Investing in the Future of Pediatric Medicine

2018 IMPACT REPORT
Our fundraising success year over year is a testament to the investment the Rady Children’s family—donors, researchers, practitioners, staff, patient families—is willing to make every day to transform pediatric medicine. To propel our programs forward into a future where genomic medicine provides a key that solves puzzling genetic conditions. Where mental and behavioral health are treated without stigma. Where broken hearts are seamlessly mended. And where devastating cancer diagnoses simply do not exist. That’s the future Rady Children’s envisions—and thanks to your ongoing generosity, every year we are one step closer.

This was a monumental year for Rady Children’s Hospital-San Diego; one of our biggest fundraising years to date—thanks to you, and the inspirational support of a community dedicated to the Hospital and its mission to care for children. You have been pivotal to our progress for more than 60 years and your commitment has never wavered. For that, I am deeply thankful.

THANK YOU
Transforming pediatric medicine for the future means pushing the boundaries of science to find answers to the most complex childhood diseases. It means delving into areas that have yet to be explored and making the unknown known. We are making great strides toward providing the most precise medicine possible for our most vulnerable patients—in an effort to revolutionize care for all children today and tomorrow.”

Donald Kearns, MD, MMM
President and CEO
Rady Children’s Hospital-San Diego

Expanding Alliances

When Rady Children’s launched the revolutionary Rady Children’s Institute for Genomic Medicine in 2014, the Hospital took a significant step in demonstrating a commitment to advance precision healthcare for infants and children. Led by Stephen Kingsmore, MD, DSc, the Institute, a pioneer in rapid whole genome sequencing for childhood diseases, immediately began making a world of difference for children throughout the region.

The first step toward expanding the Institute’s reach beyond San Diego came in 2017, through a partnership with Children’s Hospital of Orange County to provide rapid whole genome sequencing to treat critically ill patients in the Hospital’s neonatal intensive care unit. With time being of the essence, this collaboration allows for earlier, more targeted medical intervention for children with unknown, life-threatening diseases.

The partnership with CHOC was the beginning of the Institute’s long-term vision to save babies’ lives by extending rapid whole genome sequencing technology to NICU networks. Now, new alliances will take those efforts even further. Rady Children’s also joined forces with Children’s Minnesota, Sanford Health, Children’s Hospital Colorado, Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital, Banner Children’s at Diamond Children’s Medical Center and Nicklaus Children’s Hospital to form the Sanford Children’s Genomic Medicine Consortium. Focused on innovative clinical program development, advocacy for children, cutting-edge research and educational programs, the consortium’s initial projects include a study of rapid whole genome sequencing in critically ill newborns and a study evaluating the routine use of extensive, pediatric-focused next-generation sequencing in the diagnosis of childhood cancers.
Giving the Gift of Healthier Futures

“Virginia and Howard Levenson refuse to allow critically ill children to suffer. Along with their family, they’ve funded programs to ease suffering through palliative medicine and to allow the Hospital to renovate a dedicated courtyard for the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Services unit. This year, inspired by the connection between genomic medicine and palliative care, the Levenson family continued its efforts to transform the future of healthcare by earmarking a gift in genomic medicine.”

Stephen Kingsmore, MD, DSc
President and CEO
Rady Children’s Institute for Genomic Medicine

Breaking All the Rules: Sebastiana’s Story

When Sebastiana was born in December 2016, it was one of the happiest days of her mother’s life, welcoming a baby girl into her family of two boys. But within hours, that happiness turned to despair. Sebastiana began suffering repeated, severe seizures that rendered her unconscious. After Sebastiana was transferred to Rady Children’s neonatal intensive care unit, her physicians offered a grim prognosis: it was unlikely she would survive longer than a few weeks. After arranging a baptism, her devastated parents agreed to submit Sebastiana’s blood for genomic sequencing.

“We wanted to know the exact reason why our baby wasn’t going to be with us,” says Sebastiana’s mother Dolores. “If in the future we decided to have another child, and this was genetic, we needed an answer.”

At just 2 days old, Sebastiana’s blood samples were sent to Rady Children’s Institute for Genomic Medicine. Within 96 hours, the lab’s researchers were able to identify not only a genetic variant, but also an underlying genetic cause and treatment. On day six of her life, Sebastiana’s death sentence had been reversed to the ultimate hope for a healthy future. With a new treatment plan, her seizures stopped. And on Dolores’ birthday, December 22, she was able to breastfeed Sebastiana for the first time.

