

Children's Mercy Kansas City

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2016

### Children's Mercy Hospital Annual Report 2015

Children's Mercy Hospital

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# Journeys of Transformation

2015 Annual Report



**Children's Mercy**  
KANSAS CITY

# On Life Support → On a Roll

## Balanced Between Life and Death

Brookelynn Lewis first stepped onto a balance beam at only 6 months of age, with the gentle support of mom Nickie. But that balancing act was far less harrowing than the one she faced just after birth when, after aspirating breast milk, she stopped breathing for six agonizing minutes.

Once in the Children's Mercy Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Brookelynn was wrapped in cooling blankets. For the next 72 hours, her core temperature was maintained at 33°C to help her brain recover from the lack of oxygen.

Doctors determined the cause of Brookelynn's aspiration and inserted a feeding tube, allowing her parents to take their daughter home.

From early on, Nickie followed the medical staff's advice to stimulate her daughter — mentally and physically — as much as possible. Thus, Brookelynn's early exposure to the balance beam.

"I would take her to different open gyms twice a week for her to move and climb around — to get her motor skills going," Nickie said. To this day, at nearly 4 years old, the balance beam is still her favorite.

For more on the story, and to see stories about other remarkable children, go to the Children's Mercy website, [www.childrensmercy.org/mystory](http://www.childrensmercy.org/mystory).



# 2014

For the ninth year in a row, Children's Mercy is honored in the large companies category as the Kansas City Business Journal announces the top 30 places to work in Kansas City, as voted by employees.



July

August



Children's Mercy is named part of a nine-hospital coalition awarded **\$23 million** to improve care and reduce costs for children with complex medical needs. The three-year grant is from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation.

Children's Mercy placed **5th** in the Kansas City Corporate Challenge 2014, its best finish since a Children's Mercy team began participating in the event in 2007.



Fiscal year 2014 was announced as a record-breaking year for philanthropy at Children's Mercy. The hospital received **\$32.5 million** in pledged and outright gifts and volunteers logged **55,226 hours** (\$1.2 million value), demonstrating the community's generosity and support.

An unprecedented respiratory virus that impacted the entire United States — human enterovirus 68 — caused a winter-like surge in patients. Children's Mercy, the first hospital anywhere to identify the virus, treated more than 600 children with EV-68-like symptoms, including 100 who were sent to the PICU.



September



Randy Blue, MD, is named Medical Director for Children's Mercy-Wichita.

October



Fans of the Kansas City Royals and Children's Mercy "knocked it out of the park" for children's health by donating \$11,210 to the "Big League Fan Challenge" issued during the Royals vs. San Francisco Giants World Series.

In response to an Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa and cases reported in the U.S., Children's Mercy activated a Hospital Incident Command Center team to formalize and coordinate planning for actual or potential patients infected with the Ebola virus. No such patients were seen here.



# AMP

Children's Mercy announces a new computer-tablet based app called CHAMP (Cardiac High-Acuity Monitoring Program), a more automated, accurate and simplified way for physicians to monitor high-risk, single-ventricle heart defect patients in real time while the patients are recovering at home from heart surgery.



The Ward Family Heart Center at Children's Mercy receives approval to begin performing pediatric heart transplants, making it the first health care facility in the region to offer the lifesaving procedure to pediatric patients. Addie Ward, leading benefactor of the Center, announced the establishment of the program and the arrival of two nationally recognized experts to lead the heart transplant team: James D. St. Louis, MD, and Aliessa P. Barnes, MD.



Flu season hits the Kansas City area early and hard, followed by large numbers of respiratory ailments that results in high, sustained census numbers.



Two outside publications ranked a total of **94 Children's Mercy physicians as the best in the Kansas City area.**

## December

## November

More than 700 generous supporters and guests attend the Inside Pediatrics premiere party at Starlight Theater, as Children's Mercy says "thank you" to patients and parents who shared their journeys, making the TV documentary series possible.



The Kansas City Business Journal announces Children's Mercy as one of the 20 companies that earned a spot on the list of 2015's Healthiest Employers in Kansas City, honoring the hospital for its commitment to wellness

## January

O.C. Tanner, which develops employee recognition and reward programs for more than 8,000 clients in 150 countries, named Children's Mercy one of the **"Top 10 Coolest Companies to Work for in Kansas City."**

## February

The Ward Family Heart Center at Children's Mercy performs its first pediatric heart transplant.



The 11th annual Red Hot Night Gala raises a record \$1.5 million for Children's Mercy.



# 2015



The regional Human Rights Campaign recognizes Children's Mercy for leadership in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) equality.



National Kidney Foundation™

The National Kidney Foundation publishes results of the ongoing CKiD study that is giving new hope to children suffering from chronic kidney disease. Brad Warady, MD, Director-Division of Pediatric Nephrology, is a co-principal investigator of the study, the largest of its kind ever conducted in North America.

Children's Mercy's STAT-Seq test helps diagnose a genetic disease in more than half of 35 critically ill infants tested, compared to just 9 percent with standard genetic tests, according to a study published in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine and presented at the annual Pediatric Academic Societies meeting.



## April

## March

BECKER'S  
**Hospital Review**  
BUSINESS & LEADERSHIP FOR HEALTH SYSTEM LEADERSHIP

Becker's Hospital Review named Children's Mercy to its list of **"150 great places to work in health care."**

Alan Gamis, MD, MPH, Associate Division Director-Section of Oncology, is honored with the establishment of the Dr. Alan Gamis Endowed Fund for Patient Care in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology/BMT. The fund was made possible by Drs. David and Mary Ann Amos.



Children's Mercy hosts the sixth annual Pediatrics Genomics Conference.

 **Center for Pediatric Genomic Medicine**  
CHILDREN'S MERCY KANSAS CITY

Children's Mercy West, the Cordell Meeks Jr. Clinic, celebrates its recertification as a Level 3 Patient-Centered Medical Home by the National Committee for Quality Assurance and announced dramatic improvements in asthma treatment.

 **Children's Mercy WEST**

Plans are announced to build a four-story office building with a three-level parking garage at the corner of 23rd Street and Kenwood Avenue on the Adele Hall Campus. The new building, which will house physician offices and have parking for 210 vehicles, will be completed in 14-16 months.



Food Allergy Research and Education selected Children's Mercy as one of 21 centers of excellence to be inaugural members of the FARE Clinical Network for the care of patients with food allergies.



Children's Mercy ranked among U.S. News & World Report's Best Children's Hospitals in all 10 specialty areas, one of just a handful of hospitals nationwide to do so.

