



■ ■ ■ ADOPTION • CHILD'S WAY® • PEDIATRIC SPECIALTY HOSPITAL COMMUNITY IMPACT UPDATE

Fall Newsletter 2017

Visit www.childrenshomepgh.org and subscribe to e-news!

Over 124 years of promoting the health and well-being of infants and children while establishing and strengthening the family

Maddie's Story

When Cherie and Mike found Child's Way®, a day care for medically-fragile children housed within The Children's Home, Maddie was only two weeks old. She had two holes in her heart, a complication from a rare chromosomal disorder, and later she required oxygen to breathe among other medical needs. She has come a long way since then, having been with The Children's Home for the past nine years.

"When Maddie was little and in Child's Way, we knew staff were able to respond to the emergent situations where a regular day care could not – it gave us peace of mind that she was safe there," Cherie explained. Today, Maddie comes to Child's Way after school, on school holidays, and for in-service days. She has been able to benefit from a continuum of services, like speech and physical therapy offered onsite as part of her day, which also supports Cherie and Mike.

"Even having the other parents here – they understand what it means to have a medically-fragile child. We have play dates together with our kids. I would not have met them if we weren't here. **Child's Way isn't just a program Maddie attends – it's like our family.**"



Fall Harvest in Luke's Garden

Learning about healthy food, where it comes from, and why it's important is what Luke's Garden is all about. This fall, kids at The Children's Home got their hands dirty harvesting veggies they planted in the spring!



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Care by the Numbers

Over 900
children & families
served by
The Children's
Home

\$1 million+
nonprofit
community benefit

More than 750
people donated or
volunteered to help
children and
families last year

"...our children and families continue to challenge what's possible with their bravery, hope, and perseverance."

- Pamela R. Schanwald, CEO

■ A Note from Pam

As we approach our 125th anniversary at The Children's Home in 2018, it's a time to reflect on the great work that's happened and look forward to what is to come. Here are a few highlights:

The Pediatric Specialty Hospital admitted more children in Fiscal Year 17 than at any other time in our history, thanks to our expansion project that resulted in two new beautiful units. Within only a decade, the hospital has more than doubled in size!

Child's Way has served over 400 medically-fragile children since opening in 1998. With wraparound supports for families, the program has become a leading model in child care and early childhood education for medically-fragile children. And finally, Adoption provided its unique adoptive and social services for over 450 people. As a Statewide Adoption & Permanency Network affiliate, the reach and scope of this once little program has never been greater, serving many children within our foster care system.



While our organization has grown and changed since 1893, what remains the same are the children and families that continue to challenge what's possible with their bravery, hope, and perseverance. Thank you for being a hero to us and them with your support.

Enclosed, you'll find our Wish List for the holiday season. Please consider a gift in honor of a loved one.

The 7th Annual Noe's Night of Light and the Foradori Family



On September 30th, the 7th Annual Noe's Night of Light raised over \$34,000 for The Children's Home, featuring an all-star cast of local chefs and their culinary creations, alongside music and art. Hosted at The Westmoreland Museum of American Art, the evening was presided over by none other than legendary Pittsburgher, Rick Sebak. Noe's Night of Light is organized by Jason and Sherry Ott, in memory of their daughter, Noe, a former patient at The Children's Home.

The Foradori Family shared a heartfelt story of their daughter, Claire, adopted from The Children's Home two years ago. "We felt butterflies – as all new parents do! – but simultaneously felt confident and prepared for this new chapter in our lives, empowered by the good conversations and education folded into the Adoption program."



"Claire, now two years old, and her sister, Emma, are an unmatched dynamic duo, and being their parents is our very favorite job. We are grateful beyond words to The Children's Home for bringing us together." Sharing photos and their experience, the Foradori family brought the evening's focus to the programs and services that benefit children and families.

Wish List

With the holiday season right around the corner, consider making a gift to The Children's Home in honor of a loved one, and we'll send along a special note letting them know a gift was made in their name to help others.

Whether to the annual fund or to one of the needs listed below, your gift helps children and families that need it most.



Donate Funds

\$2,065 Vital Sign Machines (4 needed):

Pulse rate, temperature, respiration rate and more are all key indicators to ensure a child is healthy and safe. Currently, the Pediatric Specialty Hospital is in need of four vital sign machines.

\$1,000 Scholarship to Help Place an Infant for Adoption:

These funds help when a baby may have higher health and legal risks associated with the adoption. Supporting these unforeseen costs mean an infant can be placed in a permanent family more quickly.

