

The Bradley *Bulletin*

News and notes for our friends and supporters.

Fall 2023

PORTSMOUTH COUPLE BRINGS ENTHUSIASM AND UNDERSTANDING TO THEIR SUPPORT OF BRADLEY HOSPITAL

Kate Lockett and Steve Pasquariello know what it's like to overcome challenges. The couple's deep understanding of how painful it can be to struggle, as well as the joy of resiliency, is part of why they are proud to support Bradley Hospital.

"Bradley is very near and dear to me," Kate says. "I know how hard it can be to find help for a child who is suffering."

Kate and Steve, who live in Portsmouth, were introduced to the hospital's work by friends, and it didn't take long for them to jump in and get involved. They give annually, have been active on past Bravo Bradley committees, and recently joined the hospital foundation's Board of Governors. The couple was married in 2014 and have created a blended family of four adult children and four grandchildren. One of their grandchildren, who has anxiety and is affected by past trauma, recently completed a Bradley partial hospital program.

"It literally changed his life," Kate says. She says she was impressed by the clinicians who were on his care team and how they integrated the family into his program.

Kate is open about her own struggle with various bouts of situational depression and healing from the grief she experienced when her brother was killed in the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center.



"The fact that Bradley is right in our backyard is an unbelievable benefit to the community. We are grateful to have the opportunity to spread the word about it to others."

—Kate Lockett

Steve overcame dyslexia as a child and lives with attention-deficit disorder.

Their challenges have not stopped them from having thriving careers and personal lives. "I have a big belief that you can overcome your disabilities and they can become your advantages," Steve says.

Kate has been selling enterprise software for 25 years and is currently Director of Named Accounts for WalkMe, Inc., where she regularly mentors junior staffers. Steve is president of the printing equipment company Pasquariello Graphics in Attleboro, Massachusetts. He has a passion for helping at-risk teens and has dedicated much of his time to mentoring young men.

"A lot of kids are holding on to so much anger and resentment," Steve says. "But I'm not afraid of trying to help them, and knowing Bradley is there for kids who need even more support is such a relief."

Kate, who grew up in Larchmont, New York, adds that Rhode Islanders are so fortunate to have a leading pediatric psychiatric hospital so close to home.

"The fact that Bradley is right in our backyard is an unbelievable benefit to the community," she says. "We are grateful to have the opportunity to spread the word about it to others."

BRADLEY RESEARCHERS STUDY HOW TO BEST SUPPORT AT-RISK BABIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN

A Bradley Hospital research study funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may have important public health policy implications. Led by psychologists Stephanie Parade, PhD, Christine Low, PhD, and Rebecca Silver, PhD, the STEPs project is focused on understanding the impact of infant and early childhood mental health consultation in a short-term, community-based home visiting program. STEPs is an acronym for “Supportive Teams to Empower Parents.”

The researchers are working with the Rhode Island Department of Health and also Family Service of Rhode Island’s First Connections program, which provides home



visits to pregnant individuals, families, and caregivers of children up to age three. The program’s services are based on family need and include helping clients connect with community, health, and social services resources.

Through a randomized control trial, the researchers are gathering data on the efficacy of the home visiting program to prevent child maltreatment and exposure to adult intimate partner violence and promote maternal and child health. They are also assessing whether adding additional supports for the staff providing the visits—including enhanced education on such topics as childhood trauma and postpartum depression, and reflection and discussion time—are beneficial to those served by the program.

“The First Connections program has been available in Rhode Island for decades, and it has supported thousands of families, but no one has ever done a randomized trial on it before,” Dr. Parade says. “Our study is going to provide some evidence to support it, which is helpful for informing policy. This program has historically been underfunded, and we’re hoping our research can underscore its importance.”



COAST CLINIC HELPS KIDS GET BACK TO THRIVING IN DAILY LIFE

It’s easy to take a child’s ability to do things like play in the sand, speak up at school, or tie their shoelaces for granted. But for many kids, those things are anything but simple.

When children struggle with the activities of daily living, it can take a toll on the whole family. The staff at Bradley Hospital’s Communication, Occupational and Sensory Treatment (COAST) Clinic understands that and prioritizes getting kids scheduled for treatment immediately following an initial evaluation.

The outpatient clinic provides therapy for children and adolescents who are having difficulty participating in age-appropriate activities due to physical, neurological, cognitive, behavioral, communication, or sensory processing challenges. It serves about 40 patients a week, with therapists focusing on individualized, family-centered care.

The COAST Clinic cares for children with a range of challenges and diagnoses, including autism, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, and intellectual and developmental delays. Its location within the larger context of Bradley Hospital benefits patients. For example, some children are referred to COAST as part of their step-down care after completing more intensive Bradley inpatient or partial hospital programs.

Therapists work with families to set realistic goals. Self-regulation is also a large focus. “What sets us apart is that we are well versed in social emotional strategies for our patients who experience emotional regulation challenges,” explains Chelsea Kopacz, MS, OTR/L, the center’s manager. Given the nature of their challenges, it can take time for patients to make meaningful progress at the clinic. But once they do, it’s often lifechanging.



Bradley Hospital

Lifespan. Delivering health with care.®

For information about the Bradley Hospital Foundation, please contact Anne Morton Smith at 401-432-1451 or asmith18@lifespan.org.

lifespan.org/BH-giving

