



## REHABILITATION SERVICES



### Tampa General Hospital and Kindred Healthcare Break Ground on New Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital

*As a joint venture, the freestanding 59-bed inpatient rehabilitation facility will serve the growing needs of Tampa Bay*

Leaders and physicians from Tampa General Hospital and Kindred Healthcare, LLC, gathered June 3 to celebrate the “topping out” of a new freestanding 59-bed inpatient rehabilitation hospital located in the medical district of downtown Tampa. Topping out is a significant milestone and long-held tradition that takes place when the last beam is placed on top of a building under construction.

On January 18, Tampa General Hospital and Kindred Healthcare, LLC broke ground on the hospital. Announced as a joint venture in May 2020, the new facility will help meet the growing needs of Tampa Bay, the region and the state for rehabilitation recovery and care.

“Rehabilitation care plays an important role in the recovery of patients who have experienced debilitating illnesses and injuries,” stated John Couris, president and CEO of Tampa General Hospital. “As part of our vision to be the safest and most innovative academic health system in America, we’re proud to partner with Kindred to employ the latest innovation and technology to enhance access to these crucial services.”

The new rehabilitation hospital is located on Kennedy Boulevard between Oregon Avenue and Willow Avenue and brings downtown Tampa one step further



*Russ Bailey, President of Kindred Rehabilitation Services, left, with John Couris, President and CEO Tampa General Hospital*

**New Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital**, continued on page 3

# Pregnant Woman Stricken with COVID-19 and Her Baby Overcome the Odds

## *Physical and Occupational Therapists Critical to Recovery*

In mid-January, Heather Slater was pregnant with her third child, a little girl, who was not due until March 24. But she was not feeling well and knew something was wrong. She went to the Emergency Department at Tampa General and was kept overnight. The medical professionals treated her, and she felt better. The next day she went home.

But after three days, she started feeling terrible. She felt tired, could barely walk, or breathe. She was nauseous and could not keep any food down. The 38-year-old pregnant mom continued to feel weaker, and symptoms worsened. Heather said, "I'm not a crier, but I knew this had to be major." Her mother called 911.



When she arrived at Tampa General, she was diagnosed with a severe case of COVID-19 and immediately had to be whisked to the operating room for an emergency Caesarean section. The doctor who delivered her other two children, Atef Zakhary, performed the surgery. The safety of both mom and baby was at stake.

After the emergency delivery, Heather was immediately transferred to the ICU, where she spent 3 ½ weeks on a ventilator. When most mothers get to bond with their

newborns, Heather was incapacitated and recovering from COVID-19 in the ICU. Since the baby was born several weeks early, she had to be hospitalized in the hospital's Jennifer Leigh Muma Neonatal ICU. They were both fighting for their lives.

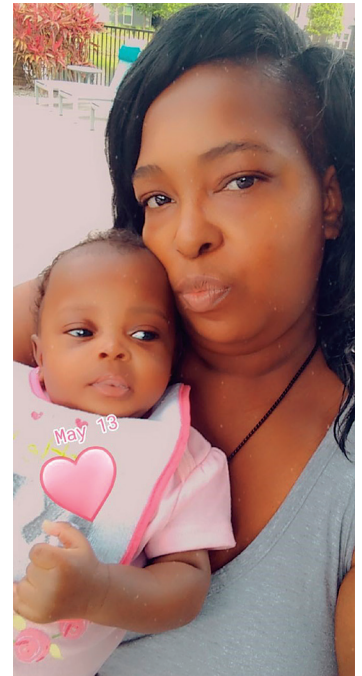
Fortunately, Heather's health eventually improved, and she was able to transfer out of the ICU to Tampa General's Inpatient Rehab program. She learned to walk again and do everyday tasks with the help of her doctors, physical and occupational therapists. "Amanda, Nicole, and Emily were always with me and helped me get through this ordeal," she said. In addition



to providing therapy, they would graciously wheel her down to the NICU to spend time with her newborn baby.

Heather was later discharged from the hospital and experienced weeks of home health care while her baby recovered in the NICU. Weeks later, little Nayla came home. Mom and baby could finally enjoy quality time together.

