

DECEMBER 2023



Mary Bridge Brigade

CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Tammy Hall, MBB President

Happy Holidays,

It is hard to believe that December is upon us and Christmas will be here soon. It has been fun returning to Festival of Trees season to help get in the holiday spirit. Hearing the patient stories reminds us why we do what we do: making lives better for the patients and their families at Mary Bridge.

As the new Mary Bridge hospital construction continues, we see signs of things on the move and growing, just as the Brigade continues to move and grow in different ways. As we continue to update forms and systems, we are learning how to do things more efficiently with new tools available to us. Guild events and fundraisers are coming back and doing well. We are also getting creative with our fundraising and outreach. We have had a growth in events, and guilds are getting more opportunities to do service projects. The Westgate Guild was able to return to their service of running an inpatient trick-or-treat table on Halloween and Chambers Creek filled the staff lounge in the MB ED with snacks and treats for Thanksgiving. These acts of kindness and service brighten the lives of patients and those that care for them. It is a great hope that we all can find ways to provide service to the Mary Bridge community and hospital. It is one of the most important things we can do to help the Brigade stand out and grow.

We look forward to the coming of the new year and envision further development for the Brigade. We continue to attract new members to guilds and our Network. New members express excitement about helping us develop and expand for the future. Sadly, we say farewell to the Dr. Penrose Guild after 65 years and the Karen J. Lynch Guild after 27 years of dedication to the Brigade. We hope their members continue their connection to us by joining our Network. We are excited that the NICU has now become a part of the Mary Bridge Children's Hospital which expands our service and commitment to many more little ones.

May your holiday season be filled with great joy.

Tammy Hall



The Brigade sponsored the Willy Wonka themed tree, Every Good Thing, at this year's Festival of Trees.

Spreading the Holiday Cheer

The season of merriment was kicked off by several guilds hosting holiday events. Joyous crowds assembled for holiday bazaars hosted by the Bridge, Marge and Agnew/Karshner Guilds. Members were excited to report that the crowds were energized with a festive spirit. They each boasted record sales of holiday crafts, gifts, and baked goods. The Shotwell Guild gathered shoppers at Compass Rose and Envy for a jubilant evening earning a percentage of proceeds for MBCH. Meanwhile, Peninsula Guild hosted a holiday pop-up sale at Timberland Bank. Children and their families filled a movie theater in Shelton for O'Neill Guild's screening of Trolls Band Together. And, for the 47th year, the Sacajawea Guild teamed up to flip pancakes and serve breakfast at their annual Breakfast with Santa.

Our Century-Long Commitment to MBCH with Our Biggest Gift to Date

As the Foundation's largest and oldest donor, the Brigade honored our commitment of a \$10 million pledge to the construction of a new children's hospital by a making payment of \$5 million in 2023. Generations before us would be proud of how far we have come in our mission to grow children's access to excellent healthcare in our community. In addition, the Brigade has funded \$87,600.00 in Allocations to Mary Bridge programs.

May lovely, happy times decorate your holiday season. May warm, special memories brighten your new year. May the wonder of the season fill your heart with joy.



Karshner members, Jana Dinham and Sue Johnson helped co-host a holiday bazaar with Agnew Guild.



For nearly 60 years, the Shotwell Guild holds a nut sale for holiday baking and gifts.



In 2023, Brigade members assembled at Tacoma Little Theater for a command performance of *The Play That Goes Wrong*.



In mid-2024, construction will begin on the creation of an ambulatory building featuring specialty clinics, urgent care and behavioral health crisis management services.



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