Now nearing her second birthday, Sebastiana continues to be a blessing to her family, as a healthy, active, inquisitive toddler, exceeding all expectations and not once experiencing another seizure. As her grateful mother says, “She’s breaking all the rules.”
The importance of addressing child and adolescent mental and behavioral health issues cannot be underestimated. By making brain biology and behavioral health a priority, Rady Children’s is placing much-needed emphasis on one of the most critical healthcare challenges we are facing today. The basis for a healthy child begins with a healthy mind.

Benjamin Maxwell, MD
Medical Director
Inpatient Psychiatry

Rady Children’s is committed to caring for the whole child. At a time when an estimated 1 in 5 children in the United States experiences a behavioral health disorder—a term that encompasses a wide range of conditions, from autism to developmental disorders, eating disorders to sleep disorders, and crisis-related trauma to urgent psychiatric issues—that level of holistic care must include a heightened focus on mental and behavioral health.

Recognizing that statistics point to 190,000 children in need in the San Diego region, Rady Children’s has answered the call, providing a wide spectrum of programs and services to address child and adolescent mental and behavioral health needs, including the Autism Discovery Institute, the Chadwick Center for Children and Families and the Copley Psychiatric Emergency Department, the region’s first department of its kind. Supported by a $5 million grant that included a $1 million challenge grant from the David C. Copley Foundation, which was matched by Ernest Rady and family, the new emergency department builds upon a surge of investments in the treatment of behavioral health issues and demonstrates a fundamental shift toward destigmatizing these serious illnesses.

When its doors open, the specialized emergency department will combine distinct pediatric medical expertise with state-of-the-art mental health services to serve children in various stages of mental health crises. Patients will receive a full psychiatric evaluation including screening for inpatient psychiatric hospitalization needs, crisis intervention and stabilization and a pathway to referrals, follow-up resources, education and outreach.

“Our unique integration of resources not only will help generations of patients and their families, but it also will attract the best and the brightest in the field, which will allow Rady Children’s to teach the next generation of physician leaders in this important area of pediatric medicine,” says Gail Knight, MD, MMM, Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer.

A Boost for Brain Biology and Behavioral Health
I am so proud to be on a team that offers the best possible patient experience while constantly improving long-term outcomes after heart surgery and catheterization procedures. Our vision to establish a regional network to care for all patients with heart complications can only be achieved through the investment of specialists, researchers, staff and our dedicated community of donors supporting our efforts to treat our patients now and provide a continuum of care for a healthy future.

Sanjeet Hegde, MD, PhD
Pediatric Cardiologist

Three Dimensions of Revolutionary Cardiac Care
Rady Children’s cardiac physicians have patients’ hearts in their hands. Literally. And now, thanks to three-dimensional technology made available through the hospital’s new 3D Innovations Lab, hearts and other organs are readily available in model form long before a surgery takes place. Providing surgeons and physicians a life-sized replica of an individual patient’s unique anatomy prior to a procedure, 3D printing revolutionizes surgical planning, allows for patient and family education and helps teach the next generation of surgeons and physicians. With the 2018 launch of the 3D Lab, Rady Children’s once again demonstrates an investment in the pioneering technology that is transforming pediatric medicine.

How Do You Mend a Broken Heart?
It’s a question for the ages. When it comes to the more than 40,000 children in the United States born with a broken heart resulting from congenital heart disease, it’s also a question that requires an immediate answer. Rady Children’s Heart Institute is committed to providing the answers and mending the hearts of infants, children and adults with congenital heart defects in our region and far beyond as an expert resource serving patients from San Diego, Imperial, Riverside and Orange Counties, as well as Hawaii, New Mexico, Mexico and the Pacific Rim.

A Gift from the Heart
Animal lover and animal therapy advocate, Nancy Stanley has always had a heart for four-legged friends. In fact, her book “Pillow with a Heartbeat,” which tells the journey of her beloved late pup Truffles on her rise from runt of the litter to treasured therapy dog, is all heart. It only makes sense, then, that Stanley’s passion would extend to heart care for people, too. A long-time donor to Rady Children’s, Stanley and her foundation, the Greene Tweed Foundation, recently made a gift to the Dickinson Family Image-Guided Intervention Center. Doubled by a special matching fund, the gift will support a cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) specialist. The center will ultimately utilize 3D real-time MRI for pediatric cardiac procedures, further advancing Rady Children’s efforts to mend even the tiniest broken hearts.
Childhood brain cancer is the no. 1 cause of death among patients with pediatric cancer. This is a statistic that must motivate all of us to make a change. We have to rethink the way we approach pediatric brain cancer if we are going to improve the outcomes for these children. Support from our community inspires our physicians and researchers to fight for a change. Your gifts are essential to ensure our patients get the most sophisticated neuro-oncologic care possible and to continue the daily battle to find a cure.