This was a great testimony of the world class continuity of care by Rehabilitation Services, provided to this family by the Hospital Based, Pediatric Rehabilitation, Inpatient Rehab Therapy and nursing team members. Rehabilitation team members do this, along with their Outpatient Therapy partners, again and again, for all families that go through the journey of care at the hands of TGH professional Rehabilitation team members.



*Heather Slater cuddles her baby, Nayla.*

COVID-19 had a significant impact on Heather, almost losing her life and her unborn baby. Her baby now has some medical challenges, which are common with premature birth. However, she is grateful to the caregivers who saved her life and helped her regain a good quality of life.

"I want to share my story so others will know that COVID-19 is serious. But with great care, you can get through it as I did," said Heather. "And I have a beautiful baby to complete our family."

## Tampa General Hospital Rehabilitation Programs Earn Three-Year Accreditation Representing Highest Level of Care

*This Latest Accreditation Honors Tampa General's Vision To Become The Safest And Most Innovative Health System In America.*

This past Fiscal Year, The Commission on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities (**CARF International**) announced that Tampa General Hospital has been accredited for a period of three years for its **Inpatient Adult and Pediatric Specialty Rehabilitation** programs.

This accreditation represents the highest level that can be given to an organization and shows substantial conformance to the CARF standards. An organization receiving a three-year accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process. It has demonstrated to CARF surveyors its commitment to offering programs and services that are measurable, accountable, and of the highest quality.

"In spite of the pandemic, securing a three year accreditation is once again a testimony of the

absolute focus and dedication the team members have in providing world-class, innovative and safe rehabilitation services to all of our patients and their families," said Michael Daniels, director of rehabilitation services at Tampa General Hospital.

Tampa General Hospital provides an array of physical medicine and rehabilitation options for patients with functional limitations. The rehabilitation center at TGH provides patients with a comprehensive, inpatient setting and also offers a variety of outpatient programs such as physical, occupational, and speech therapies.

The TGH Rehabilitation Center's team includes physicians, psychologists, nurses, respiratory therapists, occupational therapists, social workers, and many others with the goal of fostering an improved quality of life for all patients. As part of

the region's only Level 1 trauma center, Tampa General can provide everything from emergency hospitalization and treatment to outpatient therapies.

CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process and continuous improvement services that center on enhancing the lives of the persons served. Founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and now known as CARF International, the accrediting body establishes consumer-focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of their programs and services. For more information about the accreditation process, please visit the CARF website at [www.carf.org](http://www.carf.org).

## New Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital, *continued from page 1*

in the development of a fully realized medical district that will attract the best scientists and physicians to the region and transform the area into a center for healthcare innovation. The rehabilitation hospital is projected to be approximately 80,000 square feet and cost \$35 million. Kindred will manage the day-to-day operations of the new hospital, which is projected to employ more than 140 caregivers and staff. Tampa General Hospital will provide medical support services, such as imaging, lab and surgical procedures. It is expected to officially open in April 2022.

Tampa General Hospital currently operates an inpatient rehab facility that is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). Clinical teams will ultimately move to the new site, while Tampa General Hospital will continue to provide pediatric and outpatient rehabilitation at alternate sites.



A small, physically distant groundbreaking ceremony was held on January 18, 2021. In attendance were

John Couris, president and CEO, Tampa General, Russ Bailey, president, Kindred Rehabilitation Services, and Cleve Haralson, vice president of capital development for Kindred Healthcare.

“Breaking ground on Kindred’s first freestanding inpatient rehabilitation hospital in Florida is a great way to start 2021,” said Russ Bailey, president, Kindred Rehabilitation Services. “Working together with Tampa General, we can bring a dedicated intensive rehabilitative facility to the Tampa Bay region that will help patients achieve their best possible recovery.”

The new inpatient rehabilitation hospital will care for adults recovering from conditions such as stroke, neurological disease, injury to the brain or spinal cord and other debilitating illnesses or injuries. The new facility will offer state-of-the-art technology and feature all private rooms. It will also have a secured brain injury unit with private dining and a therapy gym.



