

# HEROES

THE MAGAZINE OF CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL NEW ORLEANS | SPRING 2024



**Celebrating  
philanthropic impact**

Building a healthier future together





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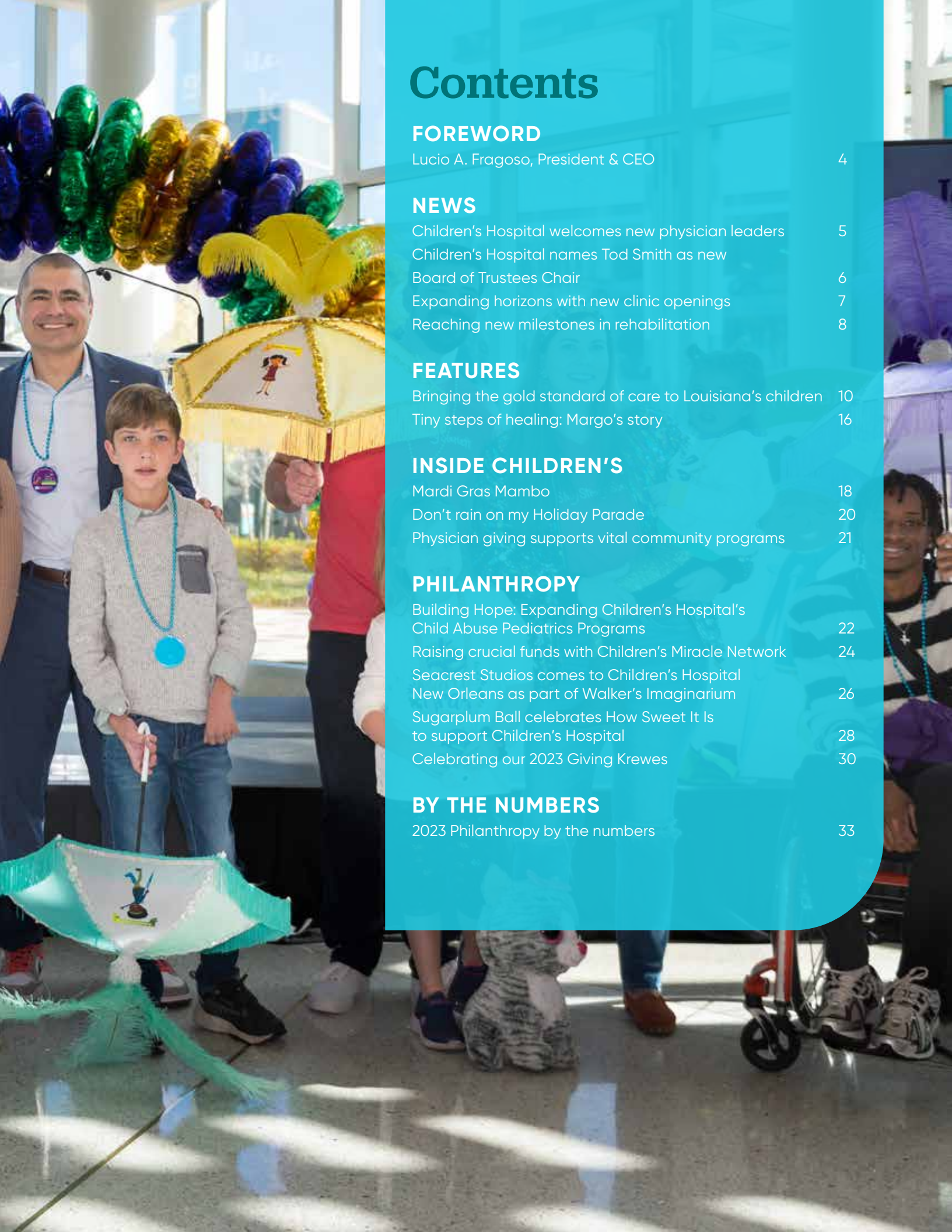
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# Foreword

## HEROES

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## LUCIO A. FRAGOSO, PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear friends and supporters,

Each day, our extraordinary team of staff and providers strives to improve the health and wellbeing of Louisiana's children – from our main campus and our clinics across Louisiana and the Mississippi Gulf Coast, to our longstanding community programs and many partnerships across the region.



Our ability to expand specialized services, to improve access, to offer the most advanced technology, and to recruit some of the nation's best and brightest pediatric providers doesn't happen without the support of our donors – members of our Children's Hospital New Orleans Giving Krewes!

With help from the generosity and commitment of our community, we have worked hard to ensure that all children across our region have access to the specialized care they need, close to home. In fact, in 2023, our providers and team members worked tirelessly to say "yes" to all kids and families who need us by expanding vital programs and services within our four walls, and out in the community. Together in 2023, we cared for more than 581,000 children – the most ever in our history.

Last year, we also became a verified Level II Pediatric Trauma Center – the first in Greater New Orleans and one of only three in the state – and our rehabilitation program earned CARF accreditation for pediatric spinal cord injury, making us one of only two children's hospitals in the country to achieve this level of accreditation, which also includes Inpatient Rehab, Pediatric Specialty, and Brain Injury Specialty.

Last year was also a banner year for recruitment as we welcomed 182 nurses – the most in our history – and 34 physicians across 19 specialties, in addition to onboarding hundreds of additional team members who are essential in our ability to expand access, and to care for the children of our community. In 2023, we also saw several important milestones in our work out in the community, starting with our new ThriveKids partnerships with NOLA Public Schools and Agenda for Children. These new collaborations mean care and support are now being provided for more than 100,000 kids from birth through graduation across Jefferson and Orleans Parishes. Our Greater New Orleans Immunization Program also celebrated 25 years of service, and we closed out the year announcing our plans to expand vital child abuse pediatrics programs with the new Morgan Rae Center for Hope which will open before the end of 2024.

Continuous forward progress is how we change the health of a generation – but we can't do it alone! The extraordinary members of our Giving Krewes help make this possible. You will read about the impact of philanthropic support on the pages that follow, along with stories of some of our inspiring patients.

A healthier future for all children is possible with your ongoing support!

Appreciatively,

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

## Children's Hospital welcomes new physician leaders



### **Tina Simpson, MD, MPH – Service Line Chief, Adolescent Medicine**

In January, Dr. Tina Simpson was appointed to the role of Service Line Chief for Adolescent Medicine. She joins Children's Hospital from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where she served as Professor and Director of Faculty Development and practiced for nearly 20 years. Born and raised in Mississippi, Dr. Simpson traveled west to New Orleans to attend UNO for undergraduate studies, where she earned her BS. She went on to attend medical school at the University of Alabama School of Medicine, and also earned a Master of Public Health from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Dr. Simpson is board certified in both adolescent medicine and pediatrics, and has extensive clinical and research experience with adolescents, particularly adolescents with complex medical and psychosocial needs. In addition to her role as Service Line Chief, Dr. Simpson serves as Professor and Section Chief of Adolescent Medicine at Tulane University School of Medicine, where she is also Chief Clinical Diversity Officer.



