



Moments

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CENTRAL CALIFORNIA 2014 STORY ALBUM



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Wells Fargo salutes Children's Hospital Central California for their selfless acts of inspiration, healing and encouragement.

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Together we'll go far



We savor special moments. Others we wish we could forget.

Wouldn't you think moments spent in a children's hospital would fall into the second category? Not according to the families I'm privileged to meet who come to Children's Hospital Central California with an ill or injured child. These grateful families not only feel compelled to tell me about their experiences here, but also express their deep appreciation for the care they receive and the people providing that care.

They speak of the moment they knew they came to the right place.

They remember the first time they were greeted by their child's doctor.

They mark the day their child turned a critical corner.

They brag about how well their child is doing now.

I'm humbled by every encounter and moved by the stories I hear. We capture just a few of these moments in this year's Story Album. You'll read about setbacks and victories, and you'll see the faces of children and families who inspire us to be the best we can be.

In addition to sharing patient stories, we also feature true-to-life experiences that demonstrate how our programs meet specific needs at Children's Hospital. You may be surprised to discover the impact these programs have on our staff as well as our patients and families. All the stories in this album highlight areas we've identified where your support will make a significant impact on the quality of care we provide.

As president and chief executive officer of one of the finest and most comprehensive pediatric medical facilities in the nation, I take very seriously our responsibility to promote the health and wellbeing of children. I'm honored to be part of an organization that plays such a significant role in people's lives, and I'm humbled by the ongoing support Children's Hospital receives from throughout California and beyond. We could not do the work we do without you. Your investment builds the bridge between possibilities and achievement, and enhances our ability to offer the level of care highlighted on the following pages.

Thank you for taking the time to read the 2014 Story Album.



Todd Suntrapak
President / Chief Executive Officer
Children's Hospital Central California



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Rachel

“Thanks to Children’s Hospital, now I can lead a more normal life.”

– Rachel Burke, 14

As Rachel Burke practices her jazz-style leaps and turns, it’s hard to believe the Clovis 14-year-old used to struggle just to get through the day.

“This isn’t how life is supposed to be,” reflects Laura Burke at the time her daughter feels so ill.

Diagnosed with Crohn’s disease at age 11, Rachel begins to noticeably lose weight, and eventually develops anemia and abdominal pain. Although she keeps up many of her same activities, her plummeting energy level makes it more difficult for her to complete her homework, attend her dance class and spend time with her friends. With her body not absorbing the right level of nutrients, her growth and development also slow.

Desperate for answers, Laura brings Rachel to Children’s. “We offer a different approach that has helped some patients with Crohn’s,” says Dr. Anna Hunter, a pediatric gastroenterologist.

“Finally we had hope,” says Laura.

Traditional therapy involves short-term steroid treatment. While steroids are necessary sometimes, enteral therapy (tube feeding) has proven successful with fewer side effects and sending the disease into remission for certain patients.

Regular tube feeding can be difficult for some children, but with strong family and Hospital support Rachel adjusts easily. “Dr. Hunter really worked with us,” says Laura. “We can’t imagine going through all of this without her. She’s phenomenal.”

In addition to dance, Rachel now has the strength to participate in varsity pep squad, tennis, school leadership and more.

“This is more how life is supposed to be,” beams Laura as Rachel ends her dance routine.



Kathryn

“At first we were told that none of our babies would survive, but we didn’t accept that. So we came here to Children’s for a second opinion and that’s when we met Dr. Fuentes.”

– Frank Chimienti, Kathryn’s dad

The cancer survivor fulfilled his dream of growing up and working in medicine, but never imagined his firstborn would need lifesaving care from the same hospital that treated him as a child and employs him as an adult.

At age 8, Frank Chimienti was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, the most common type of bone cancer. Today, he works as a physician assistant in the pediatric orthopaedic practice at Children’s Hospital.

“I enjoy working with pediatric patients because of the perspective I share with them,” says Frank. Since his wife, Dorilyn, became pregnant with triplets in 2010, Frank relates to his patient’s parents as well.

“Dorilyn went into preterm labor at 20 weeks,” says Frank. “At first we were told that none of our babies would survive, but we didn’t accept that.”

Because of his employment, Frank knew of the Maternal Fetal Center at Children’s, which opened around the same time as Dorilyn’s pregnancy. The couple sought a second opinion and the Center’s medical director, Dr. Armando Fuentes, gave them hope.

“He got Dorilyn to 23.5 weeks,” says Frank of Dr. Fuentes. Two of the triplets did not survive, but tiny Kathryn was rushed to the neonatal intensive care unit at Children’s, where she received lifesaving care for four and a half months.

“Kathryn has cerebral palsy, but uses a walker and is very independent,” says Frank. “We owe everything to Children’s Hospital. I thank God we came here for Kathryn and not somewhere else.”



Brooke

To a 3-year-old, the drive to Disneyland lasts far longer than the trip back. But with 11 potty stops between Anaheim and Hanford, Brooke Faria and her family make slow progress home.

