

ELLIS INSIGHT



Ellis
MEDICINE

Generations of Giving

Individuals and families are the drivers of philanthropy in our country.

Locally owned family businesses demonstrate an entrepreneurial spirit and often they want the community to benefit from their success. These family businesses have a vision to create opportunity and prosperity for the next generation and for society as a whole. They sometimes choose to donate to worthy causes through their business, which, one might argue, is also individual giving.

Schenectady Hardware & Electric Co. (SHE) is a 4th generation family-owned and -run business that has been supporting our region since 1923.

and he was a business man. Under his leadership the company grew to become the largest electrical contracting firm in the area. Since Larry's passing in 2008, current President/CEO, Chris has carried on in his father's footsteps, driving the business forward and, like his predecessors, is leaving his mark in the region.

The success of SHE is driven by the character, commitment and community dedication of each President/CEO. Chris proudly shares a story of a school construction project that his father was working on when the superintendent approached him [Larry] to discuss the timeline and whether they could speed up the project. The superintendent explained that not only did the school provide breakfast and lunch for the students, but many did not have

“Ellis has always been there for our family. Being able to give back is extremely meaningful to me and my family.”

SHEILA SPRARAGEN
Schenectady Hardware & Electric Co.

“The family has a reputation for being committed to the community and they back up that commitment with financial support. They are extraordinarily generous and encourage others to be as well,” said Suzann Smart, retired executive director of the Ellis Foundation. The Foundation has been a recipient of the Spraragen's support for more than 25 years.

“Being a part of the Ellis community has special meaning to me,” added Sheila. “I started out as a ‘pinky’ volunteer and later worked as a nurse in the ER and on other floors. Generations of Spraragens were born at Ellis – including my children. Ellis has always been there for our family. Being able to give back is extremely meaningful to me and my family. It also leaves a strong legacy”.

“Examples of local business philanthropy in our region are too numerous to list, and all consistently and genuinely work to strengthen community. The Spraragens stand out, not only as great supporters but also wonderful business partners,” said Paul Milton, Ellis President/CEO.

Access to high quality healthcare right here in our community is a priority every single Ellis donor chooses. Whether a gift comes from an individual, a family, or a local business, we know that it's people who believe in the life-saving work done at Ellis. SHE exemplifies the power of philanthropy in our community, and Ellis Medicine is proud to consider the Spraragen family close friends. ●



Sheila, Chris and Brooke Spraragen.

Each generation has put their mark on the community. A native of Manhattan, Benjamin Spraragen, came to Schenectady to attend Union College and graduated from the electrical engineering program in 1916. He started the business selling household supplies and hardware and doing light residential work. He later progressed the business and worked on converting gas lights to electric. His son, Donald served as CEO from 1982-93. Donald continued to grow the residential business and started to expand into light commercial work. In 1986, grandson Larry was appointed President. Larry had been an electrician in the Navy and at SHE,

running water at home and school was where they shower. “This opened my father's eyes to the needs of our community more than anything else he had done,” said Chris. “That week he pulled all his workers from other jobs to complete the school project by Monday morning,” Chris added.

Equally as important to the family is supporting of the region through leadership and volunteerism. “Next year marks our 95th anniversary and the best is yet to come. Our family was born and raised in this community and we will continue to support and invest in Schenectady,” said Chris' mother Sheila Spraragen.

Welcome back... Marcy!

The Foundation for Ellis Medicine Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the appointment of Marcia 'Marcy' Steiner as the Foundation's new Executive Director/Vice President. Marcy is only the third director in The Foundation's history.

Marcy, a 25-year veteran in nonprofit management and fundraising, holds a bachelor's degree in education from the University at Buffalo, and an MBA from Niagara University.

Marcy's new role marks a return to Ellis. She worked on The Ellis Foundation team from 2011 to 2016 during the *"Our Health Our Future. The Campaign for Ellis Medicine,"* and was part of the team that raised more than \$26.4 million to support five major capital projects. During that period she also spearheaded the organization's re-branding initiative following the consolidation of Schenectady's three hospitals in 2011. Prior to joining Ellis, she served as Executive Director of the Seton Health Foundation in Troy, NY, for nearly seven years, and Director of



Marcy Steiner—The Ellis Foundation's new Executive Director/Vice President

Community Affairs at Mount St. Mary's Hospital and Health Center in Lewiston, NY, for 16 years.