## June

**inside Pediatrics**  
CHILDREN'S MERCY KANSAS CITY

Inside Pediatrics, the six-part TV series that in December 2014 provided an unprecedented look behind the walls of Children's Mercy, is nominated for a **Regional Emmy and also wins Best of Show** from the Missouri Association for Healthcare Public Relations and Marketing at its annual Show-Me Excellence Awards conference.

The sixth annual Big Slick weekend charity event raises \$1 million for the Children's Mercy Cancer Center.

**BIG Slick**

Brendan Tripp Elam Transplant Center is established.

Children's Mercy celebrates a **\$2 million gift** from the Ferrell family to establish an endowed chair in maternal fetal medicine, with Timothy Bennett, MD, Medical Director of the Fetal Health Center, appointed as the first chair.





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## **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**

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.



## Journeys of Transformation

Greetings,

You have perhaps heard it said that the way we treat our children today will send a signal to future generations we will never meet. That belief brings conscience to how we do our work here at Children's Mercy and passion to the way we do it. I thank you for the interest you show in that work by exploring the contents of our 2015 Annual Report.

Our quest is to make sure every patient we serve is able to achieve the fullest potential for good health. As you will read in this report, we do this through pursuing clinical excellence, supported by research and medical education. In pediatric medicine, we keenly recognize that our children are hospitalized not because of the lifestyle choices they make, but because of fate. For a child and a family, a health care event is not merely unsettling, it's a trauma. For the patient to get better, then, that trauma must also be treated, which is why we show extraordinary devotion to the psychosocial dimension of care.

Through our research, we seek discoveries that can make best practices even better. Through medical education, we recruit and train medical doctors and nursing students whose records for passing board and certification exams rate among the highest in the nation. The best and the brightest are invited to join us. I remain inspired by my colleagues' efforts to deliver the highest quality health care. But our progress is not only measured by effort; it's also measured by evidence. We get excellent results, but we are always striving to do better for our children.

None of the accomplishments highlighted in this year's report could have been achieved without the remarkable support we enjoy from our community. Our benefactors continue to contribute generously to us, enabling ongoing innovation in our services and programs. Our public policy leaders listen to us with respect, as together we swim the turbulent political waters of health care reform. Our civic community connects us with the right people in the right places so we can strengthen our role as one of our region's most vital assets. This solid civic engagement deeply cements our sustainability.

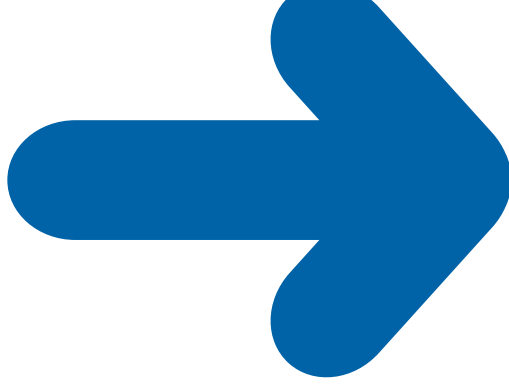
This report, then, is about a journey we are taking on behalf of our children and about a community whose health will be better because of it. I humbly hope that as future generations experience the results of our work, they will assign to that work the same amount of respect and admiration we have for our 118 years in service to the children, families and communities of our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randall L. O'Donnell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Randall L. O'Donnell, PhD  
President and Chief Executive Officer





## Board of Directors

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Debbie Sosland-Edelman, Vice Chairman  
Elizabeth Braham, Treasurer  
Dave Goebel, Secretary

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Carolyn Davis, MD  
Bill Krueger  
Paul McLaughlin  
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John Ovel  
Kathy Perryman, MD  
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Tom Weir  
Gerald Woods, MD

## Administration

- Randall L. O'Donnell, PhD, President and Chief Executive Officer
- Karen Cox, RN, PhD, FACHE, FAAN, Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer
- Sandra A.J. Lawrence, Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer
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- Jo Stueve, Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer
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- Carol Kemper, Vice President, Quality and Safety
- Genny Nicholas, Vice President, Government Relations
- Jenea Oliver, PhD, Vice President, Philanthropy

	FY 2015		
<b>Inpatient Care</b>	Admissions	14,538	
	Patient Days	Average Length of Stay	5.99
		Medical/Surgical	5.2
		Intensive Care Nursery	29.9
		Pediatric Intensive Care Unit	5.8
		CM South Patient Care Unit	2.6
	Fetal Health Center	1.9	
	Average Daily Census	262.4	
	Licensed Beds Available	354	
<b>Outpatient Visits</b>			
	Hospital Clinics	147,984	
	CM South Specialty Center	56,255	
	CM Northland Specialty Clinics	17,753	
	CM East Specialty Clinics	7,007	
	College Boulevard Clinics	3,712	
	Children's Mercy Blue Valley	2,933	
	Primary Care Clinics	70,918	
	Other	10,891	
	<b>Total Outpatient Visits</b>	<b>317,453</b>	
<b>Emergency/Urgent Care Visits</b>	CMH Emergency Room	67,910	
	CM South Emergency Room	42,490	
	Blue Valley Urgent Care	19,045	
	CM Northland Urgent Care	30,317	
	CM East Urgent Care	25,535	
	<b>Total Emergency/Urgent Care Visits</b>	<b>185,295</b>	
<b>Surgical Procedures</b>	Inpatient	4,085	
	Outpatient	14,897	
	<b>Total Surgical Procedures</b>	<b>18,982</b>	
<b>Transports</b>	Ground Ambulance	4,586	
	Helicopter	248	
	Fixed Wing	429	
	<b>Total Transports</b>	<b>5,263</b>	
Home Care Visits		4,308	
Full-time Employees		6,294	
Volunteers		785	
Medical Staff		753	

	FY 2015	
<b>SOURCES OF REVENUE</b>		
Patient Care Services		1,120,990,754
Externally Funded Research		12,306,990
Other Revenue & Public Support*		63,101,175
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,196,398,918</b>
<b>USES OF REVENUE</b>		
Bad Debt		54,834,445
Salaries & Benefits		634,529,455
Supplies & Other Expenses		332,507,464
Depreciation & Interest		68,375,550
Other		106,152,003
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,196,398,918</b>

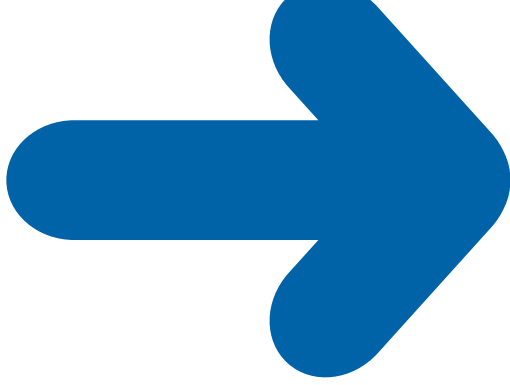
\* Includes Philanthropy and United Way, investment income and additional sources

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 Our quest is  
 to make sure  
 every patient  
 we serve is able  
 to achieve the  
 fullest potential  
 for good health.

