When Cameron started experiencing major symptoms in his abdomen, his mom knew something wasn’t right. After discovering that he had a ruptured appendix, Cameron was treated at Ochsner Hospital for Children to have his appendix removed. During recovery, Cameron bonded with one of his Child Life Therapists named Katie. When asked to design what he wanted Ochsner’s first Buddy of the Year to be, he instantly knew who his inspiration would be. Cameron designed this doll to look like Katie, his amazing caregiver and newfound friend!

Proceeds from your Buddy of the Year purchase go directly toward Ochsner Hospital for Children to help kids like Cameron. For more information visit [ochsner.org/pediatrics](http://ochsner.org/pediatrics).
For the fourth year in a row, Ochsner Hospital for Children has been named among the top 50 children’s hospitals in the country by U.S. News & World Report, the global authority in hospital rankings and consumer advice. Ochsner Hospital for Children was recognized in cardiology and heart surgery in the 2020-21 Best Children’s Hospitals rankings.

Ochsner Hospital for Children has provided exceptional pediatric care for more than 75 years, and offers the only pediatric heart and liver transplant program in Louisiana. Serving over 74,000 children every year, the hospital boasts more than 150 physicians specializing in more than 30 pediatric specialties and sub-specialties. Ochsner Hospital for Children’s flagship facility is in New Orleans, with sub-specialty clinics across Louisiana and Mississippi.

Cover: When Cameron started experiencing major symptoms in his abdomen, his mom knew something wasn’t right. After discovering that he had a ruptured appendix, Cameron was treated at Ochsner Hospital for Children to have it removed. During recovery, Cameron bonded with Katie, one of his Child Life Therapists. When asked to design Ochsner’s first Buddy of the Year, Cameron instantly knew who his inspiration would be. Cameron designed the doll to look like Katie, his amazing caregiver and newfound friend!

Please visit ochsner.org/donorimpact to learn more about how donors like you are impacting patient care throughout Ochsner Health. Some photos may have been taken prior to COVID-19.
2020 SNAPSHOT

Over the course of 2020, Ochsner pediatricians and their teams took on a tremendous and inspiring role in tackling the COVID-19 crisis. At the height of the global pandemic, the Ochsner team partnered with 160 schools in the Healthy Schools Program. Through this program, Ochsner worked with school nurses to implement procedures and protocols to help get kids back to school safely.

Gifts to support the Employee Assistance Fund during the COVID-19 Pandemic have provided crucial support and timely resources. The Employee Assistance Fund provides financial assistance for Ochsner employees directly impacted by COVID-19. It exists to provide financial grants to our front-line staff, who have put their lives on hold to protect others. The Fund is used to support employees across our system during times of intense need. Your support ensures that resources are always there when our front-line employees need them most. In 2020, the Employee Assistance funds provided support to 341 employees across Ochsner Health for hurricane relief, unexpected COVID-19 crises and childcare, in addition to temporary financial disasters.

In 2020, your support helped fund a study to determine the prevalence of COVID-19 antibodies in children who attended child care centers. This study was conducted by Dr. William Lennarz, Dr. Edmond Kabagambe, Dr. Ilana Fortgang, Dr. Brannon Alberty, Dr. Diego Lara and Dr. Marcia Henry. The prevalence of COVID-19 was also determined in parents and childcare staff. Funding was used for supplies to draw blood and process it for biobanking. In addition, the children received certificates from Saints players, thanking them for being a part of the team.

The study revealed that the prevalence of IgG antibody, which is the sign of exposure to COVID-19, is 10.2 percent in children and 13.3 percent in adults. This difference is not statistically significant (P=0.77). The conclusion from these initial analyses is that children are not Superspreaders of COVID-19 as had been anticipated in the media. This result is important and consistent with other emerging data.

In the interest of the health and safety of our community, as we continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, Ochsner Health has postponed the inaugural Imagination Gala until spring 2022. Thank you to all of our donors in 2020 for their generous support of Ochsner Hospital for Children. We would also like to thank our event chairs and committee for their time and commitment. Please join us in May 2022 for the inaugural Imagination Gala, which will take place at Mardi Gras World.

589
Food Donors

206
PPE and Other Equipment Donors

$994,585.04
DONATED TO 31
PEDiATRIC FUNDS

TOP FUNDS SUPPORTED
- Pediatric Family Assistance
- Pediatric Hematology Oncology
- Pediatric Innovations Fund
- Congenital Heart Fund
- Boh Child Development Center

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE COVID-19 CHILDCARE SAFETY STUDY SUMMER 2020
Edmond Kabagambe, PHD
William (Billy) Lennarz, MD
WE SERVE

Child Life Fund

Last year looked different for the work our Child Life specialists do to help our kids feel safe and comfortable in the hospital. Nevertheless, the Child Life team put out extraordinary effort, showing resilience and compassion through it all.

