Dear Friends,

I think we can all say that this year has challenged us in ways we never could have anticipated when it began. There have been so many moments of grief, fear, and frustration. But there have also been so many moments of hope, perseverance, and unity. I hope you know that you create these moments through your support of Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford and Stanford University School of Medicine. As an academic medical center, thanks to donor support, we are uniquely positioned to bring the latest pediatric and maternal health research directly into our care and create moments of hope for healthier futures, perseverance through challenges, and unity in our collective efforts to improve families’ lives.

One example is a project by Grace Gengoux, PhD, BCBA-D, a clinical associate professor and the director of the Autism Intervention Clinic. Dr. Gengoux’s project, “Resilience Training for Parents of Children with Autism,” was possible because of your support. This program helps to give families of children with autism resilience and coping skills, which are especially crucial in these times of sheltering in place.

To complete the project, Dr. Gengoux received a Stanford Maternal and Child Health Research Institute (MCHRI) Clinician Educator award, which bolsters scholarly work by our clinical faculty through funding and access to MCHRI’s resources. These awards are directly funded by Children’s Fund donors.

When we all come together to support researchers like Dr. Gengoux, we can make a difference for others in the midst of challenging times. Thank you for giving these families tools to persevere and thrive. We are so grateful for generous donors like you.

You can learn more about research you’ve made possible at med.stanford.edu/mchri.

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

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You Bring Vulnerable Teens Health and Hope

A large blue RV pulls into the parking lot at San Mateo High School, bringing with it many things: critical medical care, COVID-19 tests, and a team of dedicated care providers.

This is the Stanford Children’s Health Teen Van, and Children’s Fund donors like you have helped it reach under-resourced youth for more than 20 years.

What does this clinic on wheels do, exactly? As it turns out, quite a bit.
Together, Let’s Change Lives

Want to join the Auxiliaries in their ongoing support of the Teen Van and other vital programs at Packard Children’s? 

Make a gift to the 2020 Auxiliaries Endowment Challenge by December 31, 2020, and your gift will be matched by 10 percent.*

Auxiliary and community members help sustain vital programs like the Teen Van and the Family Guidance and Bereavement Program through gifts to the Auxiliaries Endowment.

Founded in 1999, the endowment awards annual grants across the hospital and accomplishes extraordinary things through the power of collective giving. You do not need to be an Auxiliary member to participate.

Learn more by contacting our Gift Planning team at (650) 724-5778.

*Restrictions apply.

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Launched in 1996 by Seth Ammerman, MD, the Teen Van was one of the first mobile clinics in the nation specifically created to provide cost-free care for uninsured or homeless youth.

In 2019, Arash Anoshiravani, MD, who completed an adolescent medicine fellowship under now-retired Ammerman’s guidance, took over the helm as the Teen Van’s new medical director.

“The Teen Van has made a real difference in the lives and health of a generation of young people. It has served as a bridge helping youth and young adults going through tough times to get to the other side, to a healthy adult life. That is what we are about, and that is what our team is committed to continue doing,” says Anoshiravani.

Today, the Teen Van’s dedicated staff includes Anoshiravani, a nurse practitioner, a social worker, a dietitian, and a registrar/driver. They travel to nine sites across Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties including local high schools and youth centers.

During visits, the team provides no-cost vaccines, mental health care, contraceptives, physical exams, nutritional counseling, and much more to patients ages 12 to 25 without health insurance. About 40 percent of the Teen Van’s patients are homeless or have been homeless in the past year.

“We know the Van itself is an amazing way to meet our patients where they are,” explains Anoshiravani.

“But we also saw that we could do more, incorporating new technologies like telehealth visits so patients could access our services in an even more timely manner.”

The Teen Van and COVID-19

When the COVID-19 pandemic reached the Bay Area, Anoshiravani knew his patients and their families would be particularly at risk for the virus, as well as its economic, emotional, and physical repercussions.

He reached out to the community for support. Within weeks, donors stepped forward to fully cover the first eight weeks of COVID-19 testing (which started in June), and helped the Teen Van provide additional food assistance, toiletries, and face masks.

“We saw that young people and their families who were uninsured, housing insecure, and residing in underserved communities of color throughout the Bay Area were getting hit particularly hard,” Anoshiravani says. “The support for our efforts to not only address their health and testing needs, but also their food and financial needs, has been incredible!”

Still More Work to Do

With the pandemic showing little sign of slowing down soon, the team hopes to continue to provide COVID-19 testing beyond the initial eight weeks. Your support will help do that.

“This fall and winter will likely be critical times for learning how we can get back to some kind of normal before a vaccine becomes available,” says Anoshiravani. “The Teen Van will continue to be a uniquely flexible and effective resource for our patients, their communities, and the Bay Area as a whole as we navigate through the school year.”

We are so grateful for your support of the Children’s Fund. You enable the Teen Van to meet young people where they are and provide extraordinary health care. Thank you.

Want to Keep the Teen Van on the Road?

In addition to supporting patients at Packard Children’s, Children’s Fund donors provide valuable support to a variety of programs including the Teen Van that make a huge difference in our community.

Your gifts enable the Teen Van to help more adolescents and young adults at risk for COVID-19 and other health conditions. To give young people in the Bay Area a brighter future, visit supportLPCH.org/ChildrensFund.

Questions? Please contact our Children’s Fund team at (650) 498-6168.

“Thanks to you, the care team aboard the Stanford Children’s Health Teen Van can provide COVID-19 testing, nonperishable food items, and socially distanced in-person routine and telehealth visits for under-resourced families.”

Increase the Impact of Your Gift with Your Employer’s Help

Many companies offer matching gift programs to increase the impact of employees’ donations. Your gift for children’s health could be doubled! Contact your HR department to see if they will match your gift.

Be a Lifeline for Our Patients

Give the gift of health and hope year-round by becoming a Monthly Giving Partner. Many of our patients, like Athena (pictured), need long-term or complex care. You can be their lifeline with your ongoing support. You’ll also get access to exclusive content and opportunities.

Learn more at supportLPCH.org/Monthly.