



HOPE LIVES HERE

The Donor Newsletter of Chase Brexton Health Care



How COVID-19 Unearthed a Health Care Necessity: Telehealth

Did you know that, prior to COVID-19, insurance companies, including Medicaid and Medicare, did not cover telehealth appointments because they were not considered a doctor's visit? That all changed in early March, when the federal government mandated that telehealth appointments be reimbursable moving forward.

It's a move that could change health care for the better, even after the pandemic is over. For Chase Brexton patients, 88% who live at or below the 200% Federal Poverty Level, telehealth eliminates many of the barriers to accessing quality health care. Patients do not have to struggle with finding transportation or child care, nor do they have to worry about lost wages due to missing work. They simply log in to their appointment from the convenience of home or wherever they have a wifi signal.

"The ability to use telehealth has offered another tool to reach our patients and improve our access for patient care services," explains Alice Sliwka, VP of Quality & Clinical Services. "It appears that it has assisted patients that had difficulty with arrival times and keeping their appointment.

We believe it will decrease our no-show rate which has historically been an issue for our patients in the past."

It's also highly secure to guarantee the highest levels of patient privacy. In early March, Chase Brexton's information technology team worked urgently to establish a telehealth platform that would meet all the standards of care patients expect from an in-person appointment. As patients and providers have grown more comfortable with the platform, the team has enhanced it with new features, such as online appointment scheduling, a mobile telehealth app, and "Freddie," an automated assistant to guide patients as they're logging in.

"We could not have gotten this far, this fast, without the generosity of our community," says Becky Frank, VP of Marketing & Development. "We're really excited to see how it expands our mission moving forward. The potential of telehealth is almost limitless."

Help Us Create Better Access to Health Care

Visit ChaseBrexton.org/COVID19Fund to donate to our telehealth program now.



An Update from Our President and CEO

When you look back on this important moment of history, what will you remember? For me, what I will remember most is how proud I feel right now—**proud to be part of a community that has fearlessly answered the call in the face of our generation’s greatest health care crisis.**

From securing PPE to expanding free pharmacy delivery services to swiftly and securely launching a new medical and behavioral telehealth program that is accessible to every patient, our team of employees and health care professionals have gone above and beyond to ensure our doors—literally and virtually—remained open to all who needed us. This has reduced the impact on our community’s emergency departments and hospitals. And it has ensured that our patients could continue to get the vital services that no one should ever have to delay, from HIV testing to substance abuse treatment to pediatric appointments.

I am also proud of how our team has united together to definitively declare that racism is a public health crisis. Since our founding as a gay men’s health clinic in 1978, Chase Brexton has been a voice for the voiceless and the underserved. Now more than ever that includes taking real steps to understand—and end—the health care disparities that our Black and Brown patients all too often face.

And I am proud to have so many donors and volunteers who continued to believe in our mission, even in the face of global uncertainty. When the worst happens, it is easy to retreat. You never did. Whether you contributed to our COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, donated food to our exhausted front line workers, or sent a message of solidarity to our Black and Brown patients, you were there with us. Thank you for never giving up.

Sincerely,

Patrick F. Mutch

Patrick F. Mutch
President & CEO

SAVE THE DATE!



#GivingTuesday

Tuesday, December 1

Celebrate the day of giving by making a gift to Chase Brexton at ChaseBrexton.org/Give.



World AIDS Day

Tuesday, December 1

Follow The POWER Project, Chase Brexton’s HIV screening, testing, and prevention program, at Facebook.com/CBCHPower to learn how you can get involved.

Contact Clare Elliott at celliott@chasebrexton.org to learn more.

AIDS WALK & MUSIC FESTIVAL

NEW WEBSITE www.BaltimoreAIDSWalk.org

Sunday, June 6, 2021



Join us at **Power Plant Live** in downtown Baltimore to raise critical funds to expand HIV testing, prevention, education and treatment.

Chase Brexton Staff Members Earn Special Recognition

Congratulations to the following members of our team who were recently honored for their professional accomplishments and commitment to patient care.



Andy Zipay Receives 2020 Dr. Ronald Taylor Award

Social Worker Andy Zipay was honored with the 2020 Dr. Ronald Taylor Award, awarded each year to the Chase Brexton employee who embodies our core values. Since joining Chase Brexton in 2004, Andy has helped countless patients with urgent needs, and has become the lead organizer for our annual Thanksgiving food drive, as well as clothing and toiletry drives throughout the year. “Whenever the word ‘altruism’ comes up, Andy is, inevitably, the first person that comes to mind,” says Social Work Supervisor Christina Daly. “He gives all of his energy and passion to the clients of Chase Brexton with no expectations in return.”



