

SPECIAL ISSUE



Children's National.

Believe

SUMMER 2023

follow the leader.

**CAMPAIGN
IMPACT
REPORT**



Letter from the Foundation President



“**Together, we saved young lives and lifetimes.**”

— DeAnn Aston Marshall, M.H.A.

Children’s National Hospital’s comprehensive fundraising campaign, **follow the leader**, united our community to make a difference for children. Over the course of six years, we navigated a pandemic, a growing mental health crisis and a reckoning about longstanding racial and health inequities that tested us all and created an urgent call to action.

You answered our call for support with your generosity.

Thanks to you, Children’s National surpassed its ambitious \$500 million fundraising goal and the campaign was a resounding success. This vital philanthropic support is advancing the work of our pediatric leaders and improving the health of children.

Together, we saved young lives and lifetimes. We created a one-of-a-kind Research & Innovation Campus for pediatric discovery that benefits kids everywhere. We expanded the hospital’s community presence for families who need us, opening new primary and specialty care locations and deepening partnerships to make our world-class healthcare

even more accessible. Our leaders found new treatments and brought us closer to realizing cures for some of childhood’s most challenging conditions.

I hope you enjoy reading about all that you made possible in this special campaign issue of Believe. We know we still have so much to accomplish for children.

On July 1, Children’s National welcomes a new president and CEO to lead us into the future. Michelle Riley-Brown, M.H.A., FACHE, succeeds Kurt Newman, M.D., who is retiring after 11 years of extraordinary executive leadership at the hospital.

As I look ahead, I am confident and excited about what we will achieve together!

DeAnn Aston Marshall, M.H.A.
President
Children’s National Hospital Foundation



Dr. Kurt Newman
with Michelle Riley-Brown

Patient Joshua
with his mom

Believe SUMMER 2023

EDITORIAL

Jean Bratman
Georganne Coco
Jessica Danaceau
Kitson Jazyuka
Cathy Madison
Jennifer Morrison
Dan Wilcock
Maura Zehr

PRODUCTION AND DESIGN

Alex Bozoghlian
Jennifer Littrell
Rachel Phillips
Allison Chess Ruiz

CONTRIBUTORS

Ali Chope
Daphne Church
Jessica Miley
Meredith Posluszny
Leslie Schrader
Morgan Worley

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Rebecca Drobis
Chris VanKat

Children’s National Hospital Foundation works with generous donors to advance the hospital’s mission. Gifts from individuals, corporations, foundations and community organizations fund world-class care and research for kids in the Washington, D.C., region and beyond.



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Cover: Hamelton, a primary care patient at Children’s National Shepherd Park

Contents

follow the leader.

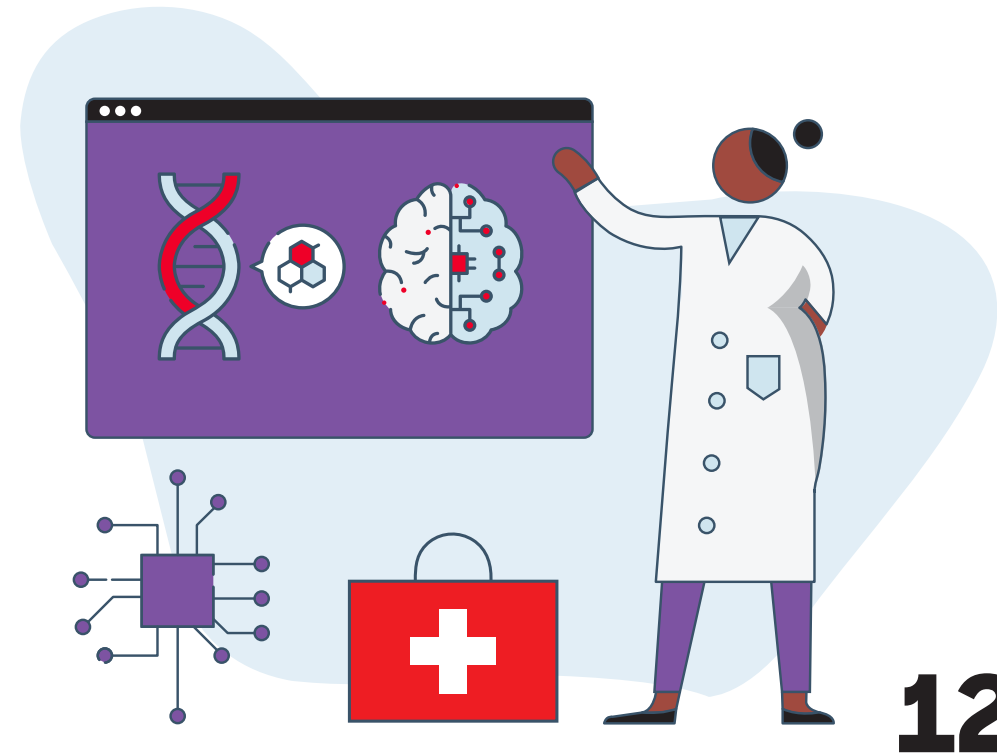
6 YOUR IMPACT

Comprehensive Campaign Overview (2017-2023)

Together, we improved the lives of children in the Washington, D.C., region and beyond. See how you made a difference.



U.S. News & World Report ranked Children's National best in the Mid-Atlantic region for newborn care seven years in a row



12

PROFESSORSHIPS AT CHILDREN'S NATIONAL

Donor generosity enabled the hospital to create 18 endowed professorships during the campaign. The pediatric leaders who hold these inaugural positions share their visions for advancing pediatric medicine.

60 LEADING THROUGH CHANGE: DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) enables us to deliver patient- and family-focused, culturally competent healthcare.

64 FUND FOR EVERY CHILD

Giving to our unrestricted fund ensures that Children's National can respond to unexpected challenges and opportunities.

70 GRATITUDE FROM A FUTURE LEADER

The next generation has big hopes and dreams. Their healthy futures start now.



Paige, a Children's National patient

IMPACT BY CAMPAIGN PILLAR



16

PIONEERING PRENATAL PEDIATRICS

Intervene at the earliest moment for healthier lifetimes.



24

TRAILBLAZING TREATMENTS FOR COMPLEX CONDITIONS

Team up to improve patient outcomes.



34

SPEARHEADING INTEGRATED MENTAL HEALTHCARE

Care for the whole child – body, mind and spirit.



42

REVOLUTIONIZING CARE THROUGH PEDIATRIC DISCOVERIES

Open new frontiers in pediatric medicine.



52

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY THROUGH ACCESS TO CARE

Reach more families who need us.

follow the leader.

Every day at Children's National Hospital, our patients show grit, determination and heart in the face of challenging illness and injury. These are the qualities that will serve them as future leaders.

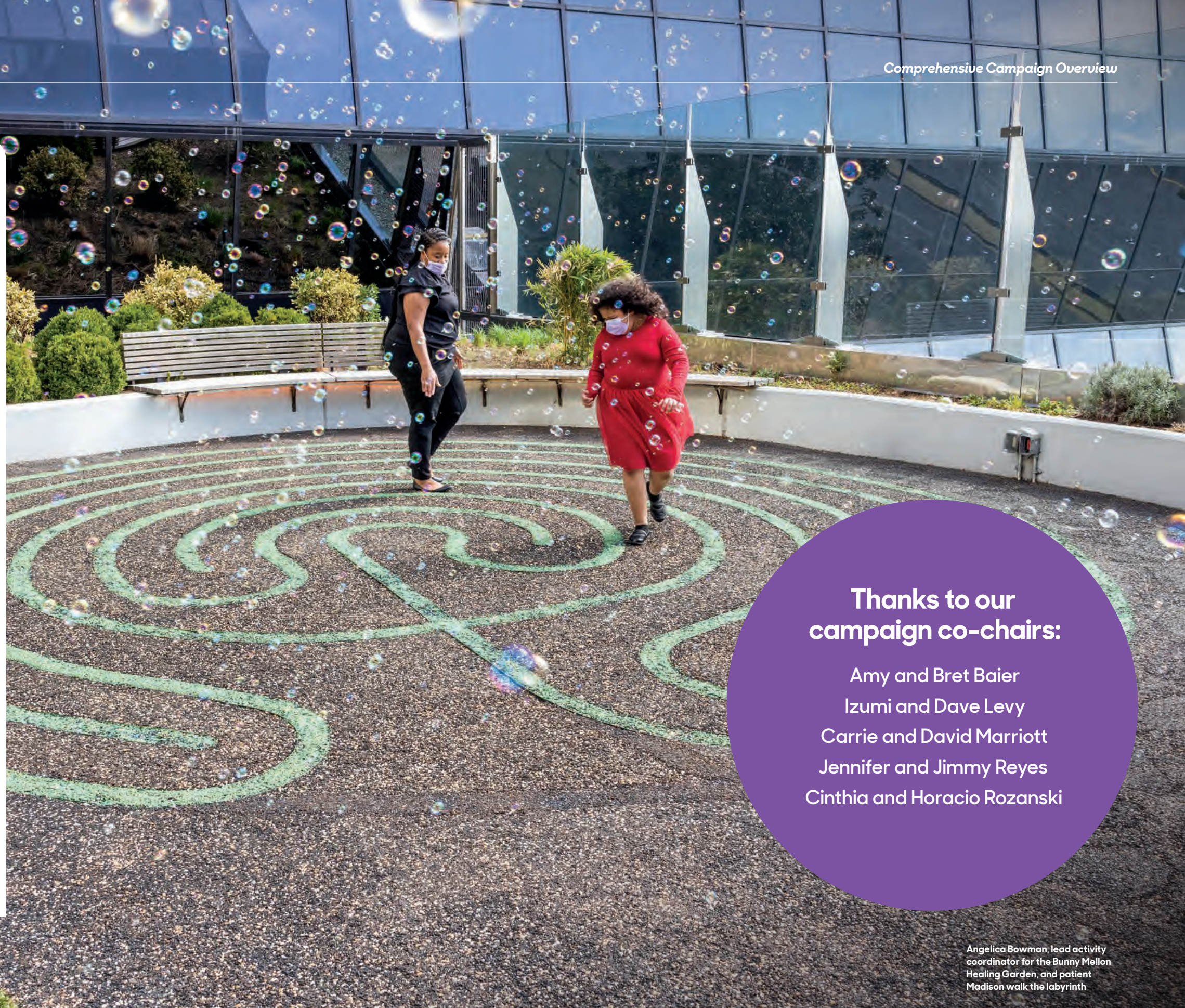
Children's National, a pediatric leader, needs committed partners and generous resources to deliver world-class healthcare to children and their families.

That's why we launched our first comprehensive fundraising campaign in a decade. We invited you to **follow the leader** and you did!

During our successful six-year campaign, gifts from 129,302 donors enabled us to surpass our goal and raise \$638.8 million to transform pediatric medicine. Grateful families, community leaders, foundations and corporations supported our five bold campaign pillars, our initiatives for diversity, equity and inclusion and our Fund for Every Child.

Each and every gift mattered. Your generous support helped us find the urgent answers kids need.

Thank you for improving children's health and well-being in our community and beyond.

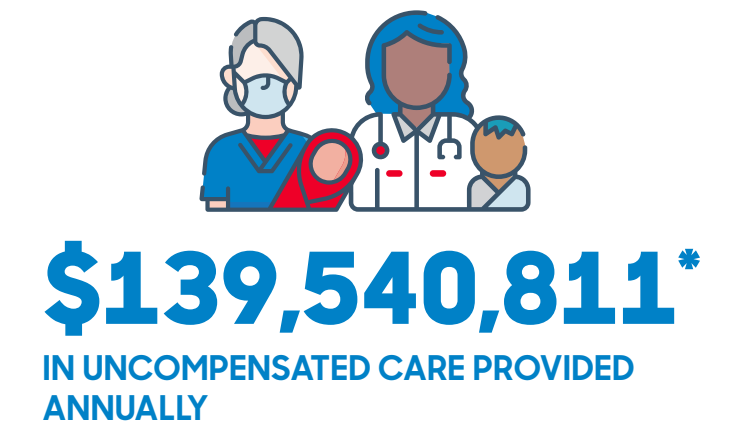
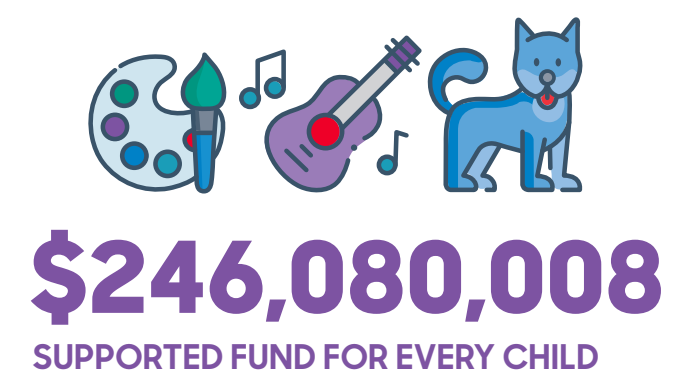
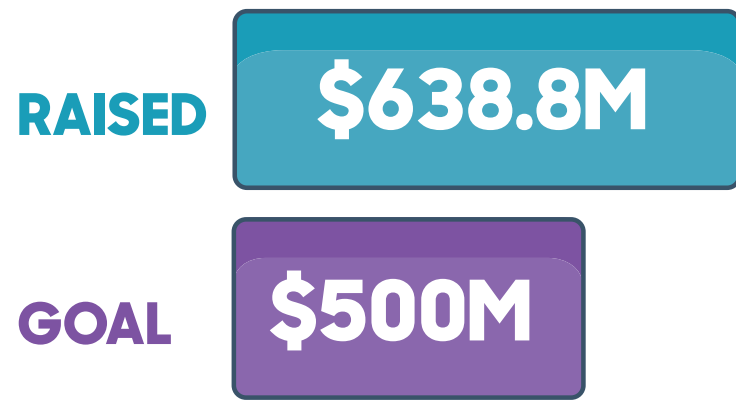


