



CHAMPIONS OF

HOPE GALA

Creating new horizons and championing hope for
our patients and students, and their families

MAY 9, 2025



A very special place

When you come through our doors, you'll discover hope is alive and well at Kennedy Krieger Institute.

[WATCH OUR VIDEO](#)



CHAMPIONS OF
HOPE
GALA

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025
THE MARRIOTT WATERFRONT HOTEL
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Event Chairs

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Cynthia Cavanaugh
Aimee Fulchino

Honorary Committee

list updated as of 12/18/24

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The Champions of Hope Gala is Kennedy Krieger's inaugural gala, celebrating our mission of empowering our patients, students, and their families, to pursue all that's possible, while also recognizing our sponsoring organizations. Join us in elevating our collective impact and inspiring hope for brighter futures!

We invite you to connect with new and existing corporate and philanthropic audiences in the Baltimore/D.C./Northern Virginia region and beyond, enhancing your organization's visibility while supporting Kennedy Krieger's mission—all while **honoring an extraordinary champion of education, Dr. Nancy Grasmick.**

Offering stories of relentless hope, remarkable resilience and extraordinary strength, this one-of-a kind evening will also include:

- Creative VIP reception
- Inventive craft cocktails
- Seated, chef-designed dinner
- Enticing desserts
- Live, exciting entertainment
- Dancing

You or your organization will benefit from being involved in this remarkable event and from having your brand positioned alongside Kennedy Krieger's life-changing work. We hope you'll join us as we strive to improve the lives of tens of thousands of children, adolescents and adults with nervous system diseases, conditions and injuries. Our inpatient and day hospital programs, outpatient clinics, home and community services, schools, and research programs are staffed by committed professionals who, along with our patients, students, and their families, are Champions of Hope!

[Become a Sponsor](#)



OUR INAUGURAL

Champion of Hope

Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, EdD

Member and immediate past chair, Kennedy Krieger Institute Board of Directors

Co-chair, Kennedy Krieger Institute Board of Directors Education and Community Services Committee

Vice chair, Kennedy Krieger Foundation Board of Directors

Special advisor to executive leadership, Kennedy Krieger Institute

Presidential scholar, Towson University

Former superintendent, Maryland State Department of Education



Dr. Grasmick has made an indelible mark on Kennedy Krieger Institute, and we are grateful beyond measure for her enormous service to this Institute. We are thrilled to honor her at our inaugural Champions of Hope Gala, as she is truly the greatest example of what it means to champion the mission and work of Kennedy Krieger.

Dr. Grasmick's impact on education, arts, health, scholarship and leadership not only spans the state—but transcends it. Her professional and personal commitment to excellence in all that she does is a model for anyone who comes in contact with her.

Dr. Grasmick served as the longest-tenured state superintendent of schools in the country, for the top-ranked Maryland public school system. During her tenure of 20 years—from 1991 until 2011—she served 24 districts, 1,424 schools and 869,113 students. She began her career as a classroom teacher at what was then known as the William S. Baer School for the Deaf, now the William S. Baer School, in Baltimore City before serving as its principal, and then as associate superintendent for Baltimore County. Dr. Grasmick received her bachelor's degree from Towson University, her master's degree in d/Deaf* education from Gallaudet University, and her doctorate in communicative sciences from The Johns Hopkins University.

To say that Dr. Grasmick has a passion for and commitment to education does not do her justice—in Maryland, the name “Nancy Grasmick” is synonymous with excellence in education.

*Kennedy Krieger Institute recognizes that the word “deaf” can refer to both a condition and a culture. Kennedy Krieger spells the word as “d/Deaf” to be inclusive of both hearing status and cultural identity.



In 2012, Dr. Grasmick was appointed presidential scholar at Towson University. In 2021, she founded the Dr. Nancy Grasmick Leadership Institute at Towson University, which has become in just a few years a principal resource for comprehensive and results-driven leadership development across all industries.

In addition, in 2018, Dr. Grasmick joined the College of Education at the University of Maryland, College Park, as a College Park Professor, a designation conferred upon nationally distinguished scholars. Dr. Grasmick serves as the president of the Carson Scholars Fund Board of Directors. At Johns Hopkins Medicine in 2022, Dr. Grasmick, honoring her late husband, Lou, established the Lou and Nancy Grasmick Professorship in the Division of Cardiology, which was awarded to Dr. Wendy Post, the first female faculty member to hold an endowed professorship in that division.

Dr. Grasmick began her relationship with Kennedy Krieger over 40 years ago, when she was a Baltimore County educator and then a public school principal, referring students and patients to the Institute.

She has served on the Kennedy Krieger Institute Board of Directors since 2011. In 2018, after Dr. Gary Goldstein announced his plans to retire after 30 years as president and CEO of the Institute, she co-chaired, with Ron Peterson, the search for the Institute's next president and CEO, resulting in the successful recruitment of Dr. Brad Schlaggar. She then took the helm of the Institute's board of directors as the first female chair, serving for six years, concluding in June 2024. She remains on the board today and also serves as vice chair of the Kennedy Krieger Foundation Board of Directors.