Winn-Dixie, one of our community partners, helped us safely celebrate the Carnival season by providing king cakes to decorate and Mardi Gras decorations on King's Day, Jan. 6. This provided patients with a fun opportunity to celebrate one of our biggest local holidays!

Our community visits were halted or went virtual. Prescription Joy and Audubon Institute animal visits both went virtual and have been successful in their own right. We aren’t able to reach as many patients with the virtual platform for community visits because it’s done room-to-room and we have limited equipment for patients to use. We see about eight patients with Prescription Joy and 10 patients with the Zoo. Both of those community visits are done biweekly.

Thomas Morstead released a book in 2020 titled “The Middle School Rules of Thomas Morstead”, which is a part of a series about professional athletes. His foundation, What You Give Will Grow, donated 50 books for patients to read and find perseverance through difficult times. He engaged in a virtual book launch with both in-patient and out-patient kids who got to log in while he read excerpts. Patient were given the opportunity to ask questions about the book and Thomas himself.

Why We Give: Be Like Belle Team Awesome Sauce

Annabelle T. is a childhood leukemia survivor. Her fight began just after her fourth birthday in 2015. She was quickly diagnosed and began treatment almost immediately. While undergoing treatment, she packed her toys into a bag one day and told her mom she was bringing them to the hospital to give to other kids. We soon made a list of needed items, and culminated in an event to gather donations from the community to share with other patients. Annabelle delivered her gifts during her appointment just before Christmas 2017, which became an annual event.

Her family has since created the non-profit organization Be Like Belle Team Awesomesauce to assist families facing holidays in the hospital, as well financial hardships for any families dealing with childhood cancer. Every year, Annabelle and her family make the trek to Ochsner to deliver holiday cheer to patients.

Annabelle has completed her treatments and remains in remission. She recently had a check up and blood work, and everything came back beautiful.
The **Patient Assistance** funds are typically used for Brent House reservations, Lyft rides, medical supplies, rent costs and funeral expenses. In 2020, we were able to help a Spanish-speaking family who lost their seven-month-old baby. Your support helped cover cremation and funeral expenses. Your generosity was incredibly meaningful for this family as they said goodbye.

**Your Support Helps Patients like Anthony**

We also help patients who are undergoing bone marrow transplants, by providing Brent House rooms post-transplant. In 2020, one patient, Anthony D. (19), was experiencing his third bout of cancer. He would not have been able to get a much-needed bone marrow transplant without your support of the Adolescent Young Adult (AYA) Cancer Survivorship Program.

The AYA fund provided gas cards to help meet transportation needs as his family lives four hours away. We also supplied gift cards for meals, and a Brent House stay that allowed the family to be with Anthony after his transplant for as long as they needed. Our typical accommodations, the Hope Lodge, was closed due to COVID-19.

His younger brother, Jordan (17), was Anthony’s donor for his transplant. He was very close to his other brother, Taylor (11), as well. Support for Brent House hotel stays allowed his younger brothers to be with him throughout post-transplant and during critical hospitalizations.

When Anthony learned that his cancer had returned for the fourth time, and his family lacked child care options for Anthony’s brothers, we were able to provide them all accommodations in the Brent House. They were in the Brent House for almost 50 days thanks to your support.

“'The patient assistance funds helped make this very, very stressful time easier for the family,” said Kara Levine, a Pediatric Social Worker at Ochsner Hospital for Children.

Anthony died shortly after his transplant, and both his brother, Taylor, and mother were with him when he died - thanks entirely to their Brent House stays from the patient assistance funds. The patient assistance funds even covered some of Anthony’s funeral expenses. Thank you for this crucial generosity.

Jordan and Taylor are doing well in Monroe, living in Anthony’s spirit.
WE LEAD

innovationOchsner

In 2020, the innovationOchsner team, in collaboration with a local New Orleans designer, created Ochsner’s clear windowed masks. These masks feature a vinyl window in the middle of a cloth mask, enabling one to see an individual’s lips and facial expressions.