The Hospital conducted a national search to replace Suzann Smart, who served at the helm of The Foundation for 25 years. "Marcy's leadership during the *Our Health Our Future* campaign illustrated that she could seamlessly step into this new role," said Gene Zeltmann, Chair of the Board of Trustees, "What's more, her extensive fundraising

experience positioned her as the best candidate for the community hospital."

"Marcy has a strong background in board and volunteer development, strategic planning, fundraising public relations and marketing and building key relationships with diverse audiences," said Paul Milton, Ellis Medicine President/CEO. "We are confident Marcy will provide The Foundation with remarkable guidance and success."

**“We are confident
Marcy will provide
The Foundation with
remarkable guidance
and success.”**

PAUL MILTON
Ellis Medicine President/CEO

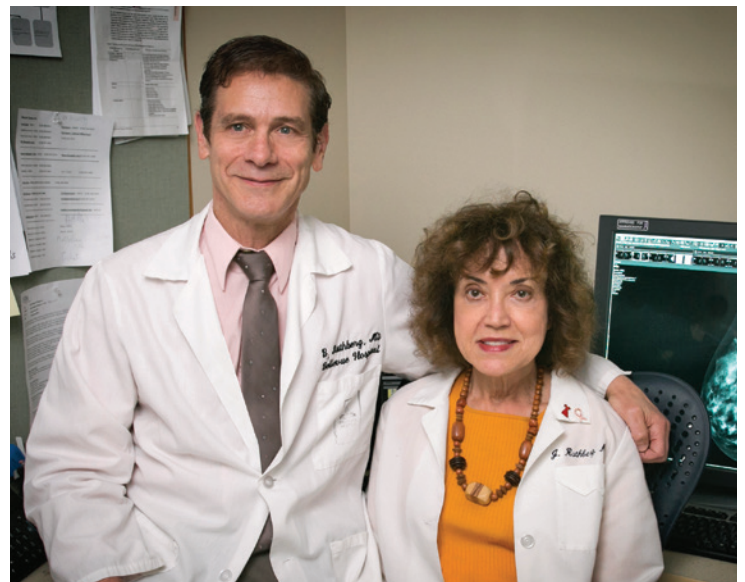
Marcy and her late husband, Chuck, are the parents of five adult children and the proud grandparents of twelve. She is an active community volunteer, and enjoys gardening as well as hiking and kayaking in the Adirondacks. ●

Doctors and Donors

Drs. Bradford and Judith Ruthberg are Radiologists who have each worked at Bellevue Women's Center, saving countless women's lives, for more than 30 years, only a few years less than they have been married. "We went to medical school at the University of Miami, and then did our residencies at Albany Med. Brad was hired first by Bellevue, in 1986. A year later, when I was offered a job there, I jumped at the chance," says Judith.

Tragically, in 2003, Brad's mother Helen, an artist, miniaturist, and author of renown, died of breast cancer. Her husband, Dr. Jack Ruthberg, started a fund at Ellis in her memory – The Helen R. Ruthberg Endowed Fund for the Earliest Possible Detection and Prevention of Cancer. Drs. Brad and Judith continue to contribute to the fund every year in memory of both Dr. Jack and Helen. "We know that early detection is still the best treatment we have. This fund helps Ellis purchase the latest radiology equipment and supports those who need cancer screening. We are pleased and proud to contribute to its continued growth," says Brad.

Thanks in part to the Helen R. Ruthberg Endowed Fund, in 2016 Ellis purchased a Breast Tomosynthesis, also known as 3D Mammography, that provides a clearer, more accurate view compared to digital mammography alone. This advanced type of mammography can offer improved



Bellevue Women's Center Radiologists Drs. Bradford and Judith Ruthberg

cancer detection rates, especially invasive cancers, fewer call backs, which may lessen anxiety for patients and greater piece of mind. Contributions to support the Ruthberg Endowment are welcome. Please contact The Foundation to find out how you can help. ●

The Healer's Touch

Adorning the Bundy Garden on Ellis' Nott Street campus is The Healer's Touch sculpture, a tribute to Ellis nurses for their outstanding, skillful and compassionate care.

The sculpture is part of an international recognition program called the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses. The award acknowledges the clinical skills and the countless acts of kindness nurses provide to patients and their families every day.



