Children's MINNESOTA
The Kid Experts®

Impact Report

Fall 2026



Precision Medicine, Personalized for Kids, Made Possible by Donors

From Critical Care to Milestone Moments: Clifford's Journey

Commitment to Care: APi Group Supports Critical Mental Health Care

From the President



As the end of 2026 approaches, I am delighted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support of Children's Minnesota. You power our mission no matter which way you show up — as a donor, volunteer, fundraiser or community partner. I reflect this year with gratitude for all we have accomplished together.

Many of you know that we were thrilled last month when entrepreneur, philanthropist and civic leader Tom Golisano made a historic $35 million gift to Children's Minnesota. This gift will support a 10-year initiative to advance our precision medicine capabilities so more children can access innovative, individualized care close to home.

Mr. Golisano's remarkable generosity will accelerate our ability to keep pushing pediatric care forward while still delivering the comprehensive care families count on every day — from immunizations and mental health care to heart transplants and neurosurgery — as Minnesota's largest independent pediatric health system.

We are hopeful that this extraordinary investment in the future of care at Children's Minnesota will inspire philanthropic support that remains essential to our ability to provide exceptional care, every day, to every child who enters our doors, regardless of their family's ability to pay. *Thank you* for your partnership with us in this effort.

I hope you see **the impact of your support** in this report as you:

- Learn about our specialized pharmacogenomics program, which helps our providers make better-informed decisions for treatment and medication based on patients' genes.
- Read about APi Group Foundation's incredible $1 million gift to support our mental health program.
- Meet Clifford, a now joyful and healthy 3-year-old who was born prematurely with 1% chance of survival.

None of these stories could be possible without *you*. Thank you for joining us in our mission to deliver highly specialized, deeply compassionate care for children.

With gratitude,

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

By the Numbers

The Difference You Make

At Children's Minnesota, donor-funded wraparound programs and supportive services bring comfort, play and emotional support to patients and families. Working alongside our specialized pediatric care, these services help patients and families cope with treatment or hospitalization. The numbers below show their reach and impact across our health system last year.



174,084*
Total patients
*excluding primary care

428,993
Outpatient clinic visits

26,913
Virtual visits

83,150
Emergency department visits

71
Languages interpreted

17,568
Hours of volunteer service

24,754
Surgical procedures

Last year, your generosity helped make this impact possible. Thank you.

7,541
Families received snacks and toiletries from the amenities cart

25,411
Encounters with child life specialists

35,360
Meal vouchers distributed

4,805
Books gifted to families

7,820
Pets Assisting with Healing (PAWH) activities

9,931
Music therapy sessions

Precision Medicine, Personalized for Kids, Made Possible by Donors

When a child is prescribed a medication, families trust it will help them feel better. But medicine does not work the same way for every child. A dose that works well for one patient may cause side effects for another. Some children may not respond to the medication at all.

At Children's Minnesota, a specialized pharmacogenomics program is helping providers better understand those differences and make more informed treatment decisions for children, teens and young adults. This program is made possible by the generosity of donors who invest in innovative programs that bring the latest advances in pediatric care to the children and families we serve.

Pharmacogenomics studies how a person's genes may affect the way their body responds to certain medications. By combining genetic testing with factors such as age, weight and medical history, providers can personalize medication choices and dosing for each child. The goal is simple: help children get the right medicine, at the right dose, sooner.

"Medicine has traditionally followed a one-size-fits-all approach," said Dr. David Gregornik, PharmD, who established the program at Children's Minnesota in 2016. "But children can respond very differently to the same medication. Pharmacogenomics gives us another tool to help predict those responses and guide safer, more effective care."

Children's Minnesota is one of only a few pediatric health systems in the country offering this level of specialized pharmacogenomics care and the only pediatric-focused program of its kind in Minnesota. Thanks to generous donor support, the program has continued to expand, helping families across a wide range of medical needs, from cancer treatment to behavioral and mental health care.

For some children, finding the right medication can be a long and frustrating process. Families may spend months trying different medications and doses before finding one that works well without difficult side effects. Pharmacogenomics can help reduce some of that trial and error by giving providers additional information before treatment decisions are made.

