Dear Friends,

In 2009, more than 6,800 individuals and families chose to make a gift to the Lucile Packard Children’s Fund. This is more than double the number of Children’s Fund donors 10 years ago, and is a wonderful reflection of our community’s generous spirit and commitment to the health of children and expectant mothers.

Each and every gift to the Children’s Fund offers hope to those in our care at Packard Children’s Hospital. While we take great pride in providing the most advanced pediatric and obstetric treatments available, we recognize that our family-friendly programs truly make Packard a special place of healing. As Erica Rix’s story illustrates, these programs make a world of difference to our patient families. And your generous investment makes it all possible.

On behalf of the children and families we serve, I thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely yours,

Hugh O’Brodovich, MD
Pediatric Pulmonologist
Adalyn Jay Physician in Chief, Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital
Arline and Pete Harman Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatrics, Stanford University School of Medicine

Lucile Packard Children’s Fund
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Amanda Federico
Annual Giving Program Manager
Laura Galloway
Associate
Megan Garner
Associate
Editor: Jennifer Yuan
Contributing Writer: Rebecca Serr
Design: Dennis Johnson Design
Photography: Rod Smeyney

Other Ways to Give

Dine Out for Packard
Save the date! The second annual Dine Out for Packard day is Thursday, April 29. Participating restaurants in Los Altos, Menlo Park, and Palo Alto will donate a percentage of total sales to the Children’s Fund. For more information, please visit DineOutForPackard.org.

Make a Gift that Lasts All Year
You can make a lasting impact on the children we care for by becoming a Monthly Giving Partner. Your automated monthly gifts will provide a steady stream of support for the Hospital. Plus, by joining the program, you can spread your contribution throughout the year. Sign up at supportLPCH.org or by calling (650) 497-8141.

Help Packard Plan for the Future
Making a bequest gift can be an important way of defining your own legacy. As you work with your attorney to create an estate plan, we ask that you consider including a gift to Packard Children’s Hospital. Visit supportLPCH.org or call (650) 736-1211 to get started.

Compassion and Competence: One Family’s Experience at Packard Children’s
Compassion and Competence

One Family’s Experience at Packard Children’s

“On September 9, 2008, the world as we knew it changed,” says Allison Rix of Los Gatos.

While riding in the car that day, Allison’s daughter, Erica, 6, tossed one end of a jump rope out the window to flutter in the wind. Suddenly, the rope caught in the car’s tire and a loop tightened around Erica’s wrist, severing her left hand.

Her life in danger, Erica was rushed to the Pediatric Emergency Department at Stanford Hospital. Surgeon Jeffrey Yao, MD, and a team of medical staff worked heroically for more than 11 hours to successfully reattach her hand. Erica spent 10 days in the ICU at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital and then returned home, to her family’s great relief.

But the accident was only the beginning of this chapter of the Rix family’s lives. As Erica required intensive follow-up care, Allison found herself in a completely unexpected role: the parent of a long-term pediatric patient.

Packard’s Unique Touches

Since the accident over a year ago, Erica has undergone many more surgeries and continues to visit the Children’s Hospital several times a week. In occupational therapy, she practices everyday tasks like baking cookies and swinging a baseball bat to regain use of her left hand.

“But even with all the excellent care, there are days when I am just emotionally overwhelmed,” says Allison. Fortunately, the Packard team understands that hospitalization is stressful and scary for the entire family. The Hospital’s cutting-edge medical care is augmented by a wide range of patient and family support services—the special touches that make Packard a unique place for healing.

Erica’s wrist, severing her left hand.

During her frequent Packard visits, Erica attended the on-site Hospital School, a program offered in collaboration with Palo Alto Unified School District.

“With a little help from the school’s occupational therapist Jennifer Chan, Erica found a place for fun in the Forever Young Zone,” says Allison. “I can’t say enough good things about the School,” says Allison. “Erica was able to keep up with her school work and had an opportunity to feel like a normal child again. You can tell that the teachers love their work and care for and respect each and every child.”

Compassion and competition—one without the other is incomplete.”

“Erica was able to keep up with her school work and had an opportunity to feel like a normal child again. You can tell that the teachers love their work and care for and respect each and every child.”

Donor support plays a critical role in making everyday miracles like Erica’s possible. In 2009, gifts to the Children’s Fund provided $11.5 million to support Social Services, the Hospital School, Recreation Therapy and Child Life Services, and other family and community programs. In addition, $3.2 million went to support Care for All, which sustains treatment regardless of families’ financial or insurance limitations, a common challenge for patients requiring long-term care.

Additional support came from the Forever Young Zone. This all-ages play room is a designated “procedure-free zone,” where patients can set aside their medical conditions and just enjoy themselves. In recent months, the Forever Young Zone has hosted everything from a Johnny Depp look-alike in a pirate costume to the animation team of the Pixar movie Up.

Today, thanks to the comprehensive, family-centered care offered at Packard Children’s Hospital, Erica is relearning how to tie her shoes and is back to playing soccer and riding her bike. As Allison says, “Compassion and competence—one without the other is incomplete.”