Children's MINNESOTA
The Kid Experts®

Impact Report

Spring 2026



Advancing Emergency Care Through Innovation and Equity

Specialized Trauma Care Helps Asa Return to the Sport He Loves

For the Koehns, Spreading Gratitude is a Family Affair

From the President



Dear Friends,

Spring is a wonderful time to celebrate growth – and to celebrate you. Growth is made possible through steady care and commitment, and your partnership embodies both. You help us further what is at the heart of Children's Minnesota's vision: creating supportive and healing experiences for patients and their families.

It is truly my honor to lead Children's Minnesota Foundation, and I see every day the difference you make. Patients receive critical care and are given the chance to become stronger and healthier, and families find reassurance during uncertain moments. I'm in awe when I see all the different ways our donors are there for kids – volunteering, organizing community fundraisers, providing gifts-in-kind like books and tie-blankets, and making financial or legacy gifts. As a community-based organization that is there for all families, we at Children's Minnesota know that every child's story is different, and so is every donor's reason for supporting them. *Every gift matters.*

As you read this report, **I hope you feel the impact of your support** when you:

- See key numbers in our mental health program.
- Read about the newly renovated Minneapolis emergency department and an innovative care model designed to reduce wait times and improve access for children and families.
- Meet the Koehns, a family devoted to gratitude year-round.
- Learn about 13-year-old Asa, who returned to hockey as team captain after recovering from life-threatening abdominal injuries.

Thank you for providing hope and strength for children and families. Because of you, Children's Minnesota will be there for kids – always.

With gratitude,

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

By the Numbers

Thank you for caring for kids.

At Children's Minnesota, we provide mental health care to kids across primary care, outpatient services, emergency departments, and in our inpatient pediatric mental health unit. Families have access to the expertise and compassion of pediatric psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, child life specialists, music and art therapists, and many other mental health specialists.

As a nonprofit, we've relied heavily on philanthropy to support this essential care. And we will continue to rely on the generosity of donors to keep leading the way, to power the most specialized, compassionate, and made-just-for-kids mental health care.



165,000* unique patients

3,600* mental health encounters in the emergency department

7,500* families served across mental health care continuum

*Annual

2 partial hospitalization program locations (Lakeville and Roseville)

150 mental health providers, nurses and support staff

9 primary care clinics with integrated behavioral health

22 inpatient mental health beds

2 facility dogs providing support and comfort

Advancing Emergency Care Through Innovation and Equity

Children's Minnesota is advancing pediatric emergency care with a newly renovated Minneapolis emergency department and an innovative care model designed to reduce wait times and improve access for children and families.

A redesigned check-in and symptom screening process allows physicians to engage earlier in a child's visit, helping care begin sooner and supporting faster clinical decisions. This approach improves patient flow while ensuring each child receives care aligned with the urgency and complexity of their needs.

"When your child is sick, you will do whatever you can for them to get better. Our goal is to ensure that every child who comes through our doors receives the best possible care in the shortest amount of time," said Brenda Beckwith, vice president of clinical services at Children's Minnesota. "These improvements reflect our ongoing commitment to innovation, compassion and excellence in pediatric emergency medicine."

New treatment spaces, including dedicated "super track" rooms, allow clinicians to evaluate and treat children with less severe conditions quickly. With an increased focus on flow and efficiency, the emergency department can better serve families during high-demand periods while preserving immediate, advanced care for children with critical or complex medical needs.

Equity and patient experience were central to the renovation. The updated waiting area includes a multipurpose quiet room designed to support families with neurodivergent children, along with natural lighting and materials that promote a calmer, more welcoming environment. These design choices recognize that families experience emergency care differently and benefit from spaces that meet diverse needs.

As the region's only Level I pediatric trauma center located in a hospital dedicated exclusively to children, Children's Minnesota continues to lead with innovation that prioritizes timely care, inclusive design and family-centered experience.

Building on these advancements, a similar renovation is planned for the St. Paul emergency department in 2026, extending these improvements to more children across the region. The St. Paul project will feature a cutting-edge remodel and expansion designed to transform care for all children — especially those experiencing mental health crises. By fully integrating mental health services into pediatric emergency care, the updated space will support faster, more efficient treatment, reduced wait times, and a more compassionate experience for kids and families.

> "Our goal is to ensure that every child who comes through our doors receives the best possible care in the shortest amount of time."

