

Sibley Memorial Hospital Foundation

YOUR IMPACT

Philanthropy In Action

October 2025

Monthly Update



New Location for Sibley Soiree!

The 2025 Sibley Soiree will now be hosted on Thursday, November 6, 2025 at the National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA)!

We are delighted to announce that our celebration will continue! As we gather to support mothers, babies, and Sibley's Maternal Health Access Program, moving our event to a museum dedicated to championing women is perfect. The NMWA is beautiful, and you can still expect everything that makes the Soiree so special—great food, incredible music, and the wonderful community that powers this mission.

Thank you for your flexibility, enthusiasm, and continued commitment to advancing health equity for mothers and babies across Washington, D.C. We can't wait to celebrate with you at the National Museum of Women in the Arts!

**To purchase tickets,
visit [2025 Sibley Soiree](#).**

Specialized Care for Mother and Baby: Briana and Breeze and the MHAP

Briana was referred by her community obstetrician to the Maternal Health Access Program at Sibley because, as someone diagnosed with congenital heart disease, her pregnancy was considered high-risk. From the very beginning, she felt welcomed and cared for: “I love Sibley and their staff—they were so helpful, and it honestly felt like one big family every time I walked through the doors.”



In recalling her experience with the MHAP, Briana shared, “I had a wonderful care team throughout my pregnancy, but I especially connected with Sarde Moody and Dr. Novak (or Chris, as I like to call him). They made my monthly visits fun, which isn’t something you normally expect when you’re dealing with a high-risk pregnancy. Their kindness and sense of humor really made the nine months easier. What stood out most to me was how seriously they took my care. They listened to me, gathered the medical documents they needed, and made sure to communicate with my other doctors. That gave me so much peace of mind, knowing that everyone was on the same page and that I wasn’t facing this alone.”

Briana’s Sibley physician, Dr. Christopher Novak, Assistant Professor, Maternal-Fetal Medicine says, “Since its inception in 2020, the Maternal Health Access Program at Sibley has allowed our team to expand our obstetrical and high-risk services to D.C.-area women who otherwise may not have access to these services. Patients like Briana, who had a complicated medical history and additional high-risk pregnancy conditions, benefit from the MHAP’s ability to provide all aspects of prenatal care including social services, the full range of obstetrical and high-risk pregnancy care, intrapartum and postpartum care—all in a coordinated manner. Such programs and care are essential to ensuring improved maternal and neonatal outcomes in our community.”

MHAP coordinator Sarde Moody says coordinating care for someone like Briana during an uncertain and vulnerable time is what she loves most about her job. “Working with the Maternal Health Access Patients is more than just a job. It’s a calling. I find deep purpose and fulfillment in being part of a critical moment in someone’s life, helping ensure they receive the care, support, and dignity they deserve during pregnancy, childbirth, and for some postpartum recovery. Maternal health care is incredibly personal and vulnerable. Being a consistent, compassionate presence creates a bond that often lasts beyond pregnancy. That trust is humbling, and it motivates me to do better every day. Being in this field allows me to be part of the fight for reproductive and health equity.”

Briana goes on to say, “The care I received at Sibley through the MHAP made a real difference in my pregnancy and birth experience. They weren’t just treating me like another patient—they treated me like family, and I’ll always be grateful for that.”

Funds raised through this year’s Sibley Soiree will benefit the MHAP, and through a generous commitment from The A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation, **every dollar donated will be matched up to \$1,000,000 towards the Soiree**, benefitting the MHAP. Double your impact on moms and babies from parts of the DC region that disproportionately experience maternal morbidity and adverse birth outcomes. To join us along with the Clark Foundation as we work together to remove barriers to high quality, needs-responsive maternity care in our city for women like Briana, visit [2025 Sibley Soiree | November 06, 2025](#) or contact Kristen Pruski at kpruski@jhmi.edu.



Sibley's Maternal Health Access team with Briana and Breeze

Breast Cancer Awareness Breakfast

Recently, Sibley supporters gathered to hear members of Sibley's multidisciplinary breast cancer care team talk about advances in breast imaging, surgery, medical and radiation oncology, research and survivorship at Sibley. The conversation examined the impact of the nurse navigator role, technology, personalized treatment, HRT and more on the breast cancer journey, as well as the impact of philanthropy on the breast team's work to advance breast cancer treatment options.



For breast imaging insights from Dr. Pouneh Razavi, click [here](#).

To support the Sullivan Breast Center at Sibley visit, contact Liza Boyd at LizaBoyd@jhmi.edu.

Pictured below: Dr. Jenni Cheng, Dr. Pouneh Razavi, Foundation Board member and moderator Julia Ghafouri, Dr. Victoria Croog, and Dr. Maureen O'Donnell



Support for Patients in Need

In 2012, Sibley Foundation Board Member Rob Liberatore lost his wife Patricia (pictured) after her six-year struggle with breast cancer, but before she passed Rob suggested they start a fund to help cancer patients in need pay for treatments at Sibley. "She gave me one of those electric smiles and said, 'Oh, please do that. I would love it,'" he said.

Since then, the fund has helped countless patients who wouldn't otherwise have the means to pay for cancer treatment at Sibley, childcare during treatment, and transportation to and from the hospital. Recently, Rob endowed the fund which means that patients will continue to have the wrap-around services to ensure continuity of



treatment, which ultimately, improves health outcomes for patients, but the need for funds to support with financial challenges goes on.