### **Kirk Thame, MBBS – Service Line Chief, Pediatric Gastroenterology**

Dr. Kirk Thame joined Children's Hospital in January 2024 as the Service Line Chief for Pediatric Gastroenterology. Dr. Thame comes to Children's Hospital after most recently having served as Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Vanderbilt University as well as medical director and co-director over numerous multidisciplinary clinics for the last ten years. A native of Kingston, Jamaica, Dr. Thame attended the University of the West Indies for medical school and went on to complete pediatric residency training at the University of the West Indies and at Jackson Memorial Hospital at the University of Miami. He then completed his pediatric gastroenterology fellowship at St. Louis Children's Hospital and Washington University. Dr. Thame is board certified in pediatrics and pediatric gastroenterology. In addition to seeing patients and serving as a physician leader at Children's Hospital, Dr. Thame is also an Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Section Head of Gastroenterology, and Vice Chair of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the Department of Pediatrics for LSU Health New Orleans.



### **Evans Valerie, MD, MBA – Service Line Chief, Pediatric Surgery**

Children's Hospital announced in December of 2023 that Dr. Evans Valerie has been appointed as Service Line Chief for the hospital's Pediatric Surgery program. Dr. Valerie comes to Children's Hospital New Orleans from Golisano Children's Hospital of South West Florida in Fort Meyers, but this is not the first time that his career has taken him to the operating rooms of Children's Hospital New Orleans. Dr. Valerie was previously a member of the Medical Staff at Children's Hospital beginning in 2003, where he also served as Chief of Pediatric Surgery from 2005-2016. He returned to Children's Hospital New Orleans in 2022 after his six-year tenure in Fort Meyers. Dr. Valerie is a native of Kingston, Jamaica, and was raised there and in Brooklyn, New York. He attended medical school at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, and went on to complete his surgical residency at State University of New York Health Sciences Center in Brooklyn. He then completed pediatric surgery fellowship training at The Hospital for Sick Children at the University of Toronto in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Dr. Valerie is board certified in general surgery and pediatric surgery. In addition to his role at Children's Hospital New Orleans, Dr. Valerie also serves as Assistant Professor and Section Chief of Pediatric Surgery at LSU Health New Orleans.





## Children's Hospital names **Tod Smith as new Board of Trustees Chair**



Children's Hospital New Orleans is proud to announce Tod Smith as the newly selected Chairman of the hospital's Board of Trustees. Tod has been a member of the Children's Hospital Board since 2020, and since then has helped steer the hospital through some of its most transformative moments. Tod currently serves as President and General Manager of WWL-TV. A native New Orleanian, Tod is a graduate of St. Augustine High School and Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, where he concentrated in Management Development for Television Executives, in addition to earning his degree in management at Loyola University.

In addition to his storied career as a leader in the broadcast journalism sector in markets across the country, Tod has also served as an adjunct professor of Marketing at Tulane University. In addition to his tenure on the Children's Hospital Board, Tod has also served on the boards for United Way of Southeast Louisiana, Volunteers of America Southeast Louisiana, The Urban League of Louisiana, New Orleans Museum of Art, the Historic New Orleans Collection, and Loyola University New Orleans. Children's Hospital looks forward to continued growth and operational excellence under Tod's visionary leadership.



## Expanding horizons with new clinic openings

With a steadfast commitment to improve the health of a generation, Children's Hospital New Orleans remains dedicated to expanding access to care by partnering with mission-aligned organizations, allowing kids and families to receive the expert care they need, close to home.

In September 2022, Children's Hospital formed a partnership with North Oaks Health System in Hammond, Louisiana, to bring specialized pediatric healthcare to families in Tangipahoa Parish. Building upon this collaboration, 2024 marks another milestone with the opening of the North Oaks Pediatric Specialty Clinic, a 2,300 square foot facility adjacent to North Oaks Medical Center. The clinic boasts six family friendly exam rooms and an on-site lab, and is staffed by highly skilled Children's Hospital pediatric providers, offering care in allergy and immunology, gastroenterology, neurology, ophthalmology, orthopedics, physical medicine and rehabilitation, plastic surgery, and urology.

**"Bringing care close to home for communities across Louisiana is an important part of our vision to build a healthier future for children," emphasized Lucio A. Fragoso, President and CEO of Children's Hospital New Orleans. "We are proud to be expanding upon our partnership with North Oaks Health System through the opening of the new Pediatric Specialty Clinic, which will mean increasing important access to pediatric specialists for children and families of Tangipahoa Parish and beyond."**

Children's Hospital will continue its support at North Oaks by providing neonatology, pediatric hospital medicine, and pediatric cardiology coverage for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and pediatric inpatient units at North Oaks Medical Center.

Additionally, last year, Picayune Pediatrics in Picayune, Mississippi, joined the Children's Hospital family of pediatric primary care clinics. With Picayune Pediatrics now under the umbrella of Children's Hospital New Orleans, patients and families of Picayune and surrounding communities now have access to more comprehensive services including 24/7 Virtual Care, the LCMC Health Patient Portal for easy appointment scheduling and access to medical records, along with access to the full offering of sub-specialty services available through the hospital.

The addition of the North Oaks Pediatric Specialty Clinic and the integration of Picayune Pediatrics into the Children's Hospital New Orleans family exemplifies the hospital's commitment to ensure that children and families across the region have access to the highest quality pediatric healthcare services in their own communities.





## Reaching new milestones in rehabilitation

In an exciting start to 2024, Children's Hospital New Orleans celebrated a momentous achievement with an international accreditation for its spinal cord injury rehabilitation specialty, and the expansion of its pediatric Rehabilitation Program to serve more kids on the Northshore.

The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, globally recognized as CARF International, bestowed its accreditation upon the pediatric rehab program for meeting international standards of excellence in healthcare and unwavering dedication to continuous advancement.

Already distinguished with CARF International accreditations in the Inpatient Rehabilitation, Pediatric Specialty, and Brain Injury Specialty, the program recently added another accreditation under its belt: the Spinal Cord Injury Specialty. This latest addition not only enhances the breadth of services offered but also solidifies Children's position as an unparalleled leader in pediatric rehabilitation nationally.

This accreditation elevates the Children's Hospital Rehabilitation Program as part of an elite group nationally, serving as one of only two children's hospitals in the United States to earn accreditation in four pediatric rehabilitation programs offered by CARF International. Additionally, Children's Hospital is proud to serve as the only CARF-accredited pediatric rehabilitation program in Louisiana.

**“Our team consistently demonstrates dedication and a commitment to excellence with the goal of providing the highest level of rehabilitation care to our pediatric population,”** said Todd Danos, MBA, LOTR, FACHE, Assistant Vice President of Hospital Operations at Children's Hospital. **“Sustaining a spinal cord injury is a life-altering event for patients and their families. The CARF accreditation reinforces the outstanding work being done by our team in optimizing each patient's functional wellbeing and enhancing their quality of life as they recover and learn to embrace their new normal.”**





In February, Children's Hospital New Orleans' Rehabilitation Program expanded its reach to the Northshore community. The opening of the new Children's Hospital New Orleans Outpatient Therapy Clinic in Covington marked a significant milestone, extending the hospital's accredited pediatric rehabilitation services to a broader population.

