The Campaign to Deliver Our Future

Steering Committee Members
Shannon Sullivan  
President & Chief Operating Officer,  
Women & Infants Hospital

Shannon R. Sullivan was named President & Chief Operating Officer for Women & Infants Hospital in September 2020. Shannon previously served as Vice President of Operations for both Kent Hospital and Care New England after serving in various leadership and clinical roles within Care New England since 2003.

“One of my greatest privileges is being the President of Women & Infants Hospital, not just because I love the work that we do here, but I’ve also received all of my own care here, including delivering my three children.”

A Historic Initiative for Rhode Island:  
The Campaign to Deliver Our Future

For generations, Women & Infants Hospital has cared for parents and their newborn babies at one of the most significant moments in their lives, delivering more than 8,000 babies every year. Women & Infants Hospital is a regional, national, and frequently, worldwide leader in exceptional specialty patient care for women, infants, and their families. This includes not just medical care, but research, innovation, and education.

Women & Infants Hospital has achieved significant distinction as a Baby-Friendly USA Hospital. US News & World Report has ranked W&I’s Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology 12th Best in the Nation.

With its focus on world-class obstetric care, the labor and delivery center is one of the most important areas of the hospital. In 1986 when the LDC was first built, it was considered modern and state-of-the-art, which was only natural for the region’s largest obstetric hospital.

It is now more than 35 years later, and the space has not kept pace with the countless changes in medical care and technology, birthing environments, and personal birthing preferences. Further, Women & Infants serves such a diverse community and now has data and analysis that show there are cultural, ethnic, and demographic preferences for how an individual wants and needs to experience giving birth.

For these many reasons, a new labor and delivery center is not only essential for providing the best medical care but also necessary so that Rhode Island’s entire population receives equitable and inclusive support, facilities, and care. This hospital serves all individuals — and is committed to being an inclusive, welcoming, and equitable space.

We are pleased to present these profiles of the generous volunteers who comprise the Campaign Steering Committee. In keeping with the historic significance of this campaign, we are proud that, for the first time, the campaign has an all-women committee, and many are accomplished and distinguished women of color.
## The Campaign to Deliver Our Future
### By The Numbers:

| Campaign Goal | Funds raised as of 10/01/2023 | # of births at W&I in 2022 | # of Labor and Delivery Rooms at W&I | Year the Labor & Delivery Center was last renovated | # of Labor and Delivery Nurses employed by W&I | # of Obstetricians with Privileges at W&I | % of Mothers delivering at W&I who identify as BIPOC | # of Campaign Steering Committee Members | # of Women on Campaign Steering Committee | # of Women on Campaign Steering Committee who are former W&I Presidents | # of Women on Campaign Steering Committee who delivered their babies at W&I or Lying In | When construction of new Labor and Delivery wing began | Expected completion date |
|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Labor & Delivery Center | $45 Million | 8,459 | 20 | 1986 | 120 | 143 | 16.6% | 16 | 16 | 13 | | May 2023 | December 2024 |
| Women’s Health Research Institute | $40 Million | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | $5 Million | | | | | | | | | | | |
Anne Szostak is a highly recognized business and community leader with significant management and board experience in the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

As president of her boutique executive consulting firm, Anne provides advice and counsel to senior leaders regarding succession planning, talent management, executive compensation, business strategy, and governance. Anne serves on the boards of Tupperware Brands, Idexx Laboratories, and the Mancini Family Enterprise. She is also the chair of Colby College’s Trustee Emeriti Group and serves on the Quality Committee of Women & Infants Hospital.

Before starting her own company, Anne built a successful 31-year career at Fleet/Boston Financial Group (now Bank of America) where she served as the Chair & CEO of Fleet Bank of Maine, Fleet Bank of Rhode Island, and Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer for the holding company.

Anne was the first woman to Chair the National Boys & Girls Clubs of America Board. She also served as Chair of the Women & Infants Board and Chair of their highly successful NICU capital campaign. Anne formerly served on the non-profit boards of Colby College, Bryant University, The RI Foundation, Roger Williams University, Maine Medical, and on the public company boards of Dr. Pepper Snapple, ChoicePoint, NEBS, Spherion, Central Maine Power, Providence Gas Company, and Belo Corporation. Anne is currently a member of the National Association of Corporate Directors.

