



Blythedale Children's Hospital begins new chapter with groundbreaking of \$63.5 million project

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Blythedale Children's Hospital began a new chapter in its 118-year history as hospital executives and trustees joined with government officials and invited guests on June 19 for the groundbreaking of a \$63.5 million modernization project.

The project will replace Blythedale's inpatient beds, by constructing a new hospital building which will incorporate the latest medical technology in a warm and child centered environment. The new building will also feature larger inpatient rooms, in which parents will be able to room-in overnight.

"Today represents a milestone in Blythedale's long and proud history of providing the finest quality and compassionate care. This important modernization project addresses the dramatic changes in our patient population and diagnoses over the past decade, while reaffirming Blythedale's reputation as a pre-eminent children's hospital serving infants and children with special medical needs," said Larry Levine, President and Chief Executive Officer of Blythedale Children's Hospital.

The modernization project, which is scheduled to be completed in September 2011, involves construction of a new inpatient care wing with 55,760 s/f on two levels.

The replacement inpatient building will have 86 beds in private and semi-private patient rooms, which will be large enough for parents or family members to stay overnight with their children. There will also be a new lobby and entryway.

The project development team includes: MorrisSwitzer Environments for Health as the architect; Bovis Lend Lease is the construction manager; AKRF is the civil engineer; Thornton Tomasetti is the structural engineer; and WSP Flack + Kurtz is the mechanical engineer.

Blythedale, which is the only independent, free-standing children's rehabilitation hospital in New York State, is dedicated exclusively to the diagnosis, care and treatment of children with complex medical and rehabilitative needs. The Hospital currently provides inpatient services, outpatient care and a day hospital program to hundreds of children daily. Blythedale is also the only hospital in the state with its own on-site school district specifically designated to meet the highly specialized needs of its inpatients and day hospital patients. The majority of patients admitted to Blythedale's inpatient units are direct referrals from neonatal and pediatric intensive care units at major medical centers throughout the tri-state region.

The new building will feature the following facilities:

Infant, Toddler and Post-Neonatal and Pediatric Intensive Care Unit

Blythedale's new Infant & Toddler Unit will be equipped with the latest technology and optimized for the care and treatment of the Hospital's most medically complex patients. The new wing will allow these young patients to be grouped together in a single unit where they will benefit from a combination of the finest medical talent and high technology available, and where the Hospital, where appropriate, will be able to achieve the important clinical objective of weaning them off

mechanical ventilation.

Traumatic Brain Injury Unit

In the new 10-bed Traumatic Brain Injury Unit each room will be private, soundproof and optimized for the specialized, multidisciplinary care that patients with TBI require. The TBI Unit will also feature its own facility for physical, occupational and speech therapy.

Blythedale, which is a leader in the rehabilitation and medical care of children recovering from Traumatic Brain Injury, has seen its TBI program grow as major medical centers discharge TBI patients to Blythedale earlier in the recovery process.

Adolescent Inpatient Unit

The new 16-bed Adolescent Inpatient Unit is designed to create the optimal environment for care of adolescents with a variety of medical and rehabilitative needs. The new Adolescent Inpatient Unit will include a teen lounge.

Pediatric Rehabilitation Unit

The Hospital's new 14-bed Pediatric Rehabilitation Unit is designed to suit the needs of children who require extensive inpatient physical, occupational and speech therapy before they can return home.

Family Resource Center

To accommodate the needs of parents and family members who must spend extended periods of time visiting patients at the Hospital, the new inpatient building will feature a Family Resource Center. The Family Resource Center will have a kitchen and dining area, TV and family room and a meditation room for spiritual reflection. To support parent education and help families stay in touch while their children are in the Hospital, the Family Center will also include a medical library and computers.

The overall design for Blythedale will create a warm, inviting and playful environment using simple shapes and a simple color palette on both the exterior and interior. From the moment you enter Blythedale's campus you will see that this is a clearly a place meant for children with visual elements such as topiary animals, warm colors and building-block shapes. In addition to creating a clearly defined and visible entrance, the new rotunda will also improve functionality such as a covered drop-off for patients and visitors.

Garden areas inside and out will play a key role in the new design. There will be exterior garden spaces for patients and visitors and "pocket gardens" outside of each patient room cluster so that all patient rooms have a view into a garden space. Natural stone will be used to line the garden areas and create a base for the building as well as enhance a connection to the natural environment which is visible from all patient rooms through large windows.

By working with hospital staff to create program spaces throughout the building, the architects have created interior spaces that will have a natural and non-institutional look designed to nurture the patients, their families and staff. Splashes of color will be used throughout to serve as visual links between all areas.