Meet Kit: From Chemo to Kindergarten Thanks to Research and Personalized Medicine

Kit doesn’t remember life without chemotherapy. For good reason. The 5-year-old just started kindergarten this fall after her first chemo-free summer in more than two years. Since age 3, Kit has endured more than 20 spinal taps, multiple blood transfusions, surgeries and dozens of hospital admissions. She spent 859 days undergoing chemotherapy at Children’s Mercy and finished her final treatment on June 17.

“Kit received the best possible cancer care we could’ve imagined. Children’s Mercy is a true gem we’re so very lucky to have here,” said Mary Kate Van Sickle, Kit’s mom.

Still, parents Mary Kate and Corey stress that the journey has not been all roses. Open sores on Kit’s little fingers and toes and detached nails were painful side effects of monthly chemotherapies she received via a chest port. Periodically, she had to undergo anesthetic for a lumbar puncture that injected chemo into her spinal fluid.

“Childhood cancer isn’t just bald kids beaming down from billboards,” Mary Kate said. “Simple, every day moments now aren’t ‘every day’ to us. We cherish each one as part of Kit’s healing.”

Thankfully, scientific investigation and personalized medicine helped save Kit’s life. Committed to finding answers for children and families, Children’s Mercy will also never stop asking questions … questions like, “What if Kit and her family didn’t have to lose that time while she struggled through heart-wrenching pain? What if childhood diseases like the acute lymphoblastic leukemia that invaded Kit’s tiny body were eliminated and children didn’t have to suffer at all? What if her family never had to say, ‘She’s still not out of the woods’ and wonder and worry every single day?”

Kit and her family cherish ‘simple every day moments.’

“Simple, every day moments now aren’t ‘every day’ to us. We cherish each one as part of Kit’s healing.”

Mary Kate Van Sickle

Photography by Allison French of Allison Corrin Photography | allisoncorrin.com
The Cardiac High Acuity Monitoring Program (CHAMP) was in the spotlight the entire year… first during a presentation at Microsoft’s annual employee conference at Disney World in Orlando; in October as the winner of the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s 2016 Magnet Prize, which provided $50,000 to further develop CHAMP; and in February as a recipient of Microsoft Corporation’s 2017 Health Innovation Award.

Crib seizure pads and Bereavement Bears were voted as the top ideas at the first SPARK (Sparking Pediatric Advancement and Revolutionizing Kids’ Health) Employee Innovation Bash, which showcased 23 innovative ideas submitted by Children’s Mercy employees.

Children’s Mercy Pediatric Intensive Care Unit earned a Silver Beacon Award from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses.

Children’s Mercy founders Alice Berry Graham and Katharine Berry Richardson were named members of the 2017 class of the Starr Women’s Hall of Fame at the University of Missouri–Kansas City.

The documentary “Inside Pediatrics” earned Children’s Mercy a second Emmy award for outstanding programming from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The episode titled “The Heart of Children’s Mercy” followed the journeys of two heart transplant patients.

For children. For families. For answers.”

A new marketing campaign was launched with the tagline, “For children. For families. For answers.” It features what sets our hospital apart from all the rest.

Children’s Mercy announced that it will join with Olathe Medical Center to expand pediatric services in the southwestern part of the metropolitan area.

Nick & Jake’s Fore the Kids Golf Tournament and the Auto Dealers Association donated two ambulances to the hospital.

Highlights: Fiscal Year ’17

July

August

September

October

2016

Sports Medicine Center

Children’s Mercy Kansas City

Ground was broken for the new Children’s Mercy Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Center that will be part of Sporting KC’s National Soccer Training Center in western Wyandotte County.
Hoops for Hope basketball tournament increased the number of participating high schools from three to six and raised $58,000 for Children’s Mercy.

January

Children’s Mercy and The University of Kansas Cancer Center announced four endowed chair appointments that will help make Kansas City a global pediatric research innovation hub. The endowed chairs, made possible by $10 million in philanthropic support, will focus on genomics, health outcomes, hematological malignancies and immunotherapy.

February

The 2017 Red Hot Night Gala shattered previous records, raising more than $2 million.

March

Children’s Mercy was named by the National Association for Business Resources as one of the “Nation’s Best and Brightest in Wellness in 2016.”

2017

Made possible by donor-funding, Michael Artman, MD, (chief of Pediatrics) and Tom Curran, PhD, FRS, (head of the Children’s Research Institute) were named as the first Eminent Scholars in the 120-year history of Children’s Mercy.

