



## Early Impact: Delivering on the Promise of Lurie Children's

On September 5, 2007, Children's Memorial Hospital President and CEO Patrick M. Magoon stood in front of a packed crowd in the hospital's Bigler Auditorium to make an historic announcement: Philanthropist Ann Lurie had pledged a \$100 million transformational gift to help fund Children's new facility in downtown Chicago, which would be named Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. It was a gift that gave critical momentum in the early years of the hospital's major fundraising initiative, *Heroes for Life: Campaign for Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago*, and one that promised to make a lasting impact on the health of children in Chicago and beyond.

Over the next several years, the campaign was generously embraced by the Chicago community, including individual, corporate and foundation donors. To date, more than 250,000 donors have contributed to the *Heroes for Life* campaign, which has raised more than \$600 million, and will continue to raise additional critical funds for the hospital before the campaign's completion in December 2012.

*Regenstein Cardiac Care Unit nurse Rebecca Misch, RN, comforts one of the infants she cares for.*

***Neonatal Intensive Care Unit nurse Sharon Haskell, RN, says the quieter atmosphere at Lurie Children's has allowed at least one patient to be discharged earlier. "The lower noise levels allowed the baby to sleep better," she says. "At Children's Memorial, several babies shared each room."***

### The milestone move

A little less than five years later, Lurie Children's opened its doors on June 9, 2012. "Move Day" brought intense public and media interest as 127 sick and fragile patients were safely transported by ambulance from Children's Memorial to the new hospital three and a half miles away. It was a move that had been painstakingly mapped out and rehearsed in real and virtual practice runs during the years before the move. More than 4,000 hospital staff and employees received continuing "Moment One Readiness" training to enable them to "hit the ground running." For the teams that would transport and then care for their young charges at the new hospital, training entailed a series of rehearsals and "mock move" drills, with patient safety always the number one priority.

It was also a day of celebration for the medical staff of the hospital – one of only 12 pediatric institutions nationwide to qualify for the honor roll in the 2012-13 *U.S. News & World Report* Best Children's Hospitals rankings. They would finally have the opportunity to practice the world-class patient care they are known for in a fittingly state-of-the-art facility, and to begin a new journey of care and discovery.

### Delivering on the promise begins

Lurie Children's has only been open a few months, but delivery on its promise has already started. The medical and nursing staff reports numerous examples illustrating the improved care afforded by our new facility, and patients and their families have issued glowing reviews of the new hospital.

On June 9, the Kenneth and Anne Griffin Emergency Care Center received its first patient literally minutes after the hospital opened at 6 a.m. Within six weeks, some 473 children had been transported by ambulance to Lurie Children's – 178 of them by the hospital's Children's Service Board Emergency Transport Team. In that same period, five were transported by air, arriving via the hospital's rooftop helipad.

According to Steven Krug, MD, head, Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine, the amount of time it takes for a patient to see a doctor has been reduced to a "best practice low," and length of stay has also been reduced. He attributes the improvements, in part, to a more efficient patient triage system and bed placement process.

"The families love our new facility and our exam rooms," says Dr. Krug. "Whenever possible, the technology and procedures are coming to the patient, rather than the other way around. We've seen a higher acuity level since Lurie Children's opened, and this has allowed us to really test our trauma rooms and the procedure rooms. These rooms offer the latest monitoring technology and are large enough to support the needs of the entire acute response team in the delivery of care."

Children with epilepsy have also benefitted from the hospital's expanded facilities. Douglas Nordli, MD, head of the Epilepsy Center, reports that approximately 35 appointments are being scheduled each week in Lurie Children's Epilepsy Monitoring Unit, compared with an average of 25 per week at the old facility. He says the number of epilepsy-related surgeries has increased as well.

"The hospital's new clinical research unit has been a great resource for our research efforts," says Dr. Nordli, the Lorna S. and James P. Langdon Chair of Pediatric Epilepsy. "For example, we are using the unit to support patients who are enrolled in a prominent national study examining whether fever-related seizures place children at increased risk of brain damage. We also plan to use the unit for several other upcoming pharmaceutical industry studies. Also, the proximity to Northwestern

Memorial Hospital is allowing us to build strong relationships with our adult epilepsy counterparts. Northwestern Memorial fellows are now attending the epilepsy program's weekly team meetings where patient cases are discussed."

### Collaborations with campus partners

In fact, a major factor in the decision to build Lurie Children's in the Streeterville community was the site on the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine medical campus, close to Northwestern Memorial, Prentice Women's Hospital and the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. The location was touted as a benefit for clinical and research collaborations with adult medicine colleagues.

Like Dr. Nordli, Morris Kletzel, MD, head, Division of Pediatric Hematology, Oncology and Stem Cell Transplantation, says these benefits are already being felt.

"For example, shortly after the new hospital opened, we presented the case of a patient with melanoma at our Tumor Board Meeting," says Dr. Kletzel, who is also Director of the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders and the Meryl Suzanne Weiss Endowed Professor. "Melanoma, or skin cancer, is a very rare disease in pediatric patients, but is increasing in this population. Members of the melanoma team at Northwestern Memorial came to our meeting, and

they contributed some very valuable suggestions to our discussion on how best to treat this particular patient. At the old hospital, their presence would have been unlikely because of the distances involved."

Nearly five years after the announcement of the Lurie gift, Patrick Magoon says the hospital has completed the first phase of its long-term goal by providing Chicago with a world-class pediatric hospital.

"The first step was to build this outstanding facility for the children and families of Chicago," he says. "Now it is time for us to deliver on the promise of providing world-class care in this family-centered, healing environment. To do that, we are dedicated to attracting and retaining the best minds in pediatric medicine and science to take patient care and research to an even higher level, as we usher in a new era for the improved health of children."

*The amount of time it takes for a patient to see a doctor in the Emergency Department has been reduced to a "best practice low," and length of stay has also been reduced.*



A young patient is examined in the Kenneth and Anne Griffin Emergency Care Center by (from left to right): Parul Patel, MD; Lucy Duethman, RN; Karyn Harper, RN; and Peggy Gatsinos, MD. Since Lurie Children's opened, the Griffin Emergency Care Center is seeing children that are more critically ill or injured overall than were seen at Children's Memorial.