These investments reaffirm Children's Minnesota's role as a national leader in pediatric emergency medicine — one that continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of kids and families. By pairing evidence-based innovation with compassionate, family-centered design, we are building emergency departments that not only deliver faster, more efficient care but also honor the diverse experiences of every child who walks through our doors. Our commitment remains clear: to create spaces, systems and teams that advance the future of pediatric emergency care for our community and beyond.



Click here to watch a video tour of the renovated Minneapolis Emergency Department

Patient Story

Specialized Trauma Care Helps Asa Return to the Sport He Loves

In September, 2024, 13-year-old Asa's life changed in an instant. An e-bike accident after hockey practice left him with life-threatening abdominal injuries, including a severed pancreas. Asa was airlifted to Children's Minnesota, the state's only Level I pediatric trauma center dedicated exclusively to kids.

At Children's Minnesota, Asa received highly specialized care during a 54-day hospital stay. He underwent 11 procedures and became one of only 23 children nationwide enrolled in an experimental clinical trial. This innovative treatment helped him avoid more invasive surgeries and preserved his chance to return to hockey.

Asa's recovery also relied on the wraparound child and family services that are only possible thanks to the generosity of our donors. From emotional support to encouragement during long hospital days, this compassionate care helped Asa and his family through an incredibly difficult journey.

Today, Asa is back on the ice with the Duluth East Bantams. Serving as team captain, he helped lead his team to an undefeated season, district championships and regional championships. Inspired by his experience, Asa now hopes to pursue a career in medicine.



Thank you for making stories like Asa's possible.

Your support ensures kids receive lifesaving care, innovative treatments and the compassion they need to heal.

Click here to watch Asa's story of overcoming trauma and returning to the ice.

Donor Story

For the Koehns, Spreading Gratitude is a Family Affair



Bryan and Agnes Koehn feel fortunate that, although their kids Mackenzy, Joseph and Eleanor have all been patients at Children's Minnesota, their visits have never involved serious illness or major surgery. They feel a deep sense of gratitude and a desire to support families who face much bigger challenges.

For the past ten years, the Koehn family has brought friends and family together to contribute toys to the Child Life Program at Children's Minnesota. Their annual effort supports the Holiday Joy Drop, the December toy drive that helps ensure young patients receive something special during their hospital stay. Last December, their contributions totaled more than $20,000.

The Koehns' philanthropic journey began more than ten years ago in Kansas City, when their oldest child Mackenzy – now 16 – was just 4 years old. Agnes, Mackenzy, and Joseph had the opportunity to shop for toys alongside volunteers dressed as superheroes. They learned that the group partnered with a local comic book store that raised money each year to buy toys for a children's hospital.

The experience stayed with Mackenzy. The following year, after the family returned to St. Paul, she remembered the experience of filling shopping carts full of toys for kids and told her parents, "I want to be able to do that for the children's hospital here in Minnesota."

"How do you say no to that?" Agnes recalled.

That year, the family collected six bags of toys that Mackenzy got to hand over herself at the Children's Minnesota St. Paul hospital. Since then, Mackenzy has led the effort each year, rallying support from groups like her fourth-grade class, her robotics team, and even the barefoot waterskiing community, with Joseph's and Eleanor's help. Friends from all over Minnesota, as well as in Illinois and Wisconsin, have contributed.

The family's giving spirit is present year-round, not just when they're focused on the December Joy Drop. Now a high school sophomore, Mackenzy wonders, "How is this going to evolve?" She recently started selling T-shirts to help raise money and encourages her sister Eleanor's involvement. Now a first-grader, Eleanor looks forward to joining her mom's second-grade class next year in making tie-blankets. She also hopes to take part in a toy drive with the class to support Children's Minnesota.

Bryan also shows gratitude to his company's clients by donating in their honor to Children's Minnesota. "It's another way to give," he said, "and to say thank you to my clients while letting them know how important this cause is to our family."

The Koehns love seeing their efforts come full circle. After having surgery for a broken elbow at Children's Minnesota in 2024, Eleanor was delighted to think that some of the toys she got to play with may have been part of her family's donations. And Mackenzy helped wrap gifts for patients at the Children's Minnesota toy shop last December – an amazing opportunity that allowed her to see the parents so appreciative of the gifts. She's more determined than ever to collect more gifts in 2026.

The family is excited to see where Mackenzy's leadership takes them in their gratitude journey, and they hope that it inspires others to give. Like Mackenzy says, "It's a great way to bring a smile to a kid's face."

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At Children's Minnesota, our Kid Experts put children first, always.

Click here to meet Ashlynn, a surgical technologist on our cardiovascular team, and see what inspires her to care for our most vulnerable kids.

