



© Alberta Children's Hospital

Beginnings



PRESENTED BY
The Woodmark Group

Founding stories of
our children's hospitals

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“Whatever you can do or dream you can, begin it; Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it.”

– INSPIRED BY GOETHE

AS THE WOODMARK GROUP MARKS 35 YEARS

of leading in the advancement of philanthropy to improve health of children everywhere, our members invite readers to join us in paying tribute to the vision, sacrifice and inspiration of the founders of our children's hospitals. Their generous spirits and love for children set the standard for generations of volunteer leadership. Their labors transformed early-day hospitals from humble beginnings to modern-day medical institutions offering state-of-the-art patient care, treatment, and often, miracle cures. Indeed, private donors have sponsored the ascendancy of our children's hospitals across time.

In the early days, pioneers focused on hospitals' utilitarian needs, donating such items as mops and brooms, fuel, furniture, linens, supplies, clothing, books and toys. Some gave food and cod liver oil. One donated two tame rabbits. Initial fundraising campaigns were critical but modest by today's standards. Yet, they nearly always engaged wide swaths of the community - from children, who pooled pennies, to captains of industry, who marshalled riches in support of our cause. All along,

committed volunteers, both lay and professional, and altruistic donors, worked tirelessly to sustain our children's hospitals. For that, we are most grateful.

Today's challenges likely dwarf what our founders ever could have imagined: our billion-dollar budgets and growing operating costs, work forces that require specialized training but receive little public-sector support, researchers that hunger for resources to discover next-generation treatments and cures, and always, growing numbers of the most ill children, those with medical complexities as well as those with serious, chronic conditions. Combined, these are among the pressures that heighten demand for philanthropic support.

Fortunately, our children's hospitals remain blessed with supporters much like our founders – generous individuals who are passionate about children's health. Philanthropy – then and now - has been our cornerstone. So, let's remember our beginnings with gratitude and fondness. Let's look forward, alongside our volunteers and donors, with great hope and optimism. Such boldness does indeed have genius, power and magic in it.



JEN DARLING

CHAIR, THE WOODMARK GROUP

PRESIDENT, CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
COLORADO FOUNDATION

MARCH 2025

The Woodmark Group

INSPIRATION FOR THE WOODMARK GROUP'S founding could best be described by the proverb, "necessity is the mother of invention." The need was urgent and great: increase philanthropy for children's hospitals to provide the best pediatric care possible.

But how to do it? Fundraising long relied on countless small activities – raffles, rummage sales, penny drives, etc. Could the culture be changed? That question animated discussion when 15 chief development officers (CDOs), from as many children's hospitals, met at the Woodmark hotel, just outside Seattle, in 1991, to consider what could be done. They came to Seattle at the invitation of Doug Picha, then CDO

at Seattle Children's, and Jack Sherlock, then CDO at Cincinnati Children's.

The year prior, donors to these 15 hospitals collectively gave some \$90 million, or between \$5 million and \$6 million per shop. With that baseline, CDOs examined challenges and opportunities, identified best-practice-oriented responses, and made mutual commitments to strive collectively for greater philanthropic success. By the meeting's end, they pledged to gather next year. And they have gathered annually ever since.

CDOs have jointly implemented big collaborative fundraising strategies since 1991. Through mostly volunteer-led efforts, they created a gift



Founders of The Woodmark Group, gathered in the library at the Woodmark Hotel, seated from left: Jack Sherlock (Cincinnati), Stu Turgel (Denver), Rebecca Rogers (Houston), Gary Deverman (Washington DC), Jan Cady (Milwaukee), Larry Woodard (Little Rock), Ed Horner (Chicago). **Standing from left:** Art Collier (LA), John Strick (Columbus), Shannon Winn (facilitator), George Kwong (Oakland), Doug Picha (Seattle), Tim Snyder (Pittsburgh), Anne Malone (Boston), Claus Wirsig (Toronto), Ron Chalmers (Palo Alto)

club called Children's Circle of Care to encourage donors to make gifts of \$10,000 or more. They initiated an annual benchmarking survey so they could compare fundraising metrics in pursuit of best practices. They launched educational programs for their donors and volunteers.

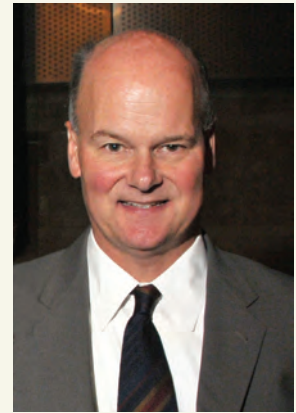
In 2000, they created a not-for-profit organization, dubbed The Woodmark Group, in a sentimental nod to their first meeting place. They hired professional staff to carry out ambitious plans. Along with the annual CDO meeting, dubbed the Woodmark Forum, fundraising staff from across the membership gather each spring for a best-practices conference called the Woodmark Summit. The Summit, and numerous virtual gatherings, delivered some 8,500 hours of learning content in 2024.

To say that philanthropy has grown significantly for Woodmark members since Woodmark's founding is an understatement. Indeed, growth has been awe-inspiring. Membership in the Children's Circle of Care (CCC) has grown from 566 to more than 9,000 in the past 31 years.

In 2024, donors contributed \$2.55 billion to Woodmark's 27 member hospitals. It was the seventh straight year that collective contributions exceeded \$2 billion.



*Jack Sherlock
Cincinnati Children's*



*Doug Picha
Seattle Children's*

Separately from CCC, between 2015 and 2024, annual dollars raised collectively by members for capital purposes increase 270 percent, from \$95 million to \$350 million. Also, the annual value of major and principal gifts raised collectively increased 53 percent, from \$668 million to \$1 billion. And the annual value raised collectively of transformational gifts – those of \$10 million or more – increased 23 percent, from \$488 million to \$602 million.

In 2024, donors contributed \$2.55 billion to Woodmark's 27 member hospitals. It was the seventh straight year that collective contributions exceeded \$2 billion. Such metrics illustrate what it means to lead in the development of philanthropy, as Woodmark's founders intended the organization to do. And with such leadership, an aspirational goal continues to pull Woodmark members forward – that is to improve the health of children everywhere.

Akron Children's Hospital

In 1890, two circles of The Daughters of the King - The Heart and Hand Circle at St. Paul's Episcopal Church and The Wayside Circle at First Congregational - established a Day Nursery to give a home during the day to the children of working women. Following a donation by Col. George Tod Perkins of a house for the nursery's expansion, it was renamed the Mary Day Nursery in honor of his granddaughter.

It was incorporated as the Mary Day Nursery and Ward for Crippled Children in 1906 and operated with Akron City Hospital. In 1910, with the addition of a 50-bed, six-ward hospital, the name changed again to Mary Day Nursery and Children's Hospital. The hospital and day nursery separated in 1917 as more space was required for hospital patients.

A new hospital building at the corner of West Buchtel and Bowery streets opened in 1928. A year later, funds from the city and the Better Akron Foundation helped the hospital stay afloat following the stock market crash. In 1945, the hospital raised nearly \$700,000 for expansion. The first phase of the expansion was completed in 1949 and included three floors and two lower levels. The second phase was completed in 1950, with updates to the X-ray and physiotherapy departments, a new lobby and a clinical lab.