John Crawford, MD, MS
Director
Neuro-Oncology

Rady Children’s was offered the opportunity to take another step toward a cancer-free future thanks to an award from Hyundai Hope on Wheels, one of the largest providers of private funding for pediatric cancer research. This year, the 2018 Scholar Young Investigator Grant was awarded to Rady Children’s researcher Anusha Preethi Ganesan, MD, PhD. The $200,000 grant will support Dr. Ganesan’s research on pediatric medulloblastoma—a cancerous tumor at the base of the skull.

Hope from Hyundai

Committed to a Cure

Tackling cancerous tumors from every angle requires the commitment of a multidisciplinary team and a dedicated community focused on the full spectrum of clinical, medical and psychosocial services. Rady Children’s Peckham Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders has every corner covered, providing comprehensive, compassionate care from diagnosis through treatment and beyond. Thanks to the investment of our researchers, physicians, staff and donors and efforts to support research at the bedside and in the lab, Rady Children’s continues to strive toward a healthy future in which cancer is history.

Caring for Caregivers

Caring for pediatric patients and their families takes heart and soul and endless amount of ethics and compassion. We are dedicated to empowering caregivers and beyond giving the gift of themselves to their patients on a daily basis. It’s time to go back. With generous partnership of the Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation, a new program, the Schwartz Rounds, has been implemented to help Rady Children’s caregivers in the most intensive care environments openly and honestly discuss ethically complex, emotionally challenging cases and professional issues. This signature program of the Boston-based Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare, Schwartz Rounds works toward a mission “to promote compassionate care so that patients and their caregivers relate to one another in a way that provides hope to the patient, support to caregivers and sustenance to the healing process.”
Caring for a sick child goes far beyond providing excellent clinical care. It is not only the science of care but also the heart of care that make a difference. It means taking care of the whole child and also their family and creating an environment conducive to healing. I am proud to support Rady Children’s as they lead the way in holistic healing through a series of innovative programs that promote overall wellness and healing.

Lisa Peckham, MS, RN
Board Member
Rady Children’s Hospital Foundation

From music, art therapy and storytelling to displayed art and healing gardens, Rady Children’s offers a wide variety of activities and a healing environment designed to inspire wellness and positivity in patients and their families. Keeping these programs flourishing requires an investment from volunteers, donors and staff committed to caring for the whole child. Thanks to our dedicated donors, whose monthly donations support the healing environment, we have been able to create new programs and expand existing programs to serve more patients.

This year, thanks to our generous donors, Rady Children’s was able to expand our popular Alexa’s PLAYC, a unique early education program for toddlers and preschoolers, both typically developing and on the autism spectrum. The full-immersion program focuses on play-based learning that teaches developmentally appropriate communication, cognitive and social skills while fostering independence. Alexa’s PLAYC now welcomes students in its San Diego and new Murrieta locations.
The cornerstone of any children’s hospital is its community, and the Charity Ball has been a long-standing community partner since before the Hospital opened its doors in 1954. The 109th Anniversary Charity Ball is proud to be a part of a lasting legacy that ensures comprehensive trauma services are always available for children at our region’s only Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center.”

Phyllicia Cicalo Aiken
Chair of the 109th Anniversary Charity Ball

In Honor of Oliver Sarwary

Oliver Sarwary was born three months early, weighing only 1 pound, 12 ounces. A tiny fighter, Ollie made a giant impact in his 11 days on earth, thanks in part to the funds raised in his memory by his parents Masud and Angelica in support of Rady Children’s. Ollie, their “angel in heaven,” will help other vulnerable newborns survive thanks to more than $50,000 donated in his name to the Rady Children’s neonatal intensive care unit.

DS Action

More than 10 years ago, DS Action partnered with Rady Children’s to establish the only Down Syndrome Clinic in Southern California. This devoted community of parents, grandparents, doctors, nurses, educators, social workers and business professionals is committed to improving the lives of all children and adults with Down syndrome, the most common chromosomal abnormality. DS Action has supported Rady Children’s Down Syndrome Clinic through a variety of events, including its annual “Ride for Inspiration” charity motorcycle event and festival.

Perfect Game All-American Classic

Baseball’s brightest up-and-comers take to the diamond in support of Rady Children’s through the annual Perfect Game All-American Classic at Petco Park. Each September, the high school stars stop by Rady Children’s to visit with patients, encourage them to knock illness out of the park and hit a homerun for healing.

