THE START OF 2014 has been nothing short of phenomenal for Duke Children’s. Every day, new stories emerge that demonstrate Duke Children’s collaborative culture and extraordinary level of care.

In this issue of Stories, you will meet a young patient who launched a four-year journey of hope to restore what a congenital disease had taken away. This amazing quest was led by the multidisciplinary Duke Children’s Pediatric Cleft and Craniofacial care team. Today, this patient is the 2014 Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals North Carolina Champion as featured on page 10.

New leaders continue to step into the spotlight to lend their support for children’s health. Duke Children’s Honorary Campaign Champions Jeff and Gregg Foxworthy candidly share their long-standing advocacy of Duke Children’s in a candid Q&A on page 3 as they pledge to advance Duke Forward: Medicine that Changes the World, which is Duke Medicine’s most comprehensive philanthropic effort to date.

In August, Duke Children’s will begin a new chapter as we welcome Ann M. Reed, MD as our new Chair of the Department of Pediatrics. Dr. Reed currently serves as Chair of the Department of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. It has been a real honor and privilege to lead our Department, and I will continue to serve through the transition. I sincerely appreciate all of your tremendous support and partnership.

We look forward to unfolding new chapters in the coming year. Thank you for being part of Duke Children’s story.

Because nothing matters more,

IRA CHEIFETZ, MD
Interim Chair, Department of Pediatrics
Chief, Pediatric Critical Care Medicine
features

Community Partners

08
Indomitable Spirit

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IT WAS NO idle Tuesday on Feb. 4 when four of Duke Children’s Hospital & Health Center’s six honorary campaign leaders came to visit the patients. Comedian Jeff Foxworthy and his wife Gregg, along with Duke football coach David Cutcliffe and his wife Karen, fresh from attending the Super Bowl in New York City, spent several hours brightening the days of hospitalized children. They posed for pictures, visited with families and staff, and brought their own doses of medicine—laughter and hope.

Jeff and Gregg began their journey with Duke Children’s through Jeff’s brother, who was a football player for Duke University. During a visit, Jeff and Gregg took a tour of Duke Children’s, spending time with the children and their families. After that initial visit, the Foxworthys, as Jeff likes to say, “were hooked!”

Jeff and Gregg spent 12 years as chairs of the Duke Children’s Classic, helping raise more than $6 million for pediatric research and care. In 2012, they returned as Teddy Bear Ball celebrity hosts. “The Foxworthys have had a lasting impact on our youngest patients and their families through their many years of service to Duke Children’s,” said Susan Glenn, executive director of Duke Children’s Development. “They are truly part of the Duke Medicine family.”

During their many trips to Duke and Durham over the years, Jeff and Gregg have delighted patients and families with their long and heartwarming visits to Duke Children’s. Room by room, they take their time bringing smiles and laughter to each patient and spend time listening to parents and family members share their experiences.
Their love for and devotion to Duke Children’s remains as strong as ever. Jeff and Gregg Foxworthy share their reflections as longtime friends of Duke Children’s in this intimate Q&A.

What is your favorite memory of your time with Duke Children’s?

Gregg: There are so many, but one that really stands out is from my first visit to Duke Children’s. Jeff had already come once. This beautiful 10- or 11-year-old girl walked up to me and said her name was Sarah and that she had cancer. She had the exact same birthday as my daughter and the same name as my niece. We still keep up with her.

Jeff: What has struck me is that there used to be a time in my life when I was young where when I saw a bald child or someone in a wheel chair I wanted to cross to the other side of the room. Now those are the first people I want to talk to. I am just drawn to them.

What do you think makes Duke Children’s special?

Jeff: I have been to a lot of children’s hospitals, many I could have worked with and are closer to home. But at Duke Children’s there is a very special feel. There is a sense of family. There is empathy and compassion, and not that detachment you find at other places. It is like a love language. The nurses and doctors are invested in the relationships with their patients. The nurses, especially, know details about their patients and their families’ lives.

Gregg: It’s family. There really is just not another word for it. Plus they are doing things here medically that don’t happen other places. You know it is just a really special place.

What brings you back to Duke Children’s? Why do you feel so connected here?

