

PROMISE

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YEARS

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Caregiving
in action

PG. 3

Reflecting
on our future

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Generosity
heals

PG. 22

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Our not-for-profit organizations encompasses nine companies - a medical center, two surgery centers, a physician network, home health services and a health plan. It also includes the Child Study Center, Cook Children's Health Services Inc. and Cook Children's Health Foundation.

Cook Children's Medical Center is fully accredited by The Joint Commission and is a member of the Children's Hospital Association, Children's Hospital Association of Texas and Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

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COVER STORY

Reflecting for our future
– Rick W. Merrill

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Warm regards

FROM GRANT HARRIS

Generosity can be found in so much of what we celebrated this past year, our centennial year. It's the foundation that Cook Children's was built on, and also serves as our guiding light for the next 100 years. And as we look forward to our future, we know that it won't be possible without you. Your support is how we will continue to provide family-centered and leading-edge care for our patients for years to come.

As the health care environment continues to change and we make plans for the unknown, we also will be looking to you, our donors. We trust you will help us as we continuously pioneer new treatments for our patients and work tirelessly to fulfill our Promise to improve the health of every child in our region.

In this issue, you will meet Justin Smith, M.D., one of our primary care physicians who is pushing not just his office, but our entire health care system toward the future, and the focus on making care more convenient.

We also share the inspirational story of the Brashear family and their efforts to help fund a cure for a devastating disease that took the life of their daughter, and the Ramsey family, who knows that healing is not done through medicine alone.

Cook Children's President and CEO Rick W. Merrill shares his vision for the future, by way of the past. He explains how the support of our community continues to help kids in crisis, and credits not just our staff, but also donors for the creative approaches we're taking to find solutions to health care issues.

On behalf of the entire Cook Children's family, thank you for believing in our Promise and for supporting our efforts to deliver the best care possible to our patients. Though we are unable to predict what lies ahead, our roots, deeply planted in generosity, tell us that this great community continues to invest in what matters most, our children.

With a grateful heart,

Senior Vice President/Chief Development Officer
Cook Children's Health Foundation



Caregiving in action

When Justin Smith, M.D., was just 10 years old, he told his fourth-grade teacher that he wanted to be a pediatrician. Through the years, the future Dr. Smith changed his desires to being a primary care physician, a radiologist and various other specialties. But his interest was always in medicine and his desire to help people has never changed.

After attending Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas, Dr. Smith graduated with a medical degree from UT Southwestern in Dallas and completed his residency at Texas Children's in Houston. He had every intention of becoming a pediatric oncologist. He was set to begin a chief residency at Texas Children's when he received a call from his childhood pediatrician's office in Abilene. The doctor was retiring and they wanted him to take over the practice.

Though he wasn't convinced he wanted to trade his new dream of pediatric oncology for his initial dream he had way back in fourth grade, he went to Abilene for the interview. He instantly connected with how this office cared for patients, from birth to adulthood, and every diagnosis along the way.

He accepted the position and began his career in Abilene, where he often consulted with specialists at Cook Children's. When his family decided to move to the Fort Worth area, Dr. Smith said the next step in his career was obvious. He wanted to work at Cook Children's.

Dr. Smith, also known as 'The Doc Smitty,' admits that it was his professional relationships that initially drew him to Cook Children's.

"But now, I love being at a place that attracts the highest quality physicians, people who are experts in the field," said Dr. Smith. "Because we are not a teaching hospital or research institution, they can remain laser-focused on patient care, something that is very important to me."

Early in his career, Dr. Smith observed that going to the pediatrician hadn't changed much since he was a child. It was his desire to change that and bring some modern conveniences to his families. After all, times had changed and convenience is now critical to families, especially when it comes to health care. With that in mind, his Cook Children's primary care office in Trophy Club operates daily with three goals in mind: efficiency, empathy and engagement.

Efficiency is always a work in progress. Dr. Smith's office strives to have patients check in and leave within 30 minutes for a sick visit, and within an hour for a well visit.

Empathy can go a long way with a parent of a sick child. The entire office staff, from check-in to check-out, all make a point to say, “I am so sorry your child is sick today.”

Even though Dr. Smith may see 10 ear infections a day, he remembers his own child’s first ear infection, and how miserable that was for him as a parent.

Engagement allows his patient families to feel connected and heard. In the office, the focus of the visit is the patient and developing a relationship with the parent. It’s not the computer, although it is there to help. As an avid user of social media, new patients can learn about Dr. Smith beforehand, have some sense of who he is, his ideas about vaccinations, etc.

For Dr. Smith, engagement also means making himself accessible to parents between office visits. Parents can direct message him through Cook Children’s MyChart app and also have the option of a virtual visit. After the visit, he makes sure families are equipped with the information they need about the diagnosis and treatment.

With so many sources of misinformation in the world, it



was important to Dr. Smith that he and Cook Children’s be a voice of truth and reason, and to do so in the least invasive way. Several years ago, he began writing articles for Cook Children’s online newsroom, checkupnewsroom.com, and answering questions on Cook Children’s Facebook and Instagram pages. He now officially serves as Cook Children’s Medical Advisor for Digital Health.

In addition to his primary care practice and his presence on Cook Children’s social media accounts, Dr. Smith is helping to bring innovative technology to patient families across the system. He helped develop and now oversees our virtual lactation program, which allows breastfeeding moms to get tips and advice on feeding their baby without even leaving the house. Helping with those projects is a key part of what keeps him happy, and motivates him to keep innovating on behalf of his patient families.

