Dear Friends,

When your job is to make sick children well again, to heal their injuries, or to keep them healthy and out of the hospital like here at UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, there is no shortage of inspiration.

We are inspired by our physicians and nurses and their determination to lend a hand. They are creating new therapies, pioneering new treatments, and developing new ways to care for the families who walk through our doors. They encourage us all to work a little harder and believe in the impossible.

We are inspired by our donors and their generous giving. Without their support, we would not have the impact on families that we do. Every hour spent fundraising and every dollar donated helps us make great strides in improving our hospital and the lives of the families who rely on it.

But most of all, we are inspired by the patients who walk through our doors and show outstanding courage and bravery.

In this Community Report, you’ll meet some of our incredibly inspiring patients including Drew, a lively and athletic teenager who had to learn to walk again; Will, a joyful 10-year-old who keeps an optimistic spirit despite the challenges Down syndrome can bring; and Mia, an active 11-year-old who never lets her rare heart diagnosis stop her from being a normal kid.

You’ll also read about some of the inventive ways our supporters give back, such as Ethan Helbig’s CrossFit powerlifting competition. So with much gratitude, we ask you to enjoy this look back at what we’ve done over the past year. As we move forward, we’ll continue to work harder, be kinder, and smile bigger, because that’s what our kids have inspired us to do.

Thank you.

Rachel A. Petrucelli
President, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation
When the Cubas’ son, Will, was born, it wasn’t the experience they had anticipated.

“At the hospital, there were downcast looks and apologies,” said Bill Cuba, Will’s dad. “There was fear on the doctors’ faces. It wasn’t until we got to Pittsburgh and met Sheila Cannon (coordinator, Down Syndrome Center of Western Pennsylvania at UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh) that we had the feeling that everything was going to be OK. She smiled and said, ‘Congratulations on your beautiful baby boy’.”

Will was and is a wonderful gift to the Cubas. He just happens to have Down syndrome, which the Cubas didn’t know prior to his birth.

“Because Will had some issues with his intestines when he was born, we went to Children’s right away, which was the best thing that could have happened,” said Mr. Cuba. “Once we got there, it was an entirely different experience. It hit us pretty quickly that our wonderful son wasn’t something to be sorry or sad about.”

EMPOWERING KIDS WITH DOWN SYNDROME TO THRIVE

Thanks in large part to work that’s being done at the Down Syndrome Center, families are empowered to help kids like Will lead rich, vital, and joyful lives. With early intervention, individually planned education, vocational training, and preventive medical care, people with Down syndrome can thrive. It’s the center’s philosophy that when Down syndrome touches a family, dreams need not be abandoned, just altered.

“Thirty years ago, families of children with Down syndrome came together to fundraise to establish the beginnings of the robust center that we have here today,” says Kishore Vellody, MD, medical director, Down Syndrome Center. “They approached the hospital and made it happen. At the time, it was likely the first of its kind. Ever since, the program had amazing philanthropic support. It’s such a testament to the community we have around us.”
“Will isn’t a burden. Will is my brother, and I love him so much.”

—Emma Cuba, Will’s older sister
While there are centers that support patients with Down syndrome and other developmental conditions, there are few devoted entirely to Down syndrome. The center’s team and breadth of resources provide families with the tools they need to become educated advocates of children and adolescents with Down syndrome.

“We started with one doctor in 1989,” said Dr. Vellody. “Today, as we approach our 30th anniversary, we have four physicians, a nurse, a psychologist, and a coordinator. We saw about 520 pediatric patients last year and another 200 or so adults. We also frequently do prenatal visits with expectant moms to offer them support and information prior to giving birth to a baby who has Down syndrome.”

SHARING STRENGTH AND SUPPORT NEAR AND FAR

Access to Down syndrome support isn’t limited to families who live near UPMC Children’s Hospital either. Dr. Vellody provides resources and addresses questions and concerns with people all over the world through blogs and podcasts. People reflect on their worries, fears, and how their expectations of Down syndrome have differed from the reality of having a family member with the diagnosis.

People who Dr. Vellody could never help directly share their stories and offer strength and support to one another. The blog posts have been shared from the Middle East to Asia and Australia. Dr. Vellody’s podcast, which is available on iTunes, has had more than 30,000 downloads to date, 80 percent of which are not local.

“My most of the downloads are from people I’ll never meet,” said Dr. Vellody. “Which I think is fantastic because we can make information accessible to whoever might need it.”

PAYING IT FORWARD

If Dr. Vellody sounds passionate about his life’s work in the local Down syndrome community and beyond, that’s because he is.

“I always tell people I was born into the Down syndrome community very literally because my older brother, Das, has Down syndrome,” said Dr. Vellody. “Really the whole reason I’m a physician and definitely a pediatrician is because of him. I’m able to give back to my brother indirectly by helping other families. And it makes me so happy because my brother has given me so much.”

And that’s a common thread for families whose lives have been touched by Down syndrome: the sense of community and support being paid forward.

Today, Will is a 10-year-old elementary school student. He rides the school bus and spends time in both a mainstream and special life-skills classroom. Will’s also very involved with the Miracle League and Special Olympics. He loves baseball and knows all of the Pittsburgh Pirates by name.

Perhaps Emma, Will’s 13-year-old sister, said it best, “Will isn’t a burden. Will is my brother, and I love him so much. When he was born it was treated like a death, and it was anything but that. It was the start of a new happiness none of us could have ever imagined.”
Amy Emmerling landed in the middle of every parent’s worst nightmare when she found her 3-year-old son, Luke, hanging unresponsive with the cord from vertical window blinds looped around his neck. Ms. Emmerling, a nurse, immediately removed the cord, began CPR, and dialed 911.

“It’s still hard to talk about that day,” said Ms. Emmerling. “Looking back, I’m amazed I was able to do the right things. I had to have been in shock.”

When Luke got to UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, he was whisked away to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), where his oxygen continued to drop, and he was put on a ventilator.

“His condition deteriorated through that night,” said Ms. Emmerling. “Dr. Gaines (clinical director, Pediatric General and Thoracic Surgery) made the decision to put him into a medically induced paralysis and use extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), which was key in his recovery. Over the next week, he stabilized and continued to improve.”

SUPPORT THAT EMPOWERS FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

During the next days of their ordeal, the Emmerlings talked with trauma nurses, social workers, therapists, and other UPMC Children’s Hospital staff about Luke’s condition.

“Without that support, I think we would have fallen apart,” said Ms. Emmerling. “Even though what happened to Luke happened before the Injury Prevention Program was exactly what it is today, we had all of those resources to help us cope.”

The Injury Prevention Program at UPMC Children’s has existed in some form for 17 years. It has evolved to facilitate injury prevention across the developmental life span because dangers that impact younger kids differ from those facing adolescents and teens.
"WITHOUT THAT SUPPORT, I THINK WE WOULD HAVE FALLEN APART. EVEN THOUGH WHAT HAPPENED TO LUKE HAPPENED BEFORE THE INJURY PREVENTION PROGRAM WAS EXACTLY WHAT IT IS TODAY, WE HAD ALL OF THOSE RESOURCES TO HELP US COPE."

— Amy Emmerling, Luke’s Mother
“We’ve established partnerships with schools in the region to create pilot programs that get teens involved with issues that impact them,” said Chris Vitale, RN, MSN, manager of the Injury Prevention Program. “We worked with one district that had a higher-than-average suicide rate to create programming to raise mental health awareness. We’ve also had success with programs that promote driving and passenger safety.”

Families can get referrals to the Safety Center, a resource offered by the Injury Prevention Program at UPMC Children’s, for things like stair gates, smoke detectors, and childproof locks. The Safety Center can also provide families with education and resources to help prevent common household injuries.

“Our goal has always been to empower families and our community partners,” said Barbara Gaines, MD. “We want to take the hospital’s resources out into the community where they can be useful to the most people.”

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS THAT EXPAND REACH

UPMC Children’s is also taking safety on the road with the Injury Prevention Home Safety Van. Proudly sponsored by John and Lisa Gismondi and their Gismondi Family Foundation since 2017, the Safety Van is a mobile extension of the hospital’s Safety Center. The van is complete with a mock-up of an actual kitchen and bathroom — environments that often serve as settings for many serious childhood injuries. These features help facilitate home safety education, particularly when coupled with a generous supply of home safety items that staff can share at pediatricians’ offices, resource centers, schools, and community events.

The Injury Prevention Program has also teamed up with Kohl’s Cares to spread the word that if a child is riding anything on wheels, they should be wearing a helmet that fits.

“Kohl’s Hard Heads Helmet Program is not only about creating awareness,” said Dr. Gaines. “We also provide kids with bike helmets. We literally have a Hard Head Patrol, which is made up of hospital staff out in the community rewarding kids with gift cards if they are wearing helmets and getting them helmets if they need one. We gave away about 6,000 helmets last year!”

It’s an important initiative because while brain injuries can be life-changing and even deadly, only 29 percent of kids admitted to UPMC Children’s for bike injuries had been wearing helmets when they were hurt.

