Dear Friends,

Your support of the Children’s Fund is helping to create a more diverse research community on the Stanford campus.

Funded in large part by Children’s Fund gifts, the DRIVE (Diversity, Respect, and Inclusion are Vital for Excellence) in Research Pipeline Award program is intended to improve diversity of the maternal and child health research community through mentorship and training.

Diversity in research is a key component of innovation. By bringing new concepts and points of view to the table, diversity enhances the creative process and contributes to a culture of transformative scholarship.

Through the DRIVE program, underrepresented minorities and first generation or low-income Stanford undergraduates who are interested in biomedical research careers can receive stipends to work with established investigators.

This summer, the first 10 students supported by DRIVE paired up with faculty members to dive into maternal and child health-related projects. We look forward to the student presentations on August 25. To learn more, visit med.stanford.edu/mchri.

These students will have a profound impact as they progress in their research careers. Thank you for making the DRIVE program possible!

With gratitude,

Mary B. Leonard, MD, MSCE
Arline and Pete Harman Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatrics
Director, Stanford Maternal and Child Health Research Institute
Stanford School of Medicine
Adalyn Jay Physician-In-Chief,
Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford

Your support of Packard Children’s Hospital helped Caroline face surgery to save her arm from osteosarcoma. Thank you!

Your Impact on Research

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Cover image: Your support of Packard Children’s Hospital ensured that 6-year-old Caroline could undergo surgery to save her arm when osteosarcoma attacked her bone.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please visit supportLPCH.org/Remove or call (650) 497-3161.

Your support at work at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford

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Thank You for Scampering With Us!

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You Helped Caroline Ring the Golden Bell

Six-year-old Caroline stepped up to the pole festooned with yellow, orange, and pink streamers and grabbed the rope attached to a very special golden bell.

As she pulled the cord and the bell clanged, her friends and family cheered. Caroline’s mom, Shyna, and dad, Chris, grinned from ear to ear. This was an important milestone for their kindergartener. Months earlier, what had started out as a trip to urgent care for a possible broken bone had turned into a fight against cancer.
In August 2020, Caroline told her parents her arm hurt. Eventually she stopped using it. “When we took her to urgent care, then an orthopedic surgeon, we assumed it might be a fracture,” says Shayna. “We were picking out cast colors and asking her if she liked pink or purple.”

Then doctors at Valley Children’s Hospital, near the family’s home in Clovis, broke the news: there was a tumor, and it was aggressively attacking Caroline’s bone. The family wondered how they could save her arm.

“We called doctors all across the country. We were told that Caroline’s best option was to undergo surgery at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford, just three hours from our home,” says Shayna. “Dr. Avedian dealt with me crying over Zoom calls and my husband asking all the questions. Dr. Spunt was very hands-on and so supportive. She was absolutely instrumental at providing a second opinion.”

A course of action
Orthopedist Raffi Avedian, MD, and oncologist Sheri Spunt, MD, MBA, often work closely with the team at Valley Children’s and agreed with the diagnosis that Caroline had osteosarcoma, a type of bone cancer very rarely found in kids Caroline’s age.

The plan was a collaboration between the two hospitals, with chemotherapy treatments at Valley Children’s and surgery at Packard Children’s to remove the tumor and save Caroline’s arm. Her arm would have an expandable prosthesis—it would not grow to full-length nor have full mobility.

Help from friends—human and canine
Caroline had her best friend, a stuffed puppy, with her every step of the way. But before surgery, when there was a mention of a needle, Caroline was inconsolable. It was time for a real dog to take over!

“Donatella, Packard Children’s surgery center facility dog, came and totally calmed her down when no one else could. She saved the morning,” Shayna recalls. Caroline’s family focused on one day at a time. When they felt like it was all too much to bear, our community held them up.

“aroline’s surgery was a success! And this spring, just after she turned 6, she rang the golden bell signifying her final chemo treatment and bright future.

Thank you for your support of the Children’s Fund and patients like Caroline. Because of you, Caroline is dancing, playing tennis, and looking forward to starting first grade.

Want to Help More Kids Like Caroline?
Your Children’s Fund gifts support groundbreaking research; compassionate, innovative care for children in our community, regardless of their families’ financial circumstances; and important programs and services like our Teen Van. To bring hope and health to children, visit supportLPCH.org/ChildrensFund.

Be a Lifeline for Our Patients
Our Monthly Giving Partners are lifelines who are there for our patients when they need it the most. Learn more at supportLPCH.org/Monthly.

Double Your Impact
Did you know that many employers match their employees’ charitable gifts? Check with your Human Resources Department to see if your Children’s Fund donation can be matched to give twice as much health and healing today.

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If you did not receive a copy of the Children’s Fund Fall Update 2021, please contact supportLPCH.org/ChildrensFund.