In 1955, a building fund drive raised \$2.3 million to add five new floors and surgery facilities. In 1967, the hospital admitted more than 13,000 patients, more than any other pediatric hospital in the United States. The hospital became a true medical center in 1977 and changed its name to Children's Hospital Medical Center (CHMC) of Akron. The organization would again begin using the Akron Children's Hospital name in 2003, although its legal name remains CHMC.



Top: Col. George Tod Perkins was an early donor.

Middle: Two circles of The Daughters of the King - The Heart and Hand Circle at St. Paul's Episcopal Church and The Wayside Circle at First Congregational - establish a Day Nursery to give a home during the day to the children of working women.

Bottom: The First Mary Day Nursery Ball pictured here raised money for the nursery and kindergarten. It was renamed the Charity Ball in 1897 and continues to this day.

Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation

In the aftermath of World War I, members of the Canadian Red Cross in Alberta began providing care for the orphaned and sick children of soldiers. They then expanded their support to include children whose families were unable to afford private medical services. As demand grew, they spearheaded creation of the province's first pediatric healthcare facility which, over time, evolved into what is now the Alberta Children's Hospital.

Originally called the Junior Red Cross Children's Hospital, the three-storey, 35-bed facility opened in Calgary on May 19, 1922. Girls received care on the first and third floors, with boys on the second. Staff included four nurses, a physiotherapist, a cook, three maids and a janitor. For the most part, physicians provided their services on a volunteer basis. Young patients ranged in age from six months old to 19 years. Septic tonsils, polio, club foot, and osteomyelitis made up 70 percent of admissions. The average length of stay was 159 days.

The annual cost to run the hospital was \$14,680, with half funded by the provincial government. Donations made up the shortfall, including those from a group of women who formed a Hospital Aid Society still active to this day, soldiers from a Calgary-based infantry battalion, and the Red Cross. One way of raising money was to endow a bed for \$200 per year. Members of the Junior Red Cross were also eager to support fundraising for the facility named in their honour. They saved produce coupons, made coat hangers, collected used tobacco tins to sell to fisherman for their bait,



Top: Junior Red Cross Children's Hospital, 1922.

Bottom: Handmade splints and braces, foreground, were required to treat the orthopedic conditions of some of the original hospital's earliest patients.

and also collected and sold gopher tails, magpie and crow eggs. Other community members frequently gifted groceries.

The Alberta Crippled Children's Hospital (ACCH) was incorporated as a society in 1957 and ownership and operation of the hospital was later transferred to the provincial government. After a series of name changes and amendments to legislation, the ACCH was renamed the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation, with the primary objective of fundraising for the hospital.

Arkansas Children's

A group of dedicated men and women dreamed of founding a safe haven in Arkansas for children who had been orphaned, neglected or abused. More than anything, this group wanted to help those who were too young to help themselves. From this passion, the Arkansas Children's Home Society was formed in 1912.

The next year, Emma Hannaford deeded property in Morrilton to the society to be used as an orphanage. In its first year, the organization received 157 children, and 125 others were placed in foster care. In an effort to adopt as many as possible into permanent homes, the society began providing health services to the children in their charge. This fueled the formation of Arkansas's only pediatric health system, Arkansas Children's.

The Arkansas Children's Home Society kicked off a campaign in 1919 to raise \$100,000 toward the construction of a children's hospital. Superintendent Dr. Orlando Christian boldly asked, "The question is no longer what shall we do, but when and how shall we begin our task?" The effort was so encouraging the society's board of directors approved a plan to build the Arkansas Children's Home and Hospital at a total cost of \$200,000.

Noting Dr. Christian's work, another benefactor offered to sell her home and property to the society for \$20,000. As the property was valued at \$40,000, the sale recognized a \$20,000 contribution to the society. A children's hospital was built on the site in 1924, where Arkansas Children's Hospital still stands today.

Throughout the following decades, philanthropy continued to be a cornerstone of Arkansas Children's success. Visionary leaders throughout its history have shared a passion for children's health. One such leader was Superintendent Ruth Beall, who led the hospital from 1934-71 under the charge that no child was ever turned away regardless of their family's ability to pay. Today, the Ruth Beall Society recognizes individuals and families whose estate plans include Arkansas Children's.



Top: Dr. Orlando Christian, superintendent of Arkansas Children's, 1917-34 **Middle Left:** Home gifted to the Arkansas Children's Home Society, 1913 **Middle Right:** Arkansas Children's Hospital following its first major remodel, 1957 **Bottom:** Looking ahead: Arkansas Children's embarks on the most ambitious expansion of its 113-year history

Arkansas Children's now represents a statewide system of care to meet the growing needs of Arkansas' 850,000 children and more than 9 million children in the region. The private, non-profit organization includes two pediatric hospitals, a pediatric research institute and USDA nutrition center, a philanthropic foundation, a nursery alliance, statewide clinics, and many education and outreach programs — all focused on fulfilling a promise to define and deliver unprecedented child health. Today, as the system embarks on the most ambitious expansion of its 113-year history, Arkansas Children's continues its mission to champion children by making them better today and healthier tomorrow.

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta has a rich, century-long history of dedication to pediatric care. Founded in 1915 as the Scottish Rite Convalescent Home for Crippled Children, it grew from humble beginnings—two rented cottages with just 20 beds—into what is now one of the largest pediatric healthcare systems in the United States. The organization's roots in philanthropy run deep, with support from the Scottish Rite Masons and a \$100,000 bequest from businessman Thomas R. Egleston that led to the founding of Henrietta Egleston Hospital for Children in 1916.

A pivotal moment in Children's history came in 1998 with the merger of Egleston Children's Health Care System and Scottish Rite Medical Center creating Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. This merger allowed the Atlanta community to rally around one organization with a single priority: providing the best family-centered care possible.

The Hughes Spalding Pavilion opened in 1952 as a facility designed to serve Atlanta's African-American community, driven by the efforts of businessman and attorney Hughes Spalding, who led fundraising among other prominent Atlanta leaders. In 2006, Children's assumed management of Hughes Spalding Children's Hospital, further expanding its reach.

Today, after a successful five-year campaign raising more than \$1 billion, Children's reached its next major historic milestone: the opening of the 19-story, 2-million-square-foot Arthur M. Blank Hospital in fall 2024, replacing Egleston Hospital. This new facility — along with Hughes Spalding, Scottish Rite, Marcus Autism Center, the Center for Advanced Pediatrics, the Zalik Behavioral and Mental Health Center, urgent care centers and neighborhood locations — marks the beginning of a new chapter in Children's ongoing commitment to providing exceptional care to Georgia's children.



Top: Patients and caretakers from the Scottish Rite Convalescent Home for Crippled Children.

Middle: The post-merger unveiling of Hope and Will, the hospital brand's colorful girl and boy mascots, who represent the hopeful attitude and strong will of our patients, families and staff.

Bottom: Made possible through a generous lead gift of \$200 million from The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, Arthur M. Blank Hospital opened in September 2024.



Boston Children's Hospital

Where the world comes for answers

Boston Children's

A knock at the door of the tidy Boston townhouse. Another heartfelt offering — this time cod liver oil and a pair of tame rabbits.

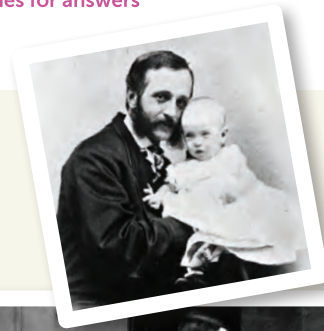
Donations like these arrived regularly at 9 Rutland Street after an urgent capital campaign in 1869 raised \$12,150 to transform that townhouse into The Children's Hospital, where youngsters ages 2 to 12 received care for free.