Dance Marathon at San Diego State University

Since 2014, San Diego State University students have danced the night away to raise funds for Rady Children’s. A 15-hour event filled with fun, dancing, games, food, prizes and passion for pediatric medicine, Aztec Dance Marathon has become the largest philanthropic event on the SDSU campus, where “big kids raise money for the little kids.” In February 2018, more than 1,500 participants exceeded their goal, and raised more than $343,000 for Rady Children’s.
At Rady Children’s we ask our donors to finance dreams. Your generosity supports lifesaving programs and our never-ending mission to transform pediatric medicine. We recently concluded one of our best fundraising years yet—allowing us to drive innovation in areas ranging from genomics to mental health and cancer research. We are eternally grateful for your ongoing support.”

Christian Tresse
Chairman, Board of Trustees
Rady Children’s Hospital Foundation

Your Investments

Every investment you make in Rady Children’s allows our experts to provide the best possible pediatric care. You make it possible to dream bigger, aim higher and push further. You propel research, treatment and medical education to the forefront to improve the life of every child we serve.

Our generous donors

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Gift designation

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Endowment Assets

Our endowment assets fuel innovation by providing a reliable stream of income in perpetuity.
Endowed Gifts:  
An Investment in Tomorrow

An endowment gift to Rady Children’s today makes our tomorrow so much brighter. A true investment opportunity, endowments can help to fulfill your long-term charitable giving goals.

Create an endowment of your own or contribute to an existing endowment and watch your gift grow in perpetuity—all in support of a cause you’re passionate about.

Funding a Promising Future for Cerebral Palsy

Families faced with an uncertain future after a diagnosis of cerebral palsy, a debilitating movement disorder with no known cause or cure, now have new hope, thanks to a generous $5 million gift in support of a new institute dedicated to providing coordinated lifelong care for patients with cerebral palsy. The anonymous donation from a grateful patient family will help create the gold standard for CP treatment—helping patients live to their fullest potential and sustaining Rady Children’s long-standing reputation as a visionary leader in this field.

Leaving a Legacy

Your legacy can propel the future of pediatric medicine to monumental new heights. When you make a legacy gift to Rady Children’s, you are funding future programs, supporting next-generation innovation, and aiding in the discovery of the unknown. Your planned support of cutting-edge research and advanced patient care is an immeasurable investment in the lives of children for generations to come.

Planned giving takes many forms—wills and living trusts, beneficiary designations, charitable gift annuities, real estate, memorial and tribute gifts, and more—all of which leave a lasting impact greater than you could possibly imagine.

The Estate of Shizue Maruyama

Shizue Maruyama never visited Rady Children’s campus, and she and her husband, Tom, didn’t have children of their own. But through a generous plan, they created a loving future for countless children.

For nearly three decades, Shizue remained steadfast in her commitment to “her children” in the Hospital, never wavering in providing support. Each and every year, the children at the Hospital stayed in the forefront of her mind with annual gifts. Shizue also leveraged unique giving opportunities, creating a charitable remainder trust in 2003 with Rady Children’s as trustee and irrevocable beneficiary.

In 2010, Shizue shared that Rady Children’s would inherit more than 80 percent of her estate, which included proceeds from her family farm in Otay Mesa. The resulting $4.7 million gift was made three decades after her very first donation of $20 to the Hospital.

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A Spotlight on Success: 2018 Accolades for Rady Children’s

Year after year, Rady Children’s strives to be a leader in pediatric medicine—transforming care on a regional, national and international level. Thanks to the investment of our donors and our entire community’s dedication to excellence, we continue to garner recognition for clinical excellence, nursing excellence, groundbreaking research and pioneering pediatric programs. Your commitment to us has helped us get to where we are today. Our commitment to you is to never rest on our laurels—and to continue to strive to be the best for years to come.

BIO-IT Award

The Rady Children’s Institute for Genomic Medicine’s information technology and bioinformatics team, under the direction of Narayanan Veeraraghavan, received the 2017 Bio-IT World Best Practices Award for engineering the rapid Whole Genome Sequencing pipeline.

San Diego Union-Tribune

Thanks to the outstanding support of the San Diego community, Rady Children’s was voted Best Hospital in the San Diego Union-Tribune annual readers’ poll.

Beacon Award for Excellence

This year, the pediatric intensive care unit at Rady Children’s was one of a dozen across the country and only three in California to receive the gold-level Beacon Award for Excellence from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses. This award recognizes the work of the nurses that care for the more than 1,700 patients that visit the Hospital’s 24-bed PICU at the Ernest Hahn Critical Care Center each year.