**"We are thrilled that our new, expanded Outpatient Therapy Clinic will bring even more specialized pediatric rehabilitation services to the children and families of our Northshore communities,"** said Lucio A. Fragoso, President and Chief Executive Officer of Children's Hospital New Orleans. **"This exciting growth builds upon the partnership we have enjoyed with Lakeview Hospital for many years, and we look forward to bringing even more pediatric services close to home for families on the Northshore."**

Spanning 4,100 square feet, the state-of-the-art clinic located on the campus of Lakeview Hospital offers pediatric physical, occupational, and speech and language therapy within a family friendly space designed to cater to the unique needs of kids. Equipped with specialized gyms, therapy spaces, and treatment rooms, the clinic exemplifies the hospital's mission to deliver expert care for kids across the region.





# Bringing the gold standard of care to Louisiana's children

Children's Hospital New Orleans has come to be known as the gold standard of care for children, over decades of providing expert medical care for kids, regardless of the family's financial circumstance. Its team of pediatric specialists, garnered from recruiting the best and the brightest from around the country, has made the hospital one that is recognized regionally as the leading institution for the holistic care of children, whether it's a complex surgery, a cancer diagnosis, a traumatic injury, a neurological disorder, or a mental health challenge. Coupled with state-of-the-art facilities along the Mississippi river which concentrate on the physical and emotional wellbeing of kids, the hospital has become a vital resource for the state of Louisiana and beyond.

None of this would be possible without the charitable nature of those who have worked tirelessly to support this hospital and keep its promise of treating all patients, regardless of circumstance, with the vital care they need. Because no child who needs care is ever turned away, this mission takes enormous resources. It's a philosophy that has been a part of the hospital, since the 1950's, when it was known under a different name.

Dr. Stephen Hales, a pediatrician, and board member of the hospital for 42 years, remembers the days when the former

Crippled Children's Hospital transitioned to a full-service facility, after a vaccine had been developed for polio, and the impetus for the former hospital disappeared. As the massive epidemic was finally winding down, and the need for polio treatment was over, Crippled Children's Hospital became Children's Hospital New Orleans in the mid-1970's.

"Running a children's hospital has never been a money-making or profitable enterprise," Hales noted. "The founders of this hospital were committed to providing one standard of care for everyone - rich or poor, black children and white children side by side, even at a time when everything else was still segregated here in New Orleans. This philosophy was in the DNA of its founders, which was indeed a very bold idea back then, and not always popular. But that premise was one of their north stars, and it holds true today."

Hales remembers when the hospital nearly went under in the late 1970's, a few years before he joined the board. It was a time when they could barely make payroll.

"The hospital was up for sale," Hales said. "The medical staff passed the hat and found a consultant to see if they could make it work, as Medicaid had been woefully inadequate in their care reimbursements. But, the gap in profitability was then





met by the generosity of others as well as paying patients. I am still struck by this community's support of Children's Hospital over all of these decades, and how the community continues this support today."

It is that giving spirit which has allowed many children to heal when other avenues had been exhausted and all hope had been lost. This was the case with 17-month-old patient Scarlett Wood, who had contracted an E-coli infection, which was not initially diagnosed by her pediatrician, and further delayed at a community hospital, as her kidneys were shutting down.

Transferred to another hospital in New Orleans, dialysis was failing, and eventually Scarlett coded as her parents watched in horror. Over two and a half hours of touch-and-go life-saving efforts, little Scarlett was connected to a heart-lung bypass machine, while an MRI revealed she had suffered a stroke and an anoxic brain injury, in which her brain had been deprived of oxygen.

**"Her doctor came in and told us her kidneys had only a 2% chance of coming back, my daughter had moderate to severe brain damage, and he wanted to turn off the life-support machinery," Brenna Wood, Scarlett's mom explained. "We sat down with palliative care, the neurologist, the nephrologist, and were told she was essentially a vegetable — that she was not going to walk or talk again. Faced with no hope, we asked if she could be transferred to Children's Hospital and were told no one would want a patient who needed dialysis, a kidney transplant, was partially paralyzed, and would have no quality of life."**

But when all hope seemed lost, Children's Hospital didn't refuse her treatment and arrived quickly with a transport team. Utterly exhausted, Scarlett slept for three days. When changing her diaper, her mother noticed a blue line, which meant she was finally eliminating fluid, and her kidneys were coming back. Although her recovery has not been a walk in the park, as she's had to learn to use her limbs again, and even re-learn basic functions like swallowing, Scarlett walked out of Children's Hospital New Orleans the following month. According to a recent state assessment, she is now meeting all the milestones of a typical three-year-old.

Scarlett is still working through medical issues. She has a gastrostomy tube in her belly which provides direct nutrition into her stomach. It was once used for all food, but now only for water and medications, which are the most difficult to swallow. She wears an orthotic on her leg and gets injections to keep from pointing her toes and tripping, but she's making steady progress. Most importantly she is alive, in a scenario where prior to Children's Hospital, she'd been written off.





Children's Hospital doesn't just save babies. Ray "Speedy" Walker was a senior in high school, and a basketball star at G.W. Carver High School, when a horrific car accident would turn his life upside-down. His mom and aunt, in the car with him when they were hit by a truck, tragically died in the accident and Speedy became paralyzed from the chest down. Sent to Children's Hospital for months of intensive therapy, he became the motivator in the rehabilitation unit. The injury to his eighth cervical vertebrae meant that he had function in most of his upper extremities, but no movement in his lower extremities, necessitating a wheelchair. So, working with Speedy to develop strategies for living independently was what Children's Hospital's primary goal was all about. Over the last four years, Speedy has rebuilt his life, becoming a content creator online, authoring tutorial videos on TikTok and Instagram, and helping others benefit from his particular learning curve.

**"Independence is the key here," Walker said. "I've had a lot of invaluable help, and now I want to inspire and motivate others to conquer life's challenges."**

As an ambassador now for the hospital, Speedy has been designated the King of the Krewe of Champions, just as Scarlett Wood has been named the Queen of the Krewe of Hope. It's all part of the launch of a new giving program at the hospital and denotes the many ways in which Children's improves the lives of kids.







The mission of Children's Hospital, however, is about so much more than the extraordinary care that is given within the four walls of the hospital. Its outreach, with numerous support programs, is meant to change a generation of kids within the community. This has a ripple effect for sustaining healthy and happy lives for the children of the region. Children's Hospital's Community Benefits Programs began in the 1990's with programs like The Audrey Hepburn Children at Risk Evaluation (CARE) Center, The Immunization Program, The Parenting Center, and more recently Family Housing programs, and its ThriveKids Student Wellness Project.

**“There is a crisis in behavioral health,” explained Children’s Hospital New Orleans CEO, Lou Fragoso. “Suicide has become a leading cause of death in adolescents, and we see gunshot traumas in the emergency department on a regular basis. If you’re going to change what happens here, you cannot just sit back and wait for things to happen, you must be proactive in the community, so these are the things that we want to get behind. But, as you can imagine, there are no dollars attached to that, so that’s why we rely on the philanthropic community for support. We need to help children be seen and heard and intercede before a crisis occurs.”**

For example, this year the hospital’s ThriveKids program, in which nurses, psychologists and other healthcare professionals go out across 180 schools within Orleans and Jefferson Parishes, has made a significant impact. Professionals conducted more than 5,000 mental health consultations in those schools, and of those, 650 were suicide assessments, where kids had contemplated taking their own lives.