No doubt, 10-year-old Dr. Smith is as proud as we are of the career path he chose and for everything he has done to enhance the patient experience for our Cook Children’s families.

*“The coolest thing about being a pediatrician is the relationship that you develop over time with the family. It goes from talking about formula and dirty diapers to when they’re 2 or 3 and you really start **developing a relationship with the family**. I love that because I love seeing them develop over time and become their own person.”*

-Justin Smith, M.D.



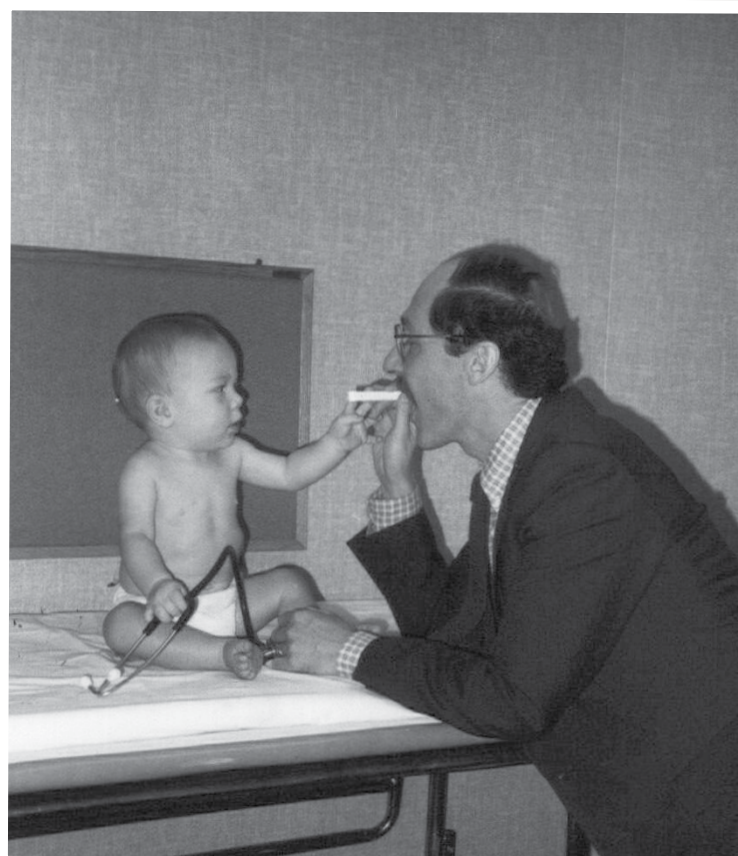
Then and now

A lot has changed in health care over the past 100 years, including trips to the doctor's office. The biggest factor being convenience for our patient families, as everyone's lives seem to be much busier and hectic these days.

Cook Children's virtual medicine program has multiple offerings for patient families all with one thing in mind: convenience. These include:

- Inpatient and outpatient specialty care for patient families who may not be close to our medical center.
- A school nurse program that connects the child, nurse and parent to a Cook Children's nurse practitioner for more efficient diagnosis and treatment plans.
- A virtual lactation program that allows new moms to receive feeding advice in the comfort of their own home.

Through the use of specialized technology and privacy-compliant software, getting care for your child has never been easier.





Reflecting for our future

WITH PRESIDENT AND CEO RICK W. MERRILL

At Cook Children's, the phrase "hindsight is 20/20," takes on a special meaning. When we look to our past, what we see are deliberate, bold steps that have led to a profound impact on millions of children over the last century.

As President and CEO, Rick W. Merrill speaks with pride about what he calls the "hallmark of Cook Children's." He shares, "What I am most proud of is our culture, which has been a part of our DNA long before I arrived. Everyone is in this together for one purpose and that is to care for our patients with excellence and compassion. I am immensely proud of our caregivers and staff. Every day they work together with a singleness of mind to do what's best for our patients and families."

That level of selfless dedication by the entire Cook Children's family, from employees to donors to community leaders, is the solid ground that we have built upon.

Upon arriving in Fort Worth, he received invaluable advice from former Mayor Mike Moncrief, "There's a breadth of knowledge about Cook Children's but not a lot of depth of knowledge."

Merrill heeded that advice and seized the opportunity to tell our story. He has remained highly engaged at the

community, state, national and local levels to spread that knowledge, but also to better understand how

Cook Children's could be at the forefront of health care solutions.

For the last 10 years, Cook Children's has been diligently addressing top line pediatric health issues identified by our Community-wide Children's Health Assessment & Planning Survey (CCHAPS): obesity, abuse, asthma, mental health, dental health, injury prevention and access to care. And we have no plans to let up on that commitment.

Merrill explains, "A recent example is asthma being addressed through our Healthy Homes initiative. A Cook Children's team will go to the homes of families with kids who have repeated asthma-related emergency department (ED) visits to look for asthma triggers, like dust mites, pet dander, mattresses or carpet in need of replacement, etc., and provide the resources needed to remediate such triggers. Our pilot of approximately 80 families demonstrated a 78 percent reduction in ED asthma visits. That success shows we can make a difference in the area of asthma, which is a credit to the work of our staff and the support of our foundation's donors who fund this effort."

This is but one example of the progress that can be made when we take an innovative or creative approach to finding solutions for these health issues. Whether

it's expanding access to care and services through our neighborhood clinics, educating parents about drowning

prevention or partnering with local government to address adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), which dramatically impact a child's development, Merrill praises the worthwhile and ongoing work Cook Children's is doing directly in our communities.

