

# HEROES

THE MAGAZINE OF CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL NEW ORLEANS | SPRING 2023



**Exceptional care**  
to keep kids well

One patient's inspiring  
road to recovery





Swim upstairs  
for more food and drinks

Coral Reef



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# Foreword

## HEROES

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### Editor

Kristen Robinson

### Associate Editor

Marykay Thevis

### Photographers

Frank Aymami  
Michael Palumbo  
Justen Williams

### Contributing Writers

Kelley Adamec  
Lynnsey Belsome  
Alyssa Camet  
Leslie Cardé  
Katherine Fleming  
Shaina Grace  
Kristen Robinson  
Marykay Thevis

### Editorial Board

Jonathan Brouk  
Senior Vice President, Chief Operating Officer

Lindsey Casey, RN  
Senior Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer

Robert Gassiot  
Creative Director, LCMC Health

Kristen Robinson  
Senior Director, Marketing  
& Development

Marykay Thevis  
Communications Manager,  
Marketing & Communications

Lucio A. Fragoso  
President & Chief Executive Officer

Mark W. Kline, MD  
Physician-in-Chief & Chief Medical Officer

200 Henry Clay Ave.  
New Orleans, LA 70118  
chnola.org  
504.899.9511



**Children's Hospital**  
New Orleans  
LCMC Health

## LUCIO A. FRAGOSO, PRESIDENT & CEO

# Shaping a healthier future for kids – together.



Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am incredibly proud to serve as the new President and CEO of Children's Hospital New Orleans, following in the footsteps of John Nickens, who has taken on a new role with our health system as President of Hospital Services and Chief of Pediatrics for LCMC Health – a role where he will be able to have the same extraordinary impact for people in all stages of life.

I previously served as Children's Hospital's Chief Financial Officer and Chief Administrative Officer, first joining the team here in New Orleans in January 2019, and have spent the majority of my career working in pediatric healthcare. I am passionate about improving the health and wellbeing of children, and am proud to be leading our team in continuing the vital mission of Children's Hospital New Orleans into our next chapter.

Over the last five years, in addition to unprecedented investments on our main campus, we have built transformational programs like Behavioral Health, new Burn and Trauma Centers, and have brought care directly to kids at school with our ThriveKids student wellness program.

Last year, we celebrated our first Magnet Recognition Program designation for nursing excellence, and first time ranking among the nation's best children's hospitals by U.S. News & World Report. All of this helps us ensure kids in Louisiana have access to the specialized care they need, and we are doing just that. In 2022, we cared for 65,000 more kids than we did just five years ago. This is how we change the health of a generation.

And that was only in the last five years... imagine what we will accomplish in the next five years together. Your continued support helps us say yes to all patients who rely on our expert pediatric care, patients like John, whose inspiring story you will read in the pages that follow.

We could not deliver on our vision to build a healthier future for all kids without the continued support of the community and you!

With gratitude,

Lucio A. Fragoso  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Children's Hospital New Orleans





# Changing the health of a generation together.

In recent years, both Children’s Hospital New Orleans and Our Lady of the Lake Children’s Health have made significant investments in the delivery of pediatric health services. In January, our hospitals began a new affiliation, launching a new and pivotal chapter where the two leading providers of pediatric healthcare in Louisiana will partner to improve the health of children across Louisiana.

“Across our institutions, we have some of the best and brightest pediatric providers, nurses, and other experts working across Louisiana and the Gulf South each day to shape a healthier future for kids,” said Greg Feirn, Chief Executive Officer of LCMC Health, which owns Children’s Hospital New Orleans. “The results when our shared expertise, resources, and commitment to the communities we serve come together are limitless.”

“Sharing a passion for the wellbeing of children, Our Lady of the Lake Children’s Health and Children’s Hospital New Orleans have similar histories of innovation,

accomplishment, and a steadfast commitment to the children and families across our communities,” said Chuck Spicer, President of Our Lady of the Lake Health. “By working together, we aim to make meaningful progress in improving child health outcomes, which here in Louisiana are among the worst in the nation. We believe that a healthier future for our children happens together.”

The pediatric affiliation is planned to develop over two phases, with phase one focused on enhancing pediatric activities in Baton Rouge and surrounding parishes. Children’s Hospital New Orleans is now responsible for day-to-day operations of Our Lady of the Lake Children’s Health. The strategic direction of the affiliation is a co-managed approach with committees comprised of board members, physicians, and other leaders across the two organizations. Read more about our affiliation at [chnola.org](http://chnola.org).



**OUR LADY OF THE LAKE  
CHILDREN’S HEALTH**





## Children's Hospital names new Chief Financial Officer

In February 2023, Children's Hospital New Orleans proudly appointed Jessica Cahill as Chief Financial Officer, overseeing all financial aspects of the hospital, including accounting, budget management, financial planning, reimbursement, and revenue cycle. Prior to assuming the role of CFO, Jessica served as Vice President of Finance and Analytics at Children's Hospital. Her financial expertise has led Children's Hospital through periods of unprecedented uncertainty and challenges over the last several years.

A Miami native, she moved to New Orleans in 2000 and earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting at the University of New Orleans. She joined Children's Hospital in 2013 as the hospital's Controller, after a career in public accounting where she managed audit engagements in the healthcare industry. Jessica works closely with Accounting, Financial Planning and Analysis, Revenue Cycle, and Materials Management to oversee all financial aspects of the hospital.

