

The Mary Bridge Brigade Legacy



**MARY BRIDGE
BRIGADE**
CHAMPIONS FOR
CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Champions for Children's Health

MARY BRIDGE BRIGADE



June 9, 1954 – Laying of the Mary Bridge Children's Hospital cornerstone

After years of determined advocacy, the Tacoma Orthopedic Association's dream of a children's hospital in Tacoma was realized. Representing the many hardworking members of the TOA were: (left to right) Mrs. Michael Yuscko, Mrs. Roscoe (Margaret) Smith, Mrs. Roy (Kathryn) Elstrom and Mrs. C.H. Kane.

Photo credit: Tacoma Public Library

The children of this community have a special group of champions working hard for them. These are the same champions who fought tirelessly to establish the Mary Bridge Children's Hospital, have rescued the hospital in times of great need, make sure all children receive the very best care regardless of ability to pay, and are now working to secure the future of Mary Bridge Children's.

WHO ARE THESE CHAMPIONS?

The Mary Bridge Brigade: Champions for Children's Health.

Today, Mary Bridge Children's is a leading provider of family-centered care for children because of the advocacy of the Mary Bridge Brigade. For nearly a century, the Mary Bridge Brigade has boldly supported Mary Bridge Children's. As the largest contributor to Mary Bridge, the Tacoma Orthopedic Association/Mary Bridge Brigade has donated \$50 million and countless volunteer hours to help sick and injured children in our community since 1921.

And the children of our community need their champions now more than ever before.

The Mary Bridge Brigade Legacy

Mary Bridge Children's is facing some of its biggest challenges since it opened in 1954. While more and more families are seeking care at Mary Bridge Children's, the number of families who have insurance that pays the actual cost of care is declining. Today, more than 60 percent of the families served at Mary Bridge are on Medicaid.

Mary Bridge Children's truly depends on support from the community to fulfill its mission of providing care to all children, regardless of ability to pay.

In 2020, Mary Bridge Children's announced that it will be building a new Mary Bridge Children's Hospital facility. When it opens, it will be one of the most advanced children's hospitals in the nation.

The new hospital building will anchor a growing network of pediatric care. At such a critical moment, Mary Bridge Children's needs support from its strongest champions.

Through the Mary Bridge Brigade Legacy, members of the Mary Bridge Brigade will build a fund to

safeguard and advance children's health in perpetuity.

Why? Because the work of the Mary Bridge Brigade will never be complete. As long as there is a Mary Bridge Children's Hospital and Health Network, children and families will always need the Mary Bridge Brigade. No one loves and protects Mary Bridge Children's more than the champions who built it.

1957 – Tacoma Orthopedic Association annual meeting at the Winthrop Hotel.

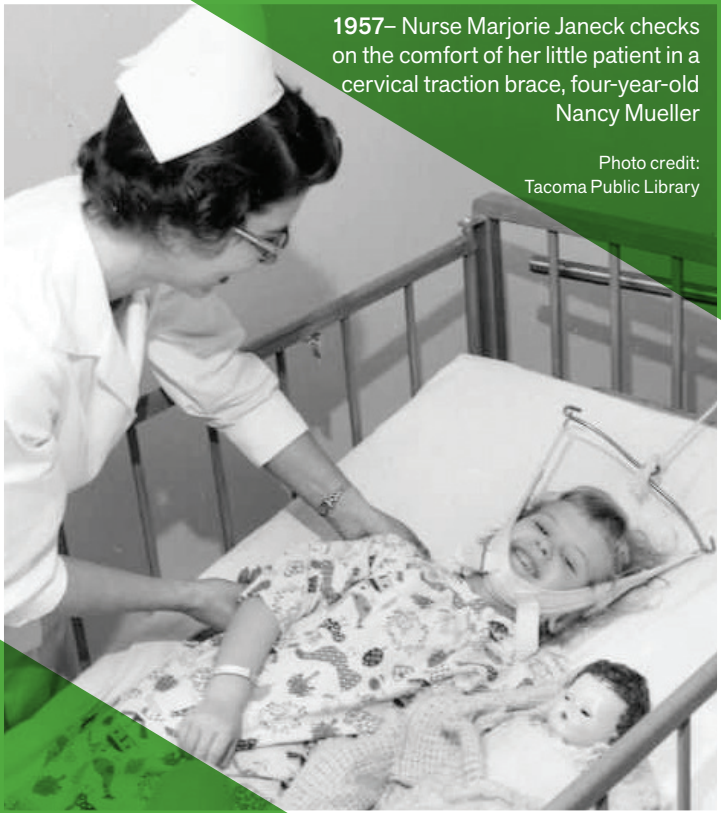
Photo credit: Tacoma Public Library



As long as there is a Mary Bridge Children's Hospital and Health Network, children and families will always need the Mary Bridge Brigade. No one loves and protects Mary Bridge more than the champions who built it.

1957– Nurse Marjorie Janeck checks on the comfort of her little patient in a cervical traction brace, four-year-old Nancy Mueller

Photo credit:
Tacoma Public Library



2015 – Nurse Tracy Cooley draws a smile as she checks on her grateful patient at the Mary Bridge Medical/Surgical Unit

Preparing for the Next Century of Pediatric Care

Through the Mary Bridge Brigade Legacy, the work of the Mary Bridge Brigade will always continue: no child will be turned away from the treatment they need – not now, not ever.

