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A Message to Our Friends

Dear Friends,

First and foremost—Happy Holidays to you and yours! This time of year, many families are loading up the car and visiting loved ones. Or, maybe everyone is coming to you this year. (Better start doing the grocery shopping now!) It’s a season to spend quality time with one another, perhaps more than any other time of the year.

Here at Nemours, our job is to make sure that the smallest members of your family—your kids, grandkids, cousins, nieces and nephews—are happy and healthy this holiday season and throughout the year. Every year, we treat thousands of children for issues ranging from cardiac abnormalities, to orthopedic issues, to cancer.

Your philanthropic donations help us do even more for these children and their families. As you consider your year-end giving (and your plan for 2015), please consider giving to Nemours. Together, we can truly make a difference in the lives of our kids.

Warmly,

[Signature]

Lori J. Counts, Operational Vice President
Nemours Fund for Children’s Health

FROM THE DESK OF OUR BOARD CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends,

We are in a period of exciting growth. We are proud to say that the expansion to the Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children is now open in Wilmington, Del. This beautiful building will house the majority of children who are inpatients. The space opened with much fanfare, just in time for the Halloween Parade. The community was a huge part of the fundraising for this building, helping raise more than $25 million for the capital campaign!

In addition to this expansion in Delaware, Nemours is establishing new satellite locations and primary care facilities in multiple states. These sites are convenient for many families, and they help us fulfill our goal of patient-centered care. They add to our consistently stellar teams in our Jacksonville and Pensacola, Fla. Clinics. And, although it’s hard to believe because the team is already making such an impact, the Nemours Children’s Hospital in Orlando is still just in its second year.

As our impact grows, we are so grateful that our network of supporters (all of you!) has been expanding as well. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of children and families.

Best wishes for a joyful holiday season.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John S. Lord
Chairman of the Board
The expansion of the Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children is now open! Patients and families, along with caregivers, played a critical role in helping to design the beautiful, innovative new space. The goal was to create an environment to promote physical, emotional and spiritual healing of children.

The building includes:

- 144 single-patient rooms with sleeping accommodations for family members and private bathrooms;
- playrooms, pocket parks, solariums and family lounges;
- dedicated units for hematology/oncology, orthopedics and pediatric intensive care;
- a greatly expanded Emergency Department;
- the soaring Anthony N. Fusco, Sr. Atrium, interactive Discovery Zone, a performance space; and
- a serene Healing Garden.

The Nemours Fund for Children’s Health is proud to announce that more than $25 million was raised from the community for the Our Children, Our Hospital Capital Campaign. Thank you to the more than 3,700 individuals, organizations, corporations and foundations that contributed to building a healthier future for children.

To learn more about the Hospital’s expansion, visit Nemours.org.
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. 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.

“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.”

“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!

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.

Seasons Pizza presents a check to benefit the Radiothon.

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

A Window of Hope

With a mother’s instinct, Samantha Smolko knew there was something wrong with her baby girl, Vada.

Starting when she was five months old, Vada would alternate between extreme activity and extreme tiredness. Sometimes, she would energetically rock her entire body and breathe very rapidly. She broke her bouncer and her stroller. Other times, she would sleep for hours during the day, uninterested in eating or talking. Samantha took her to the local Emergency Department multiple times, but doctors could not determine what was wrong.

One day, when Vada was 11 months old, Vada wouldn’t get up. Samantha rushed her to a hospital that partners with Nemours. Vada’s lips were turning blue, and she couldn’t hold her head up.

“It was the worst day of my life,” says Samantha. “I literally thought my child was going to die.”

The doctors moved quickly, running some bloodwork. Vada’s sugar was 745—astronomically high. Life-threateningly high. Later that night, they confirmed that Vada had juvenile diabetes.

Samantha says her mind was a whirlwind. “I was devastated about the diagnosis, then I realized it was a miracle that she was still alive, then I knew that my whole life was going to change. I don’t know anything about diabetes!”

The next morning, Nemours physicians were by Vada’s side, getting her on IVs with insulin. “They were amazing,” says Samantha. “I was in a fog.”