The Joint Commission conducted triennial surveys for Kansas locations in March, followed by Missouri locations and Children’s Mercy Home Care in May. Surveyors were highly complimentary of our facilities and extraordinary staff and our journey toward becoming a High Reliability Organization.
The Ronald McDonald Family Room at Children's Mercy—the first of its kind in the world—celebrated 20 years of providing a place of respite for patient families.

The Elizabeth J. Ferrell Fetal Health Center announced the official start of a Maternal Fetal Transport service, the only one of its kind in western Missouri and Kansas.

Children’s Mercy announced its participation in the UMKC Health Sciences District, a collaboration unlike any other in the nation, combining the unique expertise and services of 10 partners to spur research and community outreach in service of the Kansas City region and beyond.

For All Children Everywhere, the history of Children’s Mercy, was published to coincide with the 120th anniversary of the founding of the hospital. In addition, “The Children’s Mercy Story,” a new historical display representing the 120-year legacy of the hospital, was unveiled on the Adele Hall Campus.

The eighth annual Big Slick Celebrity Weekend raised a record $1.75 million for the Cancer Center, bringing total donations to $6.25 million since the fundraiser began in 2010.

Children’s Mercy and Geary Community Hospital (GCH) announced plans to establish a pediatric specialty clinic on the GCH campus in Junction City, Kan., with a projected completion date of spring 2018.

U.S. News & World Report recognized Children’s Mercy as one of the best children’s hospitals in the country, ranking Children’s Mercy in all 10 pediatric specialties.

Children’s Mercy and Geary Community Hospital (GCH) announced plans to establish a pediatric specialty clinic on the GCH campus in Junction City, Kan., with a projected completion date of spring 2018.
Greetings,

The good news about annual reports like this one is that they provide an opportunity to assess our progress. But sometimes, numbers alone can be a bit overwhelming:

- 500,000 patient visits.
- 20,000 surgeries.
- 200,000 emergency room visits.

While we report these, that’s not where our focus is. Instead, Children’s Mercy keeps its collective eyes on the individual children we serve. Consider Kit, the 5-year-old cancer survivor profiled on page 2. We look at each family and ask “How can we help you?” We seek answers one by one.

Fiscal Year 2017 was a remarkable year for Children’s Mercy. This annual report brings you the highlights, shares some of the stories and displays the facts and figures. More than that, it seeks to portray the compassion and dedication of our staff, the gratitude we have for your amazing support and the commitment to a future of hope and healing.

This past year, we celebrated our 120th birthday. It was in June 1897 that our founders, Katharine Berry Richardson, a surgeon, and her older sister Alice Berry Graham, a dentist, picked up a sick little girl from the streets of Kansas City, took her to a rented bed in a women’s hospital, and brought her back to health. You can read more about that story, and many others, in our new history book, “For All Children Everywhere.”

Don’t think of the book as an ending. With 120 years behind us, we’re only getting started!

As we looked back, it became clear how these two remarkable women paved a way forward, a path we continue to follow more than a century later. Katharine was very much an innovator, pursuing alternative treatments when traditional medicine was not effective. She insisted we find a way to take care of all children—no matter their race or religion, their address or their financial situation. She stressed the importance of education for doctors and nurses and dreamed of the transformative power of medical research.

While we are a long way from 1897, the sisters’ guiding spirit is still with us. Consider some highlights from 2017:

- New partnerships with Olathe Medical Center and Geary Community Hospital in Junction City, Kan., will allow us to reach even more children, more conveniently, than ever before.
- Tom Curran, PhD, the Executive Director of our Children’s Research Institute, and Mike Artman, MD, Chief of Pediatrics at both the University of Missouri-Kansas City and the University of Kansas, were named our first Eminent Scholars, demonstrating an even stronger commitment to medical research and education.
- Our research efforts received boosts from the National Institutes of Health, from corporate sponsors and from philanthropists who endowed more chairs for world-class scientists.
• One of our most successful research efforts—the Cardiac High Acuity Monitoring Program, or CHAMP—not only helped keep some of our sickest patients safe at home with their parents instead of in the hospital between two crucial surgeries, it was also awarded a special 2016 Magnet Prize from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. CHAMP, with help from ANCC, Microsoft and the Claire Giannini Fund, is now spreading to children’s hospitals across the country.

• During the most current year, Children’s Mercy provided more than $172 million in charity care and unreimbursed costs, including a $144 million shortfall from Medicaid and other government programs. We also provided more than $10 million for community health programs.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without the strong support from our community. Almost from its beginning, Children’s Mercy has enjoyed tremendous philanthropic support. “For All Children Everywhere” tells the stories of small children who gave their time, talent and treasures to help. Some of our early donors’ grandchildren and great-children are continuing the tradition.

