

CHILDREN'S HEROES

You're Changing the Future of Children's Health

*You give hope
to a child like Emilia!*

When 2-year-old Emilia started complaining of arm pain and had trouble walking, her worried parents, Lillybeth and Steve, took her to UPMC Hamot near their home in Erie, PA. Her bloodwork indicated acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). She needed to be seen at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh right away.

Distraught by the unexpected news, the family made the two-hour trip.

At UPMC Children's, Emilia would need intensive outpatient chemotherapy, careful monitoring, and ongoing testing, including monthly spinal taps.

During that same time, her family was presented with the opportunity to enroll Emilia in a clinical trial investigating the use of an immunotherapy drug that would help her immune system identify and kill the leukemia cells in her body.

"We hoped to prevent the cancer from ever coming back!" Lillybeth says.

During the intensification phase of Emilia's chemotherapy treatment, her blood cell counts dropped dramatically. And then her hair fell out. She developed a high fever.



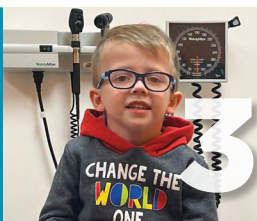
"Emilia was in septic shock," Lillybeth recalls. "We were so scared. It was really bad."

After several days in the hospital, Emilia returned home. And thanks to her combination of treatments, her bloodwork greatly improved. She wouldn't need additional spinal taps!

Continued on back page

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

See how your gifts
provide exceptional care.



Solving a Twin TRAP

Your kindness helps premature babies thrive.

Raven faced a high-risk pregnancy. She was diagnosed with a rare complication affecting her unborn twin babies, Genevieve and Genesis.

Prenatal scans revealed that Genevieve's heart wasn't working properly, a condition known as TRAP Sequence. Genesis' heart was pumping blood for both of them.

So, when the twins were born via emergency C-section at just 28 weeks, Genevieve weighed just over one pound and Genesis just over three.

Both infants were eventually transferred to the NICU and, for the next several months, each child faced numerous procedures and surgeries, mostly due to feeding and gastrointestinal complications arising from their early arrival.

The infants needed constant critical care, which they received thanks in part to your support.

At this moment, Genevieve and Genesis' dreams are in your hands. Thank you for caring!



Today, Genevieve and Genesis are 7 months old and doing well. Despite the challenges that came with their premature birth, doctors believe they will live full, healthy lives.

Thank you for being part of the life-changing care, treatment, and research that help children like Genevieve and Genesis thrive.

THIS MOMENT PUT A CHILD'S FUTURE FIRST

In a single moment, everything can change for a family. When a child is suddenly injured, or when a family receives a diagnosis they never expected, your support ensures families can receive the best care available right here at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. This is why we have launched our largest fundraising campaign ever, entitled *This Moment*.

Our bold vision is to raise \$200 million to bolster four key priorities:

- Advancing research for diseases with no known cures.
- Delivering an unparalleled patient and family experience.
- Treating the whole child — their emotional, developmental, behavioral, and physical health.
- Dismantling disparities so all children can receive the care they deserve.

By making a gift today, you can be a part of the lifesaving care, treatment, and research that help a child thrive. Visit givetochildrens.org or scan the QR code to learn more about the campaign.



Thanks to You, Aiden Has Hope

Your generosity helps kids see they have a bright future

“We were devastated when doctors told us to terminate our pregnancy — that our little boy would never make it into the world,” says Heather.

It was a moment of complete despair and felt like the beginning of the end for her unborn son, Aiden. But Heather had other plans. She never gave up hope that he had a future.

Aiden was diagnosed with a life-threatening birth defect at his 20-week anatomy scan: congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH). But Heather kept believing and against all odds, Aiden was born in St. Petersburg, Florida.

He was immediately placed on life support to help his struggling heart and lungs. Then doctors did their best to put his organs back in place and close the large hole on the left side of his diaphragm.

After more than two months in the NICU, Aiden finally went home to West Virginia.