Jeff: It feels more unified here. Everyone is working toward a common mission. God gives something extra special to desperately ill children. You get something just by being with them. You think you are going in to brighten their day, and you end up walking away feeling like you are the one who was helped. It is a wonderful opportunity to be a part of something really good.

The Foxworthys with Sarah May, then and now.
DUKE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL & Health Center celebrated 20 years of miracles at the 20th annual MIX 101.5 Radiothon for Duke Children’s. On Feb. 11 and 12, 2014, MIX 101.5 WRAL-FM hosted the live two-day broadcast from the lobby of the McGovern-Davision Children’s Health Center.

MIX 101.5 Morning Show co-hosts Mike Chase and Lynda Loveland interviewed patient families, Duke Children’s faculty and staff, and Duke athletic coaches David Cutcliffe and Mike Krzyzewski. More than 230 volunteers answered phones in the Walmart Phone Bank to receive donations and pledges from donors and provided support to sell Duke Children’s merchandise.

Sudden winter weather caused the radiothon to end five hours early, but even with the shortened time, the 20th annual MIX 101.5 Radiothon for Duke Children’s raised $1,070,242. MIX 101.5 Radiothon is Duke Children’s largest single fundraising event each year, and over the past 20 years has raised a grand total of $16,448,658. Funds raised through the annual radiothon support medical specialties, clinical research, and patient and family services and programs.

During an on-air special presentation, Ira Cheifetz, MD, interim chair of Duke Children’s, presented Ardie Gregory, general manager of MIX 101.5 WRAL-FM, with a 20 Years of Radiothon artistic glass award to commemorate this milestone anniversary. This award recognizes MIX 101.5 WRAL-FM and Capitol Broadcasting Company, LLC for 20 years of support and for making a difference for children and families in the community.

“The impressive partnership between MIX 101.5 WRAL-FM and Duke Children’s over the past 20 years has had an immeasurable impact on our ability to provide world-class medical, surgical, and family-centered care for our patients,” said Cheifetz. “We are extremely grateful to MIX 101.5 for their leadership and service to benefit children and families in our community through the MIX 101.5 Radiothon.”

More 2014 Radiothon pictures can be viewed at bit.ly/dukeradio.
AT THE FALL 2013 Children’s Miracle Network (CMN) Hospitals Celebration conference in Orlando, Fla., CMN Hospitals President and CEO John Lauck issued an ambitious challenge to CMN Hospitals: to generate a record-breaking $1 billion in annual fundraising by the year 2022.

His “Bold Ambition” challenge calls on CMN Hospitals to develop innovative fundraising strategies. Duke Children’s is embracing that goal by implementing new events and focusing on all levels of fundraising, from the hospital to the cashiers at our partner stores to every customer who makes a $1 Miracle Balloon purchase. The Bold Ambition challenges the entire Duke Children’s family to set our sights even higher to support the kids who inspire us all.

While the challenge was issued to CMN Hospitals, it reaches far beyond the children’s hospital. Duke Children’s has piloted collaboration forums with corporate partners, where company leaders shared ideas about the hospital’s new programs and brainstormed new ways to help Duke Children’s and boost the corporate partners’ campaigns.

Our community partners empowered their employees during Miracle Balloon sales campaigns, in which donations from all balloon sales benefit Duke Children’s. At one area Walmart, cashiers wear silly hats in their competition to sell a certain number of Miracle Balloons, and at a local Dairy Queen, proceeds from every blizzard sold on Miracle Treat Day benefit CMN Hospitals and customers receive a fun sticker. Some store managers appreciate the cause so much that they reward the top fundraising cashier with prizes or an extra day off.

Duke Children’s has also added new activities that involve the community in raising funds. Dance Dash 5k, the 5k event with a twist, brought families and friends together to walk, run, dance, participate in a flash mob, and raise money for Duke Children’s.

Three university dance marathons host year-long fundraisers to benefit Duke Children’s, each culminating in an 8- to 24-hour dance marathon. At ELONTHON, NC State Dance Marathon, and Duke Dance Marathon, students stay on their feet through dancing, games, and entertainment to represent solidarity for children.

