



GOLD COAST
HOSPITAL
FOUNDATION

Achieving the best public health care, research
and education for the Gold Coast community

NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2013



FOUNDATION MAJOR DONOR SHARES HIS STORY

“At just four weeks of age, medical staff at Robina Hospital saved Sam’s life – I want to give something back to benefit local public health care, which has done so much for me and my family.”

Four weeks into his little life, at a time when my wife and I should have been enjoying the special moments that come with having a new baby, we were at Robina Hospital watching our tiny son, Sam, being injected with more than 20 needles, and lying helpless hooked up to a drip.

At the time, I remember feeling totally overwhelmed by emotion – shock, fear, love, helplessness and worry. Now, all I feel is grateful.

Although the team at Robina didn’t have the right equipment to treat such a tiny baby, they did the best they could and diagnosed him with SVT, a condition that caused Sam’s heart to beat too fast. At 300 beats per minute his little heart couldn’t fill with enough oxygenated blood and he went into organ failure. Doctors had to insert a tube into his lungs to control his breathing. The team kept him alive and stable until a recovery team from the Mater hospital in Brisbane came to get him. If it wasn’t for the team at Robina I’m sure he wouldn’t be here today.

This experience made us realise how important good health care is. It sounds silly, but I didn’t think about it until Sam needed urgent medical treatment.

My wife and I decided we wanted to give back to the service that saved his life, so we organised a fun Golf event called, ‘FLOG - Sam’s Heroes’. That’s Golf spelled backwards, which pretty much describes this non-conventional Golf day. FLOG will be an annual event, held on the last Friday in May, and we invite everyone to get involved and have fun. It’s not your average golf day, instead hand wedges and foot wedges are encouraged. Basically, it’s a \$1 a shot,

\$2 per hand and foot wedge, penalties count of course with the sole objective being to raise as much money as possible for the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation.

This year we were thrilled to raise \$2,200 with our first event.

Next year, we hope to raise even more and anticipate having more corporate support. We are hopeful the good folks at Palmer Golf are also keen to get involved again.

Sam is 19 months old now; walking and talking just like any other toddler and unaware that we nearly lost him 18 months ago. I can never fully repay the system, but if every year my Golf event can provide enough funds for health staff training, or another education activity, then I’m doing my small part to ensure that if it were to happen to some other family our local public hospital is well prepared.

■ SCOTT HIRST

“

It’s important to me to do something, and I mean to me personally. I hear a lot of negative things about the health system but rarely do I hear about people stepping up and contributing back to the system. I just didn’t want to be one of those people who didn’t give back.

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HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE

Christmas shines brightly in Ashmore again this year as our loyal supporters, Greg Hawkins and Leanne Dabelstein, decorate and light up their house to raise funds for children's health care.

Last year, this amazing family, raised just over \$2,000 in donations from visitors to their house and they hope to exceed this amount this Christmas.

Greg says, "We will open our garden and front of house to the public every night from 7-10pm from now until Christmas Eve. Please come and enjoy our hundreds of decorations and lights and make a donation to support children's health. The theme is different each year, we just keep adding more and more decorations - it's hard to stop."

Greg is so committed to this annual project that he has spent countless hours converting sections of his house such as the front porch to create Christmas windows.

Please visit them, tell your friends and neighbours and take your family along.

46 Cotlew Street, Ashmore
Open 7-10 pm, every night of the week until Christmas Eve.



GOODBYE ART UNION RAFFLE

For the past 10 years our local fundraising partner Apple Marketing have made more than 2 million telephone calls to sell raffle tickets to our local community, helping to raise over \$1 million for the Foundation.

For the majority of our donors this has been the only direct contact they have received from the Foundation and we see the telephone representatives to be an extension of our very small team. Without them and their hard work we simply could not have continued to improve patient care here on the Gold Coast.

On the 11th November we concluded our final art union raffle with the hope that our supporters will continue to contribute to the Foundation without the incentive of a prize. We believe our community see the real value in the work we do and therefore we hope to see an increase in the number of monthly supporters rather than a reduction.

We would like to thank Darren Musilli (Apple Marketing CEO) for his hard work and dedication to our cause. It's only thanks to his leadership and skilful team that we have been able to become the Foundation we are today.

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION KEY TO ACHIEVING WORLD-CLASS HEALTH CARE

The new Gold Coast University Hospital provides an opportunity for you to help achieve the best health care.

The new Gold Coast University Hospital (GCUH) is certainly impressive. It is full of state-of-the-art equipment and has been designed for the patient by Doctors and Nurses who know what works best for those that they care for.

This new facility gives the Foundation and our supporters a wonderful opportunity to leverage the relationship between this new hospital and local universities by supporting research and education projects. As Gold Coast Hospital and Health Services Chairman, Mr Ian Langdon, recently said, "the best health care is more than just bricks and mortar – it's a great start but this University hospital provides us with the chance to bring world-class health care to the Gold Coast community by investing in the continued education of health staff and research into models of medical care, treatments and cures."

So, here at the Foundation we have an idea to establish two new Giving communities – one for research and one for education. It is only by securing the support of forward thinking individuals, organisations and companies that we can inspire the wider community to understand the importance of health research and education.