Thanks to our campaign co-chairs:

Amy and Bret Baier
Izumi and Dave Levy
Carrie and David Marriott
Jennifer and Jimmy Reyes
Cinthia and Horacio Rozanski

Angelica Bowman, lead activity coordinator for the Bunny Mellon Healing Garden, and patient Madison walk the labyrinth

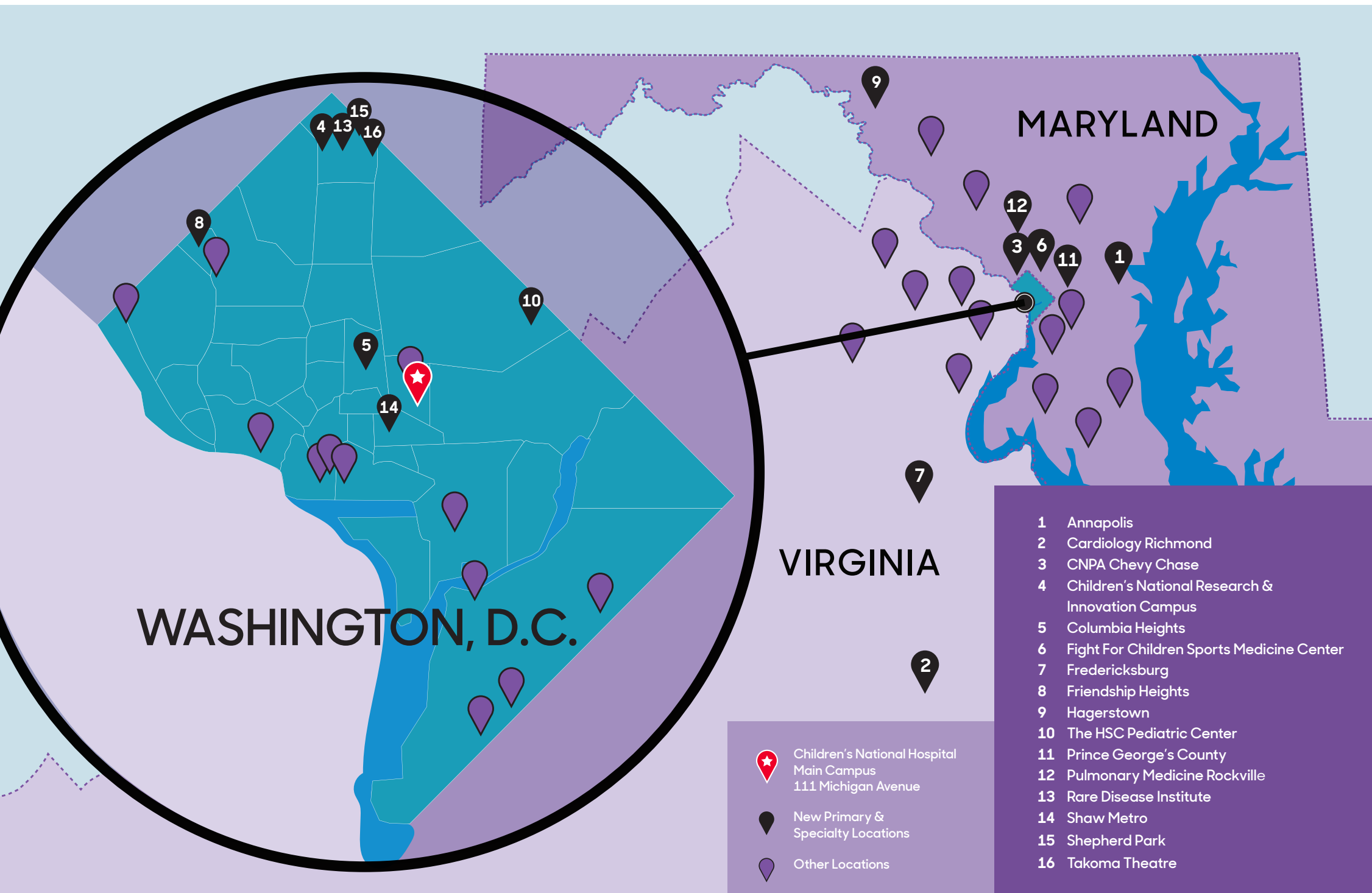
Campaign Impact Highlights



* 2022 Data

Tracking Your Impact

Children’s National Hospital’s regional footprint extends across Washington, D.C., and into Maryland and Virginia. Since the launch of **follow the leader** in 2017, we opened 16 regional locations, expanding our world-class pediatric care in neighborhoods where kids and families live, work and play.



Did you know?

- Children’s National delivers exceptional, compassionate healthcare to kids in all eight wards of Washington, D.C., and in Maryland and Virginia.
- We strengthened our care coverage for children with complex medical needs by integrating the HSC Pediatric Center in Northeast D.C. into Children’s National in 2019.
- At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we set up one of the nation’s first walk-up/drive-up pediatric testing sites a few blocks from the hospital’s main campus.
- During the pandemic, we responded to patient needs by expanding our telehealth program. Since then, we provided more than 235,000 telehealth visits. They allowed families to connect with our primary and specialty care providers from the comfort of home and continue to be a vital resource.
- We offer pediatric neurology and behavioral healthcare at Children’s National Takoma Theatre in Washington, D.C. Since its 2020 opening, it has supported kids and families during the worsening mental health crisis. It’s also home to the Scottish Rite Center for Communication Disorders that provides diagnosis, evaluation and treatment for speech, language and learning disabilities.
- We work closely with District public schools and employ nearly 200 school nurses. This offers a continuum of care for students, helping them remain in school. We also administered COVID-19 vaccinations for teachers and staff.
- We partner with healthcare providers and scientists globally. Our work extends to the United Arab Emirates; to Uganda, where our team cares for patients with rheumatic heart disease, the serious heart damage that results from repeated cases of rheumatic fever; and to Switzerland, where we’re advancing brain tumor research. We share knowledge, provide education and bring care to kids who need it most.



Professorships at Children's National

Endowed professorships represent the highest honor in academic medicine. These positions are critical for initiating and advancing discoveries that improve care. At Children's National, we often name professorships for the generous philanthropists who endow them. Endowments provide sustained resources that allow us to recruit and retain the brightest clinicians and researchers and elevate our national standing.

During the campaign, we established 18 new professorships. The pediatric leaders who hold these positions, also known as chairs, make extraordinary contributions in their fields.

The Baier Family Distinguished Professorship in Cardiac Surgery

"Congenital heart disease is the most common birth defect in the United States. It impacts nearly 40,000 babies each year. We seek to advance research and revolutionize pediatric cardiac surgery so we can create healthier lifetimes for children with special hearts."

— **Yves d'Udekem, M.D., Ph.D.**
Division Chief, Cardiac Surgery
Co-Director, Children's National Heart Institute

A. James & Alice B. Clark Distinguished Professorship for Early Childhood Intervention and Advocacy

"The best way to learn about a community is to take the time to listen. We often hear about challenges before they show up in the data because we are hearing it from our patients. Working together, we are driving innovation in early childhood development and advancing policies that give families the best possible start. We're partnering together in ways that change lifetimes."

— **Lee Beers, M.D.**
Medical Director, Community Health and Advocacy

A. James & Alice B. Clark Distinguished Professorship for Maternal-Infant Health

"Maternal health outcomes in the U.S. are among the worst in developed countries. D.C. area maternal and infant mortality rates are the highest in the nation, disproportionately impacting women of color. We are making an extraordinary difference to advance our work and better understand and support the profound connection between mothers' physical and mental health and the physical, mental and emotional development of their children."

— **Catherine Limperopoulos, Ph.D.**
Chief and Director, Developing Brain Institute
Director, Center for Prenatal, Neonatal & Maternal Health Research
Director of Research, Prenatal Pediatrics Institute

Connor Family Professorship in Research and Innovation

"Artificial Intelligence may be the greatest tool we have for improving the quality of and access to medical care for children, especially those most vulnerable to health system inequities. This professorship will help me extend our leadership in this vital field. The tools and care strategies we develop will benefit children worldwide."

— **Marius George Linguraru, D.Phil. M.A., M.Sc.**
Principal Investigator, Director of Precision Medical Imaging Group, Sheikh Zayed Institute for Pediatric Surgical Innovation

Professorship in Epilepsy and Neurophysiology

"For many children, epilepsy is a lifelong challenge that comes with behavioral, cognitive and psychological difficulties. Our goal is to elevate care and improve treatments so we can provide hope for more young people and give them a lifetime full of opportunities."

– **William D. Gaillard, M.D.**
 Division Chief, Neurology
 Division Chief, Epilepsy and Neurophysiology
 Director, Comprehensive Pediatric Epilepsy Program
 Associate Director, Center for Neuroscience Research

Wendy Goldberg Professorship in Translational Research in Child Health and Community Partnerships

"Our asthma registry tracks more than 16,000 District children living with asthma. We are researching new treatments and working with families to reduce flareups and environmental factors that contribute to asthma and missed school days. Through novel therapies and direct service, we want to deliver the best care to families in our community who need it most."

– **Stephen Teach, M.D., M.P.H.**
 Chair, Department of Pediatrics
 Associate Dean, Pediatric Faculty Affairs

Professorship in Neuro-Oncology

"Immunotherapy is revolutionizing how we treat childhood brain tumors – safely, effectively and with the precision made possible by using a patient's own cells. This professorship enables our team to advance this revolution, which will save lives and improve lifetimes."

– **Brian Rood, M.D.**
 Medical Director, Brain Tumor Institute
 Director, Clinical Neuro-Oncology



William Seamus Hughes Professorship in Neuro-Oncology and Immunology

"Children diagnosed with brain cancer don't have time to wait. We're pursuing bold new research and treatments for pediatric glioblastoma and other aggressive brain tumors so that every child has the very best chance for a cure."

– **Eugene Hwang, M.D.**
 Associate Division Chief, Oncology
 Director, Clinical Neuro-Oncology
 Immunotherapeutics Program
 Director, Neuro-Oncology Fellowship Program

Distinguished Professorship in Neurosurgery

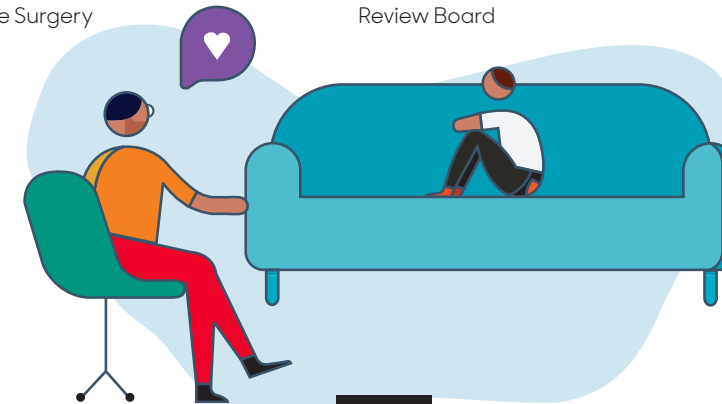
"Our goal is to elevate our top-ranked program to even greater heights. We will continue to use cutting-edge technology and noninvasive approaches to make the knife obsolete in pediatric neurosurgery and improve outcomes for children."

– **Robert Keating, M.D.**
 Division Chief, Neurosurgery

The Johnston Family Professorship in Pediatric Plastic Surgery

"Our goal is to enable children with reconstructive needs to achieve their full potential. Research leads to innovations in diagnosis and treatment, and ultimately better outcomes. It allows us to be the thought leaders, keeps us invigorated about our work and attracts the best and brightest future plastic surgeons."

– **Gary Rogers, M.D., M.B.A., M.P.H.**
 Division Chief, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery



The Van Metre Companies Professorship in Fetal Cardiology

"We seek to unlock answers about the origins of congenital heart disease and improve detection and diagnosis so we can intervene before birth and prepare for delivery to save the lives of our smallest patients."

– **Mary Donofrio, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.A.S.E.**
 Medical Director, Prenatal Cardiology Program
 Co-Director, Cardiac Neurodevelopmental Outcome Program

The Gerard B. Lambert Foundation Professorship in Psychology and Behavioral Health

"Nurturing children's emotional and mental well-being is critical in all aspects of their life. Our goal is to launch innovative initiatives that help young people overcome challenges and build resilience so they can reach their full potential."

– **Randi Streisand, Ph.D.**
 Division Chief, Psychology and Behavioral Health
 Vice Chair, Institutional Review Board

The MacCutcheon Family Professorship in Cardiac Critical Care Medicine

"We are one of the few pediatric hospitals in the world integrating telemedicine into our Cardiac Intensive Care Unit. Our goal is to provide an additional layer of safety to predict and prevent adverse events and improve care for critically ill children at our hospital, nationally and internationally."

– **Ricardo Muñoz, M.D.**
 Division Chief, Cardiac Critical Care Medicine
 Executive Director, Telemedicine
 Co-Director, Children's National Heart Institute

Endowed Chair of Women in Science and Health (WISH)

"Every child and family that visits the hospital's Emergency Department deserves timely, high-quality and compassionate care. I hope to continue to be part of the movement that works to achieve equity both in healthcare outcomes as well as in our workforce."