Anne and her husband Michael live in Providence and Bristol, Rhode Island. They have 2 grown daughters and 4 young grandchildren. Anne holds a BA from Colby College and five honorary degrees.
As a member of this community, I know firsthand that Women & Infants provides outstanding care to parents and babies. I have been a patient, as well as a long-time volunteer and advocate for this wonderful hospital.

My younger daughter Kate was born at W&I in 1982. I have served as Chair of the W&I Board of Directors, Chair of the successful NICU Capital Campaign, and Chair of the Quality Committee. I’m an active member of the Quality Committee today.

We need to continue providing the best medical care to ensure we have healthy families in our communities. With our current facilities approaching 40 years old, we must update them significantly for our patients of today and tomorrow.
Alan Hassenfeld is the former Chairman of the Board and Chairman Emeritus of Hasbro, Inc. a multi-billion-dollar international toy company. Under his leadership, Hasbro has become a worldwide leader in children’s and family entertainment.

Alan is a business leader with a passion for philanthropy. His far-reaching impact has crossed local, regional, national, and international borders. Since the beginning of his career, he has been involved in hundreds of charitable and social causes. His enthusiasm and spirit have touched the lives of millions of people – and impacted communities across the world. Whether he is fighting for the human rights of manufacturing workers in Asia or coexistence in the Middle East, his energy and guidance always provide positive results.

Alan believes in active leadership. Through his charitable work and foundation participation, he has remained involved in hundreds of community, social, and political causes. These include children’s issues, social responsibility, political reform, and social entrepreneurship. Alan’s goal is always to focus on what can be done better and what needs to be developed to establish foundations for future success. The goal of his family foundation is to be a catalyst for positive change and collaboration.

Alan has been honored many times for his efforts. His awards come from diverse organizations including universities, charitable organizations, political and religious communities, as well as corporate institutes. He has used his position as Chairman of the Executive Committee at Hasbro to break barriers and build foundations, positively affecting the lives of people across the world.

Alan has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He has numerous honorary degrees from prestigious universities around the world and has been elected to four Halls of Fame. Alan has two stepchildren and two step-grandchildren. He is an avid tennis player.
Rhode Island is my birthplace. We need the best hospital for parents and infants to create a successful future. A new labor and delivery center helps us create the future with our greatest natural resource...our children.
Judith Remondi is President and Founder of RMS Direct, a consultancy specializing in business-to-business relationship marketing, as well as non-profit marketing communications and fundraising.

Over the last decade, Judi’s work in direct and database marketing has shifted to non-profit institutions that include hospitals, independent schools, universities, social service agencies, and other charitable organizations.

In addition to corporate clients, over the course of her career, Judi has done extensive pro bono work for many local nonprofits.

Judi has more than 25 years of experience in marketing communications, direct marketing, event management, strategic planning, and marketing-related organizational structuring. She has written many articles on B-to-B direct marketing and has been published in Marketing Computers, Business Marketing, DM News, and Marketing News.

Judi’s prior teaching experience includes that of faculty member/instructor at Bentley College, Waltham, MA in the Direct Marketing Program; as well as an instructor for The Boston Learning Society. Judi was the Founding Director of the Business-to-Business Council for the New England Direct Marketing Association; and has been active in the DMA, DMAW, Business Marketing Association, and Direct Marketing Idea Exchange (DMIX).

Judi has a BA from Wellesley College and an MBA in Marketing from Columbia University Graduate School of Business. She sits on several non-profit boards and has chaired numerous fundraising events in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Judi lives in the Boston area, with her husband, Jack, and two children.
My son, Adam, was born 8 weeks prematurely at Women & Infants Hospital in 2001 and is a graduate of the NICU.

When I arrived at Women & Infants in the middle of the night in August 2001, I was a stranger. Residing in Washington, DC, and summering on Cape Cod, we enjoyed a wonderful summer in preparation for our first child at the end of October.

When things went terribly wrong, we immediately drove to Women & Infants, thinking I would be examined and then head home to Washington. The situation was much more serious than we knew, and after a few days, I delivered my baby at W&I.

