Coming Soon: Private Rooms for Fragile Babies

Susan Ford Dorsey
Leads from the Heart

World-Class Care
Fueled by Your Support

Meet Iliana: Defying the Odds After Fetal Surgery
Innovating for Kids and Families

THE LUCILE PACKARD FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN’S HEALTH has a whole new look! We recently launched our refreshed brand, which reflects our commitment to creating a healthier future for kids and families.

In our logo, a parent and child embracing reminds us that families are at the heart of our work. And with our color palette, we honor our long-standing relationship with Stanford Medicine and Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford.

This issue of Packard Children’s News features elements of our new brand on every page. We start with a look back at the life of our hospital’s visionary founder and philanthropist, Lucile Packard. Next is an illustration of our hospital, highlighting how you—our generous community—support the excellent care our kids and families receive.

We hope you enjoy getting to know the Foundation’s new board chair, Susan Ford Dorsey. Check out the bright and vibrant photos of Susan, taken in our newly remodeled Foundation offices—we welcome you to stop by! Susan’s commitment to our hospital is inspiring! Like Lucile, she values and recognizes the need for all families in our community to receive the very best care.

We also introduce you to another superstar—Iliana, who underwent fetal surgery to treat spina bifida. Today, Iliana is the happiest, most energetic preschooler on the playground. And she is a Patient Hero at this year’s Summer Scamper 5k and kids’ fun run on Sunday, June 25 on the Stanford campus. We’ll be raising funds to support care, comfort, and cures for patients at our hospital and their families. I hope you can join us!

Please let us know what you think of this issue. And stay tuned for more exciting news to come!

With gratitude,

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

Thank you notes

Coming Soon! Private rooms for the most fragile babies.

World-Class Care
See what your support makes possible!

Meet Iliana
A bright and cheerful preschooler spreads joy after fetal surgery for spina bifida.

Volunteer to Visionary
Lucile Salter Packard was a woman who rolled up her sleeves to get things done.

On the Cover: Our hospital treated Iliana for spina bifida while she was in utero. Now, she can walk, run, play—and talk. Her mom says, “Her vocabulary is way beyond that of most 4-year-olds.”

On the Cover: Photo by Jenner Rose Photography

COVER PHOTO BY JENNER ROSE PHOTOGRAPHY
Lucile Salter Packard, the namesake for Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford and the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children’s Health, was a woman of action who rolled up her sleeves to get things done.

From young volunteer, to wife and mother, to visionary philanthropist, Lucile was many things: all of which led to her $70 million founding gift, with her husband, David, to create the best possible children's hospital. She continues to inspire our long-standing commitment to the health of all children and mothers.

Get to know Lucile with these fun facts:

1. Volunteer
   As an undergrad, Lucile Salter volunteered at the Stanford Home for Convalescent Children, caring for children with chronic illnesses such as polio and tuberculosis. Memories of the “Con Home” would shape her life’s work. It was also during her undergrad years that Lucile met her future husband, David Packard.

2. Family Rock
   While launching Silicon Valley’s original startup, Hewlett-Packard, and starting a family, David and Lucile Packard lived off Lucile’s secretarial salary ($90 per month!). On evenings and weekends, she worked in the famous HP garage, too—writing ad copy, photographing products, typing letters, and balancing the books.

3. Shaper of “The HP Way”
   Lucile believed in fostering a joyful, inclusive work environment. Even as the family and company grew, she continued to make time to plan the annual picnic and shower new HP parents with gifts.

4. Hands-on Learner
   Driven to create the best possible hospital for all moms and kids, Lucile traveled the country visiting children's hospitals, negotiated with Stanford University, and collaborated directly with architects. She chatted with patients, caregivers, and staff and brought home ideas for warm, healing spaces—built for children and families.

5. Nature Lover
   Lucile’s founding vision was to nurture the body and soul of each child. Guided by her lifelong love of nature, she ensured the hospital’s design incorporated natural light, meditative gardens, and playful open spaces where kids could be kids.

6. Visionary
   Lucile’s hard work, leadership, and generosity transformed the way we care for children and families. Packard Children’s was one of the first-ever (and still one of a few) children's hospitals to care for moms and babies. Lucile’s holistic, human approach continues to inspire us to fuel the best care today—and pursue cures for tomorrow—for all kids.
World-Class Care

Fueled by Your Support

Every day at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford, children and expectant moms come from near and far to receive specialized care only available here. In 2022, we provided 8,733 pediatric in-patient stays, and we cared for patients from 48 states and 9 countries.