This past year was a record breaker for philanthropy, with more than $49 million donated to the hospital. Our Small Change–Big Difference campaign launched a birthday party program, providing children with an easy opportunity to give. Red Hot Night, our winter gala, shattered its previous records to raise more than $2 million on a cold February night. Just as summer was heating up, the Big Slick Celebrity Weekend brought in $1.75 million.

This kind of support is vital. All gifts allow Children’s Mercy to be there for children and families that need us. We’ve recently launched our first-ever advertising campaign to remind people just how much we rely on their help, particularly in the uncertain times of health care reform and finance.

The Joint Commission made its accreditation visit to our hospitals in both Kansas and Missouri this year and offered high praise for our staff and facilities. U.S. News & World Report placed Children’s Mercy in all 10 specialties as part of its Best Children’s Hospitals rankings. Staff members were elevated to leadership positions in national medical and nursing organizations.

But, as I said, the numbers can be overwhelming, and only tell part of the story. We like to say that while being named one of the best is an honor, it means more to us to provide care, love and hope. That is a privilege.

One of the great pleasures of my job is meeting children and their families who come to us for help. We do what we do because of them. Here’s a note we received when we asked families to share a bit of their stories for the history book.

“I love Children’s Mercy for so many reasons. I love them because I felt I finally had someone fighting just as hard as I was to help my medically fragile child. I found a sense of belonging … I stopped fearing the future and started looking forward to watching my child grow.”

It’s a future we can all look forward to, because of you. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Randall L. O’Donnell, PhD
President and CEO
Mission
Improve the health and well-being of children by providing comprehensive, family-centered health care and committing to the highest level of clinical and psychosocial care, and to research, academic and service excellence.

Vision
To be a national and international leader recognized for advancing pediatric health and delivering optimal health outcomes through innovation and a high-value integrated system of care.
Inpatient Care

Admissions 14,369  
Average Length of Stay 6.1  
Average Daily Census 269.5

Outpatient Visits

Adele Hall Campus 177,950  
CM Kansas Specialty Center 55,055  
CM Northland Specialty Clinics 23,149  
CM East Specialty Clinics 10,069  
CM College Boulevard 23,480  
CM Blue Valley  3,913  
Primary Care Clinics 74,977  
Other 15,573

Outpatient visits:

Adele Hall Campus 177,950  
CM Kansas Specialty Center 55,055  
CM Northland Specialty Clinics 23,149  
CM East Specialty Clinics 10,069  
CM College Boulevard 23,480  
CM Blue Valley  3,913  
Primary Care Clinics 74,977  
Other 15,573

Average Daily Census:

CMH Emergency Room 41,987  
CM Kansas Emergency Room 67,362  
CM Blue Valley Urgent Care 24,621  
CM Northland Urgent Care 32,281  
CM East Urgent Care 34,061

Total Outpatient visits:

CMH Emergency Room 67,362  
CM Kansas Emergency Room 41,987  
CM Blue Valley Urgent Care 24,621  
CM Northland Urgent Care 32,281  
CM East Urgent Care 34,061

Total Outpatient visits:

CMH Emergency Room 67,362  
CM Kansas Emergency Room 41,987  
CM Blue Valley Urgent Care 24,621  
CM Northland Urgent Care 32,281  
CM East Urgent Care 34,061

Surgical Procedures:

Inpatient 4,307  
Outpatient 15,856

Transports:

5,415

Home Health Visits:

4,433

Durable Medical Equipment deliveries:

8,933

Telemedicine visits:

1,011

Radiology:

766

Medicare:

7,126

Volunteers:

1,312

Medical Staff:

766

Total:

1,308,086,019

Medicaid:

49.4%

Revenue:

Commercial Insurance:

57%

Other Government Programs:

86%

Self-Pay and Other:

75%

Medicaid:

57%

Revenue:

Commercial Insurance:

86%

Other Government Programs:

75%

Self-Pay and Other:

5%
History points the way toward the future

There is an old saying that those who don’t remember the past are doomed to repeat it. At Children’s Mercy, we believe if we remember the past we’ll be lucky and repeat it.

A history of innovation, compassion, love and caring were highlighted in 2017 as Children’s Mercy celebrated the 120th anniversary of its founding. What began with two sisters caring for a single little girl in a rented bed in a dilapidated, dusty women’s hospital has grown into a globally recognized leader in pediatric medicine.

