



COMMUNITY REPORT

HEALING THE WHOLE CHILD

UPMC
**CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL**
FOUNDATION

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With the help of our dedicated donors, Elliana (above right) and Jackson (below) receive care that fosters physical and emotional healing.



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF UPMC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

Dear Reader:

Passionate and talented medical professionals have built UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh into a world-class pediatric hospital over the past 130 years. As its sole fundraising arm, UPMC Children's Hospital Foundation is honored to support the physicians, nurses, and staff who work tirelessly to provide expert care to children and families in their times of greatest need.

In this Community Report, you will read stories about patients and families whose strength, courage, and resilience inspire us all. Their medical journeys, many of which are unimaginably difficult, remind us why it is so important to continue investing in pediatric health care. Every gift you give fuels care, treatment, research, and cures that can save a child's life.

As we celebrate exciting advancements in pediatric medicine, we do so with the knowledge that our work is not yet finished. There are still diseases for which we have no cures. There are still families facing barriers to necessary health care services. There are still children who need and deserve care that heals the whole child — body, mind, and spirit. While these truths endure, we have a job to do: We must invest, innovate, and build a future where every child is healthy and thriving.

UPMC Children's and the Foundation are working together to establish our hospital as the world leader in pediatric health care, a destination where every child and family knows they can receive the most advanced care available. To achieve this vision, we are focused on raising funds to strengthen four key priorities: clinical excellence, research, patient experience, and community health. In this report, you'll get a glimpse into how donor support of each priority translates into life-changing care for children today, and for generations to come.

We could not be more grateful for your philanthropy. Thank you for the difference you are making in children's lives.

Sincerely,


Rachel A. Petrucelli





AT THE HEART

An inside look at plans for a reimagined Heart Institute

In 2023, UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh announced plans to significantly expand its award-winning Heart Institute. Widely regarded as one of the best pediatric cardiology programs in the country with a top-notch team and extraordinary culture of collaboration, UPMC Children’s Heart Institute is uniquely positioned to deliver next-level care to children and adults with heart disease. Through a comprehensive fundraising campaign, UPMC Children’s Hospital Foundation has partnered with generous donors to support expansion efforts.

Led by Heart Institute co-directors Jacqueline Kreutzer, MD, and Victor Morell, MD, as well as director of Interventional Cardiology, Bryan Goldstein, MD, the plans center around the construction of a 50,000-square-foot, three-story building to be built atop the hospital’s mid-campus garage. With donor support, the extensive construction project is expected to be completed by 2026.

Allow us now to walk you through this reimagined space.



FILLED WITH LIGHT AND WARMTH

The new Heart Institute at UPMC Children’s was designed with children and families in mind. With a façade framed in the familiar, vibrant colors that adorn the main hospital building, the reinvented Heart Institute will blend seamlessly into the existing hospital campus.

Located on the 45th Street side of UPMC Children’s in Lawrenceville, the rebuilt institute will be easily accessible for patient families and staff. With a multi-flight stairwell encased in glass, the institute will be filled with light and warmth — reflecting the care and empathy at the heart of our internationally renowned cardiology program.

Heart Institute patient families may enter the facility via a skyway that connects the building to the main hospital. From the third-floor registration area, patients will be welcomed into a large and inviting waiting room. Created to appeal to both children and adults, the waiting room will feature rich colors, comfortable seating, and a heart-centric design.

From the very start of a family’s visit to the transformed Heart Institute until the moment they leave, they will note the consistency of the care provided. Dedicated cardiology physicians, nurses, anesthesiologists, and medical assistants will staff every facet of a patient’s care and recovery, reducing patient anxiety and improving overall outcomes.

According to Dr. Goldstein, the heart-centric design of the physical space will foster trust and strengthen relationships within the institute. “Imagine you’re sitting in this beautiful room waiting for your child’s appointment and every other person in the room also belongs to a heart family. On top of that, every single staff member with whom you interact is a part of the heart team.” Dr. Goldstein continues, “There is a fellowship among heart families and clinicians. The new facility will only reinforce those bonds.”

“An investment in the Heart Institute is a gift of hope to children and families.”

>> Dr. Victor Morell



Philanthropic funds will enable Dr. Morell and other Heart Institute physician-leaders to transform care for children and adults with heart disease.

CLINICAL EXCELLENCE



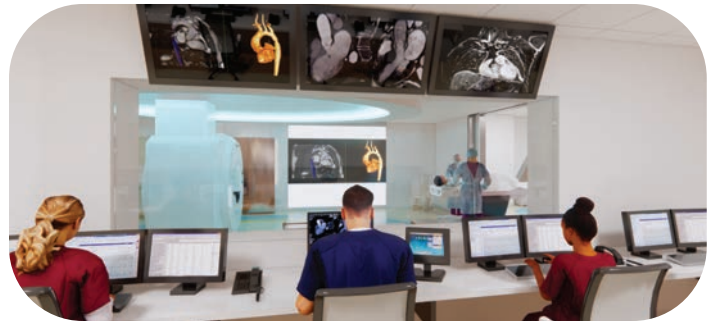
Dr. Bryan Goldstein, Dr. Victor Morell, and Dr. Jacqueline Kreutzer hope to leverage donations to make our Heart Institute the premier pediatric cardiology center in the world.

LEADING CARE IN PITTSBURGH AND AROUND THE WORLD

With the community's investment in UPMC Children's Heart Institute, every aspect of the redesigned space will feature the most advanced equipment and technology available. The updated space will boast a state-of-the-art conference center. Featuring interactive screens, comfortable spaces for collaboration, and high-tech audio-visual equipment, the conference center will allow physicians and nurses to consult on difficult cases and participate in and host international cardiology seminars and workshops.

Dr. Kreutzer explains, "Our Heart Institute needs to lead in innovation and guide the field on how to provide the best care not only here in Pittsburgh, but around the world."

Dr. Morell adds, "Over the years, we've developed a national and international referral base. We have a robust second opinion program and often see patients with some of the most complex conditions." He goes on to explain that a state-of-the-art facility with cooperative technology will empower the Heart Institute's specialty team to continue to provide outstanding outcomes for patients with complex conditions while contributing to the field through education and consultation. He states, "An investment in the Heart Institute is a gift of hope to children and families."



