Thank you for putting children first

Thanks to your support, Packard Children’s Hospital is there when families need it most.

The Maternal & Child Health Research Institute (MCHRI) is dedicated to promoting innovative research in maternal and child health. Through MCHRI, more than 800 Stanford faculty and affiliates can access funding, education, data management, and more—all to advance research toward healthier lives for expectant mothers and children.

Your gifts to the Children’s Fund make this possible!

To learn more about MCHRI and the amazing work it does, go to www.med.stanford.edu/mchri.

MCHRI awarded 106 grants for innovative research in 2020.

“Thank you, thank you, and thank you! You are vital to the mission and shared goals of MCHRI and Stanford Children’s Health. We are grateful for all you do to improve the lives of mothers, children, and their families. Your generosity makes long-lasting impacts locally and globally. Your gifts fuel innovation and research.”

—Mary Chen, MS, MBA
Executive Director of MCHRI, Assistant Dean of Maternal and Child Health Research

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Thanks to your support, Packard Children’s Hospital is there when families need it most.

Your gifts to the Children’s Fund empower us to take steps forward in helping our patients and their families.

THANK YOU for supporting expert care, innovative research, and family-centered programs and services.

Please contact Eric Smith at (650) 497-0498 or eric.smith@lpfch.org with any questions or for more information about this report. Visit us at supportLPCH.org for more stories highlighting the impact of your generosity.

CHILDREN’S FUND IMPACT REPORT

FALL 2021
In 2020, Lucile Packard Children’s Fund donors like you contributed more than $8.1 million in support of our hospital’s highest priorities in pediatric and obstetric research, family and community programs, and care for all. Thank you!

$8.1 million from Children’s Fund donors fueled our hospital’s highest priorities. Our hospital provided 7,912 pediatric inpatient stays.

1,429 art therapy sessions provided a creative outlet for patients.

The Family Resource Center received 11,430 visits.

Hospital volunteers gave 29,267 hours of their time.

Over 40% of patients benefited from financial assistance.

Our hospital welcomed 4,486 babies into the world! Patients and their families visited our clinics 542,486 times.

4,474 music therapy sessions helped patients cope and heal.

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- **1,429** art therapy sessions provided a creative outlet for patients.
- Hospital volunteers gave **29,267** hours of their time.
Last fall, my husband Spencer and I were excited to be first-time parents to our baby boy, Finn. Although it was scary to be pregnant during a pandemic, everything was going smoothly. Every appointment was normal, scans were perfect, and every test came back without any indications of problems.

Then, one day about 33 weeks along, something felt different. Finn’s normal, rapid movements unexpectedly slowed. Feeling a bit uneasy, Spencer and I went to a local hospital near our home in Auburn, California. What I thought was going to be a relatively normal checkup unexpectedly turned into preparing for an emergency C-section. On October 9, 2020, Finn was born, but less than 24 hours later, we rushed Finn to Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford because his liver was failing. It was the beginning of a journey for which no one could prepare.

The first day at Packard Children’s Hospital was a blur. We were in a new town, at a new hospital, meeting so many new doctors, and worrying about our baby, whose condition was going downhill fast. After consulting with our care team, we realized the troubling reality of Finn’s situation.

We were shocked to be thrust into this crisis, but we knew Packard Children’s was where Finn needed to be. Our care team walked us through every step of Finn’s treatment with tenderness and support. We received hourly updates on his condition, and we even had the opportunity to attend morning rounds where our son’s case was discussed.

All through this horrible time, we knew our doctors and nurses were on his side and were doing everything they could to make him better.

After four exhausting days, Finn’s condition worsened to a point where he would not recover. My husband and I made the impossible decision to suspend care. Finn was baptized by the hospital’s chaplain, and on October 13, 2020, we brought Finn to a beautiful, sunny spot on the hospital’s rooftop garden where he passed peacefully in my and Spencer’s arms. It was the hardest day of our lives, but we weren’t alone. Our care team was by our side on the rooftop garden, once again consoling us through this heartbreak. They never made us feel like Finn was just a patient, but that they loved him and were his best friends.