The windowed masks were first field-tested by speech pathologists in the neonatal intensive care (NICU) unit at Ochsner Baptist - A Campus of Ochsner Medical Center. Following a successful trial period in the NICU, where they still use the windowed masks today, the Ochsner team explored other avenues to leverage this new type of mask – both in healthcare and non-healthcare settings like schools. Recipients included pre-kindergarten to second grade teachers, special education teachers and staff, school therapists and foreign language teachers.

“Recognizing and connecting with facial expressions – especially lips – is key for development in children as they learn to express themselves. The windowed masks enable the wearer to still maintain proper masking in accordance with CDC recommendations, while removing a potential communication barrier,” said Lacey Ellis, PhD, program director, Ochsner Hospital for Children’s Michael R. Boh Center for Child Development.

Pediatric Catherization Lab

In 2020, the Pediatric Cath Lab funds allowed Ochsner to outfit existing Cath Labs with equipment to provide care to be used by our pediatric interventional cardiologists to provide care to heart patients of all ages.

Adair Carey Pediatric Cardiology Fund

The Adair Carey Pediatric Cardiology Fund was established in memory of a pediatric cardiology patient, providing assistance to patients experiencing temporary financial struggles during treatment. Typically, your gifts support extended stays in the Brent House for families while their loved one is undergoing treatment.

Our highly-trained team includes a world-renowned cardiac surgeon, interventional cardiologists, imaging specialists, pediatric anesthesiologists, pediatric intensivists nurses and critical care cardiac specialists. Our team also includes perfusionists, professionals who use heart-lung machines during cardiac surgery.

For the fourth year in a row, Ochsner Hospital for Children has been ranked among the Top 50 Children’s Hospitals in the country for pediatric cardiology and heart surgery specialties by U.S. News and World Report. Ochsner Hospital for Children is Louisiana’s only ranked children’s hospital.

Michael R. Boh Center for Child Development

In 2020, the Michael R. Boh Center for Child Development received support from the Excellence Fund to purchase licenses for an application, TORSH Talent, to assist with conducting developmental assessments via telehealth for children suspected of Autism and related disorders. Families requesting a developmental evaluation that are unable to come to the Boh Center will be able to upload videos of their children engaging in specific behaviors to this platform for scoring by a physician. This methodology allows for families to continue to receive diagnostic evaluations remotely during this critical period of development.

20,000 WINDOWED MASKS DONATED TO SCHOOLS
Since 1944, education has been an integral component of the Ochsner mission. We are dedicated to providing an educational environment infused with the values of the "Ochsner Way." Our culture produces professionals who meet challenges with confidence, think innovatively, focus on wellness, and, above all, put patients first. Our investment in educating providers of quality healthcare begins with pipeline programs, introducing young people in our communities to medical careers. Our partnership with The University of Queensland is now in its 10th year and offers a medical education unlike any in the world. Crucial partnerships with other Louisiana schools allow us to extend our capacity to provide clinical training for physicians and physician assistants. Ochsner continues to add new residency programs and now educates about 300 residents and fellows each year. As Ochsner’s continuing education efforts reach even more professionals across the state of Louisiana, our educators provide a lifetime of education for the healthcare workers of the future. The many talented physicians and healthcare professionals educated at Ochsner are equipped to provide superior care for their patients, in our community and beyond.

Charles Kantrow, MD Dean of Academics

Dr. Charles Kantrow earned his medical degree from Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans, where he was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. He completed his pediatric residency at St. Louis Children’s Hospital, where he served as Pediatric Chief Resident.

Dr. Kantrow is board certified in pediatrics and has been on staff at Ochsner since 1993. He is the Medical Director of Ochsner’s Myelodysplasia Team. His interests include caring for spina bifida and transplant patients, as well as looking after hospitalized children and infants. He is also a specialist in complex congenital diseases and routine well child care.

Dr. Kantrow also serves as the Dean of Academics for UQ-Ochsner Clinical School. With knowledge of the importance of academics and educating the next generation of pediatricians, Dr. Kantrow was a leader in starting the donor-funded Student Excellence Award for Pediatrics to annually honor the top senior in pediatrics at UQ-Ochsner Clinical School.

Student Excellence Award for Pediatrics

The 2020 winner of the Student Excellence Award for Pediatrics was Caroline Vasco.

Caroline was born and raised in Berkeley, California, and earned her undergraduate degree at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Growing up in the Bay Area, she developed a strong passion for social justice. As a future pediatrician, Caroline hopes to work to ensure that all children have access to support and resources. She strongly believes in the power of preventative medicine and loves to get kids excited about healthy foods, exercise and keeping their minds healthy with tools like mindfulness and meditation. Outside of medicine, she loves being outdoors, connecting with nature, cooking, weaving, reading and writing poems.
“We’re able to deliver dramatic, life-changing results with less recovery time and scarring. Embracing this innovative procedure is one of many ways Ochsner Hospital for Children is investing in the future and wellbeing of our patients.”