Major events to mark the 120th birthday:
• Founding sisters Alice Berry Graham, a dentist, and Katharine Berry Richardson, a surgeon, were inducted into the Starr Women’s Hall of Fame at the University of Missouri–Kansas City.
• A new historical display, complete with photos and artifacts, opened on the Adele Hall Campus.
• “For All Children Everywhere,” a coffee-table book chronicling 12 decades of Children’s Mercy history was published.

In addition to 120 years of Children’s Mercy, history also took center stage as the hospital marked: the 50th anniversary of our continuing medical education symposium, Clinical Advances in Pediatrics; the 30th anniversary of opening what has grown to become Children’s Mercy Hospital Kansas; the 10 years since the opening of Children’s Mercy West; and five years since the opening of Children’s Mercy East.

The story of Children’s Mercy—like all good children’s stories—is one of hope, troubles and, ultimately, triumph. In “For All Children Everywhere”—available at Children’s Mercy Gift Shops and online at childrensmercy.org/book and Amazon—it is described this way:

“This is a love story … It is about love given to children and parents. And love given by doctors and nurses and all kinds of people who make this children’s hospital go … In these pages you will find the love of a community which, despite changing times and hard times, embraced this idea and did not let the sisters’ dream die.”
Patients with impaired vision (often caused by gonorrhea, according to hospital records) received care through the support of the Lucerne Club for the Blind in the 1910s. Play has always been a part of care at Children’s Mercy.
Dedicated researchers + YOU = new frontiers in pediatric medicine

Children’s Mercy research and innovations, and the private investments that make them possible, are changing the world.

Children, particularly those with rare diseases, have been a neglected population in medical research.

- The National Institutes of Health dedicates only five percent of its annual extramural research budget to pediatric research.
- Federal agencies like the NIH provided only 44 percent of the $86 billion spent on basic research in 2015, according to the National Science Foundation. That’s a drop from 70 percent throughout the 1960s and ’70s and 61 percent as recently as 2004.

That’s why private investment in children’s health, and research in particular, is critical. As a leading pediatric teaching hospital that receives generous support from the community, Children’s Mercy is in a unique position to improve the future for children … today.

Our drive to find answers for children and their families motivated us to create the Children’s Research Institute where we are assembling many of the world’s best and brightest researchers whose sole focus is serving the needs of children.

Tom Curran, PhD, FRS, Executive Director, Chief Scientific Officer and The Donald J. Hall Eminent Scholar in Pediatric Research, joined the Institute in February 2016.

“One of the great things about coming to Kansas City is it is such a great family- and community-based environment, and there is a great tradition of philanthropic support for Children’s Mercy. For research, that is critical,” said Dr. Curran. “When you study a rare pediatric disease, you have trouble getting grants because the number of patients involved is small. When you argue the impact on patients and families is enormous, that doesn’t cut it when it comes to the competitive grant process. So it’s essential to fund the initial research process with philanthropic dollars. I call those golden dollars because they allow us to work on the most important opportunities for our kids.”

The Children’s Research Institute is creating research environment where no boundaries exist between science and medicine. In the quest to find answers to pediatric medicine’s most challenging questions, we are collaborating with physicians, scientists, academic colleagues, philanthropic partners and world-class institutions in our community and around the world. This summer, The University of Kansas Cancer Center announced the renewal of its National Cancer Institute designation and the approval of Children’s Mercy as an official consortium partner. Children’s Mercy joins existing consortium partners, the Stowers Institute for Medical Research and the University of Kansas.

“One of the great things about coming to Kansas City is it is such a great family- and community-based environment, and there is a great tradition of philanthropic support for Children’s Mercy. For research, that is critical.”

– Tom Curran, PhD
Here are a few Children’s Mercy research projects currently changing the lives of children and families in our community and beyond.

**Clinical Pharmacology and GOLDILOKS**
The Children’s Mercy Clinical Pharmacology program and GOLDILOKS are an excellent example of precision medicine and translational research in action.

GOLDILOKS (Genomic and Ontogeny-Linked Dose Individualization and cLincial Optimization for KidS) is a research program designed to ensure that children receive the precise dose of medicine they need, when they need it. This research is funded by a $3.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, as well as a grant from the Sarli Family Foundation.

**CHAMP (Cardiac High Acuity Monitoring Program)**
CHAMP uses an innovative PC tablet-based application that automates and simplifies at-home monitoring for children born with single-ventricle heart defect and their families. Developed by Children’s Mercy researchers, the CHAMP App is the first of its kind for home interstage monitoring. The app allows parents and the medical team to track everything from the child’s oxygen saturation levels to nutritional status.