Thank you, Rob, for your dedication to Sibley and for helping us to support every person in our community who needs care at Sibley. To learn more about Patty's Fund and the other patient assistance funds at Sibley contact Liz Levine at liz.levine@jhmi.edu.

Philanthropy Profile: Phyllis Meltzer

Who knew that there was an international salt and pepper shaker collectors club? Sibley Foundation donor Phyllis Meltzer and her husband, Joe, were long-time collectors of the tiny treasures. When they decided to sell their prized collection of more than 1,700 pairs—curated over decades—she donated the proceeds to the Sibley Foundation.



Says Phyllis, "We have consumed care in the ED, and the physicians and nursing care were exceptional." She also appreciated the Sibley Senior Association and Club Memory program as a care partner for Joe who suffers from dementia. "It was my pleasure to pay it forward for the expert care and compassionate support we have received from Sibley, and I hope that my gift might inspire others to make a gift."



Thank you, Phyllis, for supporting Sibley in such a creative way. To learn how you can support supportive care services for older adults or to support Sibley nurses, please contact Andrea Travis at atavis2@jhmi.edu.



Staff Certification: Mimi Mulugeta

Mimi Mulugeta currently works in the laboratory as part of the Blood Bank team. She has always been passionate about helping others, which is what inspired her to pursue a bachelor's degree in medical laboratory science. Mimi explains: "Working in the Blood Bank allows me to make a meaningful difference in patient care every day, even if it's behind the scenes"

Taking the AMT certification was a requirement for her program, and thanks

to the Foundation and their generous support, she was completed the certification process successfully. Mimi goes on to say: "Earning this certification is an important milestone in my professional development. It validates my knowledge and skills as a medical laboratory professional strengthens my ability to provide safe, high quality laboratory services. It also supports my continued growth and confidence in my career."

I am truly grateful to the Foundation donors for their generosity and encouragement. Their support helps staff like me continue advancing in our professions and improving the care we provide to patients.

In the photo above, she is joined by her supervisor, Oronda Lewis and coworkers Violeta Moncada and Almaz Asgedom, Foundation VP Kristen Pruski and VP of Operations Caroline Shafa. To support Sibley staff as they grow professionally, contact Kristen Pruski at kpruski@jhmi.edu.

Honor Your Dedicated Caregiver: The Sibley Foundation "High Five" Award!

The Sibley Foundation "High Five" program recognizes dedicated Sibley staff and physicians who have been honored by Foundation donors for their excellence and compassionate care. When you make a gift to honor a Sibley staff member or physician, they are presented with a special High Five pin and a letter saying you have made a gift in their honor.

You, our generous donor community, continue to shower our dedicated physicians and staff with gratitude for their expert care. Most recently, Dr. James Robey was honored.

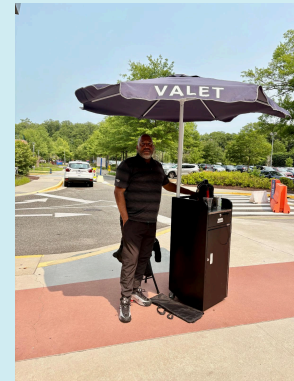


To honor your caregiver with a High Five Award, visit [High Five Award](#) or call 202/537-4257 today!

Valet Parking for Sibley Patients

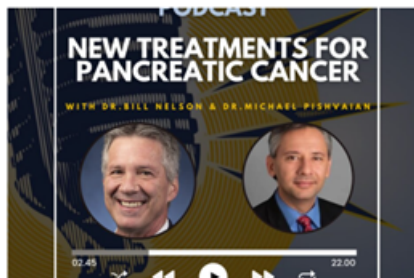
As the seasons change, we want to remind everyone that valet parking is now open to all patients.

This service is available Monday–Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for a \$12 flat rate fee (no discounts, chaser tickets or coupons), the same as the three-hour garage rate. Patients can drive up to the Building B clocktower circle for this convenient service.



Cancer Matters with Dr. Bill Nelson – New Treatments for Pancreatic Cancer

by [cancer2](#) / August 21, 2025 / Unintegrated



Cancer Matters Podcast

Cancer Matters has posted a new item, 'Cancer Matters with Dr. Bill Nelson - New Treatments for Pancreatic Cancer' In this Cancer Matters podcast, Dr. Bill Nelson and Dr. Michael Pishvaian discuss the targeting of KRAS mutations in pancreatic cancer to develop new treatment options for a disease that has been historically difficult to care for.

You may view the latest post [HERE](#).

Your Sibley Community: Events

Yoga for Cancer Survivors, Wednesdays, 10 a.m., Free

For Zoom link and other information please contact Pam Goetz, Oncology Survivorship Program Manager, at pgoetz4@jhmi.edu.

Support Group for Women with Bladder or Urothelial Cancer, 1st Thursday Monthly, 12 p.m., Free

Led by the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center at Sibley's Center for Patient and Family Services' program manager and genitourinary oncology social worker, this group is meant to help patients gain support and friendship by meeting others going through similar experiences. Space is limited; for Zoom link, please RSVP to Samantha Rockler, M.S.W. at srockle1@jhmi.edu.

Support Sibley Today!



**SIBLEY MEMORIAL
HOSPITAL**
JOHNS HOPKINS MEDICINE

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