4,831
Total cost of charity care and other community benefits	10,847

LIFESPAN PHYSICIAN GROUP

Employees	1,094
Total operating revenue	237,562
Total operating expenses	313,214
Income (loss) from operations	(75,652)
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(76,172)
Net patient service revenue	154,401
Total assets	59,131

GATEWAY HEALTHCARE

Employees	351
Total operating revenue	38,171
Total operating expenses	43,226
Income (loss) from operations	(5,055)
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(4,839)
Net patient service revenue	27,257
Total assets	24,844

COASTAL MEDICAL PHYSICIANS, INC.

Employees	598
Total operating revenue	41,404
Total operating expenses	91,002
Income (loss) from operations	(49,598)
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(49,598)
Net patient service revenue	39,580
Total assets	25,769

Patient Stories

A woman with dark skin, glasses, and dreadlocks is the central figure. She is wearing a white off-the-shoulder top with a vibrant floral pattern in shades of pink, orange, and purple. Her hands are clasped in front of her, and she has a gentle smile. The background is a softly blurred indoor space with natural light coming from a window.

Unexpected illness, disease, or injury can make patients feel like their lives have come to a halt. For the healers—the physicians, nurses and medical professionals—the goal is to ensure that life continues.

Each patient is more than the sum of their symptoms or conditions—they are unique individuals with rich human stories, of which their medical journey is only one chapter. As caregivers, we work to restore them to health, so they can write the next chapter.

Amy's Story: Complex Lung Care from New Center



“(They) always treated me as a person, and as a woman and a mother, and not just a patient or a diagnosis.”

— Amy, patient

At nearly six months into her pregnancy with her fourth child, Amy was unexpectedly diagnosed with pulmonary arterial hypertension—a rare and potentially life-threatening condition that causes high blood pressure in the lungs and puts extra strain on the right side of the heart.

Fortunately, she was quickly transferred to Rhode Island Hospital where she met internationally recognized pulmonary hypertension expert Corey E. Ventetuolo, MD, MS, FAHA. Amy, then 30 years old, was in heart failure. Dr. Ventetuolo assembled the specialized care needed to stabilize her condition and allow her to safely carry her pregnancy to thirty-two and a half weeks, when she delivered her son, Teddy.

Dr. Ventetuolo's vision to unite the many specialists needed to treat complex cases like Amy's recently became a reality with the opening of the [Center for Advanced Lung Care \(CALC\)](#). The program offers comprehensive care for patients with advanced lung and heart-lung diseases and unexplained difficulty breathing, including pulmonary hypertension, chronic thromboembolic pulmonary, interstitial lung diseases, severe asthma, pregnancy-related breathing disorders, advanced lung nodule diagnostics, follow-up care for intensive care unit survivors, and more. The CALC's team of pulmonologists, cardiologists, surgeons, radiologists, behavioral health specialists, and advanced practice providers offers a seamless, integrated approach to advanced lung disease care—combining diagnostics, treatment, and psychological support in one place.

Amy's story highlights the CALC's commitment to holistic care, offering medical treatment, emotional support from psychologists, and guidance from a dedicated patient navigator to help patients navigate complex conditions.

“Dr. Ventetuolo and her team, including nurse practitioner Mary Whittenhall, always treated me as a person, and as a woman and a mother, and not just a patient or a diagnosis,” says Amy.

The CALC's approach extends to complex heart-lung surgeries and interventions to treat chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension, including pulmonary endarterectomies and balloon pulmonary angioplasties—offered at only a handful of centers nationwide, and now available in Rhode Island. The team also offers opportunities to participate in innovative research including clinical trials to provide patients with access to breakthrough treatments not yet widely available.

“This is a major milestone in the level of care that's now accessible to the pulmonary community in Rhode Island and beyond,” says Dr. Ventetuolo. “And this is just the beginning.”

Today, Amy continues to manage her condition with ongoing care, thanks to the expert team at the CALC. She shares, “Without them, I wouldn't be here, and neither would Teddy.”

**“This man
is a miracle.”**

– Raymond Cord
senior physician assistant,
cardiac ICU team



A Family Story: Tenacity, Teamwork, and Triumph

When Allan Shapiro collapsed while helping his wife with groceries, he had no idea a months-long fight for survival had begun.

His granddaughter, Chana, rushed him to the emergency department at [The Miriam Hospital](#), just half a block from his home. “As soon as we arrived, I noticed my grandfather was really having difficulty breathing and his fingertips were blue,” she recalls.

Tests quickly confirmed that Allan had suffered a massive silent heart attack at least a week prior, possibly earlier. Even more concerning was the discovery of a large hole in the wall separating the two lower chambers of his heart. He needed advanced care immediately. At The Miriam, a medical team inserted an intra-aortic balloon pump to stabilize his blood flow before his urgent transfer to Rhode Island Hospital. His survival remained uncertain.

“We had a long discussion with Mr. Shapiro about how complicated his problem was,” says Neel Sodha, MD, director of the cardiothoracic intensive care unit at [Rhode Island Hospital](#). “Often, patients with this condition don’t survive no matter what we do. But Mr. Shapiro wanted aggressive care, and his family supported that decision.”

Dr. Sodha’s team replaced the intra-aortic balloon pump with a left ventricular assist device (L-VAD), allowing Allan’s heart to provide more blood to his body while minimizing stress on the damaged side. Against the odds, he survived.

After nearly two weeks of stabilization on the L-VAD, Allan underwent complex open-heart surgery. Dr. Sodha and his team tackled three major issues: bypassing two blocked

arteries, patching the hole between his heart chambers, and repairing a ruptured section of his heart.

