

News Release

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Variety Club of Buffalo Announces \$2 Million Commitment To Women & Children's Hospital

Funds Will Purchase Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Patient Monitoring System and Capital Equipment for the Inpatient Hematology/Oncology Unit

Buffalo, NY – The Variety Club of Buffalo, Tent #7 will announce a \$2 million commitment to purchase a state-of-the-art patient monitoring system in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and capital equipment for the Inpatient Hematology/Oncology Unit at Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo on Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 10:30 a.m.

"With the support of tens of thousand of individuals, corporate friends, groups and organizations, the Variety Club is proud to continue our major commitment to the children of Western New York." said Michael A. Benevento, Chief Barker, Variety Club of Buffalo, Tent #7. "The necessary equipment that Telethon dollars purchase will benefit many children that will have a healthier life and a brighter future."

Announced in advance of the upcoming 43rd annual Variety Club Telethon airing March 12 and 13 from the Sheraton Four Points Hotel to benefit Women & Children's Hospital, its Robert Warner Rehabilitation Center and other children's charities in Western New York, the Variety Club is pledging to fulfill the \$2 million commitment within the next five years.

"This commitment by the Variety Club continues its long history of benefiting sick and handicapped children in Western New York who receive care at Women & Children's Hospital," said Cheryl Klass, President, Women & Children's Hospital. "Countless families throughout Western New York can thank the many Variety Club volunteers and donors for supporting these programs and services that treat their children in time of need."

Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Patient Monitoring System

The Variety Club has a long history of supporting the critical care units at Women & Children's Hospital, including the Variety Club Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and the Alfiero Family Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), each providing the highest level and most state-of-the-art care in Western New York.

The PICU provides specialized pediatric care for children with multiple trauma, septic shock, brain tumors and hemorrhaging, open-heart surgery and multiple system organ failure, among other critical conditions. This unit admitted nearly 1,000 such patients in 2004.

The new patient monitoring system will allow patient ventilators to interface with the monitors to collect patient data, such as blood gas sampling, without having to continuously obtain blood samples that are sent to the lab. This will reduce

the number of procedures patients receive and provide medical staff immediate access to vital statistics.

Updated software is necessary to simultaneously monitor blood pressure, vital signs, intra-cranial and cerebral perfusion pressures, which is critically important for patients on the heart/lung bypass equipment called Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO).

New patient monitoring system technology can also link the bedside monitor to bedside computers to store vital signs and other patient data, and offers the capability to use as a transport monitor, which eliminates the need to transfer a patient to an un-networked mobile monitor when transported to the operating room or radiology for CT scan or MRI. A patient monitoring system with mobile capability enables data continuity during a patient's transport and throughout the patient's stay, thus more effectively and efficiently delivering patient care.

The patient monitoring system in the PICU includes end tidal CO₂ and O₂ saturation cable systems required to manage those in respiratory failure. These cable systems, when connected to the patient's monitor, help alert PICU staff of improvements or deterioration in breathing at a seconds notice, which allows for an immediate response to a patient's needs without having to wait for a blood analysis. The current volume of such patients in the PICU requires having these cable systems each accessible by eight patients. The current cable system was originally purchased in 1987.

Inpatient Hematology/Oncology Unit

Built in the 1970's, the Variety Tower has been the medical home for patients and their families admitted at Women & Children's Hospital. Beginning in 2005, the eighth floor of the Variety Tower will house the new Pediatric Inpatient Hematology/Oncology Unit.

The new 23-bed, Inpatient Hematology/Oncology Unit at Women & Children's Hospital is projected to receive more than 1,400 medical and hematology/oncology patients in 2005. For example, oncology patients in this unit will be treated for Leukemia, brain and nervous system tumors, lymphomas, and cancer of kidneys, bones and muscles. Since childhood cancer most frequently occurs early in life, many patients admitted in this unit will be from birth to 4 years of age.

Children newly diagnosed with cancer may be hospitalized for at least a week to 10 days initially, and generally are re-admitted for 2-3 days every few weeks for chemotherapy. Since chemotherapy decreases the body's ability to fight infection, patients may have to be admitted for IV antibiotic therapy between their scheduled chemotherapy treatments.

This new unit is designed to better accommodate such patients and their families who often have extended and frequent follow up stays. The creation of three Comfort Care Suites will provide room for the families of long term patients to stay, creating an environment that feels like home, which includes, for example, private showers. The unit will have all new aesthetics, Internet

access in every patient room, a new nurses station, comfortable lighting, a new playroom, and all new furniture.

Funds from the Variety Club will provide for equipment in this unit that includes the following:

Vital Sign Monitors are required to deliver care to patients who require frequent monitoring during infusions of medications and chemotherapy.

Syringe or "Smart" Pumps deliver medications and chemotherapy intravenously. In addition to delivering correct dosages of medication, these pumps are portable so patients are not confined to their beds while medications are infusing.

Teaching Tools/DVD Player and Instructional Materials for education of patient families about how to provide care of indwelling IV catheters and homecare needs, information on support services, and the side effects of chemotherapy.

Suction Regulators are required in all patient rooms to assure that any emergencies can be responded to in the most efficient way. Most patients in this unit have illnesses that require immediate suction availability.

Refrigerators and Microwaves – nourishment is important to this group of patients because often their bodies are being challenged by chemotherapy and/or surgery, and their dietary needs and preferences may be altered during their treatment. It's important to have a variety of different types of foods available for when a child may want to eat or drink. It is also important to have refrigerators and microwaves available for parents who may bring in favorite foods from home.

Personal Computers for use by patient families helps them communicate with other family members and access medical information about their child's diagnosis and treatment, especially for newly diagnosed patients and those with extended hospital stays.

Pulse Oximeters offer a pain-free way of monitoring a child's oxygenation, which is necessary to monitor respiratory status.

Wheelchairs and Stretchers, in various sizes to accommodate toddlers through adolescents, are needed to transport patients to and from different areas of the hospital and also gives children unable to walk for extended periods the freedom get out of their room for a trip to the playroom or a stroll around the floor.

The Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo, a Kaleida Health facility, is the regional center for comprehensive and state-of-the-art pediatric and women's health services in Western New York and beyond.