Dear Friends,

I am honored to introduce to you the Berghs, a family with a unique medical situation. Two of their five children have type 1 diabetes, and another has the antibodies linked to the disease.

In this issue of the Children’s Fund Update, you’ll see how they have maintained full, happy lives with the help of our hospital’s doctors, caregivers, and services. Their story is a wonderful example of how the expert and compassionate care we offer and the determined and loving outlook of a family make a difference in quality of life for patients. Perhaps even more powerful, the Berghs are committed to participating in studies at our hospital and Stanford University School of Medicine. Innovative research is at the heart of our work, and it can change countless lives in our community and around the world.

As important as research is, it is not covered by insurance. As a result, we rely heavily on philanthropic support. This is one reason we value your contributions so much — each year about one-third of your donations to the Lucile Packard Children’s Fund are allocated to pediatric and obstetric research. We could not do this work without you.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Hugh O’Brodovich, MD
Arlene and Pete Harman Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatrics
Stanford University School of Medicine
Adalyn Jay Physician-in-Chief, Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford Director, Stanford Child Health Research Institute
Diabetes: One Family’s Fight for “Normal”

Tierra Bergh, a busy mom of five, still vividly recalls this moment from nine years ago: “Maleki woke up, looked at me, and asked why we were in the hospital.”

Her son Maleki, then 3 years old, had arrived at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford that morning in March 2006 practically unconscious. Thanks to a quick response by Darrell Wilson, MD, chief of pediatric endocrinology and professor of endocrinology at Stanford University School of Medicine, Maleki began treatment for type 1 diabetes. Tierra and her husband, Michael, suddenly found themselves in a new world of finger pricks and insulin injections.

Maleki and his family spent five days in the hospital, where they also learned about a new test for antibodies that could help predict whether a child will develop type 1 diabetes. There was a five percent chance that one of Maleki’s siblings would also have the disease. Against the odds, the Berghs learned that Maleki’s sister Marae also carried the antibodies.

The family is committed to helping find a cure for diabetes. Maleki and Marae recently attended a special summer camp where they participated in a study led by Buckingham. The campers — all children with diabetes — were outfitted with continuous glucose meters that allowed medical staff and researchers to monitor each child remotely and study the effectiveness of an automated insulin system.

And even though the Bergh family moved to Idaho last year, they continue to participate in studies at Stanford, returning to the Bay Area for tests and scans. "These doctors do amazing things," Tierra says. "I only hope that one day there will be a cure."