“We have a great opportunity here to convey to children that simply wearing a helmet can save their lives,” said Dr. Gaines.

PAYING SAFETY FORWARD TO HELP OTHERS

It’s clear that the Safety Center, the Safety Van, Kohl’s Hard Heads Helmet Program, and community partnerships are helping children, adolescents, and families to stay safe and cope during unfortunate occasions when things do go wrong.

“Until something bad happened to us, we didn’t think about things like tying up the cords on our vertical blinds,” said Ms. Emmerling. “It never crossed my mind because our other son just didn’t get into things like Luke did. It’s such a great resource so families never have to go through what we did.”

Today, Luke is a sports-loving eighth grader who enjoys video games and plays in the school band. The picture of health, Luke has no ill effects from his terrifying ordeal. The Emmerlings show their gratitude for that by continuing to share their story with other families whenever Dr. Gaines asks.

“If anybody at Children’s needs anything from us, we’re ready to help,” said Ms. Emmerling. “Everyone at the hospital was so good to us. They saved our baby.”

Making Safety a Priority: MSA Safety

Established in 1914, MSA Safety (Mine Safety Appliances) is a global leader in the development, manufacture, and supply of safety products that protect people and facility infrastructures. Consistent with MSA’s century-long mission to protect the health and safety of people at work, it’s only fitting the Cranberry Township-based company would choose to partner with its local children’s hospital to enhance kids’ health and well-being.

For more than three decades, MSA has invested generously in UPMC Children’s. From contributing to the hospital’s greatest needs and donating to our research program, to supporting the construction of our Lawrenceville campus, MSA has been a wonderful partner to the hospital. Most recently, MSA Safety granted funding to the Injury Prevention Center, contributing to safety initiatives and providing medical identification stickers for the many bike helmets we distribute to kids. It is our honor to work with community partners like MSA to keep kids safe.
Diagnosed with biliary atresia, a condition in newborns in which the common bile duct between the liver and the small intestine is absent, Darius Jones underwent a corrective procedure when he was just 24 days old.

“Doctors in Virginia told me they had a 33 percent chance of being able to perform a procedure that would let the bile flow from the liver to the intestine like it’s supposed to,” said Darius’ mom, Zakia Byerson. “But it wasn’t successful. By the time Darius was 2 months old, we knew he would need a liver transplant.”

Listed for transplant at 3 months old, Darius began his wait for a donor organ. When he was a little over a year old, they thought they had a suitable donor, but that fell through. That’s when Ms. Byerson learned of the partnership between the University of Virginia Children’s Hospital (UVA) and UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh.

“We went to UVA for an evaluation and met with a transplant coordinator,” said Ms. Byerson. “They determined that Darius was eligible to be listed for a transplant, and less than a month later he was able to have surgery at UVA.”

**A HISTORY OF INNOVATION**

UPMC Children’s Hospital opened the first comprehensive pediatric transplant center under the guidance of transplant pioneer Thomas E. Starzl, MD, PhD, in 1981. Since then, Hillman Center for Pediatric Transplantation at UPMC Children’s has performed more than 1,200 pediatric liver transplants — more than any other center in the U.S. — with patient survival rates consistently besting national averages.

According to 2017 data from the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients, the pediatric liver transplant program at UPMC Children’s ranks number 1 out of 62 such centers in the U.S. for one-year overall patient and graft survival. The program remains at the leading edge of expertise, innovation, and patient- and family-centered care for patients from all over the world.
“We are grateful to be able to bring our unique experience and expertise in pediatric liver transplantation to patients and families beyond our region,” said George V. Mazariegos, MD, chief of Pediatric Transplantation at UPMC Children’s. “It’s a very challenging population with complex liver diseases who need immediate access to specialized care.”

While long-term collaborations may be labor-intensive with entire surgical teams from Pittsburgh traveling out-of-state for surgery, Dr. Mazariegos believes it’s the best, most complete way to replicate the highest level of care.

POISED TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES IN PITTSBURGH, VIRGINIA, AND FLORIDA

In addition to its collaboration with UVA, UPMC Children’s has established a second partnership with Florida Hospital for Children to bring advanced, compassionate transplant care to central Florida. Thus far, the transplant network data is positive.

Between May 2016 and June 2018, 83 pediatric liver transplants were performed among the three institutions with a 96.4 percent patient and graft survival rate, and a 0 percent wait-list mortality rate. A total of 66 of the procedures were performed in Pittsburgh, with the remaining 15 and two performed in Virginia and Florida, respectively.

“It’s very gratifying to be able to help improve outcomes in Virginia and Florida,” said Dr. Mazariegos. “It has been a tremendous team effort. Transplant surgeons, nursing and anesthesia teams, operating room staff, and hepatology — there are too many people to name. And it wouldn’t be possible without Kyle Soltys (MD, pediatric liver transplant surgeon) who has worked to develop the clinical and operational logistics of the effort.”

Since his transplant almost three years ago, Darius has done well overall. Though he has had setbacks, including issues with rejection, he’s an active, bubbly little boy. And teams from both UPMC Children’s and UVA continue to follow his care very closely.

“They have just been excellent,” Ms. Byerson said. “Everyone has been so good to Darius and to me and the entire family. They have supported us from the time we got the call that the liver was available until today.”

Thanks to his new liver, and occupational and physical therapy, Darius is doing things he wasn’t able to do before his transplant like eating without a feeding tube and walking.

These days, you’ll find Darius happily running, jumping, and skipping right along.

Transformative work bolstered by generosity: Rob and Cindy Citrone

Last year, Pittsburgh natives and philanthropists Cindy and Rob Citrone partnered with UPMC Children’s to develop the Starzl Network for Excellence in Pediatric Transplantation. Through their $2 million donation and an unprecedented commitment to match up to an additional $1 million in donations during the Play it Forward organ donation campaign, the gift, named in honor of Dr. Starzl, is helping to improve outcomes for pediatric transplant recipients. For details about the Starzl Network for Excellence in Pediatric Transplantation, or to learn more about how you can contribute to this pioneering initiative, visit www.starzltransplantnetwork.com.

“This financial support helps to unite pediatric liver transplant centers that are committed to innovation and developing and sharing best practices,” said Dr. Mazariegos.

The generous gift is part of the 2017-2018 Play it Forward campaign, which the Citrone 33 Foundation launched to increase organ donor registration, fund research, and change organ donation and transplantation policy. Fuelled by philanthropic partnerships, support from the Steelers, Penguins, and Pirates, as well as UPMC, the University of Pittsburgh, and Carnegie Mellon University, Play it Forward is successfully championing issues surrounding transplantation.

“We are honored to support UPMC Children’s and transformative work in pediatric transplantation,” said Ms. Citrone, a member of the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation Board of Trustees. “By focusing on collaboration, we can have a far-reaching impact and help more children and their families.”
Three-year-old Mia had a rough start when she arrived in New Castle, Pennsylvania, after a 24-hour flight from China. Though the Vogels, Mia’s new adoptive family, knew she had a heart defect, they also just thought Mia was emotionally overwhelmed and exhausted from the flight.

“When we took Mia to the pediatrician the next day, they told us she was dehydrated and to take her to Children’s,” said Mia’s mom, Mary Vogel. “But after seeing Dr. Allada (clinical director of the Division of Pediatric Cardiology and executive director of the Heart Institute at UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh) and having the heart catheterization, we knew pretty quickly that Mia was very sick.”

**A RARE DIAGNOSIS**

Diagnosed with two rare and severe conditions: Tetralogy of Fallot and hypoplastic right ventricle, a rare condition that includes a combination of four significant heart defects, things looked grim for Mia because she hadn’t received any cardiac intervention for her complex heart defects while she was in China.

“Mia’s was one of the most severe cases of congenital heart disease I’ve ever seen,” said Vivek Allada, MD. “But Victor Morell (chief of Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery and co-director of the Heart Institute) did an incredible job.”

“When we first met Dr. Allada, we were so terrified by Mia’s diagnosis,” said Ms. Vogel. “But, he gave us hope that she could be healthy and do all the things she wanted to do. He was right. To this day, Mia and Dr. Allada are good buddies.”

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**CARING FOR HEARTS, WITH HEART**

**THE BEST CARE FOR THE MOST KIDS DELIVERED STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART**

Vivek Allada, MD, speaking with a colleague.
A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED PROGRAM

The mission of the Heart Institute is to provide each patient and family with unsurpassed heart care and support — no matter how complex the condition. Meeting that challenge for more than three decades, the Heart Institute has earned its reputation among the nation’s leading institutions for pediatric cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery.

With the expertise and innovation required to deliver comprehensive services to children who are born with or acquire heart disease and care for adults with congenital heart disease, too, the Heart Institute is also able to diagnose and treat patients before they’re born.