~Randall L. O'Donnell, Ph.D.  
 President and Chief  
 Executive Officer

”





# Our Community LOVES Children's Mercy

Another record-breaking year ...



34.7 million

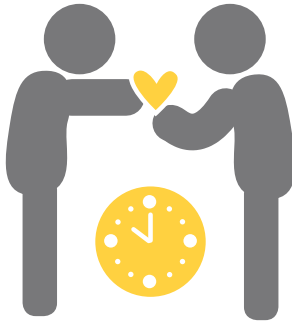


75,000 volunteer

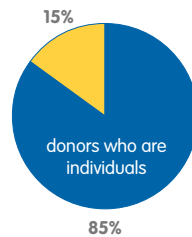


hours

**785** volunteers gave



**75,064** hours of time



**Every** gift, of **every** size, makes a difference! In the past year, philanthropy allowed Children's Mercy to:



Install the **only 3T MRI system** in a children's hospital in the U.S. for faster, clearer, imaging of small bones in restless children

Create a **garden oasis**, complete with "Buddy," the dog sculpture, for patients, families and staff



Buckle **1,200** youngsters into approved car seats for a safe ride home

Help **9,987** appreciative families find their way through the hospital, connecting them with health care providers and loved ones



Hire **Hunter**, a golden retriever, to provide "fuzz therapy"

Develop a tool that allows parents and physicians to monitor high-risk, single-ventricle heart defect patients at home in real-time



Expand the reach of the **Bioethics Center**, enriching clinicians and supporting families across the globe

Advance national studies that led to FDA approval of a new drug in the **fight against cystic fibrosis**, a serious, often-fatal genetic disorder



Fund more than **1,800** birthday parties, holiday celebrations, game nights and more

Open a **new gift shop** in the heart of the hospital



Expand the **Kreamer Resource Center**, a hub for families in need

Transplant our **first heart**



# Heart transplants join list of life-changing treatments

In the latest example of transforming pediatric health care in our region, the Ward Family Heart Center at Children's Mercy in 2015 performed its first pediatric heart transplant. The recipient was 15-year-old Hannah Mountz, Kansas City, Mo. The heart transplant program ensures that Kansas City children no longer have to leave their community for this procedure.

At age 12, Hannah Mountz was diagnosed with cardiomyopathy, a disease in which the heart muscle becomes weak and enlarged, making it difficult to pump blood through the body.

"We have been able to manage her heart condition with the help of the cardiology team at Children's Mercy for the past three years," said Hannah's father, Tim Mountz. "Hannah was on the transplant list for five weeks, and we were filled with so many emotions when we got the call that it was time for her to receive a new heart."



Hannah Mountz



New transplant doctors, Aliessa P. Barnes, MD (right) and James D. St. Louis, MD (second from right) received a warm welcome at a reception hosted by long-time Children's Mercy champion Addie Ward (center) on Nov. 5, 2014. Also on hand for the special occasion were (from left to right) Girish S. Shirali, MBBS and James E. O'Brien Jr., MD, Co-Directors, The Ward Family Heart Center; Randall L. O'Donnell, PhD, President and CEO; and Scott H. Ward.

## Hannah's heart transplant took place at Children's Mercy on Feb. 13.

"We couldn't have asked for a better Valentine's Day gift," Mountz said. "Our family is so grateful that we were able to stay home, in Kansas City, where Hannah has the support of our family and friends."

Leading the Children's Mercy heart transplant team are two nationally recognized experts. James D. St. Louis, MD, Surgical Director of Cardiac Transplantation, led the team during the six-hour surgery. Aliessa P. Barnes, MD, Medical Director of Cardiac Transplantation, specializes in pediatric heart failure and pediatric cardiac transplantation.

Integral to the heart transplant program, Children's Mercy also now offers ventricular assist devices (VADs), critical to support pediatric heart transplant patients as they wait for a new heart.

"The reality is that there is a limited supply of pediatric donors and pediatric donor hearts. This means our patients may need to wait for extended lengths of time for that gift to become available," says Girish Shirali, MBBS, FACC, FASE, Co-Director of the Ward Family Heart Center. "In order to support our patients in every way possible, a transplant facility also must have expertise and resources to implant mechanical hearts, or ventricular assist devices, to help the patient remain stable while they wait."

Last year alone, the hospital's heart team performed more than 400 surgical heart procedures; provided more than 12,000 cardiac outpatient visits; conducted more than 16,000 echocardiograms; and provided more than 500 catheterization and electrophysiology procedures. The Ward Family Heart Center's outcomes, according to the Society of Thoracic Surgeons National Congenital Heart Surgery Database, are among the best of the 116 North American children's hospitals.

## Transplant Center Combines Strength

Children's Mercy in June established the Brendan Tripp Elam Transplant Center, bringing together the collective strengths, knowledge and experience of our liver, kidney and heart transplant teams to provide the best care possible for the region's pediatric transplant patients. The Center's work will be supported through a philanthropic gift from the family of Brendan Tripp Elam, who in December 2012 received a liver transplant at Children's Mercy when he was 10 years old.

"Children's Mercy has been delivering outstanding transplant care to liver and kidney patients for more than 10 years with programs that have been consistently ranked nationally by U.S. News & World Report," said Charles Roberts, MD, Executive Medical Director at Children's Mercy. "With the addition of a heart transplant program, Children's Mercy has shown its ongoing dedication to our children who need transplants. Now is the time to combine all of these individual efforts into a single organized program."



Montie Tripp (left), Stacy Elam and Brendan Tripp Elam at the Transplant Center announcement

# Children's Mercy teams up against cancer

Children's Mercy joined The University of Kansas Cancer Center National Cancer Institute Consortium, allowing both organizations to collaborate with academic, scientific and research programs relative to pediatric oncology.

Children's Mercy joined existing consortium partners, the Stowers Institute for Medical Research and the University of Kansas.

"We are excited about the opportunities that come along with this affiliation with The University of Kansas Cancer Center," said Gerald Woods, MD, Division Director of Hematology/Oncology/Bone Marrow Transplant at Children's Mercy. "By aligning our expertise and resources, we will be able to bring more clinical trials and innovative therapeutics to children fighting cancer today and in the future."