He adds, "On the clinical side, the innovative programs

What I am most proud of is our culture, which has been a part of our DNA long before I arrived. Everyone is in this together for one purpose and that is to care for our patients with excellence and compassion.

-Rick W. Merrill

that our physicians are developing to treat and cure very specific and rare diagnoses has been instrumental in putting and keeping us on the national and international stage. It takes substantial time and resources to develop these programs and that is what we're able to offer through our Endowed Chair program, a program that demonstrates Cook Children's commitment to research and technology. Our Endowed Chair physicians need dedicated time, freedom and research to advance their programs from concept to fruition. For proof, you need look no further than our hyperinsulinism center, which was the second such program in the entire U.S."

As we look toward the future, Merrill admits, "I wish I had a crystal ball to see all that lies ahead because there are so many unknowns on the horizon. While we may not have all the answers, I firmly believe we can successfully face whatever the future holds as long as we remain focused on providing the right access to care for children,

whether it's using predictive analytics to place resources in select communities, adding more physical clinics, or expanding telemedicine services. No one knows for sure how technology will shape access and care, but I do know that Cook Children's will play a key role in pioneering solutions."

Fortunately, as chair of the Children's Hospital Association, Merrill may have invaluable insights to help guide us by looking outward first. He explains, "Children's hospitals across the country are in a precarious spot right now because of the changes to Medicaid and shrinking government reimbursements. Cook Children's will continue to weather any storms in front of us thanks to the enviable support of our donors and this community."

One thing is certain and that's a "Promise." Merrill concludes, "Ultimately, we will always remain true to our Promise to improve the health of all children and it will guide every decision that we make. With your support, we will remain a cornerstone of our community. So when something unexpected arises for a family, as a premier children's hospital, Cook Children's will continue to be here for each and every child that needs us."





Program *spotlight*

After oil was discovered on Matilda Nail Cook’s ranch, she made it her mission to ensure that the future W. I. Cook Memorial Hospital would be taken care of for generations to come. Once the W. I. Cook Endowment was established in the early 1900s, Cook Children’s was able to become the nationally recognized health care system we are today.

By creating the W. I. Cook Endowment, Mrs. Cook created a legacy that will live on forever. She will always be a part of Cook Children’s. Many Cook Children’s families can relate to Mrs. Cook’s desire to give back to Cook Children’s and have followed in her footsteps.

When an organization or individual decides to create an endowment, it’s a way to consistently give back to an organization in perpetuity, forever creating a legacy.

In an endowment contribution, the funds donated are never spent. Instead, the gift is conservatively invested and the interest the funds earn annually are used to support service programs. Endowment dollars are vital because they generate income. A portion of that income is available year-after-year to sustain the highest quality of patient care, education and research, while the rest of the income is re-invested to build the fund. Endowments at Cook Children’s provide earnings to a wide variety of areas, such as Child Life, Pastoral Care, the Hematology and Oncology Center, uncompensated care, Nursing Research, Behavioral Health, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and more.

One such example is the endowment created by W. Paul Bowman, M.D., senior pediatric hematologist/oncologist, and his wife, Lois.

Dr. Bowman has been helping patients with cancer at Cook Children’s for more than 35 years. After a fellowship and four years as a faculty member at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, he came to Cook Children’s in 1982. He pioneered the first pediatric bone marrow transplant for acute lymphoblastic leukemia at Cook Children’s and is credited with the establishment of the Cook Children’s Life After Cancer Program.



But providing direct care for his patients wasn’t enough for Dr. Bowman or for his wife. They chose to further support patients with leukemia through their own endowment, The Lois and W. Paul Bowman, M.D., Leukemia Endowment. It’s their goal to provide Cook Children’s cancer patients with high-quality, family-centered care, as well as access to leading-edge therapy and research.

“Caring for kids who have been affected by leukemia has been my life’s work,” he said. “Lois and I wanted to establish something that would become a legacy and will help patients with leukemia for years to come. The endowment fund also has become another way for patient families to give back to Cook Children’s.”

We are thankful for Mrs. Cook, Dr. Bowman and his wife, Lois, and the numerous others who have chosen to create endowments for Cook Children’s. Their generous support will sustain our growing community and will impact future patients and their families.



A day of music, storytelling and *healing*

Since 2014, **New Country 96.3 KSCS** has partnered with Cook Children’s and Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals for its annual fundraising initiative, the KSCS Cook Children’s Radiothon. Championed by Hawkeye, the morning host of *Hawkeye in the Morning*, this event is dedicated to sharing miracle stories all day long that would not be possible without the support of our community.

Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals radiothon program helps raise funds for children’s hospitals around the United States and Canada. The majority of the hospitals work with local radio stations to share patient stories and bring awareness to their listeners.

Throughout the day, disc jockeys Hawkeye, Connected K, Michelle and AI share facts about our health care system, engage in fun DJ banter and invite children and their families to tell their own heart-warming stories. And this year, sister Cumulus stations Hot 93.3 and WBAP 820 AM have joined with New Country 96.3 KSCS to raise awareness and much needed funds for Cook Children’s.

KSCS dedicates this full day of broadcasting to ask listeners for generous donations to help Cook Children’s patient families who have been affected by illness, disease and injury.

Hawkeye’s commitment to Cook Children’s patients is a big part of the event’s success. Beyond recognizing them on the airwaves, he has volunteered at Camp Sanguinity, a Cook Children’s summer camp for hematology and oncology patients and their siblings.

