

EXPANDING PEDIATRIC CARE IN THE

ERIE REGION



UPMC
**CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL**
FOUNDATION

EXCEPTIONAL CARE FOR KIDS ACROSS THE REGION

Every child deserves access to the most advanced pediatric health care. And yet, for many families, access is limited simply because of where they live.

Geographic barriers should never stand in the way of a child receiving exceptional care. As the only hospital in Western Pennsylvania dedicated exclusively to serving infants, children, teens, and young adults, UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh is committed to expanding our reach and ensuring every child has access to the care they need, no matter where they live.

UPMC Children's is a nationally ranked pediatric hospital that is home to world-class physicians and staff who provide expert medical care as well as social, behavioral, and emotional support to heal the whole child. The holistic patient experience we offer is made possible with the help of generous donors.

Philanthropy can empower us to extend the same high-quality, patient-centered care and groundbreaking research to families in the Erie region and throughout Pennsylvania.

UPMC Children's is proud to be your children's hospital. Together with your support, we can continue providing you and your children with the best care possible.



Optimal pediatric care requires expertise, technology, clinical environments, and research specifically designed to meet the unique medical, social, and emotional needs of children.

Resources that are essential to providing superb pediatric care are rarely embedded in adult community hospitals — which is why UPMC Children's is bringing specialized care closer to you.

UPMC Children's has been offering outpatient services in Northwestern PA since 2012, and in 2023, we opened a nine-bed pediatric unit at UPMC Hamot.

As we continue to expand the availability of pediatric services in the Erie region, we are focused on ensuring a margin of excellence consistent with that of our renowned hospital in Pittsburgh.

INVESTING IN EXPERT PEDIATRIC CARE

Philanthropy is needed to invest in three areas that are essential to providing superb pediatric health care.



CHILD LIFE

Developmental, social, and emotional support for children of all ages, delivered through therapeutic play, distraction, and creative arts by experienced Child Life Specialists



SOCIAL WORK

Assistance to children and families, including access to transportation, financial assistance, and social and psychological support, provided by trained social workers



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Access to assessments, therapeutic intervention, and behavioral health services integrated with a child's medical care and provided by licensed behavioral health specialists

Philanthropic investment in these priorities will help us meet critical needs in pediatric health care for children and families, ensuring their experience accessing care in Erie matches the world-class care we offer in Pittsburgh.

Additionally, philanthropy empowers UPMC Children's to continue enhancing the patient experience for kids and families who must make the journey to Pittsburgh for highly specialized care.

Patients and families can receive expert pediatric care within the following subspecialties at UPMC Children's Specialty Care Centers in Erie:

- Allergy & Immunology
- Cardiology
- Child Advocacy
- Diabetes/Endocrinology
- Down Syndrome
- Gastroenterology
- Genetics
- Hematology/Oncology
- Nephrology
- Neurology
- Neurosurgery
- Otolaryngology (ENT)
- Pediatric Gynecology
- Pediatric Surgery
- Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
- Plastic Surgery
- Pulmonology
- Rheumatology

We aim to support growth in personnel, technology, and resources within these subspecialties, enabling Erie families to receive highly specialized tests and therapies right in your community.



Expanding and enhancing pediatric care in the Erie region will keep kids and families closer to home, resulting in:

- Reduced stress and expenses associated with traveling for specialty care
- Convenient follow-up care for surgeries and chronic illnesses
- Stability for families who can remain close to their communities and support systems
- Access to innovative clinical trials available in Pittsburgh
- Improved quality of life through care that treats the whole child — physically, socially, and emotionally
- Access to facilities that are technologically and aesthetically optimized to serve children

A COMPREHENSIVE CHILD LIFE PROGRAM

When a child is admitted to the hospital, suddenly their world is anything but normal.

They cannot run or play outdoors, attend school, or even sleep in the comfort of their own bed. But a dedicated Child Life Specialist can make a clinical environment feel a little more like home. Serving children from infancy to adolescence as well as their parents, a Child Life Department is an essential pillar of a modern, high-quality pediatric hospital.

Child Life Specialists engage kids and families in activities that encourage healthy coping methods and foster a sense of normalcy. They also utilize therapeutic play and distraction to soothe patients before, during, and after procedures. For minor procedures, therapeutic distraction can sometimes replace the need for sedation altogether, leading to a smoother and more comfortable recovery.

Abundant research has shown that Child Life Specialists help children find strength, accelerate their healing, and empower them to become their healthiest, happiest selves. Even so, Child Life is non-reimbursable by insurance and operates within a fixed budget.



UPMC Children's is home to a team of Child Life Specialists. Philanthropy can expand this vital resource to UPMC Children's at UPMC Hamot.



Philanthropy is the sole source of funding that ensures kids and families can experience the life-changing benefits of a Child Life program.

Children receiving care at UPMC Hamot — whether through the inpatient unit, outpatient services, or Emergency Department — would benefit immensely from the expertise of a Child Life Specialist.

You could help establish this role as a permanent fixture of UPMC Children's at UPMC Hamot, which would be the first step in a long-term plan to build a Child Life program that could meet the needs of each patient we serve.

