



Compassionate Care Fund
Delaware
2024 Impact Report

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your incredible support of Nemours Children's Health.

We are truly grateful for your generosity.

Because of your kindness, we can provide exceptional care to children facing a wide range of health challenges, from simple issues to more complex chronic illnesses. Your commitment ensures that every child receives the care they need, regardless of their circumstances.

Your support is not just a donation. It is a lifeline for our young patients and their families.

We are thankful to have you as an essential part of our mission to deliver the best possible care, and to help create the healthiest generations of children.

Thank you for making an impact on the lives of our children and families.

With gratitude,



Paige Rumford

Associate Director, Philanthropy

Nemours Children's Health, Delaware



Our Mission:

To provide leadership, institutions and services to restore and improve the health of children through care and programs not readily available, with one high standard of quality and distinction, regardless of the recipient's financial status.

Our Vision:

Create the healthiest generations of children.



Who We Are: Nemours Children's Health, Delaware 2024 Highlights

Within one of the largest pediatric health systems in the U.S.

- Two freestanding children's hospitals in the Delaware Valley and Central Florida
- 79 clinics across four states
- No. 2 in the nation for enrolling children in cancer clinical trials

Pediatric specialties ranked among the nation's best by *U.S. News & World Report*

- Behavioral Health
- Cancer
- Cardiology and Heart Surgery
- Diabetes and Endocrinology
- Gastroenterology and GI Surgery
- Nephrology
- Orthopedics
- Pulmonology and Lung Surgery
- Urology

978,311 patient encounters

57,474 Emergency Department visits

15,776 surgeries performed

Delaware's only pediatric Level I trauma center

Top ranked pediatric heart center

Spearheading lifesaving advances in pediatric health

- 286 funded research studies
- 133 clinical trials
- 288 scientists and research associates

Educating tomorrow's childhood health care specialists

- Affiliated with the region's leading medical schools
- 3,674 new doctors, nurses, researchers, and allied health providers trained

A global reach

- 75.5 million visitors to Nemours Children's KidsHealth.org, the world's top site for pediatric health information
- 85,000 downloads of Well Beyond Medicine, the Nemours Children's podcast
- 42 U.S. states deploying our evidence-based practices in child health

Compassionate Care Fund

Donor support for the Compassionate Care Fund at Nemours Children's Hospital in Delaware has had a profound impact on the lives of many children and their families.

This fund is crucial in providing financial assistance for families facing significant medical expenses, ensuring that no child is denied the care they need due to financial constraints, as well as enhancing critical support services that are not covered by insurance.

Financial Assistance for Families: Donations may cover costs for transportation, food, diapers, car seats, uninsured prostheses, and medical devices. This support is vital for families who might otherwise struggle to afford these necessities.

Health Equity: Philanthropic contributions have enabled Nemours to address social determinants of health through innovative programs. These include mobile medical vans for health screenings, initiatives to combat food insecurity, and community health fairs.

Research and Education: Donor funds support biomedical research, health care delivery research, and educational programs for medical professionals. This investment in research and education helps advance pediatric health care and ensures that children receive the best possible care.

Child Life and Creative Therapies: Donations also fund child life programs and creative therapies, such as music and art therapy, which help children cope with their medical conditions. These programs provide emotional and psychological support, making hospital stays less stressful for young patients.

Emotional Support for Families: The Compassionate Care Fund helps families with non-clinical services, such as providing comfort items and organizing events that allow children to experience normal childhood activities despite their medical challenges.

The generosity of donors has enabled Nemours Children's Hospital to go well beyond traditional medical care, addressing the holistic needs of children and their families. This support ensures that every child can grow up healthy and reach their full potential.



Delaware News

We are excited to announce several significant investments in our Delaware campus, including plans for a groundbreaking Maternal and Fetal Health Program, expansion of our neonatology, cancer and cardiology programs, and the revitalization of the historic Institute building on the Alfred I. duPont Campus in Wilmington.

