

**ADVOCATE** - One who supports or defends a cause, or one who pleads on another's behalf.

Children's Hospital's Advocacy Program focuses on promoting the health and well-being of children. With guidance from the Children's Hospital Advocacy Committee, this program involves a network of community members and hospital associates who support coordinated advocacy efforts related to children's issues and specific issues faced by children with special needs. Members of the community are encouraged to "Be a Voice for Children" by signing up to be part of this Advocacy Network. Network members will be made aware of issues affecting children's health and be given information about ways to help.

To find more information about the hospital's advocacy efforts please visit [www.CHAdvocate.com](http://www.CHAdvocate.com)

#### Advocacy Committee Members

Laura Allen, *Infant Services Coordinator*  
Kerry Kent Blumberg, *Director of Legislative Relations, Editor*  
Cyndi Cline, *Hospital Liaison*  
Elana Flanigan, *Development Data Manager*  
Candice Ratledge, *Outpatient Case Manager*  
Cathie Stivers, *Chaplain*

*Children's Hospital is a resource and provider of specialized medical and therapeutic services customized to meet the specific needs of children and their families. The hospital serves almost 7,000 children each year through the main hospital location and Therapy Centers in Fredericksburg, Glen Allen, Midlothian and Petersburg, Virginia.*

# Speak <sup>up</sup>★ <sub>out</sub>



## Annual Advocacy Day Focuses on Siblings of Special Needs Children and Advocate Recognition

Children's Hospital's Annual Advocacy Day was held on September 25th and focused on siblings of special needs children sharing their reflections on their family dynamics. The panel of five women representing different generations captivated the audience as they discussed challenges, memories and benefits of growing up in a household with special needs siblings. The panel was moderated by Robyn Dillon L.C.S.W., C-ACYFSW utilizing the book, *Special Siblings, Growing Up with Someone With a Disability*. Families in attendance also received a copy of the book to help them better understand the emotions faced by siblings.

The evening also served as a venue to recognize all 14 nominees for the 5th Annual Spirit of Advocacy Award for a Children's Hospital Family and a Community Partner. Nominees have taken action in one or more of the following areas: obtaining healthcare or other services for children who otherwise might not be served; influencing funding sources to enable provision of services; suggesting improvements to health care services; influencing new program development; involvement with a legislative or safety initiative; or influencing improvements to the community for children with special health care needs. In addition to the nominee recognition, the winners were announced.

The Family Award was given to Nick Schiaffo, father of former hospital patient Danny Schiaffo for his work as an advocate for both VCU Children's Medical Center and Children's Hospital through Children's Miracle Network, speaking before the General Assembly and Congress and acting as a spokesperson for Lifenet. Nick received a \$300 cash award sponsored by the hospital's three auxiliary boards, The Senior Board, Junior Board and Sunshine Circle.

The Community Partner Award was awarded to Kohl's Department Stores which have provided support financially and through volunteer hours for the hospital's health and safety educational awareness programs which include events, safety posters and commercials. Lynda Gunn, Kohl's A-Team Coordinator, represented district 58 and received the patient-decorated plate in honor of all Kohl's employees.

Winners were selected by a group of employees who have been recognized over the past year in the hospital's service recognition program. For a full description of the winners and all 14 nominees, visit [www.CHAdvocate.com](http://www.CHAdvocate.com).

**Children's Hospital**

PEDIATRIC SPECIALTY CARE OF RICHMOND, VA

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## State Update - Part C Services

Children's Hospital is one of five private providers in our community of Part C Early Intervention Services. The program was established in 1986 by Congress as part of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Each year the hospital provides evaluation of infants and toddlers who are known or suspected by pediatricians and/or health care providers as having a developmental delay or disability. If identified, we then provide the appropriate therapies in the child's natural environment to promote physical, intellectual, social, emotional and linguistic development. By working in the child's natural environment we foster an increase in the parent's competence and confidence to maximize their child's learning and development. Children served in this program have a wide range of identified delays and disabilities. The services are available to children with a delay in any or all areas of development. Early intervention has been proven to make a significant difference in the child's readiness and capacity to learn, and a family's ability to provide the necessary support to promote development.

Each year the numbers of children identified as needing services grows as providers become more astute regarding early childhood development and as more children survive the complications of premature birth and the like. More children require additional funds. Although Part C funding has not been cut in the last General Assembly session, it has become vulnerable due to its increased usage and localities are surpassing their budgets with months left of services to provide. One of the ways Children's Hospital supports the Part C system is by providing service coordination at no cost to the family and with little or no cost to the local Part C systems. Children's Hospital will work to protect services such as Part C in the state budget.

This fall the hospital's Community Liaison Committee of the Board of Trustees continues its Legislative Tour initiative by focusing invitations to tour the hospital and meet with elected officials who represent districts that will benefit from the services offered at our new therapy center opening in Petersburg, VA. Appointments have been made with Delegate Rosalyn Dance, Delegate Joe Morrissey, Senator Stephen Martin and Senator Henry Marsh. In addition to educating these elected officials about the nature of our services in our new therapy center, the hospital is reminding them of the important role Medicaid plays in our ability to provide specialty services to all children.

Projected budget shortfalls make all services paid for by the General Fund of the state vulnerable to cuts.



*Senator Stephen H. Martin, Leslie G. Wyatt, President & CEO and Hospital Trustee James F. Jollay toured the hospital, including Children's Park which is currently being renovated.*

## Federal Update - Message to the 111th Congress

As Members of Congress begin to prepare for the 111th Congress, Children's Hospital of Richmond, along with the National Association of Children's Hospitals ask that congress consider children's hospitals' key issues as top priorities.

- Make health care reform work for children by including the National Association of Children's Hospitals Principles for Children's Coverage in Health Care Reform in any Health Care reform proposals advanced in the 111th Congress. (A copy of the Principles is available on [www.CHAdvocate.com](http://www.CHAdvocate.com))
- Reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) at the start of the 111th Congress to provide health coverage to 10 million children. The extension of this reauthorization will expire in March 2009.
- Make permanent the moratoria imposed by Congress in June on six proposed Medicaid rules and regulations that would be damaging to children's health care if implemented and take action to block implementation of the Outpatient Hospital Services regulation.
- Fully fund the Children's Hospital's Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program, which provides independent teaching hospitals with GME support that is equitable to the support received by other hospitals through the Medicare program.
- Provide independent children's hospitals immediate access to the 340B Drug Pricing Program by requesting that the new administration publish final guidelines. Congress enacted legislation in 2006 to provide this access, but the implementation has yet to publish final guidelines allowing children's hospitals to participate in 340B, costing eligible hospitals almost \$1 million annually.