

IMPACT REPORT

2022

2023



**HELEN DEVOS
CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL**

**Thank you for
improving health,
instilling humanity,
and inspiring hope...
for kids and families!**

What do Grayson, Jada, Queen
and Jazir have in common?

They all faced what felt like an impossible
diagnosis. **This led them to Helen DeVos
Children's Hospital, where we make the
seemingly impossible....possible.**

You are helping provide possibilities to kids
and their families with your support of the
**Helen DeVos Children's Hospital Annual
Fund, which raised more than \$3.7 million
last year.** Every cent was allocated to enhance
the work of our amazing physicians, nurses,
and caregivers or to create a better experience
for our patients, like research that leads to
innovative treatments, and music therapy that
comforts our children and their families.

We are pleased to share this report with you
and highlight the many ways you are caring
for kids in our community. **Thank you for
making a difference in the lives of every
patient at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital.**

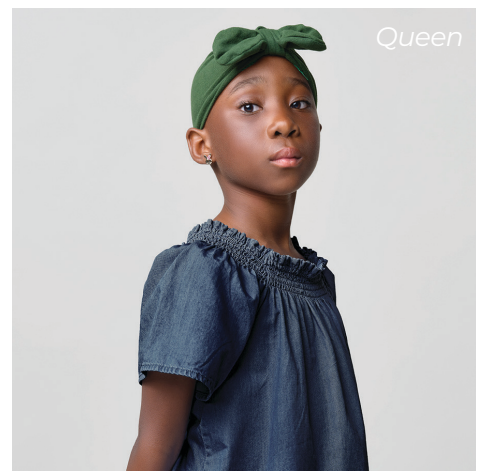
With heartfelt gratitude,

Kelly

Kelly Dyer
President, Helen DeVos Children's Hospital Foundation

Fitz

Robert Fitzgerald, MD
Interim President, Helen DeVos Children's Hospital





Improving Patient and Family Experience

Child and Family Life

The child and family life team continues to grow and extend our reach to all the kids and families in our care.

Because of the generosity of so many in our community, we have been able to add additional services and team members, as well as expand Blue Glass Studio (BGS)—our in-house TV studio that broadcasts to patient rooms—to welcome kids as visitors, studio members, and even co-hosts for our daily programming.

Hospitalization and medical procedures can be stressful and anxiety-inducing for kids, so our team seeks to minimize these adverse reactions by providing for patients a range of support services, **which wouldn't be possible without your generous support!**

Amy

Amy Davis, CCLS
Manager, Child and Family Life

“We added a child life specialist this year to support children impacted by the illness, trauma, or death of a parent or adult caregiver.”

Amy Davis



Child and Family Life In Action

- 43 team members
- 12,506 patient interactions last year
- 39 BGS visits
- 2,700 BGS bingo games played

Making the Impossible...Possible

Precision Medicine Therapies and Research

Our genetics and genomics team at HDVCH are making great strides in genetic testing—specifically rapid whole genome sequencing—to find the root of disease in kids.

One of these kids is Hazel O'Brien of Ludington.

When Hazel was born she gave her parents, Logan and Jade, quite a scare. After two weeks at the Gerber Foundation Neonatal Center receiving treatment for feeding difficulties and respiratory issues, an echocardiogram revealed several heart defects.

Dr. Caleb Bupp, division chief for medical genetics at HDVCH, used a genetic blood test to reveal the root cause of Hazel's heart defects: Noonan syndrome. The diagnosis put the O'Briens at ease, Jade said. **"We were able to start understanding Hazel's disorder and determined the necessary course of follow-up treatment."**

"Hazel was one of those kids who, when we get results from the genetic test, it's like an 'aha' moment," said Dr. Bupp. With her diagnosis, doctors were also able to send Hazel home sooner. "We were able to move her treatment to outpatient care," he said. **"This got her out of the hospital faster, saved time and money on procedures and limited the amount of time the family needed to spend away from home."**

Today, Hazel is a happy girl with bright blue eyes and a smile that will light up the room. "We are beyond thankful for Hazel and can't imagine our lives without her," Jade said. **"The care we received at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital," care made possible by philanthropy, "has been extraordinary. We are forever grateful to everyone involved."**

"The care we received at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital has been extraordinary."

Jade O'Brien



Walking alongside our patients and families

Pediatric Oncology Resource Team (P.O.R.T.)

The Pediatric Oncology Resource Team (P.O.R.T.) at the Ethie Haworth Children's Cancer Center at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital **continues to be a valuable service to families** who receive a devastating diagnosis of childhood cancer.

Additionally, we partnered with our Dick and Linda Antonini Hospital School Program to provide school visits for patients struggling with the transition back to school. **Our in-hospital teachers provide learning support for children and adolescents who require longer stays due to chemotherapy and treatment.**

Please accept my gratitude for the resources you have entrusted to P.O.R.T. Your kindness gives hope to patients and families facing difficult circumstances, reminding them they are not alone.

With gratitude,

Melissa

Melissa Wittlinger
Clinical Program Coordinator
Pediatric Oncology Resource Team



Our 2022 Impact:

367 families received services

77 care bags and 69 sibling support bags were distributed

115 fleece blankets provided warmth and comfort

1,696 gas gift cards and 4,351 meal passes were given to families

10 patients received school visits from our hospital school teacher

“We would like to say a **big thank you** for the care given to us during our stay. The gifts made our stay so much easier. They were so heartfelt. **We can't thank you enough.**”

P.O.R.T. Family