We need a number of research and education champions/ambassadors who are happy to invest in education and/or research and to share their donation stories with the public. So far, we have Scott Hirst of Pure Traveller on board, Wiltshire Lawyers and If you think you could be a research or education champion then please contact our CEO, Kim Sutton at kim@gchfoundation.org.



MBA GOLF DAY RAISES \$12,000 TO HELP IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH CARE

For three years now the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation has been one of the MBA Partnership's charity partners for their annual Golf Day at Lakelands. In these 3 years, the event has raised over \$30,000 for the Foundation - helping us to purchase medical equipment and fund valuable research and education. This event is very important to us and we are very thankful to our partners at MBA and Count for putting on such a wonderful Golf Day.

This year more than 75 players teed off to support our work and the \$12,000 raised through registration fees, auctions and raffles showcases just how important local health care is to our supporters and the community.

We would like to thank everyone who attended the event this year with a special thanks going to the event organisers Vanessa Latta, Michael Spurr and Nathan Moss . We look forward to another wonderful Golf Day in 2014.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Thank you to everyone who has supported our work to improve public health care for the community. We would like to extend a big thank you to our recent major supporters:

Ms Veronica Siao for making a significant personal contribution. Veronica, your continued support and your commitment to our vision is an inspiration.

Ms Jenny Wong for joining us as a major supporter and sharing our vision to achieve the best public health care, research and education for the Gold Coast community.

Coca-Cola Amatil in addition to our ongoing Vending machine relationship, Coca-Cola have agreed to donate \$5,000 per year for the next 5 years to help the local community.

Scott Hirst & Family organised a Golf Day to support the education of health staff, following the life saving treatment his son received at Robina Hospital last year. Read his story in this newsletter.

Gm54kids Total Figure this year's GM 5 for Kids appeal, run by

the hugely committed Gold FM team, exceeded all expectations by raising \$156,876. Thank you so much to the Gold Coast community – individuals, organisations and companies for getting behind this hugely important annual event to help sick children.

The MBA Partnership thank you so much to the The MBA Partnership team, staff, friends and clients for supporting the 2013 Golf Day that raised an impressive \$12,000.

Mr Y.L. Chiu of Hong Kong for his extremely generous personal donation.

Mrs Anita Tsui of Hong Kong for her incredibly generous personal donation.

A special thank you also must be extended to the companies that sponsored or donated prizes at the MBA Golf Day: Harvey Norman Bundall, Zeppelin Travel, Southport Sharks, Warner Bros Movie World, Infinity, James Frizelle's Automotive, Entertainment book.



OUR NEW HOME POP IN AND SAY HELLO

On the 4th November the Foundation moved into our new home at the state-of-the-art Gold Coast University Hospital (GCUH). This Hospital is world class and we are so excited to be a part of it and even more excited about the improved health care it will deliver to your community.

We are located in the retail space on the Ground floor of GCUH, directly opposite the Pulse Carvery, so we hope this will encourage patients, staff and visitors alike to drop in to meet us personally and discover how we can all do our small part to improve health care in our community.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL HEALTH SERVICE THIS CHRISTMAS

Christmas Giving Trees at Robina and Gold Coast University Hospital.

This Christmas our corporate partners Southport Sharks, FOXTEL and Gold Coast Cabs will help us install Christmas trees in the foyers at Gold Coast University Hospital and Robina Hospital. These provide staff, patients, and the community with the opportunity to donate and hang a simple Christmas ornament with a message to their loved ones.

Ornaments can be purchased with a minimum \$2 donation and will be placed on the tree at the end of each day.

Donate:

- At the trees in a clearly marked gift box
- Call Lisa at the Foundation on 5594 6986 or
- Send a cheque to PO Box 23, Griffith University, Q 4222

Have fun on the water and raise money for Children in Hospital.

8:30am - 1:30pm Sunday 15 December Paradise Point Sailing Club, The Esplanade Paradise Point

Sailing, a jumping castle, sausage sizzle and meat tray raffle – these are all activities that you will enjoy on Sunday 15th December at Paradise Point Sailing Club’s annual charity sailing event.

This event aims to introduce kids to sailing and each activity costs only \$2.



THE BIGGEST HOSPITAL MOVE IN AUSTRALIA

219 patients, including tiny triplets were safely moved in less than 48 hours by a huge team of dedicated health staff.

On the 27th of September Gold Coast Health staff embarked on the mammoth task of transferring 219 patients from the old hospital to the new Gold Coast University Hospital in Southport. Over a two- day period patients were seamlessly welcomed into the new facility to complete a project that had taken years of planning.

Gold Coast Health’s Chief Executive Ron Calvert said that, “the transition was an overwhelming success”. The move presented many challenges, including the move of critically ill patients, infectious disease control and patients requiring emergency treatment. Without the support of nearby hospitals like Robina’s emergency department, the Princess Alexandra, Tweed Heads, Queensland Ambulance Service, the Queensland Police Service and the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, GCUH staff would have been unable to provide such a smooth transition for our patients. This really was a community effort to ensure no unexpected clinical incidents or deaths occurred.

Patient wellbeing was the most important part of the move and one special case that shows just how amazing our health staff are, was the smooth transportation of newly born triplets. The babies were transferred on the 28th September and came across in three incubators without incident. This was a very unique and complex case and highlights the quality, skill and dedication of Gold Coast Health staff to patient care and treatment.

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