

STAY IN THE LOOP WITH UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS!

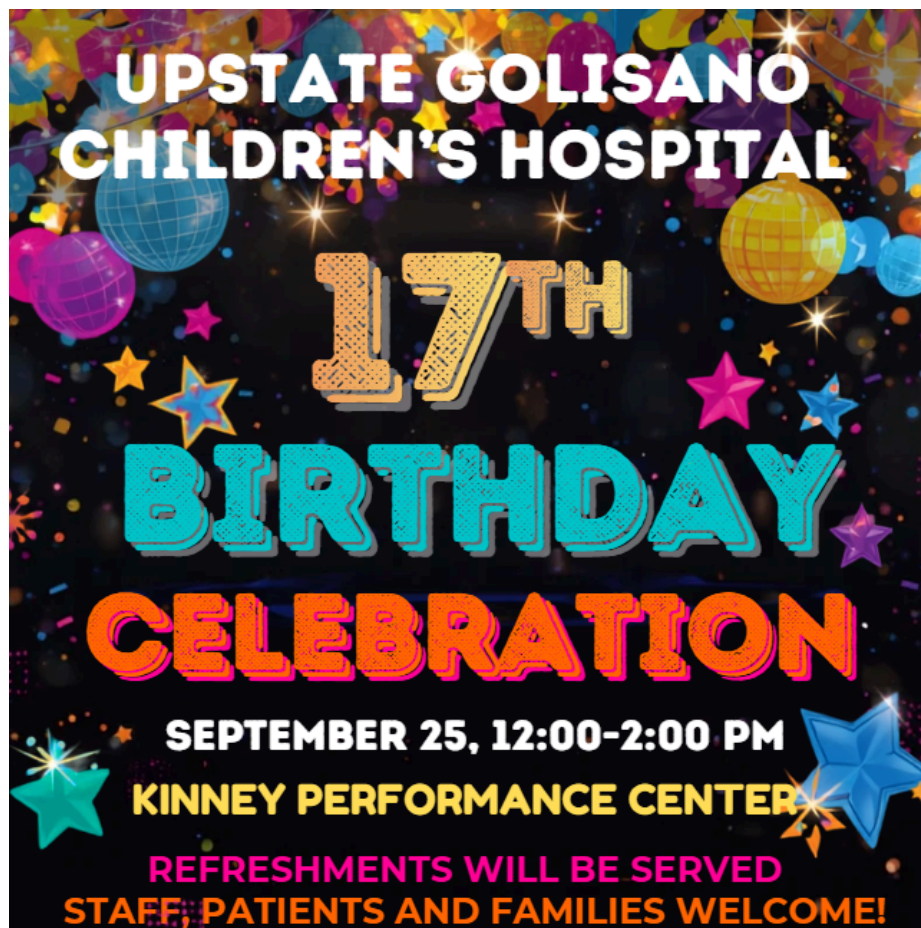
Announcements

Upstate Golisano's Quarterly Update this Thursday

We hope you can join us this Thursday, July 30, at 8:00 AM for our next Quarterly Update. Dr. Corona will provide an update, Dr. Rivera and the IBD Program will be featured, and strategic plan updates will be shared. If you're unable to attend, a recording will be available afterward. Please use the Teams link to join (*not Webex link previously sent*). [Teams Link](#).

Upstate Golisano's 17th Birthday Celebration!

🌐 Dust off your dancing shoes and mark your calendars! We'll be celebrating 17 years of making a difference during Birthday Week, September 21–25, with a disco-themed Birthday Party on September 25! Stay tuned for theme days, fun activities, and plenty of birthday cheer. 🎉🌟



Dr. Joan Pellegrino named to State Rare Diseases Council



Congratulations to Joan Pellegrino, MD, of Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital and Upstate Medical University, on her appointment to New York's Rare Diseases Advisory Council! With more than 30 years of experience in pediatric genetics, rare diseases, and newborn screening, Dr. Pellegrino has been instrumental in advancing care and improving outcomes for children and families across New York.

At Upstate Golisano, she serves as section chief and medical director for genetics and directs the Inherited Metabolic Diseases Specialty Center. Her expertise and leadership will help shape statewide efforts to improve care for individuals living with rare diseases.