“We have the privilege of putting on many wonderful events every year, but the KSCS Cook Children’s Radiothon is probably my favorite event,” Hawkeye

said. “Not only does it support Cook Children’s, which I believe is one of Fort Worth’s crown jewels, it also allows me to reconnect with so many wonderful people who I’ve met over the years that help make this such a special place.”

The Eubank family also knows the impact of the radiothon. When Wendy and Dave Eubank’s daughter, Karsyn, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, their lives were changed. The Eubanks were staying at the medical center for long periods of time and some days were harder than others.

Karsyn has participated in a few radiothons over the years, including the inaugural event in 2014. She and her family were invited to share their story on the air and inspire listeners to give. Her family agrees that those moments with Hawkeye and the rest of the KSCS team brought joy during tough times.

“I feel the radiothon is a way to connect with people and it gives families the opportunity to tell their stories,” Wendy said. “Awareness is the only way we will ever find a cure for the kiddos who are being interviewed. The momma driving to work listening to 96.3 who has a blonde-headed, blue-eyed little girl just like me can hear my voice. We are no different than the person on the other side of the radio.”



Karsyn being interviewed by Michelle and Hawkeye during the live broadcast.



Look for the **miracle balloon** in your neighborhood and know all of the funds raised help children in our community.

UPCOMING MIRACLE BALLOON CAMPAIGNS AND EVENTS:

CU4KIDS	NOV. 1-DEC. 31
RE/MAX HOLIDAY HONOR CARD	NOV. 1-DEC. 31
ACE HARDWARE ROUNDUP	NOV. 23-DEC. 24
INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PANCAKES	FEB. 1-27

To learn how you can support Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals, visit cookchildrenspromise.org.

New program honors patients with happy memories



Cystic Fibrosis wreaked havoc on Madison Ramsey's body since she was born. While she had been in and out of the hospital more times than anyone could count, the vibrant, creative and joyful teen had a way of making the best out of her situation. Even when mucus buildup in her lungs made it nearly impossible for her to breathe, Madison did her best to stay positive.

Madison had an especially close bond with Ralph, one of the dogs in Cook Children's Sit...Stay...PLAY facility dog program.

"When Madison was in the hospital, she always looked forward to seeing Ralph," remarked Paula Ramsey, Madison's mother. "When no one else could get her out of bed, Ralph could. Sometimes, that was the only way to get her to smile."

In 2015, Madison received difficult news. Her lung function had dropped to 17 percent and being placed on oxygen was the only thing keeping the teen alive. Madison needed a double lung transplant.

"It took me a while to accept the fact that if I did not do this, I would surely die," Madison posted on Instagram. "I would never leave a legacy, never get to live, and leave my mark on the world."

So she added her name to the waiting list for a lung transplant. She received her new lungs in the summer of 2015. Her parents say the lungs gave them one 'magical' year. She was able to breathe again. Though she was still in and out of the hospital, her health was improving. Madison took senior pictures and even walked the stage at her high school graduation.

But soon, life would throw another curve ball.

Madison developed post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorder (PTLD), a rare condition caused by her lung transplant. She had to undergo chemotherapy. Later, a mass developed in her chest. It punctured a lung and caused it to collapse. She had become so weak that she had to learn how to walk again.

"There were times when she was so sick, it took two people to sit her up," said Paula. "Ralph was instrumental in getting her through those days. She even had a picture of him in her hospital room."

At just 19 years old, Madison passed away. In lieu of flowers, her family asked friends and family to donate to Cook Children's Sit...Stay...PLAY program. "Madison found great comfort in the therapy dogs. We wanted to honor her memory by giving back to the program that meant so much to her," explained Madison's father, Jeff.

The Ramseys met with Kizzy Marco, coordinator of Sit...Stay...PLAY, and decided how to best use the \$16,000 they raised. They purchased a camera so patients could have high-quality photos taken with the therapy dogs. They also decided to print photos of patients who were near the end of life on large canvases for their families to keep forever, such as the Coonrods whose daughter Bel had passed away after a long fight with cancer.

Bel loved Ralph.

"She would have taken him home if she could have. She loved him so much," Bel's mom, Vicki, said laughing. "The two just had a weird connection. They could sit there for

hours and be happy in each other's presence." The canvas of Bel and Ralph now hangs in Bel's little sister Clar's room. When it arrived just weeks after Bel had passed away, Clar was ecstatic to see it, and insisted it stay with her.

"We're really thankful to the family who donated the camera and canvases for other families," said Vicki. "It is a reminder that we were in the hospital, but it is a reminder that there were happy times in the hospital."

For Madison's family, stories like this one help their daughter's memory live on through others. "We know the impact the therapy dogs have on families. We've seen the pain literally fade when Ralph or one of the other dogs was visiting our child," said Jeff. "We know Madison is so happy to have her legacy live on this way."

Kizzy, Ralph's handler, never dreamed this program would touch people's lives in such a deep and lasting way.

"I watched Madison and Ralph become best friends over the course of several years, through many highs and lows," Kizzy said. "To have a small role in carrying on her legacy is a true honor, and to be able to give families something to honor their children at such a difficult time is so special. Our program is indebted to Madison and her family."

The Sit...Stay...PLAY program at Cook Children's is entirely funded by the generous contributions from community members; no fees are charged to our patients and families.

You can visit cookchildrenspromise.org/donate to support this program.