Dr. Lawrence Haber
Chief of Pediatric Orthopedic and Spine Surgeon

Research

Dr. Lawrence Haber is an Ochsner pediatric orthopaedic surgeon who specializes in pediatric spinal pathologies like scoliosis. In addition to being an internationally renowned surgeon, leader and teacher, he is actively involved in research to improve care for patients everywhere. Most of his research is centered around scoliosis, which is supported by donors like you.

Dr. Haber is involved with several multi-center trials. In one study, soon to be published, several southern centers came together to research the effects of obesity and health disparities on the rate of complications in patients treated with spine fusion for scoliosis. In another study, National Institutes of Health funded, Ochsner is collaborating with Washington University to find the genetic causes of scoliosis. Dr. Haber is one of the pioneering surgeons changing treatment of scoliosis from maximally invasive fusions to minimally invasive surgeries that preserve motion. As part of this quest, he is one of the leading surgeons in the country in a new technique, Vertebral Body Tethering (VBT). Dr. Haber is actively involved in multiple research projects, mostly through the Harms Study Group, to provide data for improving the surgery and better define indications. Nationally, he is one of six surgeons, chosen by Zimmer Biomet Spine, to teach this technique to other surgeons. Dr. Haber sees children from Florida to Texas, who seek this revolutionary new treatment.

Dr. Haber’s team of pediatric orthopaedic and spine surgeons at Ochsner, also have several Ochsner based studies. One study, “Effective Use of Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) after Pediatric Posterior Spinal Fusion”, is helping us to learn about who is at risk for complications after pediatric spine surgery. With 60 patients already enrolled, we are already getting great data on how to better care for patients. In another study, about to be presented at the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America (POSNA), the Ochsner team found that use of virtual reality goggles can help keep children much calmer during procedures in the office. The study included original software with interactive programs.

Dr. Haber’s dedication to his patients and improving care also drives him to be a leader in societies on a national level. He has served on many committees, including on the Board of Directors for the Scoliosis Research Society (SRS), has served as CME Chair, and is currently the chair for Blended Learning for SRS. He has also been very active in POSNA and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS).

Perhaps most importantly, Dr. Haber is an empathetic and caring doctor. His friendly and kind demeanor and caring attitude are always obvious. We are proud to have him as an award-winning physician at Ochsner Hospital for Children.

Melinda Pouncey, MD Memorial Lecture

The 24th Annual Melinda Pouncey, MD Memorial Lecture was held virtually on October 8, 2020. Rachel Y. Moon, MD, the Harrison Distinguished Teaching Professor of Pediatrics and Division Head of General Pediatrics at the University of Virginia School of Medicine was the guest speaker. She gave a lecture entitled “How does Safe Sleep Work? Evidence Behind the AAP Guidelines.”

The Dr. Melinda A. Pouncey Memorial Lectureship is held annually at Ochsner Hospital for Children to honor the legacy of Melinda Pouncey, MD. Dr. Pouncey was a superb clinician and teacher who served as the backbone of the pediatric training program at Ochsner. Students and residents with whom she spent countless hours considered her the premier clinical teacher on the faculty. She received numerous awards acknowledging her commitment to excellence, including the Alton Ochsner Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award, the Hurst B. Hatch Memorial Award, and Tulane University School of Medicine Owl Club Awards. In addition to her contributions to medical education, she provided outstanding care and was a fierce advocate for her patients and their families. She was truly a generalist in the best sense of the word.
WE INNOVATE

Berlin Heart

Technology is changing the way that patients receive care, and that is especially true for our pediatric cardiovascular patients. Just a few short years ago, patients needing a heart monitor would have to be hooked up to multiple wires and stickers to send their electrical activity to a bulky pager. Now, with new technology, patients can track their heart symptoms with one patch at the push of a button. This new, simpler process allows the patient to do more daily activities, such as taking a shower, without being hampered by all of the equipment.

The Berlin Heart is another new technology that can support pediatric patients with end-stage heart failure while they wait for a transplant. Gone are the days of being supported while laying in bed hooked up to machines. The Berlin Heart allows patients to live their life as normally and comfortably as possible. The youngest patient in the region to receive this technology is at Ochsner.