Children’s Mercy has funding to provide national distribution for 400 Surface tablets, which would cover 800 patients a year for the typical six-month monitoring periods between the two critical surgeries for babies with hypoplastic left heart syndrome. This is made possible through two lead grants from the Claire Giannini Fund.

**Bronchopulmonary Disorders (BPD)**
The Donald Thibeault Neonatal Laboratories and the Center for Infant Pulmonary Disorders at Children’s Mercy has funding from the National Institutes of Health, as well as the Cooper Connor Endowed Fund for Pulmonary Research, to examine the mechanisms by which sepsis in babies contributes to BPD using animal models.

The ability to study BPD from a clinical, translational and basic science perspective is a strength of neonatology at Children’s Mercy.

**The Mercy TAPE**
The Mercy TAPE (TAking the guesswork out of Pediatric weight Estimation) is a medical device developed by Children’s Mercy researchers that, when wrapped around a child’s arm, provides accurate weight estimates for children ages 2 months to 16 years. Predicting weight accurately is important to determine appropriate medication dosage, fluid volumes for resuscitation, breathing tube sizes and more.

The Mercy TAPE has practical applications for emergency rooms and rescue squads and is improving the health care and lives of children in less developed settings where scales are not available. Support from The Bresky Foundation helps Children’s Mercy distribute The Mercy Tape to health care providers around the world.
Center for Community Connections helps address family social needs

It’s not as though the problem isn’t clear. A home with mold sabotages asthma treatment, a child can’t be on a ventilator in a home with no electricity, keeping clinic appointments is tough without transportation, and it’s hard to adhere to medication schedules in the midst of being evicted.

It’s just that health care teams don’t always have the resources needed to address the stressful living situations patients’ families are facing and their effect on a child’s treatment plan.

But for patients of the Children’s Mercy Clinics on Broadway, help is at hand, thanks to the new Children’s Mercy Center for Community Connections.

“Some patients’ social needs are overwhelming to a point that it interferes with access to care and adherence to treatment,” said Jeffrey Colvin, MD, JD, Beacon Clinic Physician and the CCC’s Medical Director. “It’s difficult for a family to follow a treatment plan when they’re worried about where they’re going to sleep that night.”

Dr. Colvin and Heather Brungardt, MSW, LCSW, Senior Administrative Director for Psychosocial Services, proposed the CCC as a way to address the social issues that impede patient health outcomes. It serves a growing number of families referred from the clinics at Children’s Mercy Broadway.

There are three full-time social workers helping families navigate both Children’s Mercy services and resources in the community.

The connections they make go beyond agency names and phone numbers on a list. It’s intensive case management. The social workers strive to understand and help resolve the multiple barriers families are experiencing, so that health and wellness for the entire family can be achieved.

Many of the services families need have on-site presence. Families can meet with an attorney and paralegals from Kansas Legal Services, pick up car seats, bike helmets and gun locks, or meet with a behavioral health therapist. Sites for Children’s Mercy home visiting programs, Healthy Families and Teams for Infants Endangered by Substance Abuse (TIES), are nearby.

“The CCC is the physical space that connects families to their communities. Through collaboration with the Kansas City Care Clinic, community care workers are on-site and embedded in the Broadway Primary Care Clinic to help Missouri HealthNet Home patients’ families navigate health and social services where they live,” Brungardt said.
Community Benefit exceeds $215 million

As a nonprofit pediatric hospital, our bottom line is kids—this means that any positive hospital margins are reinvested into the health and well-being of children. Translating that work into numbers isn’t easy, but in Fiscal Year 2016 (the most recent year for which numbers are available), Children’s Mercy recorded more than $215 million in “community benefit” activities—that is, activities we conducted as a hospital that went beyond caring for patients and made an impact on our community at large.

100 residents enrolled in pediatric residency program.
99 clinical fellows trained in 32 subspecialties.
465 medical students trained in pediatric medicine.

More than 1,400 nursing students participated in clinical rotations.
More than 100 social work, pharmacy, dentistry, child life, music therapy and other students participated in practicums, internships or rotations.
More than 70 families received Home Environmental Health Assessments.

151 families benefitted from close to 4,000 encounters through the TIES and Healthy Families Children’s Mercy home-based support programs.

500 children and teens received free bike helmets and were individually fit.

1,180 car or booster seats provided.
188 portable cribs provided for safe sleep.

Participation in 38 health fairs across the region.

Children’s Mercy staff participate in over 60 local and state-level nonprofit boards, governmental agencies and advisory committees.