Though the first patient was seen that July, the idea had been brewing for Dr. Francis Henry Brown since his 1867 tour of European hospitals, including one for children in London. Upon his return, he gathered fellow Harvard Medical School graduates William Ingalls, Samuel Langmaid, and Samuel Webber to discuss Boston's dire need for pediatric care.

In a formal statement, the four physicians noted that, throughout the city, "children are constantly exposed to influences which invite disease in its saddest forms." They outlined three objectives: treat those diseases, share the knowledge acquired, and train a nursing team.

They printed 150 copies and appealed to the community, encouraging annual subscriptions of \$5 or more or, for the well-heeled, lifetime subscriptions starting at \$100. By December 1869, \$25,325 had been raised from 54 individuals, two fundraising fairs, one estate gift, and an alms box on site.

Meanwhile, physician volunteers and religious sisters provided care, while the independent Ladies' Aid Association provided essentials — food, clothing, linens, towels — as well as books and toys. By year's end, 30 patients had been treated for broken bones, traumatic injuries, and infectious diseases.



Top: Founder Dr. Francis H. Brown with son Louis c. 1875

Middle: Early OR c. 1900

Bottom: Boys Ward c. 1910



The hospital quickly outgrew its 20 beds, moving again and again until landing at its current location in 1914.

As care and training have grown intertwined with research, and breakthroughs are shared the world over, the founders' mission lives on — and donor generosity continues to propel it forward.

BC Children's Hospital

In 1982, BC Children's Hospital opened its doors as the first and only dedicated children's hospital in the province of British Columbia. With 250 acute care beds, an adolescent unit, and advanced psychiatric and rehabilitation facilities, it marked a monumental leap forward in children's health. That same year, BC Children's Hospital Foundation was established to advance philanthropy to ensure kids receive the best care possible—fueling transformative progress over the past four decades.

In 1993, a dedicated pediatric research institute was established on the hospital's campus, which laid the groundwork for BC Children's to become a global leader in research. In the early 2000s, the foundation launched a \$200-million capital campaign to build a new state-of-the-art hospital. Thanks to tens of thousands of donors, this ambitious vision became a reality with the opening of the Teck Acute Care Centre in 2017. This eight-story facility was designed to meet the needs of children and their families with cutting-edge technology, private patient rooms, healing art and purposeful designs that support their body, mind and spirit.

Ever since, BC Children's has continued to set new standards of care with many bold firsts. It launched Western Canada's first 3D Technology Program, became the first pediatric hospital in Canada to establish an immunization clinic and research centre, and launched the first initiative of its kind in Canada to bring the world's most advanced clinical trials to kids across the province.

BC Children's serves one million children across BC and the Yukon, including the sickest and most critically injured. It's one of the few pediatric facilities in North



Top: BC Children's Hospital T8 Procedure Room

Middle: BC Children's Hospital 1982 Building

Bottom: BC Children's Hospital TECK, Acute Care Centre opened in 2017

America that integrates an acute care centre, rehabilitation and assessment services, mental health care, a research institute and a foundation—all on one campus. With a world-class team of 4,000 health care professionals, including 1,500 researchers, BC Children's is at the forefront of tackling the toughest health challenges facing children.

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

In 1882, Julia Foster Porter, a young widow and nurse, opened the Maurice F. Porter Memorial Hospital, an eight-bed cottage exclusively for children, named in honor of her late son, who tragically passed away from a deadly disease. With \$13,000, Julia Foster Porter established Chicago's first – and still its only—hospital dedicated exclusively to caring for children, with a mission to provide free care for children, “without restriction as to race, color, creed or ability to pay.”

Julia enlisted nine women to serve on an advisory board of managers for the hospital, now known as the Founders' Board, which continues to play a crucial role in the hospital's service and philanthropy. In 1903 and 1904, the hospital acquired additional land and underwent a major reorganization that expanded care to more patients. From these modest roots, and with the support of many community partners, Julia's cottage would eventually become Children's Memorial Hospital.

When demand for its services called for a larger and more modern facility, and after receiving a large gift, the hospital moved to a triangle of land in an undeveloped area of Lincoln Park, which would remain the hospital's home for the next century. By 1908, generous philanthropic support from the community continued, including endowments of approximately \$500 to support a patient bed for one year, allowing the hospital to continue providing free care.

Fast forward to 2012, when the institution was renamed Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and moved to its current home on the Streeterville medical campus after a transformative \$100 million donation from former nurse and benefactor Ann Lurie.



Top: Julia Foster Porter, founder

Middle: Original 8-bed cottage

Bottom: Nurse and young patients enjoying a beautiful spring day outdoors

Cincinnati Children's

Cincinnati Children's story began humbly in 1883 when three compassionate women converted a three-bedroom house into a small hospital.

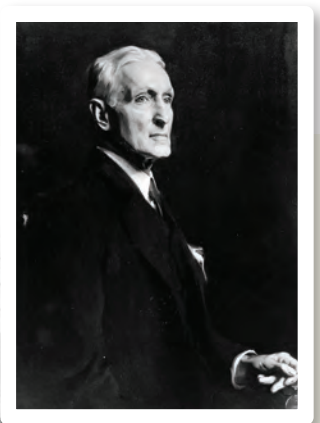
Mrs. Robert (Nellie Phillips) Dayton, Isabelle Hopkins and Mary Emery established the hospital to care for sick children in the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio. The 12-bed facility was committed to providing free care to poor children without regard to race, creed or color.

Co-founder Mary Emery was a generous philanthropist and benefactor throughout her life. Her husband, Thomas Emery, and his brother John J. Emery, donated land in 1887 for a new 20-bed building. The gift was made in part to memorialize Thomas and Mary's teenage son, who died in an accident.

In the 1920s, a local businessman had the vision and forethought to make an investment in the Cincinnati hospital that has impacted generations of families and children.

William Cooper Procter, grandson of the co-founder of Procter & Gamble, gave a transformational gift of more than \$5 million in 1928. Half of Procter's support was dedicated to capital projects of the time, such as constructing and furnishing a new 200-bed facility and a residence hall for nurses. The other half of his investment changed the trajectory of the medical center and of child health.

Procter's generous gift established and endowed a research foundation, the first in the country with a pediatric focus. He mandated that all proceeds be reinvested in research, which set the stage for



Top: William Cooper Procter's extraordinary leadership and philanthropy resulted in the dramatic expansion of the hospital's size, scope, mission and reputation.

Middle and Bottom: Mrs. Robert (Nellie Phillips) Dayton, Isabelle Hopkins and Mary Emery opened a small hospital in a converted three-bedroom house in 1883.

Cincinnati Children's long and storied tradition of interdisciplinary research collaboration and unrelenting focus on curing childhood diseases.

Today Cincinnati Children's stands as one of the world's premier children's hospitals recognized for groundbreaking research and relentless innovation that has changed the face of pediatric medicine—and always with the kind of compassionate care on which it was founded.

Children's Hospital Colorado

In the late 1800s, parents of children with medical needs flocked to Colorado hoping to find a cure in the fresh air and sunshine. To accommodate that need, a group of volunteers established the Babies Summer Hospital in Denver's City Park in 1897, featuring tents that housed patients who were treated by six medical staff and volunteer nurses.