– **Monika Goyal, M.D., M.S.C.E.**
 Associate Chief, Academic Affairs and Research
 Associate Division Chief, Emergency Medicine

We look forward to bestowing the following honors on a Children's National pediatric leader:

Gilbert Family Professorship in Neuroradiology

Professorship in Molecular Neuropathology

The People of the United Arab Emirates Distinguished Professorship in Prenatal Pediatrics

The People of the United Arab Emirates Distinguished Professorship in Prenatal, Neonatal and Maternal Research and Care

Pioneering Prenatal Pediatrics

KEY CAMPAIGN GOALS



Expand
Developing Brain Institute



Strengthen
DC Mother-Baby
Wellness initiative



Amplify
high-quality imaging



“We’re looking at shifting the healthcare paradigm. What’s clear is early interventions could help reduce moms’ stress, which can positively impact moms and their baby’s health long after birth.”

— Dr. Catherine Limperopoulos

KEY ADVANCES

- In our Prenatal Pediatrics Institute, led by Adré du Plessis, M.D., and Developing Brain Institute, led by Dr. Catherine Limperopoulos, leaders pioneered new diagnostic imaging tools and care approaches to benefit expectant moms and babies at the earliest possible moment. Addressing problems before birth and in the first days of life helps set them on a healthier path for life.
- Our new Center for Prenatal, Neonatal & Maternal Health Research will develop diagnostic tools and precision medicine for unborn babies, infants and young children. Studies continue to show the importance of high-quality, evidence-based care to support healthy early development, especially for families in underserved communities.
- Children’s National published the first study to shed light on a link between stress, anxiety and depression during pregnancy and how it may hinder a toddler’s cognitive development. The study, in JAMA Network Open in 2022, builds on the work of our Developing Brain Institute.
- Our Spina Bifida Program expanded in response to a significant increase in demand. There was a more than 25% rise in patient visits in 2022. Our multidisciplinary team enhanced prenatal care for patients with spina bifida and developed a transition clinic for our adolescent patients. It supports teens with care, independence and readiness for transition to adult providers.
- Children’s National partnered to provide neonatal care at several community and university hospitals in D.C. and across our metropolitan region. It extends the high-quality care we offer in our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. These collaborations address health disparities and improve maternal and child health outcomes.

LEADERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Intervene at the earliest moment for healthier lifetimes.



Dr. Adré du Plessis and pediatric fellow Kelsey Christoffel, M.D.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Delivering the Best Starts

"There's a beautiful little boy walking around Beijing with my first name." **Dr. Adré du Plessis** recalls a time he and his wife, Dr. Catherine Limperopoulos, gave an unborn baby a chance for a healthy life. The baby's parents considered ending the pregnancy after an MRI showed a likely abnormality. Further examination by Children's National experts concluded it was benign. Little Adré soon entered the world.

Dr. du Plessis, a world-renowned child neurologist, and his multidisciplinary team use cutting-edge imaging technology and diagnostics to identify potential problems before a baby is born. Then, they develop specialized care plans during pregnancy and for the newborn's critical first days.

His vision underscores how early intervention can result in healthier outcomes. "In the first 300 days after birth, the brain goes through far more development than in the remainder of the lifespan," Dr. du Plessis says. "We need to get to our babies earlier to understand their distress calls prior to birth."

"Bears of Love" began as a way to provide teddy bears for our patients. **Candy Meyers and Lisa Wills of RE/MAX One** lead a robust fundraising effort that supports critical needs, including in the NICU. Newborn swings, a specialized transport ventilator and refrigerators for nursing moms in every patient room offer our tiniest babies a healthier start.

"We need to get to our babies earlier to understand their distress calls prior to birth."

— Dr. Adré du Plessis

In our community, we partner to improve the health, development and well-being of young kids. This work starts before a baby is born. Generous investments by the **A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation** enabled us to launch the Clark Parent & Child Network. Along with the Early Childhood Innovation Network and two distinguished professorships that the investments support, the network powers clinical and research efforts to nurture families and help kids bloom.

Dr. Catherine Limperopoulos studies the developing brain during pregnancy to identify issues and intervene at the earliest moment. Dr. Lee Beers oversees the Child Health Advocacy Institute's Community Mental Health Collaboration, Outreach, Research and Equity (CORE). Their leadership connects families to vital community resources in prenatal and mental healthcare and early childhood development.

Special thanks to **The Andrew & Julie Klingenstein**

Family Fund, and **RE/MAX** and other community members who came together to help us realize the full vision of the Clark Parent & Child Network.

At Children's National Heart Institute, we strive to improve lifetimes and restore hope for children with congenital heart disease. **The Van Metre Companies** has advanced this vision through their generosity spanning more than three decades. In The Van Metre Companies Cardiovascular Surgery Operating Room, our surgeons have performed thousands of lifesaving procedures.

Van Metre established two professorships. Dr. Mary Donofrio holds the newest position. Prior to the campaign, Charles Berul, M.D., chief of Cardiology and co-director of our Heart Institute, became The Van Metre Companies Professor of Cardiology. Both of these leaders bring discoveries to the bedside. This gives kids with special hearts the best chance to thrive.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Prenatal Heart Care Helps Kids Reach for the Stars

Dr. Mary Donofrio focuses on detecting heart conditions in babies before birth. This can lead to early diagnosis and treatment and prevent a child from developing a congenital heart disease. She authored the first set of clinical guidelines for prenatal cardiology and travels the world teaching these protocols.

"I can't imagine doing anything else," she says. "I love impacting a child from before birth, changing their life and watching them grow." At Children's National, she leads teams of cardiologists, intensivists, obstetricians, neonatologists and other specialists.

Patient families are grateful. "Dr. Donofrio is an extraordinary doctor. She was there for us through all the bumps that happen when your child is very sick. She has a lot of experience and knew what my son was going to go through before it happened," says one mom.

"We want all of our kids to reach their full potential and be stars — healthy and thriving," says Dr. Donofrio.



Dr. Mary Donofrio conducts an ultrasound
Bottom: With patient Hayden



"I love impacting a child from before birth, changing their life and watching them grow."

— Dr. Mary Donofrio



Perinatal Behavioral Health Specialist U'nek Clarke supports a new mom

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Healthy Moms = Healthier Babies

By **U'nek Clarke**
Lead Perinatal Behavioral Health Specialist

There's an unspoken bond between new mothers and care providers who create safe spaces where women, especially those experiencing perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, can be vulnerable. Perinatal mental healthcare is both my passion and my job through the DC Mother-Baby Wellness initiative.

Our wraparound care and support include screenings to evaluate physical health, mental health and health education for moms and babies until the child turns three. In addition to providing psychotherapy, we might guide a family to the food or housing they need. I work alongside pediatricians and collaborate with other departments if a child needs specialty care.

Everything starts with maternal mental health. The healthier the mom, the healthier the child.

I'm also proud that my work within the Children's National Developing Brain Institute is helping to drive innovative research that shapes best practices for tomorrow. This multi-generational work has the power to change the whole family dynamic. When we help moms, we help generations to come.

1 in 7
women
may develop
postpartum
depression



Source: NIH National Library of Medicine

Stories of Hope

Families navigate the maternal and child healthcare journey



Hope for a Healthy Serena

Serena is an energetic toddler who loves playing with her older siblings. "She's happy, curious and doing great," her mom, Valerie, says.

Things were not so light-hearted, however, during Valerie's pregnancy. A fetal echocardiogram at a community hospital

indicated the baby, then 27 weeks, might have serious heart defects. A doctor suggested Valerie and her husband, Roy, might choose to end the pregnancy. "We felt confused, devastated and hopeless," she says.

Children's National offered a second opinion. Our specialists found that the right side of Serena's heart appeared enlarged but did not find the other potential abnormalities. "This was the first moment

we had hope," Valerie says.

A Children's National care provider visited the local hospital where Serena was born to perform a heart ultrasound. The news was good: Serena would not need surgery or have any lasting heart complications. "This was the best thing we could have heard," Valerie says. "We could not be more grateful."

Children's National staff give so much to kids and families. They work hard to better understand things like the developing brain to provide the best care possible.

— Alisha
Children's National Parent



Parents Roy and Valerie with Hayden, Trey and Serena

Aasha's Family Makes a Heartbreaking Decision to Help Other Babies

Aasha was born early at 27 weeks and lost a lot of blood. Soon after, she arrived in our NICU. On life support, she slept and responded in some ways to her parents, Charu and Pravin. However, newborn intensivist and neuroscientist Panagiotis Kratimenos, M.D., Ph.D., explained that the situation was grave and that much of Aasha's bleeding had occurred in her brain.

"It was the most difficult time," recalls Charu. "It was also amazing to witness the compassion of the doctors and nurses who did whatever they could for Aasha. Dr.



Baby Aasha in our NICU

Kratimenos took us under his wing. He explained the impact and what it meant for her future."

On Aasha's 10th day, her parents made the difficult decision to remove her from life support. They also made another important decision: to donate her organs for newborn research. "Dr. Kratimenos made it clear that Aasha's life and her contributions were very valuable. We didn't debate the decision.

Instead, we said, "Yes, Aasha will help other babies."

This generous act gave researchers a rare opportunity to study the fragile developing brain. "The exact mechanisms of the neonatal brain are a dark hole when it comes to what we know," says Dr. Kratimenos. "When Charu and Pravin made this extraordinary contribution, they offered hope to the preterm babies of the entire world."

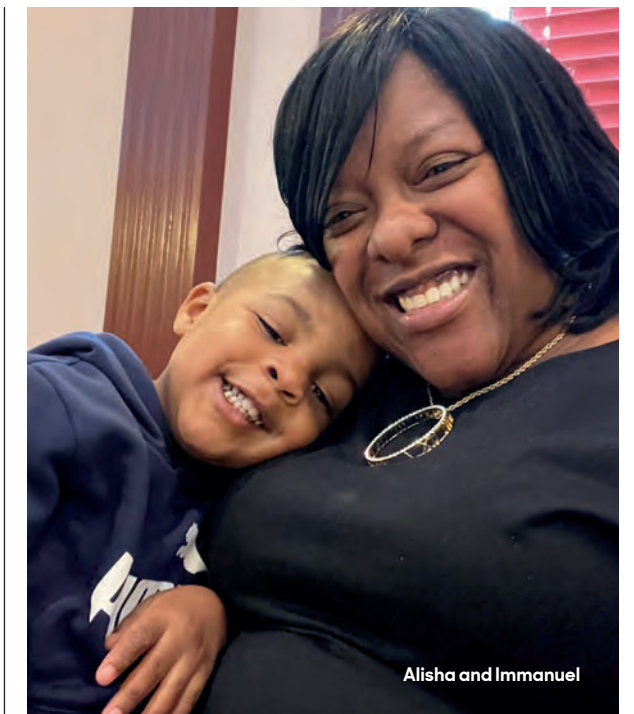
Understanding the Developing Brain

By Alisha, Children's National Parent

My son Immanuel is a typical toddler — playful and full of life. I was pregnant with him when COVID-19 hit. My obstetrician suggested I participate in Project RESCUE, a research study at Children's National. RESCUE stands for Reducing Elevated Stress from COVID-19 Exposure. The study explores how stress, anxiety and depression that pregnant women experience impact their babies' brain development.

I had diagnostic imaging through Project RESCUE and learned stress-reducing techniques such as meditation and yoga. When Immanuel was 2 months old, he had his first neurological exam as part of the study.

Being able to center myself helped us bond. Being in this study also has given me hope. Children's National staff give so much to kids and families. They work hard to better understand things like the developing brain to provide the best care possible. That care makes the world seem like a better place.



Alisha and Immanuel

Trailblazing Treatments for Complex Conditions

KEY CAMPAIGN GOALS



Transform
cardiac surgery



Empower
cancer survivors



Elevate
targeted therapies for
hard-to-treat diseases
using focused ultrasound



Lead
the world in colorectal surgery
and pelvic reconstruction



Mauree, a patient with epilepsy

KEY ADVANCES

- Children’s National successfully performed the first-ever high-intensity focused ultrasound (HIFU) procedure on a pediatric patient with neurofibromatosis. It’s a condition that causes tumors to form in the brain, spinal cord and nerves. The patient was the world’s youngest to undergo HIFU treatment.

In 2022, we were the first hospital to use another noninvasive approach – low intensity focused ultrasound (LIFU) and 5-aminolevulinic acid (5-ALA) medication – for pediatric diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG), a highly aggressive and hard-to-treat tumor at the base of the brain. Families can leave the hospital just one day after treatment.
- In 2022, we launched the Board of Visitors Telehealth Command Center in our Cardiac Intensive Care Unit. It acts like an air traffic control tower using cutting-edge technology to monitor the most fragile children with critical heart disease. It helps us predict and prevent major complications such as cardiac arrest. The Board of Visitors is now the Founders Auxiliary Board.
- Dr. Charles Berul and his team developed a novel access port for a miniature pacemaker tailored to babies with congenital heart disease. The revolutionary device, the size of a AAA battery, is implanted through the skin. It eliminates the need for open-heart surgery and reduces recovery time.
- A multidisciplinary team pioneered a successful alternative to major brain surgery for infants less than 3 months born with hemimegalencephaly. It’s a rare brain malformation that can cause uncontrollable seizures and gradual brain injury. The team produces precise, controlled strokes in the baby’s brain that mimic surgery to stop the seizures. Children’s National has the only program in the world offering this unique treatment option.
- Children’s National launched a first-of-its-kind, personalized holistic transformative program for management of pain in sickle cell disease. The team’s multidisciplinary approach considers the whole person and multiple factors that promote health. It helps patients manage pain and improve their quality of life through strategies that encourage use of non-pharmacological methods.

LEADERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Team up to improve patient outcomes.

Paul, son of **Amy and Bret Baier**, was born with five congenital heart defects. He has had four open-heart surgeries and multiple procedures.

The family's gratitude for his lifesaving care inspired them to give back. Their leadership has had a hospital-wide impact through their service on the Children's National Hospital Foundation Board and roles as co-chairs of our campaign. Their gifts to the Heart Institute support technology, talent, research and clinical care.

In 2021, the family established The Baier Family Distinguished Professorship in Cardiac Surgery. Its inaugural holder, Dr. Yves d'Udekem, performed Paul's most recent surgery in 2020.

Ask 14-year-old Jamari how life changed since his kidney transplant and he lights up. "I can go places with friends and spend the night out with my cousins. I can eat whatever I want!"

Generous support from the **Alisann and Terry Collins Foundation** for our Division of Nephrology



Dr. Yves d'Udekem examines patient Noah
Inset: With Paul Baier and his mom, Amy

makes this possible. They endowed a fellowship to train the next generation of nephrology experts and support everything from research to a patient fund that helps families like Jamari's through tough times.

Nurses make a daily difference by delivering care with competence and compassion. Smiling young faces reflect their impact. The philanthropy of **William and Joanne Conway** launches and advances nursing careers through the Conway Nursing Pathway Program, established in 2019. It provides scholarship support and hands-on clinical experiences. It pairs aspiring nurses with mentors for careers that improve care for children.

"I don't know if I could have become a pediatric nurse without the Conway family's support," says Anne Pozner, R.N., who joined our bone marrow transplant unit after her time in the program. "They really are changing the field of nursing. Conway nurses are the most amazing."

Many great insights about the healthcare of children and families come from nurses. **Suzanne Feetham, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.**, an internationally recognized leader, exemplifies these contributions.

The American Academy of Nursing designated her a "Living Legend" for her pioneering role in family research and the integration



of genetics to nursing practice. She has been instrumental in supporting the nursing research program at Children's National.

Her legacy includes a lifetime philanthropic commitment to the hospital. This gift will foster the development of nursing research careers.

“They really are changing the field of nursing. Conway nurses are the most amazing.”

— Anne Pozner

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Healing a Child's Brain

A child growing and learning with a neurological condition faces challenges. "Be it headaches, brain tumors or inflammatory conditions, you have to look at the disease in this context," says **Elizabeth Wells, M.D., M.H.S.**, senior vice president of our Center for Neuroscience and Behavioral Medicine. "This helps us support kids so that they can go on to achieve great things even as they deal with their illness."

Her team brings innovation and collaboration to one of neuroscience's biggest challenges: neuroinflammatory diseases. These disorders result when the body's immune system attacks the brain or nervous system. They can affect a child's ability to



think, walk, talk, move, see or eat.

Dr. Wells led our inpatient neurology program and developed our multidisciplinary neuro-immunology program into a destination for unsolved conditions. It's one of the few of its kind in the U.S., providing families with leading-edge diagnoses and care.

"Our knowledge evolves patient by patient," she says. "But we embrace the challenge and work together to move discovery forward for kids."



Dr. Elizabeth Wells with patient Miguel

For years, a serious gastrointestinal illness sidelined Paris' dreams for her future. Then she met Marc Levitt, M.D., chief of Colorectal & Pelvic Reconstruction. Finally, she received the care she needed. Paris' family's foundation, **The Dune Road Foundation** made a generous gift to support the program so that no other child or adult has to live in chronic pain and more families can receive this care.

Their investment expanded the division's comprehensive team to increase mental health services, provide direct assistance to patient families and train clinicians across the globe to improve access to specialized care.

Young athletes in our region now have a dedicated team to help keep them on the field. Our Fight For Children Sports Medicine Center

opened in 2021. It offers comprehensive pediatric and adolescent orthopaedic care, physical and occupational therapy services and motion and gait analysis. Kids benefit from performance improvement and injury prevention. A generous gift from **Fight For Children** made this center possible.

Children's National is revolutionizing care for childhood tumors by pioneering high- and low-intensity focused ultrasound (HIFU and LIFU). These techniques target cancer with energy waves. This reduces side-effects because children can avoid incision, chemotherapy or radiation.

The **Focused Ultrasound Foundation** advances this revolution. In 2020, Children's National became the foundation's first global pediatric Center of Excellence.

Our neurosurgeons gained a new three-dimensional perspective on their patients through Surgical Theater's Precision Virtual Reality. Children's National was the first in our region to use this state-of-the-art system for children. It seamlessly integrates patient-specific surgical planning and navigation, education and rehearsal. We are grateful to the **Sidney M. & Phyllis O. Bresler Foundation, Inc.**, for making this acquisition possible.

Betsy Williams and Thomas Moore, grateful for their daughter's expert care, have generously supported many aspects of our epilepsy program. Their gifts through their family foundation helped us redefine care through novel research, improved surgical treatments and expanded mental health services.

The family also helped establish the Professorship in Epilepsy and Neurophysiology. It enables Dr. William D. Gaillard and his team to help kids reach their full potential.

Children with reconstructive needs can require years of complex care, sometimes for decades. The **Johnston Family** Professorship in Pediatric Plastic Surgery provides critical funding for important clinical and research initiatives. The collective result is better patient outcomes. This generous investment enables our team of full-time pediatric plastic surgeons to focus on care, which helps kids get back to being kids faster. The family also supports the Safe Concussion Outcome Recovery & Education (SCORE) program and the Fight For Children Sports Medicine Center.



At Children's National, kids with cancer receive world-class care for their body, mind and spirit. The generosity of **The Dr. Cyrus Katzen Foundation** advanced groundbreaking cancer research and brought healing and comfort to our patients through music therapy and child life services.

Jim MacCutcheon lost his daughter, Halle, 39 years ago to a severe heart condition. Since then, Jim and Halle's sisters have generously supported our Heart Institute to honor Halle's memory and improve outcomes for other children. They funded The MacCutcheon Family Cardiovascular Operating Suite and The Halle MacCutcheon Playroom on our Heart and Kidney unit.

The family also made a lasting investment to establish The MacCutcheon Family Professorship in Cardiac Critical Care Medicine. It enables Dr. Ricardo Muñoz to reimagine care for our most fragile patients with special hearts.



Dr. Marc Levitt, chief of Colorectal & Pelvic Reconstruction, connects with a patient



Joel, a patient in our Cancer and Blood Disorders Center, engages in an education session



Dr. Marva Moxey-Mims examines a patient in the NICU



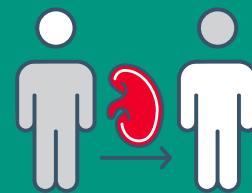
STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Leading a Star Division

"Patients and patient safety are our North Star," says **Marva Moxey-Mims, M.D.**, chief of Nephrology. She joined Children's National in 2017 from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases at the National Institutes of Health. She led our pediatric kidney program to become one of the nation's best with one of the most active transplant programs.

Dr. Moxey-Mims' vision transcends hospital walls. "There is a huge shortage of pediatric nephrologists across the country and around the world. I would love to see our fellowship program become a leader in this space – to be at the forefront of producing highly qualified clinical nephrologists to fill the workforce void and serve families everywhere."

Dr. Moxey-Mims leads one of the nation's best pediatric kidney programs with one of the most active transplant programs.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

"[The Conway Nursing Pathway Program] allows us to go into high schools, for example, and begin to identify those who aspire to have a career in nursing.

— Linda Talley

Leading Through Nursing Innovation

Linda Talley, M.S., R.N., NE-BC, F.A.A.N., began her nursing journey at Children's National as a nurse in our NICU. Today, 35 years later, she leads 1,900 nurses across our hospital and community locations as senior vice president and chief nursing officer.

Her leadership has never been in greater need as America faces an acute nursing shortage. In a 2022 CBS Evening News story, Talley

touched on the variety of ways in which we can begin to address the crisis. These include innovations that enable experienced nurses to find new roles instead of retiring. This might involve offering guidance and support to bedside caregivers through tablet computers.

Talley also noted our Conway Nursing Pathway Program. "It allows us to go into high schools, for example, and begin to identify those who aspire to have a career in nursing." This plants the seed for tomorrow's nurses to make a difference in our community.

The world may be short **5.7 million** nurses by 2030

Source: World Health Organization



Nursing leader Linda Talley with Conway program nurse Trezure James-Jackson, R.N.

Stories of Lifesaving Care

Patients heal from serious conditions



Teddy's Independence and Bright Future

By Christina
Children's National Parent

My son Teddy was diagnosed with epilepsy at age 13. He loves bowling, cars and hanging out with friends. Before his diagnosis, he had severe seizures so frequently he had to attend school online, couldn't visit friends and required five daily medications. I was afraid to leave him home alone.

We met with Children's National neurosurgeon Chima Oluigbo, M.D., who explained how by using Surgical Theater's Precision Virtual Reality he could perform minimally invasive surgery that could eliminate Teddy's seizures. He showed us 360-degree images of his brain and the surgical plan through a virtual reality headset. Knowing this could change Teddy's life brought us hope.



Teddy and [inset] with his mom, Christina

Teddy had surgery in 2020 and has been seizure-free ever since. He needs only one medication. The following year, his biggest dream – to get his driver's license – came true. We're so grateful to Dr. Oluigbo and Dr. William D. Gaillard, who also cared for Teddy. Their care gave my son his life back.

Surgical Theater's Precision Virtual Reality enhances visualization by delivering experiential 360° 3-D technology at every step of the surgical journey.



Repairing Jocelyn's Heart

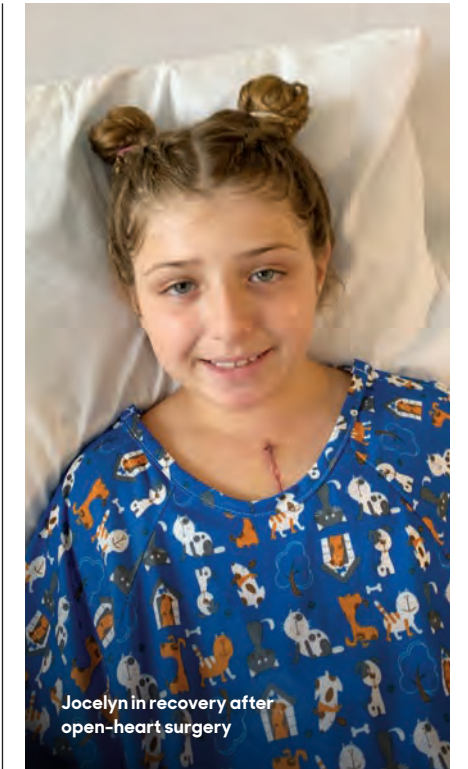
Jessica's ultrasound revealed that something wasn't right with her baby's heart. That same day, she and her husband, John, met with cardiologist Craig Sable, M.D., who confirmed the baby had a congenital heart defect. At birth, she would need lifesaving open-heart surgery.

"Months before she even had a name, Jocelyn already had a brilliant medical team behind her," recalls Jessica. Jocelyn recovered from surgery and annual checkups went smoothly until spring 2021, when further tests showed she would need a second open-heart surgery to prevent serious complications.

Dr. Yves d'Udekem performed a cardiac bypass surgery – rarely done on kids – and a pulmonary repair. Jocelyn recovered quickly and is now a second grader, Girl Scout and lacrosse player. Since 2014, the family has participated in our annual Race for Every Child. Team Jocelyn generously raises funds for the hospital.

The team at Children's National gave us a double miracle. We are grateful everyday.

— Jessica
Children's National Parent



Jocelyn in recovery after open-heart surgery

Open-Heart Surgeries Help Micah Defy the Odds

Halfway through Terri's pregnancy, she learned her daughter had multiple heart defects and Down syndrome. Dr. Mary Donofrio monitored her closely. Micah was born seven weeks early. "The doctors didn't think she would live very long because of her severe heart issues," recalls Terri. "I felt so helpless."

Micah had her first open-heart surgery at 14 days and two more before her first birthday. She stayed in our Cardiac Intensive Care Unit for eight months. Micah is now a lively middle-schooler who visits Dr. Donofrio and a pulmonologist for annual check-ups. She loves music and taught herself the moves to Michael Jackson's "Thriller."

Terri, a nurse, was so grateful for Micah's lifesaving care that she joined the team at Children's National. "I wanted to pay it forward to other families like ours and let them know they're in the right place," she says. "Micah is living proof of that."



Micah in our Cardiac Intensive Care Unit

Spearheading Integrated Mental Healthcare

KEY CAMPAIGN GOALS



Expand
mental health screenings, interventions and care coordination



Embed
mental health specialists in all primary care locations



Increase
access to trauma-informed mental healthcare



Broaden
outreach and support for families and caregivers



Promote
our team's well-being



Engage
our community and train primary care providers across the region in mental healthcare



Patient Bryce at our Takoma Theatre location

In 2021, **44%** of high school students reported they "persistently felt sad or hopeless during the past year," according to the CDC.

KEY ADVANCES

- Nearly half of parents with babies admitted to a NICU experienced postpartum depression, anxiety and stress when their newborns were discharged from the hospital. The most anxious parents were the most depressed, according to research presented in 2017 by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Children's National expanded mental health screenings for expectant mothers, new mothers and caregivers in our Emergency Department and NICU to help young children and their parents get the best start in life.