"She'd been sick all through 2010," says Faith, Brooke's mom. "We'd been to walk-in clinics and her pediatrician's office so many times, but no one ever tested her urine."

By January 2011, Brooke's illness was taking its toll. "Her fever comes back and I'm in tears; I'd already missed a ton of work," says Faith. "My husband, Larry, goes to her pediatrician and suggests testing for a urinary tract infection. It's positive."

Two days into antibiotics, Brooke's symptoms persist. "She can't even stand up straight," says Faith. "I know in my gut something is seriously wrong." Faith's voice breaks. "I tell Larry, 'we're taking her to Children's.'"

The Farias make the short drive from Hanford to the emergency department at Children's Hospital, where tests confirm Faith's fears. A severe kidney infection spread to Brooke's bloodstream causing sepsis, a potentially fatal whole-body inflammation. Faith nods. "The doctor says, 'you're not going anywhere,' and put her on IV antibiotics." Further tests reveal a large abscess on her right kidney.

During Brooke's 18-day stay, her abscess resolves without surgery. "Urinary reflux caused the whole thing," says Faith. "I knew I'd get answers here." Brooke receives follow-up care from the pediatric urology practice at Children's Hospital. "She lost only 10 percent of kidney function." Faith shakes her head in awe and gratitude. "Children's is the best of the best."

Now age 7, Brooke enjoys singing, dancing and competing with her swim team. "She's doing great," says Faith – especially since winning her trophy for earning the most points on her team all season.

"I still cry when I think about that moment something inside me said I had to bring her to Children's."

– Faith Faria, Brooke's mom



Igniting Hope

Spiritual Support Services

“We chaplains come into discouraging situations and we’re able to offer encouragement and hope.”

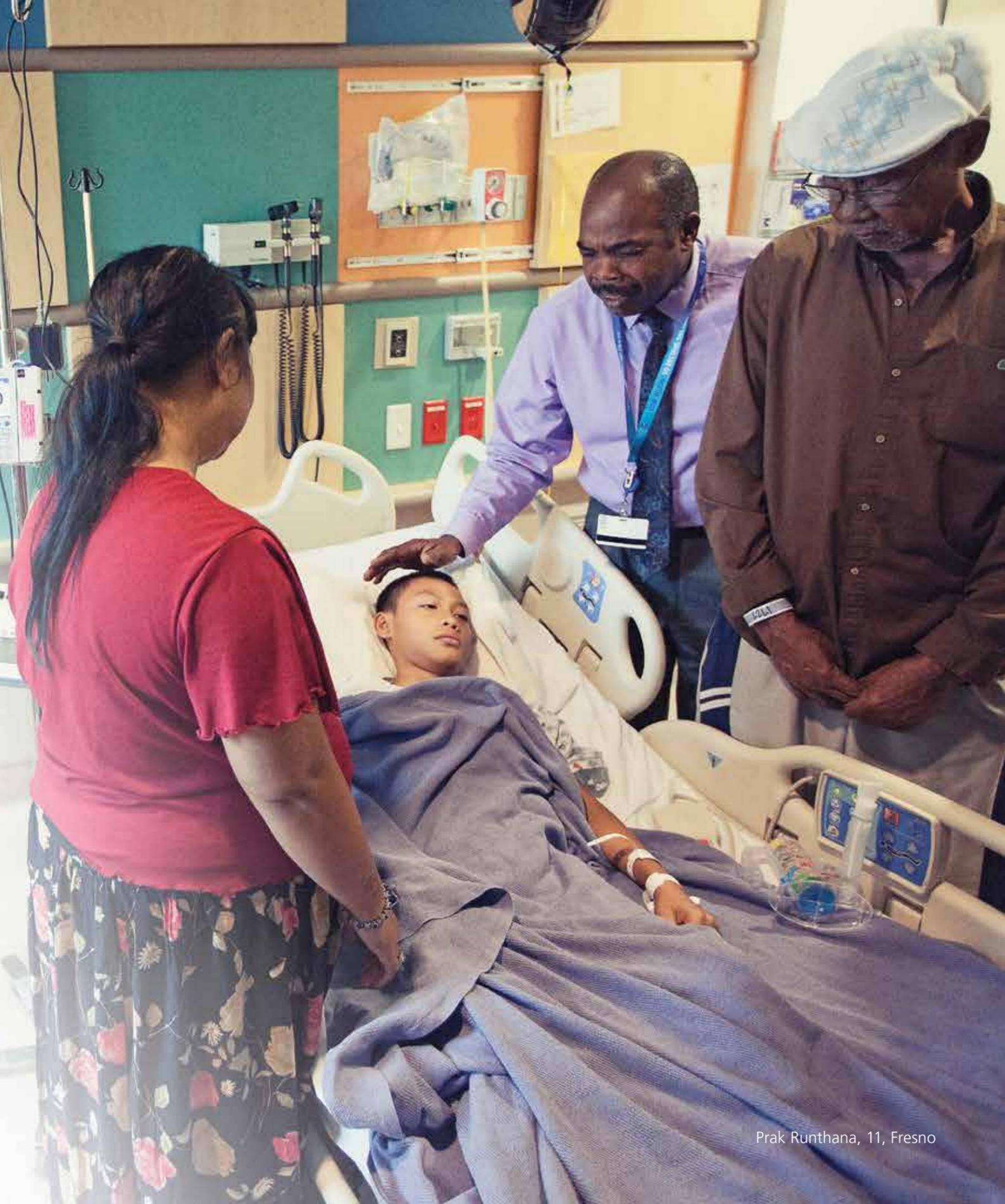
– Gilbert Barr-Dixon, Chaplain, Children’s Hospital