Clar holds the treasured canvas of her sister, Bel, with Ralph.

Madison found great comfort in the therapy dogs. We wanted to honor her memory by giving back to the program that meant so much to her.

-Jeff, Madison's father



Partners in our PROMISE

We strive to care for the entire family, not just the patient, at Cook Children's.
While we're expected to treat illnesses, injuries and diseases, we know we must take a family's non-medical needs into consideration, as well. And because of partners like the Lowe Foundation, we are able to do just that.

The Lowe Foundation was founded in 1988 by Erma Lowe and her daughter Mary Ralph. Their goal was, and still is, to give back to women and children in the state of Texas.

For the last 20 years, the Lowe Foundation has supported many areas at Cook Children's, including our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), South Tower gardens, Sit...Stay...PLAY facility dog program and more. Their underlying goal with each area that they support is to improve the whole family's well-being at the medical center.

At Cook Children's, we focus on the details and that's something the Lowe Foundation appreciates. We know that even the tiniest detail is what could make a patient or their family's day.

Our topiaries in front of the medical center are a great example for that. If you look carefully, you'll see that these are not ordinary shrubs. Each one is trimmed to look like a story book character and animal. It's those little things that can put a big smile on a patient's face.

Jill Koss, director of Cook Children's Family Support Services and Child Life, echoed that family-centered care is vital to a child's treatment.

"Healing can happen in many ways," Jill said. "For kids, that includes playing, engaging with a dog or a clown, painting, walking through a garden or making music. These activities allow a child or youth to cope better with their illness or injury, and creates opportunities to master challenging health care experiences."



Jill explained that having a garden to see from a hospital room is beneficial to the healing process because it's visually engaging. It stimulates the senses, which can enhance feelings of well-being. That is exactly what the Lowe Foundation has helped Cook Children's achieve. Many families consider the medical center to be a warm and loving atmosphere for our patients, but it would not be possible without their support.

Clayton Maebius, trustee of the Lowe Foundation, said the Lowe Foundation is happy to come alongside Cook Children's

and continue to provide assistance for family-centered care initiatives.

"We are proud to support Cook Children's and are very thankful for their presence in Fort Worth," she said. "We hope to partner with them for many years to come."



Competing *for a cause*

*Anna Brashear left this earth entirely too early after losing a battle with acute myelogenous leukemia (AML). To carry on her legacy and help other families impacted by AML, Anna's parents, Bobby and Joanna, established the **Anna Brashear Foundation** and created a signature event focused on Anna's favorite hobby.*

Anna was a healthy and happy 8-year-old who loved gymnastics. She would practice multiple hours a week. But that all changed on Oct. 18, 2010.

After an appointment with her pediatrician due to some unusual nosebleeds, Anna and her family learned she had AML, and it was progressing very quickly. Cook Children's doctors did everything they could to fight Anna's diagnosis, but sadly, it was too far along and she passed away just 23 days later.

When Bobby and Joanna were considering options to honor Anna, the local gymnastics community reached out to propose a gymnastics meet. Anna had been in gymnastics classes since she was 4 years old.

Bobby and Joanna decided to establish a foundation for Anna, with the help of the Brashear's local gym, Denton Gymnastics Academy, and the Texas USA Gymnastics community. They

then organized the Anna Brashear Memorial Invitational, a gymnastics competition. The invitational allows gymnasts of multiple levels and skill sets to enter the competition.

While the invitational helps us all to remember Anna, Joanna reiterates the event's other objective: to help families that are going through the fight of their lives.

"We feel that no child and no family should have to go through this," Joanna said. "We know how helpless it feels, not being able to make everything better for your child. AML has such a low survival rate and is not the most common type of childhood leukemia. AML is so aggressive, and we wanted to help Cook Children's any way we could. That's why we founded the Anna Brashear Foundation and Invitational, to help by raising funds for research and treatment. We are hoping and praying that a cure or more effective treatment is just within reach."

Since its inception in 2010, the Anna Brashear Foundation has donated more than \$50,000 to Cook Children's.

Their success is a work of love and obviously, it takes a lot of teamwork. Joanna said she would encourage others who are contemplating creating community partner events to follow your heart and don't be afraid to ask for help.

"There is no way that we could handle all of this on our own. Between friends, family, our community and Cook Children's Health Foundation, they all have absolutely been wonderful with the support and insight to making these events successful," she said.





Cook Children's is blessed with many active community groups who generously support us by hosting a variety of fundraising events. We appreciate all of these enthusiastic donors and their volunteers who coordinate and staff these events.



**WE WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE AND THANK THE FOLLOWING
COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOR THEIR RECENT GIFTS:**

- Anna and Jeremiah's Lemonade Stand**
- Connor's Car Show**
- Double Eagle Charities Cook Off**
- Hi Hopes for Hyperinsulinism**
- Ivy & "Company"**
- Jr's Trail Ride and Raffle**
- Matt McKee Golf Tournament**
- Pugh Shrimp Boil**



Cook Children's was built on a foundation of generosity.

Because of your generosity

we are able to provide hope this holiday season as we care for our patients and their families. Although no day at Cook Children's is the same, you remain the reason for the miracles that take place within our walls.

Won't you stand by us as we look to our next 100 years?

