

# Philanthropy at Children's National

Sharing the vision. Partnering for their future.



July 2017

## CEO's Book Shares Lessons Learned, Calls for Greater Focus on Children's Health

An innocent victim struck by a stray bullet, 14-year-old Tanessa Starnes was rushed into the emergency room at Children's National, bleeding and with no heartbeat. Calmly, a young surgeon opened her chest, used his finger to plug the bullet hole, and massaged her heart with his hands until it began beating once again.

Thirty years later, that young surgeon, now the president and CEO of Children's National, Kurt Newman, MD, still vividly remembers that day and Tanessa's recovery.

"Late the next day I went to the ICU to see her," he writes in his new book *Healing Children: A Surgeon's Stories from the Frontiers of Pediatric Medicine*. "Even with the breathing tube in her mouth, she managed a huge smile that knocked my socks off."

Tanessa's traumatic injury, treatment, and recovery is one of many patient stories that populate the book, which traverses Dr. Newman's years from medical school student to skilled pediatric surgeon to the head of one of the nation's leading children's hospitals.

But *Healing Children* is more than a collection of stories, it's a compendium of lessons learned by Dr. Newman over his more than 30 years in pediatric medicine—lessons he's sharing to help ensure more children can receive the care they need and deserve.

"I wrote this book to help parents get the best health care for their children," Dr. Newman says. "I want to spark a national conversation about children's health. We need more children's hospitals and trauma centers. More children should be seen by pediatric specialists. And we should put more resources as a nation into pediatric research."

Funding for pediatric research through philanthropy is essential to the work being done at Children's National, which is why all proceeds from *Healing Children* will go to the Pediatric Health Opportunity Fund, a charity supporting discovery and innovation at Children's National and other pediatric research centers.

Learn more about Dr. Newman's book at [Medium.com/Kurt-Newman-MD](https://medium.com/Kurt-Newman-MD) or visit [ChildrensNational.org/book](https://ChildrensNational.org/book) to help children heal at Children's National.



## Innovative Therapy Helps Teen Dancer Stay Healthy and Cancer-Free

In 2014, at the age of 14, Molly was diagnosed with a rare type of acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) known as hypodiploid ALL. Her only chance for survival: a bone marrow transplant. Fortunately, Molly's older brother was a match.

As a follow-up to her transplant, Molly was part of a groundbreaking clinical trial for T-cell therapy, which can prevent infections and relapses with few side effects. Children's National is a leader in T-cell therapy, one of the most exciting advances in cancer treatment. "They took my brother's T-cells and trained them in a lab to fight cancer cells, and then they put them back into my body," said Molly, now cancer-free and grateful for the chance to return to things that she loves, like competitive dancing.

Molly was one of three patients featured in the innovation-focused video at this year's Children's Ball. The event, themed "Pioneering the Future," raised \$3 million and highlighted the impact philanthropy has in developing new treatments for patients like Molly.

*To watch the video and learn more about how innovation and technology are helping children like Molly, visit [ChildrensNational.org/PioneeringTheFuture](http://ChildrensNational.org/PioneeringTheFuture).*



## Seven Marathons, Seven Continents, Seven Days: One Cause

From Antarctica to Dubai to Miami (and every continent in between), Jonathan Terrell, a member of the Corporate Advisory Council at Children's National, is racing for kids with mental health needs. In January 2018, Terrell is competing in the World Marathon Challenge—running seven marathons, across all seven continents, in seven days—to raise awareness and money for pediatric mental health.

"Mental health is a subject close to my heart," the longtime marathoner said. "I spent several years working in psychiatric institutions, gaining firsthand experience caring for people who struggled with mental illness. After learning about the vision Children's National has for improving the diagnosis and treatment of mental health issues, I knew that would become my cause."

Terrell's goal is to raise \$1 million to meet several immediate needs to improve psychiatric facilities and services at Children's National, including a special sensory room for children with autism, equipment for a gym, and the ability for patients to meaningfully continue their education in an appropriately equipped classroom.

