Can AI Save Babies’ Lives?

5 Ways Philanthropy Fuels Research

How Kids Are Helping Kids in Our Hospital

Meet Armaneigh: Living Life with a Grateful Heart
Philanthropy Powers Research and Hope

I AM FILLED WITH GRATITUDE THIS TIME OF YEAR for the amazing people who make a difference for children like Armaneigh—from our care teams at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford and the researchers advancing new treatments and cures to donors like you!

Armaneigh was only 9 months old when she was diagnosed with an enlarged heart and came to Packard Children’s for specialized care. She waited 292 days for her heart transplant and spent almost a year in our hospital—celebrating holidays and her birthday there. Learn more about her journey on page 8 and see how she’s doing now.

We believe that resources should never stand in the way of the best possible health for all kids and moms. Your support of care and research makes a huge difference to children like Armaneigh and to fearless scientists like Nima Aghaeepour, PhD, who is harnessing the power of AI (see page 14) to predict and prevent premature birth, as well as create targeted treatments for babies in our neonatal intensive care unit.

With philanthropy, we can take on the hardest problems in children’s health. On page 6, we show how donations of any size can add up to big discoveries. Did you know that only 10 percent of federal research funding from the National Institutes of Health is awarded to pediatrics? That’s why gifts from donors like you are so important.

And some of our most passionate philanthropists are kids themselves! Our hospital’s youngest supporters host dance parties, fishing tournaments, bake sales, and more to raise money. Go to page 18 to learn how your kids can get involved, too.

I am so grateful for your commitment to ensuring that every mom and child has the best chance to achieve their health potential. All my best wishes for the new year ahead!

With gratitude,

Cynthia J. Brandt, PhD
President and Chief Executive Officer
Lucile Packard Foundation for Children’s Health

On the Cover: Armaneigh experienced many ups and downs as she waited for her new heart. Today she is an active 2-year-old who loves Minnie Mouse.

COVER PHOTO BY ANA HOMONNAI


For more information or to share comments, please email editor@supportLPCH.org
Helping Newborns with Fatal Kidney Diagnosis Thrive

When Abigail Beutler was born in 2013 without kidneys, her parents were told there was no hope for their daughter to survive. But Abigail arrived at 28 weeks, feisty despite her missing kidneys, and her parents turned to Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford and pediatric nephrologist Steven Alexander, MD, to tackle the next big challenge: dialysis for a newborn.

Alexander candidly told them that he had never done dialysis on a baby so small, but he and his team were willing to try. Ten years later, Abigail is living her best preteen life, challenging her brother at archery and playing with her horses, all because Packard Children’s said “yes.”

Abigail’s recovery was extraordinary, and she played a large role in the formal launch of our hospital’s NephroNICU program, which provides specialized care for fetuses and newborns with severe kidney problems.

“There is nothing more special than seeing a baby survive and thrive,” says Dr. Alexander. “Today we are pushing the boundaries of conventional wisdom about how small a baby can be to receive neonatal dialysis,” says Alexis Davis, MD, a neonatologist. Our hospital now cares for a steady stream of babies like Abigail.

Mark Skylar-Scott Wins $26.3M Grant to 3D Print a Human Heart

Under a new $26.3 million federal contract from the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health, a multidisciplinary team of researchers at Stanford University aims to bioprint a fully functioning human heart and implant it in a living pig within five years.

“It’s truly a moonshot effort, but the raw ingredients for bioprinting a complete and complex human organ are now in place for this big push,” says Mark Skylar-Scott, PhD, assistant professor of bioengineering in the Schools of Engineering and Medicine, and a member of the Basic Science and Engineering (BASE) initiative at the Betty Irene Moore Children’s Heart Center.

While he is the principal investigator on the project, Skylar-Scott insists it is the Stanford research ecosystem that makes this project possible. The full team needed to make the dream a reality includes experts in engineering, biochemistry, computer modeling, cardiology, cardiothoracic surgery, biology, and materials science. Only Stanford concentrates leadership in all these disparate but interrelated fields within walking distance of one another.