If you would like to give, please visit cookchildrenspromise.org/donate





Generosity heals

*Imagine a world in which your child can't hear the sweet words you whisper or the soft lullabies you sing as they drift to sleep. It's a devastating feeling for any parent. Thanks to funding from the Oberkottter Foundation, parents of children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing now have hope through the **Go Away Delay** program.*

When Summer Harrison was told that her three-month-old son, Patton, failed his hearing test and would need hearing aids, she was heartbroken. But because her older daughter previously had been diagnosed with hearing loss, she knew exactly where to turn. Patton immediately began Listening and Spoken language (LSL) therapy at Cook Children's.

For children with hearing loss, LSL teaches them spoken language through listening. Cook Children's certified LSL specialists take a developmental approach to provide children up to 3 years old with immediate care. The therapy is most successful when the hearing loss is identified early and the child already has or is soon fitted with the appropriate hearing device.

Early introduction into LSL therapy can increase the chances of auditory brain, cognitive and language development, along with reading and writing in a child who is deaf or hard of hearing.

Thankfully, the Oberkottter Foundation realizes just how important early treatment can be for these children.

With a generous grant from the Oberkottter Foundation, Cook Children's created the Go Away Delay program to focus on families with children who are receiving LSL therapy. It helps cover the cost of treatment when insurance doesn't, like it did for Patton's family. Their insurance only

covered a certain number of speech therapy sessions, but with the funding from Go Away Delay, Patton continued receiving the therapy he needed.

The grant provides for a series of evaluations and therapy sessions, and helps qualified families, like Patton's, receive immediate funding. On a weekly basis, Cook Children's LSL Auditory-Verbal Therapist Noelle Montague sees an average of 32 kids, eight of which are recipients of the Oberkottter grant.



"The Oberkottter Foundation grant is inspiring and innovative," explained Noelle. "It gives you the peace of knowing that the kids we care for and their families will be taken care of. This is such a new and innovative program that I hope others are able to see. We are very lucky to have access to this grant."

Through the Go Away Delay program and the generosity of the Oberkottter Foundation, Patton's family was able to acquire the best outcomes for him in learning to

listen and speak by avoiding delayed treatment.

"We are so thankful for our entire team at Cook Children's and especially the ability to receive services through the grant founded through the Oberkottter Foundation," said Summer. "Our insurance only pays for a certain number of speech therapy sessions and it would not have been enough to provide Patton with the best care possible. Because of Cook Children's, our son is able to become a successful Listening and Spoken Language user."

Young philanthropist

Mattingly “Matty” Garcia’s medical journey began at Cook Children’s when she was 1 ½ years old and diagnosed with severe asthma. Doctors soon learned it was more than just asthma that was causing Matty’s breathing problems. At the age of 3, Matty became the youngest person in the world to be diagnosed with **chronic obstructive pulmonary disease** (COPD), a diagnosis typically only seen in adults.

COPD causes decreased airflow in the lungs over time, as well as inflammation of the airways that line the lung tissue. Now 9 years old, Matty has been hospitalized at Cook Children’s 35 times and Heather, her mother, remembers each one of those visits.

“At 5 years old, Matty began having spasms in her right lung, which were closing off her airway,” Heather explained. “Following that, doctors discovered her immune system was attacking her lungs.”

Matty now receives monthly antibiotic injections, under the skin in both of her arms, to help fight irritants, such as smoke and dirt which can irritate both her asthma and COPD. These injections help prevent Matty’s immune system from further attacking her lungs and she’ll need them for the rest of her life.

The Garcia family appreciates how hard Cook Children’s has worked to provide the best care for both Matty and the entire family during every hospital visit. Throughout Matty’s journey, Heather has encouraged Matty to tell her story to help give back to the place that has saved her life, again and again.

“Cook Children’s has done so much for Matty. She is happy to be able to give back and help other kids not feel alone,” said Heather.

Matty now serves as a Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals program representative. She also has served as an advocate at numerous events benefiting Cook Children’s, including UNT’s Eaglethon, TCU’s Dance Marathon (her favorite event) and Shake, Wag and Bowl. Ace Hardware also invited Matty to throw the first pitch at a Texas Rangers baseball game on behalf of Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals.

“Seeing Matty being active as a young philanthropist lets me know that we are doing something right. We are using her illness for good,” said Heather.

Matty agrees and described how her philanthropic work “helps other kids have a chance of getting better, too.”

Not knowing how they will ever be able to repay Cook Children’s, the Garcias continue to do all they can to help others. In fact, they recently hosted an event at their family business, Batter’s Cave, with proceeds benefiting Cook Children’s.

We are grateful for patients like Matty and her family who tell their Cook Children’s stories. They are an inspiration to our community.

To share your young philanthropist story, email promise@cookchildrens.org today.





Be a part of *our Promise*

*Shortly after the passing of his 11-month-old granddaughter, a grandfather finds himself overwhelmed with a very unexpected emotion ... **gratitude**. "You have all been so wonderful to us; all of you have cared so much," he shared. "We never expected a hospital to offer such a gift. How will we ever repay you?"*

While it is the goal of our doctors and caregivers to provide the best care possible, there are some lives we're not able to save and unfortunately, not all patient stories have the ending we desire. As time stands still for our families dealing with the loss of a child, Cook Children's Pastoral Care staff is there to comfort and guide them through their journey of grief.

The grandfather, who was heartbroken about his granddaughter, was also grateful for the gift our pastoral burial assistance program was able to provide.

When this family brought their baby to Cook Children's after an accidental suffocation at home, they received

comfort and support from a Cook Children's chaplain. Cook Children's is privileged to have a staff of 13 full-time, nondenominational chaplains. Each devoted individual provides compassionate care and guidance to families as they face ethical and challenging decisions.