Pediatric Behavioral Health After Hours

We're pleased to share that the **Pediatric Behavioral Health After Hours Center** is now open. The center is co-located with Integrated Behavioral Health in **Suite 2B at the Nappi Wellness Institute**.

This service is available for children and adolescents **ages 5–18**.

Families should call ahead at 315-464-2711 to schedule an initial appointment **Monday–Thursday, 5:00–8:00 PM**. Phones will be answered starting at 1 PM, Monday-Thursday. Additional days of service will be added this fall.

This service is appropriate for children and teens who:

- Are experiencing emotional or behavioral distress and would benefit from prompt behavioral health support
- Can safely participate in an outpatient visit
- Do not require emergency medical care
- Are accompanied by a caregiver or responsible adult for the entire visit and able to return home afterward

Learn more at [🌐 Pediatric Behavioral Health After Hours | Psychiatry | SUNY Upstate](#) .

UGCH Renovations

Expansion of the **Golisano Center for Special Needs** into the remainder of the Madison Irving Medical Center third floor is underway. Demolition began in late June and is now largely complete. Construction of the expanded space is expected to begin soon, marking the next phase of this exciting project.

Improvements are on the way! Renovations in both **Family Rooms** and the **Family Accommodations/Sleep Rooms** have begun. Here's a first look at what's to come. Sneak peek: 👁👁

Family Rooms



Family Accommodations/ Sleep Rooms



Shoutouts & Celebrations!

Congratulations to our inpatient and ambulatory Superheroes!

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Inpatient Superhero of the Month

July 2026

Erin consistently goes above and beyond for her patients, the nurses and clinicians she collaborates with, as well as her coworkers. She is always the first to say "Yes, how can I help?" when it is needed and willingly steps in during stressful situations without hesitation. Her attention to detail and strong clinical judgement are evident in the way she identifies medication errors and communicates them appropriately in a constructive, non-punitive manner that promotes patient safety and teamwork. If something needs to get done, Erin simply takes initiative and gets it done, never complaining and always doing so with a smile on her face. She frequently stays late, comes in early, and is often the first person to volunteer to help in the pediatric emergency room, even when it falls outside of her normal expected responsibilities. Despite balancing all of this while also being a full-time mom at home, she continues to bring positivity, dedication, and compassion to every shift. The strong relationships she has built with nurses, residents and colleagues are a true reflection of how exceptional she is both personally and professionally. I have always looked up to her and aspire to be even half the pharmacist and human she is!!

Erin is dedicated to patient care and safety! She astutely identifies situations that are in need of pharmacy assistance and stays close to provide her expertise. Erin is efficient at what she does. She's willing to take on any task with a smile. Erin is an amazing addition to UGCH!

**Erin Simms
Pharmacy**



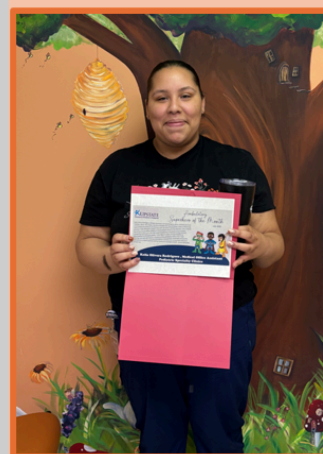
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Ambulatory Superhero of the Month

July 2026

Keila Olivera Rodriguez, Medical Assistant, consistently goes above and beyond in the Pediatric clinics. She brings a positive attitude each day and helps create a welcoming environment for patients and families with her warm, friendly approach. She is always willing to help wherever needed, ensures patient concerns are communicated promptly, and has taken initiative to enroll patients in MyChart to keep families connected to their care. She also helps keep the clinic running smoothly by monitoring and ordering supplies—even when working in other areas. Keila demonstrates true dedication, showing up reliably despite challenges and quickly learning new skills like rooming telemedicine patients. Her strong work ethic and commitment to both patients and her team are truly appreciated—we are fortunate to have her.

**Keila Olivera Rodriguez , Medical Office Assistant
Pediatric Specialty Clinics**



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Nominate a Superhero!

Do you have a coworker who represents UGCH PEDS?