Gerald Woods, MD, division director of Hematology/Oncology/Bone Marrow Transplant at Children's Mercy, addresses the crowd as University of Kansas and Children's Mercy officials announce the cancer institute partnership.



Red carpet at the sixth annual Big Slick weekend charity event. Big Slick helps support work at the Children's Mercy Cancer Center.



Specifically, the institutions will further collaborate around medical innovations to leverage Children's Mercy's core strengths in pediatrics, genomic medicine, orphan drug disease indications and cancer drug discovery. These capabilities complement University of Kansas Institute for Advancing Medical Innovation in its strategic focus on cancer, childhood and adolescent diseases and rare diseases.

The University of Kansas Cancer Center was awarded National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation in 2012, which signifies that it has achieved the highest standards and recognition for an academic cancer center and that promising cancer research leading directly to improved care and treatment is taking place.

"Children's Mercy has extensive experience and expertise when it comes to advancing pediatric oncology research and pediatric drug development," said Roy Jensen, MD, Director of The University of Kansas Cancer Center.

Children's Mercy and The University of Kansas Cancer Center most recently collaborated on creating The University of Kansas Cancer Center Survivorship Transition Clinic. The clinic, based at The University of Kansas Hospital, is one of a half dozen clinics in the country specifically for adult survivors of childhood cancer. The clinic provides adult survivors follow-up care and treatment for any late effects.

The Division of Hematology, Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant at Children's Mercy provides comprehensive care to nearly 2,000 children each year with childhood cancers, sickle cell disease, hemophilia and other blood disorders. At any given time, the Division is participating in nearly 100 clinical trials, including several national trials led by Children's Mercy investigators. Trial groups include the Children's Oncology Group, the Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant Consortium and the Pediatric Oncology Experimental Therapeutics Investigators Consortium.

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blood disorders.**  
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# Inside Pediatrics allows TV viewers behind the scenes at Children's Mercy



Nelijah Tatum (second from right below) and his family were among the stars at the premier party in November 2014 for Inside Pediatrics. Nelijah had surgery to remove a mass from inside his heart and has made a full recovery!



Families received Red Carpet treatment, complete with on-camera interviews, at the Inside Pediatrics premier party.



An unprecedented look behind the scenes at Children's Mercy came to TV screens across the region with the premier of Inside Pediatrics in December 2014.

The six-part documentary was a prime-time ratings bonanza as viewers tuned in to see incredible stories of children, their families and the staff at Children's Mercy that take care of them. The series was an opportunity to show the community inside our specialty care clinics, the emergency room and the operating rooms, as our team of leading physicians and nurses pushed the boundaries of medicine and science to bring hope, health and healing to the children of our region and beyond.

The production team, Coolfire Studios, spent 13 weeks filming 28 different families from 22 different cities across five states, with patients ranging from 34 weeks gestation to 17 years old. More than 450 employees were filmed, as were several of our Hollywood friends in town for our annual Big Slick celebrity fundraiser hosted by KC's own Paul Rudd, Jason Sudeikis, Rob Riggle, David Koechner and Eric Stonestreet. When it came time to find a narrator, Paul's voice was the perfect choice, and he even took time out from filming "Ant-Man" to do the recording.

Inside Pediatrics was so well-received that a second season has been produced. It is scheduled to be broadcast 7 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 16 and Wednesday, Dec. 23 on KMBC-TV. Season one will be re-broadcast 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12 on KCWE, Channel 29.

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**Inside Pediatrics was so well-received that a second season has been produced. It is scheduled to be broadcast 7 to 8 p.m., Wednesdays, Dec. 16 and 23 on KMBC-TV.**  
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# Research Institute seeks to maximize impact

Children's Mercy has launched the Children's Research Institute to align and focus our research efforts more effectively to improve outcomes and transform children's lives.

"Research plays a powerful role in our hospital," said Mike Artman, MD, Pediatrician-in-Chief and Executive Director of Research. "It has driven breakthroughs in treating, diagnosing and preventing complex childhood diseases, and has enabled us to make incredible progress in areas like cancer, diabetes, pediatric genomics, health care delivery, infectious diseases and more."

"Our new institute will take us to even greater heights by centralizing our research priorities and staff, growing our NIH (National Institutes of Health) funding



and raising the hospital's academic profile, which is one of our five strategic goals."

A national search for an executive director to lead the Children's Research Institute team is underway.

"Leadership will work collaboratively over the coming months to align research teams so the organization can enjoy even greater results – ultimately improving the health and lives of our kids and their families," said Jo Stueve, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. "The institute will elevate our research efforts so we can do even more for our children and their families."

The Children's Research Institute is designed to help Children's Mercy realize its vision, as outlined in our strategic plan, of growing our research efforts and strengthening our academic profile. Most importantly, we expect our expanded research effort to directly improve outcomes for our patients and other children around the globe. We want to transform pediatric medicine so kids receive the very best therapy, the first time and every time.

Children's Mercy hopes to increase its National Institutes of Health and other federal funding from about \$6.5 million today to \$30 million by 2022.

### **Advances at Genome Center rely on philanthropy**

Some corporations just get it, including the 704 companies and 51 foundations that supported Children's Mercy this year. They understand that we're all in this together when it comes to making the community stronger and the world a better place. Black & Veatch is one such local company.

Boosting its already solid reputation for supporting community needs, Black & Veatch this year announced a \$2.1 million pledge over five years to Children's Mercy to help expand services at the Center for Pediatric Genomic Medicine.

"The continued advances in genomic medicine here at Children's Mercy wouldn't be possible without the dedicated support of great partners like Black & Veatch and its Foundation," said Charlie C. Roberts, MD, Executive Medical Director and Executive Vice President, Children's Mercy. "Their commitment to continued support for the future ensures that our

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**The continued advances in genomic medicine here at Children's Mercy wouldn't be possible without the dedicated support of great partners like Black & Veatch and its Foundation.**

**~Charlie C. Roberts, MD,  
Executive Medical Director  
and Executive Vice President,  
Children's Mercy**

”

patients and their families can get faster diagnoses and treatment for often elusive genetic diseases."

Also this year, Black & Veatch's Charity Golf Tournament raised \$350,000 in support of Children's Mercy. Proceeds donated to the hospital from the annual golf event have now surpassed \$3 million since its inception 19 years ago.