Monitors at the patient’s bedside beep incessantly. The nurse assures the parents that the noise is no cause for alarm, but the sound haunts them anyway. They refuse to leave their child’s side, and yet the fear in the room is palpable. The nurse longs to stay and encourage the anxious family, but the patient next door is due for medication. At that moment, a chaplain arrives and his comforting presence changes the atmosphere.

The nurse enters the next room with concern. The doctors have done all they can and the family has accepted their child’s declining health. But the nurse has grown attached to the patient. Heart-ache threatens to cast a shadow over a career that has always been a calling. When the chaplain steps into the hallway from the other patient’s room, the nurse reaches out and asks him to pray.

When the hospital experience becomes overwhelming, Spiritual Support ignites a measure of hope to comfort patients and those who care for them. Children’s Hospital chaplains and volunteer chaplains, as well as religious and spiritual leaders from our community, provide essential spiritual and emotional support to patients like Prak Runthana.

The noisy cafeteria is a welcome sound to the parents who would not leave their child’s room. The chaplain gave them the peace of mind to break away from the beeping monitors for a bite to eat. For patients, families and staff caught in stressful conditions, Spiritual Support offers the best way to cope.



Prak Runthana, 11, Fresno

Brighter Spirits

Child Life Services

“Minimizing the anxiety of being in a hospital helps children cope better and heal faster.”

– Mary Beth Jones, Supervisor, Child Life Services

A young boy anxiously glances around his Hospital room. Nervous about his upcoming surgery, he wishes he were home, playing with his friends and sleeping in his own bed. Suddenly he begins yanking out his IV.

“But you need that,” says a Child Life Specialist at Children’s gently. “It delivers medicine to your body and the nurses won’t have to poke your arm so much.”

Using an iPad and a medical doll, the specialist begins to review with him exactly what will happen before, during and after surgery, and why the procedure is necessary. Like oncology patient Juan Flores, 10, who uses medical play to cope better with his procedures, the boy hugs her, feeling relieved that although his parents can’t be in the operating room, a nurse will be with him the entire time, especially when he wakes up. The specialist also helps the boy’s parents and older sister cope with their own concerns.

“You’re good at explaining things at my son’s level and reducing stress,” says the mom. “We’re so glad the nurse called you. You made a difference.”

Working with various members of the medical team, our nationally certified Child Life Specialists wear many hats. If a child refuses to swallow medication, hides under the bed, needs comforting during a procedure, or any other situation calling for emotional, physical or educational support, Child Life Specialists respond.

In brighter spirits, the boy heads to The Robert M. Shapazian Child Life Center to get help with his homework and draw his favorite superheroes. He sees the same Child Life Specialist chatting with another patient whose pet dog recently passed. “She’ll make it better,” he says. “She did for me.”

Juan Flores, 10, Lindsay





All Heart

The Willson Heart Center

Busy at work, a man receives an alarming call from his wife: their son's oxygen levels are dangerously plummeting and he's being transported to Children's Hospital.

This isn't the 12-year-old's first emergency trip since his birth with a life-threatening congenital heart defect. As the dad rushes to meet them, he knows their only child is in the best hands. With three open-heart surgeries, five heart catheterization procedures and ongoing cardiology visits at The Willson Heart Center, the boy known for his uplifting smile now lives a fairly normal life—except for occasional days like this.

Congenital heart defects are the most common birth defects, impacting one in every 100 births. But while congenital heart defects continue to be the leading cause of all infant deaths in the United States—for the first time—more than 50 percent of surviving patients reach adulthood. With this improvement also comes a greater demand to provide expert care for more adults with this condition.

Every year the Center's experienced team treats hundreds of young hearts with a wide range of complex issues, working in tandem with pediatric intensivists, radiologists, anesthesiologists and other specialists as needed to provide the intense care and continuous monitoring fragile heart patients need.

Long known for its expertise and pioneering new treatments, the Center's goal is to grow and expand its programs, services and staff not only to remain the top provider of pediatric cardiac care in the region but also to offer the best comprehensive care in the nation.

This means broadening the Center's electrophysiology and fetal heart services, state-of-the-art interventional cath lab, cardiac neurodevelopment program and more. It also means formalizing an adult congenital heart program to ensure children with congenital heart defects continue receiving the finest care throughout their lifetime from specialists who understand their history, diagnosis and treatment.