Referring physicians, and more than 17,000 patients with congenital heart disease from all over the country and around the world, choose the Heart Institute’s nationally recognized care every year. And, UPMC Children’s Hospital’s pediatric cardiovascular surgery program, led by Victor Morell, MD, has outcomes that are among the highest in the nation. Between 2014 and 2017, it had one of the lowest overall four-year surgical mortality rates among all high-volume programs. For the fourth consecutive reporting period, the program was awarded a three-star rating by the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, one of only 12 programs to receive this distinction.

“Our goal is to deliver the best care for the most kids,” said Dr. Allada. “We do that by offering same-day appointments and specialized care to children at 13 clinics in the region. And we offer a novel telemedicine service to support hospitals that don’t have pediatric cardiology. We’ve also been fortunate to welcome leaders in pediatric cardiology from across the country to join our team. Together, we’ve been able to improve the way we care for children in our region by offering expert services in pediatric heart failure and transplantation, pediatric and adult congenital heart disease, electrophysiology, and cardiac catheterization.”

PARTNERSHIPS EXPAND REACH

With cardiac surgical procedure outcomes surpassing state and national averages, UPMC Children’s has set out to share best practices with cardiac teams around the country. Programs like St. Joseph’s Children’s Hospital in Tampa, Florida, have welcomed the opportunity to partner with UPMC Children’s Heart Institute to provide specialized cardiovascular care for their patients. Another such partnership is on the horizon with Wolfson Children’s Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida.

“If we can continue to have strong outcomes at home and expand and export that care through partnerships, we can help more kids and families,” said Dr. Allada.

SPECIAL KIDS THRIVE

And though Dr. Allada’s special patient, Mia, has had more than 10 catheter procedures into her heart, and four open-heart surgeries to mend defects as her body has continued to grow, today she’s a successful student and a skillful baton twirler who loves art and swims like a fish all summer long.

Mia also recently had the time of her life at Dr. Bill Neches Heart Camp for Kids, held annually at Camp Koa-O-Kwee Spencer YMCA. It was a week of fun and friendship attended by 150 kids with heart conditions and camp counselors who also have heart conditions and once attended Heart Camp themselves. Unsurprisingly, Mia cannot wait to go back next summer. Until then, Mia and her very special heart will continue to visit UPMC Children’s every six months just to check in.

Giving With an Open Heart: Douglas Dick and Family

In 1980, Douglas Dick established an endowment at Children’s Hospital to honor the life and legacy of his late son, Patrick. Patrick passed away from heart disease when he was just a baby. The Patrick Dick Memorial Endowment Fund stands as a loving testament to Patrick, providing vital funding to advanced research in pediatric cardiology.

Mr. Dick further contributes to UPMC Children’s as a member of the Board of Trustees for both the hospital and the foundation. With his considerable business experience as chairman and chief executive officer of Dick Building Company, Mr. Dick brings priceless knowledge and skills to our leadership team.

Mr. Dick, his wife, Laura, and their family continue to be tremendous advocates for UPMC Children’s. Our thanks to the Dicks for inspiring hope in every heartbeat!
How do you prevent youth violence? The short answer: It takes a village. The longer answer: Introduce violence prevention programming slowly, gain the trust of the community, and work with community partners to identify, educate, and empower at-risk adolescents. Then, implement additional programming to help larger groups of youth to begin substituting unhealthy attitudes and behaviors with healthy ones.

“Within the past 18 months, Youth Violence Prevention (YVP), which encompasses Sisterhood 2.0, Manhood 2.0, and Youth Leadership in Action (YLIA), has grown significantly,” said Michael Massof, MPA, senior research coordinator of Sisterhood/Manhood Violence Prevention. “These opportunities to engage youth have been powerful. To see them begin to take ownership is wonderful.”

**RESEARCH LEADS TO INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING**

What began as a research study funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has evolved to encompass a number of violence-prevention initiatives. The goal is to get young people to begin to recognize destructive attitudes and behaviors in themselves, their peers, and in the community at large. Once there is awareness, those beliefs can begin to be challenged and even replaced.

“During the research phase, we partnered with faith leaders, libraries, and agencies that serve youth and families in neighborhoods with concentrated social disadvantage to identify young people who have less access to prevention programs,” said Elizabeth Miller, MD, PhD, FSAHM, chief of the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine, UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh. “In developing those partnerships through the study, Allegheny County Department of Human Services agreed to continue to support the prevention programming even after the CDC funding ended.”
“Ultimately, we’re empowering young people to challenge all kinds of notions about what it means to be a man or woman through these programs.”

— Michael Massof, MPA
HEALTH CARE TO MEET CHALLENGES FACING TEENS

The curriculum, a collaboration with a global health organization called Promundo, is a unique, groundbreaking initiative of UPMC Children’s Hospital’s Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine, which provides medical care for a wide range of health issues in adolescents ages 10 to 25. The work of the division illustrates that UPMC Children’s isn’t just for kids.

The mission of the division is to provide accessible health care services for adolescents in the context of their family, culture, and community; offer interdisciplinary adolescent health care education for health professional trainees and practitioners, as well as youth, families, and communities; conduct research to increase understanding of disparities in adolescent health, promote adolescent health equity, and improve adolescent health outcomes; and facilitate engagement with youth in their communities as adult allies and advocates.

A vital component of fulfilling a vision for youth in which they are healthy, safe, and thriving is offering young men and women tools and resources to effectively respond to the pervasive violence that many face in their communities, schools, and even in their own homes. YVP strives to break the cycle of violence through new ideas, experiences, and positive modeling that has the power to affect positive change in individuals and communities.

WHAT IS MANHOOD 2.0?

The inaugural program, Manhood 2.0, was designed to explore masculinity, promote respectful relationships, and seek to end violence against women. Led by a core group of trained facilitators, it encouraged discussions about being a man using interactive strategies, including arts-based approaches and role play around healthy sexual relationships. It also explored how youth have the potential to play an active role in social change.

"The initial research study has grown into ongoing youth-violence prevention work," said Dr. Miller. "The programming has the potential to positively impact communities and even disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline. If we can keep young people engaged in their schools and communities, we lessen the chance that they’ll end up in the juvenile justice system."

WHAT IS SISTERSHOOD 2.0?

Next came Sisterhood 2.0, which presents a complementary program for young women to explore gender norms, promote respectful relationships, and end violence against women. Additional programming also focuses on building job skills, promoting leadership, and empowering youth to have a voice in their communities. Each of the programs is divided into three-hour modules of curriculum which is shared with youth participants at various community sites over the course of six to eight weeks.

Both the Grable Foundation and the FISA Foundation have been extremely generous in their support of the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine. Grants from each have been instrumental in developing and refining Sisterhood 2.0.

EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE

“Ultimately, we’re empowering young people to challenge all kinds of notions about what it means to be a man or woman through these programs,” said Mr. Massof. “We’re talking about issues like toxic masculinity, consent, and what healthy relationships really look like — being sensitive, complex, and lively discussions that touch on issues regarding race, power, gender, and sexuality, but we aren’t holding back.”

And because the programs are voluntary, neither the facilitators nor participants are likely to censor themselves. Though structured, the curriculum fosters a supportive environment in which participants engage in individual, small, and large-group activities. They draw, journal, work on group projects, role play, and engage in meaningful discussions about everything from the human body to expressing emotions in a healthy way. YUA also offers youth the opportunity to learn leadership skills and to consider ways in which they can promote meaningful changes in their own schools and communities.

The future looks quite positive for YVP initiatives like YLIA, Manhood 2.0, and Sisterhood 2.0. Having just started the programming in 2017 and reaching nearly 700 young men and women already, the opportunity to continue the productive work is possible thanks to community partnerships.

“We couldn’t do what we do with YVP without strong community partnerships," said Mr. Massof. “We are so fortunate to have amazing support from educators, faith leaders, nonprofits, and individuals in both the public and private sector.”
Imagine a 13-year-old boy, athletic, strong, and healthy one minute, who is struggling to walk the next. That was the surreal reality in which the Furer family found themselves when their son, Drew, suddenly started experiencing severe back pain.

“I got a call from my husband who was at a basketball tournament in Maryland with our twin sons, Drew and Dean,” said the boys’ mother, Gayle Furer. “He said that Drew was in pain and having trouble walking. I drove to the hospital in Hagerstown, then we went by ambulance to UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh.”

By that evening, Drew was paralyzed from the waist down. Tests determined that he had traverse myelitis, an inflammation of the spinal cord that can cause paralysis. Drew remained in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) for about a week before being transferred to Children’s Hospital Rehabilitation Unit (CHRU), UPMC Children’s inpatient rehabilitation unit.

GETTING KIDS READY TO HEAD HOME

The Rehabilitation Institute cares for children with chronic conditions like spina bifida and cerebral palsy, as well as kids who have experienced catastrophic accidents. It comprises a number of established programs at UPMC Children’s, including the Division of Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine; departments of Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology; Center for Independence (CFI); and the Feeding and Swallowing Center. Patients are seen at the main campus in Lawrenceville and regional locations.

The Rehabilitation Institute’s eight-bed CHRU opened its doors in 2013 to help patients reach a higher level of functioning and regain independence before returning home after injury, illness, or surgery.