\$750 Breastmilk Fund for Infants:

Purchased from the Three Rivers Mothers' Milk Bank, breastmilk ensures medically-fragile infants in the hospital receive essential vitamins and nutrients to heal and become stronger. Feeding a baby breastmilk is a clinical best practice but not currently covered by insurance, making it expensive for families that need it.

\$500 to Help with Birthmother Medical Expenses:

Birthparents may experience difficult life circumstances, such as financial hardship or lack of insurance. These funds help cover the costs associated with a birthmother's pregnancy and delivery.

\$250 for Rainy Day Fund:

Technology and equipment are important to keeping children healthy and well. Make a gift to the Rainy Day Fund to help when items break and need to be replaced quickly.

\$150 for Educational Toys:

These toys aren't just for fun — they help children develop problem solving, basic math, motor skills and more. Just like regular toys, however, they get worn, broken and need to be replaced.

\$64 Scholarship Funds for Child's Way:

At Child's Way, no child is turned away due to financial circumstance of the family. Help subsidize or cover the \$32-per-day child care fee for a family in need.

\$25 – \$50 Basic Needs Fund for Families:

Sometimes, the most basic of needs are out of reach for families facing hardship. This fund helps purchase preemie and newborn clothes, diapers, cribs, baby bottles, gift cards to help with food and transportation, and more for all programs.

Donate Items

\$25 – \$50 Items (New) for Child and Family:

These items are helpful for our littlest patients and their families: preemie and newborn layette sets, baby wipes, diapers (Huggies and Pampers), crib mirrors, baby sound machines, soft sippy cups with handles, and new plastic bottles (4 to 8 oz). Please note we are not able to accept used items.

\$25 - \$50 Gift Cards for Families:

Aldi's gift cards, GetGo gift cards, and Target gift cards help with food, gas, and other basic needs for families.

Donate Time

Make a Holiday Meal for Families:

The holiday season can be hard when you're away from home. Over the holidays, we invite you to cook a meal for our families at The Children's Home.

Be an Elf for The Children's Home

The Children's Home receives gifts during the holiday season for our children and families. Volunteers help organize these items.

Selecting Your Wish List Item

If you're donating to fund an item, please circle your desired item and include this sheet with a check to: The Children's Home of Pittsburgh: 5324 Penn Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15224. Or give us a call at 412-441-4884 ext. 2044

1. Your Name _____

6. Address and Name of Honoree/Memorial

2. Address _____

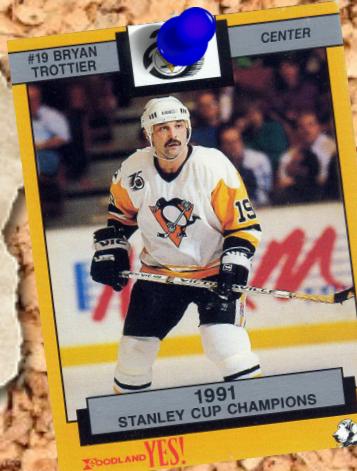
3. Phone _____

4. Email _____

5. Gift Amount _____

The Stanley Cup Visits The Children's Home

Thanks to our friends at the Mario Lemieux Foundation, children and families at The Children's Home of Pittsburgh & Lemieux Family Center visited with the coveted Stanley Cup - including a special appearance by NFL Hall-of-Famer and former Pittsburgh Penguin, Bryan Trottier.





The Children's Home of Pittsburgh
5324 Penn Ave
Pittsburgh PA, 15224

To Our Alumni, Donors, and Volunteers: Announcing “The Faces of The Children’s Home”

Share your photos and stories from The Children’s Home to help us celebrate 125 years!

Behind the cakes, presents, and funny hats, every good birthday is a celebration of who you are, and The Children’s Home’s 125th Birthday will be no different. Using photos and stories, “The Faces of The Children’s Home” campaign will honor the children, families, and supporters who have come through our doors since 1893.

But at this age, showing your roots is no small feat – so we need your help!

Whether you were adopted from The Children’s Home in 1933, a patient in the Pediatric Specialty Hospital in 1984, or a Child’s Way family from 2017, we want you to send your photos and stories from then and now. These will be highlighted throughout the year on social media, our website, in publications, and at our special Shake Your Booties 125th Birthday Bash!

Celebrate and honor a mission to children and families that has spanned nearly 125 years and counting. Please email or send stories and photos to: childrenshomepgh@gmail.com OR
The Children’s Home of Pittsburgh, 5324 Penn Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15224.