ACCESS TO PEDIATRIC CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK

The demands of everyday life do not pause when a child needs medical care.

Often, an unexpected medical situation may impede a family's ability to meet their basic needs, resulting in unique challenges that only an experienced social worker can address.

A child could receive exceptional medical care, but their ability to thrive is also impacted by factors such as their home environment, family dynamic, school environment, and psychosocial wellness. Social workers provide immediate and long-term support to address challenges across all aspects of family life, helping achieve better health and well-being for patients, siblings, and their parents and caregivers.

In addition to providing counseling, discharge planning, advocacy, education, and support specific to a child's diagnosis, social workers can connect families to assistance programs helping reduce the financial burdens that arise during a child's hospital stay.

In Pittsburgh alone, UPMC Children's Clinical Social Work team:

- Serves tens of thousands of children and families across our main hospital, Emergency Department, and outpatient clinics
- Provides vital transportation assistance to families
- Offers 24/7 access to social services in the inpatient setting



Access to Clinical Social Work is a lifeline for families. Providing 24/7 access to social services empowers our hospital to help families mitigate challenges before they escalate into crises.

Non-medical financial challenges families commonly face include access to transportation, maintaining job security with unexpected hospital stays, and keeping up with household bills. When access to a licensed social worker is integrated into a child's care, a family's most urgent challenge can be addressed before it escalates into an emergency.

Clinical Social Work is a non-reimbursable service, but it is essential to promoting the well-being of children and families.

With your gift, you can help UPMC Children's expand access to social services within our UPMC Hamot inpatient unit, outpatient clinics, and primary care facilities across the region.

INTEGRATED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

At UPMC Children's, we strive to equalize the importance of a child's physical health and behavioral health.

A medical event or diagnosis can have a significant impact on a child's behavioral health and mental and emotional well-being. Fueled by philanthropy, UPMC Children's has prioritized the seamless integration of behavioral health services into a child's medical care in Pittsburgh.

At our main hospital, licensed psychologists within UPMC Children's Behavioral Science Division are embedded in subspecialty areas, where they provide dedicated support to children and families based on a child's diagnosis — including type 1 diabetes, cystic fibrosis, traumatic brain injuries, and beyond. Psychologists address a wide range of cognitive, emotional, and behavioral challenges, and they provide treatment through education, supportive psychotherapy, relaxation training, cognitive behavioral therapy, and psychopharmacology.

Behavioral health services are also accessible in UPMC Children's Community Pediatrics (CCP) practices, where staff have experience providing therapies for challenges such as anxiety, depression, mood disorders, and loss and grief.



Philanthropy empowers behavioral health specialists at UPMC Children's to respond nimbly to the most urgent needs of the children and families they serve.

Donor support has also empowered UPMC Children's to identify and address the unique behavioral health needs of young people in Pittsburgh through services such as the Behavioral Health Walk-In Clinic. Located in our main hospital and open on evenings and weekends, this clinic is a safe space for children needing one-time, non-emergency interventions for mental health concerns such as anxiety, anger, and depression.

With your support, we can create resources and provide care tailored to the needs of the children, teens, and families who call the Erie region home.

OUR COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

At UPMC Children's, our priority is to provide expert and accessible pediatric health care that heals the whole child.

UPMC Children's stands proudly on the foundation of our 130+ year history as a leader in pediatric health care. With each milestone achieved, we continue the pursuit of excellence in everything we do.

Our affiliation with the greater UPMC network helps further this success through access to leading academic research capabilities and clinical expertise, which has helped propel our hospital's ascension to a top health care destination for children and families.





Having access to pediatric specialists in Erie has been a game-changer, saving us long trips to Pittsburgh and allowing me to receive care closer to home. The doctors and staff have been an amazing support team.

Support from everyday donors helps to ensure each child receives top-quality care. Each and every donation makes a difference!

– Finn Jensen, UPMC Children's patient

You can help to ensure that care provided by UPMC Children's, no matter when or where, is advanced, holistic, and patient-centered, always.



YOUR IMPACT AT UPMC CHILDREN'S

Support from donors like you creates the margin of excellence that sets UPMC Children's apart.

Alongside advanced medical care, we can provide the social, mental, and emotional support that will help every child thrive. Philanthropic support empowers UPMC Children's to seamlessly integrate these vital services into a child's care.

Your generosity can help extend the high-quality pediatric services, programs, and research available at UPMC Children's to families throughout the Erie region, providing specialized care and ensuring all children can benefit from the innovation happening at UPMC Children's.

Thank you for your support.

A Collaboration to Advocate for Children's Health

UPMC Children's Hospital Foundation and Hamot Health Foundation are working in collaboration to empower UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh to address critical opportunities for impact in pediatric health services. Through transformational philanthropy, we aim to cultivate a high-quality pediatric health care experience for children and families in the Erie region consistent with the world-class care available in Pittsburgh. UPMC Children's Hospital Foundation is the sole fundraising arm of UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and supports their vision of being the world leader in pediatric health care, education, and discovery. The Foundation is a public charity under 501(c)(3) and 170(b)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. For more information, visit givetochildrens.org.

Thank you for your support of
UPMC Children's and for your
commitment to the health of
children in the Erie region.



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