January 15, 2018

What’s Happening
A newsletter for the Maine Medical Center family

BBCH License Plate Bill Advances To Legislature

After hearing emotional testimony from patients, their families, state lawmakers and care team members from The Barbara Bush Children’s Hospital at Maine Medical Center (BBCH), the Legislature’s Transportation Committee voted unanimously Jan. 9 to support LD 1685, An Act To Create The Barbara Bush Children’s Hospital Registration Plate.

Maine requires non-profit organizations that want to create a specialty license plate to secure signatures of support from 2,000 Maine residents who have active “passenger-type” vehicle registrations. BBCH has met that goal, and now the Legislature will consider the specialty license plate. Within five years of being made available statewide, the plate is projected to raise more than $200,000 each year to enhance patient care at Maine’s only children’s hospital.

Kim and Joe Westrich of Wiscasset began the campaign for the BBCH specialty license plate nearly three years ago as a way to give back to the hospital that did so much for their family. Their daughter, Madison, was diagnosed with a brain tumor at 2 years old. She was treated at BBCH and is now a healthy 12-year-old. The Westrich family’s goal is to create a stable funding source for generations to come.

‘BBCH plate’
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MMC Seeks Summer Junior Volunteers for 2018

Do you have a teen who is interested in volunteering this upcoming summer?

Look no further! Maine Medical Center has a very strong Summer Junior Volunteer Program and we are delighted when kids of MMC employees have an interest in getting involved.

Last year 128 Junior Volunteers covered areas throughout the hospital. The eight-week program gives teens the opportunity to learn responsibility and skills in the workforce and gives them the exposure to the healthcare industry. This year the program will run from June 25 - August 17.

The application window for new and returning teens starts at 3 p.m. on Thursday, January 18 and is open until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 24. We will not be accepting applications after the January 24 deadline. Visit http://bit.ly/2CUU0VE for more information.

MMC’s 2017 Summer Junior Volunteers
“The emotions involved when your child is ill or hurt are feelings that cannot be described in words,” Kim Westrich said. “My family and I were so grateful that we only needed to travel to Portland to receive exceptional treatment and compassionate care for our child when she was ill.”

The Barbara Bush Children’s Hospital serves children and families from throughout Maine. In many cases services provided by BBCH, including care for children’s kidney disease, pediatric palliative care, advanced cardiology interventions and advanced forms of cancer therapy, are not found anywhere else in the state. In 2016, BBCH provided more than 100,000 patient visits.

“Many families don’t think about specialized children’s health services until they face a crisis,” said John Bancroft, M.D., Chief of Pediatrics at BBCH. “We want everyone to know that those services are available to them, right here in Maine. With financial support from this license plate, we can help more children and families.”

The Barbara Bush Children’s Hospital would receive $10 from every new plate sold and $10 from every annual renewal. After the $25 registration fee, motorists only pay a $15 annual renewal fee.

If approved by the full Legislature, the new license plate would be available for Maine residents to purchase by October 1, 2018.

Madison, Kim and Joe Westrich
Molly Amann, Brandy Robertson and Riley Robertson
Steve, Lila and Leah St. Jean
Jim and Lyle Kachmar
Nick, Ducky and Jack Jones

Thank you to all the families who traveled to Augusta to tell their stories to the Transportation Committee!