Uplifting
Genuine
Compassionate
Hardworking
Patient/Family Centered
Empathetic
Dedicated
Supportive

Anyone can be nominated both Inpatient and Outpatient!



Scan QR
code or
click [here](#)
to vote!

Gina Romero Columbo has been selected as the Non-Clinical Leader of the Year award recipient!



Dr. Conners Named SUNY Distinguished Faculty

Gregory Conners, MD, MPH, MBA, was one of only three faculty members to receive SUNY's highest academic title of SUNY Distinguished Faculty. He'll be honored at the Upstate Convocation **on Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 4 p.m.** in Weiskotten Hall. The campus community is invited to attend. [More details.](#)

🎉 Congratulations 🎉

🎉 Congratulations 🎉 to **Tootie Perryman**

in Peds Pulmonary on achieving her RN!

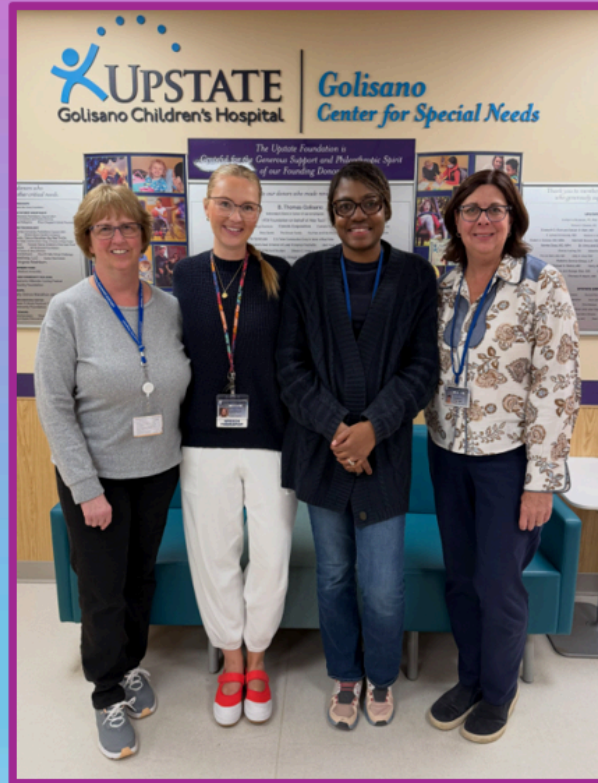
Through dedication, hard work, and perseverance, Tootie has reached an exciting milestone in her nursing career by advancing from Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to Registered Nurse (RN). We're proud to celebrate this accomplishment and grateful for the compassionate care she provides to our patients and families every day. Please join us in congratulating Tootie on this well-deserved achievement!



GCSN's Speech Language Pathologist shout out!

Let's recognize our wonderful speech-language pathologists at the Golisano Center for Special Needs. Adanna Harper describes why she loves her job - "As a pediatric SLP at Golisano, I get to work with an amazing team of professionals whose goal is to serve each child's unique needs. Golisano provides me with opportunities to be an advocate for students with diverse needs and to support parents in moments where there is uncertainty and difficulty navigating their child's new or existing diagnosis."

From left to right: Theresa McIntyre, Katie Weigand, Adanna Harper, and Beth Jones (missing Amy Loan)



DAISY Nominees and Awards! Way to go, 12E with 4 DAISY nominations!



(Kristina Perry, Sienna Haskins, Samantha Halverson, Sydney Merkley)



The 2026 Resident Appreciation, Awards, & Graduation Celebration



The 2026 Resident Appreciation, Awards, and Graduation celebration was held on Thursday, June 18, in the Grand Ballroom at the Marriott Syracuse Downtown.

🎉 Cheers to our award recipients! 🎉

🌟 **Rookie of the Year:** Dr. Christine Saber

🏆 **Robert K. Kanter Award:** Dr. Stephanie Tom-Brophy

💙 **Adolescent Medicine Award:** Dr. Anna Hrbac

🩺 **Pediatric Nursing Award:** JP Fried

★ **Pediatric Faculty Award:** Dr. Bob Hingre

👏 **Special Appreciation Award:** Advanced Practice Providers

🌸 **Patricia Mondore Award:** Lilly VanDemark

📖 **Resident Teaching Awards:**

- PL1 – Dr. Anandita Bharti
- PL2 – Dr. Pritha Adhikari
- PL3 – Dr. Ibrahim Habib

💉 **Golden Syringe Award:** Dr. Stephanie Tom-Brophy

Congratulations to RNs Robert Castillow and Erin Dadey on graduating from the Nurse Residency Program!



