In 2015-16, CHLA was ranked the leading pediatric hospital in California and among the top 10 in the nation on the U.S. News & World Report Honor Roll of children’s hospitals. CHLA has been chosen for the prestigious list in each of the seven years since it was introduced, and has been named the No. 1 children’s hospital in California every time.

At Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, we create hope and build healthier futures for the children and families entrusted to our care. We treat the most acute pediatric cases, often outside the scope or expertise of other children’s hospitals in the state.

One of the country’s premier teaching hospitals, CHLA has been affiliated with the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California (USC) since 1932. CHLA is also home to The Saban Research Institute, one of the largest and most productive pediatric research facilities in the United States.

Your support of the Children’s Fund is vital to the lifesaving work performed at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. Contributions of unrestricted gifts provide CHLA leaders with the flexibility to direct funds to the areas of greatest need—and the greatest benefit—supporting family-centered care, expert patient treatment, surgical excellence, research and discovery, and education and training.

Your generosity allows us to provide many vital services—such as the Child Life Program, art and music therapy, and psychosocial programs—that are not reimbursed by insurance but are essential to a child’s treatment and recovery. These programs simply would not exist without donors like you who understand that making a child truly well after injury or illness requires comprehensive medical, developmental, social and emotional care.

On behalf of all the children and families who benefit from your generosity, thank you for supporting Children’s Hospital Los Angeles.

By the Numbers

Children’s Hospital Los Angeles serves a community of nearly 3 million children. Thanks to the generosity of philanthropists, last year we were able to reach more children in need of our expert care than ever before.

| 107,000 individual patients | 14,600 inpatient admissions | 16,000 pediatric surgeries, including more complex surgical procedures than any other hospital in Southern California | 2,267 emergency transports—among the most in the nation | $222.6 million in community benefits provided to the children and families of Los Angeles | 343,753 outpatient visits | 72,000 Emergency Department visits |
The Center, which opened March 29, 2015, includes 1,750 square feet of physical and occupational therapy space; a Child Life playroom; designated rooms for occupational therapy crafts, speech therapy and recreation therapy; and a patient kitchen and family dining area. It also sports the most advanced technology and patient safety features, including ceiling-mounted lifts to safely move patients.

“The Petersen Foundation Rehabilitation Center gives patients access to the latest in rehabilitative equipment and care, as well as a family-friendly space that allows the child’s mind and soul to thrive,” says Kevan Craig, DO, chief of the Division of Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine.

One of the largest acute pediatric rehabilitation centers in the nation, the Center offers double the space of CHLA’s previous unit and allows us to care for more patients as they rebuild their lives—step by step. Philanthropy played an integral role in the construction of this vital rehabilitation space, which provides an ideal atmosphere to create hope and build healthier futures.

A Space to Heal

Young patients in need of intense inpatient rehabilitative care now have a beautiful, state-of-the-art space in which to heal: the Margie and Robert E. Petersen Foundation Rehabilitation Center honoring Bobby and Richie Petersen at CHLA.

The 22,000-square-foot inpatient rehabilitation unit is a “home away from home” for children recovering from traumatic injuries and complex diagnoses, including cancer, spinal cord injuries, stroke and rheumatologic disorders. Patients admitted to the unit require intensive therapy, with hospital stays ranging from one to five months.

Introducing Our New President and Chief Executive Officer

We are pleased to announce that Children’s Hospital Los Angeles has a new leader: Paul S. Viviano has been selected as the new president and chief executive officer of CHLA. Viviano has 35 years of executive leadership experience in the health care industry and comes to us from the University of California, San Diego, where he served as CEO of UC San Diego Health System and associate vice chancellor for UC San Diego Health Sciences. Prior to his service at UC San Diego Health, Viviano served as chairman of the board and CEO of Alliance HealthCare Services, the nation’s largest provider of advanced outpatient imaging services. Previous to that, he served as president and CEO of USC University Hospital (Keck Medical Center) and USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. Viviano replaces Richard D. Cordova, FACHE, the outgoing president and CEO who led CHLA for the last 10 years.

