Children's MINNESOTA
The Kid Experts®

Impact Report

Fall 2025



Why I Give: Notes from Donors

Emily Chapman, MD, is Children's Minnesota's New President and CEO

Back in the Game After Brain Surgery

Making the Biggest Difference for Kids Now

From the President



Click here to learn more about Dr. Emily Chapman.

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, last month Emily Chapman, MD, assumed her new role as president and CEO of Children's Minnesota. I know Emily well and have had the privilege of serving on the executive leadership team with her for the past five years. She is a talented and collaborative leader, highly respected inside and outside the halls and walls of Children's Minnesota. She knows intimately the opportunities and challenges facing health care organizations and will bring to this leadership role years of relevant experience, most recently as senior vice president of medical affairs and chief medical officer at Children's Minnesota. Emily has been devoted to kids' health and well-being since her early days as a child life specialist, followed by medical school and training, and many years as a practicing pediatrician. We're thrilled to have her at the helm and can count on her to lead Children's Minnesota into the future with vision and heart.

I hope you know how meaningful your commitment is to the kids and families who turn to Children's Minnesota during their most challenging times. The stories in this report offer just a glimpse of the impact you help make possible:

- Read notes from donors, in their own words, about what inspires them to give.
- Meet Landon, who is seizure-free for the first time in almost a decade after epilepsy surgery in the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation iMRI Surgical Suite.
- Watch a video about the lovable quintuplets who spent time in our NICU, including Bilal, the smallest premature infant in the country to survive.

Thank you for helping make stories like this a reality. I hope you feel as proud as we do.

With gratitude,



Jennifer L. Soderholm
SVP and Chief Development Officer
President, Children's Minnesota Foundation

Your Questions, Answered: Making the Biggest Difference for Kids Now

In recent months many donors have been asking us how they can help us most, especially as the health care landscape changes and funding decisions at the federal level impact our ability to serve patients and families. To help guide your year-end giving, we wanted to share some of the most common questions we've received — and how your support can meet the needs emerging right now.

What can I do that would be most helpful right now, before the end of 2025?

Jenny Soderholm: We are seeing an urgent need for help from our Family Needs Program. Many of our families are struggling to afford basic necessities while their child is in the hospital. About half of Children's Minnesota patients are on Medicaid, and families often can't pay for meals, parking, transportation or hotel stays. This year, our meal voucher budget ran out before the end of July. Donations help cover these expenses and give families one less thing to worry about during a difficult time. The need for this support is greater than ever.



How is Children's Minnesota reimbursed by Medicaid?

Jenny Soderholm: Medicaid reimbursement rates vary by state and service type. At Children's Minnesota, about half of our patients are covered by Medicaid, reflecting our commitment to serving children from diverse backgrounds. While Medicaid contributes to funding patient care, it covers only 70 cents for every dollar spent to provide care. To continue providing the highest quality care and support to all families, Children's Minnesota complements this funding through other operational revenues, grants and philanthropic contributions that enable us to innovate and meet evolving community needs.

I care deeply about future generations and want to support an organization focused on improving the health and well-being of children and young people. How does giving to Children's Minnesota help create a brighter tomorrow for kids and families?

Jenny Soderholm: Children — whether sick or healthy — will always need the support of a caring and generous community. In a time of change and challenge, some hospitals that serve both adults and children may face difficult decisions that prioritize adult care, which generally receives higher reimbursement. At Children's Minnesota, we remain committed as an independent pediatric health system, devoted solely to the unique needs of children and families, now and always.

Thanks to a new $5 million commitment from the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation, your gift to Urgent Needs will be matched. Click here to give now.

Notes from Donors

Why I Give: Donors in Their Own Words

We frequently receive heartfelt notes along with donations. Here are just a few of the messages we've received.

"My son was the first transplant heart recipient under the care of the transplant team at Children's in Minneapolis. During our stay there, we received incredible support from the hospital staff, the broader community, and generous donors. I was surrounded by kindness, compassion, and a level of help I could never have imagined both emotionally and financially. Today, my son is 7 years old and doing well. I am living proof of the impact that support can make. Thanks to the generosity of others, I was able to focus entirely on my son's health without worrying about work or basic needs. It is my hope that as time goes on, I'll be able to give even more, perhaps becoming one of the hospital's most dedicated donors. I'm forever grateful for everything Children's has done for us. Thank you."

"It is one year since our granddaughter spent 17 days in the PICU at Children's after successful brain surgery. We are eternally grateful for the fine care the family received."

