



Inn's Main Wing Closure to Last Months

Early morning on Tuesday, Aug. 21, children and families at The Inn awoke to the alarm system's prompts to evacuate the building. Dressed in pajamas, families scooped up their children and gathered in the parking lot.

"Our son slept through the alarm, so we carried him outside," says the mom of Caleb, 8, of Puerto Rico. "We didn't even take his shoes. We thought it was a fire drill and we could soon return."

But it wasn't a drill. Caleb and other families were soon guided to an NIH Clinical Center cafeteria so they could sit and eat breakfast while awaiting news from The Inn. When news did come later that day, it wasn't what anyone expected: A portion of The Inn's roof over the breakfast bistro had suffered serious structural damage as a result of ongoing building renovation. To keep families safe, the building had to remain closed to families and staff until engineers could



The **Children's
Inn at NIH**

FALL 2018

INNspirations

Mission Statement

The Children's Inn at NIH will fully and consistently meet the needs of children and families participating in groundbreaking research at the National Institutes of Health.

We will:

- Respond to evolving family support needs from pediatric research and clinical care
- Provide a free, family-centered "place like home"
- Reduce the burden of illness through therapeutic, educational and recreational programming

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investigate the situation.

"Safety always comes first," says Cathy Morales, chief program and services officer, The Children's Inn. "Our staff handled the emergency according to procedures and quickly found alternative lodging for families."

Inn and NIH staff worked closely together so every family could be settled into comfortable hotel rooms by Tuesday evening.

By Friday, The Inn's main wing was declared safe, allowing 23 families to return. Ten apartments in Bethesda were also leased to provide the comforts of home to families unable to stay at The Inn. Thanks to the help of donors and volunteers, the newly rented apartments were move-in ready within one week.

Families soon could count on a full schedule of activities again, along with weekly activities at the apartments.

"We experienced an immediate outpouring of support from the community that allowed us to provide emergency meals, lodging, gift cards and more that made the situation bearable for our children and families," says Jennie Lucca, CEO of The Children's Inn. "We cannot thank you, our supporters, enough for all you do. You're amazing."

Roof repairs have begun, with the Inn's main wing set to reopen in early March. ★



Your ongoing support is helping children continue their treatment at NIH while our repairs are completed.



Board member Ryan Riel and his daughters, Charlotte (left) and Olivia, help set up 10 apartments for Inn residents.

Giving Thanks to You

Your support means so much to the children and families who find a second home at The Inn during times of extraordinary need. Since our emergency situation forced half of The Inn to close, your extra support means even more to the children, families and young adults who depend on The Inn.

Thanks to you, families who cannot stay at The Inn are able to enjoy comfortable lodging at one of 10 community apartments The Inn has leased through March and additional hotel rooms. Your donations—financial and in-kind—and your volunteer support in furnishing and decorating the new apartments has helped provide families with everything they need to feel comfortable and cared for.

“During this holiday season, The Children’s Inn would like to express our profound gratitude to the hundreds of individuals, corporations, organizations and volunteers who have provided critical support during our emergency situation,” says Jennie Lucca, CEO of The Children’s Inn. “Whether you are helping provide meals, advice, financial assistance or volunteer support, your generosity and caring spirit are making a difference. Thank you!”

Your help continues to allow The Inn to best serve seriously ill children and their families during this difficult time. To make a donation, please use the enclosed reply envelope, go to childrensinn.org/donate or view The Inn’s wish list on the back of this newsletter to donate needed items. ★

Board Leadership and Membership News

Long-time board member and Inn supporter Beth Maloney, president of Palladian Partners, an Altarum Company, was recently named chair of The Inn’s board of directors. Prachee J. Devadas, president/CEO and founder of Synergy Enterprises, was installed as a new director. After leading the board for two years, former chair Tim Atkin will continue to serve on The Inn’s board.