## Welcoming New Board of Trustees Members



In March, Children's Hospital appointed two new community leaders to serve as members of the hospital's Board of Trustees. Marilee Hovet is a New Orleans native who formerly worked as a social worker, and is active in the philanthropic community. She has served on the boards of the Hermann-Grima and Gallier Historic Houses, Trinity Episcopal School, Kingsley House, The New Orleans Botanical Garden, and the Beauregard-Keyes House. Marilee chaired the Sugarplum Ball in 2007, as the ball returned for the first time following Hurricane Katrina. She has also chaired Audubon's Zoo To Do, The Odyssey Ball, Art in Bloom, and Le Petit Theatre's Curtain Call Ball.

Marilee, her husband, and their three sons have lived in New York, London, the Boston area, and Seattle, and are excited to be back in New Orleans. Marilee is devoted to Children's Hospital, and volunteers in the Gift Shop weekly.



William (Bill) Langenstein is a Partner at Chaffe McCall and has over three decades of experience with a focus on taxation, real estate, and corporate and business law. He is an honorary consul to the Republic of Korea, a member of the New Orleans Estate Planning Council, and serves on the boards of several organizations, including the New Orleans Academy for Science and Mathematics, the New Orleans Board of Trade, Trinity Episcopal School, WYES-TV, the National Kidney Foundation, and Greater New Orleans, Inc., just to name a few.

Bill is a 2004 graduate of the New Orleans Regional Leadership Institute, and currently serves on the Board of Commissioners for the Port of New Orleans. He and his wife have two children, and are proud to call New Orleans home.





# Dr. Dedrick Moulton named LSU Health New Orleans Pediatrician-in-Chief



Children’s Hospital and LSU Health New Orleans have a new leader at the helm of LSU Pediatrics. In March, Dr. Dedrick Moulton began his new role as Head of the Department of Pediatrics for the LSU Health New Orleans School of Medicine and Pediatrician-in-Chief at Children’s Hospital New Orleans.

Dr. Moulton previously led the Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition Section and Fellowship Program, and served as Vice-Chair for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for LSU Health New Orleans’ Department of Pediatrics. He was also the Gastroenterology Service Line Chief at Children’s Hospital New Orleans and Director of the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Program. After briefly departing New Orleans to serve as Professor of Pediatrics at Atrium Health in Charlotte, NC, Dr. Moulton eagerly returned to begin his new role.

Dr. Moulton earned his medical degree at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. He completed his pediatrics residency at Palmetto Richland Memorial Hospital in Columbia, SC and both clinical and research fellowships

in Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition at St. Louis Children’s Hospital–Washington University in St. Louis, MO. He has received NIH and Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation grants, along with industry contracts to conduct clinical trials, perform genetic analysis of children with inflammatory bowel disease, and to evaluate a multianalyte biomarker for distinguishing ulcerative colitis from Crohn’s disease in children.

Dr. Moulton brings vast pediatric expertise, hands-on experience, and passion to his work. We look forward to advancing the health of children together with his leadership and the continued commitment of the entire LSU Department of Pediatrics.







## Making magical memories at the inaugural Children’s Hospital New Orleans Holiday Parade

What better way to kick off the holiday season in New Orleans than with a parade? On December 3, thousands gathered in the French Quarter and across Downtown New Orleans to experience the first annual Children’s Hospital New Orleans Holiday Parade in partnership with Kern Studios. Boasting more than 20 floats, the custom-designed holiday themed floats included animatronic props, intelligent lighting systems, and special effects to bring the magic of the holiday season to life.

“Children’s Hospital was thrilled to help bring a world-class, kid and family-centered holiday parade to the City of New Orleans,” said John R. Nickens IV, President of Hospital Services and Chief of Pediatrics for LCMC Health. “To be able to celebrate the start of the holiday season with the community in such a joyful way was remarkable.”

The parade also featured high-flying helium balloons displayed for the first time in New Orleans, along with beloved marching groups, bands, and of course, Santa with his cast of holiday characters.

The Children’s Hospital New Orleans Holiday Parade was made possible in partnership with the Downtown Development District, NewOrleans.com, the French Market Corporation, WDSU, and many other supporters. Float sponsors included



BI Bank, Chick-fil-A New Orleans, the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, The National WWII Museum, Louisiana Feed Your Soul, and Audacy.

“Our generous community partners helped bring this vision to life,” said Kristen Robinson, Senior Director of Marketing and Development at Children’s Hospital. “What started out as a dream quickly became reality as interest and support for the parade grew. Before we knew it, we had a date, float designs, and bands scheduled. We had a truly spectacular parade for the City of New Orleans ready to roll and usher in the holiday season!”

The parade ended in front of Lafayette Square where a post parade holiday festival was in full swing. In addition to food and live music from Rebirth Brass Band, families were invited to take their picture with Santa and meet Disney star Meg Donnelly who rode in the parade. Lafayette Square was decked out with oversized, holiday themed props including a 30-foot Santa.

With such a successful inaugural ride, the Children’s Hospital New Orleans Holiday Parade is set to return in December 2023.





## Getting back in the race: John's road to recovery



Imagine you're a track star in high school and have just won the regional cross-country meet in New Orleans, when three days afterward, your body begins a slow decline for no apparent reason. This is the story of John Schouest of Thibodaux, Louisiana. When his body began to quickly deteriorate, the professionals at Children's Hospital New Orleans were there to diagnose him, and continued to be there for every step of his miraculous recovery.

