



From the Heart

♥ "BECAUSE
THE KIDS
DESERVE
IT" ♥

- DR. JAMES CARSON

*Dr. Carson, a pediatric surgeon, was one of the original physicians who championed the need for a children's hospital in Spokane. His selfless approach to patient care included advocating for the less fortunate, making house calls and recruiting pediatric specialties to Spokane because, as he continually reminded us, "The kids deserve it." Sadly, Dr. Carson died of cancer in 1998. He was posthumously awarded a Sacred Heart Children's Hospital Advocacy award in 2019.

Occasionally, I see something on social media that gets in my head and puts life in perspective. Here is an example:

"Too many people spend their lives being dutiful descendants instead of good ancestors. The responsibility of each generation is not to please their predecessors. It's to improve things for their offspring. It's more important to make your children proud than your parents proud."

This concept is never more important than in health care. As donors to the Kids at Heart Giving Circle and supporters of Providence Sacred Heart Children's Hospital, we make a positive impact on children's health care in our region.

In 2001, a group of committed community volunteers formed the Children's Circle Association because they believed that Spokane deserved its own children's hospital. They raised funds through the Children's Advocacy Lunch, which eventually became Kids at Heart. Their dream became a reality when Sacred Heart Children's Hospital opened its doors in 2003. Since that time the hospital has cared for more than 775,000 ill and injured children.

The Children's Health Council, composed of foundation board members and dedicated community volunteers, supports this care by raising funds and awareness of children's health care needs.

We cannot do this without you all and we greatly appreciate your financial participation. Bravo to each of you.

Many thanks,
Denis Felgenhauer


Chair,

Sacred Heart Children's Health Council

**Interested in learning more about
the Children's Health Council?**

Contact Lisa Smith 509-863-2304,
lisa.smith11@providence.org





BE ONE OF THE COOL KIDS!

JOIN THE KIDS AT HEART GIVING CIRCLE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE YEAR-ROUND.

Giving Circle members will hear patient and family stories throughout the year, receive exclusive learning opportunities and have their names placed on the Children's Circle tree in the Serenity Room at Sacred Heart Children's Hospital. Plus, they will receive the highly coveted Kids at Heart coffee mug!

**To join, visit
kidsatheartcharitylunch.org
 or return the enclosed envelope.**



From the Heart

A newsletter for members of the
 Kids at Heart Giving Circle: Spring 2022

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Providence Inland Northwest Foundation
 509-474-4917

Kidsatheartcharitylunch.org | Providence.org/givinginw

Thank you to our founding Giving Circle members making an annual donation of \$250 or more:

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YOUR CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK HOSPITAL



NICU GIFT CREATES A CALM, COMFORTING SPACE

Looking at Jack Sager now, you'd never know this active one-year-old spent three months in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Sacred Heart Children's Hospital.



As his mom, Genasee, says: "What a difference a year makes. Last year the hospital became our second home. We had a baby too fragile to touch without gloves and now we have a toddler who bangs his head against the wall for fun."

Genasee had a normal pregnancy with no signs of trouble until her 28th week. Sensing that something was wrong, she saw her doctor and an ultrasound determined the baby was at risk. An emergency C-section quickly followed. Jack weighed just 1 pound, 12 ounces at birth, but was remarkably free of any extraordinary health issues. He just needed time in the NICU to grow and develop.

During their weeks spent at the hospital, Genasee and her husband, Cole, decided they wanted to give back. "Throughout our stay we were shown so much grace and kindness and we knew we wanted to pay it forward somehow," Genasee said. She asked some of the nurses what they really needed and a new "Quiet Room" quickly rose to the top of the list.

This room is a calm place where families can gather and regroup during difficult times. It offers privacy and is sometimes used in end-of-life situations.

The current Quiet Room was in dire need of an upgrade. The Sager's gift, along with help from Providence Inland Northwest Foundation, provided new carpet, paint and furniture, and incorporates artwork and soft lighting, creating a calm space that feels less like a hospital.

