The institute will also serve as the home for the recently designated New York State Center of Excellence for Data Science, which, with support from New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the Rochester-area state delegation, received $872,333 in the 2014–15 state budget.

The new eight-floor children’s hospital features 52 private patient rooms, a greatly expanded Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and spaces designed specifically to meet the needs of children and their families.

Enhancements include healing gardens, family lounges, and a hospitality suite where parents can shower, prepare and eat home-cooked meals, or even run a load of laundry.

As of this spring, a total of $45 million of the $60 million needed for the building had been raised. Wegman, honorary chair of the Medical Center campaign, said he hoped the new gift would inspire others to contribute to close the $15 million gap.

Tracing its roots to the opening of its first store in Rochester in 1916, Wegmans Food Markets currently operates 83 stores in six states and employs more than 44,000 people. Wegmans is frequently listed by national publications as one of the best companies to work for in the country.

In addition to his role as a trustee, Wegman works with Seligman as cochair of the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council, part of a task force appointed by Cuomo that recommends state support for economic development projects in a nine-county region.

Wegman also has been a leading supporter of the Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection, a community program that provides education and training to middle and high school students. The University also works closely with the partnership.

In announcing the $17 million gift, Wegman noted that universities like Rochester are key to shaping the success of the communities they call home. “The most powerful economic driver in the world is a great educational institution.”

Sara Miller is University spokesperson.