Post-surgery, Allan returned to the cardiothoracic ICU in critical condition. “He was about as sick as sick could be,” says Raymond Cord, MHP, PA-C, EMT-P, senior physician assistant on the cardiac ICU team.

His lungs struggled, requiring a ventilator. His kidneys failed, necessitating 24/7 dialysis. A gastrointestinal bleed required multiple transfusions. Even after his breathing tube was removed two weeks later, it had to be reinserted. During this time, Allan remained mostly in a medically induced coma.

A turning point came when a temporary breathing tube was placed in his neck. Slowly, he began improving. He worked with therapy teams, regained strength, and eventually could breathe and eat on his own.

After 109 days in the hospital, Allan was discharged to a skilled nursing facility, where he spent another 100 days continuing his recovery. His determination was unwavering.

Allan’s daughter, Marcie Ingber, reflects on his journey: “At one point, there was less than a five percent chance my dad would survive. But he was determined to live, and his care team did everything in their power to make that happen. They were amazing.”

For the medical staff, the feeling is mutual. “This man is a miracle,” Raymond states. “We are part of his family now, and they are part of ours.”



“We are forever grateful to everyone who played a part in Sebastian’s healing.”

– Mary Scolamiero, *parent*

Sebastian’s Story: A Tale of Hope and Healing at Hasbro Children’s

When energetic toddler Sebastian Scolamiero slowed down, became unsteady, and began to hesitate—unwilling to run or jump as he normally would—his parents Stephen and Mary brought him to his primary care physician who referred them to a neurologist.

Weeks later, everything changed. While at work as an intensive care nurse, Mary received a phone call from Sebastian’s daycare. They reported that he had experienced shaky movements upon waking from a nap, prompting them to call 9-1-1.

Initial assessments at [Newport Hospital](#)’s emergency department seemed hopeful, but a CT scan revealed that Sebastian had a large mass in his brain. He was quickly transported to [Hasbro Children’s](#) and whisked off to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, where the medical team prepared for an extensive MRI to assess the tumor.

Sebastian underwent multiple surgeries, including the removal of the brain tumor and the placement of a shunt. Throughout this difficult journey, the family felt confident in the multidisciplinary team whose dedication went far beyond medical expertise.

Among others, the Scolamieros are tremendously grateful for the expertise and commitment of Petra Klinge, MD, PhD, the director of pediatric neurosurgery, and Rishi Lulla, MD, MS, the director of pediatric hematology/oncology.

Both Dr. Klinge and Dr. Lulla reviewed initial results with Mary and Stephen. “They sat down and went over all the imaging to show us the tumor. They broke everything down for us, showed us the MRI images, and answered all our questions. You could tell they genuinely cared,” shares Mary.

Hasbro Children’s staff went above and beyond for the Scolamieros—from Dr. Klinge working on Sebastian’s case during vacation to a nurse who knew about Sebastian’s love of the cartoon characters called the Minions, drew a picture of one, and taped it to his crib. “We have it framed and hanging in his room,” Mary shared. “It’s a constant reminder of the compassion we experienced.”

Sebastian’s care extended beyond neurosurgery. Endocrinologist Kevin Scully, MD, closely monitored Sebastian due to the tumor’s proximity to his pituitary gland. [The Tomorrow Fund Clinic](#) became another pillar of support, offering continuous care and resources.

In addition, the ophthalmology team coordinated procedures to minimize Sebastian’s stress by scheduling them alongside his routine MRIs while he was under sedation. Throughout their journey, the family felt grateful for the integrated approach taken by Hasbro Children’s.

“Hasbro Children’s didn’t just treat Sebastian’s medical condition; they cared for his emotional well-being and ours,” said Stephen. “Every person made a profound difference. Their empathy and dedication saved our son’s life and guided us through an unimaginable situation.”

Today, Sebastian is a thriving three-year-old, full of energy and joy. Just a day before his third birthday, he celebrated his one-year tumor-free milestone—a momentous occasion marked with a grand celebration.

“We’ve been through so much, but we’re stronger for it,” said Mary. “Sebastian has taught us about courage and the power of kindness. We are forever grateful to everyone who played a part in his healing.”

Lora's Story: She Said No to Treatment. Then Her Doctors Gave Her Hope.

When the pain in Lora Fox Gamble's back and belly that had been bothering her finally became too much to bear, she went to the emergency room at [Rhode Island Hospital](#). The diagnosis was shocking. In her late 40's at the time, she learned she had late-stage ovarian cancer.

As she processed the news, she sank into hopelessness. "I was convinced I wasn't going to do anything," she recalled during a television interview with Studio 10's Krystin Rae. "At that late stage, there's no hope anyway. Why put my body through it?"

Her desperation dissolved when she met Don Dizon, MD, director of women's cancers at Brown University Health and Christina Bandera, MD, chief of obstetrics and gynecology. With compassion and care, they explained her options in detail. "They gave me hope," Lora remembers.

Gamble's situation was not unfamiliar for Dr. Dizon. A specialist in women's cancers, he understood Gamble's disease, and most of all, her hesitation about treatment. But he also knew he had innovative therapies to offer.

The aggressive cancer required aggressive treatment. First, Gamble had to complete a traditional course of chemotherapy to shrink as many tumors as possible. This was followed by a type of surgery that is as radical as it sounds—Radical Debulking surgery. The goal of the procedure is to leave behind no visible cancer cells or tumors larger than one centimeter in diameter by removing inflicted abdominal areas and full or partial other organs.

During surgery, she received the optional treatment of Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy (HIPEC), a powerful dose of heated chemotherapy delivered inside her abdomen.