"I woke up on November 8 and had tingling in my fingers," remembered John Schouest. "I blew it off because I'd been playing guitar the night before and figured it was related to that. But, when it went from a couple of fingers to both hands within a week, I became concerned. I was told it might be stress-related, but somehow, I knew it was much more than that."

By November 19, the 17-year-old high school junior was eating in the school cafeteria when he was having trouble

opening his mouth. A family doctor assumed it was an infection, and sent him home with antibiotics, but at a football game that evening, a friend noticed his eyes weren't closing when he blinked. The problems were noticeably spreading to other parts of his face. Subsequently, he couldn't smile.

A local hospital diagnosed John with bilateral Bell's palsy, which causes facial paralysis. Steroids were administered for what was thought to be the repercussions of a viral infection. But, by the next morning, John was off-balance, becoming more and more unstable as he tried to walk. By Thanksgiving, his ability to walk had vanished.

Referred to the pediatric neurology department at Children's Hospital New Orleans, he arrived in the Emergency Department.

"He was admitted with a loss of sensation, and labored breathing," explained Ann Tilton, MD, pediatric neurologist at Children's Hospital.





Eventually John was admitted to the inpatient rehabilitation unit at Children's Hospital, where the long process of recovery took place. This involved physical, occupational, music, speech, and recreational therapy that constituted three hours of his day, five days a week.

"When I first began treating John, he was being fed through an NG (nasogastric) tube because he couldn't yet feed himself," explained Kristen Crifasi, Children's Hospital lead occupational therapist. "He was so weak, he couldn't sit up. It was our job as therapists to get him back to being a kid again. It would be a long process, but there was no one more motivated than John, himself, to get back to his former life."

The first steps involved learning to sit up again. From there, therapeutic exercises were added to the regimen, eventually adding endurance training. In the beginning, simple things like brushing his teeth were a strain. Initially unable to reach over his head, things like opening and closing a cabinet had to be tackled. Eventually, John would be able to hold up his body with an assisted device. With the aid of a gravity-support treadmill and a harness, John began to move his legs. The next

"Two days later he had to be intubated, to provide mechanical ventilation, as he couldn't breathe on his own. He was diagnosed with Guillain Barré syndrome, a condition in which the immune system produces harmful antibodies that attack the peripheral nervous system," Dr. Tilton added.

With a clear diagnosis, treatment began. John was intubated for nine days and given intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIg), and underwent plasmapheresis (the plasma which can contain antibodies is separated from the blood cells). There were still questions as to whether John had the acute form of Guillain Barré or the chronic form known as CIDP (Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy). One month later, his immune system was still attacking his nerves.

"When we had to repeat the IVIg treatment, this indicated he was experiencing the chronic type of this illness, which is more severe," said Lindsay Elliott, DO, a specialist in physical medicine and rehabilitation at Children's Hospital. "At this point, he was put on steroids and immunosuppressants. The neurological disorder CIDP is unusual in children, but Guillain Barré can progress from acute to chronic. CIDP causes damage to the protective covering on nerves called the myelin sheath."







John with Children's Hospital President and CEO Lou Fragoso at a 5K just a few weeks after he left the hospital.

challenges involved the parallel bars and supporting his own weight with his arms. It was an arduous routine, but with a positive attitude and incredible will, John Schouest was on the road to recovery, and his older sister's wedding in mid-February gave him the motivation to get out of the hospital and walk down the aisle.

While John was spending every day trying to get back to his past life, there were other big changes happening at Children's Hospital that would eventually intersect with the track star. It had just been announced that former CFO Lou Fragoso would be taking the reins as the new President and CEO of the hospital.

"I want to connect with all of our team members, so the main shift in my new position is to make rounds every day at the hospital so I can connect more with employees and our families," said Fragoso. "Most people I meet don't even know I'm the CEO of the hospital, so we're able to connect on many different levels. As it turns out, a lot of John's therapy involved walking through the hallways of the hospital, and I just happened to be filming a video there, when someone brought him over to me. He had a cross-country jersey on, and we realized we were both runners. John told me way back then that he was going to run again, once he left the hospital."

As Fragoso walked through the hospital himself, a practice he routinely engages in, over time he would come across John on his therapeutic walks. The track star would tell him about his progress, one day proclaiming he'd taken a thousand steps on his own. Fragoso told him whenever he signed up for his first 5K, he'd be right there with him.

For John's parents, mom Jamie, a teacher, and dad Corey, a nurse, watching everything unfold was nothing short of terrifying. To see their active, incredibly fit teenager go from being a track star to being on a ventilator seemed unimaginable.

"I remember when he was intubated, and everyone was still trying to figure out what had happened to him, they did a lumbar puncture, searching for a tick to make sure they could rule out Lyme disease," recalled John's father, Corey. "When they started the CPAP trial (continuous positive airway pressure) for his upper respiratory tract, he panicked. The secretions made him feel like he couldn't breathe, and he gave us a sign he couldn't continue. I vividly recall when he was extubated, because he was totally dependent upon everyone as he was essentially paralyzed from the chin down. But, about two hours after the IVIG, he could move his hands. It was enough for him to give us the thumbs up sign."

John's parents were used to having three healthy children. John has two older sisters, one a speech therapist, the other training to be a physical therapist. John had trained for the last five years of his life and was in the best shape he'd ever been in.