"As a patient who had a life-threatening illness and a lengthy stay in a number of hospitals, I cannot overemphasize the importance of nurses with their determination, compassion, and skill. The difference between an okay patient experience and an extraordinary one? Nurses," says Bill Kenneally, a member of Ellis Medicine's Board of Trustees. Bill, along with his family, was pleased to purchase the sculpture for Ellis. "I want to remind people every day how essential nurses are to quality care. You can't put a price on compassion. Nurses should be celebrated every day for their education, hard work, skill, and especially for their willingness to go the extra mile."

The serpentine stone statue, hand-carved by a Shona artist in Zimbabwe, symbolizes the unique caring relationship nurses have with their patients. The piece reflects the bond of caring and

"I want to remind people every day how essential nurses are to quality care."

BILL KENNEALLY
Member of Ellis' Board of Trustees

trust that exists between healer and patient. Ellis dedicated the sculpture in May 2017, during national Nurses Week.

Ellis Medicine is proud to be a DAISY Award hospital partner. "The statue serves as a lasting symbol of our commitment to honoring our nurses, and to letting them know how much we value their vital, compassionate work here at Ellis," says Paul Milton, Ellis President & CEO.

"The DAISY Award has now come to be regarded not only as a way to recognize outstanding work, but also

as a strategic tool for nurse recruitment and retention, adopted by healthcare facilities all over the U.S. and beyond – including Ellis Medicine," added Leslyn Williamson, Ellis Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer. ●

Save the Date!

WINTER GALA FOR ELLIS MEDICINE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2018
Glen Sanders Mansion | Schenectady

*An evening to honor
Dr. Gary & Mary Jo Wood*

For more information, call
Rob Schmitz at 518.243.4600 or
visit ellismedicine.org/foundation

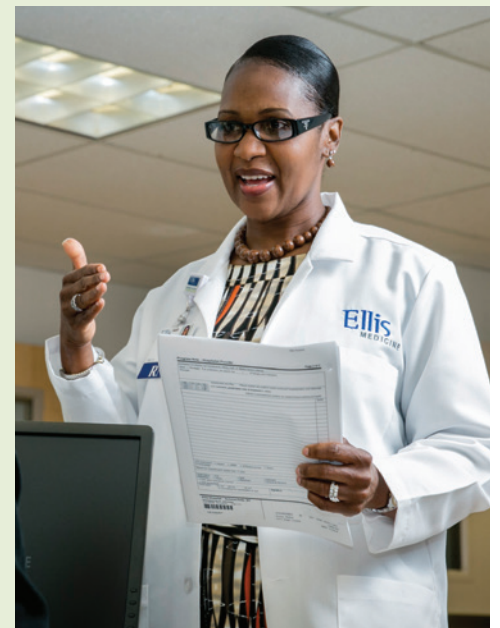
Leslyn Williamson Named VP and Chief Nursing Officer

Dr. Leslyn Williamson recently joined the staff at Ellis Medicine as a Vice President and the Chief Nursing Officer. Williamson comes to Ellis from Mount Sinai Brooklyn, where she served as Vice President of Patient Care Services.

Throughout her career, Williamson has focused on leadership and staff development, improving quality and patient experience outcomes, and transforming the work environment – tasks that are similar to those she is charged with undertaking at Ellis.

"My number one focus is quality patient care. Empowering our nurses to use their critical thinking skills to advocate for patients is the best way to accomplish that. I want our nursing team here at Ellis to be transformational as we concentrate on both the art and science of providing care." Williamson oversees 1,000+ nursing staff. She wants to make sure that this is a great place to work for each of them. "A happy, engaged staff equals great patient outcomes."

My role is to encourage the staff to be fully engaged, to take ownership of their work, and to provide outstanding health care at Ellis every day." ●



Leslyn Williamson, DNP, MSN, MPH, RN, NEA-BC

ELLIS INSIGHT

FALL 2017 | ellismedicine.org | 4

STAYING CONNECTED



Let me teach you
a new trick that
helps care for
the community
and you.



Rollover a gift from your IRA And everyone gets a treat!

If you are 70½ or older and have an IRA you are required to take a minimum distribution each year. When you file your taxes, that minimum distribution is reported as taxable income.



You can contribute directly from your IRA to Ellis and avoid paying extra income tax while knowing that you are supporting an excellent charity that is saving the lives of our neighbors, friends and family.

Discuss this with your financial advisor or call The Foundation for Ellis Medicine to find out how simple this mutually beneficial strategy can be.

For more information on how your gift to The Foundation for Ellis Medicine can work for you, please contact:

Beth at 518.243.4600
or email at foundation@ellismedicine.org