



NEWS RELEASE

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MMC Opens State's Most Advanced Pediatric Intensive Care Unit *More Than \$2 Million Raised by Friends of The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital*

PORTLAND, Maine — Maine Medical Center has announced the opening of the new pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) at The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital, which provides a high level of intensive care each year to more than 450 critically ill children from Maine and New Hampshire. Over the past 10 years, members of the community raised more than 70 percent of the \$3.1 million needed for the project.

“This new unit is one of the most sophisticated facilities for pediatric critical care in the northeast with advanced therapies such as invasive and noninvasive mechanical ventilation and sophisticated monitoring techniques,” said MMC Division Director of Pediatric Critical Care Sandra Bagwell, M.D. “We are grateful to community members who have helped make this happen and to our specially trained staff who have helped bring it to life to serve our most vulnerable patients.”

PICU serves children with acute critical illness, serious injuries from accidents, burns, severe neurological illness or injury, organ failure, and those who have undergone complex surgery. The unit features family-centered care and includes eight large state-of-the-art private rooms with single beds and accommodations for family members

including sleeper chairs, use of a kitchenette, refrigerators, room service, an Xbox entertainment system and extended family visiting hours.

Community corporate supporters include Wal-Mart, Rite-Aid, Dairy Queen, RE/Max, Ace Hardware, Capozza Tile, Bank of America, Gorham Savings Bank and many others. Also, more than 4,000 community members made pledges of support through the WGME 13 Telethon and 99.9 The Wolf and 107.5 Frank FM Radiothon.

PHOTO CUTLINE:

John Bancroft, M.D., (left) The George W. Hallett, M.D., Chair of Pediatrics at MMC, and Sandy Bagwell, M.D. (right) Division Director, Pediatric Critical Care, at MMC's new pediatric intensive care unit.

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About Maine Medical Center

Maine Medical Center (MMC), recognized as the number-one ranked hospital in Maine by *U.S. News and World Report for 2015-2016*, is a complete health care resource for the people of Greater Portland and the entire state, as well as northern New England. Incorporated in 1864, MMC is the state's largest medical center, licensed for 637 beds and employing nearly 6,500 people. MMC's unique role as both a community hospital and a referral center requires an unparalleled depth and breadth of services, including an active educational program and a world-class biomedical research center. As a nonprofit institution, Maine Medical Center provides nearly 23 percent of all the charity care delivered in Maine. MMC is a member of the MaineHealth system, a growing family of health care services in northern New England. For more information, visit www.mmc.org.

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