"There isn't anything done elsewhere that can't be done here," says Dr. James Prochazka, medical director, pediatric cardiology. "But it's expensive to be cutting-edge and provide the care these challenging patients require. We need help to achieve our vision."

Soon the boy's condition stabilizes and he slowly opens his eyes, reassuring his mom and dad with that warm, familiar smile.

"We need help to achieve our vision."

— Dr. James Prochazka, Medical Director, Pediatric Cardiology

Dr. Carl Owada and Dr. Paolo Aquino
Interventional Cardiologists



A New Path

Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program

“We don’t want kids just to survive cancer. We want them to thrive after cancer.”

– Dr. John Gates, Director, Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program

A teenage girl smiles nervously, her parents sitting beside her as the pediatric oncologist eagerly tells her she no longer needs cancer treatment. The family feels a mix of excitement, relief and worry. It’s been a long road, one that Children’s well-established pediatric oncology and blood center has followed with them for two years.

Now a new path begins—survivorship. Questions abound. Will the cancer return? Will it be difficult to go back to school? Will I live a normal life?

About 80 percent of children diagnosed with cancer become long-term survivors, meaning they are cancer-free five or more years. But the same treatments used to cure cancer can also have long-term effects. Months of powerful yet toxic radiation and chemotherapy treatments that targeted cancer in certain areas of the body may affect a survivor’s ability to have children, cause hearing loss or even result in a second cancer.

Children’s helps survivors create a better future by offering support and guidance through its Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program. Tailored to the survivor’s specific needs, the team includes pediatric oncologists, dietitians, clinical psychologists, neuropsychologists and social workers, along with access to more than 40 pediatric specialties if necessary, all with one goal: to increase a survivor’s chances of living a full, healthy life.

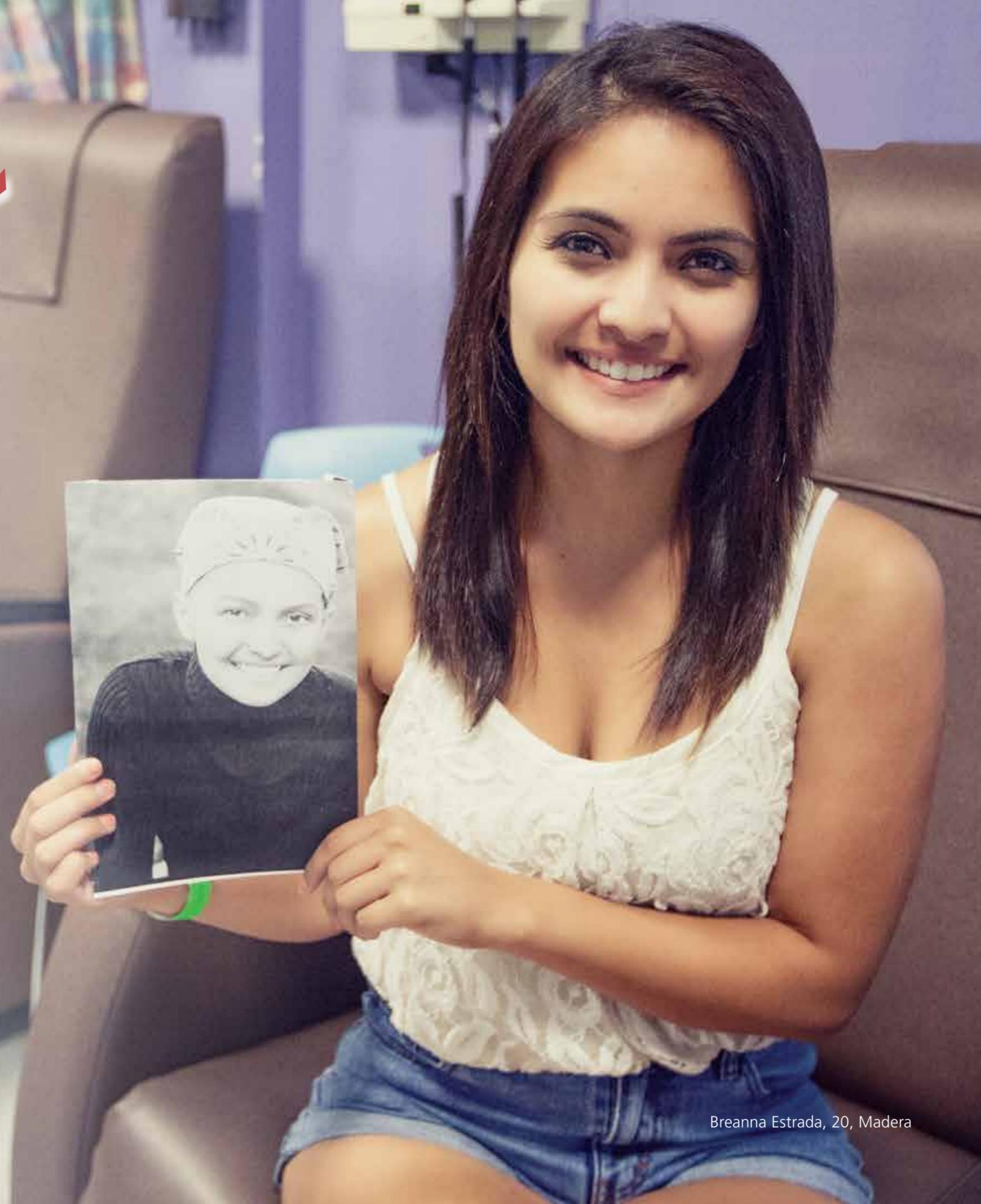
The only one of its kind in the Valley, the program is available for all childhood cancer survivors, regardless if treated at Children’s. Survivors learn firsthand about health risks they are susceptible to, how to improve exercise and diet habits, recommended routine medical tests, and potential education and financial assistance.