“We opened the CHRU under the medical direction of Amy Houtrow (chief, Division of Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine), in collaboration with hospital and nursing leadership,” said Kristen Straka, DNP, RN, CPN, NEA-BC, senior director of the Rehabilitation Institute. “We identified the need to expand pediatric rehabilitation services to meet the needs of our patients and provide continuity of care.”
“The CHRU brings an interdisciplinary team of experts together to provide intensive rehabilitation services that promote recovery and improve functioning,” said Amy Houtrow, MD, MPH, PhD. “While Drew was on the unit, we were able to coordinate all aspects of his care. He had daily intensive occupational and physical therapy to get him ready to head home and back to school.”

Prior to Drew’s move to the CHRU, Amit Sinha, MD, medical director of the CHRU, was consulted to help coordinate the transition. Both the Furers and his caregivers knew Drew wasn’t out of the woods. Some patients with his diagnosis have been known to make a complete recovery, while others never regain mobility. At the time of Drew’s transfer from the PICU to the CHRU, there were many unknowns.

“Even though nobody knew what to expect, everyone was upbeat and positive,” said Ms. Furer. “They had a clear plan to help Drew recover. In 21 days, they prepared us for our new normal. They even helped us deal with health insurance and get the equipment we needed to care for Drew at home.”

Despite the physical demands of multiple therapies several times a day, Drew did whatever was asked of him. Though the victories, like wiggling his toes, were different from those he had experienced as a gifted athlete, they were harder-earned and always celebrated.

“Drew made such great progress at the CHRU,” said Dr. Sinha. “And he’s continued to make major strides in outpatient treatment.”

Today, Drew does virtually everything he did prior to his hospitalization. He’s currently working on regaining the strength and stamina he’ll need to participate in the sports he loves at the level to which he’s accustomed. And he’s well on his way to getting there.

“When I was asked to tell Drew’s story, I was so grateful for the chance to finally say thank you for what the CHRU has done for us,” said Ms. Furer. “The doctors, nurses, therapists, and everyone who helped Drew, and us, are remarkable people.”

CELEBRATING NEW VICTORIES

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BECAUSE CONTINUITY OF CARE COUNTS MOST

“Arlene and Walt Turner have been giving to UPMC Children’s for nearly 18 years. But it’s their most recent gift to the hospital that’s propelling us to the forefront of innovation in pediatric rehabilitation. This year, the Turners committed a generous donation to fund state-of-the-art equipment for the Rehabilitation Institute at UPMC Children’s. In the ever-evolving field of rehabilitative medicine, access to advanced equipment gives our kids a leg up on the journey to recovery, enhancing the team-based, individualized treatment patients and families expect from UPMC Children’s.

We thank the Turners and supporters like them for helping us offer the highest quality of care in the region.

Providing Kids Access to the Best in Medical Technology:

Arlene and Walt Turner

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When it comes to preventing drug and alcohol use among adolescents and young adults, gone are the “Just Say No” days. The nationwide opioid crisis is evidence that prevention efforts demand more than a slogan. Instead of telling kids what to do, UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh and UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital are facilitating an active prevention effort with the Screening Motivational Interviewing and Referral to Treatment (SMART) Choices program.

“We have a really large embedded behavioral health program within CCP (Children’s Community Pediatrics),” said Abigail Schlesinger, MD, chief of the Behavioral Science Division at UPMC Children’s and associate service chief of Child and Adolescent Ambulatory Services at UPMC Western Psychiatric. “Our embedded providers were already partnering with pediatricians to screen patients and families for issues like depression, anxiety, and post-partum depression. We also wanted to get to a point where all of our practices were ready to screen for substance use and have a specific protocol in place to help at-risk kids and families.”

SCREENING FOR SUBSTANCE USE EARLY

With input from University of Pittsburgh researchers, UPMC Children’s created a comprehensive assessment and intervention tool aimed at adolescents ages 11 to 18. The SMART Choices program is designed to screen for alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and illegal and prescription drug use. It’s as simple as getting the child to answer a series of questions on an iPad.

While SMART Choices isn’t finding high numbers of kids who are currently at risk for opioid use or abuse, it is gleaning valuable information.
“We get responses from kids that indicate everything from one-time use to more frequent use of various substances,” said Dr. Schlesinger. “You have the kids who are very motivated to change their behaviors and the kids who are less motivated. In every situation, the goal is to engage families and help the kids reach their full potential. The fact is, drugs change the way that kids’ brains develop. We want to be sending a clear message as pediatricians and parents that we’re not going to look the other way or disregard drug use of any kind.”

**ENCOURAGING TOUGH CONVERSATIONS**

These aren’t easy issues for parents or kids to navigate under the best of circumstances. SMART Choices is helping facilitate difficult, but important, conversations between kids and parents.

“We work with pediatricians to help them help parents have those tough conversations with their kids,” said Dr. Schlesinger. “Like what to do if your friend is using drugs or if you’re at a party and something is happening that’s uncomfortable and doesn’t feel right. Or even how to talk with younger kids who may not know specific names of drugs, but they do know that taking something or drinking something can change how you feel or act. We want parents to be totally engaged because we know that they are the ones who are there day-to-day.”

**POTENTIALLY PREVENTING LIFELONG PROBLEMS**

Today, patients at all 45 CCP locations are screened during their annual well-child or new-patient visit. Pediatricians have embraced the program and use it to screen about 7,500 adolescents each month. Since it was implemented in June of 2016, more than 98 percent of adolescents in CCP practices have participated in the program.

“Primary care providers have a unique opportunity to head off substance use and addiction before they become lifelong problems,” said Dr. Schlesinger. “The earlier we can begin having age-appropriate conversations, the better. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends screening for substance use starting at age 11, which we’re now doing.”

Why does it make so much sense for pediatricians to be involved in substance-use prevention? For starters, substance use is among the leading causes of injury and death in adolescents. In addition, its financial impact on families is greater than that of diabetes or cancer; and finally, access to expert early intervention is critical in preventing a host of substance-abuse problems that often result from the progressive, fatal disease of addiction.

“Participating in the SMART Choices initiative has really helped me become comfortable talking to patients about substance use,” said Meredith Kursmark, MD, a pediatrician with CCP. “Unfortunately, we all have patients who are using substances. But now we can use evidence-based techniques to talk to them about their substance use and to partner with them to develop goals for decreasing and ultimately abstaining from use.”

**FACILITATING THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF CARE**

“Once we can identify the patients who need help, we can provide it immediately,” said Dr. Schlesinger. “After that initial contact, we can offer in-office behavioral health therapy sessions. We are also working on developing more intensive, tailored services. While we can’t do everything in primary care, we can offer high-quality intervention that helps kids get the care they need.”

And the kids who do receive intensive support from the program, which is currently implemented in 16 Pennsylvania counties, have a better chance to succeed. They tend to become more successful in school, and they have less of a need for inpatient hospitalization, out-of-home placement, and involvement with juvenile justice and child welfare.

With additional funding, SMART Choices will be able to provide virtual intensive family support to high-risk adolescents in as many as 27 counties. As the program evolves and more data regarding the progress of adolescents and families is available, the SMART Choices program has the potential to become an effective nationwide screening model.

**Encouraging SMART Choices: CVS Health Foundation**

Most of us are familiar with CVS Health — a company focused on enabling customers to manage their health in more affordable and effective ways. But did you know that CVS Health is also investing generously in community-based initiatives to reduce substance use? For several years now, the CVS Health Foundation has contributed to the SMART Choices program at UPMC Children’s as part of the company’s Community Grant Program.

With a focus on helping people achieve their best health, CVS Health created Be The First, a $50 million, five-year initiative to help deliver the nation’s first tobacco-free generation and extend the company’s commitment to help people lead tobacco-free lives. CVS Health’s investment in SMART Choices is just one of the many Be The First partnerships the company has developed across the country.

Like CVS Health, we recognize that health is everything. Our thanks to the company for joining with us to help children avoid the long-term consequences of substance abuse.
When the Prossen family welcomed premature twin boys Frankie and Freddie, each weighed less than 2.7 pounds. As preemies, the boys had their share of challenges, but they were finally ready to leave the hospital three months later. Once they returned home to the suburbs just outside of Pittsburgh, Freddie continued to gain weight and make progress. Frankie didn’t fare quite as well as his brother.

"Frankie started throwing up nearly all of the formula he was consuming," said Matt Prossen, the twins’ father. "It started happening five or six times a week, sometimes multiple times a day. He was aspirating the liquid, too. It was really scary and hard to find the help he needed."

Things were trying for the Prossens — navigating specialists, waiting weeks for appointments, and having one twin do well for the most part while his brother grew violently and inexplicably ill.

"When we got the recommendation to have Frankie seen at the Complex Care Center, everything changed for us," said Mr. Prossen. "They knew which specialists Frankie needed to see, and they were able to coordinate all of the appointments more quickly than we ever could have. We went from total frustration to being in just the right place."