Vada is now three years old. She has an insulin pump, but it is still very difficult to manage her condition. Samantha has to watch every carbohydrate and every calorie that Vada consumes. If Vada does what other three-year-olds do, like sneak food from the fridge or feed what she doesn’t want to the family dog, it actually puts her life at risk.

Samantha says that Nemours has provided amazing support, day and night. Her nurse coordinator also has a daughter who was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes when she was 13 months old. “It’s so helpful having someone who understands,” notes Samantha.

A tradition was born during one of Vada’s routine appointments. Samantha put Vada in the window, so she could see the river, and snapped a photo of her. At an appointment a few months later, Samantha took a similar photo. Now, they try to do it every time they go. Samantha gets emotional, seeing how much her daughter has grown, from snapshot to snapshot.

With a condition such as juvenile diabetes, every day and night is a struggle. But, with Nemours, they can see hope—glimmering just like the river, visible from the window.
Thank You to The Nemours Society

Individual donors who give $1,000 or more to Nemours annually are included in The Nemours Society. As members, they are invited to a beautiful annual reception with hospital leadership.

The Inspiration Award

Every year, the Nemours Fund for Children’s Health presents the Inspiration Award in Delaware and Florida to individuals for their outstanding philanthropy, willingness to approach others to join them in giving, and commitment to the community.

Delaware – Kate Leong

Kate was a strong advocate for her son, Gavin, who frequented Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children. Sadly, Gavin passed away in April 2013, when he was five years old. Kate and her family held a special fundraiser to benefit an “All Abilities Playground” at duPont Hospital and they raised more than $60,000.

Kate has also participated in the Help Our Kids Radiothon for the past two years. She has inspired many community members to make philanthropic gifts to Nemours, and she is always looking for ways to improve the patient experience at the Hospital where her son spent many days of his life.

Florida – Dr. Laura Bailet

Dr. Laura Bailet is the Operational Vice President of Nemours BrightStart!, an initiative that promotes reading success for all children. Dr. Bailet has been at the forefront of Nemours’ corporate partnership initiative. She is helping Nemours attract national attention and sponsorship for Nemours BrightStart! and has been a tireless advocate for the Nemours BrightStart! endowment.

Because of the Trust established by Alfred I. duPont, 100 percent of donations go to help children. For more information, call (302) 298-7551.
PATIENT STORY

Just Keep Swimming

High-schooler is back in the pool after back surgery

Ryann Schutt, age 15, splashes around in the indoor pool with her friends. She is about to warm up for a big swim meet for her school—St. Andrew’s in Middletown, Del. She has been a competitive swimmer since age nine.

Looking at her, you’d never know she had serious back surgery only 18 months ago.

When she was 12, she started having back pain. The consistency was alarming. Her family took her to Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children and she was quickly diagnosed. She had hemivertebra—a rare form of scoliosis. Her spine was curving dramatically.

“Now, looking back through family photos, I can see it,” says her mother, Laurisa. “But at the time, I couldn’t. And neither could her primary care doctor. It was hidden between her shoulders.”

As the curve progressed, doctors knew that surgery would probably be the best option. Ryann had check-ups and X-rays every three to six months.

As doctors expected, the curve in her back started to become much more pronounced. Her pain increased. Doctors were concerned about her pain level, but were also concerned that if they waited too long to fix the problem, her spine would become less flexible and lead to negative repercussions later in life.

Ryann had back surgery in March 2013, two weeks after her 14th birthday and 22 months after the initial diagnosis.

Dr. Suken Shah performed the intense, eight-hour surgery, putting a titanium rod and 29 screws in Ryann’s back. The incision went from her neck to her waist.

Despite the significance of the surgery, Ryann was able to stand up the same day and return to school three weeks later. She was allowed to go back to casual swimming after six weeks, and training after six months.

Ryann says that she is relieved that she is now pain-free. She is also pleased at how quickly life has gone back to normal. Some people don’t even realize that she ever had a back problem, much less surgery.