# Nurses lead journey to reduce infections

Children's Mercy nurses, recognized as an integral part of our health care team since the earliest days of the hospital, are leading an effort that shows early signs of success of reducing troublesome infection rates among our sickest patients.

The Centers for Disease Control estimates that one in every 25 patients is affected by a health care-associated infection and 205 patients die each day from one of those infections. Urinary tract infections are the second most common type and about 75 percent are associated with a urinary catheter.

Nurses at Children's Mercy, noting that research shows prolonged use of urinary catheters as the most important risk factor for developing a catheter-associated infection, worked to develop a set of guidelines to remove the catheters when no longer medically required. A specially-developed algorithm has been integrated into the electronic medical record to help nurses and other health care providers make the right decisions on use of catheters.

As a result, the use of catheters decreased significantly between 2014 and 2015. Medical-Surgical units - 2 Henson, 4 Sutherland, 4 Henson Hall, 5 Sutherland, 5 Henson Hall, 6 Hall, 6 Henson Tower and Children's Mercy South – all went more than a year without a catheter-associated urinary tract infection

All this work is part of an effort by Children's Mercy to provide the safest and best care possible. The culture of inquiry and innovation at Children's Mercy supports clinical nurses in the design and implementation of technology to support clinical practice changes and improve patient outcomes.

Jessica Youmans has been instrumental in the work to reduce infections.

## Scholarships help nurses transform lives

Scholarships allow nurses to advance knowledge, resulting in innovative pediatric care.

Sherralyn Craven was only 7 years old when she contracted polio and spent several months in the 12-bed ward of Children's Mercy. The nurses quickly became her adopted family and were instrumental in her recovery. Craven learned how to walk again, then steadily rebuilt her strength and her life.

Since then, Craven has come a long way – earning her doctorate and becoming an accomplished mathematics professor of 34 years. What hasn't changed during that time is nursing excellence at Children's Mercy. There is, and always will be, a commitment to advanced training for nurses to provide patients with the best bedside care.

Many Children's Mercy nurses continue their education or research thanks to generous donors who provide nursing scholarships. In FY2015, 82 donor-funded scholarships were awarded, the equivalent of \$94,250. Here is a closer look at a few of this year's recipients:

### Dee Lyons Scholarship

Honors two nurses, each receiving a \$5,000 scholarship, who have made a tangible difference:

- Ingrid Larson, RN, CPNP; Beacon Program Director. (This program creates care plans and streamlines the health care process for families with a medically complex child.)

- Kristin Ray, RN, BSN, CPN; Nursing Department Director – Surgical Services.

"It's life-changing to receive a gift of such magnitude," Ray said. "I started to cry when I learned about it. A load was immediately lifted off my shoulders and I could move forward focused on my education. Dee's long-standing commitment to Children's Mercy has made countless nurses even better at their jobs and, in turn, touches the care of countless patients along the way."

### Spirit of Nursing Scholarship

A new fund anonymously gives a \$10,000 scholarship to two employees who are also full-time students pursuing their nursing degrees at Metropolitan Community College:

- Noah Olla, Emergency Nursing Services Care Technician.
- Jennie Totta, Nurse Technician – 4 Henson.

"This is humbling, mind-blowing and like an episode of 'Undercover Boss,'" Totta said. "I'm in awe with where I work. Children's Mercy

has something special in the air – you can't touch or see it exactly, but you can feel it. I don't even know who made this scholarship possible for me, but I would love to say 'thank you' for changing my world!"

### Dr. Sherralyn and Harold Craven Scholarship

Honors the nurses who supported Craven as a child with polio, and recognizes the critical role education plays in overcoming obstacles and advancing futures. This year's \$2,500 scholarship was awarded to Shak Hensley, RN, CCRN, PICU Nurse.

"Quite simply, nursing is my calling," Hensley said. "I consider it a privilege to be close to my patients. I embrace that connection – providing hands-on care, healing and hope. There's nothing more fulfilling than helping a family through the most difficult time in their life. I have witnessed miracles in my career that are truly inspirational."

From left: Dee Lyons Scholarship recipient Kristin Ray, RN, BSN, CPN; Nursing Department Director – Surgical Services and Cheri Hunt, RN, MHA, NEA-BC, Senior Vice President/Chief Nursing Officer.



# Reaching across borders enriches medical education

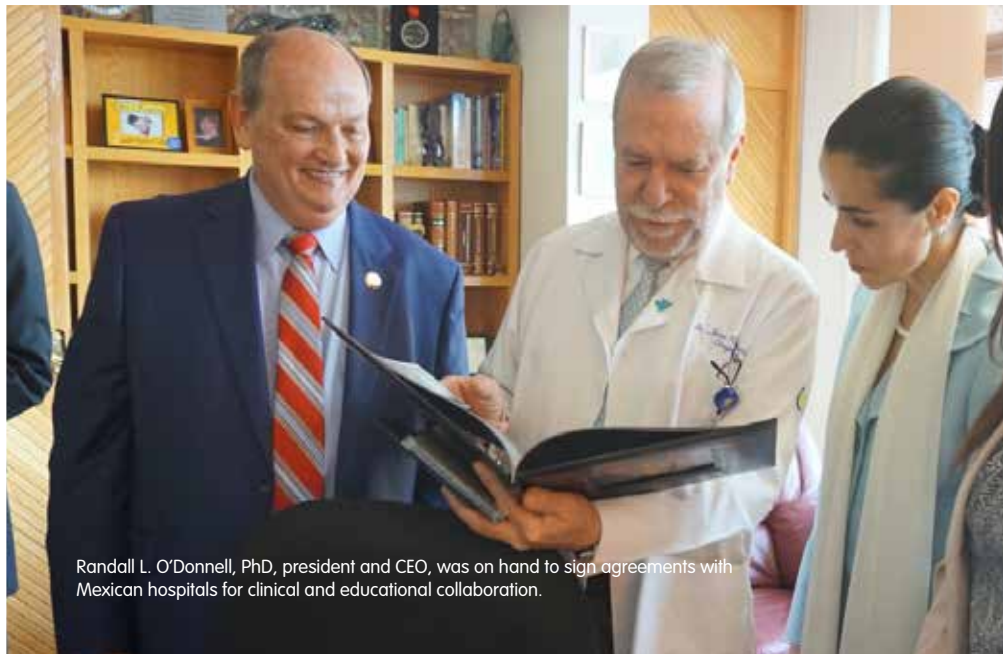
As the cultures of the United States and Mexico grow closer, it's natural that medical education would seek to prepare doctors for a multi-cultural experience.