**CARE THAT’S NOT SO COMPLICATED**

Although the Complex Care Center works with kids who have particularly serious health concerns, the services it delivers can be routine. Things like basic primary care, growth and development assessments, sick visits, and vaccinations fall under its umbrella of services, too.

Of course, there’s always ongoing coordination of urgent care needs, assistance following inpatient hospitalizations, and support in arranging care with physicians throughout UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh. Ultimately, it’s simple: The Complex Care team’s goal is to improve the quality of life for its patients and families.
**COMPLEX MEDICAL NEEDS REQUIRE A SPECIAL HOME**

“The children we are the most well-suited to see meet fairly specific criteria,” said Stacey Cook, MD, medical director of the Complex Care Center at UPMC Children’s Hospital. “They are often in the midst of an ongoing medical crisis or have a failure to thrive. When they’re referred to us, we can provide stability and coordinate care with sub-specialties.

Outcomes reflect that children with even the most complicated health care needs are best served through a primary care practice that can manage their medical complexities. “When we see kids regularly, we can dive into their needs and truly own their care,” said Dr. Cook. “They can visit their specialists and see us at the same time. We see them as frequently as they need to be seen, coordinate their medications, orders, tests, and become their primary point of contact within the hospital.”

Currently, the Complex Care Center cares for between 350 and 400 patients annually. And while it is growing, getting significantly larger isn’t the goal. Having a small group of providers whose names the patients know is what’s most important for this unique population.

“Our families have access to same-day appointments,” said Dr. Cook. “They know they can depend on us and particularly come to rely on our nurse coordinator, Liana Knezevich (MSN, RN). They reach out to Liana whenever they need to. Help is always available.”

**PROGRESS BECOMES POSSIBLE**

After connecting the Prossens with specialists from Neurology to Gastroenterology, a number of issues were ruled out, and a treatment plan was put in place. Over time, Frankie’s extreme reflux resolved and the inflammation it had caused began to heal.

“I have so much gratitude for what they’ve been able to do for our son,” said Mr. Prossen. “I could tell after our very first appointment that Dr. Cook and Liana were going to help us find answers. I can’t thank them enough.”

While Frankie is still a little guy, he’s a happy, thriving 2-year-old who can eat and drink without any issues — he’s even on the growth charts for the first time ever. He and Freddie continue to have regular therapy to stay on track with meeting milestones. Both boys have come a long way in a short time.

**A Chance to Change Outcomes for Kids with Complex Conditions**

Cheritable gifts can enhance the care our patients receive. From fueling cutting-edge research studies and funding high-quality teaching programs, to covering state-of-the-art equipment and fostering innovative patient care projects, philanthropy often means the difference between a good program and a great one.

At UPMC Children’s Complex Care Center, your gifts have the potential to only further improve an already outstanding program. With your support, our specialists can reimagine care delivery — offering telemedicine consultations and other services that meet patient families where they are. Funding the sort of novel initiatives that simply aren’t covered by insurance, charitable gifts can change a child’s access to care, and ultimately, transform his or her life. For more information about how you can make a gift that will help a child living with a complex condition, please visit givetochildrens.org.
Over the past year, UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh has had the pleasure of welcoming onto our team distinguished physicians and researchers from around the globe, as well as witnessing the professional growth of many of our long-time leaders. We are honored to recognize the following individuals who have been appointed as division chiefs and directors.

**Vivek Allada, MD**
Executive Director of the Heart Institute

Dr. Allada is recognized nationally, having co-chaired the Committee on Pediatric Echocardiography Laboratory Productivity for the American Society of Echocardiography. Along with his new role, he will continue as clinical director for the Division of Pediatric Cardiology, a role he has held since 2006. Dr. Allada served as interim division chief from 2012 to 2017.

**Rajesh Aneja, MD**
Clinical Chief of the Division of Pediatric Critical Care Medicine

Dr. Aneja is an internationally recognized clinician-scientist. He served on the Pediatric Section Steering Committee, as well as serving as the Pediatric Section Chair of the Congress Planning Committee for the Society of Critical Care Medicine. Dr. Aneja has been medical director of the UPMC Children’s Pediatric Intensive Care Unit since 2009.

**Hülya Bayir, MD**
Academic Chief of the Division of Pediatric Critical Care Medicine

Dr. Bayir is a world-renowned scientist with impressive NIH funding and recent publications in Cell, Nature Chemical Biology, and the Journal of Clinical Investigation. She is a founding member of the Pediatric Neurocritical Care Service and is co-director of the Pediatric Critical Renal Research Team. Recently, Dr. Bayir was named director of the Children’s Neuroscience Institute at UPMC Children’s.

**Glenn Cannon, MD**
Chief of the Division of Pediatric Urology

Dr. Cannon is a nationally recognized expert in pediatric urological robotic surgery. His clinical and research interests include robotic surgery, spina bifida, and urinary tract reconstruction. He completed his residency at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and a pediatric urology fellowship at Boston Children’s Hospital. Dr. Cannon returned to Pittsburgh in 2010 to join the Department of Urology at the University of Pittsburgh.

**David Chi, MD**
Chief of the Division of Pediatric Otolaryngology

Dr. Chi is a highly regarded researcher and physician who completed his residency at UPMC Children’s in 2004. He has also served as director of the Hearing Center and is an authority on newborn hearing screening. Dr. Chi’s research interests include development of neuronal circuits in the auditory system, cytomegalovirus-induced hearing loss, outcomes of otitis media, and measuring methods and stenting of trachea narrowing.

**Hey Chong, MD, PhD**
Chief of the Division of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology

The newly established division, which has the only dual pulmonary-allergy severe asthma clinic in the region, is a leader in care for children with food allergies, severe asthma, and immune deficiencies. It is uniquely focused on primary immunodeficiency and offers clinical trials in food allergy tolerance. Dr. Chong joined UPMC Children’s in 2011.

**Alene D’Alesio, DMD**
Chief of the Division of Pediatric Dentistry

A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine and of the UPMC Children’s Hospital residency program, Dr. D’Alesio started her career at UPMC Children’s as a faculty member in Pediatric Dentistry in 2006. Her primary research interest involves oral health service delivery to vulnerable populations.

**Thomas Diacovo, MD**
Chief of the UPMC Newborn Medicine Program

Director of Neonatal Cardiovascular Research at the Heart Institute

An internationally recognized leader in thrombosis research, Dr. Diacovo has led the development of pharmacological agents and devices specifically designed for critically ill newborns, particularly those with congenital heart disease who are at high risk for forming blood clots. Dr. Diacovo joined UPMC Children’s from Columbia University Medical Center where he was a professor of pediatrics, pathology, and cell biology; director of Newborn Research; and associate director of Neonatology.

**Hey Chong, MD, PhD**
Chief of the Division of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology

Dr. Chong joined UPMC Children’s in 2011.

**Andrew Feranchak, MD**
Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition

Dr. Feranchak is an internationally recognized expert in cholestasis liver disease whose research interests include the mechanisms of bile formation, biliary secretion, and liver cell volume regulation. A Pittsburgh native, he received his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and completed his residency in pediatrics at UPMC Children’s. Most recently, he served as the division director of pediatric gastroenterology at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.
Jacqueline Kreutzer, MD, FAAC, FSCAI
Chief of the Division of Pediatric Cardiology

A native of Argentina, Dr. Kreutzer is an internationally recognized leader in interventional cardiology, who served as director of the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory at UPMC Children's. She has authored more than 80 scientific publications and has served as guest reviewer for several journals. Her research interests include novel catheter/device use for cardiac catheterization and transcatheter intervention. She is currently the national principal investigator for the Melody transcatheter pulmonary valve post-approval study.

Victor Morell, MD
Surgeon-in-Chief

Dr. Morell, who joined UPMC Children’s as chief of the Division of Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery in 2004, is a skilled surgeon, administrator, researcher, and educator. He also serves as co-director of the Heart Institute and co-director of the UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute. Under his leadership, UPMC Children’s pediatric cardiovascular surgery program consistently has outcomes that are among the highest in the nation with mortality rates that are among the lowest.

Jeffrey Rudolph, MD
Clinical Director of the Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition

Dr. Rudolph is a native of Pittsburgh and received his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He attended St. Louis Children’s Hospital for residency and Cincinnati Children’s Hospital for his fellowship. He then returned to Pittsburgh and has been a leader of the Intestinal Care and Rehabilitation program over the last several years.

George Gittes, MD
Director of the Richard King Mellon Institute for Pediatric Research
Surgeon-in-Chief Emeritus

The newly recast Richard King Mellon Institute for Pediatric Research is set to become the cornerstone of research at UPMC Children’s, encompassing a wider reach to facilitate synergy, communication, and mentorship across the disciplines at UPMC Children's and to act as a glue embracing all aspects of research. Dr. Gittes continues as chief of the Division of Pediatric General and Thoracic Surgery.

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Abigail Schlesinger, MD
Chief of the Behavioral Science Division

Dr. Schlesinger was previously clinical director of Community Services for the Behavioral Health Science Division of UPMC Children’s. Dr. Schlesinger helped create Children’s Community Pediatrics Behavioral Health Program, which provides early access to integrated behavioral health services right in the pediatricians’ offices. She’s devoted her career to improving how we talk about and treat mental health and substance use issues.