Young Man Receives the Rare Gift of Three Transplants

Joseph “Joe Joe” Sanchez-Munoz has faced some pretty steep hurdles in his life-time journey of care at Packard Children’s—a liver transplant at just 7 months of age and then a kidney transplant seven years later. Last year, a visit to the emergency department revealed heart issues, and Joe Joe started the process to prepare for his third transplant.

After his heart transplant at age 18, Joe Joe tapped into his passion for music and worked with a Packard Children’s music therapist to write, sing, and accompany an original song about his triple-transplant experience. The song, “Dancing with His New Organs,” takes listeners along his transplant journey and acknowledges his incredible care team. “No matter what life throws at him, he’s smiling,” says his mom, Elena Munoz.

Robotic Puppies Come to Play

Students from the Stanford University School of Engineering robotics team visited Packard Children’s Hospital for an epic puppy play date. The students 3D printed parts to create 30 puppies. Their robotic puppies, known as The Pepper Robots, visited patients through the Stanford Chariot Program, a pediatric immersive technology service that helps calm and distract patients during routine and complex procedures. Kids had a chance to frolic, jump, and dance with the AI-powered puppies, providing moments of delight and a sense of normalcy.

“Seeing these children come down from their patient rooms to interact with these robotic puppies brought all of us an immense amount of joy,” says Thomas Caruso, MD, PhD, pediatric anesthesiologist and co-director of the Chariot Program.

Natalie Pageler, MD, has been promoted to Chief Health Informatics Officer at Stanford Medicine Children’s Health, and will be the first Division of Clinical Informatics chief within the Department of Pediatrics at the Stanford School of Medicine. Pageler will be responsible for clinical and research informatics and helping to shape analytics and digital transformation for Stanford Medicine Children’s Health. She will partner with faculty and the Stanford Children’s Clinical Informatics and Information Services operational teams to harness innovative solutions and data-driven insights to transform pediatric health care.

Justin Baker, MD, FAAP, FAAHPM, has been appointed the inaugural chief of the Division of Quality of Life and Pediatric Palliative Care within the Stanford Department of Pediatrics. Baker brings a wealth of experience from his distinguished career at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. His groundbreaking work includes pioneering palliative care programs and community-based hospice care models.

Baker succeeds Harvey Cohen, MD, PhD, and Barbara Sourkes, PhD, who recently stepped down as the founding leaders of our hospital’s pediatric palliative care program.
Five New Members Join Foundation’s Board

The Lucile Packard Foundation for Children’s Health has appointed five members to its board of directors. With unique professional, health care, and volunteer backgrounds, these new members will enrich the Foundation’s fundraising mission for Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford and the maternal and child health programs at the Stanford School of Medicine.

“Our new members bring incredible passion and expertise in business, philanthropy, and marketing to our board. I can’t wait to see how they contribute to our mission to expand care and access to all children and families who need it,” says Cynthia Brandt, president and CEO of the Foundation.

At the September board meeting, we welcomed the following new board members:

Yasser Y. El-Sayed, MD
is the Charles B. and Ann L. Johnson Professor in the School of Medicine and professor, by courtesy, of pediatrics (neonatology) and of surgery. He is a specialist in maternal-fetal medicine and obstetrics. He attended medical school at the Medical College of Wisconsin and completed his internship, residency, and fellowship at Stanford University.

El-Sayed is board-certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology in both obstetrics and gynecology and maternal-fetal medicine. He is also a published author; he was named a finalist for the Restless Books Prize for New Immigrant Writing in 2016.

David George
is a general partner at Andreessen Horowitz, where he leads the firm’s growth investing team. He graduated summa cum laude from the University of Notre Dame and earned his MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

He is a member of the investment committee of Sacred Heart Schools Atherton and the advisory council of the IDEA Center at the University of Notre Dame.