“There are certain things within a Children’s Hospital that you must have... heart surgery, cancer care, neurosurgery,” Fragoso said. “And, clearly, I can’t help but marvel at our abilities here when I see a newborn patient like Margo Buller, born at 25 weeks, weighing less than a pound, and the size of a cookie, helicoptered here from Lake Charles for life-saving abdominal surgery and many months of lifesaving care. Her physician told her parents the only place she could go for help was Children’s. She’s been here eight months now and weighs 11 pounds. That’s rewarding.”

But, if you’re really going to make a difference beyond that, Fragoso believes that you must go further out into the community. Case in point, a vaccination bus to make sure kids have the proper vaccines to attend school, and plans to expand its CARE Center which takes care of the most vulnerable kids who have been abused physically, sexually, and have even been victims of human trafficking. “Those aren’t 15-30 minute visits,” Fragoso added.

**“There’s often also forensic and legal work involved down the line. You’re not just trying to fix a broken arm; you’re trying to fix the human spirit. Add all that up and then add in “charitable care” because we never say no to a child just because the family can’t afford it, and we spent \$36 million just last year to make sure these programs are out in the community and no child is turned away. Without philanthropy, those programs are all at risk.”**

Behind the scenes, working diligently to make sure those philanthropic funds materialize is the Senior Director of Marketing and Development, Kristen Robinson. Her role at the hospital expanded in 2022 to encompass development, and she loves working with her team to bring in the funds that make this place tick, in order to best serve the community.

**“The mission of Children’s Hospital has always been to deliver lifesaving and life changing care for all children, including some of our most underserved populations and regardless of the family’s ability to pay,”** explained Robinson. **“Annual giving helps ensure our ability to continue that mission, in addition to programmatic and capital support, like our most recent capital campaign, ‘Extraordinary Together’, which raised \$40 million toward our campus expansion completed at the end of 2021.”**

Robinson says they are now working to raise funds for Walker’s Imaginarium, a 15,000–square–foot enrichment center located on the hospital’s main campus. The center will be named in loving memory of Walker Beery, who launched Kids Join the Fight before he lost his own fight against pediatric brain cancer in September 2021. Walker’s vision was to amplify the care experiences of kids like him, and their families, who are undergoing treatment for serious illnesses or injuries simply by creating daily moments of joy. The space will do just that, with two floors of interactive exhibits including a Seacrest Studios, dance stage and rooftop mini golf experience. The \$16 million project is being made possible fully by philanthropic support for the children of the community, by the community. The hospital expects to break ground at the end of this year.

Among other capital projects slated for 2024 is the Morgan Rae Center for Hope, an expansion of the existing CARE Center, which houses the hospital’s child abuse pediatrics programs currently in a small house on the Calhoun Campus. The new center will help Children’s care for even more kids who need these vital services. And, there is a dedicated Stem Cell Transplant Unit in the works, which will also be made possible through philanthropic support.

Signature fundraising events contribute substantially to the hospital’s mission each year. Among them, the annual Sugarplum Ball, Boo at the Zoo, and most recently, the Holiday Parade. Community fundraisers and Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals campaigns and events, like Walmart’s annual point of sale campaign, also help generate more than \$1.5 million in annual support, which has been a part of the hospital’s story for decades. Last year the hospital raised \$12.3 million – the most in its history – with this year’s goal set at \$13.5 million.





"Restricted giving, or programmatic support, is also vital in our ability to care for kids and families," Robinson said. "This can be in the form of patient family assistance funds, like the fund that the Al Copeland Foundation helped establish last year to ease the financial burden families whose children are undergoing cancer treatment face, or the new Hogs for the Cause Family Center operations fund, which is supporting annual operations of our family housing program with a new nearly \$2 million commitment from Hogs for the Cause. Now more than ever, philanthropy is a critical component of helping Children's Hospital thrive."

As Dr. Stephen Hales sits in the Hales Cottage, a coffee shop on the Children's campus named in recognition of a generous gift from him and his wife Nancy as part of the hospital's capital campaign, he talks about the history of this hospital with pride, and this New Orleans community with gratitude.



**"This place holds you by the heart," Hales said. "There have been times when we looked at the budget, and we wondered how we would be able to sustain the hospital. But this is a generous community. New Orleans may not have the corporate depth that a Houston or Dallas has, but we have repeat donors, many, who give faithfully. People want to support a place which believes in improving an entire generation of kids."**

As Hales tells it, corporations in the area have stepped up big-time as well, and consistently been very generous. Donors of all types, including individuals, businesses, and foundations, have contributed millions since Hurricane Katrina to the hospital's various endeavors, enabling the world-class facility that serves as a regional leader in pediatric care today.

**"The trajectory of the hospital changed when former CEO John Nickens came along, and now with Lou Fragoso, there is a passion to take the hospital's mission to the next level,"** Hales said.

**"This city will never succeed if we don't take care of our children, and that is job one at this hospital. And our Giving Krewes have always been a part of our history, and will be an even more important part of our future."**





Weighing only 595 grams, or a little more than one pound, Margo was intubated right away and taken to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Lake Charles Memorial Hospital where Savanna delivered. After Margo pulled out her own breathing tube in an impressive show of strength, the NICU team initially allowed Margo to breathe on her own, but within a matter of a few hours she needed respiratory support again.

"I remember thinking to myself, oh this girl is strong and is a fighter," shared Savanna. In the early days in the NICU there, Margo slowly went from stable to being very sick. The Lake Charles NICU doctors continued to care for Margo, but in the following weeks, she became sicker. They became extremely concerned when Margo's abdomen began to turn blue and swollen all while she was struggling to breathe. Her care team then made the decision to have her transported to Children's Hospital New Orleans when Margo was 20 days old, so that she could be in the care of the hospital's Level IV NICU team and in a facility with a comprehensive pediatric surgery team.

Margo was taken to Children's Hospital aboard Abby, the hospital's medical helicopter. She was in the air for an hour and 22 minutes with Children's Hospital's skilled pediatric flight team, while her parents made the nearly three-and-a-half-hour drive. As Savanna and Daniel came to grips with the reality that their weeks old baby was very sick, they discussed the possibility that Margo could have Necrotizing Enterocolitis or NEC, which as the Bullers knew was a disease that is often fatal for babies, especially premature babies like Margo.

"I remember saying as long as she doesn't have NEC, she's going to be okay," said Savanna. "But I knew when she was showing signs and symptoms of having NEC that it wasn't good. I thought when we were leaving Lake Charles that we were going to New Orleans to say goodbye."



## Tiny steps of healing: Margo's story

Savanna and Daniel Buller of Lake Charles, Louisiana were thrilled to find out that they were expecting their fourth child. Savanna's previous pregnancies were normal and problem free. As a labor and delivery nurse by training, and having had three healthy, full-term pregnancies before, at twenty weeks when she began to feel different, she knew something was wrong.

"I kept getting headaches, and I was really swollen," shared Savanna. "My doctor checked my blood pressure, and it was elevated, so he started me on medicine." Within three weeks, Savanna had to be admitted to the hospital for high blood pressure to be monitored closely.

By the time she hit 25-weeks gestation, Savanna was diagnosed with severe preeclampsia. When her symptoms weren't responding to medication, she knew that there would be trouble ahead, and that this birth would be unlike her others.

"The day Margo was born was scary," remembered Savanna. "When my OB doctor told me I would have to deliver at 25 weeks, I was in denial. I thought, 'there's no way I'm about to have a 25-week baby.'"