Sebastian Ruhs, M.D., Appointed Chief Medical Officer

Dr. Sebastian Ruhs has been named Chief Medical Officer of Chase Brexton Health Care. Having served as interim Chief Medical Officer since February, Dr. Ruhs was critical to developing our COVID-19 response strategies, including patient and staff safety, staffing, telehealth, and more. A member of the our medical staff since 2013, Dr. Ruhs continues to see patients daily while balancing his additional leadership role as director of our Infectious Disease Center of Excellence.



Ajaye Pope Honored by Baltimore Business Journal

Vice President of Operations Ajaye Pope has been selected as one of *Baltimore Business Journal's 40 Under 40 for 2020*. Ajaye is responsible for the planning, standardization, and direction of nonclinical operations at all Chase Brexton locations. Among the many accomplishments that led to Ajaye’s recognition was her strategic leadership at the start of the pandemic, which helped accelerate our execution of new and innovative safety procedures, workflows, and practices that ensured our ability to serve our patients and protect our staff.



Sam McClure Named Executive Director of LGBT Health Resource Center

Sam McClure has been named Executive Director of the LGBT Health Resource Center (LHRC) and a member of the Chase Brexton Senior Leadership Team. Sam previously held the title of Director of the LHRC. Since joining the LHRC in 2018, Sam has increased the center’s focus on health equity advocacy, bringing to light how social determinants such as zip code, race, and gender identity should not be a bearer of health outcomes. She will serve as the Senior Leadership Team’s champion for health equity.

The COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund: Support Our Health Care Heroes This Winter

Chase Brexton Health Care has a long history of quickly and expertly responding to health crises in our communities—and this fall and winter will be no exception as we prepare to confront the new challenges that will emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.

To date, we have been humbled by the outpouring of support you have shown our front line workers. Your donations of food, supplies, and other gifts have kept our morale strong and our patients and staff safe.

But our fight is not over. As the global crisis continues and the health care needs of our patients become more complex, our ability to serve our community is increasingly burdened by constrained resources. Please consider a gift to the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund to ensure we can continue to be there for our patients, no matter what.



A Snapshot of Chase Brexton's COVID-19 Response So Far

COVID-19 Tests Administered

April	205
May	305
June	382
July	481
Aug.	613
Sept.	721
Oct.	798

Every Donation Helps



\$500

Supplies **8** non-touch thermal thermometers to expand screening and testing capacity and reduce the burden on area emergency rooms.



\$250

Provides **one** primary care or dental telehealth appointment so that we can reduce patient exposure while ensuring patients receive continuity of care.



\$100

Provides **28** N95 masks, so that we can provide the necessary protective wear to safeguard our health care workers



"I am truly grateful for your support of our COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund. Your support empowers us to stay true to our mission and serve our communities, while helping to keep our patients, my colleagues and me safe."

Sebastian Ruhs, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer



Make a Donation Now > ChaseBrexton.org/COVID19Fund

Donor Spotlight: Rostislav & Helena Milanytch

Rostislav and Helena Milanytch raised their family around the value of giving back to the community. So when their daughter, Alexa Milanytch, joined Chase Brexton as the Director of Development in 2016, the organization became more than just their daughter's employer. It became a cause they felt compelled to support.

"The more we learned about Chase Brexton's commitment to inclusion and health care equity, the more we wanted to lend a hand," explains Rostislav. "Plus, Chase Brexton offered us a number of ways to give back that made sense for us financially."

The Milanytchs opted to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)*, which allows donors who are over the age of 70 ½ to contribute up to \$100,000 to a qualified charity, like Chase Brexton, directly from their IRA each year.

For many older donors, there are several advantages to this approach. The QCD counts toward satisfying your required minimum distribution for that year, and it will not increase your adjusted across income (AGI) as a taxable IRA distribution would. Furthermore, although the contribution is not deductible, it's made with pre-tax



Rostislav and Helena Milanytch, pictured with their youngest of four grandchildren.

money, so the tax effect is often equal to or better than making a deductible contribution with after-tax money.

"If you're over the age of 70 ½, a QCD can be a smart way to earn more AGI-based tax benefits and lower your tax bill," says Charles O'Connell, Financial Services Professional at MassMutual Financial Group. "And it has the added benefit of lifting up a non-profit that really matters to you."

**As with all charitable giving, please consult with your tax advisor and/or financial planner before making a qualified charitable distribution.*

Interested in Making a Qualified Charitable Donation?

Please email Alexa Milanytch, Director of Development at amilanytch@chasebrexton.org with the subject line "QCD".