Stanford advantage
With an extraordinary team of physicians, scientists, and innovators, we transform discoveries into treatments and cures. Beyond campus, Stanford Medicine Children’s Health offers comprehensive health care for kids and pregnant moms in more than 65 Bay Area locations.

Healing power of nature
Our 3.5 acres of gardens and green space are designed to heal the body, mind, and spirit.

Growing our hospital
MAIN BUILDING
In 2017, our new hospital opened, doubling our space to provide care across 150 medical specialties. Our Heart Center performs over 700 open-heart surgeries each year, with better outcomes and shorter stays than other hospitals. And our Cancer and Stem Cell Transplantation teams are pioneering innovative therapies not available anywhere else.

All for kids and families
We want kids to be treated like kids. From artwork and playrooms, to the Sanctuary and Family Resource Center, we strive to meet the needs of the whole child and family.

A home for mothers and babies
WEST BUILDING
Our original building, which opened in 1991 with Lucile Packard’s founding vision, is now a world-class home for the care of mothers and babies. In the coming years, we will reimagine the interior (see page 12) to further enhance care and outcomes for families from our community and beyond.

A commitment to care for all
We believe that every family deserves quality, nurturing care. No local family is ever turned away due to an inability to pay. In 2022, we provided $215 million in financial assistance and charity care.

The power of philanthropy
As a not-for-profit hospital, we rely on community support to deliver the best care today and advance the cures of tomorrow.

Thank you!
Preschooler Spreads Joy After Fetal Surgery for Spina Bifida

By Lynn Nichols
Photos by Jenner Rose Photography

When Yair Blumenfeld, MD, a maternal-fetal medicine specialist, receives a text message with a photo or video of Iliana, age 4, laughing, walking, and enjoying life, he shares it with his colleagues from the Fetal and Pregnancy Health Program at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford who made it all possible. It makes everyone’s day. Ever since Iliana had fetal surgery, she has been defying the odds that often accompany her serious form of spina bifida.
Going the Distance

It was a selfless act by Iliana's mother, Helisabed, to leave home in Southern California, undergo the surgery at Packard Children's Hospital, and then stay near the hospital in the Ronald McDonald House at Stanford for months before and after delivery. Today, she is extremely glad that she did it.

"I had the chance to give my baby a better opportunity in life, and I took it," says Helisabed.

At just 22 weeks into her pregnancy, she found out that her developing baby had the most serious form of spina bifida, called myelomeningocele. With fetal spina bifida, the spinal cord, or neural tube, doesn't fully close, and it herniates through the backbone and into the amniotic cavity. An intact spinal cord is vital for movement, bodily functions, and brain health.

Helisabed learned that Packard Children's Hospital could perform a cutting-edge in utero surgery to possibly save her baby from serious limitations later in life, proven successful in a national clinical trial called the Management of Myelomeningocele Study (MOMS). She underwent a rigorous process to qualify because not every mom and every fetus were candidates. When she was offered the surgery, she didn't hesitate.

“She took on risks for herself in order to have the chance to benefit the baby,” says neurosurgeon Kelly Mahaney, MD.

The other option was waiting until after Iliana was born and then having surgery to close her spinal cord.

“When the spinal cord is open, there is a risk of meningitis, which is a life-threatening condition. That’s why when we perform a traditional repair of the neural tube defect, we do it a day or two after a baby is born,” Mahaney says.

“I had the chance to give my baby a better opportunity in life, and I took it.”
Helisabed

(Clockwise, from left) Iliana was able to leave our hospital less than a month after being born; doctors were amazed at her strength and mobility; as she grew older, Iliana continued to reach her developmental milestones. She can even walk and run.
Iliana, age 4, loves the playground. Nothing can slow her down!

Defying the Odds

The fetal surgery has had remarkable results. It requires opening the mother’s abdomen, draining the amniotic fluid from the uterus, and positioning the fetus so that its tiny spine faces the neurosurgeons. The surgeons then close the spinal cord defect, replace the amniotic fluid, and place unique sutures to create a watertight seal for the uterus before closing the mother’s abdomen.

According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, the substantial majority of babies born with myelomeningocele need a shunt to continuously drain fluid from the brain, and most have leg weakness, experience changes in brain structure, and have bladder and bowel dysfunction. While Iliana needs leg braces to walk and a catheter to help drain her bladder, her brain and bowels work just fine. And she never needed a shunt.

