



# 2025 Impact Report

Prepared for  
Planned Giving Council

 Children's Mercy  
KANSAS CITY



## ■ Your Endowed Investment at Work

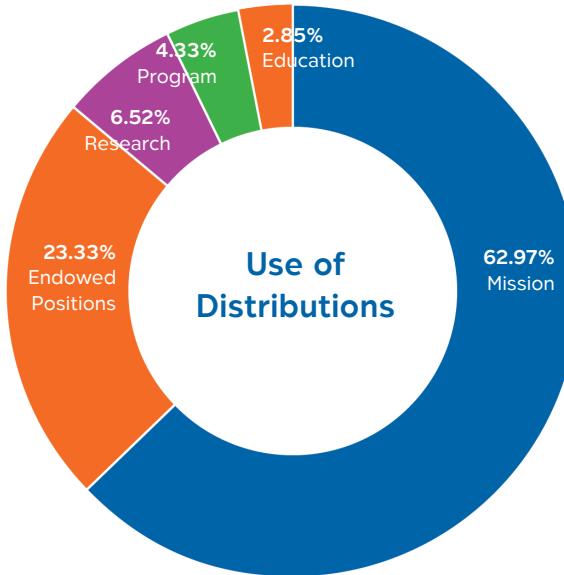
Your endowed investment provides a stable, perpetual source of funding that ensures a nonprofit teaching hospital like Children's Mercy can advance its mission for generations to come. Every donor who contributes to an endowment becomes part of a collective legacy — one that fuels innovation, supports world-class care, and sustains programs that transform children's lives. Together, these gifts create sustainability and opportunity, enabling the hospital to respond to emerging needs while planning boldly for the future.

### Children's Mercy Foundation Endowment

**Total Number of Funds:**  
362

**Total Value:**  
\$322,069,047

**Total Distributions:**  
\$9,519,912

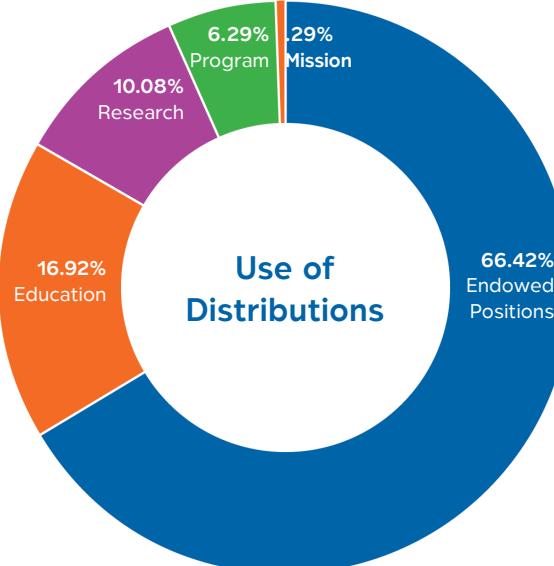


### Children's Mercy Hospital Endowment

**Total Number of Funds:**  
20

**Total Value:**  
\$15,013,922

**Total Distributions:**  
\$252,983



### Foundation Board of Directors

Lisa Murray, Chairman  
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Thomas McMahon, Secretary  
Megan Abbott, Board Administrator  
Betsy Braham  
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### Hospital Board of Directors

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# Donald H. Chisholm Planned Giving Council Endowed Children's Hope Fund

## Fund Details

**Gifts:**

\$13,950.00

**Gains/(Losses):**

\$16,856.92

**Distributions:**

(\$7,550.28)

**Ending Value:**

\$227,838.86

## 2025 Summary

**Beginning Value:**

\$204,582.22



# You make access to world-class pediatric care a reality for children across the region and around the globe

Your support of clinical care at Children's Mercy ensures families like Frankie's have access to expanding care in Springfield, Wichita and throughout the region. Your generosity helps kids heal close to home.

## From Springfield to Kansas City with expert care

When Stevie was pregnant, she faced HELLP Syndrome – a severe type of preeclampsia that can cause significant danger for expectant moms. Because of this, Frankie was born at just 26 weeks – and 1.5 pounds in January of 2024.

