



Impressions

FALL 2015

Taking
a Break
from
Mom's
Cancer



BREAST CANCER
Awareness & Support

HEALTHY LIVING
Virtua Camden's Farmers Market

HEADS UP
Protecting Young Athletes

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Dear Friends,

I am honored to lead the Foundation and to partner with donors like you. Please know that your commitment changes the lives of our patients and their families every day. I have seen your generosity at work in our hospitals and in our communities.

Your support helps families like the Fletchers, who you can read more about on page 4. This family is facing a long battle with cancer and your gifts brought them a little extra joy this summer. Your support made a difference that is truly inspirational.

I look forward to partnering with you to create positive change, lasting impact and improve the health and well-being of our communities. Thank you for your continued support. We are most fortunate to benefit from your friendship and generosity.



Sincerely,



Christina Mattison
Senior Vice President

IMPRESSIONS IS PRODUCED BY VIRTUA FOUNDATION

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401 Route 73 North, Suite 301
Marlton, NJ 08053
E-mail: VHF@virtua.org

For information about making a contribution to Virtua Foundation, call (856) 355-0830 or visit foundation.virtua.org.

THE BLUES BROTHERS



2016 Virtua Gala Headliner

Don your skinny black ties and sunglasses to help us welcome Jake and Elwood to the 2016 Virtua Gala! The Blues Brothers starring Dan Aykroyd and Jim Belushi will ignite the Borgata stage with hits from the cult classic film "The Blue Brothers."

Presented by Brandywine Senior Living, the 2016 Virtua Gala will enrich vital programs and services at Virtua Camden and enable Virtua to transform care delivery to positively impact the health and well-being of children and families in Camden.

For information on sponsorship opportunities and tickets, visit foundation.virtua.org.

2016 Virtua Gala

PRESENTED BY
Brandywine Senior Living

Saturday, March 5, 2016
Borgata Hotel, Casino & Spa

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

3

Haddonfield Virtua Auxiliary Scholarship Golf Outing

11 a.m.

Ramblewood Country Club
200 Country Club Pkwy.
Mt Laurel, NJ 08054

BENEFICIARY

Virtua employee scholarships

OCTOBER

5

13th Annual Ott's Golf Outing

9:30 a.m.

Ramblewood Country Club
200 Country Club Pkwy.
Mt Laurel, NJ 08054

BENEFICIARY

Tyanna Barre O'Brien Breast
Care Comfort Fund

NOVEMBER

19

2015 Taste of Virtua

6 to 9 p.m.

Moorestown Community House
6 East Main Street,
Moorestown, NJ 08057

BENEFICIARY

Patients and families
in need

DECEMBER

2

Cooks Tour of Moorestown Presented by Virtua Memorial Auxiliaries

Moorestown, NJ

BENEFICIARY

Radiation Oncology at
Virtua Memorial

DECEMBER

12

Annual Carz N' Toyz Toy Drive

9 a.m.

Virtua Voorhees
100 Bowman Drive,
Voorhees, NJ 08043

► For more information or to register for Virtua Foundation events, visit foundation.virtua.org.



Virtua's Camp Oasis Gives the Fletcher Twins a Rare Gift: Someone Who Understands

Jennifer Fletcher is battling cancer that is treatable but not curable.

It started in her breast in 2012. She has endured more than 70 rounds of chemotherapy, 37 rounds of radiation, surgery to remove her ovaries, and a double mastectomy, but the cancer remains.

"I was actually getting ready to ring the bell signifying my last round of radiation when the doctor called to say it was in my brain," said Jennifer, who receives treatment at Virtua's Cancer Program.

It is also in her hip, liver and a vertebra.

Needless to say, Jennifer is tough. It's easy to detect bravery in her voice



To see what a day at Camp Oasis means to Colin, Drew and other kids, watch the "Camp Oasis" video at foundation.virtua.org.

when she talks about her prognosis. Only when the conversation turns to her sons, 10-year-old twins Colin and Drew, does Jennifer's strength begin to crack.

"The boys don't always vocalize how they feel about my cancer, but when they do, it's anger. But, they see I am fighting," she says.

Jennifer tries to keep the lines of communication open, but boys that age don't say much. The Fletchers attend family therapy to help them cope. They also lean on support programs offered at Virtua. For them, the most important is Virtua's Camp Oasis.

This one-day getaway for children of cancer patients is organized by Virtua's oncology nurse navigators who see the impact cancer has on families every day.

Camp Oasis is fully funded by gifts made to Virtua Foundation, and all children attend for free. It doesn't matter if their mothers or fathers are treated at Virtua or elsewhere – the camp is open to all families from Camden, Burlington or Gloucester counties.

“Parents with cancer don’t typically have the money to take our kids away for the weekend,” says Jennifer. “If you want your child to go away for the day, have a good time, make some new friends and just have a day off where there are no doctor appointments, no illness, no naps, no mom being tired — this is perfect.”

At camp, Jennifer’s boys go zip lining, swimming, kayaking and play silly games. They also meet others who share their fears and can open up about cancer in a way they don’t at home. Colin and Drew have attended Camp Oasis for the past three years and enjoy seeing kids they’ve met before, even though that means their parent still has cancer, too.