Funded with donor support, the MRI-Catheterization Suite will increase imaging capabilities and reduce radiation exposure.

MODERNIZING THE CATH LAB

Philanthropic support will further help to fund the construction of a leading-edge pediatric MRI-Catheterization Suite — one of only a few in the country. Through sliding glass doors, one will enter the brightly lit, sterile suite. Flanked by high-definition screens, the suite will house an ultramodern MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) machine at one end and a procedure bed at the other.

A low-lit imaging control center will overlook both rooms by way of a glass viewing window. Lined with black computer screens illuminating intricate, luminescent images of patients' hearts, the control room will be at once beautiful and transformative.

While catheterization procedures are a fairly common, less-invasive part of a patient's lifelong treatment for congenital heart disease, they traditionally employ X-ray technology which exposes patients and staff to radiation. The hybrid suite will offer MRI-guided cardiac catheterization, which not only minimizes radiation exposure but also provides cardiologists with real-time, detailed 3-D images unavailable with X-ray technology.

A NEW ERA OF CARE

With architecture that lets light in, to finishes and materials that help to calm anxious hands and minds, every inch of the redesigned Heart Institute will be meticulously constructed to



The design of the new Heart Institute will comfort and uplift patients and families.

encourage the health and well-being of our patients.

Walking down the hallway, a family may note the use of color throughout the institute. The halls will be embellished with the sunny pinks, oranges, and yellows of spring and summer. Patient rooms will be equipped with the very latest technology. They will be clean and homey, with playful designs to comfort and restore. Each space within the institute will encourage a sense of renewal, with an aesthetic meant to soothe and uplift at every turn.

With philanthropic contributions, we are committed to building a Heart Institute that is warm and welcoming, a Heart Institute that delivers exceptional, pioneering treatment, and a Heart Institute that ultimately inspires hope in every heartbeat.

According to Dr. Kreutzer, our patients — and all heart patients — deserve no less than the absolute best. “We have a bright future ahead of us at the Heart Institute,” she shares. “We must now jump into a new era. We want to impact the field. And we need the full support of this community to do so.”



Diagnosed with heart disease in utero, 2-year-old **Julien** received a heart transplant at UPMC Children’s, and he is thriving. His favorite things are reading books and giving kisses.



Raegan experienced a relatively minor heart catheterization procedure that majorly impacted her life. The playful 6-year-old can now draw and write without pain or tiredness.



After receiving a heart transplant at UPMC Children’s in 2023, **Saraya’s** feeling much better. She’s getting back to some of her favorite activities, like hanging out with friends.



Amirah’s family traveled all the way from Puerto Rico to receive treatment at the Heart Institute. With the help of her doctors and family, the 5-year-old gets stronger every day.



Rocco has been a lifelong patient at UPMC Children’s Heart Institute. Now in his 20s, Rocco is studying Surgical Technology in school and working as a central sterile processing technician at the hospital.



Born with Ebstein’s anomaly, **Edward** flew from Puerto Rico to be treated at the Da Silva Center. Enjoying life in his 50s, Edward shares that he’s back to working out regularly thanks to the Heart Institute.

To learn more about how you can transform cardiology care for children and adults, please contact:

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LIFTING THE BURDEN

How research can change outcomes for children diagnosed with cancer

“It’s like wearing a metaphorical bomb around your neck,” Harrison says, his hand motioning toward his chest. “I worry about the cancer coming back. About the side effects. It’s always in the back of my mind.”

He smiles, “Yeah, so I’d absolutely say research is important.” Harrison shrugs and looks around the UPMC office where he now sits. Leaning in toward the conference table before him, he continues, “I might not be here otherwise.”

Harrison worked as a research assistant at UPMC Children’s alongside his physician Dr. Craig Byersdorfer.

“I’d absolutely say research is important... I might not be here otherwise.

>> Harrison, cancer survivor



LITTLE GRAY BUCKETS

When he was only 14, physicians at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh diagnosed Harrison with Stage IV Hodgkin lymphoma. A freshman at South Fayette High School at the time, Harrison endured five rounds of chemotherapy and 14 radiation treatments.

"I got really familiar with those little gray buckets," Harrison laughs dryly. "You know, for vomiting? I could almost time it."

Despite months of difficult treatment throughout the summer and fall of 2016, Harrison's cancer returned in the spring of 2017.

"I never expected to be diagnosed with cancer once in my lifetime, let alone twice," Harrison shares, shaking his head.

Harrison's oncologist, Erika Friehling, MD, started him on an experimental immunotherapy clinical trial. Unfortunately, it failed to work.

Disappointed but undeterred, Dr. Friehling recommended an autologous stem cell transplant, wherein Harrison's own stem cells would be harvested, filtered, and transplanted back into his body to fight off the cancer.

Extensive research on autologous transplants began in the early 1980s. In the decades since, research has continued and the procedure has evolved significantly, leading to improved outcomes for many patients.



Oncologist Dr. Erika Friehling remained positive throughout Harrison's difficult cancer journey.

A PAINFUL TIME

In the summer of 2017 — a year after his initial cancer diagnosis — Harrison was readmitted to UPMC Children's. To prepare for the autologous stem cell transplant, Harrison would first need to endure an intense round of chemotherapy to destroy his body's current immune system.

"That was brutal," he recalls. "I developed sores in my mouth and throughout my GI tract. I couldn't eat. It was the most excruciating pain I have ever experienced."

The 21-year-old looks out the window of the office in which he now sits, his eyes reflecting the blue-gray of the wall behind him. He clears his throat and takes an audible breath before continuing, "I genuinely thought about giving up."

After several weeks in the hospital and a successful autologous stem cell transplant, Harrison was once again discharged home. "So that was the second time I beat cancer," he says flatly.

RESEARCH

THE LOWEST POINT

Over the next few months, Harrison continued to receive follow-up care at UPMC Children's.

In February 2018, a routine scan revealed a spot near Harrison's bronchial tubes. Several months later, physicians confirmed that the cancer had returned. Again.

"That news blew me away," Harrison says quietly. "I was devastated. I really was." He takes a deep breath and clasps his hands together on the table. "Yeah, uh," he looks up, his blue eyes glassy. "That had to be my lowest point."

On August 7, 2018, Harrison was readmitted to UPMC Children's for an allogeneic stem cell transplant — this time, with cells harvested from a donor.