Even after Finn’s passing, Packard Children’s continued supporting us. Social worker Rachel Arellano and the entire Family Guidance and Bereavement team led us through this unfathomable time. Rachel was there for us when we were admitted to the hospital and when we said goodbye to Finn. She gave us a few keepsakes that memorialize Finn’s life—including imprints of his feet and hands and some of his hair. Rachel, and everyone at Packard Children’s, helped us through this arduous journey, and their love, support, and care will never be forgotten.

As painful as our experience was at Stanford, it was also beautiful. We had four days with Finn that we wouldn’t have had without their care. We feel like we gained family. We are so grateful.

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Brianna, Spencer, and Finn’s Story

A Journey of Love, Loss, and Hope

NEONATAL HEMOCHROMATOSIS

Finn’s condition was later diagnosed as neonatal hemochromatosis (NH). NH causes excess iron to accumulate in the liver, pancreas, and heart. It is rare and affects one in 100,000 babies.

CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN

To honor Finn, Brianna and Spencer started a fundraising group, Finn’s Warriors, through the Champions for Children program at Packard Children’s to raise funds for NH research.

FAMILY GUIDANCE AND BEREAVEMENT PROGRAM

Through the Family Guidance and Bereavement Program, our hospital provides families a variety of emotionally supportive services at the most difficult time in their lives. Largely funded by philanthropy, the program is always one of the top fundraisers at Summer Scamper and raised more than $70,000 this year.
Partnering with Our Community

Stanford Children’s Health (SCH) collaborates with local leaders and nonprofit organizations to improve the health of our community through its Community Benefits program. Every three years, the program undergoes a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), which helps establish the top priorities to support. The current initiatives focus on access to health care; childhood obesity and diabetes rates; maternal and newborn health; and the social and emotional health of our youth.

Access to Health Care
Every family deserves quality, nurturing care. In coordination with multiple partners, the Community Benefits program is bringing equality to primary care access and ensuring patients receive the care they need close to home.

- The Teen Van, a mobile health clinic, served 1,285 individuals in 2020 and provided COVID-19 testing to over 2,000 patients and families.
- MayView Community Health Center, a local partner of SCH, delivers primary health care to low-income communities in Palo Alto, Mountain View, and Sunnyvale. It provides prenatal and pediatric care to over 6,000 patients in more than 20,000 visits per year.

Childhood Obesity and Diabetes
According to the CDC, one in five children nationwide is overweight or obese. Stanford Children’s Health works with local organizations to implement evidence-based clinical treatment and prevention programs for children in schools.

- Partner Fresh Approach provided healthy fruit and vegetables to 21,115 people in 2020.
- Packard Children’s Pediatric Weight Control Program helped 148 patients and families last year. Since insurance plans do not yet reimburse for weight management programs, Packard Children’s encourages families to apply for financial support if needed.

Maternal and Newborn Health
A strong start sets the stage for a healthy life, but healthy beginnings aren’t a given. Statistics show clear health disparities, such as low birth weights for mothers of Asian or African ancestry and higher infant mortalities for mothers of Pacific Islander or African ancestry. Stanford Children’s Health increases access to health care for infants and new mothers by providing prenatal care, education, and mental health support for postpartum depression.

- SCH helped 93 percent of Teen Success Inc.’s teen mothers improve their parenting skills.
- We provided financial support to connect families with home visiting programs and improve disparities around maternal health outcomes.

Mental Health of Children and Youth
Mental health is as important as physical health. The CHNA revealed a lack of access to mental health services in nearly all the communities we serve. In response, Stanford Children’s Health expanded its services by removing financial barriers to mental health care and resources.

- SCH worked with Project Safety Net and Health Care Alliance for Response to Adolescent Depression (HEARD) to provide comprehensive mental health services.
- Through Adolescent Counseling Services (ACS), we helped provide counseling, psychotherapy, substance abuse assessment and treatment, LGBTQ+ groups, and education on mental health in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties to over 6,875 youth ages 10 to 25 in 2019–2020.