When the doctor showed Savanna her blood work, along with seeing her concerning blood pressures, she knew it was time to deliver for both her own safety and baby Margo's. Through Savanna's background as a nurse, the Bullers knew what they were getting into when they found out that their baby would have to be born 15 weeks early. Daniel raced to the hospital from work, and baby Margo was born via c-section that day.





When the Bullers arrived at Children’s Hospital, they were grateful to see their baby was still alive and were introduced to Margo’s new care team, including Dr. Brian Barkemeyer, Medical Director of the Children’s Hospital NICU. The Bullers knew that baby Margo had been through so much in her short life, and looked to the care team for guidance on what their next steps should be. Dr. Barkemeyer assured the couple that as long as Margo was fighting and trying to live, that her Children’s Hospital care team would keep fighting with her.

Savanna’s worst fears were realized when Margo was soon diagnosed with NEC. NEC is inflammation of the intestines that occurs most often in premature babies and can be life threatening. Margo was intubated and doctors decided surgical intervention would be needed immediately because part of her intestine began to necrose or die. Children’s Hospital Pediatric Surgeon, Dr. Jessica Zagory, was brought on to Margo’s case and performed a procedure to relieve Margo’s abdomen of the infection that was causing damage. The days after her first procedure were touch and go for Margo as she remained in critical condition.

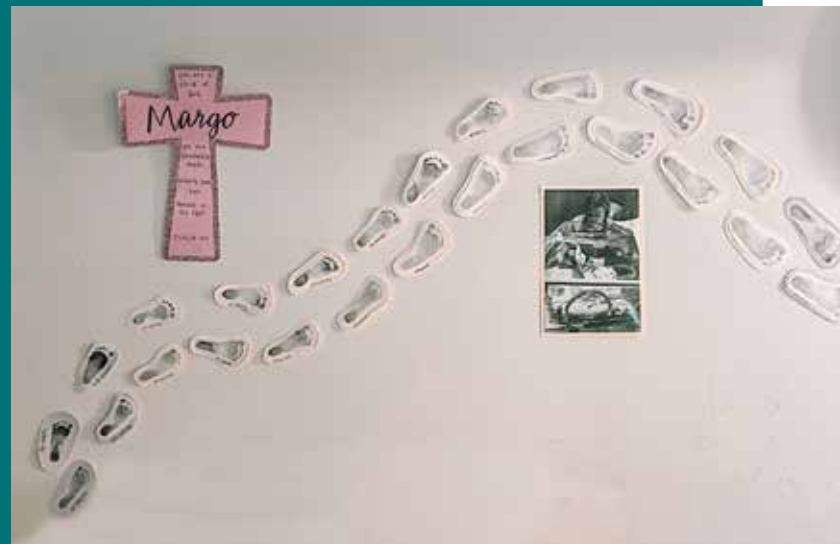
“Savanna, Daniel, and I had long talks about what we wanted for Margo, whether we wanted to proceed with a big operation or to give her comfort care,” recalled Dr. Zagory. “During that time, Margo really showed us how much strength she had, and we made the very difficult, but we think, the right decision to proceed with a big operation for Margo on September 20.”

Dr. Zagory performed an exploratory laparotomy on Margo, in which she removed the part of the intestine that was dead, and created an ostomy, which allowed Margo to grow bigger and stronger before her next surgery – which is exactly what she did. She underwent a third procedure in January to analyze how much healthy intestine Margo had left, and to begin to put it back together. Although she struggled through the recovery from the procedure, Margo continued to amaze her parents and her care team as she persisted and grew stronger.

Although the odds have been stacked against her from the moment she was born, Margo has continued to break through every milestone that has been set for her. Today, she is feeding by mouth, can breathe on her own, and can be held by Mom and Dad. Weighing in at more than eleven pounds, Margo still has a long road to recovery and more surgeries in her future, but with the love and support of her family, doctors, nurses, therapists, and her entire care team, Margo is well on her way to finally being able to go home after eight months at Children’s.

“It’s like the hours turned into days, and the days turned into weeks, then months, and she’s still here.” shared Savanna. “This place and these people have been so amazing. It’s given us so much hope.”

Over the more than eight months that she has fought for her life in the Children’s Hospital NICU, Margo’s mother has recorded her growth with footprints that adorn the walls in her room to remind everyone who enters just how far she has come.



**“Our goal is for Margo to grow big and strong and be the best little sister to her three older brothers and sister,” shared Dr. Zagory. “I know she has a big family at home, and I can’t wait to see her there, making a lot more little footprints in the future.”**



# Inside Children's



## Mardi Gras Mambo

The joy and revelry of Carnival Season was happily spread throughout the halls of Children's Hospital New Orleans this year. From intricate mini floats and a majestic Clydesdale to krewe royalty and extraordinary moves by the 610 Stompers, patients, families and staff had the chance to experience all the magic of Carnival, right here on Henry Clay Ave.

Visitors always lift spirits, and this year was no exception. Several krewes took time to visit the hospital, dressed in their intricate costumes, dancing to the beat of the brass band, and handing out highly desired throws to kids and adults alike. The visits kicked off in January with the Broken Heel Krewe who caravanned through the halls with their fish-themed mini floats. The ornate floats, which are hand crafted, brought smiles to so many faces as they rolled through the Main Concourse to start off the season.

The Krewe of Tucks paraded through the Lauricella Pavilion to greet excited onlookers with beads, doubloons, and other throws. The King and Queen and many additional krewe members spent time playing games and dancing with the patients in attendance. Tucks has a long history of generously supporting the hospital's mission to provide the very best care for Louisiana's kids and made a \$40,000 donation this year as part of their visit.

Did you know that there's a Mardi Gras parade that passes in front of Children's Hospital? The Krewe of Thoth, in their commitment to bringing Mardi Gras to those unable to attend other parades, designed its route to pass 14 institutions that care for those who need their Carnival spirits lifted the most.

Children's Hospital is one of those locations. In advance of their traditional Sunday ride, Krewe of Thoth members parade

on foot to visit some of these care facilities, including our neighbors at Lighthouse Louisiana and Audubon Retirement Village. Each year, the members stop at Children's with a brass band in tow to pass out throws and visit with patients. On Thoth Sunday, patients and families who were safely able to attend, were welcomed to view the parade at the corner of Henry Clay Ave. and Tchoupitoulas St. from a special viewing area. Patients not able to come outside got to watch from their hospital rooms as the parade was livestreamed on the Child Life Channel of their in-room TVs.

Each year, with the help of our patients, Bacchus is crowned at Children's Hospital. This year, patient Magnus McConnell handcrafted the crown that patient Megan Soniat used to crown actor Kevin Dillon, Bacchus LV. Joining Kevin were several members of the Bacchus Krewe and hospital leaders who shared a few remarks before giving everyone the chance to take their picture with the reigning king. The Bacchus crowning event is always a highlight of the season for everyone at Children's.

Finally, it's not just krewe members who spread Mardi Gras joy! Children's Hospital received a special visit from one of the Budweiser Clydesdale horses, Hanza. The beautiful horse was a hit with patients, families, and team members. Hanza, so calm and gentle with the patients, evoked smiles from all those who interacted with him.

Children's Hospital is grateful to the New Orleans community and the many Mardi Gras krewes and their members who never forget to bring the magic of the season to those who can't attend parades in person, like the children receiving care in the hospital.