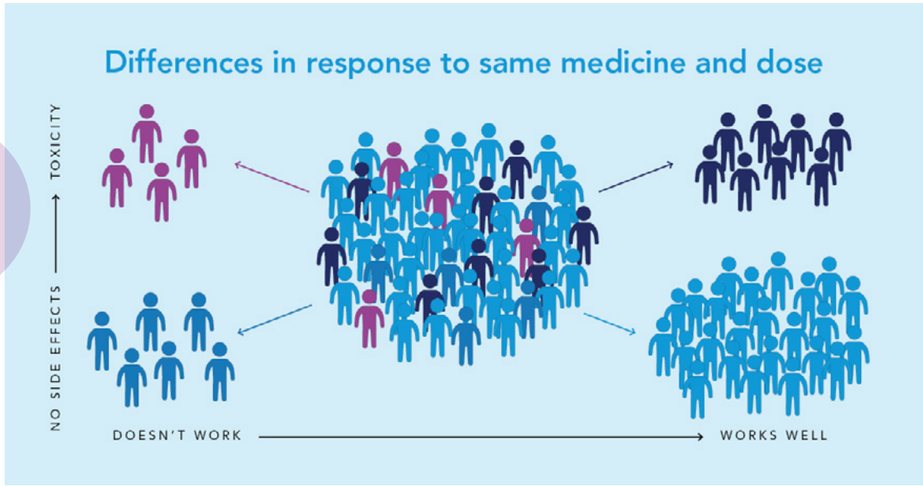
This can be especially important in behavioral health care, where medications often take several weeks to show whether they are effective.

"Kids experiencing depression or other mental health concerns can't wait over a month to find out whether a medication is helping," said Dr. Gregornik. "By combining genetic information with a child's medical history and symptoms, we can make more targeted recommendations and help providers make informed decisions faster."

The program's impact also extends beyond a single appointment or diagnosis. Because the genes involved in medication metabolism do not change over time, test results may continue to guide care into adulthood. At Children's Minnesota, pharmacogenomic results are integrated into the electronic medical record so providers can reference them in future treatment decisions.

That long-term approach reflects the broader vision behind precision medicine at Children's Minnesota: using innovation, research and individualized care to improve outcomes for children and families.

As precision medicine continues to evolve, donor support will help Children's Minnesota remain at the forefront of bringing these advances to pediatric care, ensuring more children in the region have access to innovative treatments designed specifically for them.



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From Critical Care to Milestone Moments: Clifford's Journey

When they found out they were expecting twins, first-time parents Sadie and Codey Carlisle were excited to not only have one, but two babies to fill their home with joy and laughter. But things took a turn when Sadie's water broke at 19 weeks, indicating that there would be problems to come.

"I think very early on we knew that it was going to be a really hard, long journey. But as long as our babies were fighting, we weren't ever going to stop fighting either," shared Sadie.

Two weeks after her water broke, Sadie gave birth to her daughter Nellie and was admitted at The Mother Baby Center in St. Paul. Due to the premature pregnancy complications, Nellie passed away shortly after birth.

Still pregnant with Clifford, Sadie remained in the hospital so that the care team could closely monitor them both. At 24 weeks Sadie gave birth to Clifford, who weighed just over a pound and had a 1% chance of survival. Clifford was immediately transferred to the Children's Minnesota neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) for specialized care after birth.

With underdeveloped lungs that made it difficult to breathe on his own, Clifford spent months on a ventilator. At 6 months old, he underwent surgery to receive a tracheostomy, which helped support his breathing. The procedure was performed by Brianne Roby, MD, pediatric otolaryngologist and medical director of the cleft lip and palate program at Children's Minnesota.

Throughout his 10 months in the NICU, Clifford battled various infections and was so critically ill at times that he had to undergo surgery in his NICU room because he couldn't be safely moved to the operating room. His ventilator and oxygen settings were also often maxed out due to severe respiratory failure. Despite it all, Clifford showed extraordinary strength and, after nearly a year, was able to leave the NICU and finally go home.

"Throughout that whole process there were so many times where we were told that Clifford probably wouldn't make it through the night, but the team at Children's Minnesota truly never gave up, even when it felt like we were running out of options. I feel like Clifford is here because they never gave up," said Sadie.

