

THIS MOMENT FOR

**HEART**



*Cecilia, a patient  
of UPMC Children's  
Heart Institute*

UPMC  
**CHILDREN'S  
HOSPITAL**  

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**FOUNDATION**

# WHY, IN *THIS MOMENT*, CARDIAC CARE MATTERS

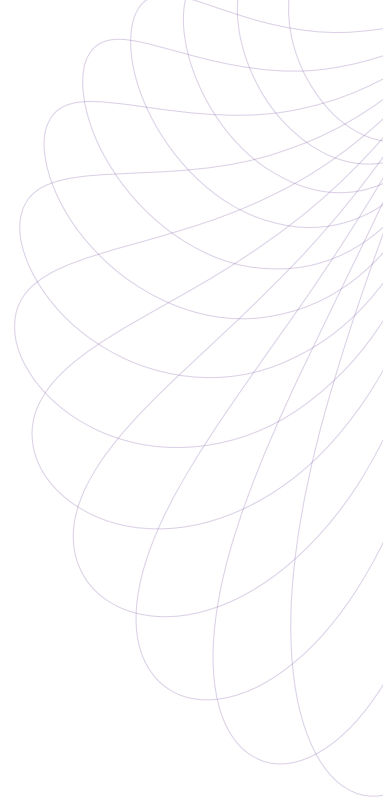
Most of us are blissfully unaware of the steady work of our hearts.

But for 55,000 children each year in the United States, every beat is a precious gift. Congenital heart disease (CHD) affects approximately 40,000 babies born every year and is the leading heart problem in children. About 75% of babies born with a critical CHD are expected to survive to just one year of age. Additionally, acquired heart disease, often caused by viruses attacking the heart, can leave previously healthy children struggling. The need for high-quality cardiac care spans tens of thousands of children and families across the globe, yet for the 10,000 families who learn their baby may not survive to see their first birthday, the need for immediate, exceptional, and unmatched expertise is absolutely vital.

Our team of pediatric heart specialists at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh are determined to give each child, regardless of the complexities of their heart, the best care, and a fighting chance to not only survive, but to live a long, full life.

In *This Moment*, children throughout western Pennsylvania, the country, and the world are dependent on the clinical advancements in cardiac care taking place at UPMC Children's. Through our multi-year, comprehensive fundraising campaign, philanthropy can fuel the transformational discoveries and innovations in clinical care that will ensure no child is left behind.

The mission of the Heart Institute at UPMC Children's is to provide each patient and family with comprehensive heart care and support that is second to none, no matter how challenging a patient's condition may be.





Support of the Heart Institute ensures children like Julien can receive the cardiac care they need to live a long and full life.

**For families like Brielle's, the experts at UPMC Children's Heart Institute offered hope when few places could.**



*Brielle pictured with Victor Morell, MD, chief of the Division of Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery*



“When I was four months pregnant with Brielle, I found out she had a heart defect called hypoplastic right heart syndrome. Being from New York, I had two choices to go somewhere that specializes in the care Brielle needed, Ohio or Pittsburgh. I followed my heart to Pittsburgh, and I'm glad I did.

After Brielle was born, she was transported to UPMC Children's, where they told me she had multiple defects. They put a stent in her heart, but lifesaving surgery was not going to help. She needed a heart transplant.

On Oct. 3, 2018, Brielle received her heart. We spent five months at Children's from being listed for the transplant and all the way through recovery. I can't thank everyone enough — the whole cardiac team, Dr. Castro, Dr. Morell, 7A nurses, transplant coordinators, the EVS workers, really everyone... thank you. Brielle is doing great. She will be 3 this year! She knows her ABCs, her colors, how to count to 10, and all of the body parts. She has an outstanding vocabulary and loves to sing and dance. We are very thankful for Children's!

You will forever be our home away from home.”

*– Arielle, Brielle's mother*

# NATIONAL LEADER IN CARDIAC CARE

UPMC Children's Heart Institute is among the best pediatric heart programs in the United States, caring for patients with the tiniest hearts — babies still in their mother's womb — to those who have lived a lifetime.