Arvind Srinath, MD, MS
Associate Vice Chair for Education for Fellowship Training

In this role, Dr. Srinath works with the fellowship program directors to develop best practices in competency-based training, fellow evaluation, and program evaluation. As program director for the Pediatric Gastroenterology Fellowship Program, Dr. Srinath has created a flipped classroom board review curriculum and led the development of several program enhancements, including a fellow mentoring program, multidisciplinary curricular additions, and involving our adult counterparts to clinically enhance fellow education.

Randy Windreich, MD
Clinical Director of the Division of Blood and Marrow Transplantation and Cellular Therapies

Dr. Windreich’s clinical research is focused on blood and marrow transplantation for high-risk leukemias, as well as individualizing therapy to move away from the “one size fits all” approach in order to tailor treatments to an individual’s own metabolic needs. His aim is to optimize medications used for graft-versus-host disease prevention and treatment, in addition to those used for antifungal prophylaxis. Dr. Windreich led efforts to bring chimeric antigen receptor T-cell (CAR-T) immunotherapy to UPMC Children’s.

Justin Yeh, MD
Chief of the Division of Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Medicine

Dr. Yeh joined UPMC Children’s from Rady Children’s Hospital in San Diego where he served as medical director of the Acute Cardiac Unit. There, he oversaw inpatient clinical services for the division of pediatric cardiology and attended on the cardiac intensive care service. His research interests include the use of ventricular assist devices to support children with advanced heart failure. He will be responsible for the Pediatric ICUs at UPMC Children’s, as well as at St. Joseph’s Children’s Hospital in Tampa, Florida, and Wolfson Children’s Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida.

Abigail Schlesinger, MD
Chief of the Behavioral Science Division

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MEET A FEW OF OUR HEROES
It takes a special kind of person to give generously of him- or herself to help sick and injured children. And thankfully, here at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, these heroes abound. In 2018, 37,178 community members like you contributed to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation. That's 37,178 heroes who selflessly donated to help give kids a chance to be kids. Meet just a few of those who inspire us with their giving.

**THE CIANCHETTES**  
Chris and Valerie Cianchette's daughter Emily was born with very long chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency (VLAD), a debilitating genetic disorder. For many years, Emily was a patient at UPMC Children's under the care of Jerry Vockley, MD. Emily always hoped that Dr. Vockley might come up with a "magic pill" to cure her VLAD. Sadly, Emily passed away in 2014 before he had the chance. Today, the Cianchette give to UPMC Children's genetics program in Emily’s name with the hope that, one day, Dr. Vockley might just find that "magic pill."

**THE JONESES**  
When 15-year-old Zachary Jones was hit by a car while crossing the street, his parents were devastated. Zach was flown to UPMC Children's for care. Thankfully, Zach received the treatment he needed to make a full recovery. The family now gives to the hospital so that other kids may achieve the same. "We love Children's and will forever be grateful," the Joneses share. "The incredible people who make up the PICU and CHRU hold a special place in our hearts for the extraordinary care and genuine concern given not only to Zachary, but also to our whole family!"

**THE MCGINNISSES**  
11-year-old Maggie Elder was a little girl with a big heart. Before her passing in 2012, Maggie was a patient of the Supportive Care Program. Maggie’s mom, Cyndi McGinnis, shares that the program delivered critical symptom management for Maggie as well as emotional support for the entire family. Grateful for the care they received, the family established the Miracles from Maggie Endowed Fund in 2018. Providing a permanent source of funding for Supportive Care, the endowment stands as a living example of Maggie’s favorite adage: “Faith can crush fear.”

**THE DUFFETTS**  
"Andy wouldn't be here without the skill of the late Dr. Eugene Wiener and the care provided by Children's professionals," Karen and Bob Duffett affirm. In 1983, the couple walked through the doors of our hospital as scared first-time parents with a very sick 8-month-old baby. Thankfully, their son, Andy, was treated by specialists and, today, Andy is a healthy adult living with his own little ones in California. Mr. and Ms. Duffett give to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation so that other families may be granted the same opportunity they were given 35 years ago.

**THE LAGNESES**  
The Lagnese family has been giving to Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation for many years in loving memory of Muriel Lagnese, who lost her battle with cystic fibrosis (CF) at age 56. The Muriel’s Breath of Life Endowment honors Muriel’s generous spirit by providing a permanent source of direct financial assistance to patient families grappling with CF. "We started the endowment because we could not imagine walking away from this ongoing need," the family shares. "We are motivated by the stories of those we’ve helped and humbled by the generosity of our family and friends who have made this all possible!"

**STEFFIE BOZIC**  
Together with her husband, Michael, Steffie Bozic has been an advocate for UPMC Children’s for 25 years. After Mr. Bozic’s passing in 2015, Ms. Bozic decided to honor his legacy with a special gift in support of neuroscience research. The Stephanie and Michael Bozic Neurosciences Research Endowment provides critical funding that advances our physicians-researchers’ efforts to improve children’s health, now, and for years to come. According to Steffie, she finds strength in contributing to a cause near to Mr. Bozic’s heart.

**DIANE CANCILLA**  
UPMC Children’s Radiology unit director Diane Cancilla, RN, gives generously of her time and talent. In addition to personally donating to the foundation, Ms. Cancilla also volunteers at the annual DVE Rocks for Children’s Radiothon together with her family. Ms. Cancilla states, "I’ve seen challenges for families and I see them not give up. I see families become even better families and people, not because of, but in spite of their struggles. I love everything about being connected to UPMC Children’s."

**THE HITES**  
Jane and Lee Hite established an endowment at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation to support the Masterpiece of Hope Campaign benefiting Creative and Expressive Arts Therapy. Ms. Hite has her degree in art history and is a passionate advocate for the arts. She and Mr. Hite believe deeply in the power of the arts and feel that supporting these causes, such as children and their accompanying health care issues, are paramount philanthropic needs. With this endowment, the Hites hope to ensure that the arts will continue to help sick and injured children heal for generations to come.

**DR. GLENN CANNON**  
As chief of the Division of Pediatric Urology at UPMC Children’s, Glenn Cannon, MD, understands firsthand just what a difference philanthropy makes at the hospital. "I owe a debt of gratitude to UPMC Children’s for all of the outstanding care that I received as a child and my own children have received over the years. It is an honor to work here and contribute to the foundation’s mission as best I can.”
THE MANY WAYS YOU GIVE
We can’t thank Mr. Kubaney enough — one of only 23 swimmers to swim across Lake Erie from Long Point, in support of our hospital. In August, he swam his way to nearly $10,000 raised in support of Children’s Hospital. In 2016, when he was only 1 year old, Asher Krop died tragically from pneumonia caused by human metapneumovirus (HMPV), a recently discovered virus that is a leading cause of respiratory illnesses like pneumonia. Asher was a cheerful baby who brought happiness to all who knew him. Determined to help other kids like their son, Denise Gangadharan and Elliot Krop of Decatur, Georgia, decided to start the Asher Krop Memorial Fund. The fund contributes to Dr. John Williams’ research investigating HMPV. In their first 48 hours of fundraising for UPMC Children’s, the family raised over $10,000, with their total fundraising topping $20,746! We remain deeply grateful. For the past two years, Ethan has done his part to give back to the hospital he credits with saving his life. According to Ethan Helbig, he was never expected to make it this far. When he was born 23 years ago, Mr. Helbig was declared stillborn. Physicians at UPMC Children’s brought him back to life. And more than two decades later, Mr. Helbig remains grateful. For the past two years, Ethan and his fellow powerlifters really raised the bar, securing $13,000 for UPMC Children’s! According to Ethan Helbig, he was never expected to make it this far. When he was born 23 years ago, Mr. Helbig was declared stillborn. Physicians at UPMC Children’s brought him back to life. And more than two decades later, Mr. Helbig remains grateful. For the past two years, Ethan and his fellow powerlifters really raised the bar, securing $13,000 for UPMC Children’s!

This summer, UPMC Children’s Emergency Department staff nurse Conrad Kubaney, RN, BSN, swam his way to nearly $10,000 raised in support of our hospital. In August, the 26-year-old completed the swim across Lake Erie from Long Point, Ontario, to Freeport Beach in North Carolina. Amazingly, Mr. Kubaney not only finished the 24-mile course — one of only 23 swimmers to do so since 1899 — but he was the first to complete it in less than 11 hours! We can’t thank Mr. Kubaney enough for taking the plunge for our patients.

Bhangra in the Burgh

Each year, students from Carnegie Mellon University organize Bhangra in the Burgh, the city’s premiere philanthropic Bhangra competition. Bhangra is a traditional folk dance that originated in the northern part of India. The colorful cultural dance competition generated nearly $8,000 for the UPMC Children’s Creative and Expressive Arts Therapy program last year. And this year, the students are at it again — dancing their hearts out to raise money in support of our kids.