*Visit [TakeTheRisk.run](http://TakeTheRisk.run) to learn more about Terrell's efforts or donate to the cause.*





## Students Raise More than \$1 Million for Children's National

More than 3,000 University of Maryland students raised a record \$1,001,394 at the eighth annual Terp Thon dance marathon. Terp Thon broke the million-dollar fundraising goal faster than any of the other 300 schools raising money for Children's Miracle Network hospitals and is now the ninth largest dance marathon program in the country.

The dance marathon culminated a year-long fundraising effort, with students staying on their feet from noon till midnight to symbolize the 12-hour shift of many Children's National nurses, doctors, and staff members. Fifteen former Children's National patients took the stage at Terp Thon to share their story and inspire the participants. Overall, the students raised more than \$164,000 on the day of the dance marathon for patients and families at Children's National, pushing their total over the million-dollar mark.



Kaiwei Hsu, Terp Thon's 2016-17 executive director said, "In only its eighth year, Terp Thon has made huge strides locally and nationally, and it is a privilege to stand for these families. We are committed and excited to continue fundraising for Children's National!"

In addition to University of Maryland's dance marathon, students at American University, George Washington University, Marymount University, St. Mary's College of Maryland, and McLean High School also raised more than \$200,000 for Children's National through the dance marathon program.

## Child Finds Creative Outlet to Seek Cure for Mitochondrial Diseases

O'Rian Jolley dreams of one day entering the Coast Guard and joining his dad as an active member of the military. The 11-year-old currently has several medical obstacles, including mitochondrial diseases of the brain, hydrocephaly, and diseases of the esophagus, but he's not letting those stand in his way. He's seeking a cure for mitochondrial diseases.

O'Rian has raised nearly \$1,000 for research at Children's National by creating and selling paracord bracelets. His mother, Sarah, says there's no set price for O'Rian's Hope Bracelets, but some people have donated as much as \$100.

"It's really neat to watch him do this on his own," she said. "He wants to raise money so Children's National can find a cure for the diseases that affect him and many other kids."

It takes O'Rian four to five hours to create each bracelet, and he makes them in several colors.

Paracord bracelets are popular among military and law enforcement personnel, because the cording can be unwound in an emergency and has several survival applications.

*To learn more about this initiative or how your family can give back to Children's National, please contact Tammy Glasser, Grateful Family Program, at [TGlasser@childrensnational.org](mailto:TGlasser@childrensnational.org) or 301-565-8432.*



## New Rooftop Garden Enhances Healing for Patients, Families

When Melissa pushed her 2-year-old son Justice out onto Children's National's new rooftop garden, it was the first time in three months that he had been outdoors to feel the sun on his face and see the blue sky.

Justice was among the first patients to experience the Bunny Mellon Healing Garden dedicated to the First Ladies of the United States at a special preview in December 2016. Over the next several months, until Justice was discharged in March, Melissa took him out to the Healing Garden nearly every day. She says it was a relaxing escape from the rigors of the treatment he'd been receiving since October.

"He loves to lie down in the turf grass and look up at the clouds or the Children's National helicopter," Melissa said. "When his sisters come visit, we run around and play tag and hide-and-seek. He forgets that he's in the hospital when we're out there."

The Healing Garden was officially opened at a special April 28 event that honored donors, partners, and employees who made the garden possible and featured a visit from First Lady Melania Trump. The space provides an opportunity for patients and families—like Justice, his mother, and his sisters—to benefit from the healing power of nature. Research shows that time outdoors can help facilitate healing and positively influence a child's mental, physical, and social well-being.



Justice during his first visit to the Healing Garden.

**"He forgets that he's in the hospital when we're out there."**

The vision for a Healing Garden was inspired by a patient whose last wish was to go outside and the heroic efforts of her care team to make that wish come true. The garden was specially designed to be accessible for children using equipment like wheelchairs, crutches, and IV poles and is equipped

with power outlets for patients whose care requires machines.



First Lady Melania Trump, hospital leadership, and top garden supporters cut the ribbon on the new space.



Andy and Heather Florance with their sons, Matthew and Christopher



## What Does the Healing Garden Mean to Kids?

"When I visit the garden, it awakens my senses, and it fills my spirit with peace, joy, and hope. Thank you to all who have worked to bring the garden to life."

"When I was at Children's National, the garden wasn't open, so I looked forward to a walk to the cafeteria or a walk to the atrium. If kids have the opportunity to walk outside and just refresh, it will really help their spirits."