More than 1,000 families received transportation assistance from the Family Support Fund.
75 individuals received health-related legal advice from the Medical-Legal Partnership.

More than 41 researchers received internal support for their investigations.

More than 300 high school students participated in workforce development efforts that provide youth with experiences that introduce them to health careers.
With thanks and appreciation

With 120 years of generous community support, Children’s Mercy has continually grown and elevated care to become one of the nation’s top-ranked pediatric medical centers. Thank you for sharing our concern for the health and well-being of children. You make it possible to provide expert care for every single child who comes through our doors, regardless of a family’s ability to pay.

The following lists recognize and honor Children’s Mercy donors whose giving totalled $10,000 or more in calendar year 2017, our many volunteers who give so generously of their time, and our Legacy Honor Roll members whose gifts help protect the future of pediatric health care. Due to space constraints, we could not list here the name of every generous person or organization who supports children and families with gifts of time and treasure. Please know every gift makes a difference in the lives of so many here and around the world. We are humbled by your caring hearts and grateful for your support. Thank you.

For more information about how to be involved, see: childrensmercy.org/give
Honor Roll Members
Adrienne Adam | Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Adams | Estate of Ruth Calmesse Ahring | Mrs. Nina M. Alexander | Josh and Kate Allen | David and Mary Ann Amos | Fred E. and Lillian A. Angl | Joan C. Armacost Trust
Christopher and Dana Arth | Rylie S. Ashley | Mary and Scott Austin | Elizabeth B. Avery Trust | Thomas R. Bailey Trust | Brett Lee Ballar | Sue Ellen Balzer | Laura McKnight and Clay Barker | Ann Barrack Irrevocable Trust | Mr. and Mrs. James Bartimus | Homer L. Bartlin | Henry Basler | Joyce Darlene Batterson | John C. Baumann | Anna Beldner | William F. Bell, M.D. | Mary Bennett Trust in memory of Paul Bennett | Marilyn Moore Benson | Mr. and Mrs. Bradley A. Bergman | Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Berkel | Francis M. Bernstein Trust | Beverly Arnold and John Biagioli | Ruth and Alfred Biggs, MD | Bertie B. Bishop | T.J. Bivins | Menefee Blackwell | Eugene and Opal (Pat) Blake | Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Bleakley | Leon E. Bloch, Jr. | Sam and Laurentine Bolden | Carol Hyatt Bolin | Estate of Glenn T. Boyer | Roberta D. Harding and William F. Bradley, Jr. | Mary Shaw Branton | Stephen R. Brayton | Gracia G. Bremer | Esther J. Bronson | Jonathan and Catherine Brouse | Saurine and Eugene Brown | J. D. Browning | James M. Burcalow | Jessie J. Burrway Charitable Fund | Dr. V. Fred and Sandra Burry | Joseph B. Butler | Ellen Cantrell in memory of Ooch Cantrell, Jr., M.D. | Ooch Cantrell, Sr. | Mary Esther Carroll | Elizabeth A. Hull | Dr. and Mrs. John D. Hunkeler | Judy and Graham Hunt | William M. Huston | Albert E. and Elizabeth Goddard, J.D., Ph.D | Dr. Gerald E. and Dorothy Housh | Mr. Harold Craven | Geneva Cravens | John S. and Betty A. Crawley | Richard B. and Laura S. Cray | Georgia Grant Croft and Robert Croft | George W. Crum | Pamela Miller and Michael Cummings | Allen L. Cunningham Unitrust | Paul S. Curtis | William A. Dann | Charlotte L. Davis | John C. and Jane Reuss Davis | Estate of Reba E. Davis | Marion M. Decker Trust | S.D. and Isadore DeLappe | Mrs. Georgia E. Dennis | Minnie S. Denslow Trust | Earl J. Deubach | Michael Deuser | Rita M. and Earl E. Dickmeyer Trust | Anna Ruth Domann | Orena D. Dorsch Trust | U. James Dotson Estate | Iain Drake | Mr. Robert W. Drury III | Virginia T. Dunn | Elke M. Dunlap | Mr. and Mrs. William H. Dunn, Sr. | Terry and Peggy Dunn | Alan Edelman and Deborah Josland-Sosland | David B. Earhart | Linda Eddy | Irene J. Ehlers | Mrs. Bernice Eisen | Helen G. Elias Trust | Paul Elliott Estate | Frances A. Caldwell Ervin Trust | Nona O. Evan | Mark and Amanda Haas | Mrs. Helen Knaus Franklin | Mrs. Richard Frontman | Judy and Randy Frueh | The Geraldine V. Fulcher Trust | Marie Fulkerson Irrevocable Trust | David Gaab | Evelyn M. Gale | Paul and Sondra Gale | Myron L. and Louise Slam Garfinkle | David and Vicki Garret | Estate of Mildred M. Geist | Edith F. George | Mrs. Barbara Gerson | Bob and Alissa Glaser | Essie L. Glasscock Revocable Trust | Christine and James Glenski | Mr. and Mrs. Frederick M. Goodwin, Jr. | Linda S. Goodwin | Dr. and Mrs. Rengasamy Gowdamanaraj | Paul J. Graham | Bill and Mary Grant | Eleanor V. Gray | Margaret Greene Trust | Virginia P. Greenlease Estate | Charles Greath | Lewis and Laura Gregory | Robert and Laverne Griner | Charlotte R. Gumowitz Trust | Minerva Gundelheit Trust | Mark and Amanda Haas | Dr. and Mrs. Fred K. Hall | Dr. and Mrs. Robert T. Hall | Frederick F. and Dorothy R. Hall Trusts | Melvin and Frances Hall | Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Hall | The Herbert F. and Linda Hall Trust | Charlotte J. Hamilton | Weymouth and Laurence Hanna | Cleda A. Hanneman | Mr. Lloyd Harris | William P. Harsh and Margaret N. Harsh | Amy Hart | Kathryn and Michael Harvel | Frances H. Havens | Edith Hay | Joyce and Jack Hayhow | Hazel G. Hayne | Mrs. Orval L. Hayne | Frederick W. Heberling | George A. Heist Trust | Theodore and Marjorie Helmer Family Trust | Mrs. Betty L. Henson | Ms. Lucile Henson | Dr. and Mrs. Scott Herre | Lawrence N. Hicks Irrevocable Trust | Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Higgins III | Leslie K. High | Chuck and Ellene Hoffman | Mrs. Sara Hofheimer | Dr. and Mrs. George W. Holcomb III | Dr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Holder | William G. and Ruth A. Hoppen | Gregory W. Hornig, M.D. and Elizabeth Goddard, J.D., Ph.D | Dr. Gerald E. and Dorothy Housh | Dr. and Mrs. Marius M. Hubbell, Jr. | Mr. and Mrs. David H. Hughes | Elizabeth A. Hull | Dr. and Mrs. John D. Hunkeler | Judy and Graham Hunt | William M. Huston | Albert E. and...