"We thought, here's our kid who's a healthy athlete," said John's mom, Jamie. "We assumed originally that whatever was going on with him, medications would be the answer. Nothing, however, would be that simple, as we learned over time. But the encouragement that was given to him at Children's Hospital, both mentally and physically, pushed him to get better faster than anyone could have hoped for. When the rehab folks found out he wanted to be in his sister's wedding, they worked with him to transition from the wheelchair to a walker. When they heard he would have to get on a bus to go from the church to the reception in a party bus, they practiced with him repeatedly, climbing stair, after stair, after stair. It was incredible to see his progress."

As the only pediatric rehab facility on the Gulf Coast, the therapists, neurologists, and physical medicine experts at Children's see a large cross-section of the population from across Louisiana and from many surrounding states – many children in their most vulnerable state.

"We had objective goals with John," said Crifasi. "For instance, his grip strength when he began was about nine pounds. When he left the hospital, it was 60 pounds. He's come a long way. We did a reassessment every week to determine how many of his goals had been met, including with range of motion. We relayed all of these triumphs to John, so he could tangibly see how far he'd come."









John's recovery was a series of ups and downs. After being in the hospital for over a month, he had begun to get worse again. Was he overworking? Were his medications making him tired? Did he need more steroids? It was the job of the Children's Hospital team to figure this out – and they did.

"He is being followed closely, since he left the hospital mid-February," said Dr. Elliott. "It can be years of recovery... it's a marathon, not a sprint, and John understands the concept, as he's a runner. He's very internally motivated. He taught our team more than we taught him. He's always hopeful, but still realistic. His attitude is that he's going to keep putting one foot in front of the other, and work hard, no matter what. He had terrible days, but he kept showing up."

As far as long-term recovery, Dr. Elliott says the re-myelinating of the sheath which protects his nerves can be a long process, at about an inch a month. She explained further that the demyelinating process as the disease first progresses can be painful, and it can be equally painful during recovery and the remyelinating process. But, as of the beginning of April, John could get up and down stairs without using a handrail. He is slowly being weaned off of his medications over the next six months to a year to make sure there's no sign of a relapse. When we talked to John, he still couldn't run, but he continues to work on this every week, as his therapy continues in Thibodaux where he lives and attends school.

He checks in with his team at Children's Hospital every few weeks, where he receives infusions of immunoglobulin, providing antibodies to block the immune and inflammatory processes that attack and destroy myelin.

"It's hard to know how long my recovery will be, and no one has a crystal ball," said John. "As of the first week in April, I feel 70-80 percent back to normal. I need to get my balance back, so I'm able to run and jump. I feel awkward when I try to run, as I'm still very wobbly, and I'm working on getting back up from kneeling down. If I'm on the ground doing stretching, I may need help to get back up if there's not a chair to hold on to. But, hey, I made it down the aisle of my sister's wedding with a walker and considering that just three months earlier I couldn't move, that's progress."

It took the entire multidisciplinary team to come up with a diagnosis and treatment plan that enabled John to get back on track and forge ahead with his life. It's a fact that was never lost on John.



"I may have thought 'why me?' in the beginning, but I very soon accepted that I was given this, and would have to overcome this, with the help of my therapists. They encouraged me, and noted how much progress I was making every single week. My doctors treated me like an adult, explaining my treatments and my medicines to me. I appreciated that. There's so much love at this hospital. There's no way it would have been the same anywhere else. I know this."

John also has a family who never left his side. There was always someone sleeping in the window-bed in his room. At Christmas, his entire family showed up in Christmas pajamas in the cafeteria. His friends traveled from Thibodaux every weekend to see him. When he wasn't able to eat yet, they would eat before they came to see him. When he could finally eat, they brought in his favorite foods. His support in and out of the hospital was phenomenal.

As promised, when he signed up for a 5K run in Thibodaux back in March, CEO Lou Fragoso showed up, along with John's occupational therapist Kristen Crifasi, and his physical medicine specialist, Dr. Lindsay Elliott. John rode in his wheelchair most of the race but walked the last quarter mile and made it across the finish line. Just one more rung he climbed on the way back to his life, pre-diagnosis.

"You know, he was the light of my day on many, many occasions," remembered Crifasi. "Working with these patients every day allows you to take a step back, look at the bigger picture, and appreciate the little things. It reminds you that every day is a gift, and that tomorrow is not promised."

John has known for some time that he wanted to go into a medical field once he entered college, and his desire to be a PA (physician's assistant) was cemented further in place after his two and half month stay at Children's Hospital. He mentioned to Lou Fragoso that his goal was to graduate with his degree, finish his PA program, and come back to work at Children's Hospital.

"I told him I'm penciling him in right now," said Fragoso. "We call our patients superheroes because of their courage and resiliency. They inspire us. That's why we, as their sidekicks, will always support them."



## FEATURES



## Children's Hospital earns Level II Trauma Center verification

When a child suffers from a serious trauma in the Gulf South, locals know the best care for that child is at Children's Hospital New Orleans. Although the hospital's Emergency Department has been caring for sports injuries, concerning illnesses, and late-night fevers for decades, Children's Hospital New Orleans has now received verification from the American College of Surgeons as a Level II Pediatric Trauma Center, making it the only verified Pediatric Trauma Center serving Greater New Orleans, and one of only three in Louisiana and the Gulf Coast Region.