Boasting a roster of some of the best pediatric and adult congenital heart doctors and surgeons from around the world, UPMC Children's Heart Institute has earned a growing reputation for its clinical excellence, unparalleled patient care, and strong and collaborative team, ready to take on any challenge to save a precious life. **When their own resources have been exhausted, heart centers around the country will often refer their most intricate heart cases to Pittsburgh for the expertise and collaboration that can only be found at UPMC Children's.**



*Philanthropy will help leaders like Jacqueline Kreutzer, MD, co-director of the Heart Institute, provide lifesaving care today and for years to come.*



Our priority is to provide the highest quality of care, treatment, and support for children with heart conditions like Abdullah.

## WHAT SETS US APART



Ranked as a top 10 pediatric cardiology and heart surgery program in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*



Unique to UPMC Children's, the Heart Institute cares for patients into adulthood and through their lifetime, ensuring every child has a chance to live their best life as they age



A force of over 170 physicians, nurses, and therapists are among the most experienced health care professionals in managing and caring for every type of heart condition



The cardiology fellowship program is one of the most highly sought-after positions



Home to a robust research program that enables our physician-scientists to pursue new innovations and discoveries that will accelerate the care they're able to provide our pediatric patients now, and in the future

# OUR VISION FOR THE HEART INSTITUTE

As UPMC Children’s Heart Institute continues to earn widespread recognition at home in Pennsylvania and across the globe, our team recognizes we have an opportunity to elevate the quality and quantity of outcomes for every child in need of heart care.

Today’s Heart Institute is an award-winning program thanks in large part to our generous donor community. The impact of philanthropic investment to date is visible through the program’s clinical outcomes and global reach, a result of care rooted in compassion and excellence that philanthropy has helped to make possible. Yet, we know that one child lost is one child too many — together, we can ensure that every child is cared for, every time.



*Gifts to the Heart Institute enable physician-scientists like Arvind K. Hoskoppal, MD, MHP, director of Adult Congenital Heart Disease, to expand our knowledge and understanding of healthy outcomes by caring for patients through childhood, adolescence, and adulthood.*



*Philanthropic support of cutting-edge research and clinical advancements at the Heart Institute enables us to not only provide the lifesaving care children like Jackson may need after birth, but ensure they're best able to lead a healthy and thriving life.*

The Heart Institute is determined to work towards the vision that every heart patient can not only survive, but thrive — they can heal, grow, and go on to live a long, impactful, and full life.

# THREATS TO INNOVATING CARE

Tens of thousands of families across the country are depending on us to give their child a fighting chance, yet we are challenged by limitations in space and technology, constraints on time and funding for physician-scientists, and a growing spectrum of needs that have outpaced our resources.



## LIMITATIONS IN SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

As more patients across the country travel to Pittsburgh in need of our team's expertise and care, they expect our technology, physical layout, and equipment to be as advanced as the care we deliver. As the field innovates interventions and treatments, so too must equipment, technology, and physical layouts, yet our current facilities do not have the infrastructure to provide the optimal patient-centric experience our heart patients deserve. **We need funding to expand our facilities and acquire advanced equipment and technology upgrades to not only ensure clinical excellence for our patients, but to guarantee they feel safe and supported while in our care.**



## FUNDING PRESSURES AND TIME CONSTRAINTS

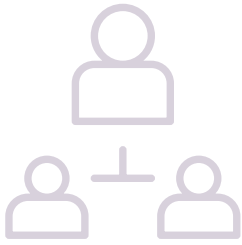
Rates of survival have increased for heart patients, yet children are still lost to complex and common heart diagnoses alike. Although research has improved short-term outcomes, they are not close to perfect. Our team of physicians and scientists have achieved remarkable outcomes, yet they are challenged by funding limitations to pursue promising ideas and time constraints needed to care for patients or develop their proof of concept for future grant considerations. **We cannot push the frontier in research, achieve new levels of clinical excellence, or save more children without significant investment in the people and programmatic infrastructure that will alleviate the funding pressures and time constraints that keep our team from pursuing their hypotheses and discovering breakthroughs faster.**