U.S. News & World Report

For the seventh year in a row, Rady Children’s was ranked among the nation’s best hospitals in all 10 specialties surveyed by U.S. News and World Report. The 12th annual Best Children’s Hospitals rankings recognize the top 50 pediatric facilities across the United States in 10 pediatric specialties: cancer, cardiology and heart surgery, diabetes and endocrinology, gastroenterology and gastrointestinal surgery, neonatology, nephrology, neurology and neurosurgery, orthopedics, pulmonology and urology.

This year's top specialty was orthopedics, ranked no. 7 in the nation.

Guidestar

Rady Children’s Hospital and Rady Children’s Hospital Foundation were recently recognized for financial transparency by GuideStar with a 2018 Gold Seal. GuideStar is the world’s largest source of information on nonprofit organizations.

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The Rady Children’s Institute for Genomic Medicine (RCIM) is the only institute dedicated to the research, treatment and prevention of pediatric disease through genomic medicine. RCIM is home to the largest pediatric genomics team in the United States, and is leading the way in using the latest research and technology to improve patient outcomes.

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Before there was a Rady Children’s Hospital-San Diego, there was a Rady Children’s Hospital Auxiliary. We are 65 years strong—and growing! What began as five members in 1953 has now surpassed more than 1,200 volunteers, each with a passion for philanthropy, a commitment to children’s health and a dedication to making a difference for the greater good. An investment of time and money in the Rady Children’s Auxiliary is truly an investment in the future of pediatric medicine.”

Bridgett Brown
Auxiliary President

Auxiliary Support Starts Here

Nationally, 12 teens die each day as a result of self-harm; suicide is the third-leading cause of death among people ages 10 to 24. Recognizing that early intervention can save lives and support families at the most critical point in a mental health crisis, Rady Children’s is set to open the Copley Psychiatric Emergency Department, the first of its kind in the region, ensuring that all children in crisis have access to immediate and long-term care for mental and behavioral health challenges.

Integrating and coordinating the research and educational programs of the Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery divisions, the Rady Children’s Heart Institute is designed to provide optimal care for infants, children and adults with congenital heart defects and to advance knowledge and understanding of congenital and acquired heart disease. With research as a major focus, the Heart Institute strives to discover the most promising treatments and, ultimately, cures for heart disease of all kinds.

After more than six decades of fundraising, the Rady Children’s Hospital Auxiliary has raised more than $73 million in support of a wide variety of Hospital programs and services. This year, the Auxiliary also has reached the halfway point in its goal to raise $2.5 million to fully fund the Endowment for Neuroscience at Rady Children’s Institute for Genomic Medicine. An investment in this groundbreaking effort is vital to funding research for causes and cures for complex childhood diseases—truly advancing pediatric healthcare around the world.

In addition to its commitment to genomic medicine, the Auxiliary aligns its priorities with the greatest needs in the community. Current areas of focus include:

Copley Psychiatric Emergency Department
Rady Children’s Heart Institute

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The Impact of Your Generosity

With approximately 190,000 children and adolescents in San Diego facing a mental, developmental or behavioral health condition, Rady Children’s recognizes a need to address, treat and destigmatize a wide spectrum of disorders.

Internationally recognized for expertise in treating complex craniofacial disorders, as well as functional problems with the jaw and airway, Rady Children’s Division of Plastic Surgery performs more than 1,000 procedures a year.

The mission of the Supportive Care Program at Rady Children’s is to optimize the physical and emotional well-being of every child and family faced with serious illness through expert, compassionate, family-centered care. With patient quality of life as the main focus, the program emphasizes pain control and symptom management in the final stage of life, as well as emotional and spiritual well-being for the entire family.

A leader in clinical research, specialized cancer treatment and hematology services, the Peckham Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders, including the Viterbi Family Outpatient Clinic, is committed to providing comprehensive, compassionate care and support for patients in San Diego, Imperial, Riverside and Orange counties, as well as Mexico and the Pacific Islands.

For decades, the Auxiliary has consistently fundraised for programs and services that relay solely on philanthropy. Below is a summary of the collaboration between Auxiliary and Hospital leadership, who work together to determine which programs will receive Auxiliary support. This year, the Auxiliary raised over $2M—generosity that is felt Hospital-wide and has a lasting impact on our patients and families.

- Critical Care: $775,102
- Cancer: $574,810
- Supportive Care/Palliative Medicine: $200,255
- Copley Psychiatric Emergency Department: $145,633
- Heart: $132,778
- Restricted - Other: $86,014
- Unrestricted: $84,473
- Reconstructive Plastic Surgery: $65,000
- Neurology: $30,900
- Brain Biology and Behavioral Health: $15,960
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