Since then, I have stayed connected to this amazing institution. They saved my life and that of my baby. They treated us like family from the moment we came into the ER. The medical and nursing care they gave to me and my child was exceptional. W&I truly is a world-class hospital, providing the very best care to the Rhode Island Community…and wayward strangers too!
Constance A. Howes, Esq., FACHE-R is a retired healthcare executive who previously served as President and CEO of Women & Infants Hospital and as Executive Vice President of Women’s Health for Care New England Health System.

Before working in healthcare, Connie practiced business law in Providence. She is currently a Director of Washington Trust Bancorp and a Trustee of The Wheeler School. She previously was an Adjunct Professor at Roger Williams School of Law, teaching Health Law and Policy, and a Faculty Advisor for the Brown University Executive Master of Healthcare Leadership Program. She also served on the Board of Trustees of the American Hospital Association and as the Chair of the Rhode Island Governor’s Workforce Board, as well as on the boards of several community organizations.

In honor of Connie’s retirement from Women & Infants in 2013, a special fund was established to support research in women’s health. The Constance A. Howes Innovation Research Fund was established in 2014 with contributions from more than 150 donors to support research studies that advance women’s health and gender-based research. Connie graduated magna cum laude from Kenyon College and received a JD degree from the University of Virginia School of Law. She enjoys tennis, skiing, and most of all, spending time with her adorable grandchildren.
Over the past 40 years, I have been blessed to have been a grateful patient, enthusiastic trustee, volunteer and employee, and the former President and CEO of Women & Infants.
Sharon Conard-Wells has worked in community development professionally and personally for most of her life. After working as a computer systems analyst and serving as Clerk to the RI Senate Corporations Committee, she returned to her roots. Sharon got involved with West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation (WEDHC), and was the Executive Director for 29 years, retiring in 2020.

Under Sharon’s leadership, WEHDC received more than $122 million in real estate and community development investments. During Sharon’s tenure, completed real estate developments ranged from for-sale single-family new construction homes to sophisticated, complex historic brownfield mills converted into mixed-income, mixed-use rental projects.

Sharon is the recipient of many awards, including the 2019 United Way RI John H. Chaffee Lifetime Service Award and the 2018 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Award for Health Equity. Her ability to build consensus and set up successful collaborative initiatives is well-known. Sharon holds a Master of Education degree from Cambridge College and a fellowship from Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Sharon serves on the Leadership RI Board of Governors and is Vice President of Grow Smart RI Board of Directors. In addition, she served on the Women and Infants Hospital Board before the formation of Care New England. She currently sits on the Care New England Board of Directors, where she serves as Chair of the Quality Committee and a member of the Credentials Committee.

Sharon is passionate about her church work and enjoys traveling, reading, crocheting, and spending time with her family.
Besides having delivered two of my children at Women and Infants, I share the hospital’s commitment to serving the entire community with state-of-the-art, quality healthcare for all patients and their babies. From community engagement to research, I appreciate Woman & Infants’ perseverance, innovation, and professionalism. I am proud to be part of any effort to ensure W&I’s continued leadership and, that our newest citizens enter this world under the safest and most welcoming circumstances.
Renu Englehart is a current Town Councilor for the town of East Greenwich. She has been serving as town councilor since 2018, and previously, had been a member of the East Greenwich Zoning Board since 2006.

Since Renu was elected to the Town Council, East Greenwich has addressed several issues facing the town including noise ordinances, streamlining the business application process, the creation of a waterfront and parking study, and affordable housing.

Renu has been an active volunteer within the East Greenwich community including with the library and the senior center, as well as parent/teacher groups. She is a current volunteer for the Rhode Island Military Organization and a past volunteer for Planned Parenthood SNE, the Wildlife Rehab Center of Rhode Island, and Labs4Rescue.

Renu and her husband Peter are the parents of three sons, Nicholas, Duncan, and Cooper, and one daughter-in-law, Sarah. They are also the proud adoptive owners of two dogs and two cats. Renu grew up in Longmeadow MA, and attended the MacDuffie School and American University.

