



Your Impact on Care

Dear Friends,

At Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford, we are committed to caring for children and expectant mothers, regardless of their family's ability to pay. Your support of the Children's Fund helps us do just that, ensuring that the hospital can provide uncompensated medical care, as well as connecting families to the resources they need.

And as you will read in this issue's story about Edgar and his family, there is so much more to caring for families than medical treatments.

In 2016, your donations to the Children's Fund provided more than \$192,000 for social work services at Packard Children's. This funding allows social workers like Tovah Toomasson, LCSW, to provide families with the essentials they need and encourage them to focus on what matters most—healing mind, body, and spirit.

As we look ahead to the opening of our new hospital later this year, we know we will need to rise to the challenge of caring for more families than ever before, and we know we can count on you to help us.

Thank you so much for your loyalty and generosity toward our patients and their families!

Best wishes,

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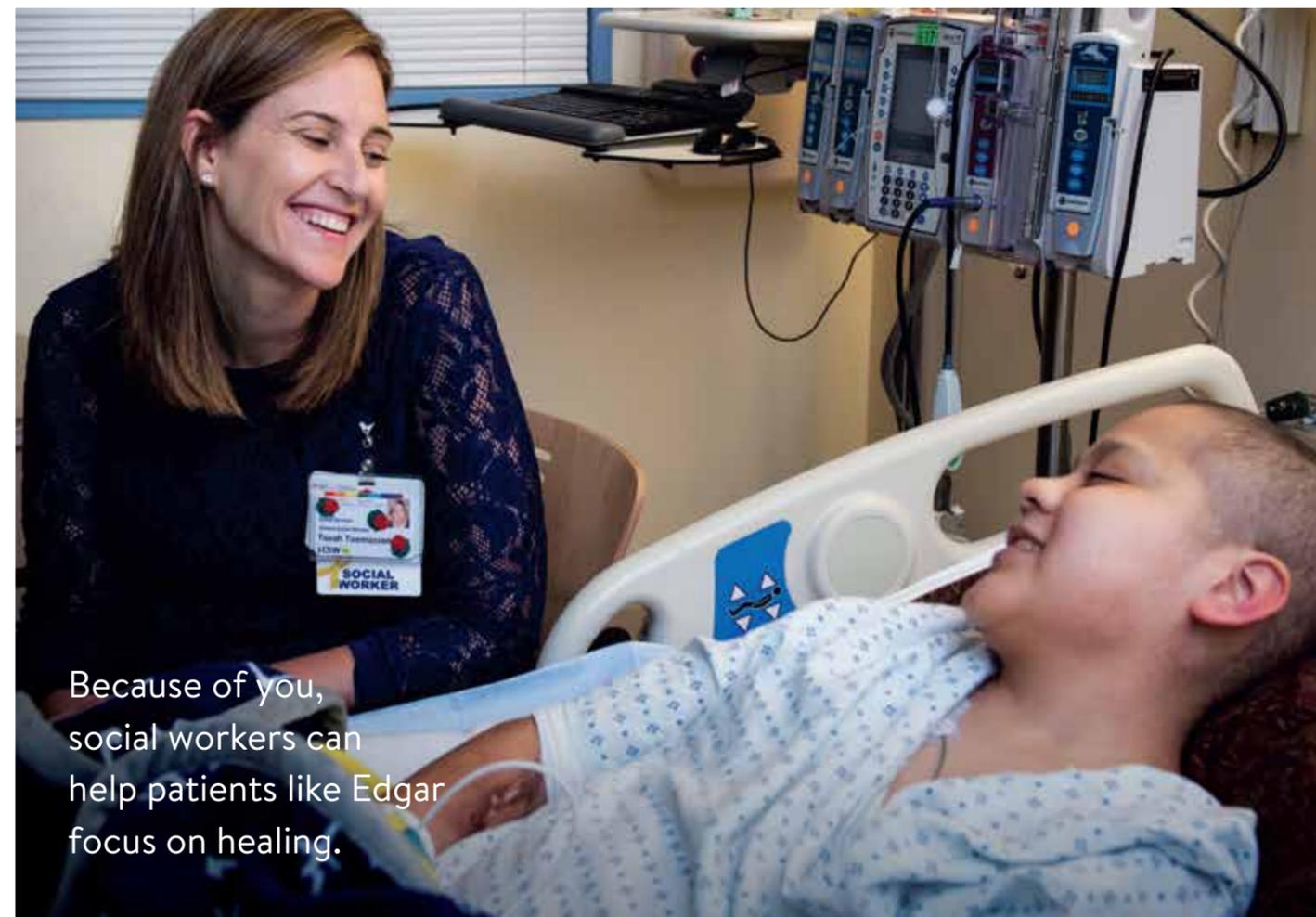
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Cover image: Tovah Toomasson, LCSW, sits down with 14-year-old Edgar in the Bass Center for Childhood Cancer and Blood Diseases at Packard Children's.



