

HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital
IMPACT REPORT
Summer 2020



Your Gift *Matters*

Express Employment Professionals in Springfield made a \$5,000 commitment to sponsor mini horse therapy at HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital. "We are so thankful to Express Employment Professionals for their sponsorship of this wonderful and impactful program," said Beverly Neisler, chief development officer at HSHS St. John's Hospital. "It is inspiring to see local businesses donating to a cause that will bring so many smiles to the children in our hospital."



**Children's
Hospital**

HSHS St. John's

Express sponsors *mini-horse therapy* for five years



Express Employment Professionals in Springfield made a \$5,000 commitment to sponsor mini horse therapy at HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital. The sponsorship will allow mini horses from Heartland Mini Hoofs to visit 10 times per year for the next five years. These visits are currently paused to keep patients and visitors safe, but we know the horses can't WAIT to see the kids again soon.

Express, a Children's Miracle Network Partner, has a history of sponsoring horses that serve an important purpose. The company, headquartered in Oklahoma City and franchised in Springfield, has sponsored Clydesdales since 1998 that performed public televised duties including walking in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and escorting England's Prince William and his wife, Kate, Duchess of Cambridge, at the Calgary Stampede in 2011.

The Springfield location is owned by the Britton family and is a Children's Miracle Network partner. "We are so thankful to Express Employment Professionals for their sponsorship of this wonderful and impactful program," said Beverly Neisler, chief development officer at HSHS St. John's Hospital. "It is inspiring to see local businesses donating to a cause that will bring so many smiles to the children in our hospital."

Heartland Mini Hoofs has been coming to St. John's Children's Hospital for the past two years less frequently when funding was available. You can visit their website for more information. www.heartlandminihoofs.org

Loving gift brings families *together* in the NICU



Kangaroo chairs are specially designed recliners that support the natural skin-to-skin bonding experience between infants and their loved ones in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital. When Marsha Cherry, a Samaritan at St. John's, heard there was a need for these chairs, she wanted to help. Marsha encouraged her family and friends to contribute toward the purchase of a kangaroo chair. Her compassion and kindness inspired many and in less than a month, she raised \$5,000. This loving gift will bring families closer together far into the future.

The NICU is currently experiencing a significant increase in patients during the pandemic, making kangaroo chairs more important than ever.

Donors to HSHS St. John's Foundation support programs and equipment like kangaroo chairs that make all the difference for our tiniest patients and their families. For more information about donating to the NICU, contact Brandy Grove at brandy.grove@hshs.org or (217)814-5177.

The new *pedi rehab*



For more than 20 years, pediatric rehabilitation at HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital has provided occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech therapy services in a child-centered, play-based environment. The therapists strive to help children reach their highest potential. "With more than 1,100 outpatient visits scheduled monthly, in addition to providing services to inpatients, we simply outgrew our current space," says Julie Green, OTR/L, MOT, facilitator and occupational therapist for pediatric rehabilitation.

The pediatric rehabilitation department moved into the new Women and Children's Clinic in December 2018. Located across the street from St. John's Children's Hospital, this new space was specially designed with children in mind. Along with eight individual treatment rooms and a physical therapy gym, the department also features a 2,200 square foot sensory gym. The

sensory gym is a state-of-the-art space which includes a two-level playhouse with stairs and a slide, crash pits, rock climbing walls and multiple swings and other equipment to allow children to explore movement and sensory input. This larger space also allows multiple children to be seen at once to encourage cooperative play, communication and peer interaction. Equipment and other essentials for the sensory gym were provided through funds raised at the 3rd annual Troops vs. Cops for Kids Charity Hockey Game.

Right now kiddos are working hard on their therapies at home, but the pediatric rehabilitation team is ready to greet them when they can return to this amazing facility.

Imagine tomorrow



Mary Beth Miller, NICU nurse manager, on NICU demo day, October 4, 2019.

We are expanding our St. John's Children's Hospital neonatal intensive care unit (NICU)! The NICU, on the 4th floor, will grow to three times the size of the current space, taking up the entire floor. The expanded and updated NICU will provide single family rooms to allow families to stay the night with their premature or critically-ill infants for the first time in St. John's 76-year history. Babies will be able to recover more peacefully, and parents will be provided the privacy and quiet closeness they crave with their infants. I'm sure you can imagine the difference this will make in the lives of these babies and their families.

Even as the pandemic is happening, the NICU remains an essential service to vulnerable babies and their families. While construction is presently postponed on the NICU, colleagues and crews are working behind the scenes to make sure we get back to business soon.

Thank you to the many NICU families and community leaders who have contributed to the Imagine Tomorrow campaign to benefit the expansion of the NICU at St. John's. You, along with your family, friends and neighbors, have the opportunity to make an impact on another family! Contact Brandy at (217) 814-5177 or brandy.grove@hshs.org to learn more.



Music therapy expands

Generous donors throughout the community have allowed the music therapy program to expand their services within HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital. In addition to visiting kids in the pediatrics unit twice a week, Katey Kamerad and her team of certified music therapists now provide music services to our patients and families in the neonatal intensive care unit and give pediatric patients the opportunity to write and record their own music.

Music therapy provides so many smiles to kids at St. John's. During this time, you can help bring music therapy to pediatric patients virtually through the GetWell Network. To sponsor virtual music therapy and continue the smiles, contact Brandy Grove at 217-814-5177 or brandy.grove@hshs.org.



Mission Rx

The most vulnerable patients in our region, especially the elderly, often must make the decision to afford housing or food over filling their prescription medication. MissionRx was created to provide medication assistance to critical populations of patients who lack the ability to pay. Patients in need can receive a onetime 30-day supply of medication for free.

Contributions to MissionRx have helped pediatric patients and their families.

- A 7-week-old newborn was finally discharged from the hospital with critical seizure medication after spending many extra, unnecessary days in the NICU.
- A pediatric outpatient whose mother had just lost benefits for her and her children was assisted with antibiotics.

The MissionRx program is one of many critical COVID-19 relief efforts supported by donors. Join us in our mission of caring today.