As demand for the fledgling hospital's services increased, the volunteers recognized the need for a permanent hospital that would "care for sick, injured and crippled children from birth to 16 years of age, irrespective of sex, creed, color, nationality or place of birth" that would be supported primarily by volunteer contributions. With that goal to guide them, Children's Hospital Colorado officially incorporated on May 9, 1908.

In 1909, Children's Colorado converted a former residence at 2221 Downing Street into a well-equipped institution with a capacity of 30 beds. It admitted its first patients on Feb. 17, 1910, and treated 290 patients in its first year. The hospital's first class of nursing students graduated in 1912.

As the demand for child healthcare services increased throughout the Rocky Mountain region, the hospital quickly raised more than \$200,000 to build a new and improved facility, which opened in 1917 in downtown Denver. The building opened with 100 beds and with what The Denver Post described at the time as "every article of equipment known to science."

During its early years, Children's Colorado operated on modest budgets, and donations consisted mainly of food, clothing and supplies. Beginning with "penny



Top: The Children's Hospital in 1910

Middle: 1910 patient area

Bottom: 1910s Children's Colorado patients

marches" at Denver elementary schools to support early fund drives and culminating in the campaign for a new state-of-the-art facility, the hospital's progress has been made possible by the collective generosity of the communities Colorado Children's is privileged to serve.

Nationwide Children's

The Ohio State Board of Health was founded in 1886 and reported that “one-half of all deaths in our cities are children under 5 and one-third, children under 1 year.” The report raised public awareness, which was further heightened by area outbreaks of diphtheria and typhoid fever.

Citizens in Columbus, Ohio, mobilized to raise money for pediatric healthcare in central Ohio. An original fundraising event generated \$125 in 1890, followed by subsequent philanthropic activities. Philanthropic support was vital, from the very conception of this institution. Children needed help and the community responded – as it does to this very day. The hospital was incorporated in 1892 and the first 15 trustees and the first 15 “Board of Lady Managers” were appointed two days later. Those early volunteer leaders devised a plan to seek \$5,000 from the community.

They raised more than \$18,000 within 12 months.

The original facility opened in 1894 and had nine beds. The first patient was a 6-year-old girl named Lucille Wetzels, who was admitted with a diagnosis of hip-joint disease and a family history of tuberculosis.

The first board president was Colonel James Kilbourne, president of Kilbourne-Jacobs manufacturing company, a member of a pioneering Franklin County family, and a prominent figure in local and state affairs. His wife, Anna, was an instrumental figure and served on the Board of Lady Managers.

Communities all over America benefit from prominent, civic-minded families that shape a locale's history. The Kilbournes are just one of the many families who led to the founding of Nationwide



Top: The original children's hospital opened in this building in 1894.



Bottom: Nationwide Children's current main clinical building opened in 2012. A new 12-story building is under construction and will open in 2028.

Children's Hospital. They are symbolic of the countless donors who make our mission possible. As Nationwide Children's has grown into a top-10 pediatric hospital nationally, those families remain steadfast in helping hospital staff to treat and heal children.

Children's HealthSM

Children's Health traces its origins to the spring of 1913, when a group of nurses led by public health nurse May Foster Smith organized the Dallas Baby Camp, an open-air clinic consisting of four tents. As many as 15 babies were dying daily from dehydration caused by malnutrition and diarrhea and the group of nurses wanted to establish a space to treat the infants and to educate mothers about nutrition and hygiene.

After a successful summer, the city of Dallas built a cottage to house the Dallas Baby Camp. But that wasn't enough for Nurse Smith, who was determined to grow the baby camp into a children's hospital. She wrote her vision on a chalkboard: "Someday the Dallas Baby Camp will be a great hospital. Watch us grow!"

In 1929, Dallas entrepreneur Thomas L. Bradford, Sr. donated enough money to transform Nurse Smith's dream into reality. Nurse Smith previously had cared for Bradford's daughter, Elizabeth, when she was a child. After Elizabeth and her mother died, Bradford donated land and money to build a permanent facility for the cause his daughter loved. Descendants of the Bradford family continue to support Children's Health to this day.

Health care leaders and community supporters saw the need for a stand-alone hospital that combined the area's pediatric facilities. The Dallas' community responded eagerly to the idea of a new children's hospital. The campaign raised 94.4% of its goal within a month of its launch, ultimately receiving more than \$2.7 million — or about \$25.7 million in today's dollars. The new Children's Medical Center Dallas opened its doors in 1967.



In 1979, the medical center launched a \$10-million capital campaign to increase the number of beds, add a transport service and outpatient space. During the early 2000s, the medical center's leaders approved the construction of a second hospital in Plano as a response to the growing number of children in Dallas' northern suburbs.

More than 110 years later, North Texas continues to grow, rushing in a critical need for greater access to pediatric health care. Now, Children's Health is building a new pediatric campus to continue fulfilling its mission to make life better for children.



Top center: Nurse May Foster Smith led the founding of Children's Health in Dallas in 1913.

Bottom right: Triplets at the Dallas Baby Camp circa 1915.

Texas Children's Hospital

Texas Children's Hospital began as the vision of Dr. David Greer, a Houston pediatrician who, in 1944, proposed creating a hospital dedicated to children's care. This idea emerged from Houston's severe lack of specialized pediatric services, despite its growing population. Houston hospitals at the time had only a few pediatric beds and limited outpatient services, contributing to high infant mortality rates and inadequate care for childhood diseases like whooping cough and pneumonia.

Dr. Greer gained support from fellow pediatricians in the Houston Pediatric Society, influential community leaders, and many of Houston's founding families. Key individuals included philanthropist Leopold L. Meyer, industrialist James S. Abercrombie, and oil magnate Hugh Roy Cullen.

Philanthropy played a critical role in Texas Children's Hospital's founding. Early funds came from proceeds of the Pin Oak Charity Horse Show, initiated by Abercrombie and Meyer, which provided \$30,000 in 1947.

Meyer's fundraising expertise and Abercrombie's financial contributions — particularly a \$1 million seed gift — were pivotal to creating the future Texas Children's Hospital. With Abercrombie's gift in hand, Meyer rallied additional community support, ultimately meeting the \$2.5 million philanthropic goal for construction. This was but one of the many successes achieved by the Texas Children's Hospital Board of Trustees.

On February 1, 1954, Texas Children's Hospital officially opened with interior columns painted like peppermint candy, 106 specially designed beds for patients, loungers for parents staying overnight, custom medical equipment, a snack bar, child-friendly décor, and a 180-seat auditorium. From its beginning as only an idea held by one Houston pediatrician, Texas Children's



Top: Mr. and Mrs. J.S. Abercrombie with grandson Jamie Robinson (1956)

Middle: Medical Staff (1955-1956)

Bottom: Texas Children's Hospital Exterior (1954)

Hospital had fully evolved into a community-supported, brick-and-mortar reality in less than 10 years. It was built with a commitment to provide care to all children, regardless of race, creed, or ability to pay — a cornerstone of its mission from the beginning and still today.

Riley Children's Health

When the "Hoosier Poet," James Whitcomb Riley, died in 1916, a group of his friends came together to pursue ways to memorialize him. The "Riley Memorial Association" (RMA) discussed several options, but by early 1917 settled on the idea of building a children's hospital, due in large part to the advocacy of such members as Lafayette Page, MD. A close friend of Riley, Page expressed the frustration Indiana physicians felt in their inability to provide specialized care to children saying, "Hundreds of babies less than a year old in Indiana die each year of ailments which could have been prevented had the physician proper facilities..."

