Your support of the *Children’s Fund* helped a Stanford researcher uncover unique challenges facing childhood and young adult cancer survivors in the Salinas Valley.

The Stanford Maternal and Child Health Research Institute uses *Children’s Fund* gifts to fund its Structural Racism, Social Injustice and Health Disparities in Maternal and Child Health Pilot Grants. In 2022, grant recipient and oncologist Stephanie Smith, MD, MPH, met with cancer survivors, their families, and leaders from the nonprofit Jacob’s Heart, which provides vital services to families dealing with childhood cancer in the Salinas Valley.

Cancer survivors encounter lingering effects of their treatment on their physical and mental health, and Dr. Smith’s research identified other challenges for many of these young people in the Salinas Valley. They include language barriers, lack of transportation to and from follow-up appointments, and a cultural stigma surrounding cancer. Understanding these additional hurdles can help organizations like Jacob’s Heart provide the most comprehensive support for cancer survivors in their community.

Dr. Smith, whose passion is bridging the gap between clinical care and research, says she plans to continue to partner with Jacob’s Heart, cancer survivors, and their families to brainstorm the best next steps and implement solutions.

Your gifts help us study and address health disparities so all cancer survivors receive the ongoing support they need. Thank You!

**Researcher Spotlight:** Stephanie Smith, MD, MPH

**Fundraise Your Way**

“Find something that you really enjoy because it makes the process a lot of fun,” says Dean Wu, a local high school student and patient at the Sean N. Parker Center for Allergy and Asthma Research at Stanford University. Dean turned his passion for fishing into an annual tournament, raising more than $19,000 for allergy research.

Like Dean, your passion can drive our mission forward. Celebrate your birthday, host a talent show, or honor a loved one; there are endless ways to make a difference in the lives of kids and expectant moms in our community.

Fundraise Your Way today at ChampionsLPCH.org!

**More Inside**

Make a Difference Year-Round
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Ready, Set, Scamper!
Join an Auxiliary

**You Helped Cece’s Family Keep the Faith**

For Liz, Mother’s Day is forever linked to Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford.

It all started with a springtime family outing in 2014. Liz was celebrating Mother’s Day with her 3-year-old son, Martin, and 9-month-old daughter, Cece.

When they returned home, Liz noticed that Cece was lethargic and had trouble holding her head up.

“I thought she was tired. But the next morning it was much worse,” Liz recalls.

Thanks to your support, Cece survived a scary health crisis and monthlong hospital stay.

Writer and Editor: Megan Alpers-Raschefsky
Design: Michael Mescall
Photography: Courtesy of Cece’s family

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You can support the *Children’s Fund* by visiting supportLPCH.org/ChildrensFund.

**CONTINUED INSIDE...**
Children’s Fund Spring Update 2023

Make a Difference Year-Round
For just $10/month, you can be a lifeline for kids all year long. Become a Monthly Giving Partner at supportLPCH.org/Monthly.

Leave a Legacy of Hope and Healing
A bequest to Packard Children’s will advance research and care in the future while preserving your assets today. Reach out to our Gift Planning team at GiftPlanning@LPCH.org.

At 9 months old, Cece’s life was saved at our hospital. Today, her art fundraisers support other patients. Thank you for making Cece’s story possible!

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE...
Liz brought Cece to her pediatrician, Lloyd Brown, MD, an adjunct clinical associate professor at the Stanford School of Medicine, who suspected a startling reason for Cece’s weakness: infant botulism.

Infant botulism occurs when Clostridium botulinum bacteria, found in soil and dust, get into a baby’s digestive system. Older children and adults pass the bacteria through their system quickly enough to avoid harm, but in babies, the bacteria can linger and produce a toxin that weakens muscles. When the breathing muscles are impacted, a baby can be in peril.

“Dr. Brown recommended we go straight to Packard Children’s Hospital, and we did,” Liz says.

Infant botulism was confirmed as the cause of Cece’s distress, and she was admitted to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). Liz was horrified to watch her little girl’s oxygen levels drop dramatically. Doctors placed Cece on a ventilator.

A Hand to Hold
“There were multiple times when I clutched a nurse’s hand, watching what was happening and wondering if Cece would make it,” Liz says. The doctors identified the antitoxin Cece needed to survive and had it flown to our hospital.

“It was an incredibly hard time, but also a beautiful time in the PICU,” Liz remembers. “Everyone was rooting for their kids and everyone else’s kids. It was a true community among patient families and staff.”

Liz says the Packard Children’s Hospital care team provided excellent care, not just for Cece, but for her, too. One particularly strong connection she built was with the PICU chaplain, Rev. Wally Bryen, MDiv.

“Reverend Wally brought much-needed spiritual care during our monthlong hospital stay,” Liz says. “I asked him to pray with me, and he did every day. I don’t know how I would have gotten through it all without his daily visits.”

After two weeks in our PICU, Cece was transferred to another unit where she received physical therapy to regain muscle strength.

Your Gifts to Liz and Cece
Liz received visits from the Family Resource Librarian and remembers being given a kit of shampoo and supplies. In the blur of Cece’s hospitalization, Liz hadn’t packed any essentials. The kit helped her take care of herself and have the fortitude to be present for Cece.

Thank you for ensuring families like Cece’s have what they need to face health crises.

“A month after we were discharged, Rev. Wally and Aliza Cheslow, a nurse chaplain, visited us at the hospital,” Liz says. “They brought her with them and she held Cece in her arms and comforted her.”

Liz was so grateful for the spiritual care she received that she had Cece baptized at Packard Children’s Hospital by Rev. Bryen before they left.

Today, Cece is a thriving 9-year-old! She loves art, and decorates and sells rocks as a fundraiser for Packard Children’s Hospital. Her brother Martin has been inspired to join the fundraising efforts.

“Every year around Mother’s Day, I think back to our time at the hospital and how far we have come,” Liz says. “There is a nurse, Aliza Cheslow, who I’m still in touch with, and I reach out to her. The hospital means a lot to us. I appreciate Cece’s amazing care team and everyone I met during our stay. Moreover, I am deeply grateful for the donors who make services including chaplaincy possible. It makes all the difference in the world to patients and their families.”

Want to Help More Kids like Cece?
Support services like chaplains, child life specialists, art and music therapists, and more rely on philanthropy to sustain their work. To provide more families with access to these services, visit supportLPCH.org.

Ready, Set, Scamper!
The 2023 Summer Scamper 5k and kids’ fun run will be held on June 25 on the Stanford campus.

Last year we raised an incredible $618,000 together! So, lace up those shoes and join us to celebrate and raise funds for vital programs at our hospital and the Stanford School of Medicine.

You can also race virtually again this year. Race, donate, and celebrate with us at SummerScamper.org.

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Join an Auxiliary
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