Renu is the Chairperson of The Women & Infants Development Foundation, which supports the exceptional services delivered each day at the hospital. As Chair, Renu oversees its members, who serve as a critical link to our community and are champions of the foundation's philanthropic success.
Sarah Morgenthau, a government policy expert, and former attorney recently ran for U.S. Congress in Rhode Island’s Second District. An exceptional and proven leader, Sarah has provided trusted counsel for our country’s top leaders in the public and private sectors.

Before the campaign, Sarah served in the Biden Administration as Deputy Assistant Secretary heading up National Travel and Tourism at the U.S. Department of Commerce, where she led the initiative to reopen U.S. travel to international visitors during the pandemic. She also served in the Obama administration as Deputy Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, where she was the first woman to head the Private Sector Office. In this role, Sarah mediated open communications between the business community and the government — whether it was communicating on national security issues or interfacing with industry about the critical technology needed to keep our communities safe.

Earlier in the Obama administration, Sarah headed Peace Corps Response, where she launched the Global Health Service Partnership (GHSP), a collaboration of the Peace Corps, the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and the nonprofit Seed Global Health. The program sent physicians and nurses to work alongside local faculty in sub-Saharan Africa to help address the critical shortage of healthcare professionals and strengthen the quality of medical education.
In between administrations, Sarah headed up global business development for a private investigations firm. Sarah's legal career includes practicing as an attorney at Curtis, Mallet Prevost, Colt & Mosle, and at the Enforcement Division of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, both in New York. She was also a law clerk to the Honorable Joseph A. Greenaway, Jr., then a United States District Judge. Sarah has served on the boards of numerous nonprofits and advisory councils, including Rhode Island's Homeland Security Advisory Board.

Sarah graduated from Barnard College and Columbia Law School. She and her husband Carl raised three amazing children: Teddy, Henry, and Mizia.
Cynthia’s background includes board service for Lincoln School, Gordon, Providence Country Day School, Westover School, and Brown Medical School. She has also been on the boards of Planned Parenthood, Providence Athenaeum, and the Lalor Foundation. She was the Development and Alumni Director for Lincoln School, and Development and Membership Director with Audubon Society of RI.

Cynthia graduated from Brown University, dabbled in business school at URI, and was saved from flunking statistics by a job offer from the Audubon Society of Rhode Island.

I have been associated with W&I for 55 years since my daughter was born at Lying In (the former name of Women & Infants Hospital). I went back to the hospital again when my son was born three years later. My volunteer service at the hospital has included the gift shop, newborn nursery, strike-breaking, board member and then board chair, finally moving on to the Care New England board. Currently, I am active on the W&I Quality Committee.

The labor and delivery suites in the hospital opened in 1986 and were considered state-of-the-art at that time. However, advances in medical care and social norms make it imperative that W&I adapt and renew its approach to family-centered care for all patients. Quality care for all Rhode Island parents and their families is essential to W&I’s mission.
A physician in her “former life,” Dr. Shahrzad Slater is a graduate of Brown Medical School with a Master of Public Health (MPH) from Dartmouth. After completing residency training in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology (laboratory medicine) and fellowship training in Women's Pathology (Gynecologic and Breast Pathology) at Brown University, she practiced at Emory and Brown before returning to clinical research, and ultimately, philanthropy.

A recognized leader in the community, Dr. Slater served as the Senior Vice President for Clinical Operations at LMK Clinical Research Consulting, where she led the clinical operations teams and served as general medical advisor for the Leadership Team.

The wife of New England Patriot special teams stalwart Matthew Slater, mother of four beautiful young children, philanthropist, and advocate for minority communities, Dr. Slater is passionate about family, community health, education, and most importantly, her Christian faith.
My connection to Women & Infants began as a third-year medical student at Brown, rotating on my OB/GYN rotation. In addition to medical school, I completed residency and fellowship training at W&I. After working at Emory Medical School, I returned to W&I to work as an attending pathologist, as well as teach the medical students, residents, and fellows who were in training. In the most “full circle” way, I have also been a serial patient, as all three of our children were born at W&I, the oldest of whom required a NICU stay. The only person in our family who has not been a patient at W&I is my husband!