"What are we to do?" the grandfather asked. "We have prepared for a lot in our life, we had such dreams for her, but never did we think we would have to prepare for our granddaughter's funeral. Chaplain, where do we even start?"

As unfamiliar as these questions may seem to many people, our Pastoral Care staff understands how to

assist families in difficult times like this. Although the conversations may be painful, they are never without hope.

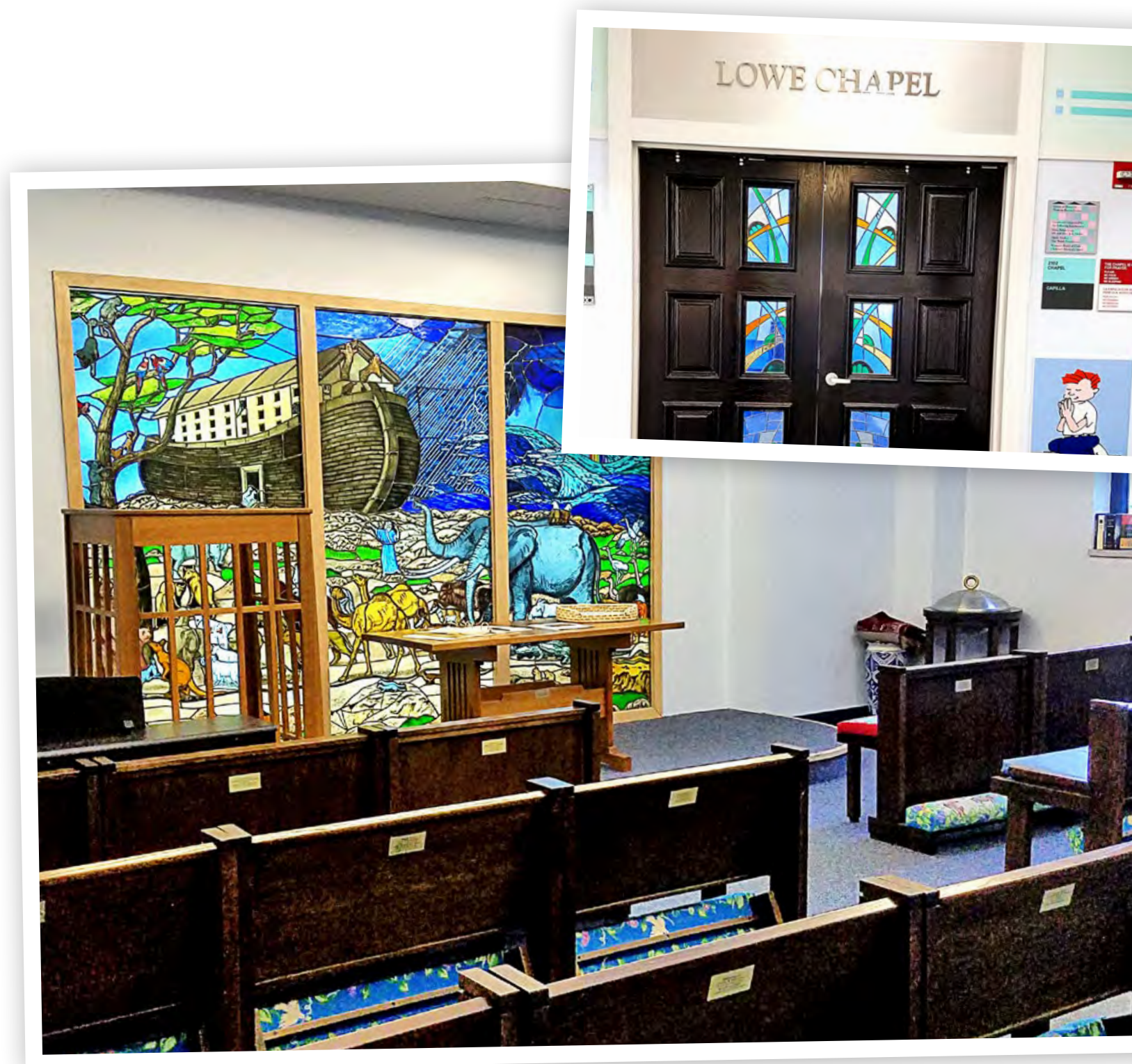
Because Cook Children's values each sacred heart beneath our blue peaks, we offer burial assistance to all families who experience death in our medical center. Through the generosity of donors like you, we offer financial assistance to every family who loses a child, helping to defray a portion of the funeral expenses.

As a family begins a long process of grieving, our chaplains provide immediate and on-going grief support for 13 months

through letters, phone calls, literature, grief groups and camps that focus primarily on bereavement.

"We hold the hands of those who are seeking safety while offering assurances to people of all faiths, or none, that each child is important and is treated with respect," said Pam Foster, director of Pastoral Care.

Since the program's inception, more than 200 families have accepted burial assistance, each gift an ongoing reminder that Cook Children's knows every life is sacred.



Noteworthy

There's a new spot to snap a selfie in Fort Worth, thanks to James Stupfel, a local resident and aspiring artist. The mural is located at the corner of 7th Avenue and West Humbolt Street on Cook Children's campus.

Stupfel spent five months working on the concept for the 50 feet by 95 feet art piece. The 17-year-old Fort Worth resident has been practicing art since he was just 3 years old. He was asked by Cook Children's to design a mural that would represent our organization's role in the community over the past 100 years. James worked with Cook Children's Youth Advisory Council-Patients Advising for Change to develop the concept. He worked closely with them to gather ideas and create something they would enjoy.

