

One of our hospital's oldest supporters

A surgery he had nearly 100 years ago inspires John Mannarino to keep on giving to the MGH Fund

"Before long, I was in a horse-drawn ambulance on the way to Mass General."



John Mannarino was born and raised in Boston. He grew up in the West End neighborhood that surrounds Massachusetts General Hospital — a century ago.

This summer, John turned 102 years old. He gives to the MGH Fund each year in gratitude for a surgery he had at our hospital when he was just a boy.

"I was told to go outside and play one day, but I didn't feel well," says John as he remembers his bout with appendicitis at age 10. "I was still sick the next day. Before long, I was in a horse-drawn ambulance on the way to Mass General."

When a child arrives at Mass General in need of an appendectomy today, the surgery and related care is state-of-the-art. The recovery time is considerably less than it was when John visited us in the midst of World War I.

"I woke up from my operation and a nurse asked if I wanted anything," says John. "I told her that I wanted a book. I was hoping for a book about cowboys and Indians."

John awoke after his surgery in one of the hospital's open-room wards, the typical setting for recovery at that time — when nurses cared for many patients in one location. He spent two weeks recovering at Mass General and fondly remembers encountering WWI soldiers who had also come to the hospital for treatment.

John would later join the military, serving as a translator for U.S. forces during World War II. He speaks Italian, French and English.



Horse-drawn ambulance service at Mass General began in 1873. The photo on the left was taken in 1888, but it depicts an ambulance similar to the one used to bring John Mannarino, shown right, on his short ride to the hospital during the World War I era. Horse-drawn ambulances were replaced by electric trolley and, eventually, the automobile.

During his life, John traveled extensively. But the days he spent as a boy in the neighborhood near Mass General are among the memories that are most important to him.

"Mass General operated on me when I was just a kid," says John. "Since then I've been all over the world. I survived three bouts of malaria while in North Africa during the war. They told me that while I was sick over there, I kept asking to be given a book — just like when I was recovering at Mass General."

Today, John is in remarkably good health. He takes no medication. As he celebrated another birthday this summer, he gathered with friends and family at Carleton-Willard Village, the retirement community he calls home just north of Boston.

The entire Mass General community is pleased to congratulate John as he turns 102. We also extend our gratitude for his most recent annual gift to the MGH Fund. John sent his donation for 2011 in January, and we are already using his contribution to help the many patients, young and old, who need life-saving care at Mass General today.

We are proud to celebrate our hospital's first 200 years with you and all of the friends and supporters who make countless life-saving efforts possible. If you have not done so already this year, we hope you will join John by making your tax-deductible gift to the MGH Fund today.

The Creation of a Legacy: Colonel James Pitts and Mrs. Noreen Pitts

Their support of the MGH Fund will not end anytime soon

Colonel James Pitts and Mrs. Noreen Pitts are longtime supporters of the MGH Fund. This year, they proudly increased their annual contribution in order to become charter members in The 1811 Society and garner a matching gift through the MGH Fund Bicentennial Challenge. They also decided to revise their estate plans and name the MGH Fund as a beneficiary in their will.

"We had an instant attraction to the MGH Fund," says Colonel Pitts. "It gives hospital leadership the ability to take a person's philanthropy and use it in the way that will do the most good."

Colonel Pitts has an especially unique perspective on giving back. He worked for The Boston Foundation, one of the oldest community foundations in the United States, in several capacities throughout his career.

"When you are part of an organization that puts \$50 million per year into the community, you learn which organizations have the history, structure and management to make good on every investment," says Colonel Pitts. "Our bequest allows for the continuation of our philanthropy beyond our lifetimes. We want Mass General to be there for future generations of our family. I do not have any reservation in recommending Mass General to others."

For the Pitts, who live in downtown Boston, Mass General is local. Five of their seven grandchildren were born at the hospital.

"There is a level of trust at Mass General," says Mrs. Pitts. "I know that my family is getting the very best care they can possibly receive. Why would we go anywhere else when the best is right down the street?"

