



## ***Battle Building*** *at UVA Children's Hospital*

*One-Year Anniversary Q & A with*  
**James Nataro, MD, MBA, PhD**  
*Chair, UVA Department of Pediatrics*  
*and*

**Karin League, RN**  
*Associate Chief, Women's and*  
*Children's Services*



To celebrate the Battle Building's one-year anniversary, James Nataro, MD, MBA, PhD, Chair, UVA Department of Pediatrics, and Karin League, RN, Associate Chief of Women's and Children's Services, sat down to reflect on changes, opportunities, and the future of UVA Children's Hospital.

**One year ago on June 14th, the Battle Building opened its doors, and a lot has happened since then. What has been the biggest change you've noticed in UVA Children's Hospital in the past twelve months?**

**JN:** I would say energy. Positive energy, so much excitement, so much enthusiasm. Positive energy on the part of all of the providers, the whole Children's Hospital team, all of the families, and of course the community as well. It's been very exciting to watch.

**KL:** You know, I think bringing people together in the building, there's this real sense of community and once the pitter patter of little feet was added to that, it just brought the whole thing to life.

**What role does the Battle Building play in creating that energy?**

**KL:** The building was so anticipated for such a long time. People saw it going up, dreamt about what being in the building would be like, the care that would be offered here...It's still very new, but at the same time it already feels comfortable. It feels like we belong here and are meant to be here.

**JN:** Just driving up and down [Main Street], especially at night when you see all the

colors and the glass. It's such a beautiful venue, things are organized in an efficient way, there's a style and a pizzazz to the building that you can't miss.

**You don't find children's hospitals in communities the size of Charlottesville very often—we are very much the exception. Would you say that we have UVA Children's Hospital here in large part thanks to our community?**

**KL:** I think the will of our community was to build this children's hospital here...When you think of this kind of building, you think of a community of a million people. It's incredible [how much] we were supported, and continue to be supported, by our community to make this a reality.

**JN:** Remember also we're serving not just the city of Charlottesville, we're serving a huge area of the state of Virginia, and to even some extent some neighboring states. I think in part this represents the leadership of Charlottesville in Virginia. We have built a site here that serves children [and families] who drive three, four, five hours in order to get here. To me...one of the really amazing assets of Charlottesville is that it demonstrates a leadership role in Virginia and the region.

“ I think there is no doubt that the Battle Building has created a model for other institutions to shoot for.   
 - James Nataro ”

**\$38 million in philanthropic support was raised to help make this building a reality. What would you say to someone who contributed to making the Battle Building and the care offered here possible?**

**JN:** \$38 million is an amazing sum from a city and a region like this...Again, it speaks to the passion of this city and this region for what we do here. I think that saying “thank you”...is the start, but what I think really demonstrates our thanks is the care we provide during 100,000 encounters with children and their families every year in this building...[Our] contribution is providing service, and if you think about it over decades, we're going to be providing care for over a million independent encounters with kids, which is amazing.

**KL:** \$38 million...that is a tremendous amount of community support. Thank you, thank you, thank you is what I would say to anyone who gave a penny of that \$38 million. It bought so much more than bricks and mortar; it bought the feeling of the Children's Hospital, and the ability to provide in one place the service that we were not able to provide before.

**With the Battle Building now open and offering exceptional sub-specialty care, and UVA Children's Hospital recently having been named one of U.S. News & World Report's Top Children's Hospitals, it seems the sky is the limit. So, what's next?**

**JN:** There's no stopping us now! I think being ranked in the *U.S. News & World Report*... was a tremendous watershed moment for us. Again, in a city of this size, a region like this, to have one of the top children's hospitals in America should be a tremendous source of pride...seeing national recognition for that is phenomenal. So, where do we go next? ... We want more of our programs to be ranked...[and we] also want to add some additional



JAMES NATARO & KARIN LEAGUE

programs. I think the community may not know that some of the programs we provide are truly world-class. I can talk about our heart transplant program, for example. We did 4% of heart transplants in the country last year here at UVA Children's Hospital. This is a world-class operation, and there are a lot of families [who] take their kids here that could take their kids anywhere, and they come from all over the region... They come from multiple states to get their care here. Working together ... we've put this building up, and I think truly the sky is the limit.

**KL:** I think what's next for UVA Children's Hospital are endless possibilities. This place has an amazing collection of some of the most incredible medical minds out there in the children's hospital world. Combined with the spirit of team members who care for children, there's really nothing stopping...our hospital [from doing] really powerful things. [So much has already] been accomplished, and that only fuels the team to do more.

“ \$38 million...bought so much more than bricks and mortar.   
 - Karin League ”