 Patient & family praises to our staff from Press Ganey surveys! 

Inpatient	Outpatient	
11E - Rachel	GSCN - Jessica	CDBG - Dr. Dosa
11E - Michaela	GCSN - Erin	Peds Surgery - Dr. Meier
11E - Jonathan F.	Peds GI - Dr. Hartman	Peds Surgery - Dr. Ahmed
11E - Shelby	Peds GI - Dr. Rivera	Peds Surgery - Dr. Wallenstein
11E - Bri	UPAC - Melanie Dunham	Peds Pulm - Sienna
11G - Tricia	UPAC - Dr. Baldwin	Peds Pulm - Front staff
11G - Diana	UPAC - Dr. O'Malley	Peds Pulm - Dr. Chen
11G - Maria	UPAC - Front desk staff	Peds Pulm - Anna
11G - Katie	UPAC - Megan	Peds Pulm - Dr. Batool
12E - Housekeeping	UPAC - Dr. Blatt	Peds Cancer Center - Dr. Scott
12E/F - Sienna H	Upstate Peds - Dr. Sisskind	Peds Cancer Center - Meghan
12E - Louisa	Peds ID - Dr. Weiner	Peds Cancer Center - Maryanne
12E - Micheal	Peds Rheum - Dr. McDonald	Rev. Jane
12E - Jason	Peds Rheum - Dr. Sura	PED - Rachel, RN
12F - Dawn	Peds Rheum - Dr. Hannan	
12F - Matt		

Strategic Plan Updates

Quarterly Update

Progress from Quarter 2 (April - June 2026) has been collected and updates will be shared at the upcoming quarterly update meeting on 7/30. Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute to our ongoing strategic planning efforts.

If you missed our previous quarterly update on 4/28, you can find the recording here: [Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital Quarterly Update - April 28 2026.mp4](#).

A Look Back at 2025

2025 Year in Review is Here!

Thanks to the dedication of our teams, 2025 was filled with meaningful achievements and milestones. We've compiled highlights and data from across UGCH to provide a snapshot of the incredible work accomplished throughout the year: [2025 Year In Review!](#)

Getting to Know Our UGCH Team

Who am I? Dina Mawson, Director for Pediatric Business Operations. I work primarily with ambulatory pediatric clerical and business operations, and with PCMH-related activity in pediatric primary care. I have worked with the pediatric services at Upstate for 23 years.

What attracted me to this role? This role combines some of the skills I've developed over the years, including operations management, project coordination, and business planning, and it's all more fun in the pediatric setting!

What do I enjoy most about my job? I have never seen a more dedicated, driven team than at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital. Every team member's first priority is helping the patients and their families. It is truly incredible and inspiring to work with such an amazing group of people!

Fun fact about me: I went from zero to 5 grandchildren in 4 years, with 3 new granddaughters just this year! Also, I learned to play pickleball 2 years ago. It's my new favorite thing to do - besides spending time with my grandchildren!



Dina and her husband, Alan,
hiking at Tinker Falls in Tully



Dina & her girls, one with a new baby girl
and the other two expecting baby girls!

Leadership Announcement:



We welcome Cathy Narcavage-Bradley DNP, RN, PHNA-BC, AFN-BC, SANE-A, SANE-P, NYSAFE, LCCE, CLC, SpBCPE, as the new CARE Program Manager! Cathy will begin her new role on July 30, 2026. In this role, Cathy will communicate, collaborate, and coordinate care with multiple disciplines to provide comprehensive care for a vulnerable patient population. She will be located at the McMahon Ryan Center.

Inpatient Updates

Pediatric Quality & Safety July newsletter [here](#) and the August newsletter [here](#).