About 1,000 childhood cancer survivors throughout the Valley will require these services each year, only about 350 of whom the program currently assists. Staff must be added to ensure each survivor receives the follow-up care they deserve.

Program director and a childhood cancer survivor himself, pediatric hematologist/oncologist Dr. John Gates says only funding stands in the way of success: “We don’t want kids just to survive cancer. We want them to thrive after cancer.”

Fellow survivor, Breanna Estrada, 20, plans to do just that, especially when she finishes her education and becomes a pediatric nurse.

That leaves just 650 more to go.



Breanna Estrada, 20, Madera



Daniel

"It was a bad year," says Ignatio Cuellar. "It started with this." He holds up his thumb. The scarring encases his hand and travels up his forearm. "Next I'm diagnosed with diabetes." Ignatio reaches into the oversized stroller and pulls 7-year-old Daniel into his arms. "Then my son keeps vomiting." Ignatio searches the sky. "It's too much. I ask God, 'why are you allowing this?'"

Three trips to a Bakersfield emergency room frustrate Ignatio Cuellar and his wife, Iraida. "They keep saying it's a virus," says Ignatio. "They do lab work and everything's negative." During the family's third visit, Daniel can barely stand. Three days later he won't wake up. When finally roused, his eyes don't match. "This time we go to a clinic and the doctor says he'll refer us to Children's. My wife says, 'Look at him. We can't wait for a referral.' Then someone at the clinic says we don't need one. We didn't know we could just walk in."

An emergency medicine specialist at Children's orders a CT scan that reveals a brain tumor blocking cerebral spinal fluid, causing pressure on Daniel's brain.

"They said if we'd waited another three days, Daniel would have died," says Ignatio. Neurosurgeons remove most of the tumor to minimize risk and test it for cancer. "They come back and say it's an aggressive cancer." More surgery, chemotherapy and radiation follow. The family lives at Children's for three months.

"The week Daniel was going to be discharged we didn't know what we were going to do or where we would go," says Ignatio. Outpatient treatment would continue for a year. "The case manager helped us so much. He found us an apartment just five minutes away."

Daniel's treatment ends with the cancer in remission. The family returns to Bakersfield where Ignatio enters a medical assistant educational program. "I graduated in July with honors and a 4.0," he says, standing a little taller. "I did it all because of my son. My goal is to become a nurse practitioner and work at Children's Hospital. Now I thank God for my injury. It happened so I could stay with my son."

"They said if we'd waited another three days, Daniel would have died."

– Ignatio Cuellar, Daniel's dad

Matthew & Ryan

“It was more difficult the first time; we didn’t know what to expect. But with Ryan it was a whole other ballpark.”

– Walter Carpio, the boys’ dad

Matthew sits quietly and plays with superhero action figures. His little brother, Ryan, never stops moving. “Only when he’s sleeping,” says his dad, Walter Carpio of McFarland.

Even with opposite personalities, the boys share a mysterious genetic link that could have robbed them of normal lives. Matthew, age 4, and Ryan, age 2, were born with a missing suture down the middle of their skulls. The condition allows the head to grow longer but not wider, with pronounced bulging at the forehead and back of skull.

“When children grow up with physical deformities it affects their entire life,” says Dr. Mimi Chao, the pediatric plastic surgeon at Children’s who repaired the boys’ skulls when they were a few months old.

“When Ryan was born I noticed right away,” says the boys’ mom, Alma. “I thought, oh no, it’s the same thing again.”

“For siblings to have a missing sagittal suture just by chance is extremely rare,” says Dr. Chao. “There must be a genetic connection, but as of yet, no one has identified the gene.”

Dr. Natalie Hauser, a pediatric geneticist at Children’s, is working with the Carprios to assess the risk of recurrence, which could be as high as 50 percent. “There are options to keep you from passing on a genetic trait, but first you have to identify what it is,” says Dr. Hauser. “That’s what we’re here for, to prevent things from recurring.”