Even when they are miles away, the Pitts always return to Mass General if they need care. Several years ago, Colonel Pitts dislocated his hip while visiting New Hampshire. Soon he was in an area hospital, having a heated discussion with the surgeon on call who was recommending immediate surgery. But Colonel Pitts explained that his hip had previously been replaced at Mass General, and that he wanted to return home to see his specialist.



As patients, hospital volunteers and supporters of the MGH Fund, Colonel James Pitts and Mrs. Noreen Pitts also open their home to friends who come to the Boston area for care at Mass General — the hospital where five of their seven grandchildren were born.

"As soon as he heard Dr. Harris's name, he said that my position was understandable," says Colonel Pitts, referring to William Harris, MD — the orthopaedic surgeon at Mass General renowned for performing the first successful total hip replacement for a patient with total congenital dislocation of the hip.

Today, Mrs. Pitts volunteers at Mass General. Together, the Pitts open their home to family and friends who come to Boston for treatment at the hospital. By generously supporting the MGH Fund through a planned gift, they will help experts across Mass General care for patients and pursue life-saving research for many years to come.

Learn more about the ways in which you can include the MGH Fund in your estate plans. Contact the MGH Office of Planned Giving at (617) 726-2200 or toll-free at (877) 644-7733 or visit www.massgeneral.org/give/plannedgifts.

MGH Fund Update

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL | SUMMER 2011

Kristopher Celebrates

Leukemia brought Kristopher to Mass General, but it didn't stop him from rooting for his favorite hockey team this summer

Kristopher is a 16-year-old who loves hockey. The night the Boston Bruins won the championship in June — the team's first in 39 years — he watched the television intently in a patient care room at the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center.

For Kristopher, and for other young patients at Mass General, the Bruins' big win was a dream come true. He wore his favorite hockey jersey while he sat with his mother, Lorraine.

"He was first diagnosed about five years ago," says Lorraine. "He went through the three-year process of beating the cancer, but then it just came back last November."

Doctors discovered that Kristopher had acute lymphoblastic leukemia in 2006. Since that time, he has experienced the ups and downs that many people with cancer face. He has fought off infections during treatment, including pneumonia and staph infection. Through it all, his spirits have always remained high — though perhaps never as high as when he watched his Bruins run through the playoffs this year.

"Kristopher is a tough kid and he has been down a tough road," says Rhonda McNytre, RN — Kristopher's favorite nurse at Mass General. "It's hard for me to get my own children to listen to me sometimes, but Kristopher always does. He does everything we ask him to do."

As exciting as it has been for Kristopher to witness his favorite team win hockey's ultimate trophy, nothing compares to the hope that families like his experience when experts at Mass General make a remarkable, life-saving breakthrough.

When a team of our scientists and physicians recently discovered the world's first-ever method for capturing the microscopic tumor fragments that circulate in the blood of a person with cancer, they did it with the help of donations to the MGH Fund. Those gifts

supported the initial research that culminated in a remarkable effort — one that now promises to lead us toward ever-improving treatments for patients like Kristopher.

Today, Kristopher's cancer is in remission. He continues his regular visits to Mass General for chemotherapy treatment and he is looking forward to two years from now, when he graduates from high school with an automobile technician's degree.

With the continued support of friends such as you, we look forward to cheering him on.

Contributions to the MGH Fund are used to improve patient care and expand the important research we conduct today — research that will determine how we help people like Kristopher fight.



Kristopher was at Mass General one Monday in mid-July when the Stanley Cup paid a visit to the hospital.



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One Gift. Infinite Possibilities.

Giving Back: One Employee's Story

Jessie Elston knows the MGH Fund has impact

Jessie Elston works at Massachusetts General Hospital as an insurance rehabilitation specialist in the Department of Physical Therapy. She knows philanthropy changes lives. She was once a grateful recipient. Today, she is a proud donor.

Last year, Jessie was one of more than 2,000 hospital employees who gave back to Mass General through our first-ever employee fundraising campaign: My Giving Helps. Recently, she volunteered to share her personal story with fellow employees — and with generous friends like you — in the hope that she might inspire additional support for the MGH Fund.

“Mass General always seems to be doing something to help,” says Jessie. “Whether you’re talking about Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans or the earthquake that struck Haiti, our hospital is ready every time.”