Tonia Karr
is a member of the Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford board. She serves on the Audit, Compliance and Enterprise Risk Committee and the Nominating and Governance Committee as its chair.

She has served in multiple leadership roles in the area, including positions on the Stanford University Board of Trustees and the Stanford Alumni Association Board of Directors.

She has a bachelor’s from Stanford in economics and an MBA from Harvard Business School. Karr and her husband, Adam, live in San Francisco and have three children.

Julie Lee
is a community volunteer who serves on the board of Crystal Springs Uplands School. Previously, she served The Carey School in multiple roles, including president and vice president of the Parents Association Executive Committee and chair of the Board Strategic Plan Committee.

She has bachelor’s degrees in applied mathematics and statistics and an MBA from the University of California, Berkeley. Lee and her husband, Albert, live in Hillsborough with their three children.

Nina Wanstrath
oversees her family’s philanthropy focusing on animals, kids, health, and the environment. This is her first board position. Previously, Wanstrath worked at Apple on the Apple Watch product marketing team and in marketing roles at Netflix and Microsoft.

She received her degree in government from Harvard University. Wanstrath lives in Woodside with her family.
The Science of Hope
5 Ways Philanthropy Drives Better Care and Cures

Millions of children suffer from serious health challenges such as cancer, congenital heart disease, and prematurity—and each one of them deserves the best possible treatment with the fewest side effects. For these kids, research is hope—and philanthropy is the key to unlocking promising discoveries. Here’s how...

1. It gives childhood diseases the attention they deserve.
   - Federal funding for pediatric research is scant and diminishing.
   - Only 10% of dollars from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the world's largest public funder of biomedical research, is awarded to pediatrics.

2. It frees up scientists to do science, not write grant proposals.
   - Brilliant scientists spend up to 50% of their time writing grant proposals—and must apply to an average of 5-6 NIH grants to get just one.
   "Science is dynamic, you have to respond to what you learn. If you had to write a new grant every time you had a new idea or insight, nothing would ever get done. Philanthropy is not just important, it is necessary for creative, innovative work.”
   Michelle Monje, MD, PhD

3. It provides rocket fuel for big ideas with life-changing potential.
   - NIH funding is conservative—favoring safe bets that move science and medicine only incrementally.
   - Philanthropy can launch high-risk, high-reward projects, foster collaboration across disciplines, and speed the proof-of-concept cycle for breakthrough ideas.

4. Even small donations have big ROI.
   - A gift of $25 to the Children's Fund—pooled with gifts from other donors—can fuel a pilot grant from Stanford's Maternal and Child Health Research Institute (MCHRI).
   - This seed funding enables researchers to test inventive ideas and generate evidence to compete successfully for NIH grants.
   - Every dollar provides leverage to secure additional funding—averaging 538% ROI and bringing discoveries to the patients who need them.

5. It makes a lifelong impact for kids.
   - When it comes to medical research, there is no better investment than kids—they are pure potential. Advances in prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and cures can have a lifelong impact and transform health for all children.
Living Life with a Grateful Heart

By Megan Alpers-Raschefskey
Photos by Ana Homonnay

Armaneigh was born a beautiful, healthy baby on November 6, 2021. “By 6 months old, she was pulling herself up to stand, was crawling, and was on her way to walking,” recalls Armaneigh’s mom, Tianna. “She possessed all the qualities a mother could love.”

At about 9 months old, Armaneigh caught what seemed like a normal cold. But when Armaneigh struggled to breathe, Tianna took her to the emergency department near their home in Modesto. An echocardiogram revealed that Armaneigh’s heart was enlarged, and she needed specialized cardiac care—urgently. The local care team reached out to Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford.

“That afternoon, my baby was airlifted to Stanford,” says Tianna.
A Team Ready for Armaneigh

Our Betty Irene Moore Children’s Heart Center team diagnosed Armaneigh with dilated cardiomyopathy and delivered the shocking news that she needed a heart transplant. Thankfully, our Heart Center is renowned for pediatric heart transplant care and outcomes. Since our hospital’s first heart transplant nearly four decades ago, our care teams have performed more than 500 transplants. This number is higher than nearly any other children’s hospital in the United States.