When I became pregnant with our fourth child, we did give some thought to having the baby in Massachusetts, since that’s where we live now; however, there is no group of professional healthcare workers I trust more than the nurses, doctors, and support staff at Women & Infants Hospital. W&I is a place that nurtured my children in their first hours of life, provided support during my transition to motherhood, and housed the learning experiences that made me the professional I am today. I am honored and privileged to be able to have a small hand in its much-needed revitalization.

Also, while my connection to WIH is very personal, the hospital’s reach is vast: There are millions of lives touched by the medical care they offer. The entire community must have access to state-of-the-art labor and delivery experiences.

Micah Slater was born on April 17, 2022! The entire team at W&I was fantastic. We had the absolute best nurses and CNAs. I am so grateful for the incredible care I received.
A lifelong Rhode Islander, Gerrie was born and raised in Cranston and now resides in Narragansett with her husband, Al, to whom she has been married for 58 years. Together, they spend their days reading, cooking, and walking along the seawall, and never to miss a URI Rams basketball game!

Gerrie spent the better part of her life in her most successful, most challenging, and by far most rewarding role as mother to her four children; and she is thrilled to now spend her golden years enjoying her 6 wonderful grandchildren.

Says Gerrie, “There is simply nothing I cherish more than my family, and I am grateful to have many of them living right here in Rhode Island. Whether it is a dinner in Providence or Boston with my college-aged grandkids, watching my grandson play lacrosse at his high school, or my youngest grandkids riding horses and playing soccer, I am incredibly grateful that Al and I can watch them all grow up.”
All four of my kids were born at Providence Lying-In Hospital, which, is now Women & Infants. In 1975, my youngest daughter, Lisa, was born prematurely at just 26 weeks. She weighed 2lbs 8oz. Unbeknownst to me, my husband, and the doctors, I had placenta previa which at the time was a life-threatening condition to both mother and unborn child. Lisa spent almost 3 months in the NICU. Women & Infants saved her life and mine.

Lisa’s birth story is the reason Al and I felt compelled to support the hospital’s ONWARD campaign in 2007. It was exactly the opportunity we were looking for to give back to this amazing hospital. I’ve also been a member of the W&I Foundation for more than a decade and serve on the Gala Committee.

I truly believe that Rhode Island is so fortunate to have this hospital here in our state, and I hope that The Campaign to Deliver Our Future will ensure the hospital continues to offer the most modern and state-of-the-art facilities and the very best care for the individuals and babies it serves.
Teresa Jenkins is a native of Flint, MI, and is a licensed preacher in the African Methodist Church. She is the Founder of Only Imagine Life Coaching and the author of “Dwelling in the Secret Place One Day at a Time,” her 35-day account of healing from COVID-19. Currently, Teresa is enrolled in Fuller Seminary working towards her master’s degree in Christian Counseling. She earned a master’s degree in Public Administration and has worked in Human Services for 33 years.

Teresa is also the Founder and Convenor of the Unleashing the Jewel Family Empowerment Conference, a faith-based ministry designed to empower families by engaging in workshops that lead to successful spiritual development. She has served as Chairperson for Project Shatter, a faith-based initiative engaged in bringing awareness about sex trafficking to communities in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York.

Teresa is a Sunday school teacher at her local church and serves as the 2nd Vice President for the 1st District Women’s Missionary Society (WMS) of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. In this role, she is responsible for planning training programs and workshops for members.

Teresa’s community involvement includes being a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and serving on the Board of Directors for Beacon Charter Schools. She has written several articles including “Black Women and Girls Matter: Voices of Resilience, Resistance and Resolve” and “This Time,” 2021 Lenten Journal, Women in Ministry of the 1st District AME Church.

Teresa is married to Rev. Howard M. Jenkins, Jr. and they are the proud parents of two sons and a daughter-in-law, and three wonderful grandchildren. Teresa enjoys reading, cooking, traveling, and flying kites in Newport with her family.
Professionally, I’ve served as Chief of Practice Standards for the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Family Services. While serving in this role, I became connected with the Women and Infants community via collaboration on the care and well-being of children born in adverse situations. This collaboration led to many successful outcomes for families and children of diverse backgrounds.