- In 2018, we opened a newly renovated Child and Adolescent Inpatient Psychiatry Unit, a serene therapeutic space with nature murals and an exercise room. At that time, one in five U.S. teens struggled with a mental health issue. In 2021, 44% of high school students reported they "persistently felt sad or hopeless during the past year," according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We integrated mental healthcare providers into our primary care locations to address this growing need.
- In 2020, Children's National Takoma Theatre opened in Washington, D.C. Families can receive pediatric neurology and behavioral healthcare at one convenient location, including for autism, psychiatry, neuropsychology, audiology and speech pathology.
- In 2022, the National Institutes of Health named Children's National an Autism Center of Excellence. The center helps teens and adults receive timely, appropriate supports.

We're developing tools to identify autism in people traditionally at risk for a late or missed diagnosis. This puts them at greater risk for depression, anxiety and self-harm. Longitudinal data shows that girls and women are most likely to be misdiagnosed or missed using traditional methods of assessment for autism.

Our collaboration with area universities in a new program seeks to provide clinical and leadership training to address the nationwide shortage of medical specialists. It will enhance care for families with neurodevelopmental disorders, including autism.

LEADERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Care for the whole child — body, mind and spirit.

When parents receive a life-changing diagnosis for their child, they can feel lost. But patients with neuroinflammatory conditions and epilepsy and their families have a true guide, thanks to **Kristen Donoghue and Jonathan Hacker**. They funded a full-time, dedicated social worker.

Emily Stein, M.S.W., L.I.C.S.W., helps families navigate psychological, social and financial issues. From stress management and counseling to assistance with the insurance process, her care meets a critical need.

Children with attention and learning issues face many daily obstacles. The pandemic's lasting effects only added to their burden. Through the generosity of the **Gerard B. Lambert Foundation**, more young people with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and other challenges can build the skills they need to succeed in school and life.

The transformational gift funds studies of ADHD's origins, expands mental healthcare and educates families. It also supports Brainy Camps of Children's National. Its summer experiences allow patients

with chronic health conditions to rediscover the magic of childhood.

The foundation's investment established the Gerard B. Lambert Foundation Professorship in Psychology and Behavioral Health. It supports Randi Streisand, Ph.D., to foster her team's growth and advance research to improve young people's well-being.

A shortage of mental healthcare providers compounds the worsening mental and behavioral health crisis among kids. Demand for services continues to outpace availability.

Thanks to support from **The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation**, we are leading collaborative efforts to address the crisis. This work will enable pediatricians in our Pediatric Health Network to manage concerns such as anxiety, depression and ADHD.

The initiative focuses on education, care management and sustainability. We also will increase access to psychiatric care within our community-based primary care locations. This work empowers providers to support children in their trusted medical locations before they are in crisis.

Young people with ADHD are more susceptible to accidents and injuries. Timely mental healthcare for them and their families is essential to treat anxiety and emotional distress that often accompany burns and other traumas.

Generous support from co-chairs of our campaign, our Foundation Vice Chair **Carrie Marriott and David Marriott**, enabled us to build a collaborative team that provides seamless mental health services and interventions. Our novel approach ensures that more patients have access to compassionate care for their minds, bodies and spirits so they can recover and thrive.

Rehabilitation requires holistic care. Patients of the Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation will now benefit from a full-time social worker, generously funded by **John and Christie Olsen**. The new position increases access to care coordination, mental health resources and counseling to address the full picture of recovery. This gift also will improve patient outcomes by supporting innovative bioengineering research to deliver new treatments.

Patient families looking for connection, comfort or a quiet space in the hospital can find it in the Panda Cares Center of Hope, thanks to our longtime partner **Panda Express**. Children can tackle homework, check out books and even participate in a poetry slam. Parents can catch up on work. It's a special spot that helps kids thrive as they heal.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Easy Access to Mental Health Support



Nikita Rodrigues, Ph.D., believes a child's physical and mental health go hand in hand. The goal of Whole Bear Care is to make mental healthcare accessible in a low-stress environment during a routine primary care visit.

Not long ago, Dr. Rodrigues helped a family whose child was very anxious about returning to school. He experienced a shooting uncomfortably close to home. A telehealth visit allowed Dr. Rodrigues to peek into his life.

"He showed me the bullet holes in his wall and described the panic he felt," she says. "We connected him to evidence-based trauma treatment and worked with the school to make sure he felt safe."

Working as a psychologist within the primary care setting enables Dr. Rodrigues to provide families with immediate and short-term interventions. She says many who need support don't follow up on mental health referrals. "But if a provider says, 'My friend Dr. Rodrigues will talk to you right here,' it decreases their stress. It saves time and resolves problems for families and kids faster."



Dr. Nikita Rodrigues plays cards with a patient to help him communicate his emotions



Dr. Randi Streisand in session

Hospital visits can be especially difficult for patients with mental health emergencies and young people with autism and behavioral health issues. **The Diana Davis Spencer Foundation** enabled us to hire a nurse navigator dedicated to behavioral health.

Nurse navigators are like the glue of a care team. They serve as a single point of contact to streamline communication, facilitate care and offer emotional support. The nurse navigator has eased families' worries and helped our patients focus on healing.

We are building on the success of our Community Mental Health CORE program. This comprehensive, city-wide initiative works to improve the overall mental health and well-being of all children in Washington, D.C. Generous investments from the **Alexander and Margaret Stewart Trust** make it possible.

This support enables us to build the infrastructure for a mental health policy lab. It will further benefit the city's families and improve access to care for kids with autism.

2019-2022
60%
increase in
Children's National
patients with
mental health
emergencies



Dr. Bhavin Dave consults with a parent

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Illuminating a Path to Mental Health

Child psychiatrist **Bhavin Dave, M.D.**, believes that children with mental health issues can overcome challenges, thrive and become leaders. "In our practice, it's standard procedure to help kids understand this," he says. He is co-director of our Early Childhood Behavioral Health Program.

"The earlier you get to a child with mental health problems, the better you can treat them and prevent future issues," Dr. Dave says.

If preschool-age children with behavioral or emotional dysregulation or developmental delays go untreated, he explains, they may be unable to attend daycare. This might lead to a parent needing to quit their job, which can cause problems for the family. It also can lead to isolation for the child and missed opportunities for education and socialization.

Dr. Dave's team includes what he calls, "an incredible mix of people with diverse backgrounds and expertise who work with different types of therapeutic interventions to get kids what they need. This benefits the entire community."

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Compassionate Care for Kids Who Think and Learn Differently

Growing up, **Lauren Kenworthy, Ph.D.**, imagined being a child psychologist one day. She kept a diary to remember what it was like to be a kid. She felt the adults around her didn't understand. Her empathy informs the care she provides as chief of Neuropsychology and director of our Center for Autism Spectrum

Disorders. Dr. Kenworthy thinks of psychology as a tool to support patients with their underlying cognitive strengths and challenges and improve their lives.

Years ago she treated a 7-year-old patient who refused to write in school. He had an extensive vocabulary and excelled at math, but teachers labeled him stubborn and uncooperative.

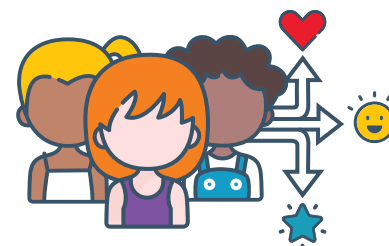
"We discovered he had cognitive challenges around executive functioning and fine motor skills," Dr. Kenworthy says. "Writing was difficult in ways that his teacher and parents didn't

recognize. Explaining this to them shifted the dynamic and helped get him the right support. That child grew up to be a math professor who now helps many others."

In 2022, the U.S. National Institutes of Health named Children's National as one of its nine Autism Centers of Excellence, a testament to Dr. Kenworthy's leadership. "We want to put children, especially neurodiverse (neurologically different) kids, on the best possible trajectory for their development as well as their mental and physical health."

"We want to put children, especially neurodiverse kids, on the best possible trajectory for their development as well as their mental and physical health."

— Dr. Lauren Kenworthy



Dr. Lauren Kenworthy assesses a patient's cognitive abilities

Stories of Achievement

With strong support, kids thrive



Group Therapy Helps Sloane at School and Home

By Brandi, Children's National Parent

My 5-year-old is a ball of energy – Sloane wakes up and goes to sleep chatting. She met many of her developmental milestones early. She was thriving in some ways but struggling with social and communication skills. Mental health experts at Children's National helped us figure out that Sloane has autism, but that with the right supports, she could meet her full potential.

Care providers at the hospital have helped our family in so many ways. Sloane was isolated during the pandemic. Now she is relating better to kids at school.

Her care team suggested a weekly social communication group at Children's National Takoma Theatre. The program helped Sloane learn to trust her feelings and respect others. Her teachers noticed a difference.



Rachel Kolsky, Ph.D. leads a social communication group at Children's National Takoma Theatre

For our family, mental healthcare for Sloane at a young age meant helping us all. We have been able to teach others that autism does not define a child or what they can achieve.

Children with autism do progress – early intervention is key.

Source: National Autism Association



Sloane, a Children's National patient with autism

“Knowing we had a support system provided huge relief. Mental healthcare meant Taylor got back to living her life.”

— LaKeisha
Children's National Parent

Helping Taylor Move Forward

By LaKeisha, Children's National Parent

My daughter, Taylor, loves spending time with her grandparents, Nanny and Pop-Pop. Taylor was at their house to celebrate her fourth birthday when her dad choked on a bite of his hamburger. He had a violent reaction and sprawled on the floor.



Taylor screamed, then ran and hid. Her anxiety grew worse over the next few weeks. She would eat only tiny bits of food. Seeing others eat also upset her. She wouldn't visit her dad or grandparents.

I worried her anxiety would impact her at school. I reached out to the Early Childhood Behavioral Health Program. Taylor began weekly appointments with Amanda Hastings, Psy.D., a psychologist. They talked and played with toy food, including a plastic hamburger. They created a story about her dad choking. Taylor's confidence grew.

After about six weeks, she agreed to go out for pancakes with Nanny and Pop-Pop. Knowing we had a support system provided huge relief. Mental healthcare meant Taylor got back to living her life.

Whole Bear Care Helps Madison Thrive

By Cristina, Children's National Parent

Madison loves to play outside and have fun with other kids. My daughter hasn't always been able to enjoy herself. She experienced a lot of family-related stress. Her behavior often has been difficult. I'm a relative and soon-to-be adoptive mom to Madison and her younger brother, Jason.

Madison and Jason have DiGeorge Syndrome. It's a rare genetic condition that causes poor development. A complex care pediatrician at Children's National treats Madison. I told the doctor about her nightmares and how she would cry all night. The doctor introduced us that day to Julie Heier, Ph.D., M.A., a psychologist in the Whole Bear Care integrated behavioral health program.

Madison has evolved into a happier little girl, thanks to Dr. Heier. Her behavior is better. She talks more, plays with her dolls and sleeps through the night. Her precious mental health never would have improved without this care and support. She lights up when she sees Dr. Heier. That makes me happy too.



Revolutionizing Care Through Pediatric Discoveries

KEY CAMPAIGN GOALS



Help

more children with rare diseases



Drive

breakthroughs in cancer research and cellular therapy



Unlock

the secrets of autism and developmental disorders



Supercharge

our understanding of childhood illness through artificial intelligence (AI) and precision medicine



Research assistant Shriya Singh (left) works with research technician Allison Horvath

KEY ADVANCES

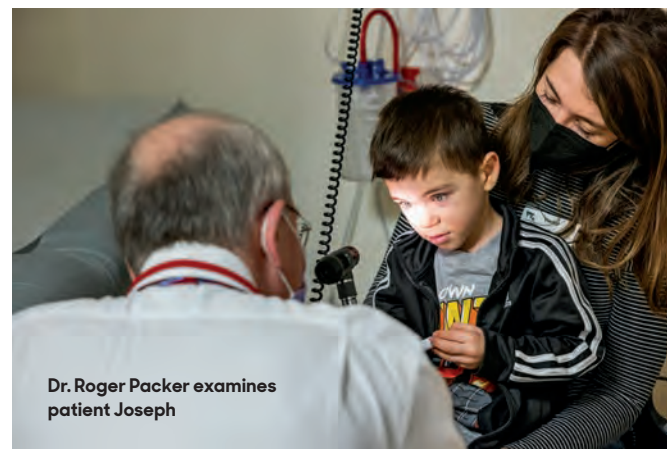
- In 2017, Children’s National launched the Rare Disease Institute, the first Center of Excellence designated by the National Organization for Rare Disorders. With more than 8,500 visits annually and 12 physicians, it’s home to the nation’s largest clinical genetics program and a global destination for families seeking answers.
- In 2021, the new Children’s National Research & Innovation Campus opened on nearly 12 acres of the former Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. The campus represents the hospital’s boldest investment in research and innovation. It’s the world’s first multisector collaboration hub focused exclusively on improving pediatric health.
- Children’s National scientists created a revolutionary machine-learning system that predicts the effects of changing ribonucleic acid (RNA) molecules using a gene-editing tool. The DeepCas1.3 system could provide the backbone for treatments of diseases based on RNA errors, including Huntington’s disease and muscular dystrophy.
- Timothy Kane, M.D., chief of General and Thoracic Surgery, and Mikael Petrosyan, M.D., M.B.A., associate chief of General and Thoracic Surgery and director of our Pediatric Surgery Fellowship program, published a study showing that peroral endoscopic myotomy (POEM) is a safe and effective surgery for kids with pediatric achalasia. The rare condition affects how food moves through the esophagus. Children’s National is one of only two U.S. pediatric hospitals to offer this novel and minimally invasive treatment.
- Children’s National received a 2022 District Sustainability Award for reducing anesthesia gases that contribute to ozone depletion and greenhouse warming. Data suggests the U.S. healthcare sector contributes 10% of the nation’s greenhouse effect. Our Sustainability Council recognized we could safely reduce gas flows to levels that provide both economic and health benefits to patients and help the hospital go green.

LEADERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Open new frontiers in pediatric medicine.

Children's National Research & Innovation Campus (CNRIC) drives discoveries to improve children's health. This one-of-a-kind incubator for the future of pediatric medicine is supercharging scientific discovery. It brings together industry, universities, federal agencies and startups to join us in transforming care.

The partnership between Children's National and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** spans four decades. His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, president of the UAE, and the Emirati people share our vision of improving care for children worldwide. Their leadership gifts helped us build CNRIC and will support expansion of this global hub for pediatric progress. Scientists, inventors and care providers enter the campus' UAE Atrium on their way to change the world.



Dr. Roger Packer examines patient Joseph



Dr. Marius George Linguraru in the lab at Sheikh Zayed Institute for Pediatric Surgical Innovation

CNRIC provides a stage for global collaboration to brighten futures. A founding gift from **Boeing** raises the curtain and brings the stage to life. The Boeing Auditorium convenes experts and community members alike through state-of-the-art technology. This sparks breakthroughs for pediatric treatments, therapies and cures.

Gaining a better understanding of how kids' bodies work allows us to help them thrive. Longstanding support from the **Elsie & Marvin Dekelboum Family Foundation** has fostered a spirit of inquiry and helped us transform pediatric care. Through advanced imaging, a light sheet microscope illuminates tiny details, as researchers study conditions such as autism, neonatal brain injuries and cancer. A dedicated microscopy laboratory boosts cellular and tissue imaging. These investments in our research enterprise blaze a path to better health.

Children with neurofibromatosis face the unpredictable. The condition can cause nerve tumors to grow anywhere in the body. The **Gilbert Family Foundation**

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Leading Artificial Intelligence Research That Improves Care

By Dr. Marius George Linguraru

I've always been fascinated by the challenge of researching pediatric health. I grew up familiar with the hardships of sick children. My mother was the chief nurse at a pediatric hospital in Romania. I studied computer science and it didn't take me long to figure out

that computers could help kids. I was elated 11 years ago at the opportunity to join Children's National. Here I could focus my investigations on quantitative imaging and artificial intelligence (AI) for pediatric health. My work provides insights into disease and helps create solutions for children faster.

Our inventors have produced unique AI technologies in pediatric health, such as facial analysis software that can detect serious genetic conditions — including Down, DiGeorge or Williams syndromes — with a smartphone app and a photo instead of blood tests. The patented mGene app

provides rapid analysis that can lead to earlier diagnosis and better care, particularly in areas of the world that lack genetic experts.

My team is building a home for AI at Children's National. The need is urgent. And what better investment is there than in children?



AI is used to assess and detect symptoms earlier in an illness's progression.

enables Children's National to be the difference for these kids. Its philanthropy launched our Gilbert Family Neurofibromatosis Institute. Roger J. Packer, M.D., the Gilbert Distinguished Professor of Neurofibromatosis and director of the Gilbert Neurofibromatosis Institute, leads in pioneering effective therapies and breakthrough cures.

Children's National Brain Tumor Institute, also led by Dr. Roger Packer, is reinventing how we save lives and improve lifetimes for kids with brain cancer. Philanthropy, including a recent transformational investment from an anonymous donor family, fuels breakthroughs across a range of medical and scientific disciplines that touch patient families navigating a brain tumor diagnosis.

This new partnership is advancing frontiers that include cellular immunotherapy, focused ultrasound, neurosurgery and our leadership of an international consortium. It is building scientific consensus and new approaches for children with the rarest forms of brain cancer.

We also are pioneering psychosocial and mental healthcare strategies that nurture patient and family resilience and well-being. The anonymous family's partnership enabled us to recruit Jennifer Levine, M.D., who is reimagining cancer patients' healthcare journeys. She and her team of specialists are shaping a new paradigm for supporting a child's physical and emotional health during and long after cancer treatment.

“My team is building a home for AI at Children's National. The need is urgent. And what better investment is there than in children?”

— Dr. Marius George Linguraru

— Willie inspired everyone who knew him to live their best lives. Glioblastoma took his life, but his spirit lives on. The **Willie Strong Foundation** rallied our community in his memory. They created the William Seamus Hughes Professorship in Neuro-Oncology and Immunology. This professorship is enabling its inaugural holder, Dr. Eugene Hwang, to pursue cures while honoring Willie's fighting spirit.

— Patients with relapsed medulloblastoma have no time to lose. The Medulloblastoma Initiative (MBI) will save lives by bringing new therapies to trial within two years rather than 10. **Fernando Goldsztein** founded MBI after learning his son Frederico has relapsed Group 4 medulloblastoma.

Children's National harnessed

the initiative's philanthropy to launch an unprecedented global collaboration to accelerate this research. The Cure Group 4 Consortium links 13 scientific teams across the U.S., Canada and Europe. Their work already is delivering results, including a stem-cell breakthrough to drive drug development.

— Children diagnosed with brain tumors face some of the toughest challenges. **The Lilabeau Foundation for Pediatric Brain Cancer Research** generously supports our Brain Tumor Institute, powering promising studies and the work of young scientists as they begin their careers. It also provides resources for families of patients with brain tumors. This partnership advances our team's capacity to innovate and improve therapies that outsmart childhood cancer.



Aiping Zhang, Ph.D., conducts allergy and immunology research at our Research & Innovation Campus

— Families who lose a child to brain cancer may not know that gifting their child's tissue can help scientists discover more effective treatments. **The Swifty Foundation/Gift from a Child**, through its support for the Gift from a Child Center of Excellence at Children's National, helps us reach more families as they make the generous decision to advance research in the face of loss. Together, we are transforming the landscape of post-mortem tissue donation and pediatric brain tumor research and care.

— "Kids deserve so much better," says Oscar Ortiz, founder of **Sebastian Strong Foundation**, named for his son Sebastian who passed away from a rare cancer at age 16. The foundation's largest gift ever funds a research consortium to advance ultrasound studies that show promise for treating brain

tumors noninvasively. Our experts collaborate with Virginia Tech and Columbia University to accelerate novel therapies and bring hope to children and their families.

— At **Children's National Rare Disease Institute** more than 30 geneticists and genetic counselors provide answers through focused inquiry and clinical care to improve lifetimes. Children with rare diseases face multiple obstacles to getting the care they need. A key factor: Doctors lack treatment standards for many of the more than 7,000 known uncommon conditions. Our institute is a beacon for better care.

In 2021, support from **Takeda** launched the Rare Disease Clinical Activity Protocols program. This pioneering effort gives experts a powerful tool to develop and refine standardized care plans. As a result, more kids around the world get the best care faster.



Youssef A. Kousa, M.S., D.O., Ph.D., a neurologist, conducts genetic medicine research

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Driving Breakthroughs in Cancer Research and Cell Therapy

Catherine Bollard, M.D., M.B.B.C.H., the Dr. Robert J. and Florence T. Bosworth Distinguished Professor of Cancer and Transplantation Biology Research, was deeply affected by the loss of a high school friend to leukemia, a side effect of Hodgkin's lymphoma treatment. As director of our Center for Cancer & Immunology Research, this motivates her pursuits.

"I really wanted to develop new therapies, especially for children with cancer, that would only kill the cancer cells and not kill healthy cells or cause the devastating side effects that my friend suffered," Dr. Bollard says.

The center leads the field in human cell therapies that train a patient's own immune cells to fight cancer,

viruses and inflammatory diseases. Clinical trials are delivering promising results.

In 2022, Dr. Bollard and her team received the coveted Cancer Grand Challenges award from the National Cancer Institute and Cancer Research UK. It supports novel interdisciplinary ideas that offer the greatest potential to propel cancer research and improve outcomes.

This funding will advance next-generation therapies for children with solid tumors. "What excites me most is the energized, passionate group of people we've brought together," says Dr. Bollard. "Big problems remain to be addressed, but we believe they can be solved, and that we're the team to solve them."





Dr. Diego Preciado examines patient Paige

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Helping Kids Heal Faster

Diego Preciado, M.D., Ph.D., the Joseph E. Robert, Jr., Professor of Pediatric Otolaryngology, always understood that being a physician was “less of a job and more a way of life,” he says. His father, an ear, nose and throat doctor in private practice, inspired Dr. Preciado’s career in medicine. He has taken it a step further into research and academic medicine. His work improves care for children all over the world.



“I love new ideas and big challenges,” he says. These have included developing medications that reduce the need for surgery in children with chronic ear infections. He also helped advance noninvasive systems to deliver ear medication without anesthesia. He’s developing an app that will help families manage complex care for kids with hearing loss after cochlear implantation to help them keep up with language development.

The Sheikh Zayed Institute gives Dr. Preciado a home to research and care for patients every day. “At Children’s National,” he says, “the future is all about helping children get better faster.”

A hearing app being developed by Dr. Preciado will help kids with language development after cochlear implantation.



“I love new ideas and big challenges.”

— Dr. Diego Preciado

Philanthropic investments at Children’s National made the world a better place for children with urea cycle disorders (UCD). These rare metabolic conditions disrupt the body’s ability to consume protein. Ammonia buildup in the brain can lead to lifetime impairments or death.

Steadfast investments from **Thomas and Mary Alice O’Malley** and the **Kettering Family Philanthropies** made the difference, enabling us to launch one of the world’s first global clinical research networks for a rare condition. Scientific collaboration has yielded multiple new therapies and care strategies. Children with UCD worldwide are growing up stronger.

Budding surgeon scientists at the Sheikh Zayed Institute for Pediatric Surgical Innovation work with and learn from experts to make surgery for kids more precise, less invasive and pain-free. **The Joseph E. Robert, Jr., Charitable Trust, G. David Fensterheim, Trustee** helps make these advancements possible.

The Joseph E. Robert, Jr., Fellowship in Pediatric Surgical Innovation enabled trainees including Michele Saruwatari, M.D., a second-year general surgery fellow, to follow projects from development to testing to the bedside. She has the unique opportunity to work with the bioengineers who design devices, clinicians who use them and scientists who evaluate their efficacy.

The genetic medicine revolution is unlocking new approaches for preventing and treating severe childhood conditions. Longstanding support from **The Frank and Nancy Parsons Foundation** stands behind our leading role in this area.

The foundation’s gifts, directed by Lynn and Douglas Parsons, provide pilot funding within our Center for Genetic Medicine Research, allowing investigators to push the boundaries of knowledge. This yields findings on vital questions such as the link between preterm birth and neurodevelopmental conditions.

Children thrive when we drive bench discoveries to bedside

Stories of Inspiration

Young patients focus on a healthy future



A Boy from Brazil Inspired a Global Movement

Every day counts for children with aggressive brain tumors. Their loved ones ask: Can scientific breakthroughs offer hope? One family from Brazil said yes.

Frederico has relapsed medulloblastoma, a condition for which doctors lack a cure. He and his dad, Fernando, took inspiration from a favorite passage in the Talmud, which says, "Whoever saves one life saves the entire world."

Fernando decided to change the world in partnership with Children's National, where Frederico receives care from world-renowned brain tumor expert Dr. Roger Packer. Through philanthropy, Fernando launched the Medulloblastoma Initiative to develop new treatments and discover a cure as rapidly as possible.



Frederico (right) with his brother, Henrique

Dr. Packer assembled 13 research teams around the globe in an unprecedented collaborative effort to drive progress. The Cure Group 4 Consortium's results are transforming the field.

"My son is always thinking about the future," Fernando says. "I decided that fighting pediatric brain tumors will be the goal of my life from now on."

Helping Dottie Grow Up Gracefully

Three-year-old Dottie is an old soul. That's how her mom, Angie, and her medical team describe her as she waltzes into appointments with her head held high. Dottie was born with PIK3CA-related overgrowth, known as CLOVES syndrome. She has a webbed hand and enlarged foot. Doctors referred Angie to Children's National Rare Disease Institute. Their knowledge put her at ease.

"When you get a diagnosis for a rare genetic condition, it's a huge comfort when you have the expert on that condition," Angie says. Dottie's growth in her hand and foot meant she would need a series of surgeries and therapies. She was one of the first patients to use a new FDA-approved drug and a caseworker guided Angie to minimize the costs.

Today, Dottie is thriving. She excels at gymnastics and brings joy to her family with her charisma and sitcom-ready catch phrases such as "What in the world!" Angie is grateful to the team for making what can be a difficult and scary experience lighter for Dottie. "She has every princess sticker known to man whenever she leaves the hospital."

“When you get a diagnosis for a rare genetic condition, it's a huge comfort when you have the expert on that condition.”

— Angie
Children's National Parent



Dottie, a patient in our Rare Disease Institute



Caoilinn, a patient in our Cancer and Blood Disorders Center

Breakthroughs Help Caoilinn Navigate Leukemia

By Caoilinn
Children's National Patient

My name in Gaelic means "mighty warrior." I faced my first real battle with childhood acute myeloid leukemia at age 15. After two years of treatment and then a year of

remission, my cancer returned. I had a bone marrow transplant, but the cancer came back again 18 months later.