Today, we ask you to join your fellow Mary Bridge Brigade members in supporting the future of Mary Bridge Children's and the Mary Bridge Brigade by making a gift to the Mary Bridge Brigade Legacy.

Your gift to this fund will help usher in a new era at Mary Bridge Children's by providing a permanent source of funding to address the evolving health care needs of children.

The Mary Bridge Brigade Legacy will support the **areas of greatest need at Mary Bridge**, including:

- » Care without regard for a family's ability to pay
- » Facilities that promote family-centered care
- » The most advanced equipment and technology
- » Training for physicians, nurses and staff
- » Community programs that rely on philanthropic support

Mary Bridge Children's helps Naomi live her **best life**

Naomi Myers was born with congenital laryngeal web, which means she has extra tissue connecting her vocal cords. It affects her voice and her ability to breathe.

At five days old, Naomi had her first surgery. That's when she met Mark Boseley, MD.

Dr. Boseley leads Mary Bridge Children's Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) clinic, helping thousands of patients each year.

"Dr. Boseley was the best gift we didn't know we needed," Naomi's mom, Kristin Wright, says. "We've always felt super supported and empowered to make decisions for Naomi. We always have felt like we are on a team with him and everyone at Mary Bridge Children's."

After 59 days in the hospital, 15 sedations, six surgeries and three intubations, Naomi is a six (and a half) year old who is extremely social, healthy and full of energy. Aside from the tiny scar on her neck, you would never know that this child running around a playground was hospitalized a handful of times.

Services supported by donors to Mary Bridge Children's and programs such as Child Life, help reduce the stress or anxiety Naomi may feel about her surgeries and procedures. According to Naomi's parents, she's "never lost her joy" thanks to her Mary Bridge Children's care team and resilient spirit.



Naomi Myers

"Dr. Boseley was the best gift we didn't know we needed,"

Naomi's mom, Kristin Wright

"She's doing really well," her mom, says. "Although we are always monitoring the web, it seems to remain steady. And, now that Naomi is old enough, she is able to alert us if anything is wrong."

Thanks to the care Naomi has received at Mary Bridge Children's, Naomi is living her best life, playing with friends, attending school and spending time with her family.

A Permanent Foundation of Support

The Mary Bridge Brigade Legacy will support the mission of the Mary Bridge Brigade and honor the work of the founding members of the Tacoma Orthopedic Association. Earnings from the fund will sustain and advance health care for children served by Mary Bridge Children's.

Continuing to build this fund is among the most important initiatives the Mary Bridge Brigade has undertaken. Here's why:

The fund will be invested to permanently support Mary Bridge Children's. Only the interest earned from the fund will be used annually. The fund will continue to grow over time.

The endowment will sustain the work of the Mary Bridge Brigade in perpetuity.

Once fully invested, the fund will support Mary Bridge Children's as the Mary Bridge Brigade determines. As the fund continues to grow, so will the amount of investment income available to spend.

Allocation decisions will be made entirely by the Mary Bridge Brigade, whose members have always helped shape the future of Mary Bridge Children's.



A Long Legacy of Caring for Children

- 1921 ... TOA pays \$250 per year for a bed in Seattle General Hospital dedicated to serving Pierce County children.
- 1925 ... TOA pays for a physician to care for children at Tacoma General.
- 1955 ... Mary Bridge Children's Hospital opens, thanks to the significant funds the TOA was able to amass and contribute.
- 1969 ... TOA rescues Mary Bridge Children's Hospital during a financial shortfall by writing a check for \$143,793.
- 1974 ... TOA gives \$3.7 million to fund new clinic space, radiology and catheterization lab.
- 1985 ... TOA provides funds for a pediatric surgeon start-up program, pediatric intensive care equipment, two cardiac monitors and other equipment.
- 1990 ... TOA commits \$1 million and receives \$500,000 in matching funds to complete the 7th floor of Mary Bridge Children's Hospital, a new 14-bed Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.
- 1999 ... TOA contributes \$5 million to construct the Mary Bridge Children's Health Center.
- 2007 ... TOA donates \$3 million to build a new Mary Bridge Emergency Department.
- 2012 ... Name changes from Tacoma Orthopedic Association to Mary Bridge Brigade to recognize the broader geographical area the membership now covers.
- 2014 ... Mary Bridge Brigade donates \$2.5 million to fund the new Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, and is the largest donor to the *Building Dreams Together* campaign.
- 2020 ... Mary Bridge Brigade commits \$10 million to help build a new Mary Bridge Children's Hospital facility.

Occupational therapy ward at Mary Bridge Children's Hospital in 1955. Volunteers from the Tacoma Orthopedic Association bring a doll and books to a young girl who could not leave her bed.



Photo credit: Tacoma Public Library



A patient enjoys the quiet comfort of a Mary Bridge staff member

Celebrate your Legacy as a Champion for Children's Health

With the Mary Bridge Brigade Legacy, the Mary Bridge Brigade will remain the most powerful advocate for children's health into the next century.

We are asking Mary Bridge Brigade members to contribute to the Mary Bridge Brigade Legacy with a combination of cash and estate gifts.

Become part of this historic effort and celebrate your service as a member of the Mary Bridge Brigade – make a gift to the Mary Bridge Brigade Legacy today.



Contact Us

For additional information on how you can contribute to the Mary Bridge Brigade Legacy, please contact the Mary Bridge Brigade at 253-403-1427 or marybridgebrigade@multicare.org

