

STAY IN THE LOOP WITH UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Announcements



Wishing all of our incredible Children's Hospital staff a warm and joyful Thanksgiving!

Your compassion, dedication, and unwavering care make a profound difference every single day. We are grateful for everything you do for our patients and their families.

UGCH Strategic Plan

Over the last several months, the Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital leadership team has been developing a strategic plan for the next few years. This plan was developed based on feedback from team members across UGCH including comments submitted in the survey conducted in December of 2024. This plan does not include all the incredible work we are doing and plan to do, but it is meant to guide us forward and to help us achieve our higher-level goals. In the coming weeks, we will share this plan with all of you so please be on the lookout!

Magnet Visit Complete!

Upstate Nursing successfully completed a dynamic four-day ANCC Magnet® site visit, hosting 106 sessions and engaging more than 850 team members. We're grateful for the positive feedback from the appraisers, who also noted growth opportunities such as increasing nurse publications and supporting professional memberships and specialty certifications. The ANCC Commission on Magnet Recognition will determine Upstate's second Magnet designation in the coming months, and we remain excited and optimistic as we await their decision.

Golisano Children's Alliance

Our namesake, Tom Golisano, made an important announcement this month. There will soon be ten Golisano Children's Hospitals across the country. He also announced that Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital and the others will become part of a new "Golisano Children's Alliance," which "aims to elevate pediatric care by expanding services, strengthening collaboration, and ensuring that children and families have access to the highest-quality medical care close to home."

We welcome the newest Golisano Children's Hospitals and look forward to working with the other members of the Golisano Children's Alliance to continue to serve children and families.

[Read more about it here.](#)



Happy 1st Birthday BBHU (Biobehavioral Health Unit)

The BBHU is celebrating 1 year of being open and seeing patients! Over the past year the unit has successfully served many patients who otherwise would have needed to go out of state for care. Families have often shared positive feedback to not only the services they received but the compassionate care they experienced with staff. Thank you to the BBHU staff for all you do and Happy First Birthday! Please celebrate with us by joining in on the spirit week fun!



Important Reminders

2025 Brightspace Education

As we approach the end of the year, please take a moment to ensure you've completed all required education in Brightspace. If you have any questions, contact Tracie Wildner.

Holiday Decorating Policy

Please read policy through [Policy Manager - MCN Solutions](#) before decorating to ensure compliance with rules and regulations as defined by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and New York State Fire Code to prevent fires and other hazards caused by the improper use of decorations.

Upcoming Events

Child Life Calendar

November 2025				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
24	25  Gaming Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm	26  BINGO 11th Floor Performance Center 2:30pm-3:30pm	27  Thanksgiving Dinner Delivered to patient rooms Between 11:30am and 1:00pm	28  Music Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm

December 2025				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1  Family Lunch 12th Floor Family Resource Center 12:00pm	2  Tech and Gaming Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm-3:30pm	3  Sound Bath for Caregivers 12th Floor Solarium 2:00pm  Slime with a Med Student 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm	4	5  Salt City Ukulele Performance 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm
8	9  Tech and Gaming Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm-3:30pm	10  Holiday Movie Marathon 11th Floor Performance Center 9am-3pm	11  Art Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm-3:30pm	12  A Brass Act 11th Floor Performance Center 1:00pm-2:00pm
15	16	17	18	19  Slime with SU 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm
22	23	24  Family Lunch Chik fil A 11th Floor Performance Center 12:00pm	25	26
29	30	31  Noon Years Eve Party 11th Floor Performance Center 11:45am-12:45pm	1	2

Ambulatory Updates

Patient Centered Medical Home

Upstate Pediatric and Adolescent Center (UPAC) and Upstate Pediatrics at Upstate Medical Clay have once again achieved Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) recognition by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) in 2025. Practices that achieve PCMH recognition have shown they are committed to putting patients at the forefront of care. Providers and the care team partner with patients and families to determine and work toward patient health goals. PCMH practices strive for continuous quality improvement, and studies have shown that PCMH practices also increase staff satisfaction and reduce health care costs. Congratulations to UPAC and Upstate Peds! [Read more about PCMH.](#)

Inpatient Updates

Pediatric Quality & Safety

The November newsletter can be found here: [PQS November Newsletter.](#)

Patient Family Advisory Council (PFAC)

The Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital Patient Family Advisory Council (PFAC) is made up of parents and families of children who have received care at the hospital. The council meets monthly from September to June to offer input on programs, policies, and procedures affecting patients and families.