“She wears leg braces because her feet turn inward, but she runs in them. Her teachers have to ask her to slow down. Plus she’s really smart. She loves school,” says Helisabed.

Iliana also loves the playground. She dives right in and challenges herself to climb steps and go up and down the slide. “She finds a way to do it all. Even if she has to sit on her bottom to get up steps, she does it,” Helisabed says.

When Helisabed takes Iliana to her spina bifida clinic in Orange County, California, for physical therapy, she walks away feeling extremely grateful to the doctors at Packard Children’s Hospital and proud of herself for undergoing the fetal surgery.

“There are kids in wheelchairs and kids with shunts. I can’t imagine how those moms do it,” she says. “Iliana has had a great outcome.”

Iliana’s outcomes are in line with or better than the overall findings of the MOMS study, where approximately 40% of babies who received prenatal surgery needed a shunt, compared with approximately 80% of babies who received the spinal closure surgery after birth. The MOMS study was so successful that it closed early, something that rarely ever happens.

While fetal surgery is done at a few hospitals besides Packard Children’s, Stanford is one of the only places in the United States that offers side-by-side expert care for both babies and mothers.

Children with spina bifida often need lifelong care to help them meet milestones and maintain bodily functions. That’s why Iliana sees doctors in her hometown to keep her walking on track. She also receives some support at school. When Iliana was an infant, Helisabed brought her to Stanford’s Spina Bifida Clinic, but it wasn’t feasible to stay, since she lives several hours away. But she understands the power of Iliana receiving ongoing care.

“She’s one of the brightest, happiest kids you will ever meet,” Helisabed says. “She shocks everyone with how well she is doing.”

Blumenfeld couldn’t be more pleased. He looks forward to photos of Iliana for years to come as she grows. “It’s a privilege and an honor to know that we were able to dramatically change her life,” he says.

“Defying the Odds”

Helisabed
Coming Soon: Private Rooms for the Most Fragile Babies

A n ambitious project has launched at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford to reimagine care for the tiniest patients during their critical first days, weeks, and months. Construction has recently begun to transform the current open-bay style neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) into private rooms, which will provide a soothing environment for babies and their families to heal and bond.

The new facility will reflect Packard Children’s ranking as one of the nation’s top-ranked hospitals for neonatology—while delivering a better experience for families. Private NICU rooms are proven to reduce the risk of infection for vulnerable babies, shorten hospital stays, increase parental involvement, and promote breastfeeding and skin-to-skin care.

“Our NICU is a special place where we provide innovative treatments babies can’t get anywhere else and provide families hope,” says Lance Prince, MD, PhD, the Philip Sunshine, MD, Professor of Neonatology and Division Chief for Neonatal and Developmental Medicine at the Stanford School of Medicine. “We are thrilled that we will soon have a state-of-the-art space to deliver life-saving care.”

The NICUs are part of a larger transformation of the West building, our hospital’s original facility, to deliver the very best care for mothers and babies. In the coming years, we will also add upgraded labor and delivery rooms, more private postpartum maternity rooms, a dedicated antepartum unit for mothers with high-risk pregnancies, and state-of-the-art C-section operating rooms, as well as a new lobby and public spaces.

Construction will occur in stages, and the building will remain open for care. The new facilities will better serve our community, provide a launchpad for innovative treatment and research, and set the standard of care for mothers and babies everywhere.

Construction on the first of four NICU suites has already begun, with targeted completion in 2024, thanks to investment from our donor community. Upon completion the project will result in 58 private rooms, plus six semi-private rooms for families of twins and multiples.

Philanthropy can accelerate this exceptional care that will improve and save many lives. To learn how you can support this project and bring the future of care to our most fragile babies, contact Porsche.Gordon@LPFCH.org.

“"Our NICU is a special place where we provide innovative treatments babies can’t get anywhere else and provide families hope. We are thrilled that we will soon have a state-of-the-art space to deliver life-saving care.”
Lance Prince, MD, PhD

TODAY: Open-bay style NICUs
TOMORROW: Private NICU rooms
Susan Ford Dorsey’s connection to Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford dates back decades—to before it even opened. In the late 1980s, her late first husband, Tom Ford, a builder and developer, collaborated closely with Lucile Packard, the hospital’s founding donor and namesake, to envision plans for the institution. Ford Dorsey quickly became inspired by Lucile’s vision. “The idea that no child or family would be turned away for their inability to pay is at the center of the hospital’s mission,” Ford Dorsey says. “That was important at the beginning, and it continues to be important today. It’s an easy cause to get behind.”