Our hospital also has a very successful Pediatric Advanced Cardiac Therapies (PACT) program that helps children with failing hearts survive what can sometimes be a years-long wait for a transplant. Sometimes donor hearts are not immediately available.

“The PACT program at Packard Children’s brings together expertise in cardiomyopathy, heart failure, and heart transplantation to offer our patients the best pathway through an incredibly challenging time in their lives,” explains David Rosenthal, MD, professor of pediatric cardiology at the Stanford School of Medicine and director of the PACT team.

Armaneigh underwent surgery to receive a ventricular-assist device called a Berlin Heart that pumped blood through her body as she awaited transplant. It was a lot for a 10-month-old to undergo, but Tianna was in awe of her daughter’s fortitude.

“She was so resilient through the procedures,” Tianna says.

The PACT team focused on building Armaneigh’s strength for what lay ahead. During their hospital stay, Armaneigh’s mom pulled her in a wagon with her Berlin Heart accompanying her, often stopping to enjoy a colorful cow sculpture made from thousands of children’s toys.

Unfortunately, Armaneigh’s health took a turn when she experienced three strokes. Rosenthal ensured that Tianna had an opportunity to ask questions, express fears and frustrations, and receive the support she needed to be there for Armaneigh in the cardiovascular intensive care unit (CVICU).

“At Stanford, it’s about the patient and the family,” Tianna says. “Dr. Rosenthal is the most kindhearted man. He took the time to build my trust and make me feel comfortable after going through so many hurdles with Armaneigh’s strokes. I appreciate that he stopped by to check on us even when it wasn’t his day to be on service.”

“At Stanford, it’s about the patient and the family.”
Tianna, Armaneigh’s mom

Armaneigh’s mom, Tianna, admires her daughter’s courage as she underwent multiple procedures to treat her heart failure.
As Armaneigh’s health improved, she and her mom participated in a Donate Life Month ceremony in our Dawes Garden, planting pinwheels in honor of the dozens of Packard Children’s patients awaiting organ transplants.

“Before all of this, I didn’t know that much about organ donation—about donating life,” Tianna says. “But now I have met so many people whose lives have been saved, and I am so grateful to the people who make the decision to donate life.”

Armaneigh’s Turn

The call came in June.

After 292 days, Tianna received word that a heart was ready for Armaneigh. The team jumped into action.

“Armaneigh’s family has overcome so much since I met them just over a year ago,” says Heart Center social worker Megan Miller, MSW. “Armaneigh had a long wait for transplant, but her mom and her medical team remained committed to her health and well-being. It was this commitment and strength that got Armaneigh to where she is today.”

When Armaneigh and Tianna finally left the hospital after 341 days, the care team that had become their second family lined the halls waving pompoms to cheer them on.

“Armaneigh hit so many milestones in the hospital, and the team was there for all of them,” Tianna says. “Sydnee, the recreation coordinator in the playroom, brought us so much joy. The PCU 200 and CVICU teams showered us with love. You can tell that for the nurses, this is not just a job. And Dr. Kaufman has really been through the wringer with us.”

Tianna credits Beth Kaufman, MD, a clinical professor of pediatric cardiology and director of the hospital’s Pediatric Cardiomyopathy Program, with advocating for Armaneigh and being a source of strength and perspective.

A Grateful Heart

Today Armaneigh is a bright-eyed little girl who is a joy to be around. She loves Minnie Mouse and singing along to the Mickey Mouse Clubhouse theme music. “That’s her happy place,” Tianna says.

Thanks to support from donors and the hospital’s social services team, Armaneigh and Tianna are staying at the Ronald McDonald House at Stanford to be close to the hospital and her care team. Despite having many appointments to monitor Armaneigh’s new heart and ensure that there are no signs of organ rejection, Tianna is proud of how far her daughter has come.