Over the past few years, Children's Mercy has developed its educational relationships with hospitals in Mexico from memorandums of understanding to rich learning opportunities for residents and fellows.

In March 2015, a team from Children's Mercy traveled to two Mexican hospitals to further cultivate the programs that make these partnerships possible.



Children's Mercy artist Donald Ross, aka Scribe, was in Mexico to add some of his special touches to the walls.



Randall L. O'Donnell, PhD, president and CEO, was on hand to sign agreements with Mexican hospitals for clinical and educational collaboration.

"If you are a resident or fellow who is interested in our global health track, these new relationships represent opportunities to immerse yourself in the Mexican culture, learning about its health care system, values and beliefs," explained John D. Cowden, MD, MPH, Medical Director, Office of Equity and Diversity.

"From our perspective, because our cultures are so closely intertwined, to practice pediatrics effectively in the United States today, it is becoming increasingly important for every pediatrician to have an understanding of the Mexican culture and health beliefs."

The two hospitals visited in March were:

- Hospital Infantil de México Federico Gómez, México City (with more than 300 beds, the largest children's hospital in Mexico)
- Hospital de Nino DIF in Pachuca, Hidalgo, México (which cares for children with issues rarely seen in the United States, including tuberculosis).

Relationships with both hospitals emphasize clinical practice, research, advocacy, teaching and education

"This is an equal partnership," adds Jane Knapp, MD, Chair, Medical Education. "We are not the only ones with something to offer. Our residents and fellows learn a great deal about the language, culture and health care system of the other country when they study internationally."

Relationships with other international hospitals include:

- Guangzhou, China, Women and Children's Hospital
- Zhujiang, China, Hospital - Southern Medical University
- Cuernavaca, México
- Hospital del Nino, Panama
- Universidad Autonoma del Estado de Morelos, México

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**If you are a resident or fellow who is interested in our global health track, these new relationships represent opportunities to immerse yourself in the Mexican culture, learning about its health care system, values and beliefs.**

**~John D. Cowden, MD, MPH,  
Medical Director, Office of  
Equity and Diversity.**

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# Residents as advocates transform lives outside the hospital

An integral part of every Children's Mercy resident's second year is the Community Health and Child Advocacy rotation.

The rotation includes eight areas of study: legislative advocacy and media relations, homelessness, food insecurity, early childhood intervention, child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, environmental health and injury prevention. Each module is comprised of a combination of reading, research activities, reflection exercises and visits to community organizations.

Among other activities, the residents follow a family through a typical Women Infants and Children (WIC)-a nutrition program, visit, participate in a reflection activity at a shelter for victims of domestic violence, serve dinner at a food pantry, volunteer

Dr. Monica Duke (left) and Dr. Ashka Odhav



at a clinic housed within a daycare for children living in poverty, spend time at an organization that provides housing and support to homeless adolescents, and observe court proceedings for parents who are trying to regain custody of their children while recovering from drug abuse.

Some of the most impactful days are those spent visiting homes of patients through the state's early intervention program.

These experiences not only allow the residents to take a closer look at the lives of their patients, gaining empathy for the struggles families may face on a daily basis, but also challenge them to think about how a pediatrician can partner with other stakeholders in the community to enact lasting change.

One of the most important messages conveyed during this rotation is that every pediatrician, even those who are still in training, can and should be a child advocate. Each resident is asked to write a letter to a media outlet on a health topic of their choice. Several residents have had their letters published in The Kansas City Star.

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**Residents serve dinner at a food pantry, support homeless adolescents, observe court proceedings and visit patient homes.**  
”

## Fellowship program continues to expand

The latest milestone in the Children's Mercy commitment to providing comprehensive educational and clinical experience for new doctors is the addition of a fellowship in Pediatric Pulmonary Medicine. Led by Wendy Estrellado, MD, the pulmonology program provides a three-year educational experience that prepares graduates to develop careers as leaders in pediatric pulmonary medicine. The experience is designed to promote expertise through outstanding clinical, academic, investigative and administrative instruction.

Completion of the fellowship program will lead to American Board of Pediatrics certification in pediatric pulmonology. The program's goal is to have its first fellow in July 2016, joining fellowship programs in 32 other areas of the hospital, enhancing the care provided to patients throughout Children's Mercy. For more information, visit the Children's Mercy website: [www.childrensmercy.org/GME](http://www.childrensmercy.org/GME).

# Gifts of time and treasure reveal the many faces of giving

Children's Mercy received, in fiscal year 2015, an unprecedented level of community support: \$34.7 million in pledged and outright gifts and 75,064 volunteer hours. Together, it's going to help transform pediatric medicine for all children, regardless of their ability to pay.

The hospital's heritage of community support is nearly 120 years old. In the "old days," founding sisters Dr. Katharine Berry Richardson and Dr. Alice Berry Graham wrote a list of needs on a chalkboard in front of the hospital. Neighbors rallied to help, and the hospital grew. In more than a century of giving, supporters have helped Children's Mercy provide ever-advancing medical care.

Elizabeth (Zibbie) Ferrell blows a kiss to Winston, a patient of the Elizabeth J. Ferrell Fetal Health Center, at a surprise party in June 2015 to celebrate Zibbie's birthday and the Ferrell family's gift of \$2 million to fund an endowed chair in maternal fetal medicine. Timothy L. Bennett, MD, is the inaugural chair holder.



Eli Anno picks out clothing for Children's Mercy burn patients.



From a top-notch medical staff and leading-edge research programs to MRI equipment and comfort items like teddy bears, the impact of philanthropy makes Kansas City's only children's hospital the place to turn when families need expert care for their children.

"People who give gifts of time and treasure to Children's Mercy are answering a call, and they are doing it in a way that is right for them," said Jenea Oliver, Vice President of Philanthropy at Children's Mercy. It's what our children deserve.

"Thank goodness there is not a one-size-fits-all when it comes to philanthropy ... there are so many wonderful ways people give to Children's Mercy, and our community is stronger because of that generous support."

### Volunteering

Last year, 785 active volunteers gave 75,064 hours of their time to make a difference at Children's Mercy in a direct and personal way. Long-time volunteer Amy Wurst is among them.

"I've been involved with the Pet Pal program for 13 years," said Wurst. "Every Thursday evening we bring our therapy dogs – which have been trained and undergo a hospital screening program – to the William P. Harsh Community Room to visit with patients. There are usually about a dozen dogs, several hospital volunteers and 30 to 50 kids. They get a kick out of it!"

