



We Treat Kids Better



PHILANTHROPIC IMPACT REPORT PRESENTED WITH GRATITUDE

The Children's Fund

SEPTEMBER 2014

Our mission at Children's Hospital Los Angeles is a simple one: We create hope and build healthier futures. But we cannot achieve this mission alone. Your contribution of unrestricted gifts through the Children's Fund supports the very foundation of our efforts—from family-centered care and expert patient treatment to surgical excellence; research and discovery; and education and training.

Your partnership and generosity enabled us to treat more than 104,000 ill and injured children this past year. On behalf of all these children and their families, we thank you for your meaningful support.

The Best Place for Children



Children's Hospital Los Angeles is ranked the best pediatric medical center on the West Coast and fifth in the nation on the 2014-15 U.S. News & World Report Honor Roll of children's hospitals.



CHLA is one of just 13 children's hospitals in the nation to be designated a "Top Hospital" for 2013 by The Leapfrog Group.



Since 2008, the hospital has achieved Magnet Recognition from the American Nurses Credentialing Center—an honor held by only 6.6 percent of hospitals.



Sophie Gareau with her son, Auguste

A Chance for Deaf Children to Hear

Auguste Majkowski is a lively and energetic 3-year-old who loves fire trucks. But the young boy has never heard the shrill sound of a siren. He was born deaf.

Auguste, though, has a chance to hear, thanks to a pioneering clinical trial at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and the University of Southern California. The groundbreaking trial is testing the use of an auditory brain stem implant (ABI), a prosthetic hearing device that stimulates neurons directly at the human brain stem, bypassing the inner ear and hearing nerve entirely.

"Auditory brain stem implants actually bring sound waves from the outside directly into the brain itself," explains Mark Krieger, MD, chief of the Division of Neurosurgery and the Billy and Audrey Wilder Endowed Chair in Neurosurgery at Children's Hospital.

In May, Krieger was part of a team of surgeons who implanted the ABI in Auguste—the trial's first patient. The Majkowski family traveled to CHLA from their home in Montreal to participate.

The five-year trial, funded by the National Institutes of Health, is the first of its kind in the world, focused exclusively on the study of pediatric ABIs on children who were born deaf and have missing or incomplete cochlear nerves.

More than a month after his surgery, Auguste's new implant was "turned on," and audiologists were

encouraged by the boy's initial responses. How well will he hear? That will take more time to answer. The family is back home and will return periodically over the next three years for observation and testing.

Meanwhile, the trial is ongoing. The plan is to implant the device in 10 patients to test its safety and effectiveness. If successful, these revolutionary implants may give congenitally deaf children the chance for a future filled with the sounds of waves crashing on the beach, cheers of the crowd at a football game and voices of their loved ones.

Conducting leading-edge research is a core value at Children's Hospital. Your support allows our physician-researchers to perform innovative studies that may not otherwise receive funding. Thank you for your dedication to helping us make discoveries that often lead to better, more effective treatments for future generations.



Auguste with dad Christophe Majkowski and mom Sophie Gareau



Baby Joshua with his mother, Michelle

A Living Gift

In August 2013, Children's Hospital celebrated its 100th living donor transplant surgery. The recipient was a baby boy named Joshua, born with jaundice and in desperate need of a new liver.

When a family friend, Trinity, discovered she was a perfect match for Joshua, she did not hesitate to donate a portion of her adult liver to the baby boy. Joshua's mom, Michelle, called her friend a "guardian angel."

The lifesaving surgery, performed by Yuri Genyk, MD, almost immediately transformed the baby's skin from jaundiced yellow to healthy pink. Other than avoiding contact sports and taking medicine to support his new organ, Joshua can look forward to a normal life through childhood and beyond.

Children's Hospital continues to be a leader in living donor transplants and is committed to expanding research and building healthier futures for more children like Joshua.

Empowering Families to Fight Obesity

The Diabetes and Obesity program at The Saban Research Institute of Children's Hospital Los Angeles is spearheading a major multidisciplinary effort to stem the rising tide of obesity and diabetes in children and teens.

Leading-edge laboratory research is playing a key role, but that's just the beginning. "We don't want to just study obesity and not take care of it," says Steven Mittelman, MD, PhD, the program's director. "We have an epidemic we need to deal with."

- To help kids now, the program recently launched the EMPOWER (Energy Management for Personalized Weight Reduction) Weight Management Clinic for overweight or obese children and teens. What makes the clinic unique is its comprehensive and highly personalized approach, with a team of specialists—a physician, dietitian, psychologist and physical therapist—all working together to create a customized care plan for each patient and family.
- The program is empowering families outside the hospital's walls, too, through a pilot initiative with the New Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in South Los Angeles. The innovative project is bringing CHLA's successful, evidence-based



Steven Mittelman, MD, PhD



Hospital staff at the CHLA farmers market

Kids N Fitness© program to church members, as well as providing health needs assessments, reaching out to local community clinics and working with church leaders to promote healthy lifestyle changes within the congregation.

