

# Building a Place



Demetrio Asca

# to Offer Hope and Deliver Miracles



Robert Holland

**Local 26 and Power Solutions are at work upgrading and retrofitting Children's National Medical Center so it may serve its VIPs—very important patients**



When a loved one is sick, only the very best hospital and most talented medical team will do. It's just that simple. This is especially true when it comes to the most innocent of patients—children. It takes a special type of person to work in pediatrics, from the doctors and nurses to the hospital staff, and it takes a cutting-edge medical facility to properly take care of our little ones.



Viorel  
Luca



William Donaldson

With the quality of their work already on display at neighboring Washington Hospital Center from their 20+ years of service there, Power Solutions was the perfect contractor to carry out the myriad projects slated at Children's.



Standing, from left: Field Coordinator Bill Rhodes, Project Manager Tim Howell, General Foreman Bruce Poetzman, Business Manager Chuck Graham, Construction Manager Buddy McDowell. Kneeling: Project Manager Jim Sayers and Foreman Blair Bowen



Frank Panetta





**Frank Panetta and Business Manager  
Chuck Graham**



**Steve Mainey and William Booth**



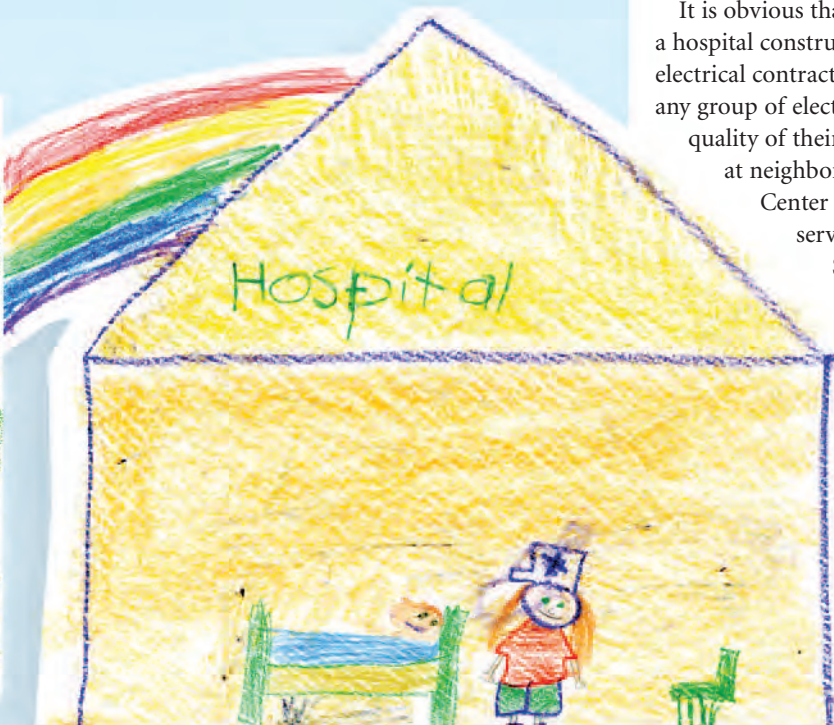
**Dan Corwin**



**Brad Willis**



**Michael Garvey**



Each of us would travel hundreds of thousands of miles across the country to get the best care possible for those we love. And, that is exactly what families with sick children are often forced to do to give their child a fighting chance. Right here in Washington, DC, is one of the most well respected children's hospitals in the entire country—Children's National Medical Center—to where families travel from not just around the country, but from around the globe, to receive state-of-the-art medical treatment, delivered with compassion and love.

While each job has its own unique environment, Power Solutions, the Local 26 contractor charged with carrying out many large-scale concurrent projects at Children's National Medical Center, can attest that working in a hospital setting may just be the most challenging. First and foremost, there is absolutely no room for error. Every component of a hospital project quite literally has someone's life riding on it with every decision potentially narrowing the gap between life and death. Additionally, anyone working in the hospital needs to be considerate of the gravity of the environment. Noise levels need to be kept at a minimum so as not to disturb the patients or their families and the vast majority of the work needs to be done behind the scenes in order to make the construction projects seamless for the medical team and hospital staff and for the public.