Paul S. Viviano

One of the largest acute pediatric rehabilitation centers in the nation, the Center offers double the space of CHLA’s previous unit and allows us to care for more patients as they rebuild their lives—step by step. Philanthropy played an integral role in the construction of this vital rehabilitation space, which provides an ideal atmosphere to create hope and build healthier futures.

Fundación TeletónUSA rehabilitation gym
Making History in Haiti

Children’s Hospital Los Angeles has long helped children locally and globally. By extending our reach beyond our main campus, CHLA helps to improve outcomes for children in our community and around the world. This past May, CHLA Surgeon in Chief Henri Ford, MD, MHA, led an 18-member team of physicians, nurses, anesthesiologists, respiratory therapists and others from CHLA and the Keck Medical Center of USC as they traveled to Haiti to conduct a historic surgery—and help two very special baby girls.

The surgery successfully separated 6-month-old conjoined Haitian twins, Marian and Michelle Dave-Nouche Bernard. The complex procedure—the first such operation ever performed on Haitian soil—took seven hours to complete. The international effort was overseen by Ford, who was born in Haiti and visits regularly to help revamp the country’s medical infrastructure, which was devastated in the 2010 earthquake.

“I liken the entire international team of surgeons, anesthesiologists and nurses to a symphony orchestra,” says Ford. “The girls are doing fantastic. We anticipate Marian and Michelle will recover fully and go on to lead healthy and happy lives.”

A New Era in Medicine

What if each patient’s genetic information could be used to deliver the most effective individualized treatment and improve outcomes? What if doctors could treat disorders before symptoms even appear?

That’s the vision behind CHLA’s new Center for Personalized Medicine. The Center is conducting leading-edge research to unlock the human genome’s potential and embark on a new era in pediatric medicine—one where diagnoses are more precise, therapies are more targeted and health care for children is more personalized.

To support this innovative initiative, the CHLA Board of Trustees has committed up to $50 million of hospital resources to the Center.

Progress is already taking shape. For example, scientists in The Vision Center and the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at CHLA recently developed a gene-sequencing test that identifies changes related to the retinoblastoma gene (RB1) in patients with this devastating form of eye cancer. The test is already being used to improve treatments for our large patient population. CHLA treats nearly 20 percent of all retinoblastoma cases in the U.S.

“That’s just the beginning,” says Alexander R. Judkins, MD, pathologist in chief at CHLA and executive director of the Center for Personalized Medicine. “In the near future, a newborn’s genome will be sequenced at birth—or even before—permitting clinicians to plan a lifetime of personalized health care that focuses on preventing, rather than reacting to, illness.”
Unraveling the Mysteries of the Mind

Neurodevelopmental disorders are a growing crisis. In the U.S. alone, 1 in 5 children suffer from a neurodevelopmental condition such as autism spectrum disorder or obsessive-compulsive disorder.

To make an impact on this crisis, CHLA created the Institute for the Developing Mind (IDM), aimed at discovering the origins of neurodevelopmental disorders—and finding new ways to diagnose, treat and prevent these conditions. Spearheading this effort is Bradley Peterson, MD, one of the nation’s principal experts in pediatric brain development, who joined CHLA from Columbia University in July 2014 to become the inaugural director of the IDM.

Under Peterson’s leadership, the IDM is creating a new, coordinated process of research and discovery that crosses disciplines and brings experts together from across the hospital, The Saban Research Institute of CHLA and the Keck School of Medicine of USC. Philanthropic support allows CHLA to recruit and retain experts, like Peterson, whose leadership will propel our research and discovery to benefit more children and families.

“The integrated and comprehensive structure of the IDM, and the way that it focuses entirely on children, is remarkably unique,” says Peterson. “It’s exactly what we need to make a real impact in helping children with neurodevelopmental disorders.”

CHLA is ranked among the top 10 children’s hospitals in the country for funding from the National Institutes of Health.