After recovering, she received a second course of traditional chemotherapy. This was followed by an innovative oral form of chemotherapy specific to Gamble's genetic type of cancer. Dr. Dizon prescribed Olaparib, a PARP inhibitor that can prevent certain cancers from returning.

It worked. Gamble is finished with treatment, and today is cancer-free. "Dr. Dizon did that," she says. "He cured my cancer."



"He cured my cancer."

– Lora Fox Gamble

Fred's Story: Knee Pain Knocked Him Down, Newport Hospital Got Him Back Up

Lawrence “Fred” Feld is an active guy who, by his own account, has given his knees quite a workout over time. A retired electronics engineer, Fred designed and installed automated communications and infrastructure solutions for airports, government entities, and major corporations throughout his long career, which also included years of electrical construction and building work.

“I’ve been on my knees my whole life,” he says, “and just wore the cartilage out.”

Arthroscopic surgeries on both knees at a Boston hospital more than a decade ago gave Fred some relief, but his pain returned in recent years. He learned a knee replacement was his best bet.

“I’ve been putting the surgery off for three years,” he says, “but, last winter, we were at our Florida home and the pain got so bad I couldn’t get my left leg into the car without picking it up and dragging it in.”

An avid gardener, Fred adds that if he was down on his knees planting and pruning, even with very good knee pads on, later that night, he’d “almost be crying.”

As fate would have it, Fred’s neighbor in Florida was a nurse who had gone through a minimally invasive, quadricep-sparing total knee replacement surgery. She strongly recommended that Fred find a surgeon competent in this procedure when he got back to Rhode Island. His recovery time would be quicker, and he would experience less post-operative pain.

After much personal research, Fred found his way to Mouhanad El Othmani, MD, an orthopedic surgeon with the [Brown University Health Orthopedics Institute](#) at Newport Hospital—and he’s glad he did.

Fred underwent the 90-minute, same-day surgery in the capable hands of Dr. El Othmani, who was supported in the procedure by ROSA, the robotic surgical assistant. The groundbreaking technology, which Newport Hospital acquired last year, enhances the capabilities of expert surgeons while ensuring the highest level of patient care.

“With ROSA, we’re able to give patients, like Fred, an elevated and personalized approach to knee replacement,” Dr. El Othmani explains, “because it allows us to make smaller incisions, which reduces scarring and minimizes bleeding, and offers more precise implant placement and increased longevity.”

Today, Fred is well on his way to a full recovery. He’s regained range of motion in his knee and traded in his constant pain for occasional stiffness, which will subside in time. Most importantly, he’s back to doing the things he loves—which, he says, includes praising his care team.

“I tell people all the time, if you need knee surgery, go see Dr. El Othmani and get the surgery done at Newport Hospital. It’s worth the trip, no matter where you live. The people who work there are the best!”



“I tell people all the time... get the surgery done at Newport Hospital. It’s worth the trip, no matter where you live. The people who work there are the best!”

– Fred Feld, patient

Luna's Story: A Journey with IBT Unlocks the Power of Communication

"What Bradley gave us is hard to put in words."

– Bobby Ray, parent

In the middle of the pandemic, Alisha Ray and her husband Bobby began to worry their daughter Luna was regressing in her learning development. For more than a year, COVID had forced the family to change their routine and a lot more time was spent at home.

A once outwardly curious Luna, who was two years old at the time, had stopped showing interest in communicating with her parents.

Alisha and Bobby looked for help from a speech therapist at Brown University Health, who, after careful evaluation, recommended early intervention and a program that would provide hope for the family—[Bradley Hospital's](#) Intensive Behavioral Treatment (IBT) program. Nationally recognized, the program marries positive behavioral interventions with the power of technology and expert guidance to create a tailored learning environment for children with autism spectrum disorder.

With IBT, behavioral health specialists work with children younger than age four, directly in their home for 20 to 30 hours per week. They utilize applied behavior analysis (ABA) treatment in what is a familiar and safe environment to improve communication abilities, social interactions, and behavioral and play skills.

While waiting to begin the IBT program, the Ray family met with Karyn Blane, PsyD, the director of Bradley Hospital's IBT program, who answered questions and offered reassurance.

"We knew Luna was motivated by positive reinforcement," says Bobby, something the IBT program employed. The leap of faith to trust in the guidance of Bradley

professionals was one of the best things they could have done for Luna, he adds.

Upon admission to the IBT program, it was clear that the communication gap between Luna and her parents was challenging.

"When we met Luna, she had lost some of the skills she had at an earlier age, things like pointing, repeating words, and mimicking," explains Dr. Blane. "But with ABA treatment, she began to increase eye contact, attention, and social awareness—and her communication, verbally, with pictures, and using an iPad application, improved."



The incorporation of technology to facilitate learning is an important component of Bradley's IBT program. Interactive apps on an iPad and other adaptive tools became valuable allies in Luna's journey, offering her a way to express herself and engage with her surroundings. The transformation was gradual, but each step forward brought a sense of achievement and joy to the family.

Bradley's team helped create a supportive learning environment tailored to Luna's needs. They gave her parents personalized tools and strategies to better connect with her. This helped Luna regain momentum and build the confidence to navigate the world.

Today, the once-frustrated family is communicating in ways they once feared would be impossible. Luna is repeating words and has a growing conversational range using the iPad.

"What Bradley gave us is hard to put into words," says Bobby. "They helped us as the parents—who aren't professionals— learn ways to improve interacting with Luna."

Deejah's Story: Crochet, Community, and Courage Lead to Recovery

Ideizha “Deejah” Johnson’s strength and determination helped her escape from “the most dangerous situation I’ve ever been in.” When she left New York to return to Rhode Island, PTSD, risky behaviors, and mounting bills followed. At 30 years old, Deejah found herself in a downward spiral.