John Lauck’s Bold Ambition challenge touches everyone within the community and encourages all of us to set even higher goals for the kids and the hospital. Duke Children’s excitedly welcomes this initiative and, with the help of our entire community, aspires to achieve the Bold Ambition—for the kids! 🌟
A PLEDGE TO FIGHT CHILDHOOD LEUKEMIA

MORE THAN HALF of infants with leukemia do not survive, and pediatric cancer research is underfunded. Glenn H. Schiffman and his wife Stacy of Austin, Texas, have partnered with Dan Wechsler, M.D., Ph.D., chief of the division of pediatric hematology-oncology at Duke Children’s Hospital & Health Center, to try to change that.

“Over the years I have gained a profound respect for the work Duke Medicine is doing,” Glenn Schiffman said. “I am thrilled to be able to have some small impact around that effort.”

In December 2013, the Schiffmans made a $1 million gift to create the Glenn and Stacy Schiffman Pediatric Cancer Research Fund. The gift will support the Division of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology.

“We want to partner with Dan...to see the impact of his work and help to make a fundamental difference.”
—Glenn H. Schiffman

Glenn Schiffman is a senior managing director at Guggenheim Partners, a privately held global financial services firm. He is also a 1991 graduate of Duke University’s Trinity College who now serves on the Duke Medicine Board of Visitors. The Schiffmans have long supported pediatric cancer research and treatment.

“We grew more and more excited about his research, in particular his vision and enthusiasm,” Glenn Schiffman said. “Rather than simply write a check, we want to partner with Dan while we’re young to see the impact of his work and help to make a fundamental difference.”

Stacy and I have four kids, and we’ve always been partial to charities focused on children,” he added.
Kennedy Goodwin has led her family on a four-year, life-changing journey marked by perseverance and strength.
Resilience and Resolve
Immediately after she was born, Kennedy Goodwin was diagnosed with Goldenhar syndrome, a rare congenital craniofacial condition characterized by abnormal development of the ear, eyes, and spine. It is not preventable, and the cause is unknown.

Among many other challenges, Kennedy was born with a short jaw on the right side, right-side facial paralysis, and without a right ear.

By age eight, Kennedy had experienced 10 surgeries and hospitalizations. She underwent her first surgery at age two, followed by three surgeries on her spine and rib cage at five years old. Kennedy had to learn how to eat, talk, and walk again.

She accepted most of these difficulties without complaint, with one exception: she wanted a right ear.

Her family made an appointment with Jeff Marcus, MD, FAAP, FACS, who is the associate vice chair of surgery at Duke Children’s Hospital & Health Center, the Paul H. Sherman Associate Professor, and director of the Duke Cleft and Craniofacial Program and Duke Facial Paralysis Program.

“The first thing I remembered when we met him was that he got Kennedy to talk to him,” said her mother, Amy. “In the past, Kennedy often closed up to doctors and medical personnel. It clicked that he was the person for us.”

Marcus recommended an autologous ear reconstruction, using Kennedy’s own tissue. In 2010, she underwent two surgeries: one to remove part of her rib cartilage, and a second, more delicate operation to implant the rib cartilage under the skin, contouring the shape and creating an ear lobe.

During the healing process, the ear began draining, and a small hole formed. No more than 24 hours later, an infection had eaten the entire ear cartilage. The reconstruction had failed.

“On the way home, we were both in tears,” said Amy. “I heard this little voice in the backseat say ‘It’s OK. Dr. Marcus said he can fix it.’ That’s when I learned that it’s the child that sometimes looks after the parent.”

Kennedy underwent a second attempt at ear reconstruction, using cartilage from the other side of the chest and a skin graft to repair the damaged skin. As with the first attempt, the unusual contour of Kennedy’s ear cavity and skull prevented the skin from grafting. Infection set in, and the ear had to be removed.

A New Direction
The two failed reconstructions were devastating. But neither Kennedy nor Marcus were ready to give up. “I’ve tried to see her through all of the problems to get to a good result by any means possible,” said Marcus.

He wanted to try a prosthetic implant, in which the implant becomes part of the bone, which serves as the attachment system for the prosthetic.

Marcus called upon David M. Kaylie, MD, MS, otolaryngology surgeon for Duke Medicine, and Jay McClennen, AOCA, CCA, CFm, a clinical anaplastologist with The Anaplastology Clinic, LLC. The team developed a prosthetic ear made of silicone specifically designed for Kennedy’s unique physiology.

