



*Advancing pediatric cancer research
October 2018*

Prepared for the Volunteer State Horsemen's Foundation

The Volunteer State Horsemen's Foundation plays a key role in our ability to provide world-class care at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt. We are deeply grateful for the Foundation's long-standing partnership and support of our efforts to improve children's health through the Iroquois Steeplechase.

We are pleased to provide the following update on the impact of your most recent gift supporting childhood cancer research.

Transforming care for a greater number of children with cancer _____

In the last decade, the number of children and adolescents treated for cancer at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt has more than doubled. This growth is not only related to an increase in childhood cancer but also more families choose to receive care here because we offer so many specialized therapies. Children's Hospital is the only pediatric oncology facility in the state with all subspecialties under one roof. This consolidated and interdisciplinary care is needed because children with cancer require specialized nursing care and support from a number of specialty areas, such as cardiology, neuro-oncology, retinoblastoma and sarcoma programs, and more.

Every day, 43 kids are diagnosed with cancer and more than 40,000 children are in cancer treatment each year. Although there are more than 400,000 survivors of childhood cancer alive in the U.S., it is still the number one disease-related cause of death in children. In the last 20 years, only three cancer medications have been specifically approved for children. With the help of philanthropic partners like you, we are working to improve those numbers.

Our mission is to improve the lives of children with cancer and their families and to provide the best possible care across the cancer continuum. By offering support and specialty care from diagnosis to survivorship, we can make a difference in children living with, through and after cancer.

In order to advance childhood cancer care, we will: enhance care with a focused design on patient experience and family engagement; develop innovative educational experiences and training programs for the next generation of hematologists and oncologists; and invest in research, translating new discoveries into clinical practice.

Thanks to advances in research, the outlook for children with cancer has improved greatly — cure rates are up from 1 in 5 in the 1960s to 4 in 5 children now who will survive cancer. Continued research, made possible through your support, will help to continue to improve survival rates for the growing number of children diagnosed with cancer.

Expanding childhood cancer care

Through your previous support of the Growing to New Heights Campaign, the addition of new floors to Children's Hospital will help create more space for childhood cancer patients. This includes additional room for children receiving inpatient cancer therapy — an average daily need of 26 rooms — who also require oncology nurses with specialized training. A renovation of hospital and clinic space will provide private infusion rooms and dedicated space for the youngest children and for the teenagers and young adults who have very different needs. It will also allow infusion therapies that take longer than normal clinic hours to be conducted in the outpatient setting, without requiring an overnight admission.

Taken together, increased capacity and accelerated research will improve outcomes for children with cancer now and well into the future.

In conclusion

When families are faced with a pediatric cancer diagnosis, we want to provide everything they need during a difficult time in their lives. Because of your commitment to children and their families, we can offer unparalleled access to advanced treatments and cutting-edge clinical trials that help save lives every day. As early supporters of our childhood cancer campaign, your leadership and visibility are tremendously helpful to our ongoing efforts.