## Don't rain on my Holiday Parade

The clouds may have loomed over the route and raindrops did indeed fall, but the second annual Children's Hospital New Orleans Holiday Parade went on! The parade took to the streets of downtown New Orleans on December 2 with an expanded route and more floats and marching groups. The line up included 30 floats, eight high flying balloons, and dozens of marching groups, creating a special holiday-themed parade to help usher in the joy and magic of the season.

Despite the rain, parade-goers were treated to performances by the St. Augustine marching band, the Rolling Elvi, the Amelia Earhaws, and the 610 Stompers, just to name a few, while catching throws from riders including special guests, Trombone Shorty, radio personality Kellie Rasberry from the Kidd Kraddick Morning Show, the Grinch, Rudolph, and of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus.

"Children's Hospital was proud to help bring this world-class, kid and family-centered holiday parade to the City of New Orleans once again," said Lucio A. Fragoso, President and CEO of Children's Hospital New Orleans. "We were thrilled to kick off the holiday season together with our community, parade sponsors and partners with this amazing and uniquely New Orleans event."

The Children's Hospital New Orleans Holiday Parade benefits the hospital and is made possible in partnership with Kern Studios, the Downtown Development District, WDSU, NewOrleans.com, Louisiana Feed Your Soul, the French Market Corporation, Audacy, Chick-fil-A New Orleans, B1 Bank, the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, Coca-Cola United, and many others.

"New Orleans during the holidays is one of the most wonderful times of the year for our community," said Barry Kern, President and CEO of Kern Studios. "We were thrilled to produce the second annual Children's Hospital New Orleans Holiday Parade and have enjoyed watching this event become a beloved tradition for our great city."

Following the parade, holiday festivities continued in Lafayette Square with a family-friendly After Party sponsored by Louisiana Feed Your Soul. The After Party included live musical performances from Maggie Koerner and Trombone Shorty along with members of the Trombone Shorty Academy. Beverage sponsors included Yuengling, Wheatley Vodka, and Coca-Cola United while food trucks lined the Square. Kids were also treated to holiday activities including a glitter bar and photos with Santa.

**Mark your calendars!**



The third annual Children's Hospital New Orleans Holiday Parade is scheduled for **Saturday, December 7, 2024.**



## Physician giving supports vital community programs

Children's Hospital, LSU, and Tulane physicians who care for patients at Children's Hospital are committed to providing the most extraordinary and specialized care for every patient, not only inside the walls of the hospital and clinics, but also in the community. That is why the 2023 Physicians Campaign aimed to raise vital funds for Children's Hospital New Orleans' numerous Community Benefits Programs, including the ThriveKids Student Wellness Program, The Parenting Center, The Greater New Orleans Immunization Network, and the CARE Center, to name a few.

The tradition of Children's Hospital's physicians coming together to raise funds for various needs of the hospital began more than 30 years ago in 1990, and over the years, the Physicians Campaign has raised more than \$1.8 million for Children's Hospital. Each year, the doctors' philanthropic efforts are celebrated with a Réveillon Dinner, held each winter at an iconic New Orleans restaurant. Under the leadership of 2023 campaign co-chairs, neonatologist, Dr. Emily Masoumy, and pediatric plastic surgeon, Dr. Mohamad Masoumy, the 2023 Physicians Campaign was a record-breaking success.

More than 90 doctors, both currently practicing and retired, came together for this fundraising tradition and donated \$121,650 to support Children's Hospital's Community Benefits Programs. The celebratory Réveillon Dinner was hosted at The Peacock Room and featured a special menu selected by the Co-Chairs. "Mohamad and I were grateful for the opportunity to co-chair the 2023 Physicians Campaign.

We are so proud of the record-breaking generosity our colleagues showed, and of the impact it will have for our community's children," shared Dr. Emily Masoumy. "As always, the Réveillon Dinner was such a great way to celebrate and show appreciation for our amazing physicians, who give so much of themselves to care for our patients every single day."



# Philanthropy



## Building Hope: Expanding Children's Hospital's Child Abuse Pediatrics Programs

Last November, Children's Hospital announced plans to construct the new Morgan Rae Center for Hope, made possible by a generous \$1.5 million gift from philanthropist Jessica Brandt – the largest individual gift in the hospital's history. This new facility will house the hospital's CARE Center, Child Advocacy Center, and will provide space for community partners who work collaboratively to serve some of the state's most vulnerable children, adolescents, and teens who experience abuse or human trafficking. In addition, the CARE Center serves as a resource for professionals and agencies across Louisiana, providing training and education on child abuse and trafficking, and serving as subject matter experts.

This vital program provides medical evaluations, forensic interviews, and therapeutic treatment, serving more than 1,400 children and adolescents each year from across Louisiana and Coastal Mississippi. The new Morgan Rae Center for Hope will allow Children's to reach even more children in need.

**“We know that there are more kids out there who need our help but are limited by space and ability to expand services in our current facility,”** said Lucio A. Fragoso, President and CEO of Children's Hospital New Orleans. **“We needed a new home for this exceptional community program and are incredibly grateful that Jessica Brandt has answered the call for help with her truly transformational gift that will enable us to help many more children and adolescents in need.”**



The Morgan Rae Center for Hope is named in loving memory of Jessica Brandt's late great granddaughter, Morgan Rae Hartline. Jessica Brandt shared her pride in knowing that Morgan Rae's legacy will live on as a haven for children to find solace and support on their journeys to healing.

**“I am proud that her legacy will help provide a new home for the CARE Center and Child Advocacy Center, which helps start the healing process for children who have suffered injustices that are hard for many of us to hear about or comprehend,”** Brandt shared. **“The Morgan Rae Center for Hope will help more children in our community get the care and support they need.”**

The Morgan Rae Center for Hope will be located on Children's Hospital's Calhoun St. Campus, adjacent to the CARE Center's current location, and just steps from Audubon Park. The Center will double the program's square footage, allowing for more than 2,000 children to be cared for each year, and growth of the dedicated team of child abuse pediatricians, case managers, social workers, and forensic interviewers. The nurturing, home-like design of the new Center will align with best practices by offering a state-of-the-art training and observation space, conference rooms for multidisciplinary case review, an interactive waiting area, large outdoor play space, and dedicated parking.

Last year, the CARE Center performed 1,489 medical evaluations, assisted 99 young victims of human trafficking, performed 423 forensic interviews, and referred more than 1,300 children and adolescents for counseling services, all from across 32 different parishes in Louisiana along with portions of the Gulf South. Construction began this Spring and is expected to reach completion in October 2024. To discover more about the impactful community initiatives at Children's Hospital, including the CARE Center, visit [chnola.org](http://chnola.org) and join Children's Hospital New Orleans in spreading the warmth and light of hope to those who need it most.





## Raising crucial funds with Children's Miracle Network since 1984

Since 1984, Children's Hospital New Orleans has been a proud member of Children's Miracle Network (CMN) Hospitals, furthering its mission to provide the highest quality care to every child, regardless of the family's ability to pay. Through the hospital's affiliation with CMN, Children's Hospital New Orleans has raised an extraordinary \$32 million in the program's 40-year history.

This significant impact is thanks to the hard work and generosity of corporate partners like Marriott International. Since 1989, local Marriott properties have been champions of the hospital's cause, raising more than \$1.8 million for the hospital – and counting!