In November 2012, Marcus removed the last remnants from the previous surgeries. Kaylie performed the implant surgery to create an anchor.
KENNEDY GOODWIN NAMED 2014 CHILDREN’S MIRACLE NETWORK HOSPITALS NC CHAMPION

Champions is a program that increases public awareness of CMN Hospitals, the financial need of children’s hospitals, and the importance of research, education, and care.

It honors remarkable children who have faced severe medical challenges. For her courage and perseverance, Kennedy was chosen to serve as an ambassador for CMN Hospitals, Duke Children’s, and all the hospitalized children in NC.

Kennedy will attend Duke Children’s and CMN Hospitals’ events and fund-raising campaigns to celebrate specialized health care and research supported by CMN Hospitals fundraising. Champions will culminate in November 2014 with events in Washington, D.C., and Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals’ Celebration at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

ABOUT KENNEDY

• Hopes to one day be a marine biologist, specializing in sharks.

• Plans to take scuba diving lessons in the near future.

• Loves to ride her bike, swim, go to the beach, read, ride horses, play basketball and football, rock climb, and hang out with friends.

• Passionate about the Carolina Hurricanes, North Carolina’s NHL team. Carolina Hurricanes Captain Eric Staal is her hero and she has met him several times.

• Surrounded by a support system of family and friends who rally around her and are proudly called Team Kennedy.
system to hold the prosthesis by placing two titanium post implants into Kennedy’s skull. McClennen reviewed a custom surgical template of Kennedy’s face to locate the exact implant placement, assure compatibility to the bone, and ensure the implants are hidden by the prosthesis.

After four months of recovery and waiting for the implant to heal and fuse to the bone, Kennedy received the prosthesis on the last day of July 2013. Her new ear looks natural, as if it has been there all her life.

“Up until that point, none of us were ready to say that this was going to happen,” said Amy. “It was all very exciting and overwhelming to say we finally reached the end.”

Kennedy does not let her syndrome define who she is or set limitations for her: “It is what it is,” she says. One day she hopes to undergo smile surgery for her facial paralysis.

But paralysis or not, today she smiles with new confidence, proudly tucking her blonde hair behind both her ears. “Because of Duke Children’s,” she said, “I can believe in myself.”

Forging a New Path
There has been little research on Goldenhar syndrome since its discovery in 1952. That changed in January 2014 when Duke Medicine geneticist Nico Katsanis, PhD, launched the Neonatal Task Force Craniofacial Group, a subgroup of the Task Force for Neonatal Genomics, to look for genetic mutations that may play a role in rare craniofacial deformities, including Goldenhar syndrome.

The lab collaborates with the Duke Children’s Cleft and Craniofacial Program to study Goldenhar patients and their parents, to identify differences in their DNA. The lab then determines whether any of those differences have the capability of creating the problems seen in Goldenhar syndrome.

Once candidate genes are identified, Dr. Katsanis then alters those genes in an animal model—a zebrafish—to see if those zebrafish manifest the same condition. Identification of a suspect gene in one family will provide a starting place to observe in the next family. These studies are conducted on a case-by-case basis.

An artful eye, redefined
An accomplished artist with an eye for detail, Jay McClennen began his career as a prosthetic make-up artist in the film industry. He has since become a certified clinical anaplastologist, providing customized prosthetic treatments for patients. Read more about McClennen online at bit.ly/dcKennedy2014.
THE MIRACLE OF HEART TRANSPLANT

BY THE TIME 9-year-old Samantha Riggs of Cana, Virginia was referred to Duke Children’s, her heart was on the brink of failing. Duke pediatric heart surgeons quickly went to work and connected the left ventricle of her heart to an ATM-sized Berlin Heart Pump that would keep her alive until a heart would become available for her.

The immediacy with which Samantha was plucked from the brink of death was a miracle to her parents, who had witnessed their healthy, active daughter suddenly become stricken with weakness and shortness of breath over a period of just days.

“Not all places have a Berlin Pump, and I’ve heard from others how their children had to wait until one was available,” said Samantha’s mother, Randi. “At Duke, we got one right away. She immediately improved.”

The Duke Heart Transplant Program is a national leader in mechanical circulatory support for both pediatric and adult heart patients. Its comprehensive heart management program, sophisticated infrastructure, and level of cardiac expertise are unparalleled in the region. And the Duke Pediatric Heart Transplant Program is one of the best in the country at detecting risk factors for organ rejection, a factor that played a crucial role for Samantha.

