

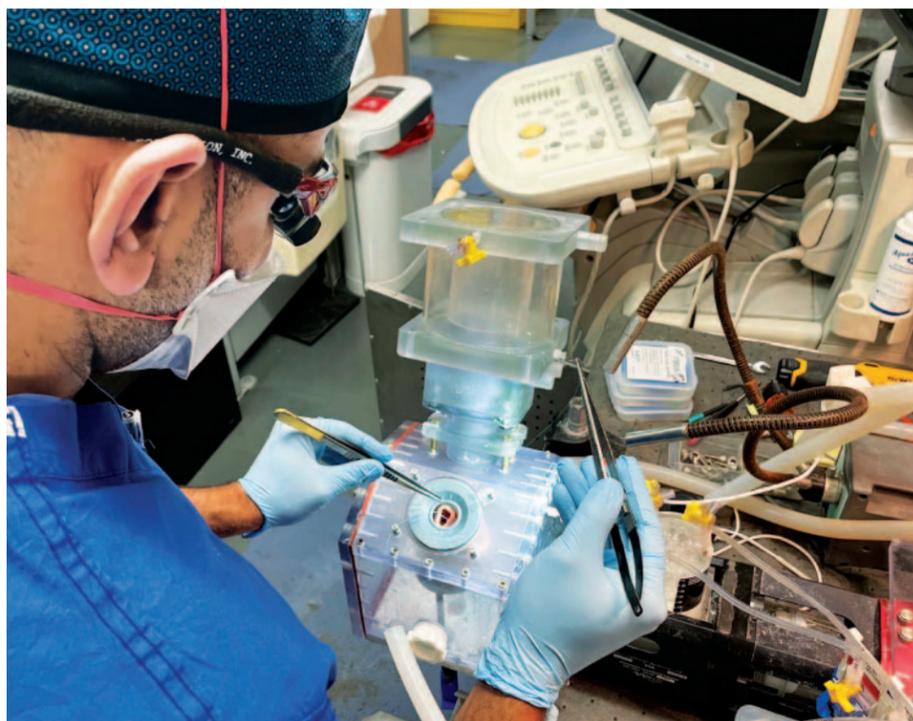
Researcher Spotlight: Michael Ma, MD

Your support of the *Children's Fund* makes heart surgery safer and more effective for children with single ventricle defects.

Michael Ma, MD, Assistant Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery (Pediatric Cardiac Surgery), received a Pilot/Early Career Award from the Stanford Maternal & Child Health Research Institute (MCHRI), which is funded in large part by the *Children's Fund*. **Thanks to the generosity of our community, MCHRI provides promising researchers with the resources they need to get their careers started.**

In the photo below, a member of Dr. Ma's lab experiments with mounting a tricuspid valve in a 3D-printed heart simulator. By replicating the hearts of children born with single ventricle defects, the team aims to identify corrective actions before any surgery takes place.

Thank you for your support of life-changing research!