“Watching Armaneigh face her challenges shows me that we have to be really grateful for our health,” Tianna says.

And she also expresses gratitude to our donor community.

“I’m a single mother who is enrolled in school,” Tianna says. “Without people who support the hospital, Armaneigh wouldn’t have qualified for her transplant. I want to say ‘thank you’ to donors for making a difference for my daughter and me.”

Your donation this holiday season helps patients like Armaneigh all year-round.

Donate now at supportLPCH.org/holiday or by scanning the code.
I found it compelling to focus on the very beginning of life, when you can make the most impact," he says. "Interventions in the first few weeks of life can create as much as 90 more years for that person. This is in stark contrast to end-of-life care, where the value we can create is incremental.

Aghaeepour and his team have already made unprecedented discoveries. Through in-depth analysis of biological samples, they pinpointed biomarkers in the blood and urine of pregnant women that could predict preeclampsia—dangerous high blood pressure that can cause strokes or even death—months before symptoms emerge. In the current standard of care, treatment typically starts after symptoms appear, which is often too late to prevent health impacts.

More recently, by reviewing electronic health records of moms and babies using a machine learning algorithm, his team found that they could determine, even before birth, which infants were likely to face health issues with their lungs, brains, vision, hearing, and other parts of their body.

"With this knowledge, care teams can have the opportunity to perform the right interventions to prevent these terrible diseases from happening instead of just reacting to them," Aghaeepour says.

AI-based interventions are already being used in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford, with great success.

"By applying AI, we are able to enhance doctors' ability to make correct decisions and offer treatments at the right time.”

Nima Aghaeepour, PhD

More recently, by reviewing electronic health records of moms and babies using a machine learning algorithm, his team found that they could determine, even before birth, which infants were likely to face health issues with their lungs, brains, vision, hearing, and other parts of their body.

Wanting to make a more profound difference in the world, he then pivoted to medicine and came to Stanford University, where he is now associate professor of anesthesiology, perioperative and pain medicine, and of pediatrics. After stints in cancer and HIV research, Aghaeepour found his calling in applying AI to understand complications facing moms and babies.
Putting Technology to the Test

One such initiative employs AI to create nutritional supplements for NICU babies. By analyzing a baby’s vital information, AI can automatically generate a custom product with the right levels of sodium, potassium, calcium, and other nutrients. In doing so, it saves doctors the time they would spend on complex computations and removes the possibility of common errors that have grave consequences for babies.

Lance Prince, MD, PhD, division chief for Neonatal and Developmental Medicine, sees incredible value in partnering with Aghaeepour to analyze and act on data about NICU patients that would otherwise disappear into thin air.

“That information is in there; we just need to figure out how to use it. And that’s what Nima and his team are magicians at doing.”

But these innovations are just scratching the surface of what’s possible, Aghaeepour says. Ultimately, he envisions a medical system in which AI seamlessly connects parents’ medical records to their child’s, predicting disease risk across generations—while also factoring in data pulled from medical records of anyone else with similar biology.

“I don’t want any aspect of health care to be driven by tradition. I want it all to be based on actual scientific data guided by AI so that, from birth, babies get the support they need, customized just for them,” Aghaeepour says. “This is borderline science fiction as far as today’s neonatology is concerned.”

Philanthropy is essential to accelerating this work, he says.

“Building this infrastructure is a huge undertaking,” Aghaeepour says. “We need the support of visionaries who can see the promise of innovation long before it has become the standard way of doing things.”

If Aghaeepour’s dreams become reality, by the time his own “dream”—his daughter Roya—has a child of her own, AI will be a silent member of care teams around the world, diagnosing health challenges before they start and guiding interventions. Until that day arrives, he continues to pursue new ways to apply AI technology to improve lives.

“I want to help ensure that every baby can reach their full potential,” Aghaeepour says. “I wake up every day in disbelief that I have the privilege of being on this amazing campus, with the ability to work on impactful problems and make a real difference.”