“We want to try for our little girl,” says Walter. Alma agrees. Will she be more like Matthew or their “little tornado,” Ryan? If by chance she inherits the same mysterious gene, the Carprios will know what to do.

“We’re very comfortable with Children’s,” says Alma. “They’ve been good to us.”



Daniella

“We’re so grateful to have our baby.”

– Maria Garcia, Daniella’s mom

Imagine just giving birth to a beautiful baby girl only to hear soon after she’s desperately struggling to breathe.

“They told me my baby had a heart problem and was going to a place that could take good care of her,” says Maria Garcia regarding her daughter Daniella Quezada’s transfer to Children’s. “I felt relieved but also worried, ‘Will my child overcome this?’”

Garcia’s OB/GYN knows The Willson Heart Center at Children’s can handle any level medical problem, making it convenient for Daniella’s family to receive expert care within the region.

Pediatric heart specialist Dr. Kenneth Rouillard determines Daniella has a significant congenital defect called transposition of the great arteries (TGA). Complex heart surgery becomes her only lifesaving option. “Without an intervention, infants with TGA will die within their first year of life,” says Dr. Edwin Petrossian, medical director, cardiothoracic surgery.

To correct the problem, Dr. Petrossian performs an arterial switch operation: “This is one of the most technically complex surgical procedures we do but also one of the most gratifying in that the child may have a normal life.”

“We prayed and felt confident about the doctor yet feared something could go wrong,” says Garcia. Periodic updates from the nurses during the long surgery eases her family’s anxiety.

Daniella spends the next two months growing stronger under the watchful care of the highest level neonatal intensive care unit in the Central Valley before going home to Coalinga.

Kissing her 15-month-old on the cheek, Garcia smiles: “Daniella is doing well with no obvious developmental issues. We’re so grateful to have our baby.”



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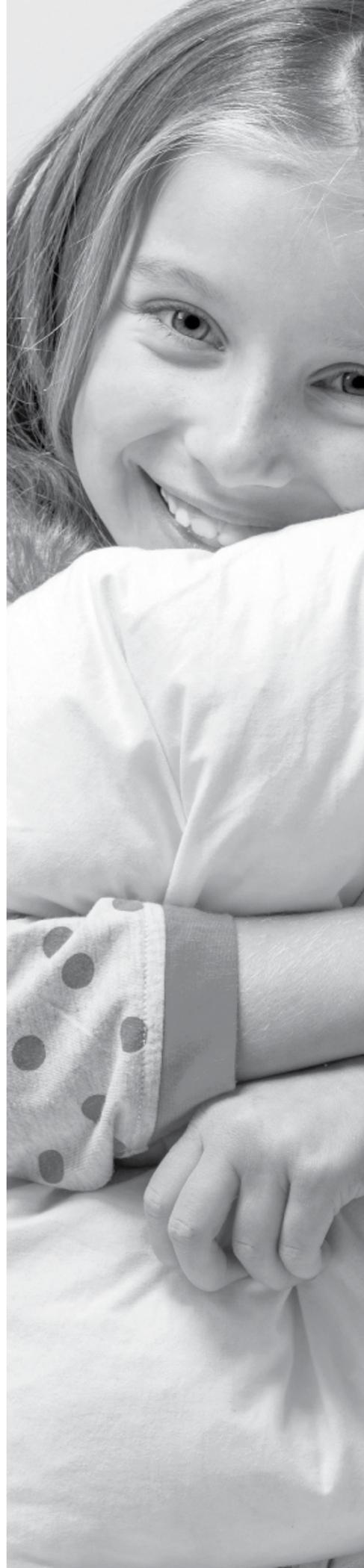
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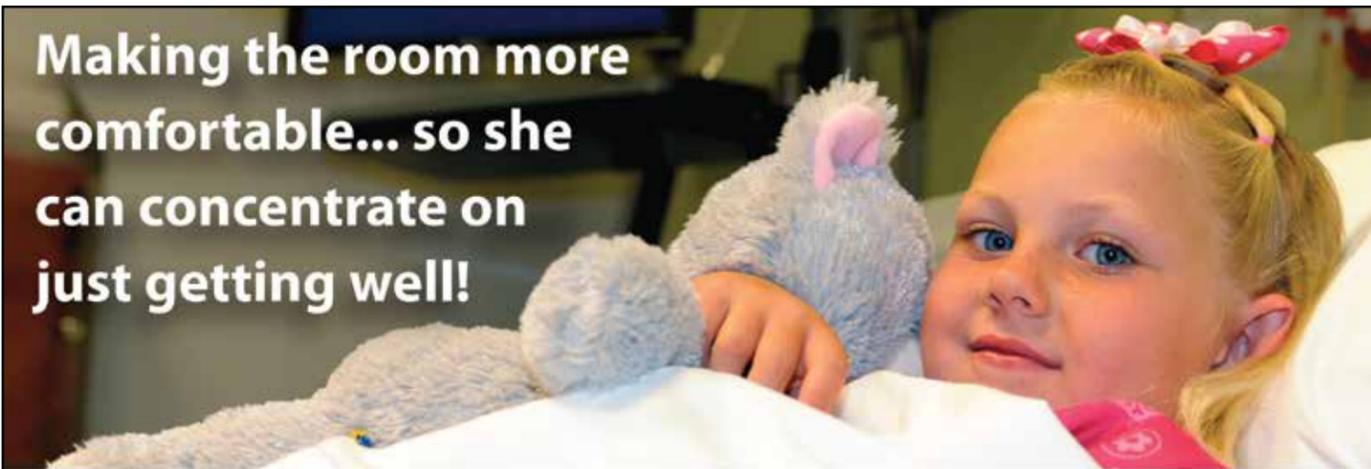
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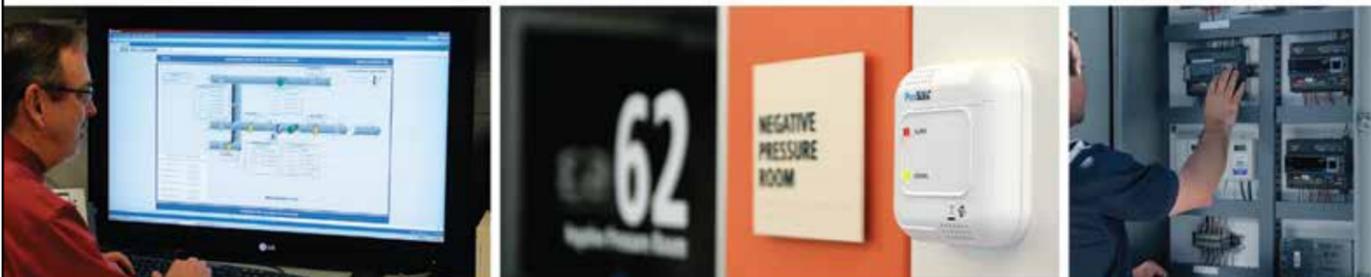
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Established in 1952 as the humble vision of five women, Children's Hospital Central California today stands as one of the largest and finest pediatric healthcare facilities in the nation, consistently ranking at the top of our peer group for clinical outcomes and patient satisfaction. Our founding mothers had a dream to care for children in a hospital as special as its patients. More than 60 years later, we hold to the same passion.