Lucile Packard Children's Fund

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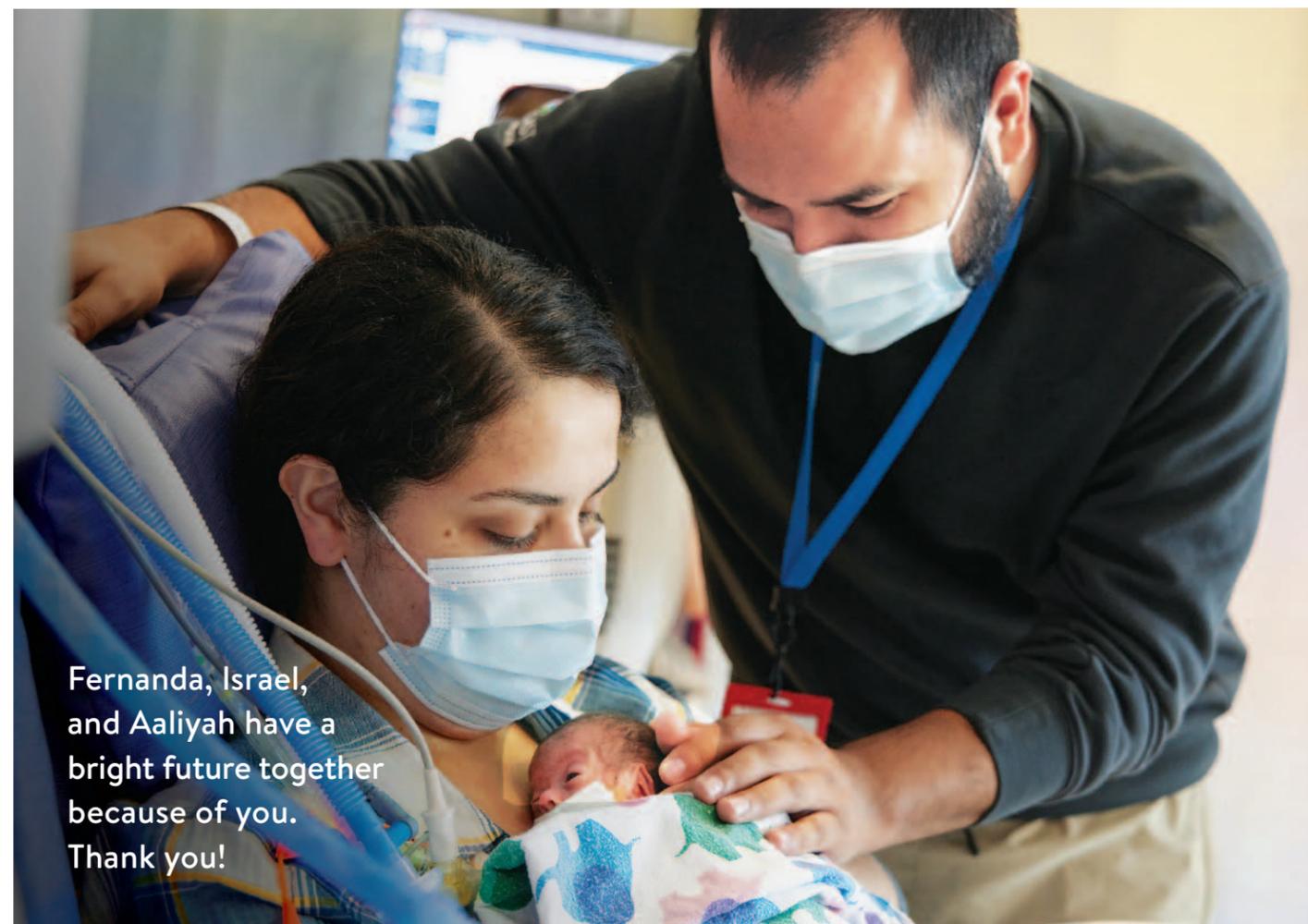
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Cover image: Your support of Packard Children's Hospital ensures extraordinary care for our tiniest patients like Aaliyah.

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Fernanda, Israel,
and Aaliyah have a
bright future together
because of you.
Thank you!

More Inside

Double Your Impact

Leave a Legacy of Hope
and Healing

Nominate a Hospital Hero

Join an Auxiliary

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You Gave Tiny Aaliyah a Big Boost

Aaliyah's impossibly tiny chest rose and fell as she slept in her NICU isolette.

The neonatal intensive care team, moving in perfect unison, untangled tubes and wires, flipped switches, and tapped screens. On cue, Aaliyah's mom, Fernanda, leaned over and gently cupped her hands beneath Aaliyah's body and lifted her to her chest.

The buzzing and beeping of the busy Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford NICU disappeared into the background. As Fernanda and Aaliyah settled into a chair, the world seemed to slow down, just a bit.

CONTINUED INSIDE...



Double Your Impact

Did you know that many employers match their employees' charitable gifts?

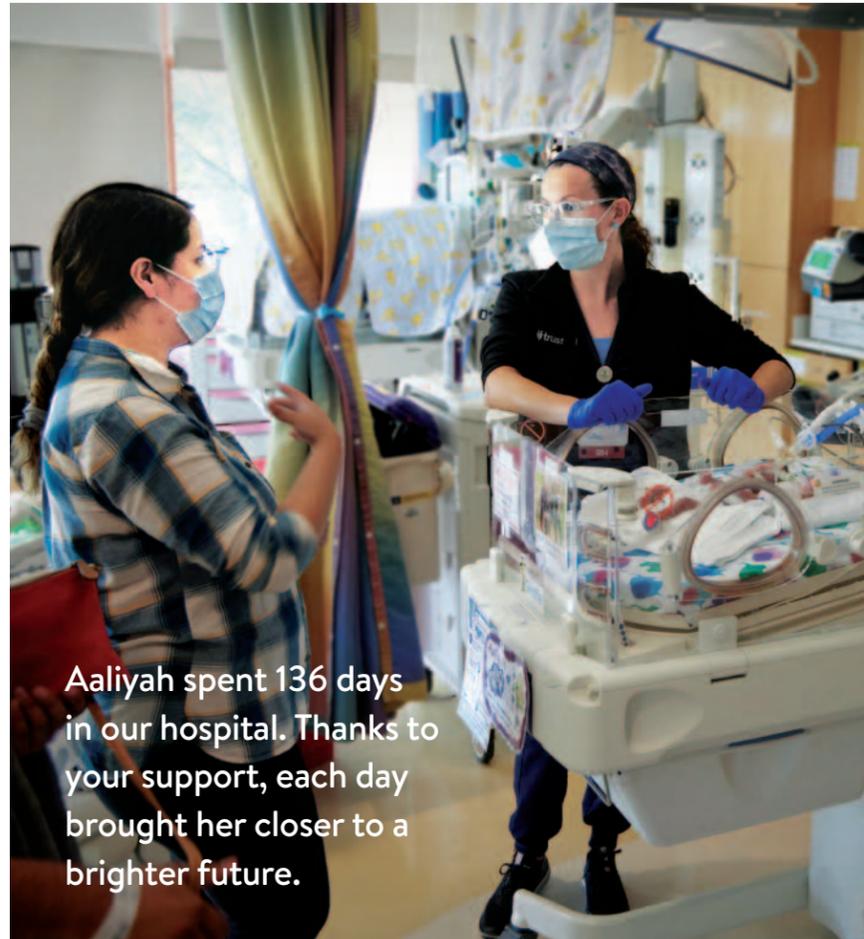
Check with your Human Resources Department to see if your *Children's Fund* donation can be matched to give twice as much health and healing today.