A NEW BEGINNING

Following a 29-day hospital admission and a second stem cell transplant, Harrison was once again discharged home — with careful instructions to protect his compromised immune system.

While the first allogeneic stem cell transplant performed on a human occurred in the mid-20th century, the procedure continues to evolve based on emerging scientific discoveries.

Thankfully, the transplant was a success for Harrison, with relatively limited complications.

Several months after the procedure, 16-year-old Harrison was finally deemed cancer-free.



In 2022, Harrison joined Nathalie and Mario Lemieux, as well as members of the community, to celebrate the creation of the Mario Lemieux Institute for Pediatric Cancer Research.

PAYING IT FORWARD

In the fall of 2022 — more than six years after his initial cancer diagnosis — Harrison was back at UPMC Children's main campus. This time, he was not there for treatment but as a speaker celebrating a transformational gift from the Mario Lemieux Foundation.

On October 4, 2022, Harrison joined the Lemieux family, hospital and Foundation leadership, and a community of supporters to announce the establishment of the Mario Lemieux Institute for Pediatric Cancer Research.

With matching funding from several generous community members, UPMC, and UPMC Children's Hospital Foundation, the new Lemieux Institute aims to elevate our understanding of cancer to eliminate harmful treatment side effects, foster innovation by retaining and recruiting the best and brightest minds in pediatric hematology/oncology, and accelerate discoveries through cutting-edge research.

"I couldn't be more thankful to everyone who got me here," Harrison shared during the event. "The Lemieux Institute will undoubtedly give rise to better treatment and cures for kids like me. It's an honor to be a part of it."

LIFTING THE BURDEN

Today, Harrison remains cancer-free. He studies molecular biology at the University of Pittsburgh's Honors College. Rather than steer clear of the hospital that was essentially his second home during high school, Harrison has made UPMC Children's a central part of his life.

He worked in patient care as a volunteer at the hospital, as a research assistant in the Byersdorfer Lab within the Division of Blood and Marrow Transplantation and Cellular Therapies, and currently serves as a medical assistant at UPMC Children's South.

Explaining his experience with UPMC Children's in thoughtful, articulate sentences, with a few deadpan jokes mixed in for good measure, Harrison emanates confidence. "I don't know, maybe it sounds a little cliché," he says, his eyebrows raised slightly, "but I want to be a physician and follow in the footsteps of those who treated me." He pauses again, thinking carefully about what to say next. "I'd like to give back to the medical community to which I owe my life."

The journey doesn't end here for Harrison. He remains vigilant about his health by exercising regularly and paying close attention to his diet, and he continues to visit UPMC Children's to be monitored by oncology specialists.

Harrison is optimistic that in the years to come centers like the hospital's Lemieux Institute will lead to improved cancer therapies with less long-term harm. After attending medical school, he hopes to bring about positive change in medicine by incorporating his experiences into the treatment of future patients.

And our hope is that, eventually, advanced research will allow us to save children from the burden of worry that Harrison now carries.



SAMEER AGNIHOTRI, PHD

Dr. Agnihotri and his team use next-generation sequencing technology to examine pediatric brain tumor biology and therapy.



KELLY BAILEY, MD, PHD

Dr. Bailey is a pediatric oncologist and physician-scientist specializing in the treatment and biology of the bone cancer Ewing sarcoma.



GARY KOHANBASH, PHD

Through immuno-oncology, Dr. Kohanbash investigates novel ways to leverage the immune system to fight deadly pediatric central nervous system tumors.



LISA MAURER, MD, PHD

Physician-researcher Dr. Maurer studies how the immune system responds to non-Hodgkin lymphoma.



EDWARD PROCHOWNIK, MD, PHD

As director of oncology research, Dr. Prochownik advances novel studies, including research focused on the oncoprotein Myc.

To learn more about how you can accelerate pediatric cancer research at the Lemieux Institute, please reach out to:

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412-692-3913



A HOSPITAL THAT HEALS NOW AND ALWAYS

Safeguarding the patient experience

Benny's a big kid. At five foot eight inches and more than 200 pounds, Benny's physically larger than some of his medical providers. Yet, the team at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh meets the 18-year-old where he is, providing care in a manner that makes sense for him.

Benny lives with a debilitating skin disorder called hidradenitis suppurativa (HS). HS is a chronic inflammatory condition that causes painful cysts under the skin, often in areas where skin touches skin (like the underarms and groin).

For an active teen like Benny — who loves swimming, tap dancing, and competing in the Special Olympics — the condition has been especially tough.

A PAINFUL DISCOVERY

In February 2023, Benny's mom, Sue, brought him from their home in Somerset County to UPMC Children's Emergency Department (ED) for treatment. At the time, Benny could not articulate what was wrong, and he was in so much pain that he could barely walk. The teen was also experiencing seizures that Sue later learned might have been his body's response to the pain.

Benny has autism and limited verbal skills. "Plus," Sue explains of her only child, "he's just not the type to complain."

Following a careful examination, a UPMC Children's surgical resident found infected HS lesions on Benny's skin. The teen was immediately admitted for treatment.

PRINCE OF 6B

In the nearly four months that followed, Benny saw numerous hospital subspecialties. He endured more than 20 surgical procedures, multiple skin grafts, countless wound cleanings, and hours of rehabilitation therapy. Despite the hardship, Sue speaks of their time at UPMC Children's with gratitude.

Throughout Benny's hospitalization in the general surgical unit known as 6B, the family benefited from many of the amenities and programs available to them.

An experienced social worker provided Sue with help navigating the logistics of guardianship so that she could continue to make medical decisions on Benny's behalf. Creative and expressive arts therapists used art and music as a means of both distraction and expression. And psychologist Jill Majeski, PsyD, met with Benny and Sue frequently. "Dr. Jill was just wonderful," Sue states.

Child Life specialist Lauryn Rozum, MS, CCLS, also worked closely with Benny, providing developmental, emotional, and procedural support. "Sometimes things were scary for Benny," Sue says. "Lauryn would play with him and calm him down. The entire staff treated Benny like a prince!"

“The entire staff treated Benny like a prince!”

>> Sue, patient mom



Recreational therapist Tayler Tadrick taught Benny card games to strengthen his fine motor skills and memory.