Just a couple days after he was born, Frankie had a pulmonary hemorrhage in his lungs and his brain. His Springfield care team decided he needed to be transported to Children's Mercy. Frankie was life-flighted to the Adele Hall campus – the only Level IV NICU in the region – while mom and dad drove to Kansas City.

### "What would Dr. McNellis do?"

Once they arrived in Kansas City, Stevie and Josh had many conversations about complex care for Frankie with their neonatologist, Emily McNellis, MD.

**"Dr. McNellis said something to us that instilled so much peace and comfort," Stevie recalled. "She said she would never do anything to put Frankie in harm's way or cause him any pain, and that whatever situation came up, she would walk us through it. Dr. McNellis had such a profound impact on our lives. Even now, we still find ourselves asking, 'What would Dr. McNellis do?'"**



Frankie, born premature at just 26 weeks, stayed at the Children's Mercy NICU for more than 200 days. Your generous support of clinical care at Children's Mercy made it possible for him to access the lifesaving care he needed.

## Defying the odds

Frankie's NICU stay lasted more than 200 days – so the whole family was full of relief when they were finally able to return home to Springfield.

They're grateful to be able to access several of these teams through our satellite clinics in Springfield and via telemedicine when appropriate. "We're excited for the growing options for us to get Frankie's care closer to home," Stevie said.

Recently, Children's Mercy and Mercy Springfield announced new details of their transformative partnership that will bring expanded pediatric services to families from across southwest Missouri.

**Because of your generosity, patients like Frankie have access to expert, compassionate care when they need it.**

Wherever they are, Frankie's family is confident that they'll feel at home at Children's Mercy for many years to come. "Children's Mercy gave us a miracle that we never, ever expected," Stevie said.



# With your help, we are building a network of expert care for kids and a world of wellbeing for all children

Your investment in world-class clinical care at Children's Mercy reaches children from **across the heartland**, all **50 states** and **17 countries** each year.

## You transform lives

Born amid the devastation of Syria's civil war, Mohamed suffered a brain injury that led to him developing cerebral palsy. After years of limited mobility and surgeries across the Middle East, his family relocated to the U.S. in Kansas City, Children's Mercy performed life-changing surgery, helping him walk, gain confidence and connect with friends — transforming his life.



## Fueling life-saving care for children across the region through the Children's Mercy Critical Care Transport Team



Thanks in part to generous community champions, the Children's Mercy's Critical Care Transport team earned its ninth consecutive CAMTS accreditation — an **elite recognition of excellence** in safety, training and care. This milestone reflects **27 years of leadership** and an unwavering commitment to delivering top-tier transport medicine for the most vulnerable patients.



Two years ago, Children's Mercy announced Illuminate, a bold, five-year initiative to address the growing mental health needs of children and teens across the region.

Scan the code to see mental health project updates powered by community champions like you



## Leaders in pediatric care

With your help, Children's Mercy is recognized as one of the nation's leading independent children's health systems and the place families turn to for holistic pediatric care.



RANKED IN  
9 SPECIALTIES  
2025-2026



**21,482**

SURGICAL CASES

**8,800+**

EMPLOYEES

803 PEDIATRIC SPECIALISTS

**14,807**

ADMISSIONS

**390**

INPATIENT BEDS



**#1 Regional Transport Center**

4,900+ TRANSPORTS

**2,200+**  
RARE DISEASE DIAGNOSES

## Patient Visits

Patient Visits	
6,116	HOME CARE VISITS
50,803	PRIMARY CARE VISITS
59,319	TELEMEDICINE VISITS
186,238	EMERGENCY/ URGENT CARE
348,119	OUTPATIENT VISITS
585,160	TOTAL VISITS

\* Statistics as of fiscal year 2025

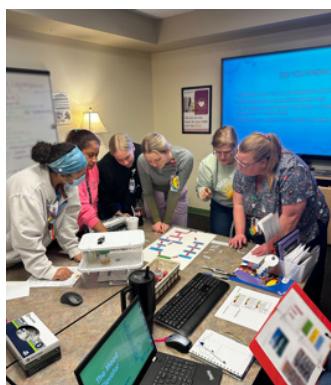


## You advance pediatric excellence through investment in learning and care

At Children's Mercy, donor-funded educational opportunities empower our dedicated care teams to learn, grow and innovate — all in service of better outcomes for children and families.