- Even closer to home, a new CHLA farmers market was introduced in January 2014. The market, which features local fruits, vegetables, yogurt, juice and other healthy offerings, is held every Wednesday in The Joyce and Stanley Black and Family Healing and Meditation Garden and is open exclusively to CHLA staff and patient families. "We are one of the very few children's hospitals offering a farmers market as part of our commitment to improving the health and wellness of children," says Brent Polk, MD, director of The Saban Research Institute.

"The key to our program is this holistic approach," Mittelman says of the Diabetes and Obesity program. "By working together and attacking the problem of obesity from every possible angle, we can make a difference."

Such creative and comprehensive approaches to battling ongoing health issues are made possible by donors like you who support the dedicated physician-scientists at Children's Hospital.

Growing Our Care

From opening outpatient care centers to investing in new technology, Children's Hospital Los Angeles has been busy expanding its services—both inside and outside our main hospital campus. Thanks to donors who give unrestricted funds, CHLA is able to find new ways to meet the greatest needs of children and families in our local communities.

In March 2014, CHLA celebrated the hospital's arrival on the Westside with the grand opening of its new outpatient care center in Santa Monica. The center is staffed by 10 physicians who are Board-certified in seven specialties and subspecialties, providing care in hematology-oncology, medical genetics, neurology, orthopaedics, plastic and maxillofacial surgery and urology.

The Santa Monica facility is the fourth outpatient care center the hospital has opened since 2010, joining those in Arcadia, Valencia and Torrance.

"We want to share our level of care with all the families of Los Angeles," says Richard D. Cordova, FACHE, president and CEO of Children's Hospital Los Angeles. "When parents tell me they'll go any distance to get the best care for their kids, I tell them that they don't have to go very far to get care from CHLA."



CHLA's new outpatient center in Santa Monica



Britney Spears with a patient during art therapy

The Art of Healing

"What does it feel like to be away from home?" That was the question the registered arts therapists posed to some young patients at Children's Hospital on March 11, 2014. They had a very special assistant for their art project that day: Britney Spears.

The singer and pop icon worked alongside the patients to create a collage, helping them trace outlines of their hands and sort through magazines for images that reminded them of home.

One teen girl, Bianca, found pictures of corn, green trees and families, which reminded her of grilling corn on the cob in the backyard with her own family. Spears, meanwhile, chose a photo of a crawfish—her favorite food—and images of a butterfly and happy children, which represented her two sons. The group titled its collage "Happiness."

The special art session was part of the hospital's Mark Taper-Johnny Mercer Artists Program, which brings local artists, performers and teachers together with registered and certified expressive arts therapists as a way to treat the whole child. The program's art and music sessions help patients explore their thoughts and feelings, alleviate anxiety and build creative coping skills.

Expressive arts therapists are an integral part of CHLA's holistic treatment teams. In fact, any clinician can prescribe art, music or dance/movement therapy with the touch of a button in a patient's electronic medical chart.

Because the cost of these therapies is not reimbursed by insurance, the program relies on philanthropy to thrive. Donors like you are helping to introduce the healing power of art, music and poetry to thousands of children and teens coping with illness and injury.

How Ava Battled Lymphoma

When Gina Rich noticed that her daughter, Ava, had a bump on her head, she assumed that the 8-year-old had just been knocked around while playing with her brother. But tests revealed the unthinkable: Ava had lymphoma.

"These were words no parent should hear," says her mother. "I honestly felt like the results were a mistake. Ava was healthy and strong."

Gina and her husband, Todd, began searching for the best hospital to care for their daughter. One day before Ava's 9th birthday, they met with Ilanit Brook, MD, in the Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Diseases at Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

"After meeting with Dr. Brook, I knew Ava was in good hands," says Gina.

On March 27, 2013, Ava underwent surgery and was given a small dose of chemotherapy. Soon after, she was admitted to CHLA for her first full dose of chemotherapy. The family spent the entire summer in and out of the hospital, while Ava endured more chemotherapy, multiple surgeries and hair loss, in addition to using a wheelchair and taking countless medications. As tough as it was on Ava, who had always been a highly social and energetic girl, she didn't complain.

"We didn't understand what a cancer patient had to go through to get well again," Gina says. "We learned to take it one day at a time."

On Jan. 3, 2014, Ava completed the majority of her treatment and is currently in maintenance.

"There were so many times when I thought, 'How will Ava get through all these obstacles?'" Gina recalls. "I am so very proud of her. Thank you, Children's Hospital Los Angeles!"



Ava at CHLA



CHLA staff with Max

Meet 'Max,' the Red Bear

That giant red bear that sits in front of Children's Hospital Los Angeles was a Christmas present in 2013 from world-renowned Mexican sculptor José Sacal. The bear reflects a child's emotional journey at the hospital, and it inspired a spirited naming contest, with more than 300 entries from families, patients and staff members.

The winning name, "Max," was submitted by Jenissa Hernandez, whose son was treated at CHLA. The name symbolizes the "MAXimum" amount of care the hospital provides to patients and families. The next time you're at CHLA, come by and say hello to Max!

Thank You

Every day, the physicians, researchers and nurses at Children's Hospital Los Angeles work to make miracles happen for some of the most seriously ill and injured children in our community and beyond. We could not do this without unrestricted donations from supporters like you, who help us make a difference in the lives of thousands of children and families. We are deeply grateful for your continued partnership as we work to create hope and build healthier futures. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to children.