Epic System Update - Pre/Post Op Nursing

Effective July 22, 2026: Four new Dot Phrases have been added to the Patient Instructions section of the After Visit Summary (AVS) for pediatric surgical patients. [New Pediatric Post Surgery Discharge Instructions](#)

Upcoming Events

Child Life Calendar of Events:

July 2026				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
27  Family Lunch 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:45am-12:30pm	28  Gaming Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:00am  MOST Science Experiments 11th Floor Performance Center 2:00pm	29  BINGO 11th Floor Performance Center 2pm-3:30pm	30  Art Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm	31  Music Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm

August 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
27  Family Lunch 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:45am-12:30pm	28  Gaming Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:00am	29  BINGO 11th Floor Performance Center 2:00pm	30  Art Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm	31  Music Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm
3  Family Lunch 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:45am-12:30pm	4  Gaming Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:00am	5  Sound Bath for Caregivers 12th Floor Solarium 2:00pm	6	7  Movie on the Big Screen 11th Floor Performance Center 1:00pm
10  Family Lunch 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:45am-12:30pm	11 Gaming Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:00am  Utica Zoomobile 11th Floor Performance Center 2:00pm	12	13 Pet Therapy Short visit in your room Between 11:00am and 1:00pm  Art Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm	14  Music Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm
17  Family Lunch 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:45am-12:30pm	18  Gaming Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:00am	19	20 Pet Therapy Short visit in your room Between 11:00am and 1:00pm  Art Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm	21  Music Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm
24  Family Lunch 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:45am-12:30pm	25 Gaming Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:00am  MOST Science Experiments 11th Floor Performance Center 2:00pm	26  BINGO 11th Floor Performance Center 2:00pm	27 Pet Therapy Short visit in your room Between 11:00am and 1:00pm  Art Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm	28  Music Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm

***All events are subject to change and your/your child's ability to participate depends on everyone's health and safety. Please ask your nurse before attending any events.**

Upstate Foundation Updates

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 info: Cassandra Rucker.

Upcoming events (Thank a UGCH Partner!):

- ★ **3 Rivers Car Cruz-In** – May through mid-September, Wednesday evenings, 4:00 PM until dusk (weather permitting), 8871 Gaskin Road, Clay
- ★ **Dairy Queen Miracle Treat Day** – July 30
- ★ **Jeeps at the Beach** (presented by the Maguire Foundation) – August 2, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM, Sylvan Beach
- ★ **Marriott Root Beer Float Day** – August 6
- ★ **Ace Hardware Bucket Days** – August 7–9
- ★ **Love's Travel Stops Campaign** – August 21–September 25

Thank You, David & Danielle

David Bartell and Danielle Bright have been incredible partners to Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital. Their passion for our mission, commitment to our patients and families, and unwavering support through the Upstate

Foundation have helped make countless projects and opportunities possible. While we will miss working with them, we are grateful for all they have contributed to UGCH and wish them nothing but success in the future. Thank you, David and Danielle, for everything you've done for our hospital community! 💙💛

Welcome to the Team!



Peds ED:

Christopher Batt, RN
Mara Cianfarra, TN
Autumn Layton, RN
Alina Parcels, RN (from ED Float PI)
Sara Lutz, RN
Ashely Hakes, RN
Dash Cohn, RN
Michael Lamanna, LPN
Aubrey Smykla, RN
Jennifer Cohn, RN

Child Life:

Olivia Suissa (Peds ED)

Ambulatory:

CARE:

Cathy Narcavage-Bradley, Nurse Mgr

Inpatient:

11E:

Kiyama Gainy, HCT

11G

Madison Hysick, RN
Kaleigh Boland, RN

12E:

Kadie Tierney, RN
Olivia Whewell, RN

12F:

Gabriela Redondo, TN
Rachel Haskell, RN
Isabella Iannitti, RN

BBHU:

Eva Acheampong, MHTA
Charlston Paige, MHTA
Jasmeen Kaur, Clin Provider
Ryan Ventura, MHTA

Peds Float Pool

Karia Dvorak, SCA
Mendo Sherpa, UST
Curtaria Oneal, UST
Lauren McWhinnie, TN

Peds Support Pool:

Rhory Benjamin, RN (from Support PI)

3NOR:

Jill Kompf, SOT
Kayla Carlos, SOT

Peds Fellows:

Dr. Zoe Hermione Warczak
Dr. Stephanie Tom-Brophy

Our new Pediatric Interns!