Because of you,
social workers can
help patients like Edgar
focus on healing.

More Inside:

How You Can Help
Thank You for
Scampering With Us!
You're Invited to Our
Grand Opening!

Your Support Helps Edgar's Family Through Their Most Difficult Times

When Edgar's family learned that their sweet 14-year-old boy had cancer, they found themselves in a swirl of uncertainty. Their life was suddenly a sea of doctors, nurses, surgeries, chemotherapy, fear, and so many things they didn't understand. But one calming presence has been there for them through it all: social worker Tovah Toomasson, LCSW, whom they call their "guardian angel."

CONTINUED INSIDE...

Social Work at Packard Children's by the Numbers



 **40**

social workers on staff, serving in nearly every unit and clinic

75% of our patients receive support from social workers

50%  of our social workers are licensed to provide psychotherapy services

 **30%** of our social workers are bilingual English-Spanish

Social workers are available for emergencies

24/7 



Social workers like Tovah Toomasson rely on your gifts to support our patients' basic needs during hospitalization.

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

"Tovah helps us deal with the hardships and when we don't know what is going on," says Edgar's mother, Felisa, through a medical interpreter. "She helps us find housing near the hospital, helps us with bills, and supports us through doctors' updates."

Toomasson visits Edgar, a sweet boy who loves soccer and going to the movies with his friends, as he battles cancer at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford. Her role? To support families like Edgar's, whose lives have been turned upside down by their child's illness.

Toomasson explains that before a family like Edgar's can work through the emotional side of illness and hospitalization, they must have their basic needs met, from housing and transportation to child care for siblings.

"Most of the families I work with were perfectly self-sufficient before their child got sick," says Toomasson. "But depending on the diagnosis, it's very common for a parent to quit working to be with the child in the hospital. With the high cost of living in the Bay Area, how many families would be fine if that happened?"

Packard Children's cares for all local children in need, regardless of their families' status or ability to pay for treatment. And thanks to the generous support of donors like you, our hospital's social workers are there to help families through their most difficult times.

"We speak to families even before they get their diagnosis," Toomasson says. "We talk through potential scenarios and what they might need. And then once there is a diagnosis, we see what we can do to help take things off their plate."

Felisa even recalled a time when her husband, Lorenzo, was so worried about Edgar that his stress manifested in stomach pains and high blood pressure. "Tovah said, 'Your health is important, too,' and she made sure he received medical treatment."

Your gifts are deeply appreciated by Toomasson, her fellow social workers, and the patients they serve. "Every little bit helps," she says. "A \$25 gas card might mean a family can get to and from clinic visits three times. That's so helpful."

In addition to meeting families' basic needs, social workers also serve as licensed mental health clinicians, providing counseling, crisis intervention, or care coordination to make sense of the complicated and daunting health care system.

"We wear so many different hats," says Toomasson. "We support families any way we can, and we have the luxury of seeing the families even after they leave the hospital. It is so rewarding to hear a parent say, **'You were the first person who made us feel like we could make it through this.'**"

How You Can Help

Your support gives patients and families life-saving care as well as social services that get them through tough times. Make your best Children's Fund gift in the enclosed envelope or at supportLPCH.org. **Thank you!**



Thank you for Scampering with us!

More than 3,700 individuals joined us on June 25 for the 7th annual Summer Scamper 5k, 10k, and kids' fun run, raising nearly \$500,000 for the hospital and pediatric and obstetric programs at Stanford University School of Medicine. **Scamper on, friends!**

Visit SummerScamper.org for race results and photos.



You're Invited!

Grand Opening of the NEW Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford

Come see your new children's hospital!

Before we officially open the doors to patients and families, join us for a guided tour in October. Children's Fund donors will receive invitations via mail.

Questions? Please contact grandopening@stanfordchildrens.org.

Want to volunteer at the opening events? Contact Brandon Jenkins at (650) 498-7524 or Brandon.Jenkins@LPFCH.org.