More than a dozen families have used the Quiet Room since it was completed in mid-December. This special space allowed one young couple to stay close to their terminally ill infant during his final days. They were able to sleep in the room's murphy bed and have a quiet meeting space for family members to come support the parents.

Like many parents in her situation, Genasee is grateful Spokane is home to a dedicated children's hospital. "It's not a situation anyone wants to go through, but I feel we were so fortunate. We were the beneficiaries of so many resources we didn't even know existed," she said.



Fifteen-year-old Jason needs to use a catheter every night in order to protect his transplanted kidney. His family's insurance is not willing to cover the cost of the catheters so the foundation was able to fund a two-month supply of Foley catheters for \$225.

\$91,874

IN PATIENT ASSISTANCE IN 2021

A young patient with cystic fibrosis needs his family to drive him to clinic appointments and school, but his parents were unable to work when they had COVID-19. Foundation funds paid their \$158 monthly car insurance so they could transport him safely while they caught up with their bills.

275

PEDIATRIC FAMILIES SERVED IN 2021

Hannah is a sweet seven-year-old from Spokane with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Hannah's mom is a single working parent providing for a family of six. She received \$250 toward her utility bill to help offset the costs of Hannah's care while she takes time off from work to care for Hannah.

Living on your own as a 17-year-old is difficult, but became much harder when this **patient was diagnosed with a low-malignancy pancreatic cancer** that required surgery. \$100 dollars toward groceries made a big difference as this patient did not qualify for many community resources due to being younger than 18.

\$334.09

AVERAGE PER FAMILY IN 2021

A simple stroller can make a huge difference. **Three-year-old Brandon has multiple complex medical conditions** and a tracheotomy, making his transportation to appointments difficult. Donated funds allowed hospital staff to buy a \$120 stroller to help get him from the apartment to the car and into medical appointments.



Meet Lisa Smith

"I have personally experienced the quality care at Providence hospitals that have been there for my family, time after time," says Lisa Smith, the newest member of our philanthropy team.

Lisa was born and raised in Spokane, and has long been inspired by the Providence Mission of serving all those who need care. She is passionate about making a difference for youth and has found the perfect way to blend her inspiration and passion in her role as Philanthropy Officer for Sacred Heart Children's Hospital.

"I see my position as a resource for our community, providing meaningful opportunities for people with compassionate hearts to impact the lives of children and their grateful families."

Lisa graduated from Washington State University and began her career in client services and marketing, although her roots in philanthropy go back to 2006 when she worked at Habitat for Humanity. Several years ago, Lisa decided she was called to use her skills in health care philanthropy, taking a position with Shriners Hospitals for Children.

"I am honored to help support Sacred Heart Children's Hospital, which is such a vital asset in our community. I will devote my best efforts to ensuring we continue to be here for our families, friends and neighbors whenever the need arises."

THEN AND NOW:

ENZO WAS BORN WITH A HEART CONDITION THAT WOULD HAVE ENDED HIS LIFE IF EXPERT CARE HAD NOT BEEN IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE.

Enzo Beznaiguia is the third child in the family, so his parents thought they knew what to expect when he was born by a planned C-section in July 2009 after a normal pregnancy.

His father, Khalil, cut the umbilical cord and held Enzo close to his wife Heather for a moment before the nurse took him to swaddle. Then everything changed.

The nurse said Enzo was a little blue and she needed to take him upstairs to get checked out.

Enzo was placed in an oxygen tent, an IV was started and multiple tests were quickly run.

Several doctors conferred and then Dr. Rick Jensen, a pediatric cardiologist, came over to break the news to Khalil that his son needed open heart surgery.

"Dr. Jensen told me Enzo had transposition of the great arteries," said Khalil. This means the aorta and pulmonary artery were reversed, so Enzo's heart was sending oxygenated blood back to the lungs and unoxygenated blood back thru the body – starving his body of needed oxygen.

