Dear Friends,

As you read this issue of the Children's Fund Update, I'm sure you'll be as inspired as I am by the wonderful progress of Angelica and Angelina Sabuco, the formerly conjoined twins who were separated at Packard Children's last November. Seeing children like Angelica and Angelina thrive is one of the true joys of my work. At Packard, all of our patients and families benefit from the same level of outstanding care that the Sabucos received, regardless of their financial means.

The twins’ story illustrates how important the Children's Fund is to sustaining Packard Children's as a center of medical excellence and enhancing our ability to meet our patients’ complex needs. By bolstering everything from medical care to family support services to cutting-edge research, Children's Fund supporters bring these elements together into a vital community of care.

And as you may have noticed, this community is currently growing! Site preparation for our facilities expansion is now underway on Welch Road. Stay tuned for news about our groundbreaking, which we expect to hold this fall.

Please know how much we appreciate the generosity of our Children’s Fund donors as we look ahead to this exciting new era for the Hospital. Thanks to you, we will continue to offer the best possible care to children like Angelica and Angelina far into the future.

Sincerely,

Hugh O'Brodovich, MD
Pediatric Pulmonologist
Adalyn Jay Physician-in-Chief, Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital
Aline and Pete Hannan Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatrics, Stanford University School of Medicine
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All this preparation culminated on November 1, 2011. Over the course of a 10-hour surgery, more than 30 Packard physicians and caregivers worked to successfully separate Angelina and Angelica. The girls recovered more quickly than expected, and had a joyful homecoming just two weeks later.

“Hope is a dream come true,” their mother, Ginady, marveled, as they drove the twins home. “Words are not enough to explain what Packard did for us.”

The girls’ story is representative of the high standard of care that all patients and families receive at Packard Children’s. Thanks to the Children’s Fund, donors, the Hospital can continue to provide world-class medicine for our community’s children and expectant mothers. And the Sabuco family can look forward to many more holiday seasons with two happy, healthy girls. 

A Team Effort

For months, Packard specialists made extensive preparations to ensure a successful outcome. Radiologists performed thorough diagnostic imaging, anesthesiologists assessed the twins’ response to sedation, and a team of surgeons, led by Gary Hartman, MD, devised a detailed surgical procedure, they knew they could trust Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital and its expertise in treating complex medical conditions.

Bright Futures

Today, the sisters still love to play together and wear matching dresses, but are also free to explore on their own and develop their distinct personalities—Angelina is quiet, Angelica more talkative. They recently celebrated their first Christmas since being separated. “That was a great gift,” says Ginady. “Words are not enough to explain what Packard did for us.”

While very few patients have conditions this rare, the twins’ story is representative of the high standard of care that all patients and families receive at Packard Children’s. Thanks to the Children’s Fund, donors, the Hospital can continue to provide world-class medicine for our community’s children and expectant mothers. And the Sabuco family can look forward to many more holiday seasons with two healthy, independent girls.

Together, Apart

Formerly Conjoined Twins Thriving after Separation Surgery

Angelina and Angelica Sabuco, 2½, are exploring their neighborhood park in San Jose, picking up fallen leaves and seed pods. They giggle as they toddle in opposite directions while their mother scrambles to keep up. Any passerby would be completely unaware of the amazing transformation these twins have undergone in recent months.

Angelina and Angelica were born conjoined at the chest and abdomen, with fused livers, diaphragms, and breast bones. Doctors recommended that the twins be separated, not only to prevent future health problems, but also to allow them to develop as individuals. While their parents, Ginady and Fidel, were scared at the thought of putting their children through a risky surgical procedure, they knew they could trust Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital and its reputation for treating complex medical conditions.