Jessie lives in Dorchester, Mass., with her husband and their 6-year-old son and 19-year-old daughter. She cites Mass General's ability to respond quickly to humanitarian crises around the world as one reason why she donates to the MGH Fund.

But she also understands firsthand that every charitable gift she makes to support the hospital has the power to change lives right here in the Boston area. After all, such contributions helped to change hers.

“I experienced a lot growing up,” says Jessie, recounting the time she spent as a teenage mother. “My daughter and I found ourselves homeless on more than one occasion. But

the local transition program that helped us when I was just 19 years old made me realize how many organizations rely on donations to make a difference. People do have an impact through giving.”

Gifts to the MGH Fund are used to help doctors, nurses and researchers at Mass General. These experts work together to save lives. But our hospital is equally committed to improving the local communities we serve — and it is that commitment Jessie values most.

“I really love working with young people,” says Jessie. “So many of them lack a positive influence in their lives for one reason or



Jessie Elston works for the Department of Physical Therapy at Mass General and she is one of thousands of employees who support the MGH Fund.

another, and it makes a world of difference to them to just be given a chance or an opportunity to gain useful experience.”

After recently earning her degree in human services and community youth development from Springfield College, Jessie was interested in becoming a mentor. She approached her Mass General supervisors, explaining how important it was to her to free up time in her work schedule so she could mentor a local eighth grade girl for one semester. They were more than happy to help.

Jessie remembers when she first came to Mass General. She had never worked in an office before and she received the support she needed to get acclimated. Now, she's been with Mass General for more than a decade and with the Department of Physical Therapy for more than five years. “I am thankful to my colleagues for being so supportive of me. They were open to the idea of me being a mentor right from the start and they helped to make it possible,” says Jessie.

Whether your next gift to the MGH Fund is mailed today or some day soon, please know that Jessie Elston is one of many employees at Mass General who fully embrace our mission. When you give to our hospital, you support the work of healthcare professionals who are the very best at what they do.

Donations at Work

Elizabeth Thiele, MD, PhD, leads the Carol and James Herscot Center for Children and Adults with Tuberous Sclerosis Complex (TSC)



Elizabeth Thiele, MD, PhD

Have you ever heard of a genetic disorder called tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC)? It is a condition that results from a mutation on one of two genes that interfere with the body's ability to control the growth and division of cells. As a result, TSC causes largely benign tumors to form, and wreak havoc, in all major organ systems. That includes the brain, skin, heart, kidney, lung and even the eye.

At Massachusetts General Hospital, we understand that an infant diagnosed with TSC often needs comprehensive, lifelong care. That is why one of our experts, Elizabeth Thiele, MD, PhD, organized and established the Carol and James Herscot Center for Children and Adults with Tuberous Sclerosis Complex.

Dr. Thiele is a renowned neurologist and epileptologist. She is also one of the world's foremost authorities on TSC.

“As a multi-system disorder, TSC requires that a person have access to coordinated multi-specialty care,” says Dr. Thiele. “The overall effects of TSC are always unpredictable. It is a condition that varies greatly from person to person.”

It is that complexity and the inherently unpredictable nature of TSC that makes the MGH Herscot Center such an important endeavor. As one of the only centers in the world capable of treating both children and adults, the MGH Herscot Center brings together neurologists, neurosurgeons, cardiologists, dermatologists and leading experts from other specialties. Together, they treat patients and conduct groundbreaking research under one roof.

“Our ability to diagnose and treat TSC has advanced tremendously,” says Dr. Thiele. “It is our unique, collaborative approach to patient care that brings families from around the world to Mass General. So we are grateful to those individuals who give to the MGH Fund because their gifts are being used to help us touch so many lives.”

A portion of recent donations to the MGH Fund have been designated to help Dr. Thiele and her team. It is an investment they have used in both their work with patients and in their efforts to research the progression and variable manifestations of TSC — research that is also offering new insights into other diseases such as cancer, epilepsy and autism.

