Dear Friends,

As a pediatrician, I find few things more gratifying than seeing a child grow up and thrive. At Packard Children’s, we’re privileged to witness this in full force, as many of the newborns first cared for when the hospital opened in 1991 are now reaching young adulthood. Miranda Ashland, who is featured in this issue of the Children’s Fund Update, is a perfect example of how cutting-edge medical treatment, coupled with a family-centered approach, can turn a dire situation into a success story.

It’s truly remarkable that Packard Children’s has gone from its founding to making a worldwide impact in just one generation. Many treatments and cures first developed at Packard Children’s have now become the standard of care for children and expectant mothers, both in our own hospital and around the world. But even more exciting than where we’ve been, is where we’re going. Thanks to your support, we’re growing up alongside our patients. Our expansion at Stanford is now well under way and we can see, day by day, progress being made toward a better future for our patients and community. When our new facility opens in 2016, we’ll have the capacity to care for more families and to discover cures and therapies only dreamed of today.

We are so grateful for your loyal partnership, which ensures that Packard Children’s will continue to be an extraordinary place for children and families for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Hugh O'Brodovich, MD
Pediatric Pulmonologist
Adalyn Jay Physician-in-Chief, Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital
Artist and Pete Hartman Professor and Chair
Department of Pediatrics, Stanford University School of Medicine
Director, Child Health Research Institute at Stanford
Today, she works with other Packard parents providing input to improve hospital policies and practices, and also helps families get the information they need to take better care of their kids.

Miranda’s grandparents, Marilyn and Arden Anderson, were inspired to give back as well. They are both long-time volunteers at the hospital, and Marilyn belongs to the Palo Alto Auxiliary, which helps raise support for Packard Children’s.

Giving Thanks
In September, Miranda spoke at the groundbreaking celebration for the Packard Children’s expansion project (see sidebar).

“I’m so excited for the expansion of this hospital,” she said before a standing-room-only crowd. “It means that more families will be able to walk through the doors, receive the care they need, and be given hope that will carry them for the rest of their lives.”

Miranda has grown up at Packard Children’s. She still remembers frequent trips to the cafeteria for frozen yogurt — “with sprinkles,” she laughs. Today, as she transitions into adulthood, she has taken charge of her medical needs, from keeping track of her prescriptions to emailing her care team.

“They used to get my blood drawn sitting on my mom’s lap,” she recalls. “That was a long time ago. Now I have my driver’s license, and I go on my own.”

Even though her final pediatric appointment at Packard Children’s is coming up, she can’t wait to check out the new hospital. When it came time to write her speech for the groundbreaking, Miranda knew exactly what she wanted to say:

“I thought about what the expansion means, and what this hospital has meant for my family. This was my chance to say thank you.”

All Grown Up
Miranda Ashland is one busy girl. A thriving high school senior from Saratoga, she’s filling out college applications and starring in her school’s production of "Oliver!" — and even recently won a spirit week pie-eating contest.

With this packed schedule, Miranda still finds time for another important priority: supporting Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital at Stanford, the place that gave her a second chance at life.

Cause for Hope
The Ashland family first came to Packard Children’s in 1995, when Miranda was just 2 months old and gravely ill with biliary atresia, a serious congenital disease that leads to liver failure. After meeting with transplant specialists, her parents Michele and Tom experienced a new emotion: relief.

“We knew what to do and we’re going to take care of your child.”

Baby Miranda received a successful liver transplant and spent nearly a month recovering at the hospital. Her dedicated care team at Packard Children’s became like extended family, following her closely through regular checkups and helping her overcome post-transplant complications that could have had a tragic outcome. Today, Miranda attributes her good health to 18 years of outstanding care.

Families First
At Packard Children’s, caring for patients isn’t only about providing world-class medicine. The hospital embraces the value of family-centered care, which recognizes the family as a partner in the well-being of their child. This approach, notes Michele, gives families a better understanding of their child’s treatment, and enables doctors to more fully appreciate the family’s point of view.

Michele was so impressed with this model that she began participating on the Family Advisory Council, eventually joining the Packard staff.