Low Birth Weight Procedure

Ochsner Hospital for Children is the only program in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama to offer a noninvasive solution for extremely low birth weight babies (under 1,000 grams or two pounds, three ounces) with a structural heart condition known as patency of the ductus arteriosus (PDA).

Signs a baby may have a PDA include rapid breathing and a forceful pulse. To check for a PDA, a doctor uses a stethoscope to listen for a heart murmur before obtaining X-rays and an echocardiogram to confirm the diagnosis and size of the blood vessel. Depending on the size of the PDA, some babies may only require observation in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), while others may need medicine or even surgery.

Working closely with neonatologists at Ochsner Baptist – A Campus of Ochsner Medical Center, the pediatric cardiology team at Ochsner Hospital for Children offers a non-invasive alternative to surgery – successfully performing the PDA closure in a catherization lab (cath lab) on babies with extreme low birth weight, with some as small as 550 grams. During the procedure, a small tube (or catheter) is inserted into a blood vessel in the baby’s leg and carefully guided up to the heart. Attached to the catheter is a pea-sized closure device made of a self-expanding mesh alloy called an Amplatzer Piccolo™ Occluder that is used to plug the blood vessel (ductus arteriosus) thereby stopping the extra blood flow to the lungs.

“Offering noninvasive PDA closures delivers powerful results with less recovery time. It has made a huge difference in the wellbeing and overall health of the babies we care for, especially those with low or extreme low birth weight. Ochsner has become a destination – both across the state and beyond – for PDA closures for premature babies. It’s one of the many reasons why we are a leader for pediatric cardiac care in our region,” said Ivory Crittendon, III, MD, Senior Physician, Pediatric Cardiology, Ochsner Hospital for Children.

Approximately one in every 12 babies is born with a low birthweight (five pounds, eight ounces or less). Although babies born full term can have a PDA, it is more commonly found in babies born prematurely (before 37 weeks gestation). Across the United States, one in every 10 babies is born premature. In Louisiana, that number is even higher with a 13 percent preterm birth rate, making it the second-highest state in the country for preterm births.

“As Louisiana’s only level IV NICU with a level IV Labor and Delivery unit, we care for some of the most critically ill babies in our state. Many of these patients are born preterm and some have extremely low birth weights,” said Harley Ginsberg, MD, Section Head, Neonatology, and Medical Director of the NICU at Ochsner Baptist – A Campus of Medical Center. “To be able offer them and their family this procedure (transcatheter occlusion) instead of invasive surgery has been a true gamechanger for these little ones. The follow up chest X-rays frequently show prompt improvement of lung function and rarely are any pain medications required after the procedure. With a shorter recovery time, babies resume feedings sooner and tend to wean more rapidly from ventilatory support.”
Pediatric Oncology
Xavier M.

In March 2019, Xavier went to the doctor with a bit of a cold. No one could have imagined what came next. His doctor heard a murmur. He ended up at the cardiologist where a mass over his heart was detected. And right away, Xavier was transported to Ochsner.

“His whole world turned upside down,” said his mom, Melinda Polk.

Xavier’s family eventually learned he had an aggressive rhabdoid tumor. Chemo treatments started within a month and continued through February 2020, followed by radiation.

“He did really well with treatment,” Melinda said. “He was always excited when he knew he was going, because the doctors and nurses would give him hugs and play with him. And sometimes, if I put music on, they would dance with him. They were there for us, 24/7, and they wanted to be there. He wasn’t just another chart.”

Now seven, Xavier is cancer-free as of May 26, 2020! He’s in first grade and doing so well. He enjoys playing with his friends and wants to play soccer.

As a surprise for his eighth birthday in October, his family has planned a trip to Disney to celebrate.

“He’s doing great!” Melinda said. “We’re going to make it a big trip!”

Pediatric Cardiology
Beau A.

Hillary is an Ochsner patient who has Mosaic Turner’s Syndrome, a genetic condition that causes problems with fertility. She knew she would only be able to get pregnant with IVF and that her baby could have heart issues. She underwent a series of tests to ensure the fetus looked healthy.

When Hillary found out she was having twins, she also found out that one of them, Beau, had a hole in his heart. Beau was in the hospital for about a week after surgery.

“When I look at him and I look at how he was a year ago, all of this is OK...It’s going to be ok because he’s made so much progress,” Hillary said. “It feels like it’s never going to end, but eventually it will end and you’ll look back and realize how strong you are and how strong your baby is.”
THANK YOU!

Hayley A., Ochsner Patient