Louisiana hospitals must successfully complete the trauma center verification process of the American College of Surgeons to be recognized as a state-issued trauma center. The multi-year review process includes a rigorous evaluation and Children's Hospital New Orleans met all 300 criteria required.

"This is a remarkable achievement for our hospital, the many team members who helped make trauma verification possible, and most importantly for our community," said Lou Fragoso, President and Chief Executive Officer for Children's Hospital New Orleans. "Investing in trauma services is one more way we are continuing to stand in the gap for all children and families who rely on our expert, and often life-saving pediatric care."

As a Level II Trauma Center, Children's Hospital is able to initiate definitive care for all seriously injured patients, including children involved in motor vehicle accidents, violence, abuse, and other serious trauma events. Elements of Level II Trauma Centers include 24-hour immediate coverage by general surgeons, as well as coverage by the specialties of orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery, anesthesiology, emergency medicine, radiology, and critical care.

"Our journey to becoming a verified Level II Trauma Center began in 2016, and since then has required a significant commitment in time, resources, personnel, and infrastructure," said Dr. David Yu, Trauma Medical Director for Children's Hospital New Orleans. "The life-saving care that is now delivered by our Trauma Center team will positively impact the lives of children and adolescents in our community, 24/7."

Since the inception of the trauma program in 2016, Children's Hospital has invested significantly in the expansion of an all-new Emergency Department with two dedicated trauma bays and immediate access to state-of-the-art surgical facilities, including 12 new operating rooms. Children's Hospital is proud to provide this life-saving service for the children and families across the Gulf South.







# Children's Hospital launches Louisiana's first Feeding and Eating Disorder Center

In November 2022, Children's Hospital New Orleans opened the Feeding and Eating Disorder Center, pioneered by Dr. Amy Henke, Pediatric Psychologist, Dr. Ryan Pasternak, Adolescent Medicine Physician, and Jacey Lutz-Thiel, Registered Dietitian. Not only is this clinic the first hospital-based feeding and eating disorder program in Louisiana, it is also unique in that it is an outpatient clinic that allows kids to recover at home with their families. This type of treatment plan is called Family-Based Treatment for Eating Disorders (FBT), so kids aren't being admitted into a facility for long-term treatment. This benefits both the patient and the family because it allows parents and caregivers to learn alongside their child about their disorder and the recovery process.

The program uses a multidisciplinary approach, bringing together a comprehensive team of psychologists, physicians, and dietitians to work with the family on a treatment journey for their child in real time. Children are welcomed into the clinic and given an assessment by a registered dietitian while behavioral and psychological support is provided as needed. Each child receives a care plan that empowers the family to support and maintain a healthy lifestyle and road to recovery.

The Covid-19 pandemic incited a rise in emotional, psychological, and mental health concerns, especially among adolescents. During this time, Children's Hospital began to see an increase in the number of patients with eating disorders in the Emergency Department. It was difficult to find an inpatient program that would admit adolescents under a certain age to specifically treat eating disorders, forcing families to travel out of state to seek help for their kids.

Seeking to solve this problem, Dr. Henke, Dr. Pasternak, and Jacey Lutz-Thiel spearheaded the development of the Feeding and Eating Disorder Center. "We focus on providing advanced, evidence-based care plans including family-based treatment for eating disorders and cognitive behavioral therapy for feeding disorders," said Amy Henke, Psy.D., Pediatric Psychologist at Children's Hospital New Orleans. "Our goal is to provide families and their children who are suffering with eating and feeding disorders with the tools they need to recover by working as an integrated care team to address medical, psychological, and nutritional needs together."

The outpatient clinic has proven to be a vital and distinctive program not only in Louisiana, but throughout the Gulf Coast. The clinic has received numerous referrals from Mississippi and the surrounding areas. Since its opening, the clinic has served over 150 children and adolescents who may struggle with an eating or feeding disorder.





## Ronald McDonald House opens its new doors on the Children's Hospital campus

December 8, 2022 marked an important milestone in the Children's Hospital campus transformation journey – the opening of the all new Ronald McDonald House New Orleans. Previously located on Canal Street in Mid City, a long drive across town for the many families receiving care at Children's Hospital New Orleans, the new and expanded Ronald McDonald House location is now just steps away from the hospital.

Ronald McDonald House Charities' new facility is 17,000 square feet, 47 percent larger than the previous house, with 22 guest rooms. The house also boasts a 64-person dining room with access to an outdoor space, game room, playroom, library, and other gathering spaces for both families and the many volunteers who give of their time at the house.

The creation of this new and improved space is the second of its kind on the Children's Hospital campus. In 2018, The Hogs for the Cause Family Center became the first family housing facility on the hospital's campus. Today, between the Ronald McDonald House and the Hogs For The Cause Family Center, Children's Hospital has 35 family rooms, steps away from where children are receiving care in the hospital.

Having this kind of amenity is directly parallel to the hospital's mission to provide high-quality, family-centric care for all children in our region. Providing families with a comfortable, home-like place to stay during what can be some of the hardest days of their lives is a priority for the hospital, and the partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities of South Louisiana is helping bring this vision to life.







## Walker's Imaginarium: The countdown to extraordinary

Imagine a place where kids can discover, learn, play, and just be kids - in a hospital.