“I have to point out my scar to people, because they don’t see it,” says Ryann. “I was in the locker room the other day and a girl said I had a little scar on my back. She didn’t even see the whole thing. It was funny.”
The Swank Foundation has announced a new gift of $246,000 to the Nemours Fund for Children’s Health to benefit families with children affected by cerebral palsy and other neuromuscular disorders.

The Swank Foundation’s gift will support Nemours KidsHealth.org, the #1 website for children’s health information. This funding will be used to develop new video and web content around cerebral palsy and other neuromuscular conditions. The experts at KidsHealth will build resources to provide families with practical and caring information available anytime, anywhere, including:

• An online Cerebral Palsy Center with content on cerebral palsy and other neuromuscular diseases, including the essential information about management of home, school and family life.

• A video series for parents of newly diagnosed children, to include personal stories of families and siblings, to provide perspective and hope.

• Materials for educators, from pre-K through high school, to help them better understand and prepare for students with cerebral palsy.

“Families come to KidsHealth looking for physician-reviewed information, perspective, advice, and comfort about a wide range of medical and emotional concerns affecting children,” says Neil Izenberg, MD, Chief Executive, Nemours KidsHealth. “This new Cerebral Palsy Center on KidsHealth.org will provide an easily-accessible resource for families.”

“At the Swank Foundation, we are constantly impressed with the neuro-orthopedics program here at Nemours,” says Nancy Gale, a member of the foundation’s Board of Directors. “We are proud of the work we have been able to do together so far. And we are pleased to present this new gift so Nemours can continue helping children with neuro-orthopedic conditions and their families.”

This most recent gift marks nearly $2 million in total philanthropic support from the Swank Foundation. This latest gift of $246,000 exponentially furthers the Swank Foundation’s goal of providing resources for families via the impressive reach of Nemours KidsHealth.org.

The content developed on the website will draw substantially on topics discussed at the Swank Foundation Family Conference, held annually at Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children. In addition, KidsHealth is assembling a family advisory group to be a vital part of the content development team. The site is expected to launch in late 2015-early 2016.
Nemours Develops Sickle Cell Cookbook and it’s Kid-Approved!

Howard, a Nemours patient, helps test healthy recipes for the cookbook.

Most of us aren’t looking for recipes that add calories. But for families with sickle cell disease, it’s a different story. Because kids and teens with sickle cell break down red blood cells faster than other children do, their bodies use more energy and need more calories. But, these kids also need to resist the urge to just consume “empty” calories; they need a diet that also provides protein, vitamins and minerals.

To assist families, Nemours, led by dietitian Michell Fullmer at Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children, has developed a unique cookbook offering recipes for appealing calorie-dense meals and snacks.

After coming up with and testing a variety of recipes herself, Fullmer and the team did a test run with patients in the sickle cell program at duPont Hospital for Children. They prepped, cooked and tasted the foods together. From loaded oatmeal to smoothies, snacks and frittatas, the offerings were a hit.

“What we’ve done is add calories that offer strong nutritional value and taste really good,” says Fullmer. “They’re not empty calories or foods that kids wouldn’t want to eat. We also made sure the recipes were a snap to prepare so the kids could help in the kitchen.”

To date, Nemours has distributed more than 300 books. For more information, please email sicklecellcookbook@nemours.org.

The cookbook was funded in part by the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Zeta Omega Chapter and its charitable arm, The Pearls of Hope Foundation, Inc.

Michell Fullmer (second from left) and her taste-testing team in the kitchen!
Because Every Child Deserves a Bright Start

Nemours launches a website for evidence-based reading tools

Nemours is pleased to announce the launch of ReadingBrightStart.org. This website is targeted to parents of children ages birth to five years old, sharing evidence-based reading tools to ensure their children are on track for reading success. These learning tools are the culmination of the research and outreach that Nemours has been doing for the past decade with its Nemours BrightStart! initiative.

Nemours BrightStart! is one example of Nemours’ commitment to caring for the whole child. Research indicates that literacy is the single strongest predictor of adult health status. Therefore, ensuring that children begin their school years with strong pre-literate skills is essential to ensuring they grow up healthy.