The RMA committed to the vision of building a modern children's hospital in 1917, but the country's entry into World War I forced them to delay their plans. Finally, in late 1920 the RMA, Indiana University, and the Indiana Child Welfare Association, convinced the Indiana State Legislature to pass a bill committing some state funds to the project. The RMA pledged to provide the rest, around \$1 million. On April 9, 1921, the group officially incorporated and launched a massive fundraising campaign. Hoosiers of every variety gave to the cause, from Indianapolis Motor Speedway founder and RMA member Arthur Newby, who gave \$25,000, to a young newsboy in Indianapolis who pledged 50 cents. Fraternal organizations like Kiwanis, Rotary, and others raised hundreds of thousands of dollars, and by the cornerstone laying ceremony in July 1922, pledges from individual Hoosiers totaled \$165,000.

On October 7, 1924, the RMA, today called the Riley Children's Foundation, celebrated the completion of the Riley Memorial Hospital for Children, now called



Top: Hugh McK. Landon and his wife Jesse Spalding Landon, were known as the "mother and father of Riley Hospital for Children." Landon served as the RMA Chairman from 1921 to 1947, while his wife organized fundraisers, volunteers, and supply drives. Together, the couple donated \$140,000 to the hospital by 1926.

Bottom: The first patient, Mark Noble, from Decatur, Ind., and his parents are greeted at the front doors of Riley Hospital for Children.

Riley Children's Health. The RMA chairman, Hugh McK. Landon, called it "the largest and most modern institution of its kind in America, if not in the world." A few weeks later the first patient, Mark Noble, arrived. In its first two years of operation, the hospital treated 4,272 children from across Indiana.

Children's Mercy Kansas City

Children's Mercy was founded by two remarkable sisters, Dr. Alice Berry Graham, a dentist, and Dr. Katharine Berry Richardson, a surgeon. Their journey began in 1897 when they encountered a sick and malnourished girl abandoned in the streets of Kansas City, Missouri. Moved by her plight, they treated and cared for her at a rented bed in a women's hospital.

This act of compassion sparked their mission to provide medical care to the city's neediest children. The sisters faced numerous challenges, including societal norms that often limited women's roles in medicine. Despite these obstacles, they were determined to create a hospital dedicated to children, regardless of their families' financial situations. Their unwavering commitment led to the establishment of The Free Bed Fund Association for Children, which later became known as Children's Mercy Hospital.

Philanthropy played a crucial role from the earliest days of Children's Mercy. The community rallied around the sisters' cause, contributing both money and resources. In 1915-17, a significant fundraising effort raised \$375,000 to construct a new hospital building on land donated at 1710 Independence Avenue. This new facility, which opened on November 27, 1917, marked a significant milestone in the hospital's history and served as its home for 53 years.

The generosity of the community didn't stop there. The founding sisters would write a list of needs on a chalkboard in front of the hospital and neighbors rallied to help by donating apples, linens and other items. Over the years, community champions have continued to support the hospital through donations and volunteer work.



Top: Children's Mercy founders, Alice Berry Graham and Katharine Berry Richardson

Middle: The community generously responded to a chalk board on the lawn announcing the hospital's most urgent needs

Bottom: Children's Mercy celebrates 25 years of caring for children

This spirit of giving has been a cornerstone of Children's Mercy from its inception, ensuring that the hospital could provide care to all children, regardless of the families' ability to pay. Today, Children's Mercy Kansas City stands as a testament to the vision and dedication of its founders and the enduring support of the community. It continues to provide world-class pediatric care, driven by the same compassion and commitment that inspired its founding over a century ago.

Children's Hospital Los Angeles

The history of Children's Hospital Los Angeles dates back to 1900 when a service organization called the King's Daughters began circulating handbills. The female philanthropic group wanted to invite people to attend a meeting to discuss plans for a free hospital for children. More than 100 people contributed funds, and a year later, in 1901, a two-story house was turned into a private charitable hospital with a sign placed on the balcony that read "Children's Hospital."

In the hospital's first year, 14 patients were admitted, the surgery suite opened in the house's pantry, and the hospital's only doctor made house calls on horseback. In 1914, the new two-building Children's Hospital Los Angeles opened in Hollywood on the corner of Sunset Boulevard and Vermont Avenue where philanthropist Emma Phillips had bequeathed four acres of land to the hospital—and where the institution still stands.

Although the hospital's beginnings were humble, the founders' vision—to create a place of hope, compassion, and healing for all children, regardless of their families' financial status—was made possible thanks to the community's generosity.

Philanthropy has always played a pivotal role at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, from the creation of more than two dozen associate and affiliate groups that raise funds for the hospital throughout Southern California, to the donors who support the clinical care, education, and research performed at the institution today.



Top: Kate Page Crutcher served as the hospital's president from 1907-1946 and established the Hermosa Beach Auxiliary, the first of many associate and affiliate fundraising groups.

Bottom: The hospital's inaugural building was a two-story house.



Nicklaus
Children's
Hospital

Where Your Child Matters Most

Nicklaus Children's Hospital

Nicklaus Children's story began in Pittsburgh in December 1928 when a theater manager found an abandoned baby girl whimpering in a seat in an empty auditorium. A note pinned to her clothing was signed by a heartbroken mother who pleaded: *"Please take care of my baby. Her name is Catherine. I can no longer care for her... I have always heard of the goodness of show business, and I pray you will look after my little girl."*

The theater manager turned to a group of theater owners and showmen, who were founders of the first chapter of Variety Club (Tent #1), a social club that did charitable acts in Pittsburgh. Club members agreed to provide support for Catherine, who inspired them to serve other needy children.

In the 1940s, Variety Clubs International founded a chapter in Miami, FL (Tent #33). Club members joined forces with community members in Coral Gables, FL, where a new children's hospital was being built that needed financial support. Together, members each donated \$1 or more to help construct the hospital's first building. These acts marked the beginning of the impact philanthropy would make on the children's hospital.

Thanks to the vision of Dr. Arthur H. Weiland and a generous community, the Variety Children's Hospital opened its doors on March 20, 1950, during the polio epidemic. Written above the hospital's doors were the words: "A little child shall lead them." The hospital soon was regarded as the southern center for treatment of children suffering from polio.

When Miami community leader, Ambassador David M. Walters, lost his granddaughter to leukemia, he vowed that no child would ever need to leave

South Florida to receive the best healthcare. In 1982, Ambassador Walters, along with medical staff, community leaders and volunteers, created the hospital's foundation. Philanthropy made possible the expansion of many programs needed to meet the needs of children in South Florida and beyond.

In 2015, the hospital was re-named Nicklaus Children's in recognition of a transformational gift contributed by golf icon and philanthropist Jack Nicklaus and his wife Barbara through their Nicklaus Children's Health Care Foundation. Today, Nicklaus Children's continues to transform the lives of children and families, based on the founders' vision of creating a healthy future for every child.



Top right: Hospital patient, circa 1970s

Top Left: "A Little Child Shall Lead Them," mission statement circa 1950

Middle: Variety Children's Hospital building, est. 1950

Bottom: Kenneth C. Griffin Surgical Tower, est. 2024



Children's Hospital of Orange County

It's thought that Orange County is named as such to invoke the idea that anything can grow there. When the county experienced an explosive population increase following World War II, visionary icons Walt Disney and Walter Knott had the foresight to bring a children's hospital to the region to meet a growing community with a growing capacity to care for its youngest residents.