Dr. Grasmick has a deep understanding of all segments of the Institute. Her infinite ability to connect with others and to communicate with all constituents, from advocates to lawmakers, from donors to community members, is unparalleled. Her unique talents and skills have been especially beneficial to Kennedy Krieger in the expansion of our educational services, including our inclusive pre-K and early childhood programs. Dr. Grasmick believes that every child deserves an exceptional education, and the impact of her philosophy is felt across the state. We are privileged to honor Dr. Grasmick as our inaugural Champion of Hope.

Sponsorship Opportunities



Champions of Strength

\$100,000 (tax-deductible amount: \$86,600)

- 20 event tickets (two tables of 10), with premium placement of your tables for the dinner and presentation
- Two rooms at the Four Seasons Hotel Baltimore, for a luxury stay after the event
- Recognition in all pre- and post-event advertising, event emails, press releases and social media posts
- Invitation (for all 20 ticket recipients) to a VIP reception one hour before the gala
- On-stage recognition during the event
- Name/logo on all marketing materials
- Inclusion in the Kennedy Krieger Society and related events in 2025
- Name/logo scrolling on venue video monitors
- Listing on **KennedyKrieger.org** linked to sponsor website



Champions of Innovation

\$75,000 (tax-deductible amount: \$62,300)

- 20 event tickets (two tables of 10), with premium placement of your tables for the dinner and presentation
- One room at the Four Seasons Hotel Baltimore, for a luxury stay after the event
- Recognition in all pre- and post-event advertising, press releases and social media posts
- Invitation (for all 20 ticket recipients) to a VIP reception one hour before the gala
- On-stage recognition during the event
- Name/logo on all marketing materials
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Champions of Courage

\$50,000 (tax-deductible amount: \$40,000)

- 20 event tickets (two tables of 10), with premium placement of your tables for the dinner and presentation
- Recognition in all pre- and post-event advertising, press releases and social media posts
- Name/logo on all marketing materials
- Inclusion in the Kennedy Krieger Society and related events in 2025
- Name/logo scrolling on venue video monitors
- Listing on **KennedyKrieger.org** linked to sponsor website



Champions of Healing

\$25,000 (tax-deductible amount: \$20,000)

- 10 event tickets (one table of 10), with premium placement of your table for the dinner and presentation
- Recognition in all post-event advertising
- Inclusion in the Kennedy Krieger Society and related events in 2025
- Name/logo scrolling on venue video monitors
- Listing on **KennedyKrieger.org** linked to sponsor website



Champions of Care

\$10,000 (tax-deductible amount: \$7,000)

- Six event tickets (seated at the same table)
- Recognition in all post-event advertising
- Inclusion in the Kennedy Krieger Society and related events in 2025
- Name/logo scrolling on venue video monitors
- Listing on **KennedyKrieger.org** linked to sponsor website



LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE!

Champions of Kindness

\$5,000 (tax-deductible amount: \$4,000)

- Two event tickets (seated at the same table)
- Recognition in all post-event advertising
- Inclusion in the Kennedy Krieger Society and related events in 2025
- Name/logo scrolling on venue video monitors
- Listing on **KennedyKrieger.org** linked to sponsor website

Become a Sponsor



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GALA**

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025
THE MARRIOTT WATERFRONT HOTEL
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Sponsorship Agreement

Please provide your name or organization name as you would like it listed in Gala materials. Please complete the agreement form as soon as possible, as sponsorships are limited.

Select your Champions level of support:

- Strength: **\$100,000**
- Innovation: **\$75,000**
- Courage: **\$50,000**
- I would like to make a different/additional tax-deductible contribution: \$ _____
- Healing: **\$25,000**
- Care: **\$10,000**
- Kindness: **\$5,000**

NAME/NAME OF ORGANIZATION (preferred listing name)

CONTACT PERSON (if different from above)

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
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PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
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Please reply by March 1, 2025. Please make checks payable to Kennedy Krieger Foundation.

Questions? Contact:

Allyson Peters
 Director of Corporate Engagement
 Office of Philanthropy
 Kennedy Krieger Institute
 Cell: 443-866-6111 Office: 443-923-7300
PetersA@KennedyKrieger.org

Please mail checks to:
 Kennedy Krieger Foundation
 Office of Philanthropy
 Attn: Champions of Hope Gala
 707 North Broadway, Baltimore, MD 21205

[**Click Here to Pay by Credit Card**](#)

The Kennedy Krieger Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We welcome support, at all levels of giving, in the forms of cash, appreciated securities and donor-advised funds. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS), in its regulations and guidance, prohibits donor-advised fund grants from conferring any benefits that exceed incidental benefits to the donor, advisor or related persons. You may support the Gala at the Champions of Kindness through Champions of Strength levels via your donor-advised fund, but you may not receive the listed benefits for that donation. You must purchase separate tickets for the event. For support given through a donor-advised fund, we can only offer the following: on-stage recognition during the event, your name or your charitable fund name on all marketing materials, and your name or your charitable fund name scrolling on venue video monitors.

If you have any questions, please contact **Carrie Hull**, director of planned giving at Kennedy Krieger Institute.