Visit ReadingBrightStart.org for free tips, tools, articles and other resources proven to help prepare children for reading success from day one.

For years, Nemours BrightStart! has provided evidence-based reading tools for parents, educators, health care professionals and community leaders. And now, ReadingBrightStart.org expands this reach by providing specific guidance to parents by age, beginning at birth.

The website offers free, interactive tools for them to use with their children. The centerpiece is the Preschool Reading Screener for three- to five-year olds that gives parents an accurate snapshot of their child’s pre-reading skills. Based on the results, a customized action plan will guide parents in prioritizing selected activities and recommended books.

Dr. Laura Bailet is the Operational Vice President of Nemours BrightStart! Dr. Bailet is a licensed school psychologist and an expert on a wide range of neurocognitive issues.

“Most parents want to help their child learn to read, but each child is an individual learner with distinct needs,” says Dr. Bailet. “We provide parents with proven, developmentally-appropriate tools to use with their children, and that can make all the difference.”

A variety of corporate partners have joined the Nemours BrightStart! initiative because their community goals align with Nemours’ goals. Nemours is looking to grow its corporate partnerships, because with each collaboration, more children will be reached. For more information, call (904) 697-4245.
PATIENT STORY

The Girl With a Never-Ending Smile

Despite a scary diagnosis, Kaley gets her “spark” back

Kaley, sporting her winning t-shirt design, with Orange County Firefighters.

Kaley, age 13, is an outgoing and funny girl. “When do I get to sign autographs around here?” she quips, walking into Nemours Children’s Hospital.

Kaley is also facing a struggle—she was diagnosed with leukemia in March 2013.

Kaley’s mother, Natasha, says her family thought she had tonsillitis, because her main symptom was a swollen throat. But, when their family doctor called her to say the blood tests were abnormal, she says her heart fell.

“I just knew,” she says. “I just knew she had cancer.”

Her doctor told the family to take her to Nemours Children’s Hospital. After Kaley was admitted, she spent more than 160 straight days in the Hospital receiving treatment.

She had to get specialized treatment because an issue with her spine made it difficult for doctors to get medicine where it needed to go. Dr. Craig Johnson was the physician who essentially “mapped” her back and managed those treatments. Kaley and Dr. Johnson became friends, connecting about common interests, including fishing.

Though the treatment was difficult, Kaley was most upset about the fact that she couldn’t go to school and see her friends. But, with her usual sense of humor, she would say, “At least I have a cute doctor!”

Kaley is now receiving outpatient chemotherapy. She is very excited to be back in school, in the 7th grade.

She stays active in Hospital events. This summer, she designed a t-shirt that was entered into a contest with the Orange County Firefighters. Her shirt won!

Ultimately, more than $6,000 was raised and Kaley was given a special ride in a pink fire truck with Nemours Associates and patients cheering her on.

The shirts were then available for purchase, with a portion of the proceeds going to Nemours. Ultimately, more than $6,000 was raised, and Kaley was given a special ride in a pink fire truck with Nemours Associates and patients cheering her on.

Natasha says that Kaley is also very excited she will soon have a baby brother—expected around the two-year anniversary of her diagnosis. She is so grateful for the care that Kaley receives at Nemours. “The spark has come back in her,” says Natasha. “I am so happy.”
Glamorous Nights to Benefit Nemours

Thank you to everyone who attended this year’s Nemours galas! We are so grateful to our sponsors and honored guests.

Delaware
A Night at Nemours supported the Healing Garden, which provides a peaceful place for patients, families and staff at Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children.

Orlando
La vie en Couleur benefitted Nemours Transport. Nemours Children’s Hospital will be able to purchase a new pediatric ambulance with the event proceeds.

Jacksonville
An Evening of Promise benefitted the endowment for childhood cancer research.