Disney and Knott partnered with a group of leaders and physicians to raise funds to establish Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC), the first children's hospital in the area. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, embarking on a hospital expansion themselves, donated the land on which CHOC would be built—and started what would become a long-standing relationship.

On October 5, 1964, the single-story, 62-bed hospital opened its doors to serve its first patient: a 12-year-old boy named Ken, who was admitted for orthopaedic surgery. Though CHOC treated only four patients that day, word quickly spread about the hospital—and within two months, approximately 300 children received care at CHOC. To support its growth, the CHOC Foundation was formed one year after the hospital opened.

A decade after opening, CHOC purchased a five-story building to support additional beds and services, including pediatric and neonatal intensive care units. In 1991, the six-story, 192-bed hospital known today as the CHOC North Tower opened. When the seven-story Bill Holmes Tower opened in 2013, CHOC became a free-standing hospital with all of its services under one roof, including Orange County's first pediatric-only emergency department.

Today, CHOC is a leading pediatric health system that is now part of Rady Children's Health. With hospitals in



Top: The original Choco Bear, CHOC's mascot.

Middle: CHOC under construction, 1962.

Bottom: The Bill Holmes Tower at CHOC Orange.

Orange and Mission Viejo and a network of primary and specialty care clinics, CHOC serves children and families across four counties in Southern California.

Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford

In the 1930s, a bright, kind Stanford University student named Lucile Salter began volunteering at the Stanford Convalescent Home for Children, a place in Palo Alto that cared for children with illnesses such as polio and tuberculosis. Lucile's deep compassion for the well-being of children sparked a lifelong commitment. She went on to become chair of the board of the Children's Health Council and worked closely with the Stanford Convalescent Home to help it evolve into what is now known as Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford.

In 1986, Lucile and her husband, David Packard (co-founder of Hewlett-Packard), dedicated \$70 million to create the best possible children's hospital for all kids and families. She traveled across the country to learn from other leading children's hospitals, talking to parents, children, and care team members to understand how to provide comprehensive support that treats the whole child, not just the disease. In addition, she championed a groundbreaking approach to a children's hospital—bringing the care of mothers and babies together under one roof. The new hospital was named in memory of Lucile, who passed away before its opening in 1991.

In 1997, the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health was founded as the sole fundraising entity for Lucile Packard Children's Hospital and the Stanford School of Medicine's maternal and child health programs. A few years later, the Foundation launched a campaign that raised \$525 million—at the time, the largest fundraising campaign for a children's hospital to date. The campaign enabled the hospital to recruit over 40 top specialists and build centers of excellence in heart, cancer, brain and behavior, pregnancy and newborn services, pulmonary, and transplant. The campaign

Top and Middle: Once a volunteer at the Stanford Convalescent Home for Children, Lucile Salter Packard became the visionary founder of a new children's hospital, which opened in 1991.

Bottom: The hospital continues to be a beacon of hope and healing for children and families in need.

transformed Packard Children's into one the nation's best children's hospitals at the leading edge of specialty care and innovative research.

Lucile believed that every child and expectant mother, regardless of their financial circumstances, deserved world-class care. In 2017, the Hospital doubled its size with the opening of its new Main building. Today, her vision shines through the hospital—one of the most technologically advanced and family-friendly in the nation, and a beacon of hope and healing for children and expectant mothers.



photo credit: Steve Babuljak

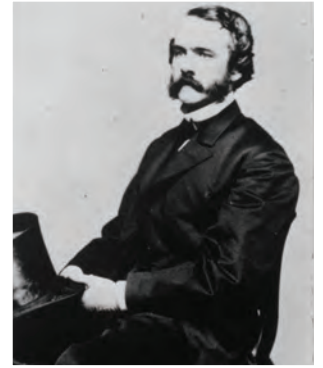
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

In the mid-nineteenth century, the city of Philadelphia was plagued by poor sanitary conditions in urban slums that arose from the Industrial Revolution, resulting in a high infant and child mortality rate. Dr. Francis West Lewis, a prominent Philadelphia physician, was deeply disturbed by the number of children suffering in his city. Having just visited London for the opening of the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, he was inspired to establish a children's hospital in the United States.

In partnership with Drs. Thomas Hewson Bache and R.A.F. Penrose, Dr. Lewis founded Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) in 1855. When CHOP opened its doors for the first time on November 23 that year, a notice was published in the Public Ledger announcing that "children suffering from acute diseases and accidents will be received free of charge."

CHOP's first location was a modest, three-story brick building, containing 12 beds and a dispensary. Within three months, the building was fully occupied, with patients overflowing into the corridors. Early donations of fuel, clothing, furniture and food kept the hospital going. By 1860, the managers established the first permanent fund for operations, and fundraising began in earnest through speaking engagements, theatricals and concerts. In 1862, even as the civil war raged, a concert raised \$630.71 for the hospital (nearly \$20,000 today).

CHOP started off with one simple, clear mission: to provide access to quality healthcare for children. From there, the founders also felt they had a responsibility to conduct research that would better diagnose, treat and cure childhood diseases. These principles remain at the heart of everything CHOP does, and the generosity of the community remains a critical pillar of CHOP's growth and success.



Top: Dr. Francis West Lewis led the founding of CHOP in 1855.

Middle: CHOP's original location on Blight Street, Philadelphia.

Bottom: Patient families waiting outside CHOP's dispensary to receive "advice and medicines".

UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh

In an era when sick children were often cared for at home or in the wards of adult hospitals, Pittsburgh-area pediatrician Dr. Frank LeMoyne believed that his vulnerable patients deserved a hospital dedicated to their unique needs. His son Kirk shared this vision and spearheaded a "Cot Club" campaign. Kirk and his young friends secured funds for a dedicated pediatric bed at a local hospital – with enough left over to seed the dream of a pediatric specialty hospital.

The dream gained a powerful ally in philanthropist Miss Jane Holmes. An Irish immigrant from a family of successful bankers, Miss Holmes was known affectionately as "Lady Bountiful." She bequeathed a generous \$40,000 to establish a hospital for children, with the requirement that it be built within a year of the gift.

Rising to the challenge, Dr. LeMoyne and many community leaders and influential families formed the first board of trustees. The names of several are still recognized today, including Frick, Laughlin, Magee, Phipps, and Westinghouse. They registered the charter in 1887, enrolled a medical staff, and oversaw the remodeling of a home on Craft Avenue. By June 5, 1890, the 15-bed Pittsburgh Hospital for Children opened its doors. It immediately began to grow, with two wings added, and electric lights and fans installed, again thanks to community support. In 1907, the hospital opened its own nursing school to meet the need for professional bedside caregivers.

A fire in 1923 destroyed the hospital's main building. Again, the community took care of its children by raising \$1.6 million (\$29 million in 2024 dollars) for the hospital. The 1926 facility was built to support patients with all that the rapidly evolving field of pediatrics could offer, and portions of it served children into the 21st century.



Top: Following a lifetime of philanthropy and community service, Miss Jane Holmes (1805-1885) made a bequest that kindled the community's dream of building a non-profit hospital to care for the region's growing population of children.

Credit: artist unknown, from the Collection of Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children. Photograph copyright ©, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 2017, all rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.

Bottom: A 9-year-old has a life-saving emergency tracheotomy.