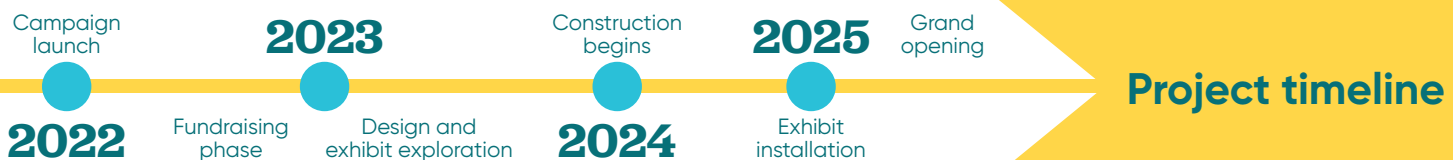
Through a partnership between local New Orleans nonprofit, Kids Join the Fight, and Children's Hospital New Orleans, that dream is becoming a reality. Walker's Imaginarium at Children's Hospital New Orleans will be a therapeutic space for children, families, and even members of the community to gather, and create moments of joy.

Walker's Imaginarium provides an innovative environment for patients and families to enjoy time together while in the hospital. A first-of-its kind program in our region, the project will provide a healing and engaging space for patients to thrive and find joy.

The 12,000 square foot center will be one of the largest and most comprehensive hospital-based child enrichment spaces in the country, designed with features for children of all ages and abilities.

Children's Hospital is well on its way to raising the funds necessary to build Walker's Imaginarium.

Give today to help make this vision possible at [chnola.org/imagine](https://chnola.org/imagine)







## The Al Copeland Foundation establishes Cancer Patient Assistance Fund to support children undergoing treatment for cancer

In April, Children's Hospital New Orleans, The Al Copeland Foundation, and its donors celebrated the launch of the Al Copeland Foundation Cancer Patient Assistance Fund at Children's Hospital New Orleans, with an initial gift of \$168,000 following the Al Copeland Foundation's SuperDucks Campaign last fall.

"The Al Copeland Foundation and our community of supporters had the opportunity to do something transformational to help fight childhood cancer in our community with the inaugural SuperDucks Campaign," said Al Copeland, Jr. "By providing much needed patient financial assistance, the Al Copeland Foundation aims to help keep cancer patients who are enrolled in clinical trials at Children's Hospital New Orleans receiving the expert care they need, close to home," said Copeland. "Many patients across our state and region travel to New Orleans for life-saving care, and many face expenses outside of their financial means."

Through the annual Vicari Auction in Biloxi, the foundation auctioned off a 2022 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited Rubicon 392, along with other events and activities in partnership with Bergeron Automotive, Copeland's of New Orleans, Searchers 4WD, and Diamonds Direct, collectively raising more than \$168,000 to support cancer patients at Children's Hospital.

The Al Copeland Foundation Cancer Patient Assistance Fund at Children's Hospital New Orleans was established to help ease the financial burdens facing families of children diagnosed with cancer, with an emphasis on children who are enrolled in a cancer clinical trial.

By providing financial assistance for patients who are undergoing treatment for cancer, families will be able to focus on the care and treatment of their child instead of the stress associated with financial burdens that many face. This is an important need as more than 84 percent of Children's Hospital's cancer patients travel from outside of the Greater New Orleans area to receive the life-saving treatments they need at Children's.





## Holiday giving



### The Light Up the Season Radiothon presented by the Ray & Jessica Brandt Family Foundation

To kick off the holiday season at Children's Hospital, The Ray & Jessica Brandt Family Foundation presented the second annual Light Up the Season Radiothon to raise important funds for the hospital. The Audacy New Orleans family of radio stations, together with generous sponsors and listeners, raised more than \$162,000 for Children's Hospital, a \$16,000 increase from last year.

On December 8, WWL Radio broadcast live from Children's Hospital for the Tommy Tucker Show, The Newell Normand Show, and Scoot in the Afternoon. On December 9, Audacy's music stations Magic 101.9, B97, and Bayou 95.7 all broadcast from the hospital for a second day of giving and inspiration. Over the two days, as the stations went live from the main concourse of the hospital, Children's Hospital patients, families, providers, members of the community, and team members shared their extraordinary stories of hope and healing live on the air.

To double donations throughout the radiothon, sponsors Jessica Brandt, Tranesouth.com, Aflac, Doerr Furniture, Lee Moving, and Caraway LeBlanc presented "matching hours" in which they matched donations dollar for dollar.

In line with its mission to care for every child regardless of the family's ability to pay, Children's Hospital provides millions of dollars in charitable care each year. The hospital relies on



the generosity of the community, donors, and supporters to provide care to so many children, and the Light Up the Season Radiothon is just one way the hospital raises funds to further its mission.

### Holiday toy donations

The holiday season never fails to spark the spirit of giving in the generous New Orleans community. Each year, the Child Life team at Children's Hospital New Orleans hosts a day of giving where the community comes together to give back to families staying in the hospital over the holiday season.

This year, more than 25 community groups and countless individuals, including the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club, Chevron, and LSU baseball player, Tre Morgan, visited the hospital to donate gifts for the children and families receiving care over the holidays. In the month of December alone, more than \$17,913 was given to the hospital through in-kind donations, and more than 150 families received generous gifts from supporters.





## Children's Hospital dedicates The Helis Foundation Memorial Chapel

In April, Children's Hospital New Orleans celebrated the naming and dedication of its new chapel, The Helis Foundation Memorial Chapel, in recognition of the lifetime giving of The Helis Foundation to Children's Hospital totaling \$1.7 million. The chapel was named in loving memory of Mrs. William G. Helis, Sr.

