



Children's Heroes

NEWS AND STORIES ABOUT YOUR IMPACT ON OUR KIDS!

Ford Has a Big, Happy Smile for You

If you met Ford, you'd never guess that the 2-year-old boy has been fighting for his life. He's so *happy*!

"He's always smiling," his mom Carly says.

Lately, Ford has a great reason to smile. He completed his last scheduled chemotherapy treatment. He has YOU — and his team at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh — to thank for all the expert care he's received so far.

Ford's parents were devastated when he was diagnosed with cancer. But they felt fortunate to have a world-class pediatric hospital close by. "We realize that people travel hours to be here," Carly says.

And Ford loves coming to UPMC Children's Hospital. Each time he visits, he plays with toys and enjoys activities with the Child Life Specialists.



Ford loves his team at UPMC Children's. That includes YOU!

Sometimes, Carly wonders, "How's he still smiling?" But, she says, "They just do so much for kids here. It's fun for him!"

Ford's parents love seeing their son smile. And that's not all. They know that friends like you help power expert care at UPMC Children's. They put their faith in the cutting-edge research that takes place here.

"Fifteen to 20 years ago, this was a really gloomy

Continued on next page >>



INSIDE: You fought for Avery every step of the way



Continued from cover >>

prognosis,” Ford’s dad, Bobby, says. “So research and innovation is extremely vital to families. Hopefully, 10, 15 years from now there’s going to be even more improvements.”

You’re helping kids like Ford beat illnesses that were once considered life-threatening.

“They do so much for kids here.”

With your continued support, there will be. For now, Carly and Bobby are grateful to everyone who made their son’s care possible. Thank for you for helping children like Ford fight their illness. As you can see, you’ve made him very happy! ♥

You Help Jackson Keep Singing and Dancing

Jackson keeps his favorite song playing on a loop. It’s called “Happy,” and it sums up his attitude. He’s so cheerful and optimistic, his mom thinks he might grow up to be a motivational speaker.

At age 6, he already knows what it’s like to have to overcome huge challenges. He lives with a genetic disorder that makes it hard for him to move and speak. He came to UPMC Children’s for medicine and a stem cell transplant that could stop the disease from causing further damage to his brain and nervous system.

He and his mom and dad, Chinenye and Keith, traveled all the way from Connecticut to get the best, most advanced care possible. Keith says the illness is so rare, some hospitals have never heard of it, let alone have a protocol for treating it.



You’ve made Children’s a beacon of hope for families like Jackson’s, who travel from far away to be here.

You help our experts treat rare diseases.

That’s why he appreciates it when friends like you donate to Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation. “There’s not much funding for rare diseases,” he says. “Having people help with treating diseases that don’t get much visibility ... that’s huge!”

Jackson’s parents hope that soon, their son will be back in school. In the meantime, they’re grateful to friends like you who help make Jackson’s advanced care a reality. Please give again today to help another child like him. ♥

You Helped Avery. Now She's Helping Others.

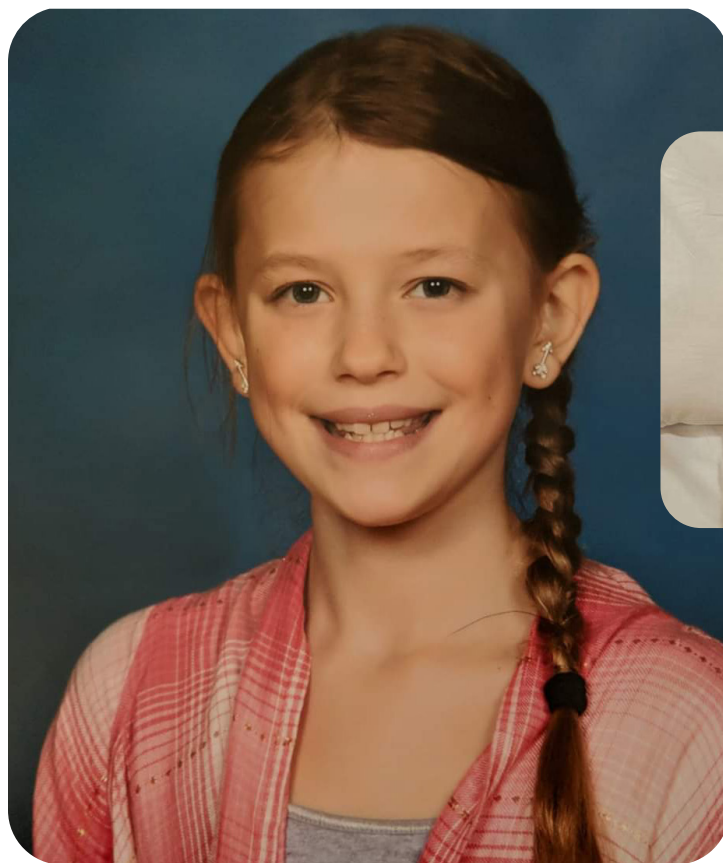
Two days before her seventh birthday, Avery should have been prepping for her party. But that was the day she found out she had stage IV liver cancer.