Credit: Emergency Tracheotomy, 1951. Photograph Courtesy Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh/Esther Buble/Estate of Esther Buble

Rady Children's

Rady Children's began as a small, one-story building constructed in a Kearny Mesa pasture in the San Diego area in 1954. The building had just 58 beds and 12 patients on the first day of operations, many of whom were recovering from polio.

As the population grew and the city evolved, Rady Children's and San Diego grew up together. From a quiet beachside town, San Diego became a thriving city and international tourist destination. As more families moved to the area, Rady Children's expanded its services to meet the needs of the community.

The hospital's generous donors have been critically important to the hospital's success over the past 70 years. The hospital's original fundraisers, the Auxiliary and Kiwanis Club, raised enough money to break ground on the hospital's first building. Since then, transformative gifts have helped fund the pioneering Rady Children's Institute for Genomic Medicine, innovative approaches to mental and behavioral health, and the hospital's latest project: a seven-story, 500,000-square-foot intensive care unit/emergency services pavilion.

The Rady family's exceptional generosity has greatly enhanced the hospital's campus and services, and hospital staff members are proud that the hospital and health system bear the Rady family's name.

Achievement after achievement—always with children's well-being as the focus—led to Rady Children's standing today as a top 10 children's medical center, serving over a quarter-million young patients every year from San Diego and around the world. Rady Children's is now the only exclusively pediatric hospital and only designated pediatric trauma center for the region's more than 1 million children.



Top: Hospital groundbreaking in 1954

Middle: A few of the hospital's founding Auxiliary fundraising members circa 1954

Bottom: The hospital's first polio patients circa 1954



Seattle Children's
HOSPITAL • RESEARCH • FOUNDATION

Seattle Children's

The death of pioneer Anna Herr Clise's young son, Willis, from inflammatory rheumatism in 1898 made her tragically aware of the lack of specialized care for Seattle Children's. At the time, the most advanced treatments for children with inflammatory rheumatism were offered at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), some 2,800 miles away.

In the summer of 1906, Anna and her husband, James, traveled to the east coast. It was there she visited with her cousin, Dr. John Musser, who had established a ward for children with orthopedic needs at CHOP, the first pediatric hospital in America. That same summer, Anna also visited a hospital for women and children in Syracuse, New York. On the week-long train ride back to Seattle, Anna reflected on Willis's painful illness and envisioned starting an organization – like those on the east coast – to treat children in Seattle.

With the help of 23 female friends – almost all mothers, Clise established the first facility in the Pacific Northwest to treat young children, most of whom would otherwise have been left to endure pain and disability throughout their lives. Each of the women donated \$10 to launch a treasury – about \$334 in today's funds. They each agreed to pay an annual membership fee of \$10 to support the new organization. Incorporated in 1907 as Children's Orthopedic Hospital, the institution was only the third such facility on the west coast at that time. The trustees then established a founding promise that lasts to this day – the hospital will serve all



Top: Anna Clise led the founding of Seattle Children's hospital in 1907.

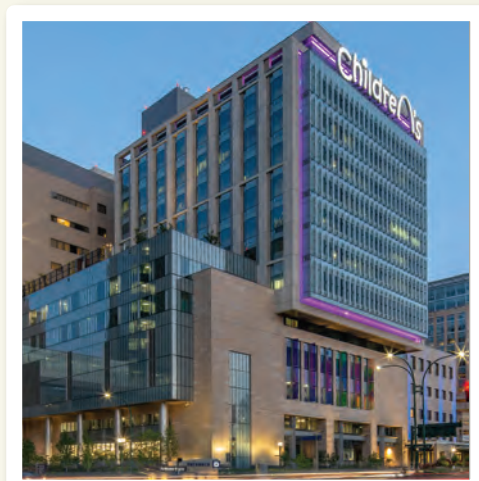
Bottom: Patients at Children's Orthopedic Hospital circa 1908

children, regardless of race, religion, gender or families' ability to pay.

By March 1907, 105 Seattle citizens had donated \$10 each to support the hospital's efforts. Later that year, the children's hospital guild association was formed to further advance fundraising efforts. By the end of 1907, the hospital had provided care for 13 children at a cost of \$1,000 – about \$33,360 in today's dollars.

St. Louis Children's Hospital

In the late 19th century, St. Louis was a bustling city. However, poor housing, tainted food, water and sanitation issues, and lack of access to healthcare led to a high incidence of illness among residents. Even prominent citizens were losing children to illness and infection. Among them was Mrs. Appoline A. Blair, widow of Senator Frank P. Blair, whose young daughter died from illness. That is why in 1878, she invited a group of women to her home to discuss a plan to open a children's hospital. At a time when almost half of children did not reach their 5th birthday, Mrs. Blair and her friends raised concerns about the lack of care for poor children and the need to attract pediatric doctors to St. Louis. The women agreed to each raise at least \$200 a year to make their vision a reality. In the months following, this group of privileged women enlisted the aid of friends and family to support these goals. They solicited modest subscriptions to the hospital, mostly between \$1 to \$5, which would be used for daily expenses. In addition to raising funds for operating expenses, the women worked diligently to raise \$4,500, enough to fund the purchase of the first hospital building. In the fall of 1879, a 15-bed hospital named St. Louis Children's Hospital opened its doors. The first annual report of the hospital from 1879 listed a staff of nine physicians and surgeons, and their services were noted as gratuitously rendered. In addition to financial contributions, the report included donations such as bedsheets, towels, toys, ice cream, fruit, books, mops and brooms. While the hospital today looks quite different than it did in the late 1800s, St. Louis Children's Hospital stands strong because of the perseverance of the founders and the ongoing promise to help every child live the healthiest life possible.



Top: Appoline Blair, founder of St. Louis Children's Hospital.

Middle: 2834 Franklin Ave, the hospital's first building.

Bottom: St. Louis Children's Hospital today.

Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation

The story of Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation (SCHF) has a legacy of care spanning more than 150 years.

The journey began in 1868 when The Asylum for Homeless and Destitute Children was established in Sydney's eastern suburbs in Randwick, protecting Sydney's most vulnerable young people. Two years later, The Catherine Hayes Hospital in Randwick opened to care for sick children from the Asylum.

This hospital, the first of its kind in Australia, was funded from the proceeds of a concert given by opera singer Catherine Hayes. The hospital later was renamed the Prince of Wales Hospital, incorporating a children's ward.

By 1986, the need for a dedicated funding body for children's hospital care was clear. Libby Beveridge and her husband Dr John Beveridge AO, with their co-founders, established an independent charitable foundation. Their vision was to enable world-class clinical care and to invest in research to diagnose, prevent and cure childhood diseases.

In 1996 the current Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick officially opened (funded partly from a capital appeal), and the foundation became Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation.

Meanwhile, the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children in Sydney's inner west in Camperdown was meeting the needs of sick kids on the other side of the city, drawing on the generosity of the community. Opened in 1880, the Royal Alexandra relocated in the mid-1990s to Sydney's western suburbs to respond to the needs of



Top and middle: Sydney Hospital for Sick Children circa 1880.

Bottom: The Girls' Ward at Catherine Hayes Hospital, Asylum for Destitute Children, Randwick

an expanding population in Western Sydney. Renamed The Children's Hospital at Westmead, it opened with an internal fundraising department.

In 2010, the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network was formed, uniting both hospitals, Bear Cottage, Kids Research and the newborn and paediatric emergency transport service (NETS).