"When our daughter was 5 days old, she became unresponsive. We had her transported to Children's where she received the best care we could have asked for. She spent five days in the NICU with viral meningitis and every single health care worker we encountered was amazing. Our daughter had some complications with getting a successful IV. I truly believe her outcome would have been different if we went elsewhere. Children's and the amazing staff members will always have a special place in my heart. Forever grateful for the outstanding care my daughter received."





“My son was born with a heart murmur. Since it wasn’t closing on its own, they went in and put a coil in his heart. All the staff was so nice and understanding and walked us through everything we needed to know. Our cardiologist spent time with us and didn’t rush us one bit! When my son was almost 1 year old, he got respiratory syncytial virus. We took the ambulance to Children’s and got in right away. The nurses were nice, helped comfort my son (and mom since I was nervous wreck). We spent 6 days in the hospital while my son got better. It happened to be around Christmas. Santa came to our room one day, and we were able to take home toys for our son and his siblings. What they do for those kids in the hospital is amazing!”

“We are so thankful for the excellent care our son received during his cancer treatment at Children’s.”

“I can’t tell you how much of a difference Children’s Minnesota made to my daughter and family when my daughter was sick. I love you all!”

Back in the Game After Brain Surgery

After a life-changing brain surgery that has left him seizure-free, 12-year-old Landon McKee of Andover, Minnesota, is back playing hockey and baseball, the sports he loves most. Landon said it's "weird" to not be having seizures anymore – "but good weird." He proudly shows his surgery scar to his teammates, calling it his "badge of bravery."

"Watching him persevere is amazing," said his father Dan. "His grace and lack of fear is astounding." Dan did whatever he could to keep his son's life as normal as possible during the past eight years, when Landon's seizures began. "He'd have a seizure on ice. He'd have a seizure in the batter's box. And then he just gets back up and powers through it," Dan said. "All the parents, coaches, everybody was just astonished by his strength."

Dan brought Landon to Children's Minnesota for evaluation when he had his first seizure at 3 years old. An MRI revealed he had cortical dysplasia, a condition caused by a group of abnormally formed cells in the brain. It's one of the most common causes of focal epilepsy and the reason why Landon struggled with some of his words and walked on his tiptoes. The neurology clinic caring for Landon started him on medications to reduce his seizures. But his condition worsened through the years, eventually becoming so severe he would have up to three seizures a day. Landon's doctors at Children's Minnesota discussed his care with Minnesota Epilepsy Group (MEG) partners and began to evaluate if he was a candidate for surgical intervention.



"Seizure management is highly complex. MEG offers outstanding epileptologists, advanced practice clinicians, neuropsychologists, and more," said Meysam Kebriaei, MD, medical director of the neurosurgery program at Children's Minnesota.

> *"His grace and lack of fear is astounding."*

"We work hand in hand to ensure the best seizure management options are available to our patients."

After multiple tests, Landon had epilepsy surgery in December 2024. To confirm that all of the cortical dysplasia tissue was removed during surgery, the procedure was done in the state-of-the-art Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation iMRI Surgical Suite.

"We were able to remove 100% of the tissue, greatly reducing the risk for further seizures," Dr. Kebriaei said. "Landon has been seizure-free since surgery, and hopefully we can keep it that way. It's great to see him doing so well after many years of seizures."

Click here to meet Landon up close, playing hockey and embracing life without seizures.

By the Numbers

What You Make Possible

At Children's Minnesota, wraparound programs and supportive services play a vital role in complementing our highly specialized pediatric care. These resources are entirely funded by our donors, and help normalize the hospital experience through play, comfort and emotional support. The numbers below show the reach and impact of these programs across our health system.



167,610
Total patients

24,764
Virtual visits

86,504
Emergency department visits

402,684
Outpatient clinic visits

24,768
Surgical procedures

Last year, your support made all of this possible. Thank you!

9,019
Families served by the amenities cart

22,806
Child life encounters

36,316
Meal vouchers distributed

5,460
Books gifted to families

8,223
Pets Assisting with Healing (PAWH) activities

9,958
Music therapy encounters

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Born 17 weeks early and weighing just 8 ounces, Bilal made history as the smallest surviving infant in the U.S. He and his four quintuplet siblings defied 10 percent survival odds and are now thriving. After receiving expert care from our neonatology team for nearly a year, Bilal went home just in time to join his siblings for their first birthday.

Click here to watch Bilal reunite with his siblings.