Last fall, Children's Hospital celebrated the 16th annual CMN Silent Auction and Golf Tournament, hosted graciously by Marriott Worldwide Business Councils New Orleans. The CMN Silent Auction, held at the Downtown New Orleans Marriott Hotel, invited vendors, patrons, and hospital supporters to indulge in tasty hors d'oeuvres and cocktails while bidding on an array of exciting items, including luxurious stays at Marriott

properties in the Caribbean, Hawaii, Antarctica, New York, Chicago, and more. Additionally, the 16th annual CMN Golf Tournament, held at English Turn Golf & Country Club, hosted 132 golfers to support the cause through local sponsorships, mulligan sales, and raffle tickets. Together, these two signature events raised more than \$154,000 for Children's Hospital New Orleans in 2023, highlighting the profound impact of community involvement in advancing the hospital's mission.

More community support poured in through the impactful CMN Hispanic and English Radiothons, vital fundraising events held in partnership with local radio stations through Children's Miracle Network. The 10th annual Hispanic Radiothon, presented by Lakeside Toyota, was held in September, and broadcast on local Hispanic radio stations Latino Mix 97.5, Tropical 105.7, and Telemundo 42. Captivated listeners tuned in to hear touching patient stories, insights from Hispanic doctors on specialized pediatric care, and heartfelt appeals for donations. As listeners tuned in, they were encouraged to call in or donate online, rallying behind Children's mission to provide expert care for children across the region.





The third annual CMN Light Up the Season Radiothon presented by the Ray & Jessica Brandt Family Foundation helped ring in the holiday season in partnership with Audacy New Orleans. In December 2023, Children's Hospital welcomed WWL Radio and Audacy's music stations, B97 and Magic 101.9 to broadcast live from the Main Concourse of the hospital. The captivating live broadcasts featured two days of heartfelt interviews with patients, families, and providers, while inviting listeners to share in the season of giving. Alongside the generous support of the Ray & Jessica Brandt Family Foundation, support poured in

from local sponsors, businesses, and listeners. Together, both the English and Hispanic Radiothon events raised more than \$219,000 for Children's Hospital New Orleans.

As a proud member of Children's Miracle Network, Children's Hospital New Orleans has cultivated invaluable partnerships that have solidified its position as the only comprehensive, freestanding children's hospital in Louisiana and the Gulf South, serving all children and only children.



# The Ryan Seacrest Foundation to bring Seacrest Studios to Children's Hospital New Orleans as part of Walker's Imaginarium



Children's Hospital New Orleans has been selected by the Ryan Seacrest Foundation (RSF) as the recipient of one of its newest Seacrest Studios, a state-of-the-art studio for pediatric patients to explore the creative realms of radio, television, and news media. Walker's Imaginarium, a first-of-its kind child enrichment center planned for the main campus of Children's Hospital New Orleans in partnership with non-profit Kids Join The Fight, will be home to the foundation's first studio in the Gulf South – and the only one in Louisiana.

The studio will be located prominently on the ground level and main exhibit floor of Walker's Imaginarium, which will include two floors of interactive, kid-friendly exhibits, creating a therapeutic space for patients and families to thrive and find joy while spending time together in the hospital. Walker's Imaginarium will tie directly into the main concourse and inpatient tower at Children's Hospital New Orleans, as a natural bookend to the campus. The project will break ground late this year, and will open in early 2026.

Seacrest Studios are charitable endeavors of the Ryan Seacrest Foundation, founded by radio and television host and producer Ryan Seacrest, along with his family. RSF aims to contribute positively to the healing process for children and their families during their stay, as well as uplift spirits of the clinical and administrative staff at Children's Hospital New Orleans.

**“We quickly fell in love with the vision of Children's Hospital New Orleans and Kids Join The Fight to redefine the patient and family experience through Walker's Imaginarium,”** said Ryan Seacrest.

**“New Orleans is one of the best culture and music cities in the country, and I cannot think of a better place to bring joy to patients through our foundation.”**

Seacrest Studios provides a variety of programming opportunities to patients, whether they are physically in the studio or watching through a closed-circuit network from their in-room television screen. Patients will have the opportunity to host their own radio and television shows, watch live musical performances, play games, and even interview celebrity guests who visit the studio. The studio will be encased in glass, allowing patients and visitors to view the daily programming happening inside from the main floor of Walker's Imaginarium.

**“We are humbled and could not be more excited to be partnering with the Ryan Seacrest Foundation to bring Seacrest Studios to our campus,”** said Lucio A. Frago, President and CEO of Children's Hospital New Orleans. **“We believe that part of our job in running a children's hospital is creating an environment where kids can just be kids, while receiving care. That is exactly what the Ryan Seacrest Foundation helps do, and we cannot wait to deliver countless moments of joy together.”**

RSF has opened 14 other Seacrest Studios across the country, including Atlanta, Boston, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Dallas, Denver, Nashville, Orange County, Orlando, Philadelphia, New Hyde Park, NY, Washington, D.C., Memphis, Queens, NY, and Salt Lake City.









## Sugarplum Ball is confection perfection with record-breaking \$2.3 million raised

Ice cream sundaes, cupcakes, candies, cookies, and all things sweet made for a memorable Sugarplum Ball theme to celebrate the 42nd year of the annual black-tie gala. Held March 23, the Ball entitled "How Sweet It Is" and presented by LEMOINE, welcomed more than 1,500 guests to Mardi Gras World surrounding them with the tastiest of confections.

And it was sweet, raising a record-breaking \$2.3 million to support the mission of Children's Hospital New Orleans. With Co-Chairs Quincy Crawford and Jessica Waguespack at the helm, the 2024 Ball set a new benchmark in fundraising.

"What a phenomenal year for Sugarplum Ball," said Children's Hospital President and CEO, Lou Fragoso. "To see so many supporters of Children's, all together, in one place to celebrate the commitment of the hospital to create a healthier and happier tomorrow for Louisiana's kids; it doesn't get much sweeter than that. We are incredibly thankful to all our Sugarplum Ball sponsors and patrons for their belief and support in our mission."

The Ball's top sponsors included LEMOINE, Bernhard, the LSU Health Department of Pediatrics, The McDonnell Group, The Ray & Jessica Brandt Family Foundation, Our Lady of the Lake Children's Health, Clement Building Company, Deloitte, First Horizon, and the Tulane University School of Medicine. The outdoor plaza, set to look like an ice cream parlor, was the perfect entrance into the Ballroom that was filled with oversized cupcakes, popsicles, lollipops, and snowballs. Giant candy necklaces were strewn from the ceilings to complement a massive chandelier made from a variety of sweet treats.

On the auction block were a variety of items that included one-of-a-kind experiences, jewelry pieces, vacation packages, sports memorabilia, and more. The auction, as well as the Jellybean Jackpot prize pull resulted in dozens of lucky winners that night. But perhaps none luckier than the winners of our two extraordinary raffles. Drawn live during the ball were seven winners who each received four suite tickets to Taylor Swift The Eras Tour in New Orleans in October, with that raffle alone raising more than \$600,000 to help fund a new Stem Cell Transplant Unit. The final winner of the night was Rachel Perkins, a 26-year employee of Children's Hospital, who won the \$50,000 cash prize made possible through the Ray & Jessica Brandt Family Foundation.