Children like Aiden often face lifelong health challenges, and he was no exception. **But thanks to friends like you, Aiden and his family have hope.**

He became a regular patient at UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh. His care team spans eight departments, including the Colorectal Center.

When Aiden was 4, he started having abdominal pain and was admitted to UPMC Children’s. Doctors discovered his colon was severely twisted, a life-threatening side effect of CDH. He had



At this moment, Aiden is dreaming of a bright future. Your support makes it happen.

emergency surgery, and it saved his life! Aiden’s health improved significantly after the operation.

Today, Aiden is doing great overall! In fact, people don’t see his scars or even realize he has a disability.

“CDH is a very grim and devastating diagnosis,” Heather admits. **“But I want families to know there are amazing hospitals like UPMC Children’s that can treat the complications of CDH. I want them to be able to look at a child like Aiden and see that he has a bright future ahead of him. I want them to know there is hope.”**

Give the Gift of Possibility

Make an immediate impact on the kids and families we serve through your **Donor Advised Fund**. Direct a gift now or explore the option to name UPMC Children’s Hospital Foundation as a beneficiary to your account.

For more information contact: Nicole Riggelman Kelly



(412) 692-3924



nicole.kelly@chp.edu



chpflegacy.org



Emilia
(continued from pg. 1)



Her doctors shared that the clinical trial she participated in helped to prove the efficacy of the immunotherapy medicine as a frontline treatment for patients with ALL. The trial was a resounding success!

Today, Emilia loves playing outside, learning about animals and sea creatures, and anything related to princesses and unicorns.

She continues to improve!

And because of your generous support, you're helping to create better treatment options for other children with cancer. Thank you!

Breakthroughs in Research:

Your Support Fuels Asthma Research

Thanks to your generosity, researchers at the University of Pittsburgh and UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh have made great strides in the diagnosis and treatment of the most common chronic childhood disease: asthma.

Despite being a common condition, asthma doesn't have a universal treatment option. So, our team of researchers — led by Chief of Pulmonary Medicine at UPMC Children's, Dr. Juan Celedón — developed a non-invasive nasal swab test to diagnose a specific asthma subtype, or endotype, in children. An accurate diagnosis of endotype is essential to providing the best possible treatment plan, but until now, lesser-studied types of asthma have been difficult to diagnose.

So the team collected and analyzed nasal samples from 459 young people across three studies. **And thanks to your ongoing support, their research led to a breakthrough!** They were able to successfully detect the patient's endotype from the samples!

That means health care providers will soon be able to use an efficient and non-invasive test to discover this critical piece of information. In fact, the breakthrough could lead to more personalized treatments and, as a result, better outcomes for children.

For every breakthrough our scientists make, there are numerous studies still underway that have the potential to revolutionize the future of children's healthcare. When a lack of funding poses a threat to their success, your donations provide the fuel that can propel these studies forward.

Thank you for joining us at this historic moment and putting a child's future first.



Your donations help power Dr. Celedón's team in research of new treatments.

Copyright © 2025 UPMC Children's Hospital Foundation. All rights reserved.

CHI-CHP-2527

My Gift to Help Critically Ill and Injured Kids

Please accept my gift of \$_____ to provide lifesaving care for critically ill and injured children.

- ☐ I have enclosed a check (payable to UPMC Children's Hospital Foundation).
- ☐ Please charge my credit card.

- ☐ Please contact me about naming UPMC Children's Hospital Foundation in my will, trust, or long-term financial plans.

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

CVV

EXP. DATE

NAME

SIGNATURE

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

UPMC
**CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL**
FOUNDATION

**THIS
MOMENT**
PUT A CHILD'S FUTURE FIRST

One Children's Hospital Drive
4401 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15224-1342

1-877-CHP-GIVE
givetochildren.org/newsletter



IF YOU'D LIKE TO CHANGE YOUR COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES, PLEASE CONTACT US AT GIFTS@CHP.EDU OR CALL 1-877-247-4483. ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE TO THE LIMIT OF THE LAW. OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE BY CALLING TOLL FREE WITHIN PENNSYLVANIA 1-800-732-0999. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT.
© 2025 UPMC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FOUNDATION