This month, the PFAC shared helpful advice for messaging expectations to families about transitioning from the PICU to the floor units and also gave feedback on future renovations to the family waiting rooms and sleep rooms.


As the PFAC continues to grow, they're actively looking for new members. If you know a family member of a child treated here, whether inpatient or outpatient, please share this [application](#) with them to submit their interest in becoming a Family Advisor.

Staffing

Congratulations are in order! 🌟



Congratulations to **Nicole Hayes** on her promotion to Senior Office Manager at Upstate Pediatrics in Clay! The change is a result of a recent reorganization of administrative leadership in Ambulatory services.

 Congratulations to **Dr. Holly Chebaya (Stacey)**, who officially became an Associate Program Director for the Residency program on 10/28. Holly has been an Assistant Program Director and also Chair of the Residency Recruitment Committee for the past few years. We are delighted she is now formally recognized as our Associate Program Director.

WELCOME

Inpatient:

Kaintigern Meaker, RN: 11G
Ariana Kenville, RN: 12E
Melanie Membrado, RN
Tianna Berry, MHTA: BBHU
Danika Sinclair, MHTA: BBHU
Diana Syers, MHTA: BBHU
Jada Mack, RN: 12E
Kenzie Beyer, RN: Peds Support Pool
Simon Van Deuson, UST: Peds Float Pool
Mckenna Modelewski UST: Peds Float Pool
Lea Brown, HCT: Peds Float Pool
Jason Nourse, HCT: Peds Float Pool
Brooke Mccargar, UST: Peds Float Pool
Lucian Chizzonite-Rau UST: Peds Float Pool
Leah Kraweic, TRN: Peds Float Pool
Elainna Taplin, TRN: Peds Float Pool
Kevin Robinson, MS: Children's Surgery
Program Data Analyst

Marissa Mathieson, BSN, RN: Children's
Surgery Performance Improvement
Coordinator

Jillian French, MSN, RN: Children's Surgery
Education and Outreach Coordinator

Ambulatory:

Lauren Calloway, RN: Upstate Pediatrics
Marcia Hill, RN: UPAC
Sabrina Naylor, BSN, RN: Peds Hem/Onc
Ryleigh Bickom, Behavior Tech: GCSN

Providers:

Dr. Disi Chen: Peds Pulmonary
Dr. Bedirhan Tarhan: PICU & Peds Neuro
Dr. Faruk Oktem: Peds Nephrology
Dr. Ghina Fakhri: General Peds and Peds GI
Maysarah Mohamed, Consult LBA: GCSN

Adam Gorman from Public Safety is our
Superhero of the Month for November!!!



Adam is always on top of everything that goes on in the treehouse. He stays within procedures but always makes sure the patient and families come first and get the answers they're looking for. Great communication and follow-up. He genuinely cares about the children's hospital!

Upstate Foundation

Miracle Family Requests—Do you know a charismatic, funny patient eager to share their story? Recommend them for our Miracle Family program! We're seeking new families to represent the Upstate Foundation and UGCH at our 2026 community events. Nominations: check with the family & send their contact info: David Bartell at BartellD@upstate.edu.

Donor Dollars at Work Submissions Requested - Do you have something exciting in your program funded by donors? We want to highlight you! Send photos and impact descriptions to David Bartell at BartellD@upstate.edu. If you have a project idea needing funding, talk to your supervisor and watch for the Allocations application opening in September. Details are coming soon!

Social Media Highlights

[Pediatric Managers](#) - We celebrate you!

October was National Physical Therapy Month! Meet [Carley Jerome, PT, DPT](#), our only Peds Physical Therapist at GCSN!

[Dr. Jana Shaw](#) shares hygiene reminders for the fall.

[Dr. Dosa](#) speaks about Spina Bifida Awareness Month.

[Cathy Ponto](#) from Upstate Golisano's Family Advisory Council talks about being a caregiver.

[Local heroes show their support](#) for David Ingram Jr., who is bravely fighting cancer.

Other amazing social media shoutouts from our community:

🎉 **Shoutout to Kailee Roberts, RN, on 12F!** Kailee is featured on our recognition wall for the incredible care she provides. A grateful family shared how her kindness and compassion made all the difference during their stay. [See more here.](#)

"Very well-deserved Kailee Roberts! You were always sweet and kind to our family as well! We appreciated all you did for Lainey! Congratulations!"

🎉 **Shoutout to 11E!**

"12 days there for appendicitis, and the nurses were amazing!!"

? What would you like to see on social media? We want to hear it! Tell us what you'd love to see featured on our social media platforms—your ideas could be next! Email Mary Melice at melicem@upstate.edu.