PATIENT EXPERIENCE

FUELED BY PHILANTHROPY

As director of the Child Life Department at UPMC Children's for the past seven years, Stephanie Colaberardino, MS, CCLS, oversees many aspects of the patient experience. In addition to Child Life, Stephanie directs the Family Resource Center, Creative and Expressive Arts Therapy (CEAT), the hospital's medical-free playrooms, a dedicated team of 260 volunteers, Dream Big Studio, Matt's Maker Space, the Moulis Library, and the Lemieux Sibling Center. She notes, "Our team works to understand who a patient is as a person. We do whatever we can to help a child and their family heal in body, mind, and soul."

A growing volume of research suggests that fostering a positive, patient-centered hospital experience contributes to patient satisfaction and improved health outcomes. Yet, patient experience services are largely non-reimbursable. "All of these programs run on philanthropy," Stephanie says. "I don't know what we would do without our generous donors."

Despite the community's commitment to the patient experience at UPMC Children's, Stephanie explains that permanent philanthropic funds are needed to secure these programs for the future. "Endowments are a game-changer in protecting the patient experience because they spin off funding in perpetuity," Stephanie indicates. "With that sort of consistency, we can eliminate waitlists for programs like art therapy, hire more Child Life specialists, and safeguard the patient experience, now and always."

FUN WITH THERAPY

In May 2023, after extensive inpatient treatment on the sixth floor at UPMC Children's, Benny moved down the hall to the Children's Hospital Rehabilitation Unit (CHRU). There, he worked with physical, speech, occupational, and recreational therapists to regain some of the mobility, verbal skills, and independence lost to weeks spent in a hospital bed.

While Benny worked hard at the CHRU to regain skills, many of his therapeutic activities doubled as play. Recreational therapist Tayler Tadrack, CTRS — a member of the CEAT team — used activity-based interventions to contribute to Benny's physical and social-emotional recovery. "I was able to teach Benny a few new card games to work on fine motor skills, as well as memory," Tayler states. "We had a lot of fun, and Benny made a ton of progress getting back to baseline before discharge."



With donor support, specialists like Tayler Tadrack use therapeutic play to help kids heal.

CUPID SHUFFLE

Today, Benny is back home in Somerset. He continues to experience health issues, but Sue shares that things are far more manageable now.

Before he was discharged from UPMC Children’s, Benny and Sue experienced another element of the patient experience. In May — a few weeks following Benny’s 18th birthday — his friends from school paid him a visit at the hospital. Somerset Area Senior High School’s Life Skills Program students missed their classmate dearly and simply wanted to see him.

Stephanie, who isn’t usually engaged in direct patient care, and Tayler happened to be the point people for the impromptu event. “I don’t really know how Benny’s belated birthday visit ended up with Tayler and me,” she remarks with a laugh. “But the next thing I know, we’re having a blast on the hospital patio, doing the Cupid Shuffle with Benny and 10 of his closest friends!”

A HOSPITAL THAT FEELS LIKE HEAVEN

Reflecting on their time at UPMC Children’s, Sue describes how the hospital went above and beyond to help the family heal. Whether that meant a music therapist playing soothing music during a medical procedure, a bingo game with Dream Big Studio, or a mini party on the hospital patio, hospital professionals worked diligently to help Benny and Sue make it through one of the most challenging periods of their lives.

Sue shares that she is grateful philanthropy makes so much possible for patient families like her own. “Donations are the difference between a standard patient experience and an exceptional one,” she says. “UPMC Children’s is heaven compared to some of the other medical centers we’ve been to. I’m thankful to the donors and all the people who make this hospital incredible.”

For more information about how you can invest in the future of patient experience initiatives at UPMC Children’s, please contact:

Megan Smulski megan.smulski@chp.edu 412-692-3927



Benny’s family remains grateful for everything donors make possible at UPMC Children’s.





CARING FOR THE WHOLE CHILD

Providing integrated behavioral health care to kids and families

Nafessah walks into UPMC Children’s Primary Care clinic in Oakland ready to start her day. She greets her colleagues with a warm smile and sits down behind the desk. After flipping open her laptop, she picks up the phone, resting it between her cheek and shoulder. “The first thing I do every morning is check my voicemail,” she says pointedly, quickly tapping a passcode into the dialer. “Families know they can call me anytime. It’s important I’m responsive.”

Nafessah is a Family Peer Specialist Coordinator with the hospital’s Whole Child Wellness Clinic (WCWC). Tasked with delivering non-clinical support as part of an integrated treatment team, Nafessah serves as a confidante, role model, and advocate for patient families.

“I have the best job,” she says grinning, her hand covering the receiver carefully tucked beneath her chin. “This job is my life. I love everything about it.”

ONE-STOP SHOP

Launched in 2019, WCWC provides coordinated primary care, developmental pediatrics, child and adolescent psychiatry, and therapy for children ages 3-12. “We’re a one-stop shop,” Nafessah explains. “It makes it so much easier for families.”

Led by triple-board certified physician Justin Schreiber, DO, WCWC started as a small pilot initiative funded entirely by philanthropy. With ongoing donor investment, WCWC has grown significantly over the past several years. Serving more than 75 patients, the clinic is an example of one of the many ways UPMC Children’s prioritizes behavioral health for local kids.

“This job is my life. I love everything about it.”

>> Family Peer Specialist
Coordinator Nafessah Wynn



Nafessah Wynn (right) serves as an advocate for patient families.

THE PROBLEM OF ACCESS

“I know what these parents are going through,” Nafessah states. “I’ve been there.”

Nafessah shares that her 10-year-old son, Angel, has both physical and behavioral challenges. When he was only 7 months old, Angel had his first surgery. At age 2, Angel faced issues related to his ears and vocal cords. Nafessah explains it was about that time she noticed that Angel was not like other children his age. By 3, Angel was diagnosed with ADHD and ODD. Shortly thereafter, he was expelled from daycare due to behavior concerns.

“Those next few years, Angel was kicked out of multiple childcare centers,” Nafessah recalls. “Eventually, I had to quit work and stay home with him for a period because he had nowhere else to go.”

Determined to find her child effective services, Nafessah researched various providers and treatment options. “It was constant phone calls, emails, and appointments,” she says. “At one point, we had seven different therapists.”