The volunteer program at Children's Mercy continues to grow, now including more than 350 high school and college students each year and numerous community and corporate groups. For students in our community, the program provides an opportunity to experience the joy of giving while exploring health care as a potential career choice. Both adult and student volunteers are fully integrated team members, engaging with patients and families and at every level of the hospital, allowing staff members more time to focus on the specialized work only they can deliver.

### In-kind Giving

Within the group of 10,000 individuals who donated to the hospital last year, 300 rolled up their sleeves



to host their own fundraising events, including children who run lemonade stands and yard sales and former patients like Eli Anno who knows what it feels like to be in the hospital's Burn Unit and gives loose clothing to kids who sadly have the same experience.

"I give to Children's Mercy because I want to help other kids who are in the hospital to still be able to have fun and play!" said Eli.

After a lengthy stay in the Burn Unit at Children's Mercy when he was just 1 year old, 6-year-old Eli of Shawnee, Kan., decided he wanted to give back. Eli organized a sidewalk sale in the summer of 2015 and used the funds he collected to purchase loose-fitting clothing and new toys for kids being treated in the Burn Unit at Children's Mercy.

### Gift Planning

Many Children's Mercy supporters give like there is a tomorrow. Fifty-three percent of Children's Mercy donors, accounting for \$18.6 million of this year's philanthropic dollars, are looking to the future and leaving a legacy by remembering Children's Mercy through their estates. David Westbrook, a Children's Mercy employee, declared his personal commitment to the future of pediatric health care.

"I completed signing of a contract to give a million dollars to Children's Mercy – \$200,000 in cash over a few years and \$800,000 from my estate," said Westbrook, the hospital's Senior Vice President for Strategy and Innovation.

Following a successful 30-year career as a business owner and well-known strategic communications consultant, Westbrook joined the Children's Mercy family in 2008. In the decades prior, Westbrook says he was fortunate to be successful enough in his business to establish some personal wealth. Now as a Children's Mercy employee, he is happy to share it.

"This is more than a job. This is a cause. When you believe in a place so much, giving makes sense," he said. Working with members of the Department of Philanthropy, Westbrook was able to come up with a giving plan that allows him to make a difference today and into the future.

"Our children are our greatest asset. When you invest in the health of a child, you send a signal to a future generation you'll never meet, and that's a wonderful legacy."

### Big Slick

With another record-breaking Big Slick party and charity auction this year, one of Kansas City's favorite events raised more than \$1 million to help kids at Children's Mercy. Like most events, many people gave their time behind the scenes to make sure the weekend ran smoothly and was a great experience for the patients.

All aspects of the whirlwind weekend were made possible by the Big Slick board, committee members, Children's Mercy volunteers and staff and dozens of caring celebrities. Hosts include celebrities David Koechner, Rob Riggle, Paul Rudd, Eric Stonestreet and Jason Sudeikis.

"It's really amazing to see how the Big Slick Celebrity Weekend activities come together – with careful planning and coordination among volunteers and staff at Children's Mercy," said Oliver. "We're so grateful to the Big Slick committee for working tirelessly year after year to make each event better than the last while remaining focused on what really matters – the kids and the mission of Children's Mercy!"

Big Slick Hosts Rob Riggle, Paul Rudd and Jason Sudeikis enjoy a press conference before visiting patients at Children's Mercy.





Red Hot Night transforms a cold winter night into the hottest spot in town.

## Red Hot Night

There was no warmer place to escape the frigid cold of February 2015 than the Kansas City Convention Center Grand Ballroom at the 11th Annual Red Hot Night gala. More than 1,500 guests filled the Valentine-themed ballroom and gave generously, raising a record-breaking \$1.5 million for the I Love Children's Mercy fund, which supports the mission of the hospital.

Red Hot Night volunteers, donors and supporters are integral to the work of Children's Mercy to provide the best available treatment to children regardless of their ability to pay. Thanks to the hard work and leadership of the Hands & Hearts for Children Auxiliary, event co-chairs Kurt Manske and Braden Perry and honorary co-chairs, Joe Euteneuer and Colleen Dougherty, the amount raised by this year's Red Hot night marks the most money raised from any single Children's Mercy fundraising event.

Large fundraising events accounted for \$3.3 million of the philanthropic dollars raised this year. Children's Mercy hosted or supported more than 152 events, from walks and galas to golf tournaments and community fundraisers.

## It Takes a Village: Every Gift Matters

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**Every gift of time and treasure makes a difference. Whether our supporters volunteer at the hospital, leave Children's Mercy in their estate plans, set up lemonade stands or support large fundraising events, they are helping children return to good health when fate creates a crisis. That is no small gesture. This is truly a special community, where giving is a way of life.**

**~ Jenea Oliver, Vice President of  
Philanthropy at Children's Mercy**

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# Endowment giving continues to transform lives

Close friends and peers celebrated James F. Daniel, MD, Chair in Liver Care, James E. O'Brien Jr., MD, FACS, Chair in Pediatrics, and James D. St. Louis, MD, Chair in Cardiac Surgery, on March 23, 2015. The event also honored donors Majorie and Montie Tripp, Jerry Smith, Joseph Boon Gregg and the Victor E. and Caroline E. Schutte Foundation, whose leadership made these important endowed chair positions possible.

## James F. Daniel, MD, James F. Daniel, MD Chair in Liver Care

Dr. Daniel joined Children's Mercy in 2000 to establish the Liver Care Center. The program has grown to a staff of 22 who care for approximately 1,000 chronic liver patients. In 2014, the 100th patient received a liver transplant at Children's Mercy.

"The Liver Care Center at Children's Mercy is setting research priorities with a focus on the future for our patients," Dr. Daniel said. "Our team is researching transplant outcomes, medication and complications experienced by patients with liver disorders, and we are looking at new ways to treat and prevent rejection."

## James E. O'Brien Jr., MD, FACS, Jerry Smith Chair in Pediatrics

Dr. O'Brien came to Children's Mercy in 2001, where he has been instrumental in developing the Ward Family Heart Center in collaboration with Dr. Girish Shirali, and members of their respective teams. Dr. O'Brien is recognized as a leading surgeon in the areas of pediatric and adult congenital heart surgery and



performs cardiac surgery for newborns and children with congenital heart defects and children with acquired heart conditions.

“No matter the service, our group of experts is working as a team to provide the best possible outcomes. We are constantly gathering data, studying our outcomes and improving our strategies to provide the highest quality of cardiac care for all our young patients and help ensure they have excellent quality of life as they grow older,” Dr. O’Brien said.