**"Sugarplum Ball is synonymous with Children's Hospital,"** said Kristen Robinson, the hospital's Senior Director of Marketing and Development. **"The Ball's 42-year history is truly remarkable, and it is an honor to carry forth this tradition, and to see the continued impact on our mission thanks to our community's unwavering support."**





# Celebrating our 2023 Giving Krewes



The Children's Hospital New Orleans Giving Krewes is our uniquely New Orleans way of honoring the generous community of supporters who help advance the hospital's mission by contributing \$1,000 or more annually. Whether giving through a signature event, making a gift to our Kids Fund, supporting a specific program, service line, or capital project, our Giving Krewes recognize all cumulative annual giving, and help us honor and thank our donors. Included here are all 2023 donors \$2,500 and above. To learn more about our Giving Krewes or to become part of our community of donors, visit [chnola.org/krewes](http://chnola.org/krewes).

**Krewe of 1955**

**Donors whose cumulative giving in 2023 was \$100,000+**

**\$1,000,000 - \$2,000,000**

- Joy & Boysie Bollinger
- Jessica Brandt
- Hogs for the Cause
- Kids Join The Fight
- 41st Annual Sugarplum Ball

**\$500,000 - \$999,999**

- Fore!Kids Foundation
- Patrick F. Taylor Foundation
- The Family of Fran Villere

**\$250,000 - \$499,999**

- Al Copeland Foundation
- Damon J Batiste Family Office
- Estate of Lois Zeringue\*
- Gallo Mechanical
- Ronald McDonald House Charities
- Walmart & Sam's Club

**\$100,000 - \$249,999**

- All Star Foundation
- Audacy New Orleans
- Audubon Nature Institute & Boo at the Zoo
- Chick-fil-A New Orleans
- Child's Play Charity
- Goldring Family & Woldenberg Foundations
- Greater New Orleans Foundation
- Harry T Howard, III Foundation
- Hyundai Hope on Wheels
- LEMOINE
- Leo W Seal, Jr Charitable Trust
- Louisiana Office of Tourism
- Marriott International
- Methodist Health System Foundation
- Norma M Weiblen Charitable Endowment Fund

- Smallpage Family Foundation
- Spirit of Children
- Turn Services Golf Tournament

**Krewe of Extraordinary**

**Donors whose cumulative giving was between \$50,000 and \$99,999 in 2023.**

**\$50,000-\$99,999**

- Bella Bowman Foundation
- Bernhard
- Coca-Cola Bottling Company United
- Costco Wholesale
- In Memory of Rebecca Claire Fakier
- Love's Travel Stops
- Martha & Gary Solomon
- Take 5 Oil Change
- The McDonnell Group

**Krewe of Champions**

**Donors whose cumulative giving was between \$25,000 and \$49,999 in 2023.**

**\$25,000-\$49,999**

- b1BANK
- Bryan Automotive
- Patricia & Richard Corales, MD
- Cathy & Dana DeGeorge
- EPIC Systems Corporation
- Estate of Wilson Breaux, Jr\*
- Extra Life
- First Horizon
- French Market Corporation
- Gustaf W. McIlhenny Family Foundation
- Hartt's Exxon Chili Cookoff
- Italian American Fishing Rodeo
- KGLA Radiothon
- Krewe of Tucks
- Leaman Family Fund
- Lillibridge Healthcare Services
- Louisiana Healthcare Connections
- LSU Health Foundation New Orleans

**Napoleon Cypress Company\***

- New Orleans Ernest N Morial Convention Center
- Marye & John Nickens IV
- Panda Restaurant Group
- Margaret & Esmond Phelps, II
- Physicians Group Laboratories
- Ray & Jessica Brandt Family Foundation
- Ray Brandt Auto Group
- Estate of Margaret Rider\*
- Saucony Run for Good Children's Program
- The Fidelis Foundation & Mary Beth & Elder Brown, III & Robert "Beau" William Brown
- Tulane University Wavethon

**Krewe of Hope**

**Donors whose cumulative giving was between \$10,000 and \$24,999 in 2023.**

**\$10,000-\$24,999**

- Acadian Companies & The Zuschlag Family Foundation
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- Amy's Art Cart
- Asher Pinsky Memorial Fund
- Aucoin Hart Family Foundation
- Baker Donelson
- Barrois Welding Services
- BofA Securities
- Stephanie & Chris Barrett
- Beau Box Commercial Real Estate
- Community Foundation of Acadiana
- Convergint Technologies
- Crescent Bank
- Dash's Dream Fund
- Deloitte
- Delta Fraternity Wild Game Dinner
- DonahueFavret Contractors
- ED&F Man
- Entergy







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 Michelle & Kirby Stumpf  
 Tulane University  
 Elaine & Richard Zuschlag

**Krewe of Healing**

**Donors whose cumulative giving was between \$5,000 and \$9,999 in 2023.**

**\$5,000-\$9,999**

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**Krewe of Joy**

**Donors whose cumulative giving was between \$2,500 and \$4,999 in 2023.**

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Jessica Zagory, MD & David Yu, MD

\*Signifies an estate gift



## Jamie Taylor

### Queen of the Krewe or Wonder



It's no wonder Jamie Taylor has risen to regal status in just four years of life. She has so much life to give. At Children's Hospital, Jamie rules over the hematology/oncology unit, where she frequently receives chemotherapy treatments for a brain tumor that was discovered when she was two years old.

Sassy, funny, and full of spunk, Jamie leaves many to marvel at how effortlessly she battles her illness. A crown jewel of Children's Hospital, precious Jamie is our Queen of the Krewe of Wonder.

Read more inspiring stories at [chnola.org/Krewes](http://chnola.org/Krewes)



# 2023 Philanthropy by the numbers

Your support in 2023 allowed Children's Hospital New Orleans to:

Provide more than



**\$21**  
million

IN CHARITABLE CARE

Say yes to all children who need us,  
regardless of his or her family's ability to pay.



**Provide 259,000**

PRIMARY & SPECIALTY CARE VISITS

Serve patients from all **64 parishes in Louisiana, the Gulf South, and beyond**



**13,1067**

surgeries performed

Invest more than **\$16 million**  
IN VITAL COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

**Become the 1<sup>st</sup>**   
Level II Pediatric Trauma Center  
serving Greater New Orleans

Provide more than  
**14,000**  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH VISITS

Earn recognition for the third year in a row as a  
"World's Best Hospital for Pediatrics" by Newsweek



**3,000+** Appointments through our  
ThriveKids Student Wellness Program



Provide **391** helicopter  
transports

**Raise:** **\$1.5** FOR OUR  
million **Kids**  
Fund

**\$1.2** Through **Children's**  
million **Miracle Network**  
partnerships



**Record Breaking** **\$12.1 million raised**

# Join our Giving Krewes!

Members of our Giving Krewes help advance our vital mission by contributing \$1,000 or more annually to Children's Hospital New Orleans.



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

Any donor – whether an individual, family foundation, or private company – who supports Children's Hospital in any way, becomes a part of our Giving Krewes. Give to our Kids Fund, support a signature event, contribute to a service line most meaningful to you, or give in multiple ways! Our Giving Krewes are our new way to recognize and show our appreciation for our generous supporters throughout the year.

Learn more about our Krewes, giving levels and benefits at [chnola.org/krewes](https://chnola.org/krewes).







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

In proud partnership with our medical schools