A month after being put on the Berlin Heart Pump—which Samantha named Bertha and wheeled around the hospital with her—a heart became available. But her doctors discovered that Samantha had antibodies that would have severely damaged the donor heart, so the transplant wasn’t performed. Through a course of plasmapheresis, in which her blood plasma was removed, treated, and returned, her doctors were able to remove the offending antibodies.

Three months later, she received a new donor heart and slowly began returning to the active lifestyle of a normal, healthy child.

Robert D.B. Jaquiss, MD, Duke’s chief of pediatric cardiothoracic surgery, said a key to the success of the Duke Heart Transplant Program is the wealth of knowledge shared between the pediatric and adult transplant programs, making it a “birth to golden years heart failure program with no age gaps or cracks to fall through.”

The close collaboration between the pediatric and adult programs gives Duke valuable scientific insights into important differences required for treating children. Duke is a member of the international 45-institution Pediatric Heart Transplant Study Group, and is a member of the national 10-institution Pediatric Heart Failure Colloquium that is establishing guidelines for the treatment of heart failure in pediatric patients.

For the Riggs family, Duke made a stressful and difficult time more bearable. “They do things every day to help you get through it,” Randi Riggs said. “I wouldn’t want to go anywhere else.”

“I’ll always cherish coming to the Classic with my dad and seeing Frank Sinatra, Dinah Shore, and the greats who came together to help the hospital and kids at Duke,” said Love. “My dad was my best friend, boss, partner, mentor, and hero, and he and my mom taught me to give back for the abundant blessings that we receive in life.”

His involvement and dedication to making a difference in the lives of Duke Children’s patients has continued to grow.

Today, Love is an active member of Duke Children’s National Board of Advisors, a generous donor, and best of all, a champion for sick boys and girls at Duke Children’s.

In 2011, Love hosted his 50th birthday celebration and requested contributions to Duke Children’s in lieu of gifts. Three months later, he organized another birthday party for his wife, Kim, and his mother, Ann. Love turned the Alamance Country Club, located in Burlington, N.C., into the Copa Room South, themed as a Count Basie/Frank Sinatra “Live at the Sands” concert. Love himself sang Sinatra classics, and guests came armed with “tip money” to donate to Duke Children’s. Between the two parties, Love and his guests raised $37,000 to benefit Duke Children’s.

“I encourage you to give your time and resources to help the kids at Duke,” Love said. “The doctors and staff at Duke Children’s are literally saving the lives of the sickest children.”

John and Kim Love continue to carry forward the legacy of support by pledging $100,000 to Duke Children’s $150 million Duke Forward campaign. The family also provides generous annual support for Teddy Bear Ball and Camp Kaleidoscope, Duke Children’s summer camp for patients.

Love’s legacy of support for Duke Children’s has expanded for more than 30 years and continues to make a lasting impression.
ONE PIVOTAL MOMENT changed the course of a future doctor’s career and redirected his path of discovery and care.

Eric J. Benner, MD, PhD, began his medical career pursuing a combined MD-PhD program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, specializing in neurological protection for Parkinson’s disease. While there, his wife Alisha went into early labor at 28 weeks and gave birth to twins, Ethan and Gavin.

“It was pretty scary, and there were all kinds of concerns of brain injury and neurological problems,” said Benner. The twins were admitted to the local newborn intensive care unit (NICU). They received good care and came through without any major complications or problems.

Up to this point, Benner’s training was in adult medicine, and he had never been exposed to the NICU. But his experience with his own twins sparked his curiosity to better understand the neurological outcomes for babies born prematurely and at significant risk for brain injuries. He changed his course of residency and fellowship to concentrate in pediatrics and neonatal-perinatal medicine.

Since 2011, Benner has served as a neonatologist at Duke Children’s Hospital & Health Center and has run a laboratory to investigate the mechanisms of brain injury in the high-risk neonatal population.

Perinatal brain injuries can cause a decrease of blood flow to the head and result in cognitive impairment, cerebral palsy, seizure disorders, and more. Research has shown that cooling the infant after such injuries can lead to an improved neurological outcome by slowing down the spread of secondary brain injury that occurs following a lack of blood flow and oxygen deficiency.