Creating healthy communities and helping children and families thrive are paramount to Stanford Children’s Health’s vision and mission.
Holograms in the Operating Room Improve Patient Outcomes

“Because it’s easier to locate the vessels and bring them together with True 3D, it can improve the recovery that children make after surgery and shorten their time at the hospital.”

—Stephen Roth, MD, MPH
Professor of Pediatrics (Cardiology), Betty Irene Moore Children’s Heart Center, Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford

The Pulmonary Artery Reconstruction (PAR) Program at the Betty Irene Moore Children’s Heart Center provides the highest level of comprehensive care for patients from all over the world with congenital and acquired abnormalities of the pulmonary arteries.

Before a typical PAR procedure, cardiac surgeons review 2D images of the patient’s heart compiled through CT scans, ultrasounds, and MRIs. These image consultations occur days, sometimes even weeks, leading up to the procedure. While useful for planning prior to surgery, they are not easily accessible in the operating room.

To tackle this limitation, Packard Children’s Hospital partnered with a Silicon Valley start-up called EchoPixel to develop an innovative technology called Intraoperative True 3D. A mobile augmented-reality computer system, True 3D offers both precise and personalized clinical planning as well as three-dimensional imaging at the operating table to cardiac surgeons.

True 3D utilizes preprocessed radiological 2D images to create and project a 3D hologram-like heart, right in front of the surgical team.

Surgeons can manipulate the virtual heart by hand gesture, allowing them to study the blood vessels of a patient in detail while performing surgery. By providing greater visibility and minimizing the number of surgical actions needed, True 3D reduces procedural and recovery time and considerably improves the patient experience.

True 3D is the marriage of an individual patient’s imaging information from CT or MRI scans and augmented reality, providing an array of patient benefits. With the development and inaugural use of Intraoperative True 3D taking place at Packard Children’s, our hospital continues to be an innovator and technological leader for children’s health.

True 3D in action! True 3D renders a hologram as the surgeon manipulates the virtual heart through hand gestures.

A surgeon using a spatially tracked pointing device to interact with the virtual heart.
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Research Spotlight Q&A

Q: What is the DRIVE (Diversity, Respect, and Inclusion are Vital for Excellence) program?
DRIVE is a new MCHRI pipeline program that draws underrepresented minorities (URM) and first-generation low-income (FLI) undergraduates into an experiential research internship. DRIVE’s goal is to expose young minds to a career in research, specifically one that focuses on maternal and child health, in the hopes that they will feel inspired to pursue research as a career. DRIVE also incentivizes faculty to mentor and train URM/FLI students, which gives the students early opportunities they may not otherwise have.

Q: What makes MCHRI a unique program to support?
MCHRI provides funding and resources that incentivize researchers to apply their expertise toward maternal and child health. When donors contribute to MCHRI, their gifts are multiplied. For example, many of our grant programs require matching funds from internal sources. We also practice a rigorous peer-review process to select projects with the highest chances of success. By supporting the Children’s Fund, donors enable us to turn innovative ideas from brilliant scientists into reality.

Q: What are some notable projects MCHRI members have worked on?
There are so many, it’s hard to choose! Here are just a few:

• Dr. Michelle Monje-Deisseroth and her team study the role of nervous system activity in childhood brain tumor growth and potential treatments. Her latest milestone shows that normal optic nerve activity drives the initiation and growth of brain tumors, opening avenues for prevention and therapies for brain tumors in children.

• Many of our doctors promote community health initiatives like reducing and preventing childhood obesity. Dr. Tom Robinson partners with local schools to encourage physical activity through kid-friendly avenues like hip-hop dance. Dr. Anisha Patel works to improve access to clean and appealing water fountains in schools, leading kids to consume more water instead of sugary beverages. Something as simple as clean water fountains can make a big difference!

We also support work in global child health, biodesign, drug and device development, nurse-led research, cardiovascular medicine, diabetes, and so much more!
Your gifts to the Children's Fund empower us to take steps forward in helping our patients and their families. THANK YOU for supporting expert care, innovative research, and family-centered programs and services.