During a routine visit with her primary care physician, Deejah completed a standard questionnaire and bravely admitted she was feeling suicidal. Her doctor took her concerns seriously and referred her to the [adult partial hospital program](#) at [Rhode Island Hospital](#). When Deejah agreed to participate, her doctor helped her enroll immediately.

The program provides structured, short-term care for individuals facing significant psychiatric challenges. It offers intensive daytime treatment from home, allowing patients to return to their daily lives in the afternoon, helping them maintain their support systems and apply new coping strategies in daily life. Participants receive daily one-on-one sessions with specialists, ensuring personalized support and continuous progress.

The program provided intensive support, meeting five days a week. Each day, she saw a counselor and a psychiatrist who helped manage her medications. One of the aspects Deejah appreciated most was the flexibility of the program—patients work with their treatment team to develop an individual plan for treatment and length of stay that meets their needs. A typical stay is 2-4 weeks with some staying for less time and some, like in Deejah’s case, staying a bit longer.

The program is fully virtual, which worked well for Deejah. Being able to participate from home made it easier for her to open up to her counselor and connect with fellow patients in group sessions. Some days, depression made it difficult for her to get dressed, so virtual access ensured she could still attend.

“It was an awesome technique for me,” Deejah said. “When you’re depressed, getting dressed is the hardest part. It gave me a sense that I can do this.”

A typical day starts with checking in online between 8 a.m. and 8:30 a.m., followed by classes and group therapy sessions. Deejah’s favorite part was the interpersonal group, where patients shared their experiences and supported each other. Optional sessions, such as meditation, helped her learn new coping techniques.



“When you’re depressed, getting dressed is the hardest part.”

– Ideizha “Deejah” Johnson, *patient*

The connection with others facing similar challenges was invaluable. “You don’t feel alone,” she said. She also appreciated the care she received from her doctor, Daniella Palermo.

Among the many skills Deejah gained, self-soothing was the most beneficial. She discovered that tactile activities helped her manage stress and began crocheting as a way to relax.

As Deejah progressed, she initially feared leaving the program. “I was afraid I would fall back into old habits,” she admitted. The program worked closely with Deejah to determine a discharge timeline that allowed her to adjust at her own pace. Over time, she realized she could move forward. She also regained something she had lost during her struggles—her ability to work.

“I’m not completely back to where I was, but I’m damn near close,” she said. “I started from the beginning, and it’s okay to do it.”

**"I was given
a new lease
on life."**

– Bruce Balemian, *patient*



Bruce's Story: Innovative Shockwave Treatment Gives New Lease on Life

Retired auto repair shop owner Bruce Balemian could fix any car problem he encountered.

But when a serious health issue threatened his mobility and quality of life, Bruce needed someone else in the driver's seat to get back on the road to wellness.

"My last few years working, I started developing pain in my back and both legs on long walks," Bruce recounts. "As time went on, the pain became unbearable even on short walks; it would come on after just 50 to 75 feet, and I would have to stop and sit for 15 minutes then continue."

Initially, his primary care physician thought the discomfort may be linked to Bruce's type 2 diabetes, but that was ruled out. Later, an orthopedist determined he had lower lumbar spinal stenosis and recommended spinal injections. Bruce's back pain got better, but his leg pain was getting worse.

On one of his visits, the orthopedist took a stethoscope and listened to his ankles and feet. "He said 'You don't have a pulse in your feet,'" Bruce recalls. So, he was sent to a vascular specialist at a non-Brown Health hospital. There, a CT scan with contrast revealed many blockages in Bruce's lower aorta and surrounding area.

In similar cases, aortobifemoral bypass surgery, which redirects blood from the blocked vessels through a graft sewn into existing arteries, is often an option. But Bruce had such severely calcified blockages, that the surgeon didn't feel they would be able to cross clamp his arteries during surgery. It was simply too risky to attempt.

Fortunately, the chief of surgery at that hospital knew a colleague practicing elsewhere who was engaged in advanced, groundbreaking vascular medicine that could help Bruce. The colleague was Peter A. Soukas, MD, director of the [Peripheral Vascular Interventional Laboratory](#) at [The Miriam Hospital](#).

Dr. Soukas performs an innovative, minimally invasive procedure called Shockwave Intravascular Lithotripsy (IVL) to treat patients like Bruce. "The technology sends a shockwave of sonic pressure waves through the blocked arteries that causes the plaque deposits to fracture, much like a windshield does when hit by a rock," Dr. Soukas explains. "As a result of the fracturing, the blockage becomes softer, more malleable, and the artery can be expanded and blood flow restored with the placement of a stent—and without unnecessary complications."

The Miriam was the first hospital in New England to offer such procedures, and Bruce was the first patient in the region to be treated with the new larger L6 Shockwave balloons, which is designed for severely calcified large vessels.

Bruce underwent the successful surgery and is grateful to be back to his old self. "Thanks to The Miriam, Dr. Soukas, and the Shockwave device, I function like a normal 66-year-old," he smiles. "I walk all over the place with no pain. I was given a new lease on life."

Helena's Story: Overcoming a Rare Cancer with Expert Care



"I have no words for how good my experience was and how everyone – I mean everyone – was so wonderful."

– Helena Dos Santos, patient

Helena Dos Santos, a hardworking mother of two, attributed her persistent aches to her demanding job or a past dislocated disc. But when she developed dry skin, hair loss, and a constant unwell feeling, she knew something more serious was wrong.