Ford Dorsey was also inspired by our hospital’s commitment to accelerating research and innovation to help children around the world. “We are both a community hospital where people come for their children’s basic medical care as well as a place where top scientists are making incredible advances to improve children’s health,” Ford Dorsey says. “The fact that we span that spectrum of care is important to me.”

**A New Milestone**

Paul King, president and CEO of Stanford Medicine Children’s Health and Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford, got to know Ford Dorsey while she served on the hospital board. “It’s an honor to have an advocate like Susan invested in our mission to deliver the best possible health outcomes for moms and babies today while advancing the cures of tomorrow,” says King.

After nine years on the hospital board getting to know the institution, faculty, and community’s needs, Ford Dorsey joined the board of the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children’s Health.

This year marked a milestone for Ford Dorsey: She became the Foundation’s board chair. “Even after all those years on the hospital board, I knew I wasn’t quite done and that I still wanted to support the hospital’s priorities,” Ford Dorsey says. “It’s been an incredible honor to be chosen from among this group of talented and motivated people as its leader.”

**Planning for the Future**

Ford Dorsey is also a generous supporter of our hospital in other ways, including a gift in her will. With this gift, Ford Dorsey has become a member of the Lucile Salter Packard Society, which honors the roughly 400 donors who have made the hospital part of their estate plan.

“Knowing that I can have an impact through an enduring gift is a very compelling and inspiring notion,” Ford Dorsey says. “I care deeply about this organization, and I know it will always continue to provide essential services for families and solve mysteries related to children’s health. My estate gift allows me to be part of that after I’m no longer here.”

Among other uses, Ford Dorsey has directed her estate gift to support undercompensated care. As part of its commitment to our community, every year, Packard Children’s delivers approximately $200 million in care for families whose medical services are not covered by insurance.

“It is such a privilege to be able to help families get what they need for their children. It taps into our common humanity,” she says.

Through her board leadership and legacy giving, Ford Dorsey is helping our hospital fulfill its commitment to our community, now and in the future. And she hopes to inspire others to do the same.

“When you care about something,” says Ford Dorsey, “it gives you so much joy knowing that you can make an impact that will last for generations.”
Alfred E Mann Charities Advances Impactful Medical Research

ALFRED MANN, a physicist, entrepreneur, inventor, and philanthropist, dedicated his life and fortune to advancing science that would help people live better, longer lives. Alfred E Mann Charities continues to build on his legacy by advancing health and humanity through science and medicine. “Without philanthropy, we would not be world leaders in finding cures for many diseases, which were once believed incurable. Stanford is a world-class institution, and we are proud to be aligned in our mission to advance impactful medical research,” says Michael Dreyer, president of Alfred E Mann Charities.

Alfred E Mann Charities recently gave a $6 million gift to support congenital heart disease research by Casey Gifford, PhD; prematurity and congenital heart disease research under Tanja Gruber, MD, PhD; cancer research under Tanja Gruber, MD, PhD; and research led by Nima Aghaeepour, PhD, FASHM, focuses on understanding and reducing adolescent and young adult substance use—including tobacco, e-cigarettes, marijuana, and alcohol—among other risky behaviors. The gift from the William G. Nash Foundation will help the REACH Lab update and distribute the Safety First curriculum. "Now more than ever, youth need harm reduction drug education, critical thinking, and media literacy skills to make decisions and to keep themselves and others safe when they encounter alcohol and other drugs,” says Kristin Nash, MPH, executive director of the William G. Nash Foundation. “That’s why we’re thrilled to support Stanford in updating and disseminating the Safety First curriculum.”

“While medical science has advanced exponentially in the past several decades, we believe that there are countless more meaningful discoveries ahead,” says Aneesoh Bostani, co-leader of Alfred E Mann Charities. “We seek to help the dedicated men and women who lead in these fields accomplish their goals by helping to provide enough funding for them to do so.”

Thank you, Alfred E Mann Charities for empowering the work of Stanford researchers that will lead to new discoveries and treatments.