"It's fun to go outside and run around and play. Usually, you can't really do that at a hospital."

## Who Made It Possible

The Bunny Mellon Healing Garden was a labor of love for numerous people—donors, Children's National employees, and other partners—over several years. Some of the key players:

- Heather and Andy Florance, co-founders of the Healing Garden. In addition to their personal gift, Andy engaged employees and board members of his company CoStar Group to raise the initial funding.
- The Gerard B. Lambert Foundation and the Lloyd family, who donated \$5 million from the estate of Rachel "Bunny" Lambert Mellon, for whom the garden is named.
- Perkins+Will, design architect.
- DAVIS Construction, general contractor.
- John Walsh, outreach coordinator for the Children's National Heart Institute, who helped connect Children's National with the Lloyd family.
- Honorary chairs Mrs. Michelle Obama, Mrs. Laura Bush, the Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, Mrs. Barbara Bush, the late Mrs. Nancy Reagan, and Mrs. Rosalynn Carter.
- Advisory Council members Susan Ford Bales, Julie Nixon Eisenhower, Caroline Kennedy, and Lynda Johnson Robb.
- First Ladies advisory group Debra Dunn, Heather Florance, Anita McBride, Liz Sears Smith, and Ann Stock.



Visit [ChildrensNational.org/HealingGarden](https://ChildrensNational.org/HealingGarden) to learn more about the garden and view photos.

## Experts in Child Protection and Critical Care Medicine Installed as

In May, Children's National dedicated two new endowed professorships in the areas of child and adolescent protection and critical care medicine. An endowed professorship is one of the highest honors that can be bestowed on a faculty member and helps to recruit and retain the brightest clinicians and researchers at Children's National.

Allison Jackson, MD, MPH, was named the inaugural Washington Children's Foundation Professor of Child and Adolescent Protection on May 11. The professorship will allow Dr. Jackson to dedicate her time to further advocating for vulnerable children and expanding education for providers and caregivers. She specializes in providing direct medical care to abused and neglected children and has expanded the center's reach to educate medical personnel and caregivers in recognizing the signs of abuse or neglect.

The professorship was funded by the Washington Children's Foundation, an organization that provides

assistance to nonprofit organizations and agencies that work with at-risk children in Washington, D.C.

On May 24, Michael Bell, MD, the new chief of critical care medicine at Children's National, was installed as the first DC Lawyers Care for Children Professor of Critical Care Medicine. Dr. Bell is a pioneer who built pediatric neuro-critical care programs at both Children's National and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. He is returning to Children's National after 10 years in Pittsburgh. In his new role, Dr. Bell will unite basic, clinical, translational, and outcomes research to inform new approaches and therapies and ensure that more intensive care patients have access to ground-breaking studies.

Dr. Bell's professorship was funded by the founders and sponsors of the DC Lawyers' Golf Classic, which has raised money for Children's National for 15 years.

## Board of Visitors Grants \$1.7 Million to Advance Immunotherapy and Epilepsy Care

The Board of Visitors of Children's National has awarded \$1.7 million in grants to support vital research for epilepsy and molecular and cellular immunotherapy.

Dr. Catherine Bollard, Chief of Allergy and Immunology, and Dr. Yang Liu, director of the Center for Cancer and Immunology Research, will use a \$1.5 million grant to support pilot research projects for new treatments for children with cancer, immune

disorders, and serious infections. Dr. William Gaillard, Division Chief of Epilepsy and Neurophysiology and Chief of Child Neurology, received a \$200,000 grant to support his work to enhance treatment opportunities for children with epilepsy through advanced imaging acquisition and analysis.

The Board of Visitors, which has supported Children's National for nearly 150 years, raises money through its signature events—A Vintage

Affair and the sale of Care for Kids cards. In addition to supporting initiatives through its annual grants program, the Board of Visitors has provided major gifts for many other areas of Children's National.





# Endowed Professors

"Endowed professorships are vital to promoting excellence and scholarship at Children's National," said Mark Batshaw, MD, chief academic officer, EVP, and Physician-in-Chief. "Through their vision and generosity, the Washington Children's Foundation and DC Lawyers Care for Children are ensuring that Dr. Jackson, Dr. Bell, and future holders of these professorships will launch bold new initiatives that will help our young patients grow up stronger and achieve brighter futures."