"I knew my body, and this didn't feel right," said Helena. Her primary care physician referred her to the [Brown University Health Cancer Institute](#) at Rhode Island Hospital, where she underwent a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan. Before she could finish dressing after the scan, she was directed to the emergency department for further testing.

Adam Olszewski, MD, a hematologist and oncologist with the Cancer Institute, performed a biopsy, which found that Helena had anaplastic large cell lymphoma—a form of lymphoma so rare that only specialized oncologists can treat it.

"When we first met Helena, it was obvious how advanced her disease was and how compromised she had become," said Dr. Olszewski. "While we had high confidence that we could treat her, it was less clear whether we could restore her to the full life she was used to."

Helena quickly began treatment starting with a two-week inpatient stay at the Cancer Institute to undergo chemotherapy treatments, followed by another six chemotherapy regimens on an outpatient basis.

When that was completed, Helena became the second patient at Rhode Island Hospital to undergo a stem cell replacement. The procedure, led by Rabin Niroula, MD, hematologist and oncologist, included a near-toxic dose of chemotherapy to readjust her bone marrow and stem cells. It was followed by a transfusion of her harvested, stored stem cells. A three-week hospital recovery helped her immune system rebuild itself.

"I have no words for how good my experience was and how everyone—I mean everyone—was so wonderful," said Helena. "I was in the hospital for a total of 23 days, and I felt so comfortable, even in spite of everything I was going through."

Since her treatment, Helena has been grateful for the time she has had with her family. She continues to return for follow-up care and hopes to participate in the [Oncology, Wellness, Lifestyle, and Cancer Survivorship Clinic](#).

Helena's journey highlights the expertise and dedication of the Brown University Health Cancer Institute in treating rare and complex cancers, providing patients with the care and support they need.

Isabel and Andrew's story: Two Strangers and One Gifted Surgeon

Isabel Allaire and Andrew Rosenberg have never met, but what they have in common saved their lives. Both endured relentless chronic pain and undiagnosed conditions. Both found hope—and life-saving relief—in the hands of Ziya Gokaslan, MD, chief of neurosurgery at Rhode Island Hospital.

For Dr. Gokaslan, it was unusual to have two such similar cases within months. Isabel, 24, was rushed to the [Rhode Island Hospital](#) emergency department trembling with excruciating pain, loss of balance, and migraines. Her chronic pain, dating back to her scoliosis diagnosis in high school, had become unbearable. Imaging revealed a compressed brain stem and three serious conditions: basilar invagination (when the top of the spine pushes into the skull), Chiari malformation (brain tissue extending into the spinal canal), and syringomyelia (fluid-filled cysts in the spinal cord). Together, these put life-threatening pressure on her brain stem, blocking essential cerebrospinal fluid flow. After a night in a Halo vest, an external brace preventing neck and spine movement, Isabel and her parents met with Dr. Gokaslan. He explained the high-risk, life-saving surgery he was confident could eliminate her chronic pain.

“To prepare the patient and parents for this very complicated, high-risk procedure, I assure them as best as I can that I’ll do the best I can,” Dr. Gokaslan says. “We will have the best technology, monitor every function, and be as diligent and careful as possible. Establishing trust with the patient and family is essential before surgery.”

Establishing trust with the patient and family is essential before surgery.”

— Ziya Gokaslan, MD, chief of neurosurgery, Rhode Island Hospital



Now, Isabel lives in her own apartment and runs a freelance social media business. “I’m so lucky because right here, in the smallest state, Dr. Gokaslan was the one who could do it,” she says.

Andrew, 56, from Washington, D.C., experienced an elusive set of symptoms: tingling and numbness in his left hand, a heavy left arm, occasional balance loss, and instability. Multiple specialists failed to pinpoint the cause until he was diagnosed with Chiari malformation and basilar invagination. A Johns Hopkins specialist referred him to a former colleague who had relocated to Rhode Island. That was Dr. Gokaslan, who reviewed Andrew’s images the same day and scheduled surgery within a week.

“We limited the extent of Andrew’s fusion to preserve mobility while addressing his life-threatening condition,” Dr. Gokaslan explains. “His outlook is excellent, and he’s likely to make a full recovery.”

Andrew reflects, “It was frightening, and the recovery was no joke. But I was blessed to find support through the humanity and care at Rhode Island Hospital. I never felt like just a number—someone was always looking out for me with compassion. Dr. Gokaslan’s medical genius and the health outcomes he achieved for me were extraordinary. He truly saved my life and preserved my quality of life in a way I didn’t think possible.”

Eleanor's Story: 'Vanderbilt Built Me Back'

When Eleanor Langham was 30 years old, she underwent a craniotomy at [Rhode Island Hospital](#) to remove a lemon-sized tumor from her brain. She credits the surgery with saving her life. However, she credits the [Vanderbilt Rehabilitation Center](#) at [Newport Hospital](#) with teaching her how to live again.

"When I first got to rehab, it was me, but it was a shell of me," she explains. "I remember my mom saying, 'I was three-year-old Ellie' all over again."

From that starting point, the Vanderbilt team created an individualized plan to help Eleanor regain her lost functionality. Completing daily living activities, like bathing and dressing, improving balance and mobility, increasing strength and muscle control, and optimizing communication skills would all need to be addressed. An interdisciplinary team put Eleanor at the center of their universe during her 10-day stay at the rehab center. She received physical, occupational, and speech therapy, as well as direct rehabilitative nursing care and intensive physician-directed treatments and medication management.

It was not an easy journey, Eleanor admits, and sometimes she had to be reminded that there was light at the end of the tunnel.

"Five days in, I was in speech therapy doing word problems and number processing exercises," she recalls. "I was always good at math, so I became frustrated because I wasn't getting everything."