Helping Youth Stay Safe When They Encounter Drugs

WE ARE GRATEFUL to the William G. Nash Foundation for its gift to the Halperrn-Felsher REACH Lab at Stanford. The REACH Lab, founded and directed by Bonnie Halperrn-Felsher, PhD, FASHM, focuses on understanding and reducing adolescent and young adult substance use—including tobacco, e-cigarettes, marijuana, and alcohol—among other risky behaviors. The gift from the William G. Nash Foundation will help the REACH Lab update and distribute the Safety First curriculum for high school students. “Now more than ever, youth need harm reduction drug education, critical thinking, and media literacy skills to make decisions and to keep themselves and others safe when they encounter alcohol and other drugs,” says Kristin Nash, MPH, executive director of the William G. Nash Foundation. “That’s why we’re thrilled to support Stanford in updating and disseminating the Safety First curriculum.”

Kristin Nash, MPH, who leads the William G. Nash Foundation, is an advocate for drug education focused on harm reduction.

Thank you, Alfred E Mann Charities for empowering the work of Stanford researchers that will lead to new discoveries and treatments.

Helping You Stay Safe When They Encounter Drugs

Family and Friends Hit the Trail to Raise Funds for ALD Research

LAST SUMMER, the Anderson family organized a fundraiser in honor of their son, Ben “Cole,” who they lost to adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD) in 2020. They gathered members of the Van Haren Lab at Stanford, as well as friends and family, for the second annual hike to the 10,785-foot summit of Mount Rose at Lake Tahoe. They named their climb the “Be Warrior” Challenge.

Over 100 hikers of all abilities joined, helping the Andersons raise nearly $40,000 to support the lab where Keith Van Haren, MD, and his team are researching ALD, a deadly genetic disease that affects mostly boys. “Throughout Ben’s war with ALD, we experienced an overabundance of grace and generosity from our community in Reno and beyond,” says Katie Anderson, Ben’s mom. “We figured that redirecting that energy towards the research side of ALD was the most appropriate way to wage war against this insidious disease. We are incredibly honored to be able to help the Van Haren Lab in its research.”

Thank you, Anderson family, for supporting efforts to find better treatments and potentially a cure for ALD. If you would like to join them, the next “Be Warrior” Challenge is August 23. Learn more at bewarrior.org.

Helping to End Maternal Deaths

THE UNITED STATES has the highest maternal morbidity and mortality rate among developed countries. One-third of all maternal deaths occur after hospital discharge, according to the CDC. Black women are at the highest risk for death during this time period.

In response, California passed legislation extending postpartum care for up to one year for all moms covered by Medi-Cal. Stepping in to provide guidance on how best to implement comprehensive postpartum care is the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC), a multi-stakeholder organization based at the Stanford School of Medicine. “This major change in coverage is an opportunity to reimagine the comprehensive care needed one year postpartum to ensure that all postpartum birthing persons receive effective care,” says Jeffrey Gould, MD, MPH, principal investigator with the CMQCC.

Merck recently donated $200,000 to support the CMQCC’s work addressing postpartum care as part of its Merck for Mothers initiative, which is dedicated to helping end preventable maternal deaths around the world. We are grateful for Merck for Mothers’ support for this vital life-saving work.

You Can Make a Lasting Impact

By making a planned gift to Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford through your estate, you ensure world-class care for future generations of children and families.

Contact us to learn more.
Office of Gift Planning
GiftPlanning@LPCH.org
(650) 724-5778
In the News

Catch up on the latest news and headlines about child and maternal health, Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford, and the Stanford School of Medicine.

**Why Kids with Autism Struggle with Emotion in Voices**

**CHILDREN WITH AUTISM** often have trouble identifying emotional cues in other people's voices because of differences in a region of the brain that processes social information, according to a study from the Stanford School of Medicine.

Researchers studied 22 children with autism and 21 typically developing kids, testing their recognition of emotions in voices while administering MRI brain scans. Kids with autism and 21 typically developing children.

**Costain Medicine Children's Health Builds a Program to Screen for Food Insecurity**

**THE INCREASE IN FOOD INSECURITY** during the pandemic made it clear that Stanford Medicine Children's Health needs a system to ensure that all patient families have access to safe, nutritious food. Pediatrician Baraka Floyd, MD, is leading the charge, building a program to screen every patient family for food insecurity.

Starting this summer, a routine intake questionnaire will ask families whether, in the past 12 months, they worried their food would run out—or did run out—before they had money to buy more. With this information in the electronic health record, clinicians will then ask patient families if they would like help finding resources or receiving a referral to the Second Harvest Food Bank.