“It’s important for them to be around kids who understand,” says Jennifer. “It’s a way that they can say what they want to say and not feel like they are hurting my feelings.”

SUPPORT CAMP OASIS ON #GIVING TUESDAY

On Tuesday, December 1, 2015, families, businesses, community organizations, charities and students around the world will come together for a common purpose: To provide funds where the need is greatest.

This December 1, your gift to Virtua Foundation will help send local children to Virtua’s Camp Oasis in 2016.

Follow us on Facebook for news about our #GivingTuesday and how to join in.

Breast Cancer Awareness & Support

The Virtua Cancer Program provides breast cancer patients with advanced treatment options and personalized support services that help ease the journey from diagnosis to survival. While medical care is delivered by some of the region’s top oncology physicians, extra comfort and support for patients and their families are often made possible through gifts to Virtua Foundation.

WHAT CAN YOUR Gift Provide?

- Prescription assistance
- Wigs, scarves, and pillows
- Virtua’s Camp Oasis
- Genetic Counseling
- Nurse Navigators
- Durable medical goods
- Transportation to appointments
- New, advanced technology



BREASTFEST 2015

The Tyanna Barre O’Brien Foundation is Virtua’s leading oncology supporter. Created by five O’Brien sisters, the foundation hosts events throughout the year, including their signature Breastfest celebration. They have raised \$128,000 and counting for a fund named in honor of their late mother, Tyanna.

SMASH BREAST CANCER

Since joining Virtua Foundation as a community partner in 2014, Smash Breast Cancer has raised \$19,000 for our cancer patients through tennis and golf outings. Members of the Medford Village Country Club and Green Valley Tennis Club established the organization to support local women fighting cancer.

To learn more about Virtua Foundation Community Partners visit foundation.virtua.org.



Virtua Camden's Farmers Market

Healthy Food, Healthy Living

Fresh and healthy food is hard to find in the city of Camden. There are few grocery stores and many residents without transportation rely on corner markets and fast food restaurants for inexpensive meals. The prevalence of processed and sugary food has a profound impact on the health and well-being of families in this struggling community.

The annual Virtua Camden Farmer's Market aims to change that. It is open on the Virtua Camden campus two days a week from June through October and provides residents with healthy and affordable fresh food options.

With support from Virtua Foundation donors, a Virtua nurse and nutritionist helps customers select items they need to make healthy recipes at home. The Foundation also provides prepaid electronic bank transfer (EBT) cards to students from nearby schools that they use to buy produce for their families. Gifts support patients and employees who face financial hardships and enhance programs across Virtua.



Star **POWER** Shines at Virtua!

Congratulations to Virtua's employees on Lippincott Drive who are the three-time winners of the Star Fund Site Challenge! The Star Fund is Virtua's employee giving campaign. The site with the highest percentage of participation during the challenge month is named the winner. Gifts support patients and employees who face financial hardships and enhance programs across Virtua.

\$168 THOUSAND

Donated by employees from across the system so far in 2015.





HEADS UP!

Concussion Test Protects Young Athletes

Virtua Sports Medicine has provided 500 local youth athletes with a free test that keeps them safer and healthier after a concussion, thanks to a \$10,000 gift from **Carz N' Toyz**. Baseline ImPACT tests measure brain functions before a head injury occurs. Retesting after a concussion lets parents and coaches know when it's safe to send players back to the game.

"Baseline testing does not prevent concussions, but having this and a comprehensive concussion management program adds a level of comfort for parents," said Paul Kasper, director, Virtua Sports Medicine. "This gift allows us to educate the community and ensure kids return to play only when it's safe."

Virtua partners with regional sports clubs to test athletes who play a variety of sports like soccer, gymnastics, hockey and football. Nearly 100 kids who received the baseline test sustained a head injury and relied on the test and the expertise of a Virtua concussion specialist to help them heal properly and returned safely back to sports.

For more information on Baseline ImPact testing and Virtua's Sports Medicine program, visit virtua.org/sportsmedicine

Grateful Patients GIVE BACK

Through the Honor Your Caregiver program, grateful patients acknowledge special Virtua employees for a job well done and support families in need.

Congratulations to Virtua's latest Honored Caregivers:

Robert J. Biondi, DO

Julius Brooks, MD

Kate Caputo

Maurice Cairoli, MD

John Carlson, Jr., MD

Othello Dean

Emergency Department
Staff at Virtua Voorhees

Lori Franks, MD

Monica Hand

Molly Kirkpatrick

Nicole Lamborne, MD

Long Term Care and Rehab
Staff at Virtua Berlin

Stacy McCrosson, MD

Kara Medlar

Michelle Peshick

Radiation Oncology Staff at
Virtua Memorial

Alex Rocha, RN

Divinia Villareal, RN

Linda Yodis, LPN

**Honor a Virtua Caregiver at
foundation.virtua.org**



50 Lake Center
401 Route 73 North, Suite 301
Marlton, NJ 08053

A great time for a great cause!



Join Virtua Foundation
Thursday, November 19, 2015
Moorestown Community House, 6 - 9 pm
\$80 per person
(All guests must be over 21 years of age)

Presenting Sponsor



Get tickets today at foundation.virtua.org