Lance Prince, MD, PhD
How Kids Can Give Back to Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford

As a not-for-profit hospital, Packard Children’s relies on community support to advance care and cures for kids, so it’s not surprising that some of our most active and creative supporters are kids, too!

Students for Packard offers a unique and exciting opportunity for K-12 students, university undergraduates, and extracurricular groups to give back and learn about philanthropy by fundraising for our hospital. Through dance-a-thons, talent shows, bake sales, and many other fun events, kids are turning their passions and interests into life-changing support for patients and their families—while also learning important values and skills.

We spoke with Madison Lambert, MPH, our assistant director of community fundraising, to learn more.

**Why is philanthropy important for kids?**

Students realize the rewards of giving back, including building empathy and a sense of purpose, while developing skills in leadership, organization, and collaboration.

**How can parents support their children in giving back?**

Parents are key players in providing guidance and, most importantly, cheering their kids on! Many of our young volunteers say their parents work behind the scenes to support them in their fundraising.

**Why do kids choose to support Packard Children’s Hospital with their philanthropy?**

Our youth fundraisers want to help kids be kids! Some were patients who experienced our hospital’s life-saving care and want to give back to support their care providers, while others know friends or neighbors who were treated at our hospital.

**What are some of the most creative fundraisers kids have hosted to raise money for Packard Children’s Hospital?**

Students are great at using their creativity to make fundraising fun! For example, a group of high school students from the Open Water Swim Club used their swimming events to raise money, while others have held bass fishing tournaments and escape rooms. Kids can take any interest or hobby and use it to give back to our hospital’s patients and families.

**What resources do you provide young fundraisers and volunteers to help them succeed?**

Our team is ready to support their needs. We can provide tips to get them to their goal, event day assistance, small giveaways, and customizable, online donation pages to ensure that their event or project is successful.

To learn more, visit my.supportLPCH.org/StudentsforPackard or contact StudentsforPackard@LPFCH.org

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Meet some of our young fundraisers

Dean has faced severe food allergies since a young age. Thanks to a clinical trial, he can now live a normal life. He hosts an annual bass fishing tournament to raise money for the Sean N. Parker Center for Allergy and Asthma Research at Stanford University.

“I decided to fundraise for the Hospital and give back to the people who saved my life.”

Dean, 17

Jared and members of the Head-Royce Open Water Swim Club dedicated their Alcatraz Sharkfest Swim and Lake Tahoe Open Water Swim to support our allergy and asthma center. (From left to right: Ayumi, Jared, Finn, Ben, and Chetan.)

“One of our most precious successes was fortifying our friendship when we tackled something so challenging and hard together as a team.”

Jared, 17

Aditya and his sister, Trisha, 14, created escape rooms and raised $1,065 for Packard Children’s child and adolescent mental health programs.

“I realized I could be an agent of change and provide a positive impact for my community.”

Aditya, 15

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**4 Ways Kids Can Get Involved**

- **Celebrate with us**
  - Dedicate your birthday to Packard Children’s Hospital and ask for donations in addition to or in lieu of gifts.

- **Host a bake sale**
  - Sell your treats and ask for donations in return. This can be done anywhere—schools, online, or even farmers’ markets.

- **Dance to raise funds**
  - Host a dance-a-thon at your school or at home with your friends. Get creative with how you ask people to donate.

- **Showcase your talents**
  - Whether it’s playing the piano, performing a karate routine, or even yodeling, you’ll have fun while giving back.
Every day, donors like you make gifts of all sizes to build a healthier future for children and expectant mothers. Your support makes our hospital a special place for our patients and families, and we are tremendously grateful.

Team Mighty Max has a lot to celebrate!

Four years ago, Max was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes while living in Arizona. In 2021, his family moved to Palo Alto so that Max could be treated at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford.

They knew they’d made the right decision when Max received another major diagnosis. Max was admitted to the Stanford Emergency Department with stomach pain, and doctors determined he had stage-3 Burkitt lymphoma, a rare and aggressive cancer. “People come to Stanford for the second opinion, but we were fortunate to already be here,” says his mom, Paige Cook.