Once Angel entered kindergarten, things began to stabilize. Today, more than seven years since his initial diagnosis and following several treatment regimens, multiple providers, and countless hours of therapeutic services, Angel is thriving.

“He continues to receive behavioral health services, but Angel is flourishing. He made all A’s this year!” Nafessah says proudly. “That said, our experience is just one example of how incredibly difficult it is for families to access the behavioral health care they need.”

COMMUNITY HEALTH

A CONCERTED EFFORT

Due to long wait times, financial barriers, staff shortages, and overall stigma, many kids do not receive the behavioral health services they need. As more children and adolescents struggle with mental health concerns, UPMC Children's has partnered with the Foundation and UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital to prioritize pediatric behavioral health.

In August 2023, UPMC Children's opened to the public a new Pediatric Behavioral Health Walk-In Clinic in collaboration with UPMC Western. Located in our main Lawrenceville hospital, the clinic connects children and adolescents to therapists and psychologists who can provide expert care for behavioral health concerns. Launched in a pilot phase in February 2023, the clinic supports young patients experiencing anxiety, grief, depression, and numerous other behavioral health challenges. The Pediatric Behavioral Health Walk-In Clinic is funded thanks in part to philanthropy.

The clinic is one of many ways the hospital is addressing the steadily climbing need for behavioral health support among children and adolescents. To improve access to services, UPMC Children's has also:

- Embedded 21 psychologists and therapists from the Behavioral Science Division into subspecialties and clinics, giving patients and families access to tailored behavioral health services in conjunction with medical care.
- Invested in the recruitment of Emergency Department (ED) clinical evaluators, who assist the medical team in the ED by assessing the behavioral health needs of patients and connecting them with the resources they need.

Through these efforts, coupled with existing behavioral health initiatives including WCWC, UPMC Children's specialists are actively working to provide care for the whole child, in both mind and body. Philanthropic resources will continue to accelerate these efforts.



Behavioral health professionals Dr. Justin Schriber, Dr. Chelsea Grefe, and Nafessah Wynn provide family-focused behavioral health services to local kids.



Nafessah explains that her job is both fun and rewarding.

CARING FOR THE WHOLE CHILD

Back at the Whole Child Wellness Clinic, Nafessah spends an hour returning a phone call to a mom struggling with her child's school. She then joins her team to prep for the day's appointments.

The clinic is expecting a new patient that morning — an 11-year-old boy who has been diagnosed with asthma and ADHD. When the mother and son arrive for their intake appointment, an experienced WCWC nurse coordinator takes the boy's vitals before welcoming the family back for their appointment.

The mom and son meet first with the WCWC therapist and psychiatrist to review prior therapeutic services. The psychiatrist speaks with the parent about any medical treatment the child may need. Nafessah, the nurse coordinator, the therapist, and the psychiatrist then sit down with the family to develop a detailed care plan, settling on an every-other-week therapy clinic schedule to start.

"I always ask the parent or guardian what it is they want for their child and family. It's my job to do whatever I can to support the family's goals," Nafessah explains. "The other day, I helped a grandparent schedule a dentist appointment. Sometimes something that simple can make all the difference."

STEPPING UP

Later that day, as she prepares to leave the office for the evening, Nafessah straightens up her already-neat desk. She places her pen in the canister and evens out a pile of papers. After giving her email one last glance, she shuts her computer down for the night.

When asked why funding is needed for pediatric behavioral health clinics like Whole Child, Nafessah's bright expression turns serious. "This clinic is changing lives," she says confidently, reaching down to pull her bag from the drawer. She pauses, the bag resting precariously on her lap. "Children are suffering. Right now, kids are dying because they can't get the behavioral health services they need. As adults, we need to do better. It's our responsibility to step up."

With that, a softness returns to Nafessah's face. She stands and makes her way out of the office, singing her goodbyes to colleagues as she goes.

Closing the clinic door behind her, Nafessah smiles, satisfied with a day well spent and eager to head home to the family she loves — including her Angel.

Learn more about how philanthropy is improving access to behavioral health services by contacting:

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MEET OUR DONORS



Compassionate individuals, families, and foundations give generously to help kids in need. Here, we celebrate just a few of the inspiring community members who donate to better the lives of children. Their unique stories of giving illustrate the collective kindness of our charitable donors.



THE BURCH FAMILY

Katie and Taylor Burch's 6-year-old son, Sawyer, was recently diagnosed with trifunctional protein deficiency (TFP), a life-limiting condition that affects energy metabolism. After receiving treatment at UPMC Children's with renowned physician-researcher Dr. Jerry Vockley, the family began raising funds to help those with TFP. "We fundraise to help Sawyer live a long and healthy life," the couple shares. "Dr. Vockley's research is so promising in mitochondrial diseases that we want to help him reach a cure as quickly as possible."



MARILYN GIBAS

Registered nurse Marilyn Gibas of Newell, West Virginia, left a generous gift to UPMC Children's in her estate. Always willing to lend a hand or help out in a pinch, Marilyn was well known in Newell for her kindness. Before her passing in 2021, Marilyn arranged for a portion of her assets to benefit hematology/oncology research at UPMC Children's. Marilyn's giving spirit will live on in our researchers' tireless efforts to uncover better treatments and cures for childhood cancer.

MEET OUR DONORS



THE TODDS

After their youngest daughter, Elizabeth, was born with congenital heart disease (CHD), Heidi and Chris Todd wanted to make a difference in the lives of other heart families. The Todds give generously each year in support of the Heart Institute at UPMC Children's. "We are grateful that Children's has allowed Elizabeth to thrive," the family shares. "Our hope is that each child born with CHD is given the same opportunity through advancing research and interventions."



THE McELHATTAN FOUNDATION

The McElhattan Foundation is a Pittsburgh-based grantmaking organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing human life. Established in 1994 as the charitable arm of Industrial Scientific Corporation, the Foundation expanded after the corporation's sale in 2017. For the past several years, the McElhattan Foundation has funded the hospital's pediatric palliative and hospice medicine fellowship. This innovative fellowship trains physicians in pediatric palliative care, increasing access to high-quality treatment for children with life-limiting illnesses.