My brother donated bone marrow for a second transplant. I also opted into a T-cell immunotherapy clinical trial at Children's National. This treatment involves using T cells to kill the cancer. It is easier on my body than chemo and has fewer side effects. Another benefit is that

my participation in the research might help other young patients in the future.

I still get treatments and have a few surgeries ahead of me, but I feel a lot better. The people at Children's National put so much effort into keeping me alive, including research to discover new and better treatments. I can't wait to make a positive impact on the world, like they have had on me and my family.

Strengthening Community Through Access to Care

KEY CAMPAIGN GOALS



Integrate

specialty services into primary care, prioritizing asthma and mental healthcare



Develop

systems to identify and support families that need community resources to address social determinants of health



Establish

Mental Health Policy Lab



Expand

K-12 programming and nurse training



Princeton, a primary care patient at Children's National THEARC

In 2022, The Diana L. & Stephen A. Goldberg Center for Community Pediatric Health delivered care through

97,254
patient visits.

KEY ADVANCES

- Children's National was at the forefront of the COVID-19 response. At the onset of the crisis, our donor community came together to help us set up one of the nation's first walk-up/drive-up pediatric testing sites. Area pediatricians referred patients and families at risk due to underlying medical conditions. Philanthropic support for our COVID-19 Emergency Action Fund supported ongoing efforts, as our researchers devised diagnostics and innovations to keep our community and staff safe. Today, our infectious disease experts lead a multisite study of COVID's lasting effects on kids.
- We responded to patient needs during the pandemic by significantly expanding our telehealth program. Video visits allowed families to connect with primary and specialty care providers from the comfort of home. Behavioral telehealth helped kids with diabetes monitor their glucose levels through text messages. For many young people struggling with mental and emotional health issues, video visits remain a lifeline. Since 2020, Children's National has provided more than 235,000 patient telehealth visits.
- The Diana L. & Stephen A. Goldberg Center for Community Pediatric Health delivers exceptional, compassionate primary care to kids throughout the District. During the last six years, we opened or relocated five sites to better reach families in their neighborhoods. Children's National also strengthened its care coverage for children with complex medical needs by integrating the HSC Pediatric Center in Northeast D.C.
- We partnered with the Capital Area Food Bank in 2022 to launch a food pharmacy program at Children's National. The pilot program enabled kids with prediabetes and diabetes experiencing food insecurity to leave their care visits with nutritious groceries. The program aimed to reach 120 families per month, providing each household with 35 pounds of healthy food per visit over the course of a year.

LEADERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Reach more families who need us.

— "I like the mobile units because you can get care directly and easily — such a blessing," says Mrs. Saunders, who took her four grandkids to get their shots for the new school year.

For 16 years, the **Elsberg Family Foundation** has funded the red-and-white mobile health units that deliver comprehensive healthcare to children and families with the greatest needs in Washington, D.C.'s Wards 7 and 8. Care providers conduct wellness examinations and give routine immunizations and COVID-19 and flu vaccines.

— Our recent partnership with the **United Health Foundation**, established by UnitedHealth Group, enables our mobile health program to reach even more kids and address health inequities. We also work with District schools to identify students with high rates of absenteeism and provide resources to help them stay in school. Kids receive well visits, including vaccinations and hearing, vision, behavioral health and developmental screenings.

— The HealthySteps program, based at the Children's National THEARC (Town Hall Education Arts

Recreation Campus) in Southeast D.C., provides families with knowledge, tools and resources they need to give their babies and toddlers the best start in school and in life. HealthySteps integrates mental health clinicians with expertise in early childhood development and maternal mental health into primary care visits. **Stephanie Fischer**, through her generous and long-standing philanthropy of this initiative, improves children's well-being.

— IMPACT DC improves life for children and families living with asthma. Dr. Stephen Teach, chair of our Department of Pediatrics, is the program's director and principal investigator.

As the Wendy Goldberg Professor of Translational Research in Child Health and Community Partnerships, established by **Wendy and Fred Goldberg**, he leads care and research to address asthma, mental health and other issues that affect kids in the Washington, D.C., community. Dr. Teach and his team are building a Pediatric Suicide Risk Registry to identify and support young people.

— Our Child and Adolescent Protection Center (CAPC) serves young survivors of trauma and their

families with dignity, respect and cultural humility. Allison Jackson, M.D., CAPC chief and the Washington Children's Foundation Professor of Child and Adolescent Protection, leads the center.

In 2022, CAPC cared for more than 650 children with nearly 1,600 patient encounters. The team leads change through advocacy, education and research efforts at the local and national levels. **The Washington Children's Foundation** has provided significant support for these initiatives.

“Life is hard when you experience challenges meeting your most basic needs. Our program wants to empower families to succeed and focus on their health and well-being.”

— Brooke Goodwin



Children's National staff vaccinates kids, ages 12 to 15



Padma Swamy, M.D., with patient Jaliah at THEARC

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Helping Young Families Thrive

The screening form is simple but has the power to change a family's life. Questions relate to social determinants of health, including whether a family worries about having enough food or is dealing with adverse housing conditions such as lack of heat, a rodent infestation or leaky pipes.



"This process allows us to connect families to care, wraparound services and resources," says **Brooke Goodwin**, social work team lead for the Clark Parent & Child Network Community Health Educator & Outreach Core at Children's National.

The primary care program supports families with children from birth to age 3 who live in Washington, D.C. communities with the greatest needs. Goodwin collaborates with teams at our Goldberg Center.

She recently followed up with a mother who needed help related to both housing and a lack of childcare that prevented her from working. Goodwin connected her with a caseworker who continues to support the family and with community organizations that offer childcare at a reduced cost.

"Life is hard when you experience challenges meeting your most basic needs," Goodwin says. "We are all human despite our different resources. Our program wants to empower families to succeed and focus on their health and well-being. Sometimes all it takes is basic support and relatability."

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

A National Voice for Addressing Hunger



"Recognizing and addressing food insecurity is good medicine," says **Kofi D. Essel, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.A.P.** "We have to ask people if they're getting enough food. Food insecurity is ubiquitous, in all our counties and most importantly in all our pediatric practices."

Dr. Essel provides pediatric care at Children's National Anacostia where he sees many families struggling with this issue. Hunger has a significant impact on young kids when their brains and bodies are developing rapidly. Not having enough to eat accelerates and compounds child and family household stress. Children may experience delays in physical and cognitive development with lasting consequences.

"Addressing food insecurity can't be simply about providing food," says Dr. Essel. "It's about addressing social inequities. It's about supporting families with a livable wage, improving transportation and housing." In 2022, Dr. Essel spoke at the historic White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health.

He says private support makes a difference. "Philanthropists care about meeting community needs. They want to collaborate with us and know how things are going. At the peak of the COVID pandemic, private support allowed us to deliver hundreds of pounds of fresh produce to families. Funding ensures that families connect to meaningful resources that help them live healthier lives."

1.2 million+
people in our region are
food insecure

Nearly **1/3**
are children

Households
with children are **2X**
as likely to experience
food insecurity,
compared to
households
without
children



Source: Capital Area Food Bank

“Addressing social needs is part of healthcare. Food is one of the first things to go when families are struggling financially. Unless we acknowledge it, it will remain invisible.”

— Dr. Kofi Essel



Dr. Kofi Essel examines a patient at our Anacostia location



Jehoram, a patient with sickle cell disease, and his twin sister, Jecholiah

Stories of Resilience

Families receive world-class care in their communities



Healing Close to Home

By Helena, Children's National Parent

My son Jehoram loves second grade, asking questions and exploring outdoors. He was born with sickle cell disease. When he was very young, we hardly left home except to drive two hours round trip to Children's National for care, including blood transfusions. Anemia made Jehoram pale and weak, and he didn't grow well. It was hard on us all.

We started seeing the hospital's bone marrow transplant team when Jehoram was 6. During those appointments I would cry so hard I couldn't understand what the doctor

said, but I felt stronger each time we left. Jehoram missed a lot of kindergarten because we live so far away.

His twin sister, Jecholiah, turned out to be the only bone marrow donor match in our family. I was happy for it, but then I cried double. She understood that her brother needed her help to survive. The bone marrow transplant process took many months of intense treatment. Afterward, Jehoram grew and gained weight.

Follow-up care at Children's National Fredericksburg makes a world of difference. Jehoram doesn't have to miss much school or spend so much time in the car. The hospital lifted a burden for our family in so many ways. Jehoram is now a super happy, healthy kid.

“Follow-up care at Children's National Fredericksburg makes a world of difference. Jehoram doesn't have to miss much school or spend so much time in the car.”

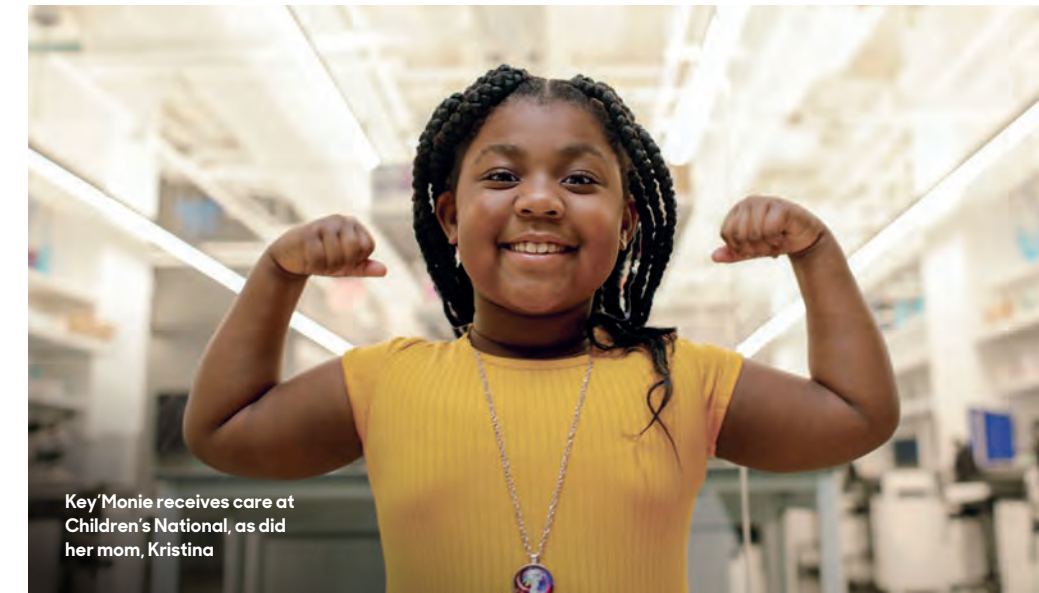
— Helena

Key'Monie's Story

Kristina first came to Children's National as a patient with chronic asthma. When she gave birth at age 15 to her daughter, Key'Monie, Kristina joined our Healthy Generations program, which helps young parents and their children thrive. The team made sure Kristina had everything from diapers to transportation and care appointments.

She has brought her daughter to Children's National ever since, including after Key'Monie had a seizure. Doctors diagnosed her with idiopathic intracranial hypertension, a condition related to pressure in the brain.

"The staff got to the bottom of the problem quickly, told me what to expect and set up a treatment plan," says Kristina. Child life specialists



Key'Monie receives care at Children's National, as did her mom, Kristina

helped Key'Monie stay calm during a stressful time. Kristina had additional support from a social worker.

Key'Monie is now back at school, enjoying time with friends

and her favorite subject, science. "Children's National brought the best possible care to our neighborhood, and that means a lot!" Kristina says.

Managing Dajasha's Asthma

Christena had severe asthma as a child. "My mother always took me to Children's National for care," she recalls, "so I could get on with being a kid." Today, Christena brings her own kids to our Anacostia location.

When Dajasha had a seizure, Christena called nurse practitioner Nadine Camp, D.N.P. "I thought she was going to die," Christena says. "But Dr. Camp told me to take her to the hospital and that she would be OK. Her reassurance throughout eased my stress." A fever caused Dajasha's seizure. When she had what her mother suspected was an asthma attack, Dr. Camp connected the family with our IMPACT DC asthma clinic. They confirmed the diagnosis and investigated potential environmental triggers.

"Thanks to this care, Dajasha could get back to being happy and healthy," her mother says. "She's always on the go — talking, moving and exploring, just like a kid should be. Her care providers made a huge difference in her life."



Dajasha receives care for her asthma through IMPACT DC



A family visits the hospital's Emergency Department

Leading Through Change: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Our focus on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) is foundational to the hospital's growth. This commitment ensures that our healthcare team listens to, understands and reflects our community.

KEY CAMPAIGN GOALS



Engage

future leaders in health equity and social justice by creating career and fellowship opportunities



Recruit

and empower more pediatric residents from underrepresented backgrounds



Build

an anti-racist health system



Diversify

our workforce by engaging youth of color in health and research careers



Create

new care models that complement medical expertise

LEADERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Asthma and mental health issues are among the challenges that disproportionately affect children living in underresourced communities. These issues bring families to our Emergency Department. Support from the **Jessie Ball duPont Fund** helps us pinpoint racial inequities that may exist in our emergency services for these conditions and develop community-informed solutions to remove barriers to care.

Migrant families have a place in our community and at Children's National. **Judy and Peter Kovler** help us meet our commitment by expanding care access for people experiencing barriers. The Judy and Peter Blum Kovler Foundation Medical Care for Migrant Children Fund covers medical costs for uninsured families who have children with complex care needs. This support also helps us connect families with community resources to help kids thrive.