My professional career has allowed me to serve in the capacity of social work supervisor, social worker, and addiction counselor in the states of Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Virginia. I’ve spent years building relationships and helping individuals to catapult their untapped passions into living a life of purpose. Thus, my belief in becoming a part of something greater than myself led me to join the committee to build a new labor and delivery center, which is important to the entire Rhode Island community. A Greek proverb states it best: “A society grows great when old men/women plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.”
Alison leads the global omnichannel retail practice for Ipsos, one of the world’s largest market research firms. Her corporate career has spanned 100+ consumer categories including blue chip consumer goods companies, global insights teams, and founding her boutique consulting firm. A Fall River native, she earned her AB in Economics from Harvard and MBA from Northwestern. She brings extensive volunteer board and fundraising experience, having served on neighborhood, church, school, community, athletic, and alumni boards. An avid yogi, she is passionate about growing with her husband Thano and their two college-age kids, helping their octogenarian parents age gracefully at home, and enjoying New England waters and mountains. During this socially distant era, she spends her free time learning to scull, teaching in Brown’s PRIME program, zooming Providence Power Yoga, and making lots and lots of soup.

“This is my first real connection to W&I, but so many of my friends have been cared for in this wonderful hospital. I gave birth to two wonderful, healthy children through two high-risk pregnancies in two very different L&D units: one in an outdated unit much like W&I today; the other state-of-the-art, like our vision for W&I. The difference in experience, inspired me to jump in and help bring RI a state-of-the-art L&D unit that welcomes and supports all birthing parents and their birth partners. Childbirth is hard, physically and mentally, and such an important time in families’ lives. ALL RI parents deserve a nurturing space with the latest healthcare approaches, privacy, inclusiveness, respect, and love.”
Camilla Rees, MBA is a former financial industry executive who has more recently been a researcher, author, and producer on technology risks, environmental pollution, clean energy, and regenerative agriculture. She has also studied widely in medical, scientific, complementary, and alternative medicine, health enhancement, and self-empowerment fields and serves as a consultant to change agents and researchers in frontier sciences.

Camilla is Senior Policy Advisor to the National Institute for Science, Law & Public Policy in Washington, D.C. where she has overseen policy papers on electromagnetic fields, the smart grid, and telecommunications, including the landmark paper, “Re-Inventing Wires: The Future of Landlines and Networks”, which explains why hard-wired, fiber optics is superior to wireless. She has organized dozens of expert panels on technology and tech addiction risks across the country, including several groundbreaking programs on technology risks to children.

Camilla has addressed the Commonwealth Club of California, the Young President’s Organization, the White House Commission on Complementary & Alternative Medicine, spoken at several medical conferences offering continuing education credits (CEUs) for physicians, and organized a Congressional Briefing. For many years, Camilla was a curriculum developer for a private forum of CEOs focused on productivity, performance, and sustainability.

Camilla serves on the Advisory Board of the Building Biology™ Institute, a leading green building and green living educational organization training architects, engineers, builders, physicians, and other health practitioners. She is a Voting Member of the U.S. Health Freedom Congress; Member, American Sustainable Business Network (ASBN); and a Board Member of Media in the Public Interest.
In March 2018, Camilla received the “2018 Award in Public Health” from the Global Foundation for Integrative Medicines, and in October 2018 she was awarded “The Jonathan Forman Award” by the American Academy of Environmental Medicine, its most prestigious award for outstanding contribution in the field of Environmental Medicine.

Camilla graduated from The Choate School, Barnard College, and Georgetown University Graduate School of Business Administration. Growing up, she spent her summers in Watch Hill, RI, and is a descendant of Rhode Island’s Roger Williams.
Paula McNamara is President of the Murray Family Charitable Foundation. Previously, she worked for more than 21 years at Fidelity Investments both in Boston and in Smithfield, RI. At Fidelity, Paula held a variety of positions, ultimately becoming a Senior Director of the company’s division overseeing web and system installations.

In 2011, Governor Lincoln Chafee appointed her to the Rhode Island State Investment Commission. Paula is a Brown University graduate and was a member of its Board of Trustees from 2014-2019. She served as the co-chair of the Brown annual fund from 2016-2019. She currently serves on Brown’s facilities and campus planning committee. Paula has been a member of the Brown University Sports Foundation since 1995 and has recently stepped down as the first female president of its board.

