Children's MINNESOTA
The Kid Experts®

Impact Report

Spring 2025



Temi's New Heart Gives Her a New Lease on Life

Mental Health Program Meets Patients Wherever They Are

Franklin Family Fundraiser Exceeds Expectations

From the President



Dear Friends,

I see every day the difference you make in the lives of patients and families at Children's Minnesota. It's heartwarming and inspiring to witness all the ways your kindness and generosity bring help and hope to families when they are faced with unexpected challenges.

I hope you will feel the impact of your kindness when you read the stories we've included in this impact report:

- Temi spent 15 months in the hospital waiting for a new heart. Her care team made sure she had things to look forward to throughout her long stay.
- The continuum of care model in our mental health program meets patients wherever they are.
- Last year our neuroscience program treated more than 1,800 patients with brain and nervous system conditions.
- Inspired by the care their son Levi received as a cancer patient, the Franklin family has raised nearly $100,000 so families like theirs will also get the support they need.

For the past 100 years, donor support was critical to making things better for patients and families. At the heart of Children's Minnesota's vision is a commitment to experience: ensuring that every interaction is as positive, supportive and healing as possible for patients and families. This is a pillar of our strategic plan, guiding how we serve, innovate and grow.

Our CEO, Dr. Marc Gorelick, has led this effort with passion and grace. He will be retiring this summer after nearly eight years of exceptional leadership and will pass the baton to a new leader. Our board has engaged a firm that is undertaking a national search for a new CEO. Under Dr. Gorelick's guidance, our health system has grown stronger, more inclusive and more innovative. His vision and dedication have laid the foundation for future generations. Like so many others in our community, I am grateful to him for his incredible service and wish him the best in his next chapter.

With gratitude,



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

By the Numbers

Neuroscience by the Numbers

Our Neuroscience Program provides expert care to kids across the Upper Midwest, serving patients from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota and beyond. These statistics offer a glimpse of the remarkable work our kid experts accomplish -- work made possible through the generous support of our donor community.

Level 4
Pediatric Epilepsy Center
The highest level of care and treatment options

500+
Neurosurgeries Performed Annually

1,800+
Kids Treated for Brain and Nervous System Conditions

600
Kids Evaluated and Treated for Head Injuries at our Concussion Clinic

500+
Patients Treated for Epilepsy Each Year
One of the largest pediatric epilepsy programs in the country



A New Heart Gives Temi a New Lease on Life

Five-year-old Temi is an energetic, happy kindergartner. Seeing her today, you would never know she spent 15 consecutive months in the hospital connected to a heart pump called a ventricular assist device (VAD) while she waited for a new heart. The device was a lifeline with a 10-foot cord, but Temi was allowed just occasional 20-minute breaks free of that 10-foot tether.

In March 2023, the Adebisi family's world turned upside down when 4-year-old Temidire ("Temi" for short) was diagnosed with dilated cardiomyopathy, which impairs the heart's ability to pump blood to the rest of the body. Sensing something was terribly wrong, her parents took her to the Children's Minnesota emergency department because their usually active daughter was throwing up, eating very little and didn't have the energy to run around with her brother and sister.

The oxygen and medications she was first given when she was admitted to the hospital were not enough to treat her heart failure. She was then placed on a heart transplant list. "Hearing this about my daughter Temi was almost more than I could take," said her father Abi. "It was as if I was in another world." Her mother Toyin, a registered nurse by training, added: "When the doctors started talking about VAD and transplant, I thought, 'Are you serious?' My heart almost jumped out of my body."

Throughout Temi's long stay, she was cared for and kept entertained by the staff on the Children's Minnesota cardiovascular intensive care unit and by her parents. Her older brother Akorede and older sister Ireoluwa came to visit and play with her on weekends. The entire time her parents prayed for one thing: for their family to be reunited at home in St. Michael, Minnesota.



Staying in the hospital for an extended period can be hard on kids and families. The kid experts at Children's Minnesota, including child life, social work, psychology, occupational therapy and physical therapy teams, know what it takes to help patients like Temi. They did art projects with her, sang and played music, danced and read books. To give her things to look forward to, they hosted a "Bluey"-themed pizza party she helped plan. Temi played the cashier and handed out "Temi-bucks." There was a parade through the unit to mark her 200th day as an inpatient. Throughout her stay, she was given the opportunity to choose gifts and

treats from an organization called Little Wishes.

A Grateful Family

The family was reunited back at home just one week after Temi received her new heart in June 2024, when Temi received a special send-off parade from her care team. "I was like super duper happy, happy, happy," said Temi.

Two months later Temi and her family moved into a new home in a new neighborhood. Abi and Toyin acknowledge their "multiple blessings" and share their deep gratitude for the family who donated their child's heart. "We are praying for them always," Abi said. "Because what they did it's so rare … and huge."