Diagnosing 125 new pediatric oncology cases a year, Children's is in the top 20% of children's hospitals participating in research protocols for Children's Oncology Group, the world's largest organization devoted exclusively to childhood and adolescent cancer research. Our pediatric intensive care unit received the gold-level Beacon Award for Critical Care Excellence, and the Magnet Recognition Program® of the American Nurses Credentialing Center recognized Children's for quality patient care, nursing excellence and innovations in professional nursing practice with three consecutive designations.



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The Children's **FUND**

Every day is different. Every child is unique.

With hundreds of patients being cared for by Children's Hospital Central California each day, the needs are ever changing and growing. The Children's Fund allows the Hospital the flexibility and financial capability required to offer the highest level of care for kids in the Central Valley.

Our vision is to become the nation's best children's hospital. In fulfilling this long-term commitment to our community we rely on the indispensable pool of resources our compassionate donors provide.

The Children's Fund allows us to bridge the gap between possibilities and achievement.



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To inform and advocate for the enhancement of life in the Valley

That kind of dedication was recognized when the California Newspaper Publishers Association named The Fresno Bee the top newspaper in California in its circulation category. In addition to the coveted General Excellence award, Bee staff members won 11 individual honors in the annual CNPA competition.

We are proud of our work at The Bee and appreciate our dedicated and growing readership. Between our print and digital publications, we've never had as many people reading us in the history of the newspaper. Thank you for your loyal support.

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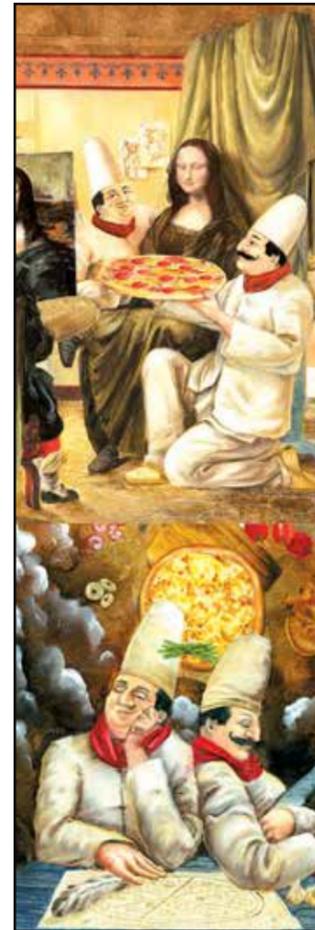
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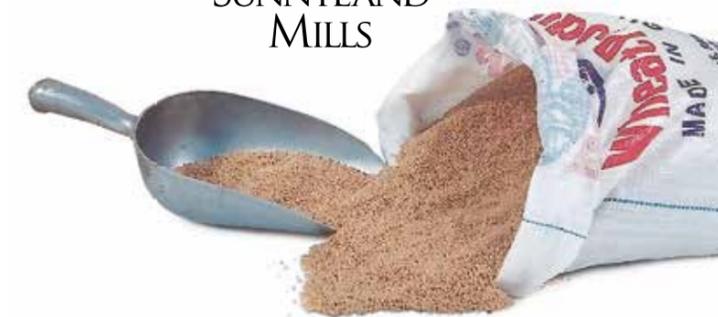
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Todd & Tammy Suntrapak