These investments fuel hands-on training, creative teaching methods, and interdisciplinary collaboration, directly enhancing the quality, safety and compassion of care delivered every day.

### Unlocking learning through play: how one educator turned training into teamwork



When Roneika Moore, DNP, RN, CPEN, Education Coordinator, set out to improve sepsis documentation in the Emergency Department, she asked a simple but powerful question: "What can we do to make this fun?" The answer? A hands-on escape room experience that transformed mandatory training into a

high-energy, team-building adventure.

Thanks to philanthropic support, Roneika had the resources to innovate. With props, puzzles and a countdown clock, ED nurses and techs raced against time to solve clues, document patient care accurately and "escape" — all while learning critical skills that improve patient outcomes.

**The impact was immediate. Staff reported new insights into documentation practices and stronger collaboration across teams. "They're not just learning — they're connecting," said Roneika. "And that's what leads to better care."**



*Donor-funded education initiatives help ensure staff and trainees stay informed, fostering excellence in pediatric care and lifelong learning.*

This creative approach is now expanding to other departments, proving that when donors invest in education, they unlock more than knowledge — they unlock joy, teamwork and lasting change.

### Knowledge at the heart of healing: Children's Mercy Library Services

Library Services at Children's Mercy plays a vital role in supporting the hospital's mission of clinical care, education, and research.

The department provides access to a curated collection of digital and print resources, including clinical databases, point-of-care tools, and materials focused on leadership, diversity, and innovation. Librarians offer expert assistance with literature searches, research projects, and clinical rounding, ensuring that staff, students, and trainees have the information they need to deliver exceptional care and pursue academic growth.

**Library Services manages SHARE@Children's Mercy, the hospital's digital repository which promotes and preserves the scholarly work of hospital faculty and staff.**

Through interlibrary loan services and personalized support, the library fosters a culture of continuous learning and evidence-based practice.

## With your help, we are inspiring the next generation of medical minds



At Children's Mercy, the future of medicine is being shaped not only in laboratories and clinics – but in classrooms, mentorships and the hearts of young learners. The Summer Training in Academic Research (STAR) 2.0 Program, provides an immersive research experience for high school students and educators – many from disadvantaged backgrounds. Now in its fifth year, the program is a shining example of how donor support is building a pipeline of diverse, passionate future healthcare professionals.

## Honoring achievement and gratitude: a full-circle moment at the 2025 scholarship celebration

More than 300 guests came together to celebrate the impact of donor-funded scholarships supporting nursing, allied health, and professional development. The event honored not only academic achievement but also the experiences that inspire donors to invest in the next generation of caregivers – bringing the journey of care and healing full circle.



**\$289K**

SCHOLARSHIPS  
AWARDED

**162**

AWARD  
RECIPIENTS

**2,062**

IMPACTED  
SINCE THE  
START

Scan the code to watch how  
scholarships are making a  
difference in the lives of  
providers and patients.



## Extraordinary care begins with extraordinary people

Thank you for making Children's Mercy the place families – and aspiring health care providers and leaders – turn to first for pediatric expertise.

Your commitment to education continues a proud tradition of academic excellence – ensuring thousands of students and learners have access to world-class pediatric training and mentorship each year.

Many, up to 75%, go on to practice at Children's Mercy or in our community and region – their collective impact elevating pediatric care and research for local children and families.

**1,400+**

NURSING  
STUDENTS



**46**

SUBSPECIALTY  
FELLOWSHIPS



**600**

MEDICAL  
STUDENTS

**1,000+**

ALLIED  
HEALTH  
PROFESSIONALS



**2,500+**

NURSES

\* Statistics as of fiscal year 2025



## You are helping to heal children beyond their diagnoses

At Children's Mercy, your generosity fuels care that goes beyond just clinical, research and academic excellence. We are built for kids in every way – from the pictures on our walls to the wraparound care that families receive. Your support ensures that every child who comes through our doors has access to the care and comfort they deserve, regardless of their ability to pay.