The new chapel was carefully designed to be a prominent and much needed feature of Children's Hospital's recent \$300 million campus transformation. Spiritual care is an integral support service for patients, families, and team members while navigating difficult healthcare journeys. The Helis Foundation Memorial Chapel that amplifies the great work of the dedicated spiritual care team in providing peace, comfort and healing on a daily basis.



## Disney Cruise Line helps bring joy to patients

Disney Cruise Line and the Starlight Children's Foundation visited Children's Hospital in March to celebrate the arrival of a new mobile movie theater, and to distribute Disney-themed toys, games, and Starlight Hospital Wear. Captain Minnie Mouse along with Disney Cruise Line cast and crew members added to the fun, including a special preview of *Disney On Ice presents Frozen & Encanto*.

"Disney sets the gold standard for creating an extraordinary experience, and we could not be more excited to bring that same standard inside the walls of our hospital to deliver moments of joy and fun to our patients and their families while receiving care in the hospital," said Lou Fragoso, President and CEO of Children's Hospital New Orleans. "We are grateful for the generosity of the Disney Cruise Line and Starlight Children's Foundation in making the mobile movie theater possible."

Disney's legacy was built on support for kids and families, and this donation is part of a global commitment to help reimagine the patient experience in children's hospitals.





# Hogs for the Cause makes \$225,000 donation to support operations of The Hogs for the Cause Family Center

In April, Hogs for the Cause and Children's Hospital New Orleans celebrated a \$225,000 gift from Hogs for the Cause, which will be used to establish a new fund to support the annual operations of the Hogs For the Cause Family Center at Children's Hospital.

In October 2018, in partnership with Hogs for the Cause, Children's Hospital opened The Hogs For The Cause Family Center to provide on-campus housing for families living outside of the Greater New Orleans area and have a child receiving ongoing care at the hospital. The house was jointly funded with a generous \$2 M commitment from Hogs For The Cause. This new gift will help sustain annual operations, including maintenance, overhead, supplies, and staff required to support the 24/7 housing program.

"We are proud to continue to support families in need through our family housing partnerships," said Becker Hall, CEO, Hogs for the Cause. "Thanks to the hard work and generosity of our community of supporters and the ongoing dedication of our teams, we will continue to positively impact hundreds of families each year whose children are receiving the expert and lifesaving care they need here at Children's Hospital New Orleans."







## Golf Tournaments benefit Behavioral Health services

Last fall the All Star Foundation hosted its annual golf tournament, benefiting the Behavioral Health Center at Children's Hospital. Thanks to the generosity of the All Star Foundation board members, friends, supporters, and sponsors, \$75,000 was raised to help Children's provide comprehensive mental and behavioral health services to the children and adolescents across the Gulf South.

In October, Turn Services presented the 12th annual Glen Otero Memorial Golf Tournament, also benefitting

the Behavioral Health Center at Children's Hospital. The annual event, held at Bayou Oaks in City Park, raised more than \$80,000 in 2022 with funds designated to support Children's Hospital's Behavioral Health service line. The support of generous donors like Turn Services and the All Star Foundation has helped Children's Hospital significantly expand these vital services to help meet the needs of the community.







## Mardi Gras krewe give back

Mardi Gras celebrations were in full swing at Children's Hospital this past February. The Krewe of Thoth, Krewe of Bacchus, and Krewe of Tucks paraded through the hospital to bring the 2023 Mardi Gras Season to those who couldn't get out and experience it this year. These krewe have an annual tradition of visiting the hospital to spread the Mardi Gras spirit to patients, families, and employees. The first visit was from the Krewe of Tucks, a long-term benefactor of the hospital, who paraded through the concourse handing out their usual satirical throws.

This year, the Krewe of Thoth parade was back to its traditional route which passes in front of Children's Hospital's campus, as well as other institutions that care for those with disabilities or illnesses. Many patients and families were able to watch the parade from their windows or come out to catch some throws from a special parade viewing area.



On the Friday before Mardi Gras, a crowd of patients, families, and staff gathered in the hospital's main concourse to watch actor and comedian, Adam DeVine, be crowned as the 2023 Bacchus King. Bacchus is revered as one of the most extravagant parades in Carnival history, with past kings including Will Ferrell, Robin Thicke, and William Shatner. Children's Hospital patient Josie was chosen to crown Adam after he paraded through the main concourse leading a group of krewe members. Patients and families got to joke, laugh, and capture memories with Adam after the crowning. The actor has an affinity for children's hospitals because he spent an extended amount of time in one after a traumatic accident as a child.

The Mardi Gras season is always sprinkled with an abundance of music, games, crafts, and of course a little king cake for Children's Hospital's patients and families.





## PHILANTHROPY



### CMN Marriott events are back and better than ever

Marriott International, the largest hotel chain in the world, has been a proud partner of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals (CMN) for 40 years, and holds the distinct honor of being CMN's longest standing corporate partner. In that time, they have raised almost \$143 million for CMN Hospitals across the country.

Marriott's commitment to giving back, especially to Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, is a large part of their culture. Marriott International properties raise money through various large-scale events, icon campaigns, conducting unique fundraising events at individual properties, and participating in golf tournaments, silent auctions, and many more events designed to engage both the guests and the associates.