“Newborn cooling is our attempt to minimize brain injury following a perinatal event where reduced blood flow to the brain is suspected,” said Benner. Duke Children’s conducted many studies on the treatment and was the first center to practice newborn cooling. Today, newborn cooling is considered a standard practice.

Newborn cooling is performed with a cooling blanket placed on the infant’s body. It changes to the desired temperature while the body temperature and other vital signs are constantly monitored. During this time, simultaneous treatment is given for the cause of the condition.

“Cooling reduces neurological deficits that can have permanent impact on the quality of life for moderate and small injuries, offering about a 20 percent survival benefit,” Benner said. Duke Children’s serves infants in need of cooling across North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.
PERMAR RECEIVES NEW INNOVATOR AWARD

SALLIE PERMAR, MD, PHD, was one of 102 researchers honored by President Obama with a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government to outstanding scientists and engineers beginning their independent careers.

Permar is associate professor of pediatrics, assistant professor of immunology, and assistant professor of molecular genetics and microbiology. In October, she was the senior author on a paper published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, describing a newly isolated substance in breast milk that inhibits HIV replication and may protect infants from acquiring the virus from mothers who carry the infection.

In 2012, Permar received a New Innovator Award from the National Institutes of Health.

“Dr. Permar has distinguished herself at Duke and among her peers nationally as an innovative researcher recognized for her work in immune protection against mother-to-child transmission of HIV and other viruses,” said Nancy C. Andrews, MD, PhD, dean of Duke University School of Medicine. “This is a well-deserved honor.”

“It is an honor to be recognized together with this remarkable group of young scientists,” said Permar. “It is also rewarding to know that our work developing vaccines to protect infants against debilitating congenital infections has been recognized as a national priority.”

The presidential early career awardees are selected for their pursuit of innovative research at the frontiers of science and technology and their commitment to community service as demonstrated through scientific leadership, public education, and community outreach.
DUKE CHILDREN’S LONGEST continuously held annual fund-raiser, the Jump for the Children Horse Show, celebrated the milestone of its 30th anniversary in November 2013. Since the first event in 1984, it has grown to a six-day, United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) AA-rated horse show, featuring a lead line class and a stick horse race for children and culminating in the Jump for the Children Grand Prix.

At this past year’s event, Duke Children’s presented horse show chairs Glenn and Joan MacNair Petty, owners and managers of Triangle Farms, Inc., with a plaque recognizing their leadership and the show’s 30th anniversary.

“We sincerely thank our ‘Jump for the Children’ sponsors, committee, volunteers and friends for their commitment to Duke Children’s through a great horse show and community event,” said Joan. “We truly believe that ‘nothing matters more’ than our support of the children at Duke Children’s.”

In honor of the Pettys’ dedication to Duke Children’s, a horse spring rider will be placed in Duke Children’s outdoor play area.

Jump for the Children Horse Show is one of the largest hunter and jumper horse shows in North Carolina, held at Governor James B. Hunt Jr. Horse Complex in Raleigh.

It has raised more than $1.6 million in its history to benefit Duke Children’s.

Jump for the Children will host the 31st annual horse show Nov. 4-9, 2014. For more information, visit jumpforthechildren.org.
CHASE JONES IS a former UNC baseball player as well as a cancer survivor. As a freshman in college, he was diagnosed with stage 4 brain cancer that had spread down his spinal cord. Fighting his cancer at UNC Hospitals, he was inspired by the children he saw waging their own battles against the disease. When he lost his hair during chemotherapy treatments, his teammates shaved their heads in support and solidarity. These two experiences demonstrating courage and support would define the first and successive chapters in his survival story.

Today, Chase is the founder of the Vs. Cancer Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to saving kids’ lives by empowering athletes and communities to raise funds mainly through head-shaving events. Vs. Cancer has a half-and-half model of giving. Half the money from each event stays at a local children’s hospital to help children battling cancer right now. The other half goes to a national cancer research charity to help children who will fight cancer tomorrow.

Vs. Cancer recently contributed money to outfit the Jim Valvano Day Hospital at Duke Children’s with new flat screen TVs, DVD players, and Wii game systems.