Maloney recently led The Inn’s #INN2025 strategic planning process and brings her entrepreneurial spirit and focus on strategic initiatives to the role of board chair. She has more than 20 years of experience tailoring strategic and cost-effective digital solutions for government and private-sector clients to increase their audience engagement and social impact. Since taking on the role of president of Palladian Partners in 2011, the strategic communications and meeting support services company has more than doubled in size and expanded its strategic communications and digital media offerings. Maloney works directly with a number of government health sector clients, including the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, the All of Us Research Program and the NIH Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Devadas founded Synergy, a woman-owned small business and government consulting firm that focuses on public health and education, in 2003. She has built a nimble business with skill and expertise, replete with a deep commitment to critical private and public social initiatives. Synergy manages high-profile communications, technical assistance and research contracts for 12 federal agencies, including the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Education, State, Homeland Security, Energy and Defense. ★



Beth Maloney (left), president of Palladian Partners, was recently named board chair. Prachee J. Devadas, president/CEO and founder of Synergy Enterprises, joined the board.



To see the latest news about #INN2025 and read a summary of the plan's goals and objectives, visit childrensinn.org/INN2025.

Progress on The Inn's Strategic Plan

This past June, The Children's Inn's strategic plan was launched with the goal of providing a road map to better serve the children and families at The Inn.

Goal 1: Creating a state of the art, "smart" living environment

- To create a master plan for The Inn, we will issue a request for proposal (RFP) to engage facility master planning professionals with experience in both the hospitality and healthcare fields.
- Consultants from Accenture are helping develop an "optimal maintenance issues reporting and tracking system" to keep both Inn and NIH staff current on long-term improvements.

Goal 2: Developing even stronger support programs that better integrate discovery and care

To make it easier for children and young adults to participate in clinical trials we are partnering with:

- Westat consultants to help design a survey for clinicians.
- Experts from Deloitte to interview families whose children are participating in clinical trials at all NIH institutes that serve Inn residents.

Goal 3: Growing a diverse group of leaders, supporters and volunteers, ensuring The Inn's financial viability

Work to diversify our supporter base has resulted in a new fundraising event and a new initiative for women supporters:

- Women for The Inn (WINN) held a kick-off event Oct. 22, 2018, bringing together women who want to leverage their personal philanthropic and professional networks to support The Inn. For membership information, please contact Fern Stone at (301) 451-9453 or fern.stone@nih.gov.
- Snowed INN has replaced The Inn's annual A WINNter Affair fundraising event in an effort to grow a more diverse group of attendees. Join us for our first Snowed INN on Feb. 22, 2019, at the Ronald Reagan Building. Visit childrensinn.org/snowedinn for details and tickets. ★

Your Gifts Create Special Memories

You can help create special moments of joy for children and families staying at The Inn by supporting them over the holidays and throughout the year.

The Inn's holiday festivities include our special in-house "Gingerbread Gift Shop," stocked with generous donations of brand-new toys, games, books and other items thanks to caring supporters like you. Children and their families can choose holiday gifts for one another at no cost for their loved ones.

Themed parties, arts and crafts activities, meals brought in and served by volunteers and gifts made possible by generous donors allow our children and families to experience moments of joy they will treasure for a lifetime.

You can help make the holidays and every day of the year special for children and families served by The Inn by making a donation or filling a wish from our wish list. Use the reply envelope, visit childrensinn.org/wishlist or view this newsletter's back cover for ways to help. ★



Zilly, The Inn's resident therapy dog, loves celebrating the holidays at The Inn.

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There are many ways to support The Children's Inn, such as food drives and the Thoughtful Treasures mailbox program or by making a donation.

Visit childrensinn.org and click on Get INNvolved to learn more about how you can help the many children and families who call The Inn home.

Follow us on: 

Children and Families Need Your Help

Support the children and families at The Inn by donating needed items:

- Gift cards to movies, restaurants, concerts, yoga and kid-friendly venues in downtown Bethesda so that our families in the apartments can make special memories
- \$25 grocery gift cards to the following stores: Giant, Shoppers Food Warehouse or Harris Teeter
- Uber gift cards to provide transportation to our families in the apartments
- Bottled water
- Xbox One video games that are E-rated
- Recently released movies that are family-friendly (DVDs rated PG-13 or younger)

For additional ways to help, view our wish list at childrensinn.org/wishlist or make a donation using the reply envelope. On behalf of our children and families, thank you from all of us at The Children's Inn!



Thanks to you, families spend precious moments together at The Inn. Visit our website to learn more about how you can help.