She also reflected on wraparound services Clifford and their family received, including grief counseling, spiritual care and music therapy, which helped them navigate both the loss of Nellie and Clifford's complex medical journey. Clifford was even able to experience his first Christmas in the hospital thanks to his child life specialists, creating a meaningful milestone during a challenging year. These wraparound services help families cope with treatment and hospitalization, but they are not covered by insurance and never appear on a patient's bill. They are only available to families like Clifford's because of the generosity of donors like you.

By summer 2025, Clifford's lungs had grown strong enough for him to breathe on his own without a ventilator, which meant he could finally have his tracheostomy removed. However, a new complication arose: the section of Clifford's airway above the tracheostomy was beginning to collapse. This meant that he would also need to undergo a major airway reconstruction surgery.

> "I feel like Clifford is here because they never gave up."

The family came back to work with Dr. Roby and Andrew Redmann, MD, medical director of the aerodigestive program, to remove Clifford's tracheostomy and perform an airway reconstruction, where cartilage was taken from his rib cage and placed in his airway to help it stay open. For Clifford's ongoing respiratory needs, the family now visits the pulmonology team twice a year.

More recently, Clifford was diagnosed with cerebellar hypoplasia, a condition where his cerebellum is underdeveloped, and ataxia, a neurological disorder that affects motor skills. To support his development, he meets weekly with the occupational and speech therapy teams and actively participates in physical therapy intensive.

Today, Clifford is a joyful 3-year-old, a big brother to Tucker, and has a smile and laugh that can light up the whole room. Some of his favorite things are animals, music, spending time outdoors and playing in the water. Clifford just started preschool and is also learning to walk with a gait trainer and communicate with an augmentative and alternative communication device.

"Every milestone he reaches, big or small, is celebrated with so much joy and gratitude and feels like a true miracle," shared Sadie.

Those milestones were made possible by the dedicated care teams at Children's Minnesota who never stopped fighting for Clifford, and by generous donors like you, whose support helps provide the region's most advanced medical care and essential wraparound services to children and families every day.





Commitment to Care: APi Group Supports Critical Mental Health Care

When a child is facing a mental health crisis, timely access to care can make all the difference. As more children and teens struggle with anxiety, trauma, depression, and other mental health challenges, the need for specialized pediatric mental health care continues to grow across our region.

That's why APi Group Foundation's recent $1 million commitment to Children's Minnesota's mental health program comes at such a pivotal moment. The gift strengthens Children's Minnesota's ability to meet the growing need for pediatric mental health care, helping ensure that expert services remain available for children and adolescents throughout the region.

The milestone gift is the latest chapter in a partnership that has spanned more than two decades and reflects APi Group's longstanding commitment to investing in the health and well-being of children.

Building a Culture of Giving

APi Group leaders have helped cultivate this culture of care. CEO Russ Becker served on both the Children's Minnesota Governing and Foundation Board of Directors for many years, and his wife, Trish, currently co-chairs the annual Star Gala.

"Our culture of care empowers team members to give back through volunteering, fundraising, and community engagement," said Kristina Morton, APi Group's SVP and Chief People Officer and president of the APi Group Foundation. "It's inspiring to see APi teammates answer the call to 'do good' in the communities in which we live and work."

APi Group's connection to Children's Minnesota is also reflected in the dedication of team members like Tom Klug, a Sheet Metal General Foreman with Metropolitan Mechanical Contractors, an APi Group company. For years, Tom has partnered with Children's Minnesota through the hospital's annual Ice Carvings for Kids event, transforming patient artwork into large-scale ice sculptures that bring joy to children and families. His connection to the organization is deeply personal, having first become involved after his daughter received care from Children's Minnesota. What began as a way to give back has grown into a cherished tradition that reflects the compassion, care and community spirit shared across APi Group.



Through APi Gives, the company's team member-led giving program, team members are encouraged to support causes they care about through volunteerism, fundraising and community engagement. For Children's Minnesota, APi team members have assembled care kits, written notes of encouragement for mental health staff, and participated in volunteer projects that support patients and families.