We take this moment to recognize the amazing people at Children's Hospital who bring healing to our kids.

The stories in this album would not exist if not for the skill and dedication of the staff at Children's Hospital Central California. Like so many families in our surrounding communities, Tammy and I have a story of our own. We've seen firsthand the crucial role staff plays in a critical moment.

Thank you for helping to write so many happy endings.

La Tienda Thrift Shop

Featuring all a thrift shop can offer...

from household items to clothes and jewelry. All proceeds from sales directly benefit Children's Hospital Central California.

Established in 1952, La Tienda Thrift Shop relies entirely on tax-deductible donations from the public.

Support ill and injured children by donating and/or purchasing items or becoming a La Tienda Guild member.



Staffed by the La Tienda Guild, a volunteer organization founded in 1952, La Tienda Thrift Shop donates all proceeds to Children's Hospital Central California.



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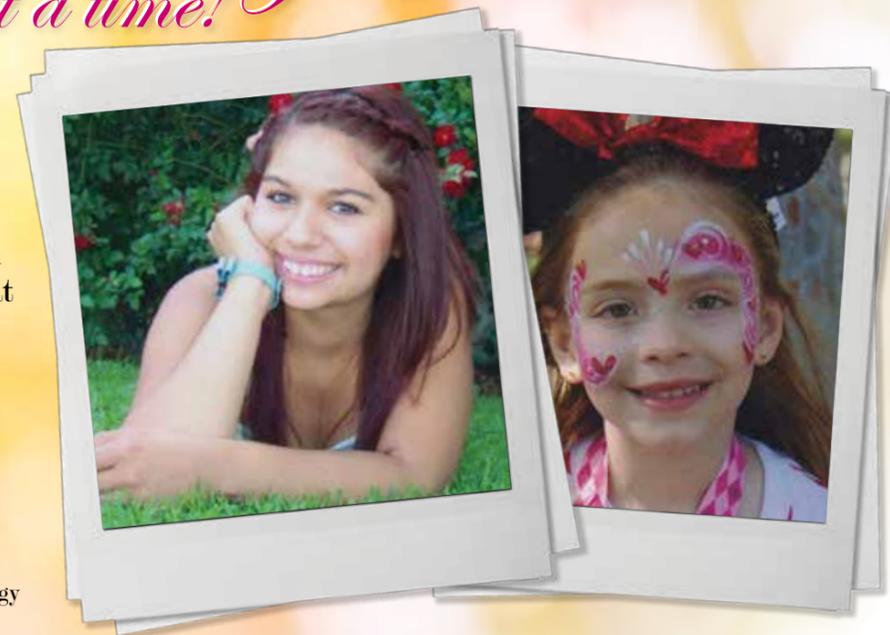
Staffed by the Holiday Guild, a volunteer organization founded in 1953, Holiday Boutique donates all proceeds to Children's Hospital Central California.



Celebrating life...

One kidney at a time!

In honor of my patients with kidney disease who prove that for every dark night, there is a bright day.



Sahar Barayan, MD
Medical Director of Pediatric Nephrology

Thank you Children's Hospital Central California!

We applaud your outstanding dedication to promoting access to health care and for providing health education in our community.



Thank You

Children's Hospital Central California

for all you do

for the children of the Central Valley.

Kristine & Riley Walter



ChildrensCentralCal.org/AdaptiveSports

Thanks to you, our son is shining.

As a solar company, we specialize in harnessing the sun's energy. As parents, we wish we could harness our son's energy! And we have Children's Hospital Central California to thank for it.

When our little Reed was born via emergency C-section, he weighed only three pounds and was unable to breathe, swallow or maintain his body temperature. Without Children's, where he received lifesaving treatment over 16 days in the NICU, he surely wouldn't have lived. Today, he's not only surviving, but thriving as a happy, healthy four-year-old.

Words cannot express our gratitude for Children's and the second chance they gave our Reed. While we're proud of our ability to help Valley homeowners and businesses save on energy costs with solar power, we're just as proud to support Children's in its mission to Valley families.



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The Smallest Patients Deserve Our Biggest Support



Thanks to the hospital's dedicated pediatric specialists and their incredible care, little patients' spirits can remain high.

Table Mountain Rancheria proudly joins hands with the staff of Children's Hospital Central California in efforts to provide the best pediatric care.