The Braun and Burnside families, close friends and graduates of Penn Trafford High School, hosted the first annual Chip In for Children’s Charity Golf Outing in 2017. After visiting the hospital’s transplant program and meeting with transplant surgeon Kyle Soltys, MD, the families decided to donate the $11,500 raised through their inaugural event to provide direct financial assistance to transplant patient families. This year, Chip In for Children’s raised another $12,500 to benefit the hospital’s Creative and Expressive Arts Therapy program.

In July, Zach Freeman and nearly 500 of his closest friends held the 11th Annual WIFFLE Ball Bonanza at McGinley Park in Ligonier, Pennsylvania. What started in 2008 as a simple game between Mr. Freeman and 11 friends has grown into a full-on fundraising bonanza featuring 16 teams this year. Mr. Freeman and his fellow WIFFLE ballers and spectators continue to hit it out of the park, raising considerable funds for the My 1 Friend Fund benefiting UPMC Children’s diabetes program.

For 10 years now, the team from Gigliotti Properties, a family-owned business specializing in commercial and residential development, has been fundraising for UPMC Children’s. Led by Tim Piper, the annual Gigliotti Holdings Golf Classic continues to be a huge success, with golfers hitting the links year after year in support of our hospital. In 2017 alone, Ethan and his fellow powerlifters really raised the bar, securing $13,000 for UPMC Children’s!

A Lift for Kids

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Gigliotti Holdings Golf Classic

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Chip In for Children’s

For the past two years, the Carnegie Mellon University football team has organized a calendar sale to raise funds for UPMC Children’s. With a full 12 months of themed pictures of the footballers together with our patients, these guys know how to strike a pose for a good cause. Another score for the kids we serve.

Little Hearts Can Make a Big Change

Clayton, Addie, and Bethany Hall had a big idea when their little brother, Warren, underwent heart surgery at UPMC Children’s back in 2017. The siblings, who range in age from 7 to 9, wanted to give back to the hospital that saved their brother’s life. They started a change drive and collected over $3,700 for the hospital’s greatest needs — for exceeding their original goal of $500. The Hall siblings remind us that even the smallest among us can do big things to help others.

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Chip In for Children’s

For the past two years, the Carnegie Mellon University football team has organized a calendar sale to raise funds for UPMC Children’s. With a full 12 months of themed pictures of the footballers together with our patients, these guys know how to strike a pose for a good cause. Another score for the kids we serve.

Little Hearts Can Make a Big Change

Clayton, Addie, and Bethany Hall had a big idea when their little brother, Warren, underwent heart surgery at UPMC Children’s back in 2017. The siblings, who range in age from 7 to 9, wanted to give back to the hospital that saved their brother’s life. They started a change drive and collected over $3,700 for the hospital’s greatest needs — for exceeding their original goal of $500. The Hall siblings remind us that even the smallest among us can do big things to help others.

A Lift for Kids

According to Ethan Helbig, he was never expected to make it this far. When he was born 23 years ago, Mr. Helbig was declared stillborn. Physicians at UPMC Children’s brought him back to life. And more than two decades later, Mr. Helbig remains grateful. For the past two years, Ethan has done his part to give back to the hospital he credits with saving his life. As owner of Beyond Parallel Ultimate Fitness, Mr. Helbig hosted a CrossFit powerlifting competition, with sponsors pledging funds for every pound lifted. In 2017 alone, Ethan and his fellow powerlifters really raised the bar, securing $13,000 for UPMC Children’s!

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WALKING TOGETHER • The third annual Walk for Children’s was a record-breaking affair with more than 5,000 walkers and nearly 9,000 donors who raised over $900,000 to benefit UPMC Children’s. The event on June 23 kicked off with a Patient Champion Parade, where 250 patient champions decked out in violet shirts and medals, began the walk. The community-centered event celebrates patients and families who have received care at UPMC Children’s.

LOVE IS LOVE IS LOVE • For the third time, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation recognized UPMC Children’s as a Leader in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality. As one of only 418 recognized health care facilities nationwide, UPMC Children’s aspires to make all individuals and families feel welcome and accepted. The recognition is based on four key areas: LGBTQ Patient-Centered Care, LGBTQ Patient Services and Support, Employee Benefits and Policies, and LGBTQ Patient and Community Engagement.

SPREAD THE LOVE • The 64th Annual Free Care Fund Benefit Show raised over $1.7 million in donations and pledges to support the Free Care Fund at UPMC Children’s Hospital. Two junior hosts, both patients at UPMC Children’s, were interviewed live on the air and announced the final fundraising totals. Each year, thousands of children benefit from the fund, which provides families from our region with free and uncompensated care. In 2017 alone, the fund helped to offset the cost of care for more than 35,000 children.

UPMC CHILDREN’S JUST A TAP AWAY WITH MOBILE APP • With the revamped ChildrensPgh mobile app, the experts at UPMC Children’s are always just a tap away. Parents and caregivers can save their spot at Express Care centers, check emergency room wait times, access the patient portal, plus much more — this app has it all. Originally launched in 2011, the new design supports easier access to the everyday resources parents and caregivers need. It’s free and available on the App Store and Google Play.

BRIGHTENING UP DARK DAYS • In June 2018, Camp Wakanzi opened its cabin doors for a second year, welcoming dozens of bereaved siblings for a week of bonding and fun. The camp, hosted by the Supportive Care Program at UPMC Children’s, offers rock climbing, archery, crafts, camp fires, and an opportunity for kids who have lost a sibling to meet others in a similar situation. The name Wakanzi, the Native American word for sunflower, was chosen to represent the campers — strong, resilient, and finding the light in dark days. The kids were led by volunteer counselors who had also experienced the death of a sibling. Camp Wakanzi received funding from the A.J. and Sigismunda Palumbo Charitable Trust, Miracles from Maggie, and Layups for Lucy.

DIABETES CARE IN PERFECT PITCH • UPMC Children’s sees nearly 300 children and adolescents newly diagnosed with type 1 diabetes (T1D) each year, and many families struggle to keep up with the demanding regimen their kids must follow to maintain healthy blood sugar levels. With a lead charitable gift from Diane and Cliff Rowe, UPMC Children’s is piloting a T1D High-Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) program. HFW is a holistic intervention model providing structured, creative, and individualized team planning processes. Families work with coaches, facilitators, and peer support partners to implement manageable regimens that keep kids with T1D on a healthy track, while also meeting the needs of caregivers and siblings. With this model in place, UPMC Children’s aims to initiate long-term improved diabetes management and healthier outcomes related to blood sugar control for all families of kids with T1D.

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Good Morning America's website and social channels. The story was also shared on 7,400 views on the hospital's social media produced at UPMC Children's, garnered their rounds. A short video about the event, zipped and zoomed to visit patients on and a few veteran attending physicians into their superhero alter egos, residents donned capes and masks to celebrate 28, teams of pediatric resident physicians during the week.

More than 40 staff, many of whom are transplant recipients themselves, assisted while building self-esteem and friendships. Camp Chihopi helps campers who have gone through similar horseback riding, and bonding with other enjoyed water sports, crafts, campfires, extravaganza. Over 60 pediatric patients its 24th year with a Dr. Seuss-themed intestinal transplant recipients, celebrated the annual summer camp for liver and the program has grown to over 700 through life. In its 10-year history at UPMC these survivors by addressing their unique needs so the Cancer Survivorship Program aims to help survivors of pediatric can face long-term effects from treatment, to the Cancer Survivorship Program helps treat survivors by addressing their unique needs throughout life. In its 10-year history at UPMC Children's, the program has grown to over 700 survivors. Along with post-treatment education and yearly screenings, the program hosts numerous events, like Kennywood Day. UPMC Children's Survivorship Program receives support through a grant from the Mario Lemieux Foundation.

CELEBRATING SURVIVORS
The Cancer Survivorship Program at UPMC Children's celebrated its 10th anniversary. Jean M. Tersak, MD, founded the program in 2008 to help survivors of pediatric cancer understand the treatments they underwent as children and optimize their quality of life. Survivors of pediatric cancer can face long-term effects from treatment, to the Cancer Survivorship Program helps treat survivors by addressing their unique needs throughout life. In its 10-year history at UPMC Children's, the program has grown to over 700 survivors. Along with post-treatment education and yearly screenings, the program hosts numerous events, like Kennywood Day. UPMC Children's Survivorship Program receives support through a grant from the Mario Lemieux Foundation.

A HEARTFELT GIFT
UPMC Children's has been awarded $1 million from the state Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) to triple the size of the cardiac intensive care unit (CICU). This will grow the unit from 12 beds to 33 beds and will help the cardiac team better meet the needs of patients and families.

RACING TO THE FINISH
This year, UPMC Children's partnered with Advance Auto Parts to launch Race to Finish Pediatric Cancer. The six-week fundraising campaign capitalized on the enthusiasm of the Advance Auto Parts team and the generosity of the company's customer base. In a little over a month, area Advance Auto Parts stores raised $105,000 in support of UPMC Children's Division of Hematology/Oncology. Now that's a fast finish!