*Italics denotes deceased member
Empathetic volunteers make healing happen at Children’s Mercy in unexpected, exquisite moments every single day. Thank you for sharing your time and talent to bring a little light to often scary, difficult, uncertain, emotional days for children and families. You play vital roles in the CM family, some traditional and others genuinely innovative in the world of volunteering.

You share your love in our clothing closet, gift shop, resource library, patient rooms and playrooms. You greet families and kids at our information desk; apply professional skills, like data entry, to keep the hospital operating efficiently; rock with and read to our babies; coordinate craft projects for kids whose days are mostly spent in their rooms; show up at 6 a.m. to make sure families find their way to Same Day Surgery; clean toys and wagons; advocate for patients; listen to worried parents; find just the right toy to comfort a child; expertly staff fundraising events that support our mission; help bring our art, music and pet therapy programs to life; and perform countless small acts of kindness that have an enormously comforting impact on parents, caregivers and kids.

The following list recognizes and honors Children’s Mercy traditional adult volunteers, college students, community volunteers, auxiliaries and auxiliary members, community groups, family centered care volunteers and PAVE volunteers. Please know every gift of time makes a difference in the lives of so many. We are so very grateful for your support. Thank you.
The 2017 Big Slick Celebrity Weekend raised a record-breaking $1,753,179 for the Children’s Mercy Cancer Center. Total donations are now more than $6 million since the fundraiser began in 2010.

Event co-founder and co-host Rob Riggle noted, “Children’s Mercy is a research hospital with global reach.”

Honorary Co-Chairs Rick and Cathy Baier and Brett and Becky Gordon, and Event Co-Chairs John Brandmeyer and Stacie Prosser celebrate after the announcement of the more than $2 million raised at the 13th Annual Red Hot Night Gala.

YOU bring hope to life!