"My goal was to create a space where the patients and the community at large could self-reflect and see themselves in the mural," said James. "There are 100 things in the mural which represent Cook Children's 100 years. It's really a representation of 100 dreams, so to speak."

The public is invited to stop by and take a photo with the mural.

*We encourage everyone to use **#cook100years** when sharing.*



What's new at Cook Children's?

The latest news and updates from around Cook Children's Health Care System.



A chance at predicting the future

If you or a family member have battled cancer, you may wonder if your children or future children also have an increased risk of being diagnosed. At Cook Children's Hematology and Oncology Center, we now have a Genetic Oncology Clinic to offer care and counseling to children and their families with a genetic predisposition to cancer.

This program is one of only a few genetic oncology clinics in the U.S. Our approach focuses on a collaboration among pediatric oncologists, geneticists and genetic counselors, with the goal of providing education,

guidance, therapy and routine cancer surveillance studies when indicated for children with a predisposition to cancer.

Services offered through this new program include education on cancer genetics and testing, providing assistance to families with cancer screening, reviews of cancer history with family to identify relatives with potential risk, access and/or enrollment in ongoing clinical research and genetic counseling/support.

Saying namaste to pain

As part of our expanding Pain Management program and its focus on providing alternative pain-control methods, yoga is now being offered to our patients who suffer from chronic pain. The benefits of yoga expand beyond just pain management – it can help with anxiety, grief, depression, sleep disorders and post-traumatic stress.

Our dedicated yoga instructor travels throughout the medical center daily to work specifically with our patients who may benefit from this therapy. Cook Children's is one of a few children's hospitals in the U.S. providing a comprehensive pediatric pain management program that combines the use of both medication and alternative medicine.



Expanding our access to care

As the population in Texas grows, so does the footprint of Cook Children's. From North Denton to the newly developed Walsh Ranch in West Fort Worth and all the way to Lubbock, Cook Children's is working hard to uphold our Promise to improve the life of every child in our region.

Through a new partnership, Cook Children's and Covenant Children's will provide expert cardiac care for the children of West Texas and New Mexico. Cook Children's cardiothoracic team works with the Covenant Children's team in Lubbock on a regular basis to help consult, diagnose and treat children with congenital heart defects. This helps the patients stay as close to home as possible.

Beginning in 2019, Cook Children's will have a presence in two locations in the growing area of North Denton county. A



primary care office in the Town of Prosper is scheduled to open in early 2019, and a Cook Children's North Campus location, also in Prosper, is scheduled to open in late 2019. The north campus location will first offer primary and urgent care, and then in the spring of 2020, will expand to include an ambulatory surgery center, medical office building and outpatient imaging.

Also in late 2019, Cook Children's will open a facility in the newly developed Walsh Ranch, located just 12 miles from downtown Fort Worth. This will offer patient families primary, urgent and specialty care, all under one roof.

These innovative new additions to our system will help provide the most efficient care possible for children, and keep us on the forefront of quality pediatric health care delivery.

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KNOWING THAT EVERY CHILD'S LIFE IS SACRED, IT IS THE PROMISE OF
COOK CHILDREN'S TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF EVERY CHILD IN OUR REGION THROUGH
THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF ILLNESS, DISEASE AND INJURY.

Honor Roll OF GIVING

THE GENEROSITY AND COMPASSION OF THESE DONATIONS HAVE HELPED ENHANCE
THE LIVES OF CHILDREN WHO RELY UPON COOK CHILDREN'S FOR CARE.

July 1 - Sept. 30, 2018



HONOR & TRIBUTE

ARE GIFTS GIVEN TO EXPRESS JOY OR GRATITUDE.

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MEMORIALS

ARE GIFTS GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY.

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THE PETER PAN AND FOREVER YOUNG BIRTHDAY CLUBS

ARE FOR KIDS AND TEENS WHO ASK PARTY GUESTS TO DONATE TO
COOK CHILDREN'S INSTEAD OF GIVING THEM BIRTHDAY PRESENTS.

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FOREVER YOUNG BIRTHDAY CLUB

July 1 - Sep. 30, 2018

1918 **100** YEARS 2018

CookChildren's
You're the 1 in our 100!



14TH ANNUAL PICKIN' FOR PREEMIES BENEFIT CONCERT

CookChildren's

You played a vital role in raising more than \$362,000 for the babies who need it most.

Thank you for an incredible evening of country music in support of Cook Children's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit!



YOUR GENEROSITY HELPS MAKE WISHES COME TRUE

If you're looking to fulfill an immediate need of our patient families, please consider contributing to our wish list.

There are two ways to give:

- Purchase and donate an item on the list.
- Make a monetary contribution that'll go toward the purchase of an item on the list.

Either way, you'll help make a child's visit to Cook Children's Medical Center brighter.

For more information on Cook Children's donated items wish list, visit cookchildrens.org and search "wish list."

Donated items may be delivered to the Information Desk from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday:

Cook Children's Medical Center
801 7th Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76104

If you have questions in regards to helping fulfill our wish list, please call 682-885-4241.

*What I am most proud of is our culture,
which has been a part of our DNA long
before I arrived. Everyone is in this together
for **one purpose** and that is to care for our
patients with excellence and compassion.*

- Rick W. Merrill, Cook Children's President and CEO