### More than skin deep

Behind every patient is a story that speaks louder than any diagnosis. Kids visiting the Dermatology Clinic often seek treatment for complex hair, skin and nail conditions. But more importantly, they are courageous kids with a community that celebrates them. That network of support includes Dermatology team members who help each child feel seen and proud of who they are, regardless of their condition.

Amy Nopper, MD, Division Director of Dermatology, explained there is no simple fix for many of the conditions they treat, which makes patient advocacy a top priority for their team.

### Faces that inspire

Many congenital skin conditions like vascular malformations are permanent lesions that can be minimized with treatment, but there is no cure. The

*"We're focused on the whole patient and that includes supporting the psychological and emotional impact of their condition. Living with a visible skin condition can be a struggle for many children. The family and child may get lots of questions, and our clinic helps equip them with the tools to navigate those moments."*

*Amy Nopper, MD*



*Jacob is a skilled bowler and recent high school graduate. Thanks to your generosity, patients like Jacob not only receive care for their diagnosis, but to help them live meaningful and fulfilling lives.*

emotional toll can be heavy when the treatment isn't successful.

Dr. Nopper worked with Stephanie Kronberg, CPNP, Dermatology Nurse Practitioner to advocate for images that highlight the child behind these diagnoses. Patients who represent visible skin conditions were photographed doing activities they enjoy and are now featured in marketing materials at Children's Mercy.

***"We wanted to show our patients that their skin condition does not define them. It's part of their story and is not something they need to hide," said Stephanie. "We believe that by sharing our patients' stories, we will educate others, promote awareness and help remove the stigma of visible skin conditions."***



Lillian  
1 year

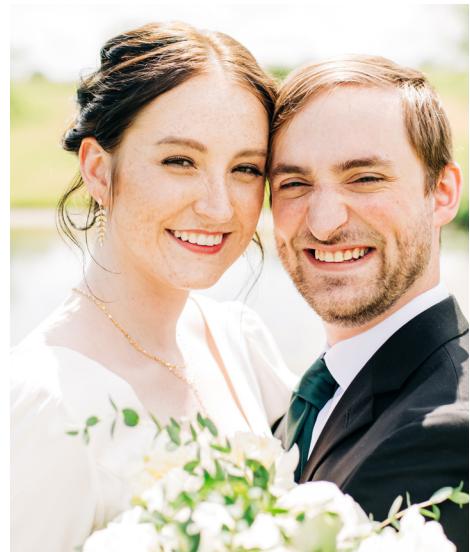


# Your generosity makes it possible for kids to reach milestones and families to heal beyond the hospital

Your partnership in our mission to [build a world of wellbeing for all children](#) gives patients opportunities they would not have had without Children's Mercy and your generosity supports clinicians in their daily work of providing expert, compassionate care.

## You make the future brighter for patients like Hannah

Ten years ago, Hannah became Children's Mercy's first heart transplant patient. Today, she's a healthy, thriving music teacher and newlywed. Her journey reflects the life-changing impact of the Ward Family Heart Center's transplant program and the extraordinary care that makes long, fulfilling lives possible.



## Made possible by you and gifts to the I Love Children's Mercy Fund



In fiscal year 2025, your contributions ensured every child had access to more leading specialties, more lifesaving innovations and the most compassionate, comprehensive care.

- **A Staff Wellness and Respite Room on 4 Henson** – offering sanctuary and a place to decompress and recharge for healthcare staff. These dedicated spaces help teams address the unique demands of their work and result in better care for patients.
- **Collaboration with the Center for Disability Inclusion** – adopting proven strategies and practices that foster an inclusive environment, ensuring a supportive and welcoming atmosphere for all of our patients, families and team members.
- **NuRoo Wraps for the NICU** – helping parents hold their child while practicing kangaroo care – skin-to-skin care – proven to have huge benefits, especially for premature patients.