Staying in the hospital for an extended period can be hard on kids and families. The kid experts at Children's Minnesota, including child life, social work, psychology, occupational therapy and physical therapy teams, know what it takes to help patients like Temi.

Scan this code with the camera on your phone and watch this news story to learn more about Temi's experience.

Mental Health Program Meets Patients Wherever They Are



The mental health program at Children's Minnesota is staffed by experts who diagnose and treat a wide range of mental health issues in children and teens. Our psychologists and psychiatrists are leaders in their fields who are skilled at understanding kids and their problems – and helping parents understand, too. Mental health issues don't just affect a child – they affect the whole family.

What makes this program unique?
It's equipped to care for the whole child, to meet kids' physical and mental health needs. Resources for kids with both a mental health crisis and active medical needs are particularly scarce. We are one of just a few health systems in Minnesota that can do that.

Our inpatient unit in St. Paul has private rooms designed for a parent or guardian to stay overnight with their child, a feature not found in most mental health units. In addition, this unit is designed to care for kids from 6 to 18 years old, with separate areas for children and adolescents. It's the only facility in the Upper Midwest that serves kids as young as 6 years old.

How do you treat kids with different kinds of needs?
We're strengthening the continuum of mental health care so we can serve all children no matter how acute their needs:

Inpatient unit: 22-bed unit located in the St. Paul hospital for the most urgent needs that require 24/7 care.

The Center for the Treatment of Eating Disorders (inpatient): An inpatient unit that delivers specialized care for patients with eating disorders that require medical stabilization.

Partial Hospitalization Programs: Intense outpatient day treatment program offered in Roseville and Lakeville. Our Roseville location serves kids from ages 6 to 18 and our Lakeville location serves kids aged 12 to 18.

Outpatient services: Face-to-face meetings with a psychologist or post-doctoral fellow to diagnose and treat a condition. Includes psychiatry, psychology and neurodevelopmental services.

The Center for the Treatment of Eating Disorders (outpatient): Offers additional outpatient services for patients with eating disorders. This program works in conjunction with the inpatient program as patients move through their health journey.

Integrated behavioral health program: Mental health providers embedded in our primary care clinics to provide coordinated, convenient and cost-effective behavioral health services.

What is the range of conditions and issues families seek treatment for?
The staff in our mental health program treat a whole range of conditions, from developmental issues, learning delays, behavioral problems, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) to depression and anxiety. They are also equipped to care for kids with cognitive changes due to serious medical conditions, follow-up after head injuries, and living with a chronic illness.

Scan this QR code to learn more about Children's Minnesota's mental health program, which served more than 6,000 patients last year, thanks to donor support

Franklin Family Raises Funds to Help Others Through Cancer Treatment





When Levi was done with 845 days of treatment and 12 hospital stays, his parents Amy and Corey wanted to help other families like theirs. They decided to create an online fundraising campaign that brought in almost $42,000 from their large network of friends, family and work colleagues. They made an even greater impact with a second fundraising campaign during Shine Bright for Kids during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in September, bringing the total amount raised to $89,000. The Franklin family is on track to surpass $100,000 before the end of the year.

"Levi's care team was wonderful," said Amy. "We couldn't have imagined a better support network for everything we had to deal with." She said Levi stayed strong through countless transfusions, spinal taps and multiple medications, doing "everything with grace and absolutely unheard-of maturity."

Levi, now 5 years old, was almost 2 when his parents noticed he wasn't gaining weight, and had swollen lymph nodes and bruises. The lab results from a visit to the pediatrician confirmed their worst fears, and she advised them to take Levi directly to Children's Minnesota's emergency department. By the end of the night, they knew Levi had leukemia. By the next morning they knew what type of leukemia he had – acute lymphoblastic leukemia, or ALL.

The Franklin family, including Levi's two older siblings, got to know the Children's Minnesota staff well during Levi's two-and-a-half years of treatment. "They were able to alleviate a lot of our concerns and the hardships we had, which allowed us to focus on caring for Levi," said Amy. "Dr. Lane Miller, our primary oncologist, was a very comprehensive, knowledgeable and fantastic director of Levi's care plan, as was his entire care team."

Today, Levi attends kindergarten, loves math, Minecraft, vehicles and playing with friends. "He's a sweet, funny, smart kiddo," said Amy. The family lives on a small lake in Chanhassen, Minnesota, and spends summers outside on the lake, swimming and boating.

Although this chapter is now behind them, Amy says they will never forget the hardships and the support their family experienced during Levi's hospitalizations and treatments.

"We wanted to see something good in the world come from this tumultuous time in our lives," said Amy. "We've been surrounded with such love and support, and we wanted to extend that to other cancer families in our area."

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Kali's experience with Children's Minnesota has been over a decade in the making. When she was young, she needed brain surgery to curtail her frequent and extreme headaches. The care she received at Children's Minnesota inspired her to become a nurse. Today, she works as a registered nurse on our neurology unit!