

## MAJOR GIFT

# Massey Family Supports Children with Autism



(L to R) The Massey Family: Angela, Carol, Tony, Andrea and Harvey

Andrea Massey-Farrell, president and chief operating officer of the newly created Harvey L. Massey Foundation, has a passion for community involvement. “Our family’s company, Massey Services, Inc., has always been generous to a wide variety of organizations in the Orlando area,” she says. “My parents wanted to make more significant gifts in the arts, health care and education, so the Foundation was created as a way to do that.”

When Harvey Massey moved to Florida nearly 30 years ago, he bought a small pest control company. Today, Massey Services and its subsidiary organizations employ 1,400 team members in four states. “In addition to building success in our businesses, we wanted to create an environment for giving back to the community,” says Massey-Farrell.

“I first became aware of Nemours when we had twin boys, now nine years old,” comments Massey-Farrell. “Nemours

neonatologists, who provided staffing at a local hospital, were so gentle and caring. I never forgot that.”

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When Nemours Children’s Hospital opened in 2012, the Massey family learned about an effort to establish a multi-disciplinary autism program. “This opportunity was a no-brainer for us. My 15-year-old nephew has autism,” says Massey-Farrell, “and my brother Tony and his wife went through a lot to get Colin properly diagnosed and to find all the right services for him. We didn’t want anyone else to go through that.”

A half-million-dollar pledge commitment from the Massey family is helping to establish the new program, which brings Nemours experts from many disciplines together to help families whose children have autism. The child receives diagnosis and treatment, and the family has access to a range of community resources. “Families can get everything they need at the same time,” comments Massey-Farrell, “Parents benefit from counseling and training so that they can work with their kids at home. Nemours puts kids at the forefront and are really there for the family.”

“Long term, we hope that Nemours Children’s Hospital will be able to impact a large number of families whose children are affected by autism. There needs to be a program in place that helps families get the answers they need. Nemours can be that resource,” says Massey-Farrell. “I recently read a letter from a family whose child with autism was helped by Nemours. It made me realize why we made this commitment.”