Peterson’s groundbreaking research is already making headlines. Earlier this year, he was featured in Time magazine after publishing research in JAMA Psychiatry, a journal of the American Medical Association, on air pollution and its effects on brain development. The study linked prenatal exposure to common air pollutants with hyperactivity and aggression in kids.

Finding these links is just the beginning of the work that Peterson and other top scientists will conduct at the IDM. “Our goal is not only to advance new discoveries related to how a child’s brain develops,” he says, “but to translate those findings into new therapies that will make a difference in the lives of children and families. That’s what the IDM is all about.”

Bradley Peterson, MD, director of the Institute for the Developing Mind
The Tumor in Hazel’s Tummy

When 2-year-old Hazel Hammersley suddenly developed a fever, became lethargic and stopped eating, her mom, Lauren, had a terrible feeling. “Something told me it was cancer,” she says.

Lauren’s motherly instinct was right. She rushed Hazel to the Emergency Department at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, where the toddler was diagnosed with stage 3 neuroblastoma. It was devastating news. Neuroblastoma is the most common solid tumor outside of the brain in children, and despite advances in cancer therapies, about half of children with aggressive neuroblastoma succumb to their illness.

Today, after a two-year journey filled with countless ups and downs, Hazel is home with her parents and four siblings—and is once again a happy, bubbly little girl. “Hazel has been feeling tremendously well, and has mostly been behaving like a normal 4-year-old, without even a hint of her difficult history,” her mom reports.

“The people at Children’s Hospital are so near and dear to our hearts,” Lauren adds. “They saved our daughter’s life.”

Serving More Families

CHLA is committed to making our expert care available to more children and families in the communities where they live. San Fernando Valley families now have access to CHLA’s top doctors right in their own backyard. Our new Encino outpatient facility opened on June 1, 2015—the fifth outpatient center we’ve opened since 2010. The Encino facility is staffed by CHLA experts in Hematology, Oncology and Blood and Marrow Transplantation, Nephrology, Neurology, Orthopaedics, Pediatric Surgery and Urology.

In addition, CHLA has expanded its partnership with Providence Tarzana Medical Center. Our renowned specialists now staff Providence Tarzana’s Pediatrics Department inpatient unit, as well as its pediatric and neonatal intensive care units. Staff are available 24 hours a day, allowing families access to high-quality specialty care for their children, closer to home.
Thank You

Our accomplishments are a reflection of you, our extraordinary donors. It is because of your generosity and partnership that Children’s Hospital Los Angeles continues to fulfill its mission to create hope and build healthier futures for the children and families in our community and beyond. Unrestricted gifts to the Children’s Fund ensure that we have the resources to provide every patient we treat with the very best, comprehensive care. From everyone at CHLA—especially our brave young patients and their families—thank you for your support.

Healing Through Movement

In May 2015, dancers from the ABC hit show “Dancing with the Stars” visited CHLA to participate in a dance and movement therapy session with patients. Several cast members from season 20, including Val Chmerkovskiy, Rumer Willis, Sharna Burgess, Noah Galloway, Allison Holker and Riker Lynch, sat in a circle with kids and families to clap, roll their shoulders, stretch and show off some dance moves.

Led by Lori Baudino, PsyD, BC-DMT, a dance and movement therapist at CHLA, the session gave patients the opportunity to gather together and experience the joy of dance. In conjunction with Dréa’s Dream, a pediatric expressive arts program funded by the Andréa Rizzo Foundation which supports dance and movement therapy at CHLA, the special session put smiles on the faces of patients, their caregivers and the dancers.

For children who are hospitalized, creative expression is a vital part of healing. The Mark Taper–Johnny Mercer Artists Program at CHLA, which is supported exclusively by grants and donations from philanthropists like you, gives thousands of patients and families opportunities to express themselves through visual arts, music, poetry, dance and theater. Thank you for your support of this essential program.

Rumor Willis (right) helped bring smiles to the faces of patients and families