“The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the need for inpatient rehabilitation services,” noted Couris. “Some patients need specialized help with ventilator recovery and rebuilding their strength and function. While we hope that the pandemic is not a major consideration at the time of opening the new rehabilitation hospital, it’s good for our region to know that we’re here to help when needed.”

Health Affairs Journal projects that 700,000 survivors of COVID-19-related hospitalization will require inpatient rehabilitative care. “We have the

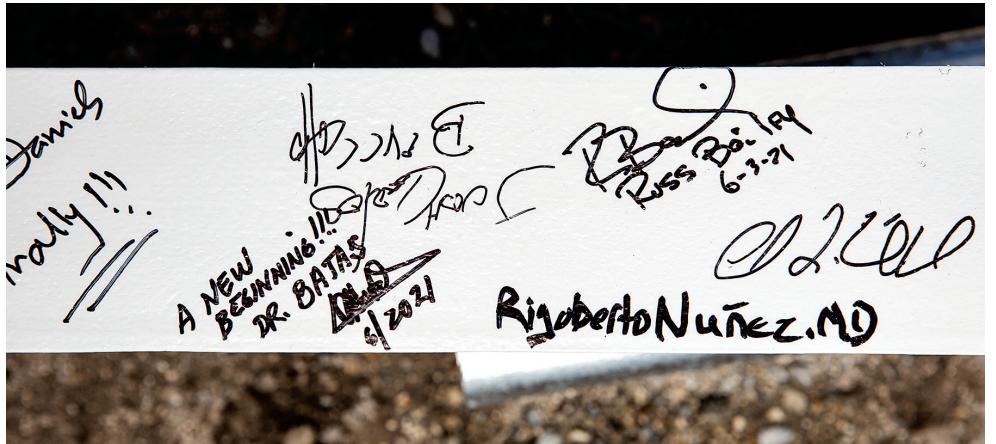
resources to help patients reduce disability and create the best opportunity for patients to achieve a full recovery,” said Bailey. “Tampa General’s long experience as a CARF-accredited rehabilitation hospital is an added benefit and will help establish our new facility as a strong resource for the community.”

Transitional living apartments designed to simulate a residential apartment will enable patients to heal in a personalized and private environment as they prepare to return to independent living. Patients will also experience specially planned rooms to treat dialysis patients and programs dedicated to neurological conditions, stroke, brain injury and amputation recovery.



# New Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital Construction "Tops-Off"

*Tampa General Hospital and Kindred Healthcare Partner for New Venture*







## Physical Therapist Selected for PBS Testimonial

Recently, a team member of the local PBS television affiliate, WEDU, raved to TGH senior management about the care they received from physical therapist Joanna Tabisz. In conversations between the patient and the therapist, it was discovered that Joanna was an avid watcher of Sesame Street on PBS as a child. She mentioned that it helped her learn English after she immigrated to America from Poland. Naturally, that sparked the interest of the patient, a WEDU employee.

Consequently, Joanna was asked to be part of a programming testimonial on how Sesame Street contributed to her mastering of the English language. It helped her excel with her education, now holding a doctorate.

We're proud of you, Joanna! Not only for being an accomplished physical therapist, but for representing TGH on television and inspiring young people to do their best!



## About Tampa General Hospital Rehabilitation Services

Rehabilitation Services at Tampa General Hospital is accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for the following:

- Comprehensive Integrated Inpatient Rehabilitation – Adult and Pediatric Rehabilitation Patients
- Rehabilitation Services is also designated by the Florida Department of Health as a provider of services to both adult and pediatric Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program (BSCIP) patients. Our services are accredited by The Joint Commission, and TGH is proud to be a Magnet hospital.

In addition to inpatient programs, the continuum of care includes services provided by hospital-based rehabilitation therapists, outpatient rehabilitation services, and physician services for new and follow-up patients in the Rehabilitation Medical Clinics.

## RehabMatters

### Rehab Matters

is published by Tampa General Rehabilitation Services for its patients and other stakeholders.

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