In 2018, SCHF's Board agreed to bring both hospitals' fundraising teams together to create the Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation to deliver greater impact across the network. Since this expansion in 2018, SCHF has contributed over \$200 million to the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network to support sick children, driving transformative change and ensuring every child in New South Wales – and beyond - receives the best healthcare when and where they need it.

SickKids

Born in Toronto in 1847, Elizabeth McMaster was determined to leave a lasting impact on the city she called home. Through her visionary efforts, McMaster organized a group of young women who, in 1874, began holding meetings for the establishment of a hospital for sick children. The “Ladies Committee” as they became known was comprised of influential women who were committed to changing the shocking fact that almost half of all recorded deaths in Canada at the time were children under the age of 10. The committee had one clear directive in mind: raise funds and open a hospital “for the admission and treatment of all sick children”. Less than a year later, McMaster and the Ladies Committee turned their vision into reality. On March 1, 1875, The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) opened its doors for the very first time, becoming Canada’s first children’s hospital.

SickKids initially operated out of a series of small, two-story, rental homes costing CA\$320 a year (equivalent to approximately \$8,500 today). Elizabeth McMaster and the Ladies Committee transformed the space which originally had broken windows, no running water and a broken boiler, into an eight-cot hospital staffed by one nurse. As Torontonians’ need for the hospital continued to grow, SickKids would move to several larger facilities across the city before benefactor John Ross Roberston would fund a purpose-built, 320-bed building located at 67 College Street, which opened in 1891. SickKids would remain there for 60 years, until the need to expand once again took hold. The hospital moved to its present location at 555 University Avenue with great fanfare throughout the city. The weeklong opening ceremony



Top right: Elizabeth McMaster, the woman who spearheaded the founding of SickKids alongside the Ladies Committee.

Top left: Sketch of the original hospital, rented on March 1, 1875. The very first SickKids patient was received here, on April 3, 1875.

Bottom: Sept. 21, 1917. The founding principle, that SickKids is a hospital ‘for the admission and treatment of all sick children’ sees Torontonians from diverse socio-economic backgrounds utilize its services.

saw an estimated 85,000 people take tours of the building, displaying the excitement and pride Torontonians felt towards ‘their’ children’s hospital.

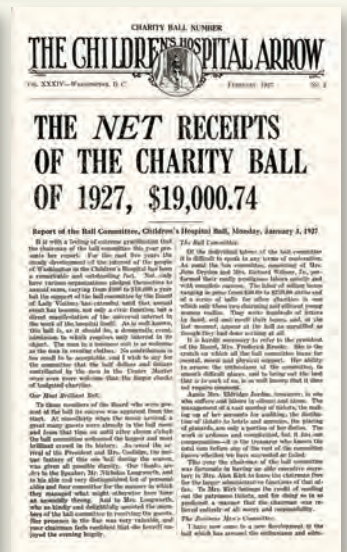
Today, SickKids is Canada’s premier pediatric research hospital. It has 11,000 staff members and volunteers, and treats more than 130,000 patients every year.

Children's National – Washington, D.C.

In 1870, Dr. Samuel Clagett Busey, director of Columbia Hospital's Department of Diseases in Children, in Washington, D.C., began sharing his dream of establishing a children's hospital. He and an associate engaged fellow physicians, while a group of 20 women – founding board members - pledged their time and energy in support of this vision. They outfitted 12 beds in a small, rented house and treated children from ages 18 months to 12 years. The hospital also served children orphaned by the Civil War. Over the years, the facility quickly grew, adding a doctor's office for routine care. It soon became a referral center for patients with serious diseases, injuries and illnesses and eventually established itself as a renowned teaching hospital.

Among the highlights of early philanthropic efforts are these:

- In 1875, the first “letter campaign” began to solicit residents to become members of Children's Hospital.
- In 1879, hospital administrators determined the expense of operating and maintaining the facility came to a little less than 41 cents per day, with an average of 31 patients.
- In the late 1870's, the Board of Lady Visitors created the “Children's Hospital Charity Ball,” one of the highlights of the Washington social season for 52 years. This event raised funds and increased public awareness of the hospital.
- In 1927, President & Mrs. Coolidge attended the Ball, which raised \$19,000 and had pledges that ranged from \$100 to \$10,000 per year.
- In 1946, plans for a \$1M campaign were launched to build a new hospital.



Above: Volunteer leaders opened the first children's hospital in Washington, D.C., in 1870. Generous philanthropy enabled Children's National to grow into the nationally ranked pediatric institution it is today.

Today, Children's National Hospital is a 323-bed facility that performs more than 17,000 surgeries and conducts more than 649,000 outpatient visits in more than 60 specialties each year.

Children's Wisconsin

In 1894, seven women set out on a bold mission to create the first hospital in Wisconsin dedicated solely to the health and wellness of children. They wanted all kids to have access to quality care, including the growing number of immigrant children in Milwaukee.

With community support, these seven women and a pastor opened Children's Free Hospital in a rented house, which had 10 beds and one nurse.

Within a few years, the house had become too small, and the hospital moved to a larger facility. By 1904, the hospital had tripled in size and needed to relocate again. Demand continued to grow, and, in 1923, a new 102-bed hospital opened on donated land in Milwaukee.

Children's cared for kids facing scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough, tuberculosis, polio and other diseases of the era. As the need grew, so did advances in science and medicine. By mid-century, Children's had opened specialized outpatient clinics and continued to provide more comprehensive and specialized care. Children's also forged new partnerships, strengthened community outreach efforts and added resources, including child advocacy centers to keep kids safe from abuse and neglect.

Now, through its Milwaukee and Fox Valley hospitals, primary care, specialty care and mental health clinics, and community services locations, Children's has 6.5 million connections with kids and families throughout the state each year. Children's is also proud to be one of the largest social services agencies in Wisconsin.

In the past 130 years, much has changed. But Children's Wisconsin's commitment to caring for kids' physical, dental, social and mental health remains the same. Thanks to our philanthropists, volunteers and advocates, we're working to ensure futures that are brighter than ever for Wisconsin's kids and families.



Top: From its humble beginnings in a rented house with 10 beds and one nurse, Children's Wisconsin has grown into a nationally recognized pediatric health system whose vision is to make Wisconsin's kids the healthiest in the nation.

Middle: Nurses and volunteer physicians staffed the first hospital.

Bottom: As demand grew, a new 102-bed hospital opened in 1923 to care for kids facing scarlet fever, polio and other diseases of the era. As more patients arrived, playrooms and sun porches were converted to care spaces, and families often waited hours for outpatient care.

A large, ornate wooden cabinet with two doors, flanked by two framed portraits of men in suits, set against a wood-paneled wall. The cabinet has a decorative top and base, and the doors feature a grid of rectangular panels. The portraits are of men in formal attire, one in a white suit and the other in a grey suit. The wall is covered in vertical wood paneling.

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Elizabeth Ball
COUNTY Delaware ORGANIZATION General

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Ball Bros.
COUNTY Delaware ORGANIZATION General

Bridgman, C. O.
Muncie, Indiana
COUNTY Randolph ORGANIZATION

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12-31-26
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The Woodmark Group

Leading the advancement of philanthropy to improve health for children everywhere

ON THE FRONT COVER:

Handmade splints and braces, foreground of cover photo, were required to treat the orthopedic conditions of some of the first patients seen at the original children's hospital in Calgary, Alberta.

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