## GROWING SPECTRUM OF NEEDS

For the children who do survive congenital and acquired heart disease, there can be long-term effects of treatment and surgery that are not always addressed. Babies, children, or adolescents may go through treatment or surgery related to a heart defect during sensitive developmental periods that result in signs of developmental delays and behavioral health effects. Our patients need more from us than just heart care. They need us to deliver both heart care and long-term medical, mental, and behavioral health support to monitor and treat these outcomes through their adult life, yet our current resources limit our ability to provide the spectrum of interventions and treatments required. **We must invest in the expertise and infrastructure to launch a Neurodevelopment Outcomes Program that integrates clinical, mental, and behavioral health services to meet the needs of our patients through their lifetime and yield promising outcomes for the future of heart care.**



## GAPS IN DISCOVERY

These challenges serve as our roadmap to a new era of heart health. However, there are still significant gaps in solutions to key heart issues that range from controlling blood clotting to repairing damaged heart tissue with regenerated heart muscle cells. **Our culture of mentorship and collaboration at UPMC Children's has enabled our team to make these advancements in pursuit of discovery. Yet, we cannot reach the level of expertise, sophistication, and clinical excellence without deepening our bench of specialists, researchers, and experts. These individuals will propel our ability to change the trajectory of every child's future for the better.**

**Can you imagine a world where children like Micah, and those who come after him, are guaranteed survival and a long and healthy life?**



"Micah was born in April near the beginning of the COVID-19 lockdown. He was born with a number of severe heart defects including double outlet right ventricle (DORV), dextro-Transposition of the Great Arteries (d-TGA), and pulmonary stenosis. Nearly 10 months later, he's spent a little less than half his life at UPMC Children's. He's been through four open heart surgeries, ECMO, seven heart catheterizations, and many other cardiac and medical complications.

Through it all, Micah's journey and smiling face has been followed and prayed over by more than a thousand friends and family as his story gets passed around the globe. Those prayers are all heard and by God's mercy, through the hands of the UPMC Children's surgeons and loving staff, Micah is in a place of improved cardiac stability after his latest open-heart surgery by Dr. Victor Morell on February 1. He is now back at home soaking up life with his family."

*- Melody, Micah's mom*

# OUR ROADMAP TO CHANGING THE FUTURE OF HEART CARE

To overcome these challenges, we must invest in the people, programs, and infrastructure that will make our vision a reality. Philanthropy will transform challenges into opportunities and bring us one step closer to ensuring no child is left behind if we invest in the following priorities:

- 1. Construct a Center of Excellence**
- 2. Fortify Research Infrastructure**
- 3. Launch a Neurodevelopment Outcomes Program**
- 4. Support Today's and Tomorrow's Leaders**



*Philanthropic investment in these priorities will transform the future for children like Ethan in need of heart care.*

# 1

## CONSTRUCT A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE



We seek to be patient-centered at every step of a child's journey at UPMC Children's. When a child is diagnosed with a complex, life-threatening condition, they need top clinicians armed with the best available tools and technology to achieve optimum outcomes. To implement the innovations in treatment and care for our patients, we must expand our facilities and enhance our infrastructure by investing in a new Heart Institute space equipped with advanced resources and a patient-centered layout. Through philanthropy, the new Heart Institute space will:

- Offer a more heart-centric layout designed with our growing number of patient families in mind
- Design new spaces that will appeal to all ages and allow kids to relax, reduce their anxieties, and provide positive distractions
- Upgrade our cardiac catheterization labs and add a hybrid catheterization lab/MRI suite for better diagnostics and decreased radiation exposure and anesthesia for patients
- Create new dedicated prep, recovery, and family waiting areas that support comfort, security, flexibility, and ease of wayfinding

# 2

## FORTIFY RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE



Our clinical strength offers hope for thousands of families from Pittsburgh and beyond, and the outcomes achieved for patients today — and discoveries that could be made tomorrow — should be shared to raise the standards of children's heart care everywhere. However, we cannot provide hope to every family unless we invest in the people who drive discovery and the resources that launch promising ideas. Investment in our research program will bolster our ability to expand our knowledge, understanding, and expertise to advance the future of heart care, provide hope to families, and save children's lives. Through philanthropy, the Heart Institute's research program will:

- Build a core research staff of analysts, statisticians, project managers, and more to approach research in an entrepreneurial way by streamlining and accelerating discovery
- Recruit researchers for the pursuit of both discovery for the most complex and rare diagnoses and clinical outcomes that can improve care for all heart patients
- Launch new, promising ideas to tackle the most pressing issues for heart patients
- Dedicate valuable time and resources for our physician-scientists to translate lifechanging discoveries from the lab to patients
- Publish field-changing research in high-impact journals and share change of practice updates directly with patients, families, and other providers

# 3

## LAUNCH A NEURODEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES PROGRAM



As one of the best heart programs in the country, we know that saving a child's life is only the beginning of the story. However, many heart patients experience long-term effects from medical interventions during developmental milestones earlier in life. Our heart patients need more than just heart care to manage the effects that last through adulthood. We must invest in a comprehensive care model that integrates medical, mental, and behavioral health monitoring and intervention to ensure we can help support their growth for a long, healthy, and full life. Through philanthropy, the Neurodevelopment Outcomes Program will:

- Build a team to meet the evolving developmental and behavioral health needs of children with heart disease and defects
- Screen and intervene for key milestones of medical and behavioral health throughout infancy and childhood
- Improve educational achievement outcomes for heart patients
- Provide easy access to multidisciplinary follow-up care for families
- Enhance support for families based on their child's medical, mental, and behavioral health

# 4

## SUPPORT TODAY'S AND TOMORROW'S LEADERS



In Pittsburgh, our culture of mentorship and collaboration has led us to achieve remarkable clinical outcomes and pursue hypotheses that will impact the care provided to future heart patients. However, the field of pediatric heart medicine is constantly evolving at a rapid pace, challenging our team to grow their knowledge and expertise at an accelerated rate while managing their clinical and administrative responsibilities. By investing in the recruitment and retention of the best and the brightest physicians and scientists, we will deliver a level of clinical excellence that is unmatched for children around the world and best prepare the next generation of trainees to build upon the crucial discoveries taking place today. Through philanthropy, the Heart Institute's efforts to recruit, retain, and train will:

- Include start-up packages to attract the best physicians to Pittsburgh, providing immediate resources to pursue discovery while adding expertise to serve more patient families
- Grow our team and expand our team's knowledge and expertise so that more efforts can be focused on both research and clinical care, benefiting patients now and in the future
- Instill the level of excellence at the Heart Institute in the next generation of heart physicians and leaders, spreading the knowledge in Pittsburgh throughout the United States and the world

# \$50 MILLION VISION FOR THE HEART INSTITUTE

## CONSTRUCTING A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

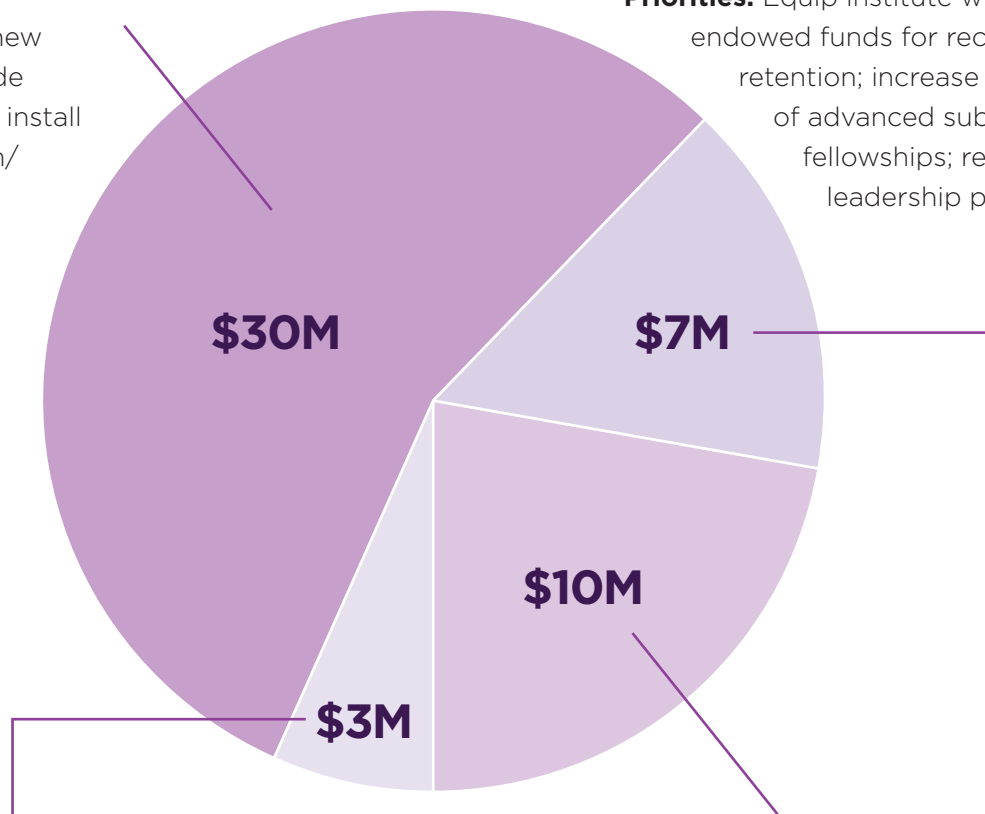
Investing in capital improvements to ensure that all families have the best experience, every time, with family-centric layouts and upgraded clinical technology