At that point, Eleanor's therapist left the room briefly and returned with her clock-drawing test. "She held it up and said, 'Less than a week ago, you couldn't draw a clock or walk on your own. Now you're doing both— and spreadsheets too.' I didn't realize just how far I'd actually come until that moment."

There would be many moments for Eleanor along the way, and Newport Hospital would be by her side for all of them, inpatient and outpatient.

Now, several years later, Eleanor has regained full functionality. In fact, her left side is stronger than her dominant right side. She's back to her active lifestyle and remains grateful for the care she received.

"I had an army of supporters within Newport Hospital who were lifting me up, pushing me forward, and cheering me on," Eleanor says. "Vanderbilt literally built me back to who I am."



**"Vanderbilt literally built me
back to who I am."**

— Eleanor Langham, *patient*

Brown University Health Distinctions

Brown University Health received some impressive recognition in FY24, thanks to the hard work and dedication of every team member, at the bedside and behind the scenes. Here are a few standout moments from the past year:

Tops in the State

U.S. News & World Report's 2024-2025 Best Hospitals ratings included [The Miriam Hospital](#) and Rhode Island Hospital. The Miriam Hospital was named the **Top Hospital** in the state for the 13th year in a row. Both hospitals received "high performing" scores in specialty care.

Heartfelt Recognition

The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association again recognized Brown University Health hospitals.

[Rhode Island Hospital](#), the only comprehensive stroke center in the state, earned a **Get With The Guidelines - Stroke Gold Plus award**, and was also recognized with



the Stroke Elite Plus Honor Roll, **Stroke Advanced Therapy Honor Roll**, and the **Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll**.

The Miriam Hospital, a primary stroke center, also received the **Get With the Guidelines - Stroke Gold Plus award** along with the **Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll** and the **Stroke Honor Roll**.

Also a primary stroke center, [Newport Hospital](#) earned a **Get With The Guidelines - Gold Plus Award**, and received the **Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll Award**.



The Leapfrog Group Awards A's

Both [The Miriam Hospital](#) and [Newport Hospital](#) received an “A” **Hospital Safety Grade** from The Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit upholding the standard of patient safety in hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers. This national distinction celebrates The Miriam and Newport Hospital's achievements in prioritizing patient safety by protecting patients from preventable harm and errors.

Brown Health Makes *Newsweek's* Best Lists

[Rhode Island Hospital](#) was listed as one of the world's best hospitals in *Newsweek's* prestigious **World's Best Hospitals 2024** ranking.

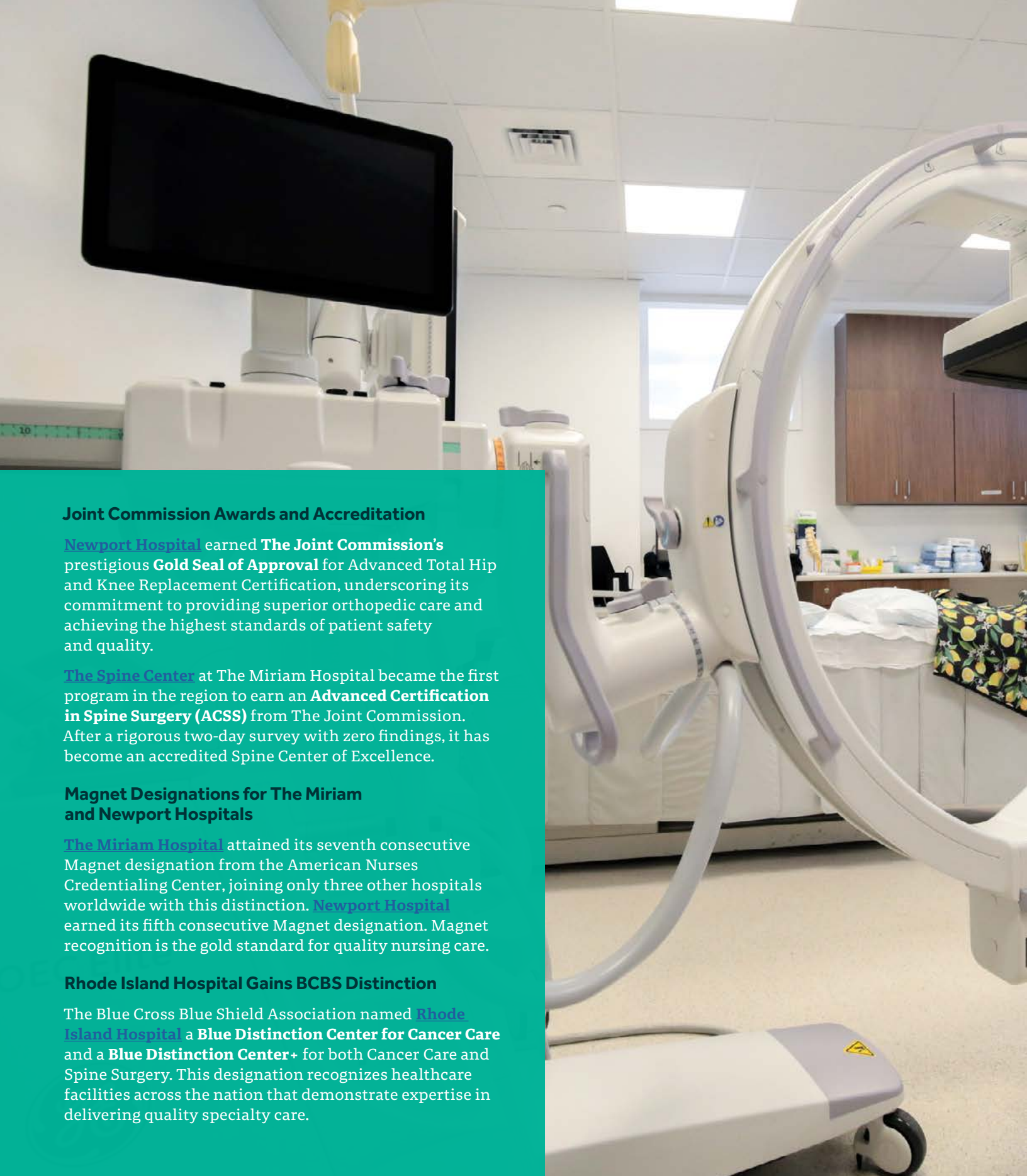
Brown University Health also dominated *Newsweek's* **Best-In-State Hospitals** list. Rhode Island Hospital came in first, The Miriam Hospital was third, and Newport Hospital fourth. *Newsweek* also named [Hasbro Children's](#) one of the **Best Children's Hospitals in the U.S.** for pediatric endocrinology.