It is obvious that given the complexity of a hospital construction project, not just any electrical contractor will do and not just any group of electricians will do. With the quality of their work already on display at neighboring Washington Hospital Center from their 20+ years of service there, Power

Solutions was the perfect contractor to carry out the myriad projects slated at Children's. Under the senior leadership of Field Coordinator Bill Rhodes, Senior Project Manager Kevin Howell, Project Manager Tim Howell and Project Manager Jim Sayers, Power Solutions has been



**From left: Project Manager Tim Howell, Field Coordinator Bill Rhodes, General Foreman Ed Rhodes, Business Manager Chuck Graham, Project Manager Jim Sayers and Construction Manager Buddy McDowell**

on site since 2008. Forty-two Local 26 tradespeople have been working under General Foremen Bruce Poetzman, Ed Rhodes, Brad Behm and Mike Spear and Foremen Todd Ransom, Blair Bowen, Rob Holland, Craig Semlar, Al Alapide and David Pierce.

Among the major projects underway at the hospital are a new operating room project, an infrastructure generator upgrade and the Sheikh Zayed Research Lab. In total, more than \$75 million of construction work is currently underway at Children's National Medical Center, with Power Solutions responsible for about \$12 million worth of electrical work.

The operating room project began in late 2009 and is expected to be completed in 2012. It has included the complete demolition and fit out of four existing operating rooms as well as construction of five new operating rooms that were part of a new addition to the hospital, a new Sterile Processing Department (SPD), a new MRI center and a new Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU). This \$4 million project has included 45,000 manhours so far.

The infrastructure generator upgrade began earlier this year and should be completed mid 2011. It is a \$1.4 million dollar project that has approximately 10,000 manhours in it thus far. When complete, the hospital will have three new generators with paralleling switchgear, a new fuel oil storage department and new ATSS.

Perhaps one of the more high profile projects underway at Children's is the

Sheikh Zayed Institute for Pediatric Surgical Innovation, the result of a \$150 million donation from the government of Abu Dhabi, one of the countries of the United Arab Emirates. The donation, one of the largest ever made to a U.S. pediatric hospital, will not only fund a beautiful new research facility; it will also be used to hire elite medical professionals in an effort to improve pediatric surgical procedures and outcomes. This project kicked off in May 2010 and is expected to be complete by mid 2011. Power Solutions is responsible for the \$1.1 million electrical package and expects to log about 8,000 manhours on the project.

Other projects at Children's National Medical Center under the direction of the Power Solutions team include a data center upgrade, with a \$1 million electrical package that consists of two new UPSs and a total power upgrade to the existing data center, and the fit-out of the sixth and seventh floors of the inpatient tower, which was completed earlier this year after more than 33,000 manhours and a cost of \$5 million. Of note, the work performed on the inpatient tower received a WBC Craftsmanship Award. Accepting the award on behalf of the Power Solutions team were Ed Rhodes, Brad Behm, Mike Spear, Dave Pierce, Todd Ransom and Bill Rhodes.

Field Coordinator Bill Rhodes cannot say enough good things about the work of his team at Children's National Medical Center, especially given the amount of work they have been a part of and the