Our local Marriott properties began raising money for Children's Hospital New Orleans in 1989 and have raised more than \$1.7M to date. Since 2008, Sally Normand, Executive Assistant at the New Orleans Marriott, has been an integral part in the success of these events by working with the New Orleans Business Council to secure sponsorships from local companies. With over 40 years of experience in the hotel industry, Sally connects with her Marriott colleagues worldwide to secure hotel stays for the annual Silent Auction and Golf Tournament events.

Jim Cook, General Manager of the Sheraton New Orleans is the Chairman of the Marriott New Orleans Business Council.

The Marriott Business Council is made up of all properties in the area. Frank Zumbo, Area General Manager for the New Orleans Marriott works in partnership with Joe Blanchek, General Manager of the Marriott New Orleans Warehouse Arts District and Chairperson of the Silent Auction and Golf Tournament, to produce outstanding revenue results for Children's Hospital.

"The Marriott Business Council of New Orleans represents 31 hotels and over 1,800 associates, and the Marriott Serve 360 platform provides ways for our properties and our teams to support the communities where we do business," said Jim Cook, Chair, Marriott New Orleans Business Council. "The partnership we have with the Children's Miracle Network and locally with Children's Hospital New Orleans is one we are especially proud of. For over 16 years, our Business Council has coordinated a fall auction and golf tournament that has become a tradition for us all. We greatly appreciate having a partner like Children's Hospital New Orleans that can put the proceeds directly to use in our community helping our kids during the times they need us most."

In 2022, Marriott's Silent Auction and Golf Tournament raised over \$168,000 for Children's Hospital. This fall, they will host their 16th annual Silent Auction and Golf Tournament to benefit the hospital.





## 41st annual Sugarplum Ball presented by LEMOINE raises record-breaking \$1.2 million

In a time-honored tradition, each spring, friends and supporters of Children's Hospital New Orleans gather to celebrate and raise funds for the hospital's mission. This year was no different as Co-Chairs Jeanne de Laoreal and Elizabeth Wooten and their Host Committee invited guests to travel Somewhere Beyond the Sea at this year's Sugarplum Ball which raised a record breaking \$1.2 million dollars.

The 41st Annual Sugarplum Ball presented by LEMOINE welcomed over 1,400 guests to Mardi Gras World on Saturday, March 18 where they experienced an underwater world filled with coral reefs, sea creatures, and mermaids.

"One of the things I look forward to the most at Sugarplum Ball is having the opportunity to thank, in person, so many of the hospital's generous supporters," said Children's Hospital President and CEO, Lou Fragoso. "It's an evening of celebration, and for us, an evening of gratitude. It is our honor and privilege to care for the children and families of Louisiana, but we can't do that alone. The funds raised through Sugarplum Ball make it possible for us to carry out our mission. We're sincerely grateful for the community's investment in us."

The evening's top sponsors included LEMOINE, Bernhard, The McDonnell Group, the Ray & Jessica Brandt Family Foundation, First Horizon, Lillibridge, LSU Health Department of Pediatrics, Our Lady of the Lake Children's Health, Physicians Group Laboratories, Crescent Bank and the Solomon Family, Deloitte, DonahueFavret Contractors, Humana, Tulane

University, Tulane University School of Medicine, and the Tulane Department of Pediatrics. All were invited to start the evening at the Shipwrecked Soiree VIP Party sponsored by the Ray and Jessica Brandt Family Foundation. Ralph Brennan Catering and Events provided the food while the Nola Dukes Band performed for the cocktail hour.

Inside the River City Ballroom, hues of teal, blue, green, and purple cascaded the walls and bubbles danced from the ceiling while guests packed the space to sample a bevy of food options from more than 35 local restaurants and caterers. It didn't take long to fill the dance floor with musical entertainment with Karma on the Bernhard stage, performing a variety of dance favorites.

The event featured an expansive silent auction filled with unique artwork, fine jewelry, vacation packages, sports memorabilia, and much more. The auction set a record raising more than \$113,000 the evening of the Ball.

Additionally, a luxury car raffle, made possible by the Ray & Jessica Brandt Family Foundation, raised \$120,000 for the hospital.

"It's remarkable how much Sugarplum Ball has grown over the years," said Lynnsey Belsome, Children's Hospital Director of Special Events and Community Partnerships. "It's always been incredibly special to the hospital and after 41 years, we consider ourselves lucky to be entrusted with this tradition. It is our hope to continue growing the Ball so the hospital has the resources it needs to create a happier and healthier tomorrow for the kids of Louisiana."





## 2022 by the numbers

1,962 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES |  **408** HELICOPTER TRANSPORTS

722 **total transports**  | **126,745** Pediatric Primary **CARE VISITS**  | **127,199** Specialty Care **VISITS** 

**12,640** SURGICAL CASES 

# Average daily census:

ACUTE CARE: **78.26** BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: **30.85** NICU: **30.44** CICU: **8.64** PICU: **12.02**

 **160** average inpatients PER DAY |  **67,693** Emergency Department **VISITS** |  **8,317** virtual visits

**2 PEDIATRIC SPECIALTIES** ranked by U.S. News & World Report among the nation's best children's hospitals

**FIRST TIME** MAGNET PROGRAM  
recognition for nursing excellence

**1,000** ENROLLED STUDENTS through ThriveKids student wellness project









**Children's Hospital**  
New Orleans  
LCMC Health

In proud partnership with our medical schools