Newport Hospital Achieves in Rehabilitation

The [Vanderbilt Rehabilitation Center](#) adult inpatient and adult stroke specialty programs at Newport Hospital were re-accredited by **CARF International**, the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services.

Becker's Hospital Review listed Newport Hospital as the top hospital for rehabilitation in the state of Rhode Island.





Joint Commission Awards and Accreditation

[Newport Hospital](#) earned **The Joint Commission's** prestigious **Gold Seal of Approval** for Advanced Total Hip and Knee Replacement Certification, underscoring its commitment to providing superior orthopedic care and achieving the highest standards of patient safety and quality.

[The Spine Center](#) at The Miriam Hospital became the first program in the region to earn an **Advanced Certification in Spine Surgery (ACSS)** from The Joint Commission. After a rigorous two-day survey with zero findings, it has become an accredited Spine Center of Excellence.

Magnet Designations for The Miriam and Newport Hospitals

[The Miriam Hospital](#) attained its seventh consecutive Magnet designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, joining only three other hospitals worldwide with this distinction. [Newport Hospital](#) earned its fifth consecutive Magnet designation. Magnet recognition is the gold standard for quality nursing care.

Rhode Island Hospital Gains BCBS Distinction

The Blue Cross Blue Shield Association named [Rhode Island Hospital](#) a **Blue Distinction Center for Cancer Care** and a **Blue Distinction Center+** for both Cancer Care and Spine Surgery. This designation recognizes healthcare facilities across the nation that demonstrate expertise in delivering quality specialty care.



Hasbro Earns Highest ACS Award

[Hasbro Children's](#) was one of 50 surgery programs nationwide, and the only one in Rhode Island, to be verified a Level 1 **Children's Surgery Center** by the American College of Surgeons (ACS). The designation is the highest ACS award available for quality of care and gives Hasbro Children's the distinction of being an ACS Surgical Quality Partner (SQP).

Brown Health Ranks Among Healthiest Employers

Brown University Health was honored by *Providence Business News* as a **2024 Healthiest Employer** in Rhode Island. This marks the fourth year in a row, and the seventh time overall, that Brown University Health has achieved this status.

Internal Communications Scores Award

Brown University Health's intranet earned the **2024 Lamplighter Gold Award** in the Hybrid Division: Internal Communications. The award, presented by the New England Society for Healthcare Communications, recognizes the outstanding achievements and campaigns produced in healthcare communications across New England.

Giving

Generous donor support fuels the programs and services that define Brown University Health, making many of them possible. We deeply appreciate every contributor’s impact.

Total number of gifts: 20,704



Rhode Island Hospital
\$6,933,696

Hasbro Children's
\$6,369,520

Total
Rhode Island Hospital
Foundation (RIHF)
\$13,303,216

The Miriam Hospital
Foundation (TMHF)
\$7,845,505

Philanthropy Totals
in FY24
\$31,539,158

Brown University Health
Foundation (BUHF)
\$339,396

Bradley Hospital
Foundation (BHF)
\$3,512,703

Newport Hospital
Foundation (NHF)
\$5,722,452

Gateway
(Includes The Autism Project,
FRIENDS WAY, and Capital City
Community Centers)
\$815,886

Major Gift and Pledge Highlights in FY24

\$5,000,000	Mr. and Mrs. Alan G. Hassenfeld pledge to the “Centennial Campaign” for hospital renovations, focusing on the emergency department, private rooms, and relocation of inpatient oncology (TMHF).
\$5,000,000	James and Margaret Nolan bequest pledges to establish the Dr. James P. and Peggy Nolan Adolescent Behavioral Services Endowment and the Nolan Adolescent Behavioral Health Renovations and Services Fund (NHF).
\$1,403,949	Rainwater Charitable Foundation pledge for brain tumor and cancer research in neurosurgery (RIHF).
\$1,125,000	From Van Beuren Charitable Foundation for the adolescent behavioral health unit renovations (NHF).
\$1,000,000	The Manton Foundation for renovations to the Access Center, providing urgent psychiatric evaluation and stabilization for children and adolescents (BHF).
\$1,000,000	The Papitto Opportunity Connection to establish a sickle cell program at Rhode Island Hospital (RIHF).
\$700,000	The Champlin Foundation pledge for MRI Department and IV Room renovations for a new 3T MRI (RIHF).
\$650,000	Raised for Hasbro Children’s 2024 Heroes Ball.
\$540,000	Anonymous pledge for the primary care navigator planning project at Hasbro Children’s (RIHF).
\$517,406	Donated by The Tomorrow Fund for pediatric oncology staffing in the Tomorrow Fund Clinic at Hasbro Children’s (RIHF).
\$500,000	Bellevue Asset Management pledge for adolescent behavioral health unit renovations (NHF).
\$500,000	Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust for adolescent behavioral health unit renovations (NHF).