Paula is a trustee at Providence Country Day School. She was a board member at the Lincoln School from 2002-2019 and was the chair from 2010-2014.

Paula lives with her husband Kevin in Rumford, RI. They are the parents of Maggie and Joe.
Kelli Viera is Senior Vice President, Employee Benefits at Alera Group. Her expertise includes business development, branding, team management and coaching, and employee benefits strategy.

Originally from Michigan, Kelli graduated from The University of Michigan and moved to New England more than 20 years ago. She is a board member of the Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England, an Executive Leadership Team member of Go Red for Women, a board member of The University Club in Providence, RI, as well as a co-founder of UC Women, a women’s “club within a club” at the University Club.

Kelli enjoys golf, tennis, and pickleball, as well as relaxing on the beautiful beaches of Rhode Island. She and her husband love exploring restaurants across the region and will try oysters everywhere they go! They are immensely proud of their five children who range in age from 20-28.

Although I’m not directly connected to Women & Infants, I very much respect its reputation and the value it brings to those across this region. I also admire the commitment it has made toward research impacting women’s health.

Every person deserves access to exceptional medical treatment in a warm, caring, modern environment, especially when preparing to bring a child into the world. While I didn’t deliver my children at W&I, as a member of this community and a mother, it’s important to me that everyone has this opportunity - and Women & Infants is the right place to make this happen.
Helena Foulkes is an experienced CEO and senior executive of publicly traded companies with a track record of delivering results by building high-performance teams, innovative consumer-driven launches, and digital transformation. She is known as a purpose-driven leader who has left a significant impact on organizations and industries. Helena is the immediate past President of the Board of Overseers at Harvard University and serves on several other boards in the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors. She most recently sought the Democratic nomination for Governor of Rhode Island.

Helena was CEO and a board member of Hudson’s Bay Company from February 2018 to March 2020, where she led the most significant transformation of the business, ultimately creating a path to the successful privatization of the company. She reinvented the organization by streamlining the operating structure, building the leadership team, overseeing strategic transactions, and overhauling the operating focus of HBC.

Before HBC, Helena spent 25 years at CVS Health, most recently as President of CVS Pharmacy, a position she held from January 2014 to January 2018. She led the strategic vision as well as the operations for all aspects of the company’s retail business and was the principal architect of the company’s move to becoming a recognized leader in healthcare. Over the course of her time with the company, she played an important leadership role in growing CVS to the largest pharmacy healthcare provider in the United States, from 1,400 stores to 10,000 with $180B in sales and more than 200,000 employees. Helena is known as a consumer innovator, having led teams on efforts such as the development of the CVS loyalty program, the company’s efforts to drive digital innovation, and the elimination of tobacco.
Before joining CVS, Helena worked at Goldman, Sachs & Co, and Tiffany & Co. She has received numerous professional honors, including being named to Fortune's Most Powerful Women in Business lists four times as well as Fast Company's Most Creative People in Business.

Helena is the Executive Chair of Follett Higher Education Group and serves on the boards of Skillsoft, Harry’s Inc., and The National Bureau of Economic Research. She is a member of the CEO Advisory Council for Salesforce and an advisor for the Enterprise Development Program at Bank of America. She has also served on the boards of The Home Depot, mPharma, Harvard University, The Wallace Foundation, the National Boys and Girls Clubs, and the Dodd Center for Human Rights Advisory Board at the University of Connecticut.

Helena holds an undergraduate degree from Harvard College and an MBA from Harvard Business School. She lives in Rhode Island with her husband. They have four grown children.
Jane Ritson-Parsons is a Senior C-Suite Executive with demonstrated leadership and revenue-building success in a publicly traded $5B consumer goods company with global operations in more than 170 markets. Her proven track record of strategic brand development and dynamic expansion was recognized by Fast Company Magazine as one of the “Top 100 Most Creative Business Leaders in 2011.” The impact of her innovation and leadership resulted in driving and closing complex multi-category, global deals, and the development of numerous initiatives with strategic Fortune 500 partners during her career.