How and Where Your Donation Was Used

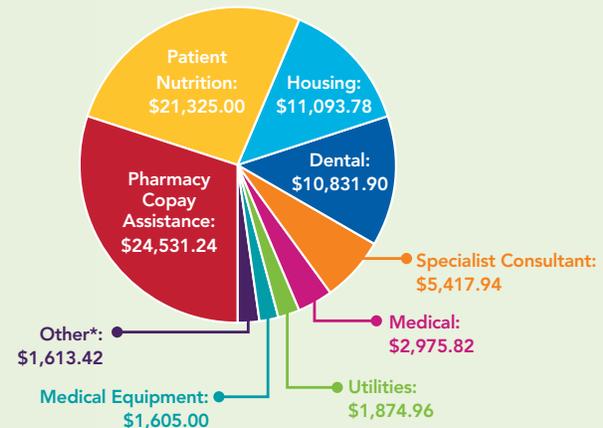
The Hope Lives Here program goal is to expand assistance to all our Chase Brexton Centers. Between January and August of 2020, you helped 155 patients receive needed care. Thank you! There are hundreds more in need of your generosity. Please continue to support your community today at HopeLivesHereMaryland.org.

Hope Lives Here Report*

**Does not include uncompensated care.*

	CY2020	CY2019
Columbia	\$8,094.55	\$15,407.03
Easton	\$0	\$0
Glen Burnie	\$4,446.83	\$5,670.82
Mt. Vernon	\$63,155.80	\$86,131.27
Randallstown	\$5,571.88	\$11,749.94
Total	\$81,269.06	\$118,959.06

CY2020 through August



**Mental Health: \$949.00, Eye Care: \$445.77, Insurance Premium: \$189.85, and Transportation: \$28.80*

Virtual Gala Raises More Than \$215,000

Despite getting pushed back four months—and having to convert to an all-virtual event—the 2020 Chase Brexton Gala: An Evening at the Moulin Rouge proved to be très magnifique. More than 600 guests joined together online to enjoy music and entertainment by emcee Chardelle Moore, singer Mariah Bonner, and drag queen Betty O’Hellno; a treasure-filled silent auction; an emotional awards presentation honoring **CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield** with the 2020 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award, **Johns Hopkins Medicine** with the 2020 Community Partner Award and **Andy Zipay** with the Dr. Ronald Taylor Award given to an exemplary Chase Brexton employee; and many more surprises.

This Virtual Gala raised an astounding \$215,000 surpassing all our expectations. In comparison to years’ past, because we went virtual and saved on expenses, more money is going towards our three vital community programs: the Hope Lives Here Fund for our most vulnerable patients, our trailblazing LGBTQ Diversity Training program, and our COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund than ever before. Thank you to all our guests, volunteers, donors, and sponsors who made it such a “spectacular spectacular” event!



to Our Hosts & Top Teir Sponsors

Hosts

Dr. Paul Fowler & Franklin N. McNeil, Jr.

Presenting Sponsor



Red Mill



Support the Businesses That Support Us!

Visit ChaseBrexton.org/Gala-2020 to view all the generous sponsors that made our gala a fundraising success.



Chase Brexton Awarded Nearly \$500,000 in Grants

Thank you to the organizations who have supported Chase Brexton through generous grants this season. These organizations enable us to invest in new technologies, expand our services, and rapidly respond to community crises like COVID-19.

Baltimore County Health Foundation

CareFirst

Community Foundation of Howard County

Direct Relief

Hamel Foundation

Horizon Foundation

Middendorf Foundation

PNC Charitable Trusts

Siemens

TD Bank

BALTIMORE 2021

AIDS WALK & MUSIC FESTIVAL

PRODUCED BY CHASE BREXTON HEALTH CARE

Thank you for joining the
Virtual Gala.

Be sure to join our next special event:
The Baltimore AIDS Walk and Music Festival

Sunday, June 6, 2021
Inner Harbor Power Plant Live!



Our Easton Center has Moved!

In June, we began seeing patients in the brand new Chase Brexton Health Care Easton Center. Conveniently located near two transit stops, this expanded location allows us to better serve the patients of Talbot County with additional services including **adult primary and gynecological care; HIV and Hepatitis C treatment; LGBT health; medication delivery; and an on-site laboratory.** The Easton Center also has bilingual providers to address the health care needs our Spanish-speaking patients.



500 Cadmus Lane,
Suite 203,
Easton, MD 21601

Chase Brexton Board of Directors

We are grateful to our Board of Directors for
their commitment to Chase Brexton:

Samuel Fuller, *President*

Juan Negrin, *Vice President*

Mia Pittman, *Treasurer*

The Rev. Dr. Paula Teague, *Secretary*

F.T. Burden

Dr. Damian D. Crawford

Sanjeev Dev

Joseph Ferlise

Kaye Gooch

Dr. Rahul Gor

Julia Krieger

Russ Montgomery, Ph.D.

Dr. Crystal Simpson

Kathleen Ward

