Your Investment in the Children’s Trust:

• Spearheaded a new model of engaged giving (p. 2)
• Supported special events that help our kids heal (p. 4)
• Funded research focused on improving outcomes for children battling brain injury (p. 5)
• Gave families like Kennedy’s the chance to find renewed hope in our care (p. 7)

Bryce, Cancer Warrior
Last year, a group of emerging leaders like you joined the Children’s Trust, effectively helping to establish an entirely new model of philanthropy at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC.

With a focus on imagining a more participatory way to invest in one’s community, the Children’s Trust puts philanthropy in motion by inviting motivated donors to actively engage in the lives of those they wish to help. Children’s Trust members don’t just contribute financially to Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation, but they also lend their time and talent to Children’s Hospital.

And with your support the Children’s Trust has already made an impact. Whether your participation is focused on contributing funds to advance innovative research work, or whether you prefer to roll up your sleeves to help host special events – events that give our kids a chance to just be kids – please know that we appreciate your partnership.

In a pediatric hospital like ours – where making a child’s day just a little bit better can lead to brighter spirits and renewed strength – your investment in the Children’s Trust holds such meaning.

Thank you for doing all that you have to better the lives of children and families in need.
THANKS TO DONORS LIKE YOU, THE CHILDREN’S TRUST HAD A BUSY FIRST YEAR.

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**November 17, 2015**
- Holiday Happy Hour

**November 17, 2015**
- Thanksgiving Dinner in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit

**November 10, 2015**
- Children’s Trust Launch Party

**March 23, 2016**
- Superhero, Prince, and Princess Party at Children’s

**March 15, 2016**
- Spring Happy Hour

**June 4, 2016**
- Walk for Children’s

**September 8, 2016**
- 2016 Meet and Greet

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**December 17, 2015**
- 62nd Annual Free Care Fund Benefit Show Presented by KDKA

**January 14, 2016**
- Children’s Annual Careholders Event

**February 10, 2016**
- Valentine’s Day Party at Children’s

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**May 3, 2016**
- Grantmakers’ Meeting

**May 26, 2016**
- Big Give Inaugural Party

**August 17, 2016**
- Carnival Celebration at Children’s

**August 18, 2016**
- Summer Happy Hour
Dr. Dennis Simon accepts the first annual Children's Trust Grantmakers' Award from Mya, a Children's patient.
This year, the Children’s Trust awarded Dennis Simon, MD, the inaugural Children’s Trust Grantmakers’ Award to advance his research work focused on developing new therapies for kids who have experienced head injury.

When a child is admitted to the hospital with a traumatic brain injury, the ultimate hope is that the child makes a full recovery — that she not only survives, but that she goes on to live a life in which her injury is little more than a distant memory.

But for some kids who experience traumatic brain injury, this greater hope is never realized. Rather, their recovery means coping with long-term neurological challenges like development delays, memory loss, behavioral changes, or any number of other issues that can show up weeks, months or even years after the initial injury.

Dennis Simon, MD, a physician-researcher in the Department of Critical Care Medicine at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, has spent much of his medical career focused on investigating the factors that lead to these negative long-term issues for kids recovering from brain injury.

Physicians have long-understood that when an individual experiences head trauma, the body reacts by sending inflammation to the brain. What doctors don’t yet understand, however, is how this inflammation leads to serious neurological issues in some patients.

As Dr. Simon explains, “Two children can come into the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) with nearly identical head injuries. But while one child may go on to make a full recovery, the other may face serious lifelong cognitive or behavioral challenges as a result of the trauma.”

Dr. Simon and his collaborators believe that if they can identify and control the drivers of the inflammation that occurs following brain injury, they can develop new therapies to improve a child’s ability to heal.

“My hope is that as we uncover more and more information about the pathways that cause inflammation in the brain, that, one day, we can develop novel immune-based therapies to promote healing for children with head trauma and even preventative therapies to protect children before trauma occurs,” Dr. Simon shares.

Earlier this year, Dr. Simon was able to embark upon a new line of discovery in his traumatic brain injury research when he was awarded the inaugural Children’s Trust Grantmakers’ Award. Designed to give promising researchers like Dr. Simon the funding they need to advance research that has the potential to change outcomes for vulnerable children, the Grantmakers’ Award was a welcome surprise for Dr. Simon.

“It was a thrill to receive this award granted by young philanthropists — many of whom are parents themselves with a real stake in the future of children’s health,” Dr. Simon explains. “Research offers our best chance to develop new treatments, and knowing that others are as equally invested in finding a cure for a type of injury that affects hundreds of thousands of kids each year is truly an inspiration.”

While developing a therapy for children at risk for neurological damage following head trauma might still be years away, Dr. Simon believes that the nearly $40,000 award he received from the Children’s Trust will provide his lab with the funding necessary to embark upon their next phase of research.

With the confidence of the Children’s Trust behind him and the added financial support of the Grantmakers’ Award, Dr. Simon can move another step closer to his ultimate goal — a world in which every child who experiences traumatic brain injury goes on to make a full recovery.
Your commitment to the Children’s Trust helps to promote cutting-edge research and exceptional patient care. Through volunteerism and charitable giving, the Children’s Trust supports events that give hospitalized children and their loved ones the chance to forget about their clinical surroundings and instead focus on having fun as a family. This is Kennedy’s story.

When Steve and Livvy were told that there was no further hope for 8-year-old Kennedy, the bewildered parents were at a complete and total loss.

Kennedy was born with hypoplastic left heart syndrome, a condition in which the left side of the heart fails to develop properly. As an infant, Kennedy spent the entirety of her first year of life in her local children’s hospital — experiencing open heart surgery at just 2 days old and again at 6 months old.

But even as a little baby with monitors connected to her tiny chest, Kennedy exhibited a strength many adults couldn’t muster. So eight years later, when Kennedy’s physicians told the family that there was nothing more they could do for Kennedy, that her heart would eventually fail, Steve and Livvy simply refused to believe it.

“My heart was broken,” Livvy recalls, “I was broken. I spent three days crying… Trying to picture our lives without her. And we just couldn’t.”

So the determined parents packed their things and little Kennedy in the car and made the four and a half hour trip to Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC to get a second opinion.

Here at Children’s Hospital, physicians and specialists reviewed Kennedy’s case. After considering the many variables involved with her condition, they recommended Kennedy for a heart transplant.

Just a few months later, Kennedy received the gift her parents had long prayed for — she received a new heart.

Those next several weeks and months were not without their challenges as Kennedy struggled to regain her strength, but with the care provided by her doctors and nurses and that tireless optimism the whole family seems to share, Kennedy persevered.

Throughout her time at Children’s, Kennedy and her family participated in the sort of in-hospital events and activities that your philanthropy supports. And while spending weeks at a time in a hospital is anything but easy, Kennedy and her family made it through thanks in part to donors like you.

Through the Children’s Trust, you help to make Children’s the sort of place where families like Kennedy’s find renewed hope in our care. Thank you for giving so generously to support research and programs that help our children to heal.
THANK YOU
Together, we Give Kids A Chance To Be Kids.
givetochildrens.org