Top left: Martha Mackenzie, Dr. Eric Gibson and Anne Wright

Top right: Dr. Salvatore Goodwin, Veronica Scott-Fulton and Dwight Fulton

Bottom: Senator Bill Nelson, Dr. David Bailey, John and Carolyn Lord, Frankie and Daniella Guerra-Galinex with baby Sophia, Roger Oxendale, Sharon and Marc Hagle, and Grace Nelson
Nemours Children’s Hospital Recognized as “Top Hospital”

Nemours Children’s Hospital is one of only nine children’s hospitals in the country (and the only one in the Southeast) to make the annual “Top Hospital” list from The Leapfrog Group.

This distinction is awarded to less than seven percent of eligible hospitals nationwide for demonstrating excellence in hospital safety and quality. Selection for the “Top Hospital” award is based on the results of The Leapfrog Group’s annual hospital survey, which measures performance on patient safety and quality, focusing on how patients fare, resource use and management structures established to prevent errors.

“I am beaming with pride over this honor for Nemours,” says Roger Oxendale, president of Nemours Children’s Hospital. “Each day we set out to deliver the safest possible care for patients and families. The Top Hospital award from The Leapfrog Group is an important recognition of the many Associates who work very hard to achieve that goal.”

Leapfrog is a national nonprofit organization using the collective leverage of large purchasers of health care to initiate breakthrough improvements in the safety, quality and affordability of health care for Americans.

Your gift helps children:

- Make a secure, online contribution by credit card at givenow.nemours.org.
- Mail your gift to: Nemours Fund for Children’s Health, Shands House, 1600 Rockland Road, Wilmington, DE 19803, made payable to “Nemours.”
- Check with your company for matching gift opportunities.
- Remember a friend or family member with a memorial gift. You can also honor someone special or mark an important occasion with a gift. Notification (but not the amount) will be sent to the person you specify. You may make a tribute gift online or call us with your credit card information: (888) 494-5251.
#GivingTuesday: One Day, $31K!

Nemours fundraiser supported cancer research

Thanks to Associate and community support, Nemours was able to raise more than $31,000 for childhood cancer research in a single day! December 2 was Giving Tuesday—a national day for charitable giving that immediately follows Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Nemours had a special matching gift from the D.O. Believe Foundation, which supports pediatric oncology research.

On Giving Tuesday, Nemours shared the stories of eight oncology patients, including Savannah, who was diagnosed with a Wilms tumor (a form of kidney cancer) when she was two years old. After chemotherapy, radiation and surgery, she is now cancer free. She just started kindergarten and loves music, dancing and riding miniature horses.

Savannah is now cancer free after being treated at Nemours.

The D.O. Believe Foundation, which provided the matching grant, was founded in honor of Dominic “The Dominator” Osorio, who lost his life to brain cancer just after his 7th birthday. The D.O. Believe Foundation is dedicated to raising awareness and funding for children’s cancer.

Thank you to all of our donors! Though Giving Tuesday is over, you can always support cancer research at Nemours by visiting givenow.nemours.org.

- Include the Nemours Fund for Children’s Health in your estate plans. The Carillon Society honors individuals who have informed us of their intentions.
- Donate appreciated securities. Give us a call at (888) 494-5251 and our staff will assist you in making arrangements.
- Consider Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) if you are a regular contributor or would like to become one. Call our office at (888) 494-5251 to have a monthly contribution charged to your credit card. This can be discontinued at any time.
- Remember, 100 percent of your gift goes to help children because of the support from the Trust created by Alfred I. duPont.

If you wish to have your name removed from the list to receive this communication or future fundraising requests supporting the Nemours Fund for Children’s Health, please e-mail giving@nemours.org or write to us at: Nemours Fund for Children’s Health, Shands House, 1600 Rockland Road, Wilmington, DE 19803.

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Give 100 Percent to Children

As you consider your charitable donations, please consider giving to Nemours. Because of the Trust established by Alfred I. duPont, 100 percent of your donation goes to work for children and is not reduced by administrative fees. The funds are used to provide clinical and support services to patients and families, conduct research to find treatments and cures for pediatric conditions, and perform community outreach designed to prevent some children from ever having to enter our doors.

See pages 13 and 14 for ways to give.
Thank you for helping our kids be kids!

Happy Holidays, from the Nemours Fund for Children’s Health!