Dr. Jensen pulled up a computer to show diagrams to Khalil and explained exactly what was happening.

"I was having trouble taking it all in," says Khalil, "but Dr. Jensen was so calm and reassuring, and so patient when he had to go through it all again with Heather when they brought her up after her surgery was completed.

"We were both comforted by the expertise and absolute attention to detail of all the people around us – every nurse, every doctor, every single person -- and their compassion for our son and for us as parents."

Enzo recovered from the surgery and his heart has functioned normally ever since. Once a year, Enzo sees Dr. Carl Garabedian, a pediatric cardiologist who was part of the team at Sacred Heart Children's Hospital and who became Enzo's long-term cardiac physician.

Enzo is now in 7th grade at Sacajawea Middle School and is thriving. He has straight A's, plays a musical instrument, loves sports statistics and wants to be a sports commentator someday. He skis, plays competitive soccer at the highest level for his age and loves all sports.

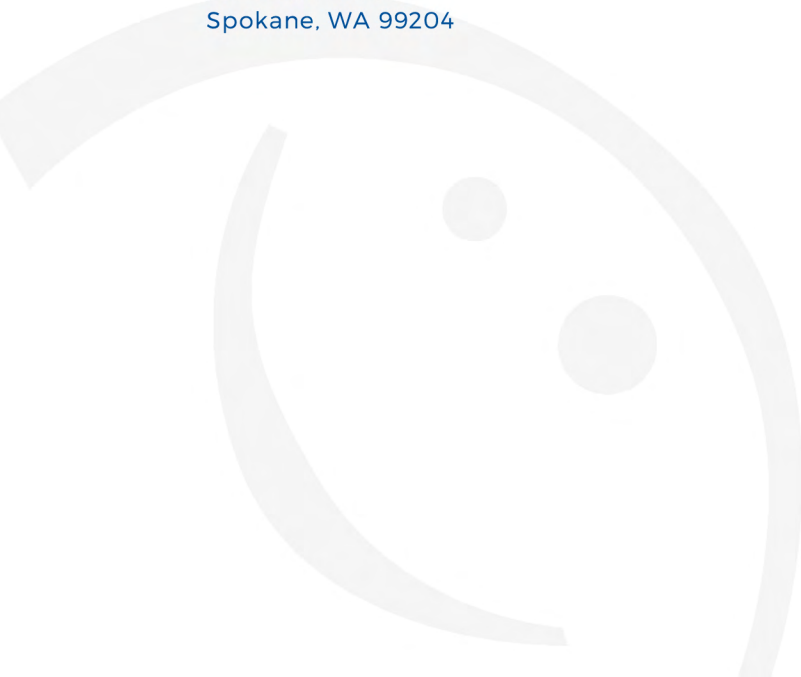
Khalil says, "I can't talk about this without getting tears in my eyes. When your baby is scooped up and taken from you with a life-threatening condition, you need to have faith -- faith in your God or faith in your science, but most importantly, faith in those who are taking care of your child."





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**ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS (HINT:
ANSWERS ARE FOUND IN THIS NEWSLETTER!)**

HOW MANY FAMILIES RECEIVED ASSISTANCE FROM ONE OF THE FOUNDATION'S PEDIATRIC PATIENT EMERGENCY FUNDS LAST YEAR?

HOW MUCH MONEY DID THE FOUNDATION DISTRIBUTE IN PEDIATRIC PATIENT ASSISTANCE IN 2021?

WHAT WAS THE AVERAGE AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PER FAMILY?

**TO ENTER THE DRAWING, EMAIL ANSWERS TO
MELANIE.MILLER@PROVIDENCE.ORG**

**ARE YOU UPDATING YOUR ESTATE PLANS AND WANT TO INCLUDE
THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN YOUR WILL? WE CAN HELP.**

PLEASE CONTACT LISA SMITH, AT LISA.SMITH11@PROVIDENCE.ORG OR 509-863-2304.