During APi Group's 100th anniversary, team members are participating in a global volunteer challenge as a way to say "thank you" to the communities they live and work in for being great partners over the last century. Their centennial campaign is built around their purpose of Building Great Leaders® and culture of care: Building Great Leaders who Build Great Communities. The winning team will direct an additional $100,000 to the nonprofit organization of its choice, creating another opportunity for APi teammates to make a lasting impact.

Helping Kids When They Need It Most

The spirit of service, leadership and generosity that drives APi Group's team member giving and volunteer initiatives also shapes the company's philanthropic investments, including its latest commitment to the mental health program at Children's Minnesota.

The investment builds on momentum from last year's Star Gala, which raised funds for Children's Minnesota's mental health services. It also aligns closely with APi's own Care Factor Fund, established by Russ and Trish Becker to help APi families navigate the financial burdens that can accompany a child's serious illness.

Just as APi Group supports its own families during difficult moments, the company is helping Children's Minnesota stand ready for children and families facing some of life's most difficult challenges. Through both philanthropic giving and team member engagement, APi Group continues to demonstrate its commitment to ensuring children and families get the care and support they need, when they need it most.

Demand for pediatric mental health services continues to grow, while insurance reimbursement often falls short of the true cost of providing this highly specialized care. Philanthropic investments like APi Group Foundation's gift help Children's Minnesota bridge that gap, ensuring that children and families can access expert mental health services when and where they need them. The gift supports the long-term strength of the program, helping Children's Minnesota remain a trusted destination for pediatric mental health care across the region.

The Impact Behind the Mission

For Kristina Morton, some of the most powerful reminders of Children's Minnesota's impact come from witnessing the connections Children's Minnesota kid experts build with patients and families.

During a visit to Children's Minnesota, she watched as the Dude, the hospital's beloved Star Studio host, greeted a returning patient by name. Years after their previous visit, he still remembered the child, his story, and his mother's name.

The moment exemplified what makes Children's Minnesota so special: children are not simply treated. They are known, remembered, and cared for.

When asked what she would tell other organizations considering a partnership with Children's Minnesota, her answer was simple: "It's easy, and it's worth it."

Through more than two decades of partnership, APi Group has demonstrated a deep commitment to children and families. Today, that commitment supports a vital source of care for children facing mental health challenges, ensuring that families can turn to Children's Minnesota when they need expert care, regardless of their ability to pay.



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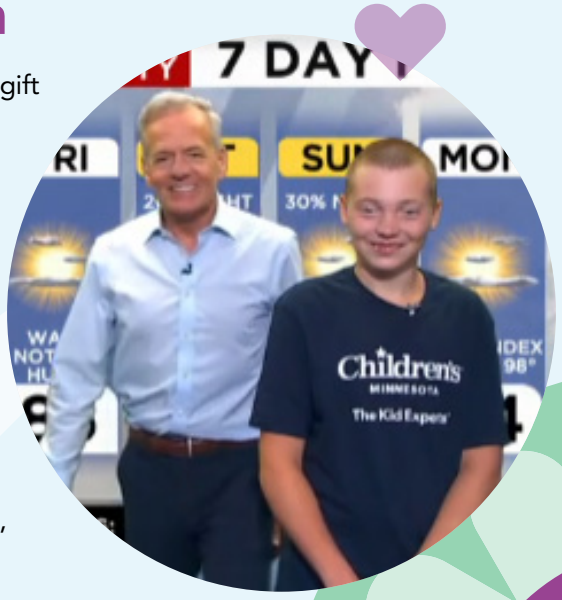
A Match Made in Minnesota

The Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation has made a $5 million gift to Children's Minnesota, creating a matching fund to help ensure that all kids and families have access to expert medical care and essential support services, regardless of their financial situation. Through the end of 2026, donations to the Together for Families Fund will receive a match, expanding the impact of community generosity and easing financial burdens for families so they can focus on what matters most: their child's healing.



To shine a light on this opportunity, Children's Minnesota launched the Match Made in Minnesota campaign and partnered with KSTP on KidCasts, where patients joined meteorologist Ken Barlow to deliver the weather forecast and share their stories, highlighting how donor support helps kids and families in need.

Scan to watch epilepsy patient Ean Basset deliver the weather forecast with KSTP meteorologist Ken Barlow.

Visit childrensMN.org/match to learn more.