**General Foreman Michael Spear and Business Manager Chuck Graham**



**Marco Asencios**



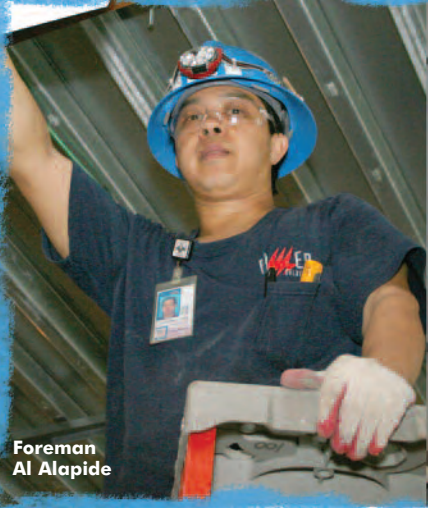
**Chris Reid**



**Earl Hughes**



**Aaron Cohen**



**Foreman  
Al Alapide**



**Business  
Manager  
Chuck Graham  
and General  
Foreman  
Brad Behm**



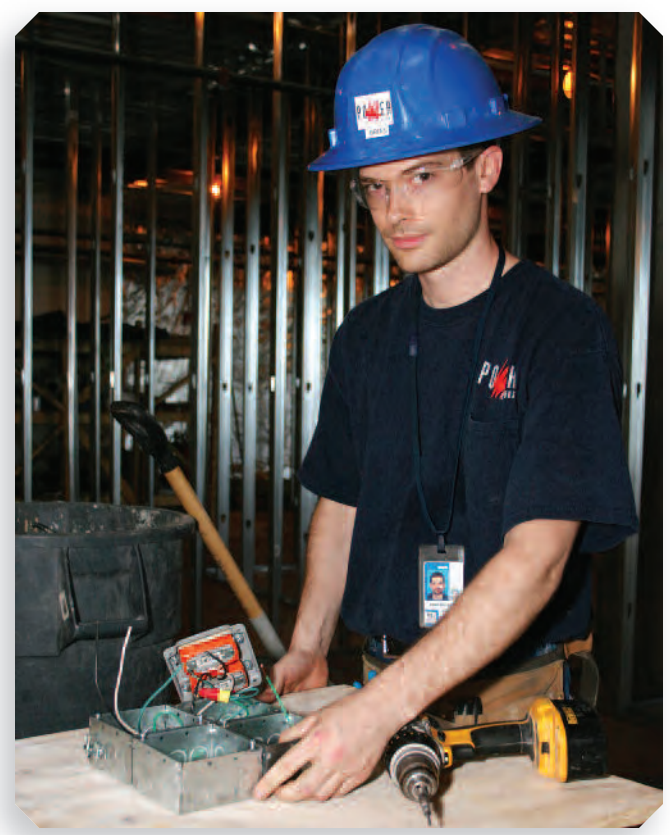
**William  
Cedeno**



**Business Manager Chuck Graham  
and Craig Semler**



**Jeff Lee and Jason Sanders**



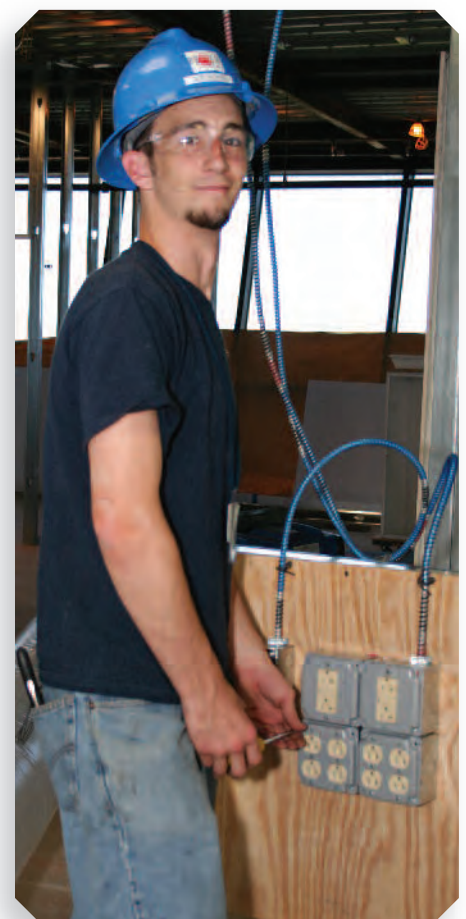
**Brian Arsenault**

difficulty of the projects. “Our Local 26 tradesmen have gone above and beyond the call of duty out here. The amount of conduit installed and wire pulled have become almost an art form at this hospital...these guys truly are masters at their job,” he remarked. “Our crews take a lot of pride in their work. The crew that has been assembled at Children’s National Medical Center is truly unique in their abilities.”

Rhodes also had high praise for the support that the company has lent his team through their time at Children’s. “Power Solutions has always given us the things we need to succeed in the field. Without the strong backing from such a great group, we couldn’t do the things we do,” he added.

The work the Power Solutions team is performing is literally changing the face of Children’s National Medical Center. Their work will have a far reaching impact on the medical staff who call Children’s home, on the cutting edge research taking place within the hospital walls and most importantly, on the patients and families who rely on Children’s to deliver them hope for a bright and healthy future.

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**Joe Burns**



Jason Pittman, Dave Pierce and Warde Bremerman

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Walter Chavez



Local 26 would like to wish our own Buddy McDowell, construction manager with Power Solutions, pictured here with Business Manager Chuck Graham, a big congratulations on his induction into the Washington Building Congress' (WBC) Craftsmen Hall of Fame. This past April, McDowell was one of only fourteen Washington-area building tradesmen to be among the 2010 WBC Hall of Fame inductees. A member of Local 26 since 1982, Brother McDowell has been the recipient of multiple WBC Craftsmanship Awards over the course of his career.

McDowell was chosen by the WBC for his "extraordinary dedication, exceptional skill, quality craftsmanship and enduring commitment." Local 26 is truly honored to have this shining example of a building tradesman among our ranks!



Travis Harris