### James D. St. Louis, MD, Joseph Boon Gregg/Missouri Endowed Chair in Cardiac Surgery

Dr. St. Louis joined the Ward Family Heart Center at Children’s Mercy in 2014. On Feb. 13, 2015, Dr. St. Louis and his team successfully performed the first pediatric heart transplant at Children’s Mercy on a 15-year-old with cardiomyopathy. Less than a week later, the team placed the hospital’s first ventricular assist device (VAD) in an ailing toddler, who received a successful heart transplant just weeks later. The VAD is a mechanical pump used to support heart function and blood flow. Dr. St. Louis is a board-certified thoracic and cardiac surgeon with more than 15 years of pediatric experience.

“The Ward Family Heart Center at Children’s Mercy is bridging the gap for patients who need a heart transplant,” Dr. St. Louis said. “With the creation of our heart failure and heart transplant program, we are striving to ensure that children in our region have access to innovative heart treatments.”

### Benefiting our community into the future

Endowed funds allow us to create prestigious chairmanships which attract and retain talent like Dr. Daniel, Dr. O’Brien and Dr. St. Louis. The strength of an endowment is in its continuity and collective power. Gifts are preserved in perpetuity, with the funds pooled for maximum benefit to the donor’s area of interest and invested to achieve long-term capital growth. Endowed gifts become part of a permanent endowment, meaning they will benefit our community well into the future.

Visionary donors like Majorie and Montie Tripp, Jerry Smith, Joseph Boon Gregg and the Victor E. and Caroline E. Schutte Foundation recognize the critical value of a robust endowment to the sustainability of the hospital’s programs. Through their generous support, and that of the community, endowed funds are providing ongoing financial support for research and education and are of strategic importance to elevating the hospital’s academic profile and stature as a national leader in clinical care.

### Children’s Mercy Endowed Chairs

Michael Artman, MD, Joyce C. Hall Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics

Timothy Bennett, MD, Elizabeth J. Ferrell Chair in Maternal Fetal Medicine

Karen S. Cox, PhD, RN, FAAN, V. Fred Burry, MD and Sandra Hobart Burry Chair in Nursing Advocacy and Leadership

James F. Daniel, MD, James F. Daniel, MD Endowed Chair in Liver Care

Kathy Goggin, PhD, Ernest L. Glasscock, MD, Chair in Pediatric Education and Research

George W. Holcomb III, MD, MBA, Katharine B. Richardson Chair in Pediatric Surgery

Richard A. Hopkins, MD, Thomas Holder/Keith Ashcraft Chair in Pediatric Surgical Research

Cheri Hunt, MHA, BSN, RN, NEA-BC, Bernell Hevner O’Donnell, RN Endowed Chair/Chief Nursing Officer

J. Steven Leeder, PharmD, PhD, Marion Merrell Dow/Missouri Chair in Pediatric Clinical Pharmacology

James E. O’Brien Jr., MD, FACS, Jerry Smith Chair in Pediatrics

Bradford W. Olney, MD, Dr. Rex and Lillian Diveley Chair in Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery

Charles C. Roberts, MD, Schellhorn Family Endowed Chair in Medical Administration

Girish S. Shirali, MBBS, FASE, FACC, Melva and Randall L. O’Donnell, PhD, Chair in Pediatric Cardiology

James D. St. Louis, MD, Joseph Boon Gregg/Missouri Endowed Chair in Cardiac Surgery

William E. Truog III, MD, Sosland Chair in Neonatology Research

Shui Qing Ye, MD, PhD, William R. Brown/Missouri Endowed Chair in Medical Genetics and Molecular Medicine

Vacant, Dee Lyons/Missouri Endowed Chair in Pediatric Genomic Medicine

Vacant, Marion Merrell Dow/Missouri Chair in Pediatric Medical Research



# NICU → Peek-a-Boo

## Twins care runs the gamut

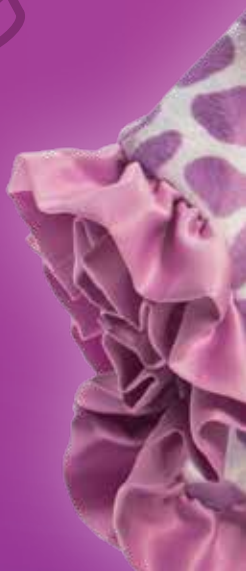
Diagnosed at 23 weeks with a rare brain defect, Ajla and Audie Leonard have received the advantage of specialized care from a wide range of Children's Mercy's health experts.

The Elizabeth J. Ferrell Fetal Health Center became a central part of parents Audra Jonas and Anthony Leonard's lives from early on in Audra's pregnancy. There, doctors used the high-tech capabilities of the hospital's 4-D ultrasound equipment to identify precisely what was going on in their unborn girls' heads: the second-rarest brain malformation, which involves slits in the cerebral hemispheres.

To ensure the girls receive the specific care required, they regularly see specialists from Neurology, Ophthalmology, Genetics, Endocrinology and Neurosurgery.

Audra says the girls' current condition is "absolutely wonderful – way better than we ever expected." At 15 months, the girls play peek-a-boo and have developed distinct personalities.

For more of their story and to read stories of other remarkable children, see the Children's Mercy website, [www.childrensmercy.org/mystory](http://www.childrensmercy.org/mystory).





# With Thanks and Appreciation

Every day we are humbled by the generosity of the Kansas City region in our shared concern for the health and well-being of children. The following list recognizes and honors donors whose cumulative giving totaled \$10,000 or more in fiscal year 2015, volunteers who served 100 hours last year and Legacy Honor Roll donors. Due to space constraints, we could not list the name of every generous person and organization. Please know every gift of time and treasure makes a difference in the life of a child and their family. We are grateful for your support. Thank you.

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# Amputee → Can't Stop Me

## Young Amputee is Unstoppable

It's hard to keep up with Colton Newman. He runs, jumps and climbs with the energy of a typical 11-year-old...but you realize that Colton is far from typical when you see he has no legs below his knees—at least not the ones he was born with.

Seven years ago—Sept. 16, 2008 to be exact—the farm boy from Polo, Mo., fell from a tractor that was pulling a Brush Hog mower. His right leg was severed just below the knee; his lower left leg was mangled so badly that it couldn't be saved. Colton's parents, Michelle and Steve, were told his injuries were so devastating that initially he wasn't expected to live.

Colton was flown by helicopter to Children's Mercy. Twenty surgeries later, Colton's left knee was saved. He and his family began a recovery process that stood out even among seasoned hospital veterans.

For more of this story, and to read stories of other remarkable children, see the Children's Mercy website, [www.childrensmercy.org/mystory](http://www.childrensmercy.org/mystory).







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