Children benefit when their care providers represent and respect all backgrounds. Studies show that patient outcomes improve. Among our 2023 class of pediatric interns, 37% self-identify with races and ethnicities underrepresented in medicine. This is more than twice the national average.

Children's National Board Chair **Horacio Rozanski and Cinthia Rozanski**, co-chairs of our campaign, generously support the Rozanski Residency Training Program Fund. The Building Equity in Graduate Medical Education (BEING) Initiative is part of this program. The fund supports cultural education and promotes a diverse workforce at the hospital.

Healthy communities start at the neighborhood level. **Lisa and Chris Smith** personify this vision. Chris, chairman and CEO of WC Smith, helped found THEARC. This vibrant campus in Southeast D.C. features a Children's National primary care location. There, Chris and Lisa spearhead nutrition and housing initiatives for families in need. The couple's gift to Children's National supports our nurses at THEARC. This enables more kids in Southeast to get exceptional care without traveling across the city.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Breaking Barriers to Achieve Equity



Dr. Monika Goyal has a track record of research focused on health equity. It shines a spotlight on the toll of racism, bias and discrimination on children's health and well-being. She aims to develop Emergency Department-based interventions to reduce disparities in care and health outcomes.

In 2022, Dr. Goyal was named the hospital's first Endowed Chair of Women in Science and Health (WISH). Children's National Research Institute created the chair to address inequities in academic medicine. "It is crucial that our institutions fully commit to exceptional women researchers by providing strong support and recognizing their accomplishments," says Vittorio Gallo, Ph.D., interim chief academic officer and the Richard L. and Agnes F. Hudson Chair in Pediatrics.

Dr. Goyal's commitment extends beyond her research, care and advocacy for patients to serving as a mentor for colleagues and trainees. "I am inspired by how far we've come yet humbled by how far we have yet to go," she says. "I hope to continue to be part of the movement that works to achieve equity both in healthcare outcomes as well as in our workforce."

"I am inspired by how far we've come yet humbled by how far we have yet to go."

— Dr. Monika Goyal



Cierra Waller, patient care technician, conducts vital sign monitoring for a patient at Children's National THEARC

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

A Community for Growth

Jessica Hippolyte, M.D., M.P.H., pediatric emergency medicine fellow and former chief resident, says she chose Children's National to launch her career because it's a world-class hospital. She also selected it because of hospital leadership's decision to

focus on diversity, equity and inclusion in hiring trainees as well as faculty.



"I feel part of a community here," says Dr. Hippolyte. "The hospital's focus is not only

on recruiting underrepresented minorities as trainees, but also creating opportunities where we can thrive."

Dr. Hippolyte co-leads with Aisha Barber, M.D., the Trainees and Students Subcommittee, part of the hospital-wide Diversity and Inclusion Committee. She helps oversee the Underrepresented in Medicine Mentorship Lattice program. It matches residents and fellows with a diverse network of junior faculty mentors, and junior faculty with a diverse network of senior mentors.

"I want to be involved and lead DEI initiatives because of the positive impact it is having on my career and because it will create a better healthcare experience for our patient families," says Dr. Hippolyte.

“The hospital’s focus is not only on recruiting underrepresented minorities as trainees, but also creating opportunities where we can thrive.”

— Dr. Jessica Hippolyte



Katherine Sierra connects with a parent

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Every Family Has a Voice

Weeks after her arrival in the U.S. from Central America, a mother gave birth to a baby girl with a neural tube (brain and spine) defect. A local hospital transferred the baby to our NICU. Staff suggested the mom schedule her daughter's primary care with a bilingual provider at our Columbia Heights location.

"She was very defeated and alone," says **Katherine Sierra**, a family services associate. Sierra uses her bilingual skills to support parents

with children under age 3. She connects them with community and healthcare resources. "A lot of parents come to me very stressed," says Sierra. "At Children's National, we want all families to have a voice, including those who don't speak English."

While the baby received outpatient care, Sierra helped the mother order a birth certificate and navigate the hospital system. A year later, Sierra says the mom doesn't need her help much anymore, but she stays in touch. "This is the power of bilingual care," she says. "The baby is healthy."



Joelle Simpson, M.D., M.P.H., chief of Emergency Medicine, talks with a patient

Fund for Every Child

KEY CAMPAIGN GOALS



Ensure

Children's National has the financial stability to provide every patient with exceptional, compassionate care



Stay Nimble

to meet patients' greatest needs and pursue new opportunities to advance pediatric medicine



The Fund for Every Child supported:

3,034

contacts with our Animal Visitation and Therapy Program*

2,319
music therapy sessions*

2,279
art therapy sessions*

* 2022 data

Wes, a patient with leukemia, finds a creative outlet through art therapy

The **Fund for Every Child** supports mission-critical operations that make Children's National a place of hope and healing. Unrestricted gifts to this fund ensure that we can direct resources where they make the most difference for patients and their families.

During our campaign, this support meant we could meet the unexpected challenges of the COVID-19 public health crisis and address the nationwide shortage of nurses and other healthcare providers.

It funded uncompensated care, including healing music, art and pet therapies and soothing diversions that mean so much to hospitalized kids. It helped us deliver groundbreaking treatments and provide extra comfort for parents who spend hours with their fragile newborns in our NICU.

We are grateful to all who help us meet the needs of every child.



Sarah Carruth, R.N., of our Animal Visitation and Therapy Program, with facility dog Company



Music therapist Ashley Warmbrodt elicits a smile from patient Catherine

LEADERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

We are grateful to benefit from donor expertise to advance pediatric medicine. **Amazon Web Services (AWS)**, which supports our Race for Every Child, also provides in-kind services and thought leadership that spark discovery. We partner to innovate and build healthier futures. Special thanks to David Levy, vice president of U.S. government, nonprofit and healthcare businesses at AWS. **Dave and Izumi Levy** served as co-chairs of our campaign.

A hospital stay can feel scary to kids. **Disney** helps us ease anxiety through the positive power of stories and immersive experiences. Interactive murals, play spaces, digital displays, themed toys and complimentary access to the latest Disney movies and shows bring joy to kids and families when they need it most.

Shortly before Spencer's birth, he was diagnosed with neuroblastoma – a rare cancer that develops from immature nerve cells. He had lifesaving surgery at Children's National as an infant and today is a healthy teen. Spencer's mom, Kate Mulcahy, and dad, Jon Kling, are grateful parents.

Jon and Allison Kling gave a gift to support the Fund for Every Child. Jon serves on the hospital's Corporate Advisory Council.

Kate and Brian Mulcahy were sponsors of the Founders Auxiliary Board's fundraiser Light Up the Season. Kate serves on the board and co-chaired the event in 2022.

The pandemic brought new and emerging opportunities. Campaign co-chairs **Jennifer and Jimmy Reyes** recognized that their unrestricted support would help hospital leadership meet them. Jimmy serves on both the hospital and Foundation boards. The Reyes made a multiyear pledge to advance the priorities of the president and CEO and provide resources to address patients' most urgent needs.

As a member of **Children's Miracle Network Hospitals**, we partner with companies and organizations throughout our region to raise funds and awareness for Children's National. Partners provide the community with easy ways to support our patients and families. Area businesses, including credit unions, **Ace Hardware, Atlantic Coast Mortgage, Costco Wholesale, Marriott International, RE/MAX, Walmart** and **Sam's Club** invite customers and employees to contribute. Their campaigns throughout the year raise critical funds for Children's National.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

How Music Helps Children Heal



Every day brings a new opportunity for **Ashley Warmbrodt, M.A., M.T.-B.C.**, a board-certified music therapist who started our music therapy program within Child Life and Integrative Care Services.

She uses the piano or her favorite string instruments and strong therapeutic instincts to improve children's mental and physical outcomes. Playing the guitar soothes a struggling teenage psychiatric patient. Music-assisted relaxation helps a young burn patient endure painful whole-body dressing changes. In our NICU, Ashley leads parents in singing quiet songs to help them bond with tiny babies who seem too fragile to touch.

"The human brain reacts to music like a drug. It also helps validate emotions and feelings," says Ashley. It helps de-escalate stressful situations. Sometimes, patients need less pain medication because of it.

"Music therapy helps children and families through some of their toughest times," she says. "Whether it's singing, playing a particular chord progression on a ukulele or creating a 'heartbeat song' at the end of a child's life, this is where the beautiful moments and healing happen."



Participants cross the finish line at our Race for Every Child



Special Events and Community Support

Patient families benefit directly from meaningful events that engage our community to raise unrestricted support for Children's National. These events unite supporters around a common goal to advance pediatric care and research.

- We are grateful to the many volunteer leaders, sponsors, team captains and donors of the hospital's annual signature events, the **Children's Ball** and **Race for Every Child**.
- The Founders Auxiliary Board hosts **A Vintage Affair** and **Light Up the Season**. Our region's cybercommunity comes together for the **White Hat Gala**. Champions host a variety of community-based events, such as **Brody's Bash** and **NVP's Golf FORE the Kids**.
- **Radiothons** rally listeners around our lifesaving work and encourage donations. Four regional stations — 97.1 WASH-FM, EI Zol 107.9, Shenandoah Country Q102.5 in Winchester and B101.5 in Fredericksburg — host yearly events.
- **Dance Marathons** bring together hundreds of students across their campuses in support of children's health. These student-led events occur at 10 regional high schools and universities. **University of Maryland** and **McLean High School** are our largest collegiate and high school programs.
- **Extra Life** is a one-day fundraising marathon uniting gamers across our community. Participants play video and board games for 24 hours, inspiring generous donations.

Annual and Planned Giving

Loyal donors who make annual and planned gifts to Children's National support children's health now and in the future.



Doritt Carroll, a grateful parent, spent long hours at Children's National when her first child, now a biomedical and robotics engineer, was an inpatient. Carroll had good medical insurance and the ability to cover any additional costs. She recalls less fortunate parents who came and went, unable to take time off work to sit with their children. That experience inspired her to give annually in support of uncompensated care through our Fund for Every Child. "I give to support families who can't afford to pay," she says.

Michael and Phyllis Skiba are grateful grandparents who have given annually to the hospital for 16 years. They also made a planned gift through their IRA. "We have been blessed in many ways. We are happy to support Children's National," Michael Skiba says.

Carl Spatz, chair of Children's National Emeritus Board, worked for decades at the hospital. The retiree donates his time and makes an annual gift. He's also a member of our Guardian Society, which recognizes donors who commit to an estate gift to ensure the hospital's future. "I give back to Children's National because I have seen from the inside its importance to the children and families of our community, nation and beyond," he says.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Child Life Supports the Patient Journey

The bubbly 2-year-old was weary from treatment for B-cell acute lymphocytic leukemia, a cancer of the blood and bone marrow. Certified child life specialist **Tawni Rochester, C.C.L.S.**, brought in clowns. "They were wild and silly and playing banjos," Tawni says. The girl laughed, but the mom broke down in tears. "She thought she'd never hear the sound of her daughter laughing again."

Child life specialists help families cope with illness, trauma and loss. Tawni has spent her entire career at Children's National, starting as a

clinical intern in our Emergency Department. Today, she is manager of the child life team.

When a patient arrived with a life-threatening injury after an ice-skating accident, Rochester stood next to him. She pressed her hands gently against both sides of his face and asked him to focus on her voice. It calmed him so the medical team could administer pain medication and prepare him for surgery. He later made a full recovery.

"My job is all about building strong therapeutic relationships," she says. "Patients and families constantly thank us for what we do. They don't realize we're the lucky ones — I'm grateful to be a trusted person along their journey."



Patient Jackson shares a hug with child life specialist Tawni Rochester

Gratitude from a Future Leader



I love anything that sparkles, making art and game nights with my family. But when I was 6, my mom knew something was wrong. I wouldn't ride my bike and I had a constant fever. Doctors said I had high-risk B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. It was as scary as it sounds. I didn't leave the hospital for 33 days.

I can still feel the sting of the shots in my thighs. I had to swallow a lot of pills. They drew fluid from my spine. My IV pole had so many wires hanging off it, I named it Frankenstein.

There were so many hard parts about cancer treatment, but I fell in love with the people at Children's National. They saved my life. They made me feel like family, especially the nurses. They special ordered my favorite foods like noodles with melted cheese. They helped me set up video games so I could join game night with my aunts, uncles and cousins from my hospital bed. All that care and love helped me get through.

In January 2023, I rang the bell at Children's National to celebrate my last chemotherapy round — the happiest day of my life. It made feel like I can do anything!

When I grow up, maybe I'll be a doctor. I'd like to help find a cure for cancer, especially the kind that children get. My hope for the future is that every single kid gets the care they need. That's what I want to accomplish. I know we can do it!

Paige, Age 9



“My hope for the future is that every single kid gets the care they need. That's what I want to accomplish. I know we can do it!”

— Paige

Top: Paige was the belle of Children's Ball 2023 where she celebrated with her family
Bottom: Paige in the hospital's art room

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Dr. Kurt Newman with patient ambassador Zahara in the hospital's Costco Wholesale Atrium

Thanks to an Extraordinary Leader-in-Chief

Dr. Kurt Newman spent 40 years caring for kids at Children's National. He served as the hospital's president and CEO from 2011 to 2023. Through his visionary leadership, deep compassion for staff and families and generosity in advancing our mission, he improved the lives of children everywhere.

Under Dr. Newman's leadership, the hospital soared to become a top-5 children's hospital in the nation. Our world-class care and groundbreaking research are creating a healthier community that will benefit generations to come.

We thank Dr. Newman and celebrate his extraordinary legacy!