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



Leave a Legacy of Hope and Healing

We can help combine your philanthropy with solid financial planning. Reach out to our Gift Planning team at giftplanning@lpfch.org.



Aaliyah spent 136 days in our hospital. Thanks to your support, each day brought her closer to a brighter future.

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

For the first five months of Fernanda's pregnancy, she attended regular prenatal appointments in her hometown of Salinas. There was little warning that something was wrong.

"It took us by surprise," Fernanda recalls. "My doctor told me to watch for symptoms of possible complications: headaches, vision changes, and pain. And I didn't feel anything."

Then one day Fernanda's blood pressure skyrocketed. Follow-up tests showed dangerous levels of protein in her urine, a sign her kidneys were failing. Things escalated quickly. **Just 23 weeks into her pregnancy, Fernanda was diagnosed with preeclampsia—a potentially deadly complication—and transferred to Packard Children's Hospital.**

"I was scared," Fernanda recalls. "Scared that she wouldn't make it, or that something would happen to me."

The Right Place

When Fernanda arrived at our hospital, the team leapt into action to keep her and Aaliyah safe. After just a few days, it was clear that delivering Aaliyah was best for mom and baby. So, on September 12, one day shy of 25 weeks' gestation, Aaliyah arrived, classified as a "micro-preemie" and weighing just over one pound.

Thankfully, support from donors like you enables our NICU to provide expert care to Aaliyah and other babies just like her.

Home Away from Home

It is a two-hour drive from Fernanda and her husband Israel's home to Packard Children's. **Your support of the *Children's Fund* ensures every family in our hospital has access to social workers to help navigate daunting times.**

"Our social worker, Rachel, was so helpful, getting us a room right after I left the hospital and then into the Ronald McDonald House," says Fernanda. "We can talk to her about anything."

Most hospitals do not have the ability to care for infants as tiny as Aaliyah; micro-preemies are extremely fragile. She faces chronic lung problems and thyroid issues. But Fernanda is proud to report that Aaliyah is getting stronger and growing every day. The care team celebrated when she passed the two-pound mark and loves the tiny girl's personality.

"She shows the nurses exactly what she needs," Fernanda says with a laugh. "She shows us when she's angry, sad, or happy."

Looking Forward

Fernanda and her husband have big hopes for their little girl, who is now 4 months old and weighs seven pounds. "I hope that she's healthy and that her lungs heal," Fernanda says. "I hope she has the chance to do things I never got to do when I was younger. I just want to give her opportunities that I never had."

Thank you for giving Aaliyah and her family this chance to experience a world of hope and possibilities. ●

Want to Help More Babies Like Aaliyah?

Your gifts to the *Children's Fund* ensure that families have access to extraordinary care and the potential for brighter futures. To bring hope and health to our tiniest patients, visit supportLPCH.org.



Nominate a Hospital Hero

Every year at our annual Summer Scamper we honor extraordinary hospital employees who go above and beyond to make a difference for the patients and families we serve.

Nominate a Summer Scamper Hospital Hero at supportLPCH.org/HospitalHero.

Visit SummerScamper.org for updates on this year's event!

Join an Auxiliary

You can join volunteers throughout the Bay Area to make a difference for children and families through service and volunteerism. Learn more at supportLPCH.org/Auxiliaries.