Plans changed. Avery needed to start treatment and chemotherapy at UPMC Children's right away. She was hospitalized for more than nine months while she underwent multiple surgeries and a liver transplant.

Through your generous gifts, you fueled the advanced care and treatment that helped Avery fight for her life.

And now you've helped inspire Avery to give back. She says she wants to be a nurse at Children's when she grows up.

She was also proud to be named the eighth annual Ace All-Star by The Ace Hardware Foundation. She serves as national ambassador for the Ace Foundation, raising awareness about the lifesaving work that takes place at



Your gifts are behind the lifesaving treatment that helped Avery beat cancer.

hospitals like Children's, part of the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

Today, Avery is a happy, healthy 11-year-old. She likes to help other kids who have been

in her situation and show them that they too can lead a normal, healthy life.

Thank you for all you do for the children in our region and beyond. ♥

**Help Us Raise
\$45,000 by
Thursday,
June 4**

GOAL AMOUNT —→ \$45,000

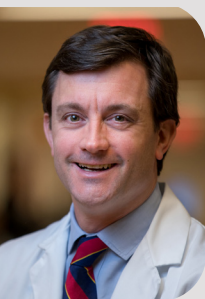
DEADLINE —→ Thursday, June 4

Please rush your gift to help power vital research and lifesaving care for sick and injured children.

Can you make a generous donation by Thursday, June 4? Just use the enclosed envelope to send your gift today.

We never turn a child in our region away — regardless of their family's insurance or ability to pay. This is why we're turning to you to meet our goal. Thank you for having a big heart for our patients.

What Your Generosity Means This Mother's Day



Dear Friend,

Thank you for reading about Ford, Jackson, and Avery. And thank you especially for supporting the world-class pediatric care that helped them battle illness.

Dr. Brian Martin

When Ford's mom, Carly, took him to the doctor for what seemed like stomach trouble, she never dreamed she'd spend the next eight months at his bedside, helping him battle cancer.

This Mother's Day, you've helped give her one of the greatest gifts a mom could ask for — a happy, smiling kid. This year, Carly is grateful that Ford will spend Mother's Day at home with her and his family.

I'm so grateful to you. And I hope you'll keep giving — for our patients and for the moms, dads, and brothers and sisters who love them. Thank you for helping save kids' lives.

Gratefully,

Brian Martin, DMD, MHCDS
Vice President, Medical Affairs
UPMC Children's Hospital
of Pittsburgh

BREAKTHROUGHS IN CANCER RESEARCH: You Help Advance Lifesaving Pediatric Care

A healthier future is within reach. And thanks to donor support, the future is brighter than ever before for children facing cancer!

You're on our team, advancing:



Lifesaving Breakthroughs:

Cutting-edge neuro-oncology research at Children's is focused on developing safer, more effective ways to treat brain tumors. Proposed clinical trials hold tremendous potential for children with deadly brain tumors.



Groundbreaking Discoveries:

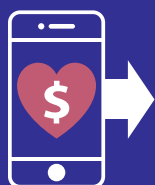
Linda McAllister-Lucas, MD, PhD, and her team of researchers recently discovered a new tumor inhibitor that acts by blocking a key protein known to drive certain cancers like lymphoma, potentially leading to new treatment strategies.



Promising New Findings:

Physician-scientist Kelly Bailey, MD, PhD, is studying how immunotherapy might be used in combination with traditional chemotherapy and has achieved promising findings about new ways to block the spread of certain pediatric bone tumors.

Please help keep this exciting momentum going. Your continued generosity will help unlock medical mysteries, push the limits of what's possible in healing, and save precious young lives. ♥



Put your gift to work even faster!

DONATE
ONLINE AT  givetochildrens.org/newsletter