WORKING TOWARD BETTER HEALTH
UPMC Children's was named a Live Well Allegheny Workplace by the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) for its efforts to create a healthy, forward-thinking environment. From requiring and providing free flu shots each year, to offering educational sessions on a variety of health-related topics and events, UPMC Children's takes pride in focusing on the health of employees. Together with ACHD, UPMC Children's hopes to improve the health of all Allegheny County residents.

GAMERS WHO CARE
For the past 10 years, gamers nationwide have come together through Children's Miracle Network Hospitals' Extra Life gaming marathon to play games and raise vital funds to help kids in need. Here at UPMC Children's, our Extra Life gamers go above and beyond to game with a purpose — raising $116,638 in 2017! The 865 gamers who signed up for Extra Life this year contributed funds to support the hospital's greatest needs. Thank you to those who played along.

MATT'S MAKER SPACE
UPMC Children's opened Matt's Maker Space, part of the hospital's new Creative and Expressive Arts Therapy Hub. Offering a variety of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) based activities, Matt's Maker Space provides patients and families with the opportunity to tinker, play, and learn together. Matt's Maker Space was founded by the Conover family in honor of their son, Matt, who lost a courageous battle with cancer in 2002 when he was just 12 years old. Matt was always interested in hands-on learning, building with Legos, and letting his creativity and imagination guide him. Matt's Maker Space is a non-profit organization and has maker spaces in some local schools, pre-schools, and libraries. The Conovers hope Matt's Maker Space keeps Matt's memory alive, while engaging kids in unique ways. According to the family, "Matt would be proud!"
Here at UPMC Children’s Hospital, a singular goal unites us: the care and cure of children. And while our day-to-day roles may look a little different, our professional staff and employees are alike in a shared commitment to doing all that we can to ensure that every child who walks through our doors receives the exceptional care he or she needs.

CHP Cares celebrates this commitment by encouraging staff to get involved, give back, and make a real difference. Each year through CHP Cares, UPMC Children’s team members contribute nearly $1 million to the hospital. Thank you to our staff team for proving just how much CHP Cares.

DANCE MARATHON

AEO SUPPORTS DANCING FOR A GREATER GOOD

American Eagle Outfitters® (AEO) is a leading global clothing and accessories retailer headquartered in Pittsburgh. Despite its international reach, the company continues to invest in its local community, including Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation. With a generous three-year gift to our foundation, AEO supports Dance Marathon, a Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals initiative that partners with universities and schools to host a yearlong fundraising initiative that culminates in a marathon of moving and grooving. Companies like AEO prove you can party with a purpose!

MAKE ROOM FOR KIDS

Make Room for Kids (MR4K) started as a social media campaign founded by Ginny Montañez, formerly of Pittsburgh Magazine and the Pittsburgh blog, That’s Church, to bring gaming to sick and injured children. Today, the initiative is bolstered by Microsoft and the Mario Lemieux Foundation, an organization celebrating 25 years of making a difference in the Pittsburgh community.

To date, MR4K has raised over $175,000 from readers, local Microsoft employees, and other generous donors—contributing nearly 400 Xbox consoles and thousands of games and movies to UPMC Children’s and other Pittsburgh-based pediatric units. Microsoft employees also give of their time to install the devices throughout patient units and playrooms. The MR4K gaming equipment is a welcome distraction for hospitalized kids and adolescents. Thank you to our MR4K partners for making long hours in a hospital room more enjoyable for our kids!

RECORD-BREAKING RADIOTHON YEAR

Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation raised a record-breaking total of $382,539 during the 11th annual DVE Rocks for Children’s Radiothon. This amount was the most raised by any iHeartMedia radiothon for a Children’s Miracle Network Hospital in all of 2018.

102.5 WDVE talent including Randy Baumann and the DVE Morning Show, Michele Michaels, and Sean McDowell were joined on the air by UPMC Children’s patient families and staff who shared their stories over an inspiring two days of radio.

BEATING STRONGER

The Children’s Cardiomyopathy Foundation (CCF) named the Heart Institute at UPMC Children’s an accredited center of care due to the high-quality cardiac care and specialized disease management that the Heart Institute provides. The Heart Institute has a clinic dedicated to cardiomyopathy, a disease that affects how the heart pumps blood through the body. The CCF accreditation is based on centers managing a high volume of patients with cardiomyopathy, specializing in the treatment and management of the disease, offering a variety of pediatric patient services, and their affiliation with an academic research institute.
BY THE NUMBERS
We are grateful to our community: all of the individuals, businesses, and foundations whose support has made a difference in caring for kids and families.

DONATION TOTALS BY AREA OF SUPPORT FY18
(July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018)

- **Uncompensated Care**
  - FY17: $1,679,062
  - FY16: $1,750,194
  
- **Unrestricted Support**
  - FY17: $7,008,623
  - FY16: $7,193,868
  
- **Research**
  - FY17: $2,230,690
  - FY16: $2,261,189
  
- **Division/Program Support**
  - FY17: $8,831,312
  - FY16: $4,044,087
  
- **Unreimbursed Services**
  - FY17: $3,463,508
  - FY16: $3,012,217
  
- **Capital/Facilities**
  - FY17: $1,022,006
  - FY16: $551,319

TOTAL: $24,235,201
FY17 TOTAL: $18,247,074

- **Uncompensated Care** helps UPMC Children’s Hospital fulfill its mission of caring for every child regardless of his or her family’s ability to pay.
- **Unreimbursed Services** represents the money raised for services for patients and families that are not covered by health insurance, such as Child and Family Life, the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, Family Care Connection Centers, the School Program, and Supportive Care.
- **Unrestricted Support** directs funds toward the hospital’s greatest need.

STAYS, VISITS, AND PROCEDURES CALENDAR YEAR 2017

- **149,342 Emergency and Express Care Visits**
- **21,804 Inpatient Stays**
- **24,008 Surgical Procedures**
- **1,199,094 Hospital and Physician Outpatient Visits**

Because of your generosity, we were able to reinvest resources back into our local community, providing these total community benefits.
WELCOME ABOARD
The Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation Board of Trustees welcomed several talented and highly accomplished new members in fiscal year 2018. We are deeply grateful for the time, effort, and resources they invest in support of the children and families we serve!

GREG LIGNELLI  
Greg Lignelli is CEO of System One Holdings, LLC, the leader in technical outsourcing and careers. Mr. Lignelli has led many of the company’s initiatives and implementations surrounding corporate development, managed staffing relationships, vendor management systems, operational tools, performance tracking systems, pre-employment testing, and training. He began his career with one of the firm’s legacy companies, SPEC Group Holdings, Inc., as corporate business analyst for the Mergers and Acquisition Department, then moved into a National Business Development role. Previously, he was the executive vice president of Hudson’s Energy, Scientific, and Managed Staffing practice group. Mr. Lignelli has over 15 years of experience in business analysis, operations, and sales within the Energy, Scientific, IT, and Engineering sectors. He holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Duquesne University and attended leadership training with London Business School. Mr. Lignelli and his wife, Simone, have two children.

ALBA TULL  
Alba Tull serves as CEO of Tull Investment Group, a privately held fund that manages an array of investments such as Zoox, Heal, and Blend Systems, among others. She is a multi-disciplined fine art gallery and commercial photographer and film director who has established herself in the industry by working with some of the most iconic personalities of our time. Ms. Tull chairs the Tull Family Foundation, which she founded with her husband, Thomas, to support education, life sciences, and wildlife conservation. Ms. Tull serves on the boards of directors of Pittsburgh’s Carnegie Science Center, The Rett Syndrome Research Trust, The Jackie Robinson Foundation, and the AS Roma Soccer Team, where she is part of the ownership team.

WALTER W. TURNER  
Walter W. Turner served as president and CEO of Koppers Holdings and Koppers, Inc. from 1998 through his retirement in 2014. Mr. Turner served on the board of directors of the Duquesne University Board of Trustees and was co-chair of the University’s capital campaign, which raised $275 million in support of the University’s campus master plan. During his tenure, he was elected vice president and general manager of the Carbon Materials and Engineering sectors. He holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Amos Tuck School of Business Administration at Dartmouth College. He is a Trustee for Carnegie Museum of Natural History and a member of the Washington City Mission Board of Directors. He formerly served as a member of the Koppers Board of Directors, a director for the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, and as president of the Duquesne Club. Mr. Turner actively serves his community, having chaired fundraising efforts for UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh and Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation, and previously served as active member of the University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees. He is a member of the Duquesne University Board of Trustees and the Washington City Mission Board of Directors. He formerly served as a member of the Koppers Board of Directors, a director for the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, and as president of the Duquesne Club. Mr. Turner actively serves his community, having chaired fundraising efforts for UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh and Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation, and previously served as active member of the University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees. He is a member of the Duquesne University Board of Trustees and the Washington City Mission Board of Directors. He formerly served as a member of the Koppers Board of Directors, a director for the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, and as president of the Duquesne Club.