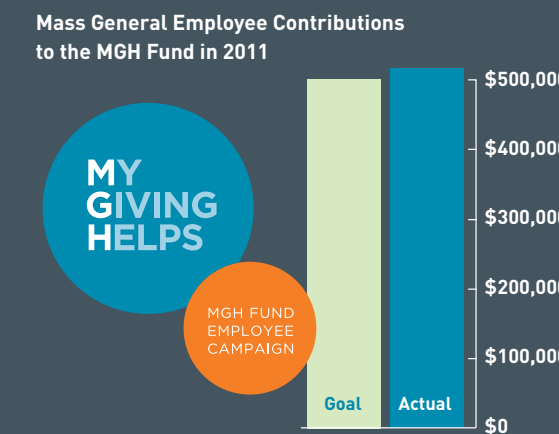
“Epilepsy is the medical condition most commonly associated with TSC,” says Dr. Thiele. “The majority of patients with the disorder experience seizures at some point during their lives, and those seizures can begin within months after birth. But it's important to note that TSC can also cause learning disabilities, behavioral and mental health problems, attention deficit disorder and even depression.”

Dr. Thiele and her team of experts at the MGH Herscot Center have the potential to inform what we know about a spectrum of disorders. We are proud that donations from you and other friends who support the MGH Fund have benefited Mass General patient care and research initiatives related to TSC.

To learn more about the MGH Herscot Center for Children and Adults with Tuberous Sclerosis Complex, please visit us at www.massgeneral.org/tsc.

In 2010, Massachusetts General Hospital launched the My Giving Helps: MGH Fund Employee Campaign. More than 1,000 employees responded by making a gift or pledge in support of the MGH Fund. Together, they contributed \$333,670 during the calendar year.

In honor of Mass General's bicentennial in 2011, we extended the duration of the employee campaign, stretching it across two months (May and June). The campaign resulted in more than 1,600 donations to the MGH Fund for a total of \$511,872.



Then In 1898, tents were erected on the lawn in front of Massachusetts General Hospital so that doctors and nurses could treat 221 soldiers involved in the Spanish-American



War — many of whom were suffering from malaria or typhoid fever.

Now

Donations to the MGH Fund were used to establish the Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital



Home Base Program, which helps servicemen and servicewomen returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Home Base offers clinical care, counseling support to families, research, education and community outreach related to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury.

Mass General's Bicentennial and You

This year, your gift to the MGH Fund could mean twice as much

Did you know that of the thousands of hospitals in the United States, only two are older than Massachusetts General Hospital? That makes our bicentennial a remarkable milestone.

As we continue our year-long celebration, we are pleased to share with you a special opportunity — one that could potentially double the donation you make to the MGH Fund this year.

Should your total annual contribution reach or surpass \$1,000 by December 31, 2011, your gift will be matched as part of the MGH Fund Bicentennial Challenge. Your generosity will also make you a charter member in The 1811 Society, which we recently introduced in honor of this historic time at Mass General, to specifically recognize individuals who provide leadership support through the MGH Fund.

The 1811 Society launches just as we begin our hospital's third century and we are grateful to Carl Martignetti and to Jim and Lisa Mooney for their partnership in this exciting

Then On September 3, 1821, a 30-year-old sailor became the first patient ever admitted at Massachusetts General Hospital. A total of 18 patients arrived in the following four months.



Now

In 2011, Mass General opened a remarkable new facility named the Lunder Building. The building increases inpatient capacity



and provides additional, state-of-the-art procedure rooms, while also allowing an expansion of the Emergency Department.



new initiative. Together, they created the MGH Fund Bicentennial Challenge, offering a core matching gift grant total of \$500,000, and asking that Mass General raise that same sum in donations of \$1,000 or more from friends like you this year. The MGH Fund Bicentennial Challenge is our opportunity to raise \$1 million in support of our life-saving work!

We realize that a gift at the \$1,000 threshold is not possible for everyone who supports the MGH Fund. We appreciate your donation of any amount, and we are grateful to you for the important role you play in our expansive, life-saving efforts. If you wish to learn more about the MGH Fund Bicentennial Challenge, please visit us online at www.massgeneral.org/bicentennialchallenge.