“My favorite moment since starting Vs. Cancer was meeting two nurses, Kristen and Jen, at the Day Hospital. Their excitement over our donation made all of this real,” Chase says. “They only had one game system, and I remembered my own experience having cancer treatments. I would have given up the game system to a younger child and been left with nothing to do. I saw where Vs. Cancer could make this better for Duke Children’s patients.”

Learn more about Vs. Cancer Foundation at vs-cancer.org
JOEY McMAHON HAD a promising career at a great company in New York following four years as a Duke basketball manager and undergraduate student. But then he had one of those moments that define a person. He watched as his beloved grandfather, a strong man he had always looked up to, took his last struggling breaths against cancer. It was Christmas Eve. Losing his grandfather made McMahon realize just how short life is and inspired him to make the most of his time. McMahon discovered a passion for helping others, especially those in need or ill. He returned to New York to tell his boss he was moving back to North Carolina to follow that passion. And that’s exactly what he did, returning to Durham and founding a nonprofit to help hospitalized kids.

“I had to make something of this bad situation,” said McMahon. That became the premise of his organization, The Monday Life: to make something good come out of something bad. “People don’t like Mondays. Here’s a reason to love Mondays.”

The Monday Life is dedicated to improving children’s hospital environments to help children feel better and heal faster. It provides ongoing support to Duke Children’s and, with the launch of its new Healing Campaigns crowdfunding site, also to children’s hospitals across the country.

The approach is simple: he asks people to donate $1 every Monday. “I was someone who always wanted to do good and help others. I just didn’t know how,” McMahon said. “I thought it took huge sums of money to make a difference. We’re here to show you how just a dollar can really help.”

McMahon, who used to accompany his mom to paint the windows at Duke Children’s, always saw a children’s hospital as a happy place. “I love listening to the kids,” he says. “They have such an interesting perspective on life. I love that we can provide the types of things that children need to feel better, whether it is an iPad, music therapy, or a cool place to play—especially when it is shooting hoops outside the hospital with Duke basketball players.” And, thanks to him, more people love Mondays now.

Duke Forward Spotlight on Duke Medicine on Nov. 7-9, 2013 featured a behind-the-scenes look at advances in research, care, and education as part of the $1.2 billion fundraising campaign. Duke Medicine donors, friends, and faculty participated in tours, forums, and a gala where Duke Children’s patient Owen spoke about his life-saving patient care and the pacemaker he received to support his heart.

Duke Women’s basketball team visited patients at Duke Children’s to spread holiday cheer. Many other visitors spent time with the kids in December, to brighten their holidays.


This spring, more than 1,000 students at N.C. State University, Elon University, and Duke University danced with a common goal—to help the kids at Duke Children’s, and collectively raised $298,239.53 for Duke Children’s! The Dance Marathons ranged from 8 hours at Duke to 24 hours at Elon. Dancers endured to symbolize their support for the time families spend in the hospital. McKenzie is carried by former Duke Children’s patient Leigha, a student at Elon and dancer at ELONTHON.

Patients of Duke Children’s pediatric hematology-oncology, with help from Great Clips stylists, lent a hand to shave their doctors’ heads (and one beard) to support the Duke Peds Oncology team for St. Baldrick’s Foundation at Duke Children’s McGovern-Davison Children’s Health Center. Dan Wechsler, MD, division chief of pediatric hematology-oncology, had his head shaved by his patient Ella and her mother Kay. The Duke Peds Oncology team raised $9,063 to benefit pediatric cancer research.

Join the 2nd annual Dance Dash, the 5K with a twist, on October 11, 2014 in downtown Durham. Walk, run and boogie through the course to benefit your Children’s Miracle Network Hospital—Duke Children’s. Register and learn more at dancedash5k.org.

Duke Children’s is committed to never giving up in the battle against pediatric cancer. Make a difference in the lives of children with this life-threatening disease at the 29th Annual Jim Valvano Kids Klassic on July 11-12, 2014. Learn more at bit.ly/jvkk.
As part of Duke Medicine’s $1.2 billion campaign, Duke Forward: Medicine that Changes the World, Duke Children’s seeks $150 million—the most ambitious philanthropic quest in our history—to lead advances in pediatric health and medicine.

Will you join us?

dukeforward.dukemedicine.org/childrens