## Community benefit: a commitment to care beyond medicine



**82,746**

individuals who received free or discounted care when the recipient could not afford services or lacked adequate health insurance



**786**

individuals learned CPR through the Friends and Family CPR Program



**300**

Healthy Homes phone consultations



**3,079**

car seats, booster seats, or consultations provided by the Center for Childhood Safety



**20,264**

families referred to community resources by the Center for Family and Community Connections



## Built for breakthroughs: how donor-powered research is changing lives

In 2020, Patrick and Laura received life-altering news that their beautiful 15-month-old daughter, Maddie, was living with a condition called Angelman syndrome. A rare neurogenetic disorder occurring in 1 in 20,000 births, Angelman syndrome can affect nearly every system in the body. Maddie's journey has included seizures, developmental delays and complex care from a multidisciplinary team. But it's also a story of hope, powered by a shared commitment to transforming clinical care and research for pediatric rare disease and other families.

### Mini organs: a breakthrough in personalized therapy for rare genetic diseases

Thanks to donor-supported innovation, Children's Mercy researchers – including Scott Younger, PhD, Genomic Medicine Center – used Maddie's own cells to create patient-derived brain organoids: miniature, lab-grown models of her neurons. These organoids allow the team to test potential treatments safely and effectively to identify promising medications that would never have been considered otherwise.

"We wanted to see if we could reduce the time to finding the right therapeutic – in the lab. The three-dimensional cellular models that we were able to build allows us to see activity that mirrors Maddie's clinical condition," explains Dr. Younger.



*Maddie loves being in the middle of the action, playing with her twin sister, Kellie, and older brother, Collin. Innovation powered by philanthropy is redefining how we study rare diseases like Angelman syndrome.*

This groundbreaking approach, recently published in *Nature*, represents a leap forward in personalized medicine. Dr. Younger's lab developed a rapid and scalable method to create patient-specific organoids from a simple blood draw – reducing the timeline from over a year to just weeks.

**This type of translational research – from the patient to the bench and back to the patient – means faster answers, more targeted therapies and renewed hope for children with rare diseases.**

"Maddie is the happiest kid you'll probably ever meet. The smiles she exudes is what gives everybody their energy to get through a lot of the hard stuff," says Patrick, Maddie's dad.

For donors who are passionate about scientific discovery and the future of children's health, it's a powerful reminder that your investment in research is transforming lives – today and for generations to come.

*"From genomic medicine to precision therapeutics, we're redefining what's possible in pediatric health." - Dr. Younger*

## Uniting care and discovery for every child's future

Earlier this year, Children's Mercy created a new leadership role to bridge two of the organization's strengths: clinical excellence and innovative research. In February, Tomi Pastinen, MD, PhD, was appointed to serve as Vice President and Associate Chief Medical Officer for Clinical and Research Integration.

**"Here, everyone understands that putting our clinical and research capabilities together will advance child health in the best possible manner." Dr. Pastinen**



## Expanding access to genetic testing in rural communities



*"You shouldn't have less access to care or research just because you don't live close to it. By thinking outside the box we can bring more answers to more families."*

Thanks to support from research champions like you, Children's Mercy is leading the way in genomic medicine – building the most advanced system for rare disease diagnosis in the world. Through Genomic Answers for Kids, the hospital has created the nation's first pediatric data repository and is delivering long-sought answers to families.

**For families in rural areas, however, accessing genetic testing can be especially difficult and costly.**

Ana Cohen, PhD, FACMG, Assistant Director, Molecular Genetics and her colleagues at the Genomic Medicine

Center are working to close this gap by partnering with primary care physicians in rural communities – using telehealth, provider education and streamlined referrals to make testing more accessible.

**Through Genomic Answers for Kids, these services are provided at no cost to families.**

Your support of research empowers researchers like Dr. Cohen to pursue bold, community-informed solutions that not only improve individual patient care but also shape a more inclusive future for pediatric precision medicine.

## New rare disease resource hub

Recently, Children's Mercy launched a comprehensive Rare Disease website to support families navigating complex diagnoses. The site highlights the hospital's multidisciplinary clinics, cutting-edge research and patient-centered care for a wide range of rare conditions.

It also showcases the groundbreaking work of Genomic Answers for Kids (GA4K), which has delivered over 2,200 diagnoses. Designed with families in mind, the site offers hope, answers and a clear path forward for those facing the uncertainty of rare disease.



### RESEARCH BY-THE-NUMBERS

**600+** Publications

**330** top journals

**92** Active rare disease clinical trials

**16,900+** individuals enrolled in GA4K

**20+** innovations launch on PedsMrkt