

The Bradley *Bulletin*

News and notes for our friends and supporters.

Winter 2020

Berettas Go All In on Their Support of Bradley

When it comes to supporting Bradley Hospital, lawyers Richard and Amy Beretta are always on the case.

The two met in law school back in 1986. As Amy jokes, “It was fate that we both decided to attend Northeastern University Law School at the same time . . . and the rest, as they say, is history.” That history has included building successful careers and a loving family. Today, Richard is a shareholder and executive committee member with Adler Pollock & Sheehan in Providence, and Amy is assistant general counsel at MetLife Legal Affairs.

The couple married in 1991 and have two boys; John, 21, a junior at Emory University, and Matthew, 18, a freshman at Northwestern. Travelling, fishing, playing with their dogs, and following Boston sports teams are just a few of the activities Richard and Amy enjoy. But it’s their shared desire to promote health and well-being and advance good causes that is core to who they are—and why they support Bradley.

The Jamestown couple are passionate ambassadors and generous donors who regularly contribute to our fund-a-need and bid handsomely on Bravo Bradley auction items; the trip to New York City to see a filming of Project Runway is Amy’s favorite so far. Moreover, Richard lends his leadership and advocacy via his role on the Bradley Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees.

“When you take a tour of Bradley, you truly understand what these kids and families are going through and how fantastic and positive the staff is,” Amy explains. “I don’t know how anyone could see what goes on at Bradley and not feel a tremendous responsibility to keep it going.”



Richard and Amy Beretta

Richard echoes those sentiments. “The community needs to know all about Bradley so that more and more families can utilize their services and find some solace and hope that—even though things might seem pretty grim in their house at any given time—there’s a place they can go to that can help them turn things around.”

Richard points out that some of the foremost hospital systems in the nation—e.g. Boston Children’s Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital, New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center, and Yale New Haven Hospital—have all sent patients to Bradley. “That’s a remarkable testament to the type of world-class health care that’s being delivered right here in Rhode Island,” he adds.

In addition to Bradley, the Berettas have supported and served many nonprofits and charities including FRIENDS WAY, Trinity Repertory, the Providence Animal Rescue League, the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, and the state’s Board of Education, just to name a few.



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Teen Suicide Rate is Lowest in Nation—Again

One of the biggest misconceptions about suicide is that by asking a person if they're planning to take their life, you'll put the idea in their head. "That's a myth," says Jennifer Jencks, PhD, Director of Bradley Hospital's Access Center. "In fact, if someone is showing signs of a crisis, asking questions can be life-saving."

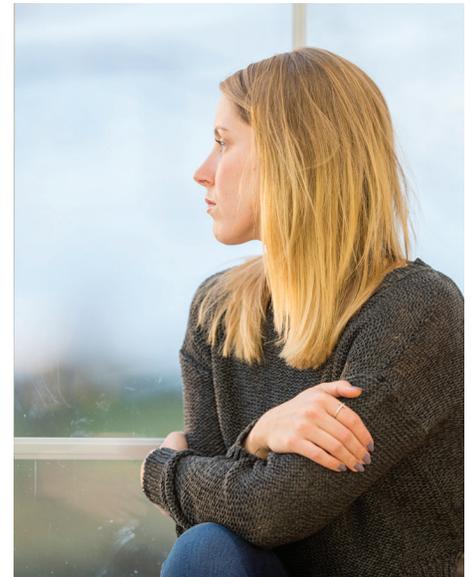
Dr. Jencks busts myths as part of the training she conducts in teen suicide prevention. For the past five years, she and her staff led training for Rhode Island school personnel on how to identify students in crisis, screen for suicide risk, and use Lifespan's free crisis hotline, Kids' Link RI, to connect families to mental health services.

And it's making a dramatic difference.

In 2019, for the second year in a row, Rhode Island had the lowest teen suicide rate in the nation, according to America's Health Rankings. Five years ago, our state was in sixteenth place. "Providers of youth services in Rhode Island remain closely connected, and that helps kids," explains Dr. Jencks. "Connectedness prevents isolation, and whether it's at the agency level or between parent and child, that's crucial to keeping children safe."

The school training initiative is a partnership of Bradley Hospital, the Rhode Island Department of Health, and Rhode Island Student Assistance Services. The specially trained clinicians at Kids' Link RI (1-855-543-5465) are available 24/7 to do crisis evaluations, connect families with appropriate levels of care, and provide follow-up support.

"Parents and providers are so grateful for this service," says Dr. Jencks. "I hear, 'Thank God we have Kids' Link' a lot."



Philanthropy is Key to PediPRN's Success

Pediatricians like Clare McMillan, MD, of East Greenwich Pediatrics are on the front lines of children's behavioral health care. More and more, children are coming to them not only with physical symptoms but psychiatric ones as well. "There's limited access to timely and affordable child psychiatry services in the community, so at times we must fulfill the demand ourselves," says Dr. McMillan, a pediatrician for 17 years. "Because it's a real area of specialization, we need an additional level of knowledge and guidance."

Fortunately, government and philanthropic funding allowed Bradley Hospital to launch the Pediatric Psychiatry Resource Network (PediPRN) four years ago. PediPRN provides prompt, no-cost case consultation, mentoring, and training for pediatric primary care providers who are managing the mild to moderate mental health issues of their patients.



"While kids might first present with a chronic stomachache, for example, we can now identify the underlying depression," says Dr. McMillan, who recently completed intensive training offered by PediPRN. "Thanks to this resource, I am quicker on my feet to recognize a mental health problem and more confident in treating it."

Since 2016, some 430 providers have enrolled in PediPRN, thanks in large part to the generosity of the Rhode Island Foundation, the van Beuren Charitable Foundation, and Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island.

"We're incredibly grateful to have support for this program. PediPRN wouldn't exist, literally, without the dedication of our philanthropic and government partners," says Karyn Horowitz, MD, Bradley's Director of Outpatient Services, noting that PediPRN has served more than 800 children so far.