



Compassionate Care Fund
Jacksonville
2024 Impact Report

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your incredible support of Nemours Children's Health in 2024.

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,

Anna Kollodge

Associate Director, Philanthropy

Nemours Children's Health



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, Jacksonville 2024 Highlights

474,894 patient
encounters

132,312 unique
patients

Within one of the nation's leading pediatric health systems

- Two freestanding children's hospitals and 71 clinics across six states
- No. 2 in the nation for enrolling children in cancer clinical trials
- Nine pediatric specialties ranked among the best by *U.S. News & World Report*

A critical health care resource for First Coast children and families

- First outpatient pediatric multispecialty care center in the U.S.
- Provider of nearly all care at Wolfson Children's Hospital, including surgeries
- Pediatric specialty care found nowhere else in the region
- Largest care provider for hearing loss and speech disorders in Northeast Florida
- Nationally-accredited Cystic Fibrosis Care Center

Spearheading lifesaving advances in pediatric health

- 71 funded research studies
- 102 clinical trials
- 110 scientists and research associates

Educating new generations of children's health care specialists

- Partnerships with Mayo Clinic College of Science and Medicine, and University of Florida Health Jacksonville
- 474 new doctors, nurses, researchers and allied health providers trained

A global reach

- 137.4 million visitors to Nemours Children's KidsHealth.org, the world's top site for pediatric health information
- 613,000 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 Health in Jacksonville 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.



North Florida News

Nemours Children's Health has appointed **Dr. Aaron Carpenter as President of North Florida**, succeeding Dr. Michael Erhard, who retired in 2024. Carpenter is also a member of the Nemours Executive Cabinet.

Dr. Carpenter has been with Nemours Children's Health since 2016 and most recently held the position of Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing and Patient Operations Officer for Nemours Children's Health in the Delaware Valley.



We are excited to announce the grand opening of the **Nemours Children's Health, Jacksonville Clinical Research Center**. This marks a pivotal moment in our ongoing commitment to advancing pediatric health care and research in North Florida.

As Jacksonville's population grows, so does our research portfolio. Our research now spans various critical clinical areas, including oncology, asthma and respiratory diseases, diabetes, growth disorders, and behavioral health. These initiatives are supported by diverse funding sources, including the NIH, private foundations, industry partners, philanthropy, and institutional support from Nemours Children's.


As leaders in pediatric research, this new center will enable us to continue providing cutting-edge, life-changing treatments to the children we serve.

The new facility features:

- ✓ 9,500 square feet of dedicated space
- ✓ Nine exam and treatment rooms
- ✓ Consult rooms for obtaining informed consent
- ✓ Space for investigational drug management and administration
- ✓ A biological sample processing lab
- ✓ A pneumatic tube station connected to Wolfson Children's Hospital
- ✓ New office and administrative space for investigators and research staff



“I finally feel well again.”



On March 3, 2023, Katelyn won the National Scholastic Surfing Association College Women's Division

Katelyn's Story

“I knew something was wrong with me.”

A few years ago, my dad and I went surfing. We had surfed together many times before, but this time I couldn't paddle out — and I wasn't sure why. My mom took me to an urgent care. It turned out I was severely anemic and spent the next 4 days in the hospital getting blood transfusions. It happened again 2 months later.

As time went on, I continued to have bouts of severe anemia that required ongoing blood transfusions. I developed cankles and gained weight.

By now I had started my senior year in high school and that's when my symptoms worsened. I started having horrible GI problems that were seemingly attributed to foods with high fat content, so my doctors put me on a low fat, high protein diet. Even though I ate almost no fat, I kept gaining weight.

Then I was diagnosed with pneumonia — my lungs were filled with fluid. I developed deep vein thrombosis in my brain that triggered excruciating headaches. I was admitted to the pediatric intensive care unit where I would spend the next month.

I was discouraged. I didn't look like myself; my eyes were swollen almost shut. I didn't recognize my bloated body, and I couldn't fit into my clothes. I was giving myself shots every day and taking lots of medications from diuretics to blood thinners.

My symptoms continued, so I made an appointment at Nemours Children's Health in Jacksonville, Florida. Eric Sandler, MD, Chair of Pediatrics, started managing my care. After several episodes of worsening symptoms and treatments, Dr. Sandler referred me to Deborah Rabinowitz, MD, Chief, Interventional Radiology and a national lymphatics expert at Nemours Children's Hospital, Delaware.

Dr. Rabinowitz diagnosed me with a very rare condition called lymphangiectasia, a type of protein-losing enteropathy. My test results showed that a marker protein called albumin was very low. Dr. Rabinowitz found the areas of the bowel that were leaking lymph and blood into my GI tract. She embolized them using minimally invasive techniques. I finally feel well again!

I'm back to surfing too! On March 3, 2023, I won the National Scholastic Surfing Association College Women's Division!

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.**