PAM AND JAMIE ROGERS

In 2021, Pam and Jamie Rogers founded A Helping Hand Fund at UPMC Children's. Created to provide direct financial assistance to parents with children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), A Helping Hand Fund has been a lifeline for many families. With five children of their own, the Rogers care deeply about causes that impact kids. According to Pam and Jamie, they established A Helping Hand Fund to help folks financially when they need it most.



DRS. CLADIS AND LOSEE

As UPMC Children’s physicians and fathers, Dr. Franklyn Cladis and Dr. Joe Losee know how meaningful and impactful charitable support can be for families. The hospital has been a huge part of their lives for over 20 years. The couple shares, “The career opportunity that UPMC Children’s gave to us has evolved into an incredibly meaningful experience for us personally as well as professionally. We believe philanthropy provides the margin for excellence.” Contributions from caring professional staff like Franklyn and Joe total around \$370,000 for the Foundation each year.



BIRMINGHAM FOUNDATION

Grants from community partners like the Birmingham Foundation empower UPMC Children’s to extend services to local communities, bringing direct care to those who need us the most. The Birmingham Foundation’s generous funding supports the Mt. Oliver Family Care Connection center as well as the co-located Hilltop Health Hub. This support enables children and families to receive on-site medical care, parenting education, support with basic needs, and much more. UPMC Children’s is committed to working with local agencies like the Birmingham Foundation to ensure that all children have the healthy future they deserve.



PHATAK FAMILY

Only a few days after Nicole and Rug Phatak’s daughter Carly was born, she was admitted to the NICU at UPMC Children’s. Thankfully, the Phataks were able to bring Carly home after only a few days. Nicole shares, “More than just helping our daughter get well, UPMC Children’s helped our whole family get through some of the toughest days of our lives. Knowing how the hospital impacts countless lives year after year has sparked our passion to continue supporting the hospital through the Children’s Trust.”

THE MANY WAYS YOU GIVE

Our donors never cease to amaze us! From hot sausage days to turkey trots, UPMC Children's Hospital Foundation champions continue to come up with creative ways to fundraise in support of children and their families. Check out just a few of the many ways supporters like you make a difference at UPMC Children's.



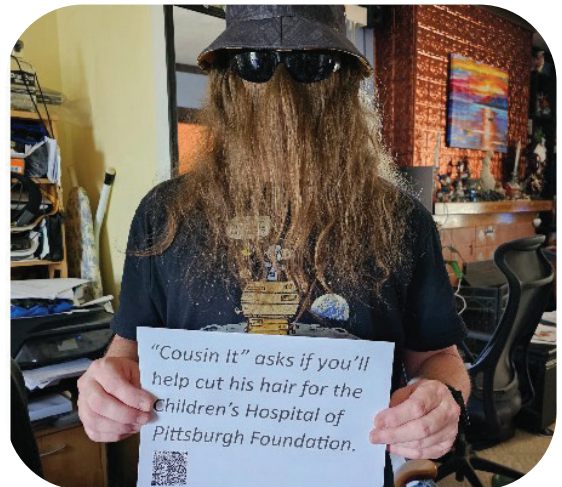


KIDS HELPING OTHER KIDS

Students at Elk Valley Elementary School in Lake City, PA demonstrate how little humans can work together to make a huge impact in their community. The schoolchildren created keychains and other small trinkets and sold them to classmates for \$1 or less from a cart they pushed around from class to class. Their “school store” had a goal of raising \$300 to donate to UPMC Children’s, but they ended up raising over \$2,300! Way to go, kids!

HAIR-RAISING EVENT

Kevin Cassidy grew his hair out for a few years before deciding to make it into a fundraising event to support UPMC Children’s during our annual DVE Rocks Children’s Radiothon. Live on social media the same day as Radiothon, he finally cut his locks for all to witness. Not to split hairs, but Kevin has already raised over \$1,200. You’re a cut above, Kevin!



HOT DIGGITY DOG

We mustard-mit, we love Hot Sausage Day at Boomerang Bar! The restaurant’s annual event has been a Swissvale tradition for over 32 years now, raising a whopping \$420,000 cumulatively for the Free Care Fund at UPMC Children’s. Anyone in the community can come out and enjoy the food and fun for a suggested donation amount, which to be quite frank, is just fantastic.





GOOD DEEDS FOR BEADS

To honor his son Cheyne's memory, Mr. Dumore "Moose" Young hosts a fundraising event every year to benefit the Beads of Courage Oncology Fund at UPMC Children's. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Young decided to switch from hosting an annual golf outing to holding a local penny auction. Pandemic or not, he has called upon the generosity of his friends and fellow community members for the past 18 years, and together they have raised over \$81,000 in support of kids receiving cancer treatment at UPMC Children's.

AN AFFAIR TO NOVEMBER

The Shoub Family of Venetia, PA host a turkey trot fundraiser each Thanksgiving to benefit UPMC Children's greatest needs. The inaugural event raised over \$1,000. We appreciate the Shoubs and their fellow turkey trotters for sprinting into action for the kids and families of UPMC Children's. Our thanks to you, Shoub Family!



DANCE 'TIL YOU DROP

Miracle Network Dance Marathon, a program of CMN, provides students the opportunity to host dance marathons to benefit their local children's hospital. Here at UPMC Children's, we have dance marathon events at five local high schools, Duquesne University, and the University of Pittsburgh. Pitt Dance Marathon (PDM) is the largest student-run philanthropic event at the University and was recently selected amongst 400+ programs as the #1 Dance Marathon in the country. PDM is a yearlong fundraising effort supported by thousands of Pitt students culminating in a 12-hour dance marathon every spring. No sitting allowed! Every dollar raised — over \$300,000 annually — goes directly to treatment and services for kids at UPMC Children's.



COMMUNITY OF CARING KIDS

Students in the Harmony Area School District come together each year to support their fellow classmate, Wyatt, who was born with Down syndrome. The group decided to raise money for the Down Syndrome Center at UPMC Children’s, where Wyatt receives special treatment and care. Each day during Down Syndrome Awareness Week in March, students and staff dress casually in a different theme for an optional donation. In 2023, the group raised over \$500 in just one week!