**Priorities:** Construct new Heart Institute; upgrade catheterization suites; install hybrid Catheterization/MRI suite

## SUPPORTING TODAY'S AND TOMORROW'S LEADERS

Recruiting, training, and retaining the passionate researchers and physicians who are making their mark in the pediatric heart care field

**Priorities:** Equip institute with flexible endowed funds for recruitment and retention; increase the number of advanced subspecialty fellowships; recruit clinical leadership positions



## LAUNCHING A NEURODEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES PROGRAM

Providing early-stage expendable funding to build a program that screens and intervenes for each heart patient's medical and behavioral health throughout their lifetime

**Priorities:** Hire full team of seven or more members; enhance "Healing Hearts" program

## FORTIFYING RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

Increasing the capacity for research and clinical trials to move swiftly and efficiently toward impacting patients and families today and long-term

**Priorities:** Establish permanent cardiac research endowment funding; recruit researchers in niche specialties; recruit more early career researchers; increase support staff for research teams

# PHILANTHROPY WILL SAVE LIVES

We know that philanthropy can elevate the patient experience, fuel lifesaving research, and innovate clinical care that changes lives. For the Heart Institute, it will be the catalyst to improve the future and lifelong journeys of many children, adolescents, and adults affected by an ailing heart.

The Heart Institute is a top strategic priority of UPMC Children's. In partnership with UPMC, UPMC Children's Hospital Foundation is committed to partnering with donors to fuel recruitment and training, to build an even better Heart Institute space, to launch an interventional program for better lifelong outcomes, and to innovate through field-changing research.

As one of the best pediatric heart institutions in the country with a top-notch team and extraordinary culture of collaboration, UPMC Children's Heart Institute is uniquely positioned to deliver a level of care tomorrow that we can't even imagine today. Philanthropy makes groundbreaking advancements possible, and with philanthropic partners, we will translate our team's ideas for immediate impact and better care for generations.



With philanthropy, our potential is limitless.



Justin C. Yeh, MD, co-director of the Heart Institute

## YOUR IMPACT AT UPMC CHILDREN'S

With your help, our ability to save every child's life, every time, is within reach. By bolstering our scientific and clinical research efforts, transforming our space to best treat our patients requiring the most complex and expert care, and implementing thoughtful and strategic programming that will care for the whole child, we can ensure every heart patient can not only survive, but thrive — they will heal, grow, and go on to live a long, impactful, and full life.

Consider joining us in *This Moment* — a historic community-inspired moment — by investing in our children's future.

On behalf of UPMC Children's Hospital Foundation, thank you for your support of our mission and your commitment to the health of children.

UPMC  
**CHILDREN'S**  
**HOSPITAL**  

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**FOUNDATION**

[givetochildrens.org](http://givetochildrens.org)