Most recently, Jane served as Chief Operating Officer, then Chief Commercial Officer of Lordstown Motors Corp, (NASDAQ: RIDE) an electric vehicle innovator, developing high-quality light-duty commercial fleet vehicles, with the Endurance all-electric pickup truck as its first vehicle being manufactured in Lordstown, Ohio. Before LMC, Jane spent 25 years at Hasbro Inc. (NASDAQ: HAS) in multiple senior C-Suite roles, including as Group Executive, and Global Brand Marketing where she led the transformation of marketing and brand management. This included devising an e-commerce platform for D2C and B2B, creating a rapid delivery of digital selling assets, and managing global media, external creative agencies, and Hasbro’s in-house studio while leading the $1bn+ Monopoly brand. She integrated consumer advocacy and relevancy within the organization’s culture through the transformation of the global consumer insights function and the launch of a 24/7 global consumer care organization.
As President of Hasbro Properties Group, Jane created and launched the company’s internal brand extension and licensing function as a separate P & L operating division. In this role, she led and drove the growth of global brand royalty revenues, creative licensing strategies, TV and unique content development, programming distribution, consumer product brand licensing, promotions, gambling, lotteries, brand, games, and entertainment. She led successful partnerships with entertainment brands including The Walt Disney Company, Paramount, and Dream Works, among others.

Jane’s early career was in licensing, first with Jim Henson Licensing and later as the President of Licensing for HIT Entertainment (spun from Henson International Television) where she pioneered profitable licensing partnerships with many world-class organizations.

She has served as a trustee for numerous organizations including Governor Trustee for Rhode Island Hospital, Chair of the Toy Industry Association Annual Conference – PlayCon, Trustee of The Gordon School, Clerk, Board of Trustees of The Moses Brown School, and on the Parent Advisory Board for Boston University. Jane serves on the Board of Flat River Group, a value-added distributor of consumer products, and a full-service partner to the top e-commerce retailers in the US, and most recently has been appointed to the Board of HighBar / Performance Physical Therapy, the North East’s leading provider of innovative quality care.
Elena graduated from Brown University before moving to New York City to pursue law school and a career as an environmental lawyer with the US Environmental Protection Agency.

After her early law career, Elena devoted more than 30 years to education, environmental advocacy, and animal well-being. She worked for the Clinton Global Initiative and as Development Director for both the Green Schools Alliance and Clean Ocean Access. Her experience includes serving as Board President for the Potter League for Animals, Vice President of the SRBA Historic Building and Environmental Preservation Foundation, Board Member of the Brown Club of RI, Member of Brown University Parent’s Leadership Council, Board Member and Alumni Council Member of George’s School, and member of Save the Bay’s Development Committee.

Elena enjoys spending time with family, cold water ocean plunging, yoga, tennis, gardening, and woodworking.

My connection to Women & Infants Hospital started in the late 1980s when my niece was born there. As I held her for the first time, I remember admiring the cheerful, recently renovated surroundings. In January 2023, my middle daughter gave birth to her son at Women & Infants Hospital. The medical care was excellent. The goal of Campaign to Deliver Our Future is to ensure the facilities reflect the quality of care. I wanted to get involved to make sure all families who come through the doors of Women & Infants Hospital have access to world-class medical care, state-of-the-art technology, and welcoming facilities.
Dr. Masters was appointed Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs in January 2023. Before her appointment at RIC, she served in various academic leadership roles including Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dean of Health Professions and Sciences, and Dean of Sciences, Engineering, and Health Sciences at Gannon University in Pennsylvania. Dr. Masters led the development and implementation of a successful strategic plan for the college that clearly defined the college and its outstanding academic programs. She initiated high school outreach programs and recruitment activities that led to a 42% enrollment growth in the health professions.

Dr. Masters has overseen major facility renovations including a state-of-the-art science center and an academic building for the health professions. She has been involved in securing external funding and was instrumental in obtaining more than a million dollars to support facility and programmatic expansion. Dr. Masters led the effort to integrate innovation into and throughout the health profession curricula—she was responsible for the development of a 5,800-square-foot patient simulation center and campus expansion into Florida. Dr. Masters earned her doctoral degree in nursing from Duquesne University, a master’s degree from Edinboro University, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Carlow University.
Your story starts here.

To learn more about the Women & Infants Capital Campaign, or to make a donation, hover your phone’s camera over the QR code or visit foundation.womenandinfants.com/capital-campaign