



Children's Heroes

NEWS AND STORIES ABOUT YOUR IMPACT ON OUR KIDS!

"I Love You"

Gage thanks you for helping him fight for his life

Two-year-old Gage uses his very own sign language. When he sees his mom or grandma, he clasps his hand under his cheek and gazes at them with big, dreamy eyes. It's his way of saying, "I love you."

If he met you, Gage would sign his love for you, too, because you're helping him fight for his life.

Gage is undergoing chemotherapy for a cancerous brain tumor. He's also experiencing mutism — an inability to speak.

His mom, Keli, knew something was wrong when he was having trouble staying awake. She took him to a doctor who found a tumor the size of a tennis ball in Gage's brain. He needed treatment immediately.

Gage had brain surgery at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Now, Keli is hopeful that Gage will beat his illness for good with the help of chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant.

She can't wait to see him enjoy his favorite things again, like going to the playground and taking rides on a golf cart. Until then, she says, she wouldn't want him to be anywhere else.

"The staff, doctors, and nurses here are amazing," Keli says.

This is how Gage signs the words, "I love you!"

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INSIDE: How YOU made Belle smile! 





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“They each treat him like their own child.”

YOU are amazing, too! Your support helps to fund the research that’s critical for saving kids like Gage. Keli is grateful and encourages everyone to give what they can to help sick children.

You fund new research and treatments that are helping to save kids like Gage.

“Children have their whole lives ahead of them,” she says.

Thank you for giving Gage’s family hope for a happy, healthy life! ♥

Thank you for being a friend to Gage and his mom, Keli.

Meet Gabriel: Our 2019 Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals Patient Champion

Gabriel was supposed to go on his family’s beach vacation the very next day. But when he became short of breath at swimming class, his mom and dad rushed him to the doctor. A chest X-ray revealed a large mass in his chest and fluid around his lung. Gabriel had cancer.

While his siblings and extended family went on their vacation, Gabriel and his parents went to UPMC Children’s Hospital to fight T-cell lymphoblastic lymphoma. That’s where your gifts paved the way for the care and treatment that would ultimately save his life.

Gabriel underwent chemotherapy for the next 13 months. Along the way, he experienced an infection inside a blood vessel — a potentially fatal condition. You helped Gabriel stay strong by powering the advanced care and treatments that help save kids like him.



As a CMNH Champion, Gabriel is proud to show you what your support can do: help save sick kids!

Now 7, Gabriel has finished chemotherapy, and he’s feeling happy and healthy. And you have something in common with him: you’re both dedicated to helping sick kids! Today, Gabriel serves as the Pittsburgh Market’s Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals Patient Champion, representing UPMC Children’s at special events.

He knows his story can inspire kids like him to keep fighting. Hopefully, it inspires compassionate friends like you to keep giving! Thank you for making incredible stories like his possible. ♥

Belle Is Smiling Because of You

How you help her lead a happier, healthier life

Anabelle, or Belle for short, has been a patient at UPMC Children's since she was just 2 days old.

Doctors could see that her organs weren't developing normally in the womb. She was born without a functioning digestive system and, as a result, she can't eat food. Now 2 years old, she receives all of her nutrition intravenously.

Thank you for powering the care that helps Belle live a happy, healthy life.

Her mom is grateful for the innovative care Belle receives at UPMC Children's. She says that in the past, a child like Belle would have likely needed a transplant much sooner. Today, Belle thrives thanks to the monthly treatment she gets at UPMC Children's.



You've been by Belle's side ever since she was born!

That's all thanks to you! Your donations are behind the groundbreaking research and innovative treatments that help kids like Belle thrive.

Recently, Belle was listed for a small bowel transplant at UPMC Children's. The hope is that she will continue to thrive on TPN and not need a transplant for many years. She may not get to

experience the world like most kids, but her mom says Belle is the happiest little girl you'd ever meet.

Can you imagine if generous people like you didn't come forward to help critically ill kids like Belle? Thank you for supporting world-class pediatric care that helps sick and injured kids. You're making a tremendous difference. ♥

**Help Us Raise
\$55,000 by
Thursday,
June 6**

GOAL AMOUNT —————→ **\$55,000**

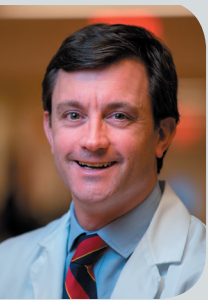
DEADLINE —————→ **Thursday, June 6**

By giving today, you'll help fund vital research and provide lifesaving care to sick and injured kids like Gage, Gabriel, and Belle.

**Can you make a generous donation by Thursday, June 6?
Just use the enclosed envelope to send your gift today.**

With your help, we never turn a child in our region away — regardless of their family's insurance or ability to pay. And it's why your gift is needed. Thank you for having a big heart for children.

This Mother's Day, Thank You for Your Priceless Gift to Moms



Dr. Brian Martin

Dear Friend,

Thank you for reading about our patients Gage, Belle, and Gabriel.

As Mother's Day approaches, I think of Gage's mom, Keli, spending sleepless nights at her son's bedside ... and what your generosity means to moms like her.

It means her critically ill child can get treatment — regardless of her insurance or ability to pay.

It means she can place her trust in the world-class pediatric care right here in Pittsburgh.

It means she can have hope that her child will get well ... and so much more.

Thank you for being here for kids like Gage — and moms like Keli — this Mother's Day and all year round.

Gratefully,

Brian Martin, DMD, MHCDS
Vice President, Medical Affairs
UPMC Children's Hospital
of Pittsburgh

BREAKTHROUGH: You Fuel Groundbreaking Research

A lifesaving link to detecting blood on the brain

New studies may be able to help doctors identify when babies have been victims of abusive head trauma.

“Abusive head trauma (AHT), or ‘shaken baby syndrome,’ is the leading cause of death from traumatic brain injury in infants,” says Rachel Berger, MD, MPH, Chief of the Child Advocacy Center at UPMC Children's.

Dr. Berger and her colleagues have been researching approaches to detect when infants have brain bleeding as a result of AHT. A new blood test — the first of its kind — has been developed and will hopefully be licensed for clinical use in the near future.

This blood test would identify if an infant has a high likelihood of bleeding in the brain, similar to how other blood tests can help detect liver or kidney injury. If the brain blood test is abnormal, infants would undergo a head CT or brain MRI to confirm the bleeding, and then need an evaluation to determine the cause of that bleeding.

Approximately 30 percent of AHT diagnoses are missed because symptoms, such as vomiting or fussiness, can mimic other illness. Missed diagnoses can lead to permanent brain damage and even death — meaning a test like this could save young lives.

Child abuse is a heartbreaking topic, but your compassionate support for children shines a light in the darkness. Thank you for your partnership as we work toward a brighter future for children. ♥



Your support of new research could help doctors identify young victims of abuse.

CHI-CHP-1904

My Gift to Help Sick and Injured Kids

Please accept my gift of \$ _____ to provide lifesaving care for critically ill and injured children.

- I have enclosed a check (payable to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation).
- Please charge my credit card.

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

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