Max immediately started treatment at the Bass Center for Childhood Cancer and Blood Diseases. He and his family are grateful for the child life specialists and the entire team at Packard Children’s Hospital for making his stay and treatment as comfortable and fun as possible.

This summer, Max, now age 12, along with his family and friends—known as team Mighty Max—raised nearly $9,000 for the Child Life and Creative Arts Department through the Summer Scamper 5k and fun run.

And in the fall, Max celebrated the end of his radiation therapy with a bell-ringing ceremony. Way to go, team Mighty Max! Thank you for being an inspiration to us all.

Laurie Lacob’s Legacy Lives On in Endowed Research Directorship

In May, philanthropist Laurie Lacob made a generous gift to the Center for Definitive and Curative Medicine (CDCM), a Stanford initiative that develops novel cell and gene therapies to cure challenging childhood illnesses. Laurie made this gift, which establishes a research directorship to accelerate discovery, shortly before passing away from cancer.

“The CDCM relies on philanthropy to accelerate new therapies to reach patients. By establishing this directorship, Laurie extended her legacy of empowering innovation to help kids in need,” says CDCM Director Matthew Porteus, MD, PhD, who will be the first holder of the directorship. “We will remember Laurie’s kind and generous heart and her commitment to making the world a better place.”

Laurie served on the board of the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children’s Health from 2015 to 2018. Her previous gifts to Stanford Medicine established a faculty scholar in transformational medicine and supported Porteus’ sickle cell research.

“I remain grateful for our time together on the board and fondly remember her sincere passion for advancing science,” says Susan Ford Dorsey, chair of the Foundation’s board of directors.

Laurie is survived by four children: Kirk, Kelly, Kent, and Kayci. “We are so proud of the impact our mom is making in advancing scientific innovation and care for children and families in the community, and we intend to continue honoring her legacy through a continued relationship with the hospital,” says Kayci.

Cancer Patient and His Family Raise $9K at Summer Scamper

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Anuj's Family Celebrates His Birthday, Raises Money to Help Children with Cancer

There was nothing Anuj couldn’t do! At age 12, he set his mind on becoming a pediatric oncologist and finding cures for cancer that would be less painful with no side effects. Anuj knew firsthand about cancer treatment, because he was diagnosed with leukemia in late 2018 and received treatment at the Bass Childhood Cancer Center.

"His chemotherapy regimen instilled this strong altruistic outlook within Anuj," say his parents, Sneha and Nikhil Setlur. "He was the perfect patient and would have made a great doctor."

Anuj returned to the Bass Center for a stem cell transplant in 2022. After a brave, four-year battle, he passed away in January 2023. Anuj was selfless throughout his life, often ensuring that everyone around him felt comfortable and happy. He adored his parents, sharing his favorite pastimes with them such as walking along the beach, playing tennis, and cycling.

Anuj's legacy lives on through Sneha and Nikhil. In July they held a special fundraiser on Anuj’s 13th birthday and raised $10,800 for our hospital. He was also honored at Cycle for Kids Cancer, an indoor cycling event in September, which raised over $16,000 for pediatric cancer research. Thank you, Sneha and Nikhil, for your generosity and for continuing to fulfill Anuj’s dream to cure childhood cancer.

Star One Credit Union Gift Addresses Food Insecurity

Star One Credit Union is a longtime supporter of Packard Children’s, making annual gifts to our hospital since 2008. Over the years, Star One has supported various programs, including Mother’s and Father’s Day celebrations hosted by the Child Life and Creative Arts Department.

This year, Star One Credit Union dedicated its gift to the Teen Van to help alleviate food insecurity among underserved youth in the community. The Teen Van is a mobile clinic that provides comprehensive health care at eight sites in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties for uninsured and underinsured youth ages 12 to 25.

