Your membership in the George Eastman Circle, the University of Rochester’s premier leadership annual giving society, helps shape the future of Golisano Children’s Hospital and the children and families who we serve. Your generous support, of at least $1,500 annually over five years, provides critical budget-relieving annual funds to any part of the Golisano Children's Hospital you wish, and helps us transform lives.

George Eastman Circle member support makes a profound impact for children every day. You can make a significant difference by joining.

YOUR PHILANTHROPY AT WORK

Each year, more than 74,000 children from 17 counties come to Golisano Children's Hospital seeking care. Your commitment and generosity will enable us to give these children and their families the highest quality of care possible.

Gifts of all levels will help us continue to provide care to our courageous patients, who range from the 1,200 sick and premature newborns annually admitted to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) to the 800 patients seen in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), the largest intensive care facility in Western and Central New York. Your generosity will also help the children that require more than 30,000 pediatric surgeries and procedures annually, and the more than 6,000 patients a year that visit the Children's Heart Center. Your gift will not only have a profound impact on the children we currently treat, but will also help us to shape the future of Golisano Children's Hospital.

LOOKING AHEAD: OUR MISSION

Golisano Children's Hospital is committed to providing exceptional and compassionate care to children and their families at every step during their hospital stay.

Our community has helped build our hospital into the beacon of hope it is for patients and their families. Your investment as a George Eastman Circle member will mean a great deal for the future of our children. Their laughter is music to our ears. It is a sign of life and hope. It is a reminder of why we engage in the work we do: to keep moving forward to achieve the best in pediatric research, treatment, faculty expertise, and physical resources.
Mike and Tracey Merriman had always believed that Golisano Children’s Hospital was a vital resource for children in the Rochester-area community, but they never imagined how grateful they would come to be for the compassionate health care, staff, and expert medical care their daughter, Bridgette, now 16, would one day receive.

In 2009, Bridgette was diagnosed with stage four Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. She was admitted to Golisano Children’s Hospital, where she was treated by David Korones, M.D., pediatric oncologist, and Walter Pegoli, M.D., chief of pediatric surgery. The removal and testing of a large swollen gland on Bridgette’s neck confirmed the diagnosis. The cancer had spread throughout her lungs, chest and lower abdomen. Four days after her surgery, Bridgette started her first round of chemotherapy. Eleven days after the family first met Korones, they were sent home to Penfield to continue Bridgette’s journey toward healing.

Bridgette finished her radiation treatments in the middle of June 2009. Mike Merriman said that they became so fond of the hospital staff and the care was so top notch that on Bridgette’s last day of receiving chemotherapy, she said to her father, “I’m going to miss coming here.”

“Joining the George Eastman Circle has been a rewarding and convenient way to give back to Golisano Children’s Hospital,” Mike said. “During our time there with Bridgette, she got to the point where she viewed going to chemotherapy treatments as a time to watch movies and get some one-on-one time with her mom and dad. We know she was able to be that comfortable not only because of the great doctors and nurses at the children’s hospital, but because of the generosity of its supporters as well.”

“That’s what support provided by members of the George Eastman Circle allows – kids to have a more positive patient experience during their time at the hospital, thanks to what seem like little things, such as movies, that make a big difference. Our gifts, and others like it, help make that possible.”

For more information on how you can join the George Eastman Circle and create an even greater impact, please contact Michael Fahy at (585) 276-5176 or at michael.fahy@rochester.edu