New Maternal and Fetal Health Program

Nemours will expand its Advanced Delivery Program at Nemours Children's Hospital, Delaware into a nationally leading, state-of-the-art Maternal and Fetal Health Program, including four new labor and delivery birthing suites, eight new antepartum and postpartum rooms and three operating rooms that can be used for both fetal and maternal care.

Growth in Neonatology, Cancer and Cardiology programs

In Neonatology, Delaware's only Level IV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) will be expanding this year, adding 14 new inpatient rooms. With this expansion, the NICU will house 45 beds as a contiguous unit.

Revitalization of Historic duPont Institute Building

Nemours will continue to revitalize the original Alfred I. duPont Institute on our Wilmington campus as a state-of-the-art administrative office building, while paying homage to our origin as the founding A.I. duPont Institute. The Institute opened in 1940 as a children's orthopedic hospital and was the original health care structure funded by the Nemours Foundation. To be completed mid-2026, the project includes an expanded, state-of-the-art **Simulation Center** to provide hands-on, interactive pediatric simulation experiences in a safe, realistic environment. This collaborative teaching and education enhance technical skills for care providers across the organization, improving the quality of care and leading to better outcomes.





“We have been surrounded by miracles, blessings, compassion and support.”

Ellen's Story

“We barely had time to process what was happening.”

Ellen loves basketball, camping, horseback riding, and dancing. But 5 years ago, she received a diagnosis that would turn her family's world upside down.

Ellen's mom, Trish, is a nurse, and knew something wasn't right with her daughter. But after many trips to the doctor, Ellen's lab work kept coming back normal.

On one doctor visit, the pediatrician heard something when listening to Ellen's heart. He told the family to get Ellen to the Emergency Department at Nemours Children's Hospital, Delaware as soon as possible. A team at Nemours was ready and it wasn't long before Ellen was admitted to the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit. Ellen was in severe heart failure.

Ellen was diagnosed with dilated cardiomyopathy, a condition in which the heart muscle becomes weakened and enlarged and, as a result, it cannot pump enough blood to the rest of the body. Further testing revealed Ellen was born with a genetic mutation in her heart.

“We barely had time to process what was happening,” says Trish. “We learned in a matter of hours our daughter is in heart failure and needs a transplant. Then, just 19 days later, we learned there was a heart available.” Ellen received a transplant at Nemours, performed by Nemours Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery Dr. Christian Pizarro.

While the transplant was successful, Ellen was treated for rejection. A follow up echocardiogram (echo), also revealed a large mass on Ellen's heart. She was diagnosed with a large atrial thrombus, which is a blood clot that develops and can obstruct or stop the flow of blood, or even possibly travel inside her body to cause a stroke.

In her second open-heart surgery in less than three months, Nemours cardiothoracic surgeon Dr. Glenn Pelletier removed the mass.

After a year of recovery, Ellen returned to school, to riding her horse, and to playing basketball with her friends. “From the amazing doctors and nurses to Child Life to the support staff...how can we ever thank all who took such wonderful care of our daughter,” says Trish. “We have our funny, sarcastic, creative, and beautiful girl back, thanks to everyone at Nemours.”

Thank You.

Your generosity is helping Nemours Children's Health transform children's health care — *well beyond medicine*.

Medical care is often confused with overall health, leading to a significant portion of resources being spent on treating clinical issues while neglecting the non-medical root causes of ill health. At Nemours Children's, we are rethinking this approach.

Our **whole child health** focus promotes a holistic view of children's health and overall well-being that includes not just medical care but also social, emotional, and developmental needs – things like safe environments, access to quality education and health care, public safety and economic stability.

By adopting comprehensive whole child health strategies, we aim to ensure that all children can reach their full potential and achieve health equity.

Your generosity and continued support helps us to achieve this vision. **Thank you for playing a role in improve health equity and outcomes for our children.**