On the Move

Congratulations to **Kerryanna Kershner**, 11G Nurse Manager since 2016, who has accepted a position as Nursing Health and Wellness Manager within the Nursing Recruitment and Retention Department. Kerryanna began her new role on July 16th. Thank you for all of your contributions to the Children's Hospital, Kerryanna. We wish you the best of luck in this new role!

HAPPY
Anniversary

BBHU - Daniel Hodge, Behavior Tech 1 year

GCSN - Tahanie Mahmoud, Behavior Specialist - 8 years

Social Media Highlights

Interested in being featured on our social media?

Have something interesting you think the community would love to see? We'd love to interview you!

Email melicem@upstate.edu.



BE FEATURED ON UGCH SOCIAL MEDIA!

We want to showcase the amazing people and moments across our hospital—and that includes YOU!

👉 Use your imagination! Submit photos of your team celebrating, connecting, or having fun at work 📸

AUGUST OPPORTUNITIES

💖 8/2 – National Friendship Day
Give a shoutout to your work bestie!

🍪 8/4 – National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day
Share your favorite cookie recipe and the story behind it.

😌 8/15 – National Relaxation Day
Share your favorite coping skill, mindfulness activity, or wellness tip.

🌐 8/19 – World Humanitarian Day
Share how do you make a difference through volunteering, service, or community outreach

🐕 8/26 – National Dog Day
Let's see your furry friends!

🌈 8/25–8/31 Be Kind to Humankind Week
Submit a "Caught Being Kind" story, picture or recognition

HOW TO SUBMIT PICTURES
Email/QR: melicem@upstate.edu / 📱 Text: 315-885-1861

🔥 REMINDER
****No patients or patient information in photos or backgrounds**

💖 **LET'S SHOW OFF OUR TEAM!** 💖

Some of our incredible stories on our social media platforms!

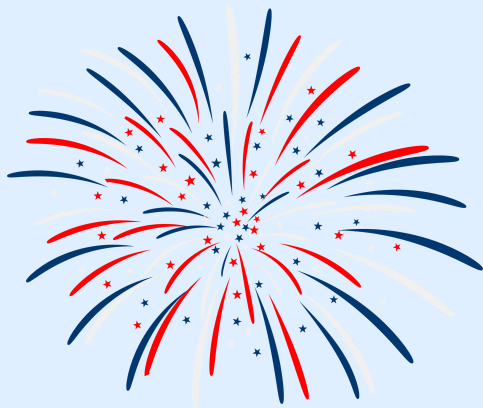
- [National Psychologist Appreciation Day](#)
- [Juvenile Arthritis Awareness](#)
- [Make a Difference to Children Month](#)
- [Rare Chromosome and Gene Disorder Awareness Day](#)

Upstate Health launches new TikTok channel

Upstate Health's new [TikTok account](#) is dedicated to health tips, advice, and a little fun. With experts across Upstate's departments and campuses, the new channel is designed to help keep our community and beyond healthy, one tip at a time. Watch for more information on how Upstate Golisano can be a part of it!

Additional Highlights

Upstate Peds on National Sunglasses Day!



Red, White & Blue at UGCH!

Heidi Turner (Case Management),
Courtney Hurlbut (Case Management),
and Jennifer Marsh (Social Work) showed
off their patriotic spirit while helping
celebrate America's 250th birthday.



Podcasts

[Preventable childhood injuries, like falls and motor vehicle accidents, safety water tips, Liz Sapio, Safe Kids](#)

[Campfire safety tips to keep kids safe, Kelly Reed, RN](#)

[Burn prevention tips to keep babies and older kids safe, Kelly Reed, RN](#)

[Advances in the treatment of pancreatic cancer, Dr. Thomas VanderMeer](#)



June Question: How many bones are in the human body at birth compared to adulthood?

Answer: About 300 at birth, fusing down to 206 in adulthood.



July Question: What is the most common birth month in the United States?

Answer will be shared in the next newsletter.



August is National Breastfeeding Month, National Immunization Awareness Month, Children's Eye Health & Safety Month, National Wellness Month, and Ambulatory Surgery Center Month.

** Have a great idea to highlight one of these? Let us know!



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>.

