St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital

UNIQUE MISSION

Local hospitals are vital to the health of children in every community. But St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital® has a unique mission – to generate and share the knowledge that will save the lives of hundreds of thousands of children stricken with cancer and other catastrophic diseases throughout the nation and around the world.

We remain committed to our founder Danny Thomas’ dream that some day no child will die in the dawn of life. We urge you to help us by becoming a part of our great mission of finding cures and saving children.

• For 50 years, St. Jude has had a history of taking on many of the most difficult and underserved pediatric diseases. St. Jude sees on average 7,800 patients a year from throughout the United States and from around the world, while many more children are seen at the six St. Jude affiliate sites.

• No family ever pays St. Jude for care. St. Jude also pays for lodging, food and travel for patients and a family member or legal guardian.

• During the past five years, 81 cents of every dollar received has supported the research and treatment at St. Jude.

• St. Jude revolutionized the way the world treats pediatric cancer and other deadly diseases. As one of the world's premier pediatric cancer research centers, St. Jude has developed protocols that have helped push overall survival rates for childhood cancers from less than 20 percent, when the hospital opened in 1962, to 80 percent today.

• St. Jude has achieved a 94 percent survival rate for acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), the most common form of childhood cancer. And it was St. Jude's groundbreaking development in the treatment of ALL that has revolutionized leukemia therapy worldwide.

• Unlike most local hospitals, St. Jude is a research institution that develops protocols and expertise in treating many catastrophic childhood diseases. Our researchers never stop working to find the cures that will save children around the world.

• St. Jude was the first pediatric research center to open an on-site facility to research and then produce highly specialized biologics and vaccines that pharmaceutical companies are financially inhibited from producing.

• St. Jude is the first and only pediatric cancer center to be designated as a Comprehensive Cancer Center by the National Cancer Institute.

• St. Jude is a national resource with a global impact. Not only are all research findings freely shared, St. Jude plays a critical leadership role in groundbreaking studies on childhood cancer, sickle cell disease and infectious diseases. These efforts are instrumental to improving care for children around the world.

• St. Jude's After Completion of Therapy program is the largest long-term follow-up clinic for pediatric cancer patients in the United States, and we do this at no cost to the patients. The clinic helps patients stay healthy after active treatment ends and has been a prototype for other longer term follow-up programs. Knowledge gained from the clinic has helped St. Jude be a leader in developing new treatments that minimize the side effects for all children treated for cancer.
• Former St. Jude patients are participating in the St. Jude Life study, which is designed to help adult survivors of childhood cancer learn about issues that affect their health as well as ways to stay healthy. The study began in 2008 and over the next few years will contact about 4,000 former St. Jude patients. Knowledge gained from this study will help researchers understand the late effects of childhood cancer treatment, leading to the development of treatment plans and research to prolong and improve survival for children everywhere.

• St. Jude is home to the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study, a collaborative study among 30 U.S. and Canadian institutions that includes more than 20,000 childhood cancer survivors.

• St. Jude researchers are heading a national study on a new treatment for sickle cell disease, which is funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Cancer Institute and involves more than 20 major pediatric sickle cell disease centers.

• St. Jude is the national coordinating center for the National Cancer Institute-funded Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium.

• The hospital's International Outreach Program transfers the progress achieved in the treatment of childhood cancer in developed countries to those with limited resources. As of August 2012, St. Jude has 20 partner sites in 14 countries, and more than 32,000 registered users from 185 countries have accessed Cure4Kids.org, an Internet-based distance learning initiative. In addition, St. Jude trains thousands of medical professionals around the world through consultations, faculty visits to St. Jude and Cure4Kids.org.

• Every child saved at St. Jude means children saved around the world – a direct result of cutting-edge research and treatment that set the standard in treating childhood cancers.

• St. Jude's internationally renowned scientists Robert Webster, PhD, and Richard Webby, PhD, conducted breakthrough research that made possible the production of a new avian influenza vaccine, now undergoing clinical trials as a precaution against a worldwide human epidemic. St. Jude is one of six Centers of Excellence for Influenza Research and Surveillance funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health, and is a World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Studies on the Ecology of Influenza Viruses in Animals and Birds.

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