\$500,000	Mr. and Mrs. Samuel H. Fleet pledge to support a patient navigator/advocate in the emergency department at Hasbro Children's (RIHF).
\$500,000	Anonymous donation to expand and purchase equipment for the epilepsy monitoring unit and to support quality care in the neurosciences ICU and CCU (RIHF).
\$450,000	The Izzy Foundation pledge for a clinical research nurse in the pediatric hematology/oncology unit at Hasbro Children's (RIHF).
\$353,317	Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, including corporate partner contributions, and local university and community fundraising efforts, for the Children's Miracle Network Fund at Hasbro Children's (RIHF).
\$350,000	Rhode Island Medical Imaging pledge for lobby renovations at Rhode Island Hospital (RIHF).
\$300,000	The Hassenfeld Foundation in support of Hasbro Children's (RIHF).
\$286,737	Estate of Zalman D. Newman bequest donation in support of Newport Hospital (NHF).
\$270,000	Anonymous pledge for the outpatient unit (BHF).
\$265,331	Herbert G. Townsend Trust pledge in support of Rhode Island Hospital (RIHF).
\$261,000	Hasbro Inc. for support of various pediatric programs and initiatives (RIHF).
\$250,000	David and Betsey Kilmartin Charitable Foundation for the "Centennial Campaign" (TMHF).
\$250,000	David and Belle Rampone pledge for the "Centennial Campaign" (TMHF).
\$250,000	Anonymous gift for GI cancer research (TMHF).
\$200,000	Tom and Cathy Lawson for a child life endowment to secure the program's future at Hasbro Children's (RIHF).
\$150,000	William Randolph Hearst Foundation pledge for adolescent behavioral health unit renovations (NHF).
\$150,000	Tom and Cathy Lawson for the Pediatric Anxiety Research Center (PARC) (BHF).

FY24 was October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024



Fundraising Events



From galas and golf tournaments to telethons, our signature fundraising events in fiscal year 2024 united donors, sponsors, volunteers, and staff to celebrate and support Brown University Health's mission to enhance and advance the health of the communities we serve.

Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children's Day of Giving was held on April 11, 2024, in partnership with WJAR NBC-10 and Cumulus Media Providence.

The daylong event celebrated world-renowned physicians and leading-edge cancer care, raising \$449,909 in support of the Brown University Health Cancer Institute at Rhode Island Hospital and Pediatric Cancer/Hematology at Hasbro Children's.

R–L Maria P. Ducharme, DNP, RN, President of The Miriam Hospital; David F. Rampone and Jenna Rose, event co-chairs; Susan H. Kaplan, Chair of The Miriam Hospital Foundation; and Theresa E. Jenner, Vice President of Care Coordination at The Miriam's 2024 "A Night of Champions" Gala & Auction on May 11.

The sold-out event celebrated healthcare teamwork and raised over \$962,000, including \$487,000 to support Mobile Integrated Healthcare—expanding The Miriam's care beyond hospital walls.





Henry Sachs III, MD, President of Bradley Hospital; Larry Sadwin, Chair of the Bradley Hospital Foundation Board; patient speaker Josh; Lawrence A. Aubin, Sr., Chair of the Brown University Health Board; and Chris and Michele Levy, event co-chairs, gathered at the 2024 Bravo Bradley Gala & Auction on June 13.

The event raised over \$1.2 million, including \$548,000 to support Bradley's Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities (CADD) four residential homes.

Supporters of Newport Hospital came together at Gather to Give events throughout the summer to champion the groundbreaking of the new Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit (ABHU). A partnership between Newport Hospital and Bradley Hospital, this vital project addresses the urgent need for pediatric mental health care identified by state and national health leaders.

These efforts raised over \$400,000 to support the construction of this unit, which will ensure critical behavioral healthcare for adolescents in our community.

Shown here at one of the events are Pat Kidder, Newport Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees; John Fernandez, Brown University Health President and Chief Executive Officer; and Carol Bazarsky, Chair, Newport Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees.





Peter Markell, Chief Financial Officer of Brown University Health; John Fernandez, President and CEO of Brown University Health; Laurence A. Aubin, Sr., Chair of the Brown University Health Board; and supporter Girard R. Sargent, gathered at the 28th Annual Hasbro Children's Golf Invitational.

Held at the Rhode Island Country Club on July 22, 2024, the event raised over \$437,000 for Hasbro Children's, with a portion of the proceeds to support the Medical-Psychiatric Program.

Director and actor Tony Goldwyn, writer Tony Spiridakis, and Bradley Hospital President Henry Sachs III, MD attend the special advanced screening of *Ezra*, at Showcase Cinema de Luxe Warwick, RI on May 9, 2024. Inspired by the experiences of producer Bill Horberg, the film follows a divorced couple navigating life with their autistic son. Horberg, who moved to Rhode Island in 2021 for his son's treatment at Bradley Hospital, credits the hospital with providing life-changing care.



The Autism Project raised over \$140,000 in donations through its 22nd Annual Imagine Walk at Goddard State Park in April 2024.



Barbara Morse, WJAR-TV NBC 10 News Anchor was presented the Michael E. Wiggins, MD Leadership Award at the 25th anniversary FRIENDS WAY Diamonds in the Sky Gala on September 13, 2024.

The event raised more than \$120,000 to support cost-free bereavement services to families throughout Southeastern New England.



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