**Artificial Intelligence Can Foretell Premies' Health**

**STANFORD MEDICINE RESEARCHERS** using artificial intelligence tapped the medical records of mothers and babies to predict and improve the health of premature infants.

Using machine learning, they looked at 32,254 births at Stanford between 2014 and 2020, building a mathematical model to predict 24 possible health outcomes in the babies’ first two months of life.

“By focusing our research on predicting the health of these babies, we can optimize their care,” says senior study author Nima Aghaeepour, PhD, associate professor of anesthesiology and of pediatrics.

“This is a new way of thinking about preterm birth,” placing the focus on individual health factors of the newborns rather than looking only at how early they are born.

**Cormac O. Maher Appointed Chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery**

**CORMAC O. MAHER, MD,** has been named division chief of pediatric neurosurgery and professor of neurosurgery at the Stanford School of Medicine.

“I am thrilled to welcome Dr. Maher to Stanford Medicine Children’s Health,” says Dennis Lund, MD, chief medical officer of Stanford Medicine Children’s Health.

“He brings an impressive set of skills and experience to our program. His dedication to treating children through some of the most challenging times and helping them have a better future is at the heart of our mission.”

Maher moved from the University of Michigan, where he was a professor of neurosurgery, residency program director, and department vice chair for education.

**Matthew Porteus Leads Center for Definitive and Curative Medicine**

**MATTHEW PORTEUS, MD, PhD,** has been named director of the Center for Definitive and Curative Medicine (CDCM) at the Stanford School of Medicine. A pioneer in genome editing, he leads the group that aims to “cure the incurable” by investigating and developing stem cell and gene therapies for genetic diseases.

Porteus, previously a co-director of the CDCM, is the Sutardja Chak Professor of Definitive and Curative Medicine. He succeeds Maria Grazia Roncarolo, MD, the George D. Smith Professor of Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine, who directed the CDCM since its founding in 2017. She will continue to focus on her Stanford research as well as developing a therapeutics startup that she recently co-founded.

“What Dr. Roncarolo has achieved at the helm of CDCM over such a short period has exceeded every expectation,” says Lloyd Minor, MD, dean of the Stanford School of Medicine. “I’m confident that Dr. Porteus, a respected global leader in basic and translational applications of genome editing, will advance the CDCM’s next chapter with similar foresight, expertise, and ambition.”

Grace Lee Named Chief Quality Officer

**GRACE LEE, MD,** has become the chief quality officer at Stanford Medicine Children’s Health and Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford. As the Christopher G. Dawes Endowed Director of Quality, Lee assumed responsibility in December for the essential work of ensuring quality and safety in patient care. She also focuses on embedding health equity into clinical care and quality initiatives.

A professor of pediatrics (infectious diseases), Lee joined Stanford Medicine Children’s Health in 2017 as associate chief medical officer of practice innovation. She chairs the U.S. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, which sets recommendations for vaccine use, and was recently elected to the National Academy of Medicine.

---

SupportLPCH.org

Packard Children's News | Summer 2023
Humans of Packard Children’s

At age 2, Marlee-Jo was diagnosed with a rare form of childhood cancer called rhabdomyosarcoma. She had a tumor in her thigh, and the cancer had spread to several parts of her body, so her care team at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford started her on chemotherapy. Social worker Akilah Burford (below, with Marlee-Jo) worked closely with Marlee-Jo’s family to care for their every need. She clearly remembers the moment when they learned that the tumor in Marlee-Jo’s thigh was gone.

“That was a special moment for all of us and a huge win for the family. She was all set to have surgery to remove the tumor, but there was no tumor.”

Akilah Burford, ASW, PPSC

Marlee-Jo still needed more chemotherapy and rounds of radiation to eliminate the cancer. Treatment lasted more than a year, and the family is grateful for all of Burford’s support.

Join Marlee-Jo, age 5, in celebrating her recovery at this year’s Summer Scamper 5k and kids’ fun run, where she will be honored as a Patient Hero.
In person or virtual
Summer Scamper.org

5k and kids’ fun run
June 25 • Stanford

Thank you to our sponsors:

GARDNER CAPITAL
CM CAPITAL FOUNDATION
PERKINS COLE
STANFORD FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
THE DRAPER FOUNDATION
JOSEPH J. ALCANIZZI INVESTMENTS
ALTAMONT CAPITAL PARTNERS