This gift will help the Teen Van provide non-perishable food packages and free home deliveries of groceries to more youth and families. Thank you, Star One Credit Union, for your commitment to improving patient care at Packard Children’s Hospital and beyond.

#GoodforMEdia Receives Grant to Fuel Its Youth-Powered Movement

The Responsible Technology Youth Power Fund (RTYPF) recently announced its grantees, and #GoodforMEdia, a project of the Stanford Center for Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing, was one of 26 organizations in the inaugural cohort. These youth-led initiatives will receive a total of $2 million to support their advocacy for a more inclusive, equitable, and accountable technology ecosystem.

#GoodforMEdia is a youth-driven peer mentoring program that supports young people’s healthy social media engagement by creating a space where older teens and young adults share personal stories, insights, and strategies with younger teens and tweens. In addition, they’ve produced a curriculum and guides for parents and their peers on the best ways for teens to use social media.

The RTYPF was created by 14 organizations, including The Archewell Foundation, which was co-founded by Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, The Duke and Duchess of Sussex. Thank you, RTYPF, for recognizing the power of youth to lead in creating safe and inclusive online spaces.

Southwest Airlines Goes the Extra Mile

This year, Southwest Airlines gifted 800 one-way flights to patients and their families at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford, doubling their annual flight donations to meet increasing need.

The flights are made possible through Southwest Airlines’ Medical Transportation Grant Program, which provides tickets to families who might not otherwise be able to afford the cost of travel to our hospital. Since 2010, Southwest has given Packard Children’s more than $700,000 in financial and in-kind support, including more than 3,000 flights.

"Southwest Airlines’ gift lifts an incredible burden from our families, allowing them to focus their time, resources, and energy on caring for their sick child," says Cynthia Valenzuela, LCSW, manager of social work at Stanford Medicine Children’s Health. "They help make first-rate health care accessible to families who might not be able to reach us otherwise."

Thank you, Southwest Airlines, for ensuring families can focus on getting the care they need without worrying about transportation.

Star One Credit Union Gift Addresses Food Insecurity

Star One Credit Union is a longtime supporter of Packard Children’s, making annual gifts to our hospital since 2008. Over the years, Star One has supported various programs, including Mother’s and Father’s Day celebrations hosted by the Child Life and Creative Arts Department.

This year, Star One Credit Union dedicated its gift to the Teen Van to help alleviate food insecurity among underserved youth in the community. The Teen Van is a mobile clinic that provides comprehensive health care at eight sites in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties for uninsured and underinsured youth ages 12 to 25.

This gift will help the Teen Van provide non-perishable food packages and free home deliveries of groceries to more youth and families. Thank you, Star One Credit Union, for your commitment to improving patient care at Packard Children’s Hospital and beyond.

#GoodforMEdia Receives Grant to Fuel Its Youth-Powered Movement

The Responsible Technology Youth Power Fund (RTYPF) recently announced its grantees, and #GoodforMEdia, a project of the Stanford Center for Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing, was one of 26 organizations in the inaugural cohort. These youth-led initiatives will receive a total of $2 million to support their advocacy for a more inclusive, equitable, and accountable technology ecosystem.

#GoodforMEdia is a youth-driven peer mentoring program that supports young people’s healthy social media engagement by creating a space where older teens and young adults share personal stories, insights, and strategies with younger teens and tweens. In addition, they’ve produced a curriculum and guides for parents and their peers on the best ways for teens to use social media.

The RTYPF was created by 14 organizations, including The Archewell Foundation, which was co-founded by Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, The Duke and Duchess of Sussex. Thank you, RTYPF, for recognizing the power of youth to lead in creating safe and inclusive online spaces.
“They really like dogs, but most of all, they love playing with each other, rolling the ball back and forth in different Bay Area parks.”

Priscilla, mom to Grayson and Luca
’Tis the season of giving!

Support children’s health by donating and sending e-cards to your loved ones.

Together, we can create moments of joy. ⭐

Donate now at supportLPCH.org/holiday