PHONE-OMINAL FUNDRAISING

This year, Lambda Pi Eta students at Slippery Rock University held a 24-hour telethon in their university television station to raise funds for UPMC Children’s. A local branch of the National Communication Association’s official honors society, Lambda Pi Eta incorporated fun telethon activities like What’s in the Box? and Love is Blind to keep their audience engaged. After a successful all-nighter, the group raised an impressive \$2,143 for UPMC Children’s greatest needs.



SMILES FROM SEAN

Sean is a 16-year-old patient who raises money to spread cheer at UPMC Children’s. When he was 9 years old, Sean was diagnosed with a rare pediatric brain cancer. In the time since, he’s had two brain surgeries, multiple procedures, and 30 rounds of radiation treatment. Despite it all, Sean exudes positivity. To date, Sean and his friends and family have raised more than \$20,000 for the hospital — putting big smiles on countless little faces!

Do you have a great fundraising idea? To join others from across our community to support UPMC Children’s, please contact:

Clayton Rehm clayton.rehm@chp.edu 412-692-3930

OR

www.givetochildren.org/get-involved/fundraise

GIVING IN ACTION

Year after year, corporations, organizations, and eventgoers turn up in a big way to help the hospital. When you give to UPMC Children's or participate in an event, you become part of a generous community of donors dedicated to the health and well-being of children. We are forever grateful to our remarkable Children's champions!





FUNDING FOR FREE CARE

For 70 years, the KDKA Free Care Fund Telethon has raised money for the Free Care Fund at UPMC Children's. This past year, Howard Hanna Children's Free Care Fund, Eat'n Park Hospitality Group, and Penn United Technologies joined thousands of KDKA viewers from across southwestern Pennsylvania and beyond to make the event a success. A big thank you to our phenomenal partners for helping UPMC Children's provide free and uncompensated care to nearly 30,000 kids each year!



MAGNANIMOUS MCKAMISH

McKamish is a family-owned corporation that has always believed strongly in the importance of giving back to the community. For more than four decades, the Lawrenceville-based mechanical contracting group has been a significant partner to the hospital. McKamish employees are annual supporters of Walk for Children's, DVE Rocks Children's Radiothon, and the KDKA Free Care Fund Telethon. In addition, the McKamish Family Foundation has generously supported a number of special projects at UPMC Children's, including the Heart Institute, Child Life, Patient Family Assistance, and the Mario Lemieux Institute for Pediatric Cancer Research. We are most grateful for the many ways that the McKamish family and McKamish, Inc. are helping to build a healthy future for every child.

HIGHLIGHTS AND FEATURES



MIRACLE MAKERS

Since 1983, Children's Miracle Network (CMN) Hospitals have partnered with businesses and organizations to raise funds in support of pediatric hospitals. Across Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia, over 30 CMN partners, including iHeartMedia Pittsburgh, Walmart and Sam's Club, Dairy Queen, Rite Aid, Costco, Speedway, and Ace Hardware, have generated millions to help sick and injured children at UPMC Children's. From the DVE Rocks Children's Radiothon — the #1 iHeart Radiothon in the nation — to paper balloon icon sales, register roundups, and special promotions, our UPMC Children's CMN partners are making everyday miracles a reality for the children in this region.



GOLFING FOR A GOOD CAUSE

For more than two decades, CentiMark Corporation, a commercial roofing and flooring company, has hosted the Southpointe Golfs for Children's Outing — with all proceeds benefiting UPMC Children's. Over the years, CentiMark has chipped in to support an array of patient-centered programs and services. We're very grateful to CentiMark for their tee-rific partnership!



THE MASCARO MATCH

Mascaro Construction, one of the region's largest contractors, invests generously in the Pittsburgh region. From collecting food for families and picking up trash at local parks, to rocking out the phones at DVE Rocks Children's Radiothon, Mascaro Construction leadership and its employees prioritize volunteerism. This year, Mascaro matched a portion of radiothon donations to further magnify their employees' impact. Mascaro's rock-solid support goes a long way to help local kids and families.



ROETHLISBERGERS ROCK CHILDREN'S

NFL legend Ben Roethlisberger and his family challenge listeners to call in during a special hour of UPMC Children's annual DVE Rocks Children's Radiothon fundraising event. Last year, Ben's challenge resulted in calls and pledges skyrocketing, greatly contributing to the over \$1 million raised during the event! The Roethlisberger family also matched all donations received in that hour, made an additional gift to the hospital, and donated Steelers memorabilia as prize incentives to callers — all to benefit the kids and families at UPMC Children's. Big Ben is not only a sports star, he's also a rock star!



SUPPORTING OUR SURVIVORS

Thanks to advances in treatment and research, more kids are surviving childhood cancer than ever before. To meet the unique needs of these patients, UPMC Children's created the Survivorship Program. With generous support from the Berman and Martchek families and the Tri-State PGA, UPMC Children's Survivorship Program is the largest program of its kind in the region, serving nearly 1,500 survivors' medical and behavioral health needs. Our deepest thanks to these donors for investing in kids and young adults who continue to overcome adversity.



HATS OFF TO HILLMAN

For many years, the foundations associated with Hillman Family Foundations have invested generously in UPMC Children's. Most recently, the Henry L. Hillman Foundation dedicated substantial funding to the hospital's Starzl Network for Excellence in Pediatric Transplantation to improve long-term health outcomes for kids who have experienced transplantation. A related foundation, the Hillman Foundation, has further invested in Healthy Schools, a UPMC Children's initiative focused on encouraging healthy eating, physical activity, and social-emotional well-being for kids at more than 80 local schools. No wonder the name Hillman remains a hallmark of Pittsburgh's philanthropic community.

HIGHLIGHTS AND FEATURES



READY FOR REHAB

In 2023, UPMC Children's welcomed the Children's Hospital Rehabilitation Unit (CHRU) back to the main hospital. With charitable support from Arlene and Walt Turner, Matt and Karie Donatelli of Harper's Heroes, and many other generous community members, the expanded CHRU offers 12 private patient rooms, state-of-the-art gym equipment, private treatment rooms, and a welcoming family area. Certified by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), the CHRU provides complete inpatient rehab care for babies under 1-year-old to young adults up to 25. We celebrate the Turners, Harper's Heroes, and every individual who contributed to the new unit!