Your love for our community’s children grows stronger and stronger. In another record-breaking display of generosity this year, you helped support every aspect of the compassionate care our children and families receive here. You are our donors, volunteers, grateful families and champions. And we are so very grateful for you. Here’s just a glimpse of our year-end love tally:

- 76,164 gifts of time by hours = 18 percent more than last year
- $49.5M new commitments = 13 percent over goal and 8 percent more than last year
- 18,503 gifts = 20 percent more than last year
- 16 new endowed funds = 12 percent increase from last year
- 5 new endowed chair positions
- $3M in employee giving
- $130,100 in scholarships for 84 of our nurses and allied health professionals
- Volunteer services, special events, foundations/corporations, annual fund and gift planning all surpassed fiscal year goals!

The best part is what these numbers represent … working together to make a real difference for kids. Because of you, we were able to make quite an impact on the health of kids this year. As the saying goes, when you replace ‘I’ with ‘WE,’ even ‘ILLNESS’ becomes ‘WELLNESS.’ Thank you!

Jenea Oliver, PhD, Vice President of Philanthropy at Children’s Mercy
Baby Aubrey is baptized while on life support. Mom, Heather, with Aubrey after her eight-hour heart surgery so rare it doesn’t even have a name. The surgery was performed by about 35 Children’s Mercy staff members. Heather said: “They had the vision to dream it, the courage to do it, and the leadership and skill for it to be successful.” Aubrey is now on the road to good health, and the family has made a significant donation in honor of those here who saved Aubrey’s life.

Known for her beautiful, loving spirit, Yvonne Craig is this year’s Children’s Mercy Volunteer of the Year. Since 2001, she has given more than 1,800 hours. Most recently, she was instrumental in implementing a successful wayfinding trial to help the hospital improve efficiencies.

Montie and Marge Tripp’s grandson, Brendan, received a liver transplant at Children’s Mercy when he was 10 years old. Today, Brendan is thriving. Here, he shows off his six medals from the Donate Life Transplant Games of America. The Tripp family expresses their gratitude for Children’s Mercy by creating nursing scholarships; supporting the chaplaincy program, building expansions and equipment upgrades; and funding the James F. Daniel Endowed Chair in Liver Care—a major giving commitment to help make advances in liver care.

When we were running low on markers and asked for the community’s help on Facebook, the response was incredible! Within a day, we had received 200 boxes of markers with even more delivered throughout the week. Generous support comes to us through time, donations and even art supplies!

Chiefs player DJ Alexander, who hosted a toy drive for Children’s Mercy last holiday season, also came to the hospital to spend time with patients on 4 Henson.
The 2017 Nursing Scholarship Awards Breakfast honored 84 nurses through a variety of donor-provided scholarships, including 11 new scholarships, some of which were established by Children’s Mercy employees.

This year our community lost a special man and community leader. James B. Nutter Sr. was a friend to our children through his lifelong dedication to Children’s Mercy. Mr. Nutter’s commitment began with his mother, Sybil Silkwood Nutter, who, as a child, performed neighborhood plays to benefit the hospital. The Nutters also helped make possible the construction of Children’s Mercy East in Independence, Mo.

A new Children’s Mercy pediatric specialty clinic at Geary Community Hospital in Junction City to serve Geary County and the surrounding Flint Hills region would not be possible without generous donor support from the Geary Community Healthcare Foundation, Bob and Theresa Bramlage and the R-2, B-4 Bramlage Family Foundation.

Children’s Mercy made history this year by honoring our first two Eminent Scholars since our founding. Michael Artman, MD, (left) and Tom Curran, PhD, FRS, (third from left) are congratulated here by Keith Pence and Margi Pence of the Hall Family Foundation. A formal investiture ceremony celebrated two visionary civic leaders, Joyce C. and Donald J. Hall, father and son from KC’s iconic Hall family—whose philanthropy has fueled Children’s Mercy progress for more than half a century.

Taking a big step toward making KC a premier global pediatric research innovation hub, Children’s Mercy and The University of Kansas Cancer Center kicked off 2017 announcing endowed chair appointments that will help eliminate childhood diseases around the world. Made possible by $10 million in philanthropic support from four individual donors and four foundations, including unique gift matches from Donald J. Hall and the Hall Family Foundation, these Children’s Mercy leadership positions will have joint University of Kansas (KU) faculty appointments.

Starting this year, Children’s Mercy is recognizing donors who give at least $1,000 annually through a program called Kaleidoscope of Care. Membership is open to individuals, families, companies and foundations who give traditionally or through in-kind gifts.

We care for every child who comes through our doors. For 120 years, generous donors and volunteers just like you have made that mission possible. Give mercy this holiday season, and know that we give thanks for you.

Visit GiveMercyKC.org to see how you can make a difference. #GiveMercyKC