

# CAPITAL GIFT

## A Gift for the Children

Rocco and Mary Abessinio generously support the expansion of Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children

Rocco Abessinio and his wife, Mary, have strong roots in the Delaware Valley. Rocco attended Salesianum High School, the University of Delaware and is a graduate of Neumann University. Mary attended Interboro High School in Glenolden, Pennsylvania, and is a graduate of Goldey Beacom College. Prior to marrying Rocco, she was a private secretary to the head of the Biochemistry Department at the University of Pennsylvania's Medical School. Recently, both Rocco and Mary received Honorary Doctor of Law degrees from Neumann University.

They also have a history with Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children. Rocco's sister was a patient in the 1940s. And, with their own growing, sizeable family (four children and nine grandchildren), having an outstanding children's hospital nearby was always a comfort. At one point, their daughter was briefly a patient of Dr. Roy Proujansky, who is now the Chief Executive of Delaware Valley Operations and Executive Vice President of Nemours.

Mary started volunteering in the Hospital's gift shop in the 1980s. She was one of the original members of the Auxiliary—the volunteers in red vests who bring smiles to so many patient families.



Mary and Rocco Abessinio in front of the gift shop bearing their name at the expanded Hospital.

Because of their community involvement, their decision to make a gift to the expansion of Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children was a natural one for them.

“We’ve seen how the Hospital has grown and developed,” says Rocco. “We wanted to show our sincere appreciation for the good it has done for the children and the community.”

Their focus on family also influenced their decision. “We have been blessed to have four healthy children and wanted to share the blessing by helping the many individuals who don’t have access to high-quality medical care,” he says.

A self-made businessman, Rocco is Chairman and CEO of Applied Bank and Roch Capital, both Delaware corporations, and knows about the

logistics of expansion. He started his original bank servicing company at the dining room table with his wife's support. Mary acquired her business acumen from working in her father's accounting practice that served many local Delaware County businesses as she was growing up.

In recognition of their gift to Nemours, their names are resplendent above the gift shop, which is appropriate since that is where Mary has dedicated so many hours over the past 30 years.

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“Your heart breaks for some of the families and the children,” says Mary. “The gift shop offers a respite from their ongoing concerns.”

## 2014 Radiothon Was Record-Breaking

The fourth annual *Help Our Kids Radiothon* raised \$257,753! The event, held September 3 and 4 at Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children, was sponsored by Delmarva Broadcasting Company. This annual event provides an opportunity to air the stories of our patients and families—some who participate year after year. Thank you to everyone who participated, including more than 1,000 donors and nearly 200 volunteers!



Seasons Pizza presents a check to benefit the Radiothon.



Nathan, a Nemours patient, shares his story during the Radiothon.

More than 77 retail locations participated in “cause marketing”—selling hangtags or hosting fundraisers to benefit the Radiothon. These retailers raised more than \$43,000, which was a 100 percent increase over last year.