KEEPING KIDS SAFE

The Equitrans Midstream Foundation is committed to enhancing community safety and well-being, which aligns with UPMC Children's mission to keep kids safe and healthy. With funding from the Equitrans Midstream Foundation, UPMC Children's Injury Prevention team hosts several community safety events each year. These events focus on addressing safety concerns surrounding firearms, ATVs, and other recreational vehicles, and include free giveaways, such as helmets and gun safes, along with educational materials. We thank the Equitrans Midstream Foundation for funding these lifesaving events year after year.





UN-FORE-GETTABLE, IN EVERY WAY

Pitt head football coach Pat Narduzzi and his wife, Donna, have always been champions of the hospital. This spring, Coach Narduzzi played in the Southern Company Peach Bowl Challenge golf fundraiser and won — scoring \$32,500 for UPMC Children’s! The Narduzzis also give personally to the hospital, contributing to family support funds that provide direct assistance to families with children facing illness or injury. A big thank you to the Narduzzis for being a fundamental part of our UPMC Children’s team.

WALK IT OUT

Walk for Children’s, presented by UPMC and UPMC Health Plan, reached new heights in 2023, gathering 4,157 walkers, 255 teams, and 54 sponsors. Together, we reached a remarkable milestone, raising more than \$1,033,000 in total for the hospital’s greatest needs. Many thanks to the patient champions, organizations, and wonderful walkers who prove that every step counts!



OPEN-HEARTED SUPPORT

In 2023, Acrisure committed \$7.5 million to the Heart Institute at UPMC Children’s. This gift marks the single largest corporate donation made to the hospital to date. A global financial tech leader, Acrisure provides artificial intelligence-driven solutions ranging from insurance to cyber security. The company’s exceptional gift to the hospital will empower Heart Institute leaders to further elevate clinical care, research, and the patient experience. Our heartfelt thanks to Acrisure!



BY THE NUMBERS

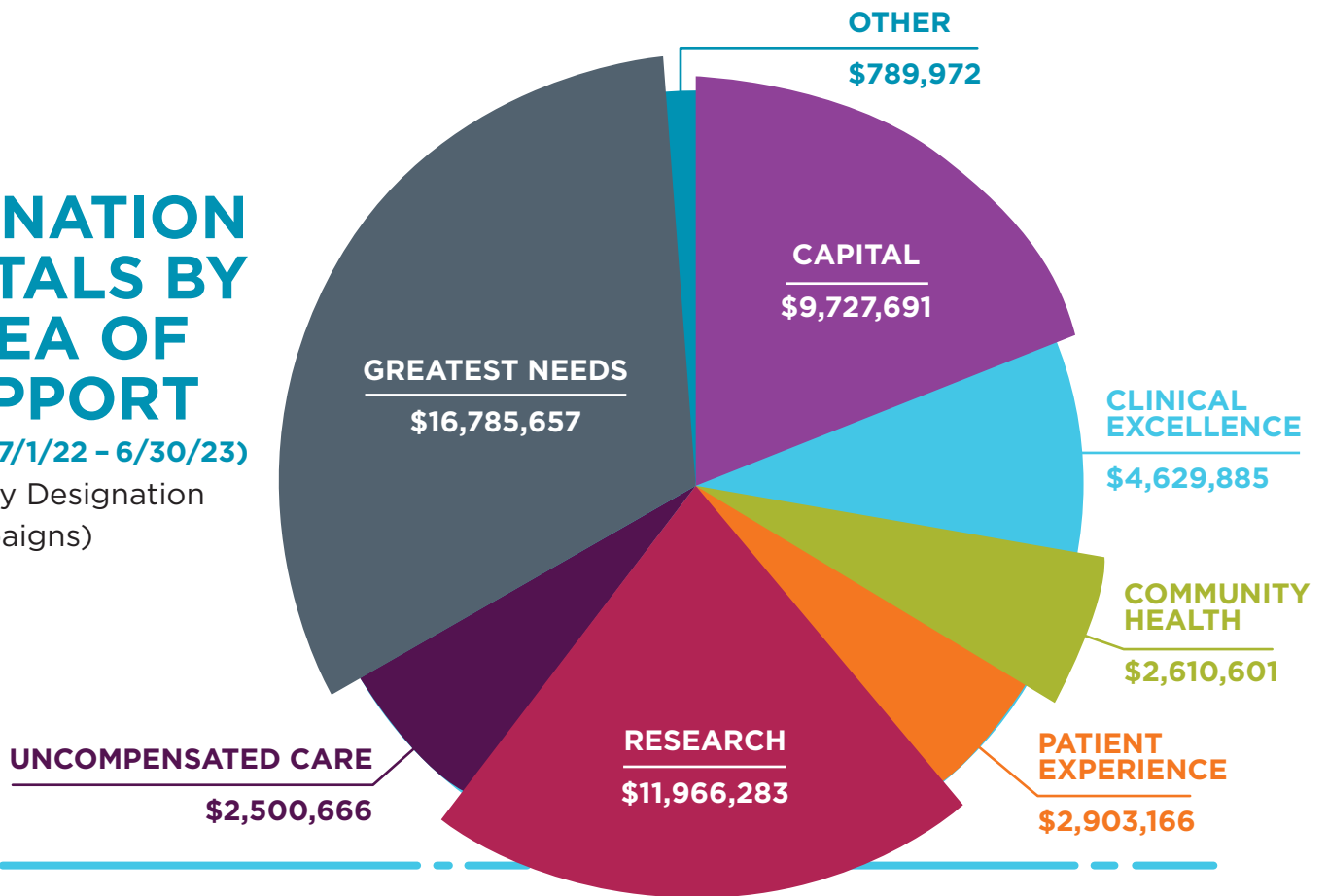
Your contributions to UPMC Children's are at the heart of groundbreaking care, treatment, research, and cures for countless children. Your giving empowers us to achieve the healthy future that every child deserves.



DONATION TOTALS BY AREA OF SUPPORT

FY23 (7/1/22 - 6/30/23)

Gifts by Designation
(Campaigns)



TOTAL \$51,913,921

GIVING SOCIETY TOTALS

FY23 (7/1/22-6/30/23)

CHILDREN'S CIRCLE
OF CARE

215

FRANK LEMOYNE
SOCIETY

869

TOTAL
DONORS

33,341

LeMoyne Society: \$1,000 to \$9,999 annually; Children's Circle of Care: \$10,000 or more annually





givetochildrens.org