To learn about creating an endowed professorship at Children's National, contact Pradnya Haldipur at [phaldipur2@childrensnational.org](mailto:phaldipur2@childrensnational.org).



Above:  
Dr. Jackson  
receives the  
white coat symbolizing  
her endowed professorship.

Right: Dr. Bell (second from left)  
with the founders of the DC  
Lawyers Golf Classic.

# Renovated Dental Clinic Improves Access and Care

On June 8, Children's National celebrated the opening of its newly redesigned and expanded Dental Clinic with a special ribbon-cutting ceremony. The renovation of the dental clinic, which will ensure more families have access to comprehensive oral health care, was made possible by a \$500,000 grant from the Children's Health Board, which celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2016.



The clinic's overhaul includes doubling the size of the patient waiting room; expanding access areas to accommodate

wheelchairs, walkers, and hospital beds; and updating the clinic's technology. Digital displays in each treatment room allow the care team to pull up patient health records and demonstrate procedures for parents and patients. New equipment includes a portable X-ray machine and a soft tissue laser. The grant will also cover education services and will enable the Pediatric Dental Residency Program to accept more candidates.

"With these critical enhancements, we're able to increase the number of patients we can see, increase the number of procedures we can do, and expand the scope of services we provide," said Dr. Erik Scheifele, DMD, chief of the Division of Oral Health at Children's National. "I can't thank the Children's Health Board enough for supporting the Dental Clinic and the children we serve."

## NEWS OF NOTE

### RACE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Lace up your shoes and join Children's National at the fifth annual Race for Every Child in downtown Washington, DC, on Saturday, Oct. 21. The 5K run/walk and Kids Dash rally thousands of community members to support the hospital that helps kids grow up stronger. Visit [RaceForEveryChild.org](http://RaceForEveryChild.org) and sign up today!



race FOR  
everychild  
The finish line is just the beginning.

### CHILDREN'S NATIONAL, GW RECEIVE \$24 MILLION NIH CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE AWARD

The National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences at the NIH has awarded Children's National, in partnership with George Washington University, a Clinical and Translational Science Award. The grant underwrites the existing CTSI-CN and provides funding that is essential to continuing the collaborative, pediatric-focused translational research occurring at Children's and GW.

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## U.S. News & World Report Names Children's National to Honor Roll, Ranks Neonatology #1

Children's National was named to the prestigious Honor Roll as one of the top 10 pediatric hospitals in the country in *U.S. News & World Report* 2017-18 Best Children's Hospitals. U.S. News also ranked the neonatology program at Children's National number one—the best among more than 1,500 neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) across the country.

Children's National was ranked in every specialty for the seventh time. In addition to achieving the #1 rank in Neonatology, four other Children's National services ranked in the Top 10: Cancer (#7), Neurology and Neurosurgery (#9), Orthopedics (#9) and Nephrology (#10).

These rankings and the hospital's place on the Honor Roll reflect the high level of interdisciplinary care provided at Children's National. Programs like our top-ranked NICU rely on the expertise of many specialties— including cardiology, neurology, surgery, and, of course, our Fetal Medicine Institute—to provide its smallest patients with the best clinical care and research.

*Read more about this year's Best Children's Hospital rankings at [ChildrensNational.org/USNews](http://ChildrensNational.org/USNews).*



## Children's National Launches Rare Disease Institute

Children's National recently launched the Rare Disease Institute, the first center for excellence in the United States that is focused on clinical care for rare diseases. The Institute will combine care and research to improve the life span and quality of life for children with rare diseases, which affect an estimated one in 10 Americans. About 80 percent of those conditions are genetically based.

"One of the chief challenges of 21st-century pediatric medicine is our continued inability to provide more help to children born with rare genetic diseases," says Dr. Marshall Summar, chief of genetics and metabolism and leader of the Institute. "Collectively, these conditions impact one out of every 10 Americans and account for up to 40 percent of pediatric medical expenses." Dr. Summar adds that patients and their families go an average of seven years before receiving a correct diagnosis. "Even upon diagnosis," he said, "treatment options remain scarce and a third of patients will die before their fifth birthday. Our goal is to change this trend."