Additional Highlights

🎉 Congratulations to **Susan**

Pierpoint, Registrar for the Pediatric Trauma Program, who received the "TULIP Guiding Star Award" in November at the Trauma Quality Improvement Program's (TQIP) Annual Meeting. Trauma's Unique Leaders and Innovating Professionals (TULIP) Awards are national awards, presented by the American Trauma Society (ATS), to recognize outstanding individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of trauma care. We are so very proud of Sue and her contributions to the Pediatric Trauma Program at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital!



Sue accepting her award from the President and President Elect of the ATS.



SHOUT OUT to GCSN! The family of a feeding patient shared that the patient had his very first meal outside of the home in his life. He ate at Olive Garden for the first time and had an entire meal consisting of new foods he's never eaten before. His weekend continued at home where he tried and ate several other food items and he tried new desserts. The family expressed gratitude and gratefulness for all the wonderful new accomplishments of the patient!



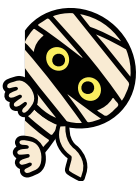
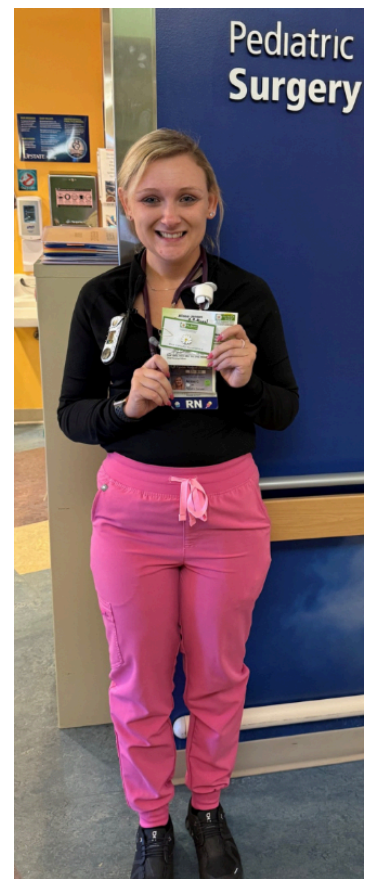
SHOUT OUT to BBHU! One of the recent BBHU discharged patients mother sharing this heartwarming feedback on the patients progress being successful not only on the unit but after transitioning back home:

"Just had to share with you guys. He is using his skills at home!! And he keeps asking to see Janice again ❤️".

A testament, again, to you all and especially Janice Jordan! Great work!



Congratulations to
Alyssa Bitz and
Alissa Jensen,
both RNs on 11E, for being
nominated for a DAISY
award!



A special thank you to our incredible **Child Life team** for organizing the annual **Halloween Parade** and **Pumpkin Decorating** contest! Their efforts brought joy to our pediatric patients, with employees from across Upstate coming together to ensure a festive and fun celebration for our little ones! Pictures [here!](#)



Pumpkin Decorating and Costume Contest:

Check out all the amazing pumpkins and costumes submitted this year! [Winners here!](#)

The winners for the Favorite Individual entry are:

1st Place - A Summer Treat:
Erica McDonough in Radiology



2nd Place - A Cozy Fall Treat:
Kristin Morabito in Radiology



3rd Place - Stitch and Scrump:
Megan Young, RN in Pediatric
Specialty Services



Favorite Pumpkin - Team entry

1st Place:
Derpy Tiger and Sussie



2nd Place:
Shrek, Fiona, & Donkey



3rd Place:
Finding Nemo



Costume Contest Winners:

Farm
Accounts Payable



Bumper Boats
Interpreting Services



Ratatouille
Emerging Leaders



Inside Out
DEIB Team of Medicine



Upstate Pediatrics joining in on the Halloween fun!



Podcasts

[Pediatric After Hours Care moves to Nappi Wellness Institute](#) (by Dr. Phillip Mackewicz)



October Question: Long before pumpkins were used, what vegetable was originally carved into Jack-o'-lanterns?

Turnips were the original vegetables carved into jack-o'-lanterns by ancient Celtic cultures to ward off evil spirits. Irish immigrants brought this tradition to America, where they began using pumpkins because they were native and easier to carve.



November Question: What year did the Thanksgiving Day football game tradition begin and between what teams?

Answer will be shared in the next newsletter.



December is National Safe Toys and Gifts Month!



Good Things at Golisano!

Please feel free to share some good things that happened this week using this link:
<https://redcap.upstate.edu/surveys/?s=NDTP978CC3J9RCA7>.