

HEROES

THE MAGAZINE OF CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL NEW ORLEANS | FEBRUARY 2019



Building
Our
Future



Audubon Zoo Lights,
the latest partnership with
Children's Hospital
New Orleans, transformed
the Zoo into a magical,
glowing holiday wonderland.



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JOHN R. NICKENS IV
PRESIDENT AND CEO

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Foreword

BY JOHN R. NICKENS IV, PRESIDENT AND CEO

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EDITOR
Alicia Franck,
Vice President of Development

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Lynnsey Belsome,
Director of Donor Relations and Stewardship

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Frank Aymami
Jackson Hill
Mike Palumbo

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Tiffany Accousti
Lynnsey Belsome
Richard Campanella
Leslie Cardé
Debbie Grant
Mary Mouton
Mike Strecker

EDITORIAL BOARD
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CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER
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Children's Hospital's mission is to provide comprehensive pediatric healthcare which recognizes the special needs of children through excellence and the continuous improvement of patient care, education, research, child advocacy and management.

200 Henry Clay Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70118
www.chnola.org

Welcome to the first edition of the Children's Hospital New Orleans magazine – *HEROES*. In many ways, 2018 was a foundational year for Children's Hospital. Investments in new technology, facilities and talent have characterized this past year, and we thought it only appropriate to also refresh our *Small World* magazine. After all, there is nothing small about the \$300 million commitment our Board of Trustees has made to our hospital and the future of pediatric healthcare in Louisiana and the Gulf South. We are very much thinking BIG at Children's.

In this issue you will find inspiring stories of the patient-heroes that we are fortunate to serve and the Children's "Sidekicks" that care for them. You'll also learn more about the transformation of our Uptown campus and the enhancements we're introducing to make it easier for patients and families to access our services.

The Hogs House Family Center is a signature offering that provides an opportunity for rest and respite for families who travel to New Orleans for care from across the state and region. We're also making big investments in diagnostic and therapeutic equipment so that our providers will have the latest technology available to them when treating our region's most vulnerable patients – our kids! Children's new Behavioral Health Center will amplify the way we are proactively addressing child mental and behavioral health issues – a concern the country's top children's hospitals have struggled to adequately address.

You will also read about our important work in the community and the partnerships we are forging to play an active role in influencing the social determinants of children's health. Earlier this year, a study by Save the Children ranked Louisiana #50 out of 50 states evaluated for child well-being. As the leader of an



organization dedicated to bettering health outcomes for kids, I find that completely unacceptable. We must do better. Children's "Let's Talk About Kids" initiative and our partnership with the Audubon Zoo are important steps toward bringing awareness to the challenges our communities face related to child health. We are calling on leaders from across the region to join us in this important fight to be #50NoMore.

In some ways, this issue of *HEROES* magazine is a celebration of 2018. But we also encourage you to see it as a preview of our future. We believe a children's hospital should be more than a place that simply heals sick children. Rather, we want to create environments of health, so that all children have the opportunity to thrive and reach their highest potential. We invite you to join us on this journey.

Exciting times are ahead!

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND AUDUBON ZOO SHARE COMMON GROUND

For the past 30 years, Children's Hospital New Orleans and Audubon Zoo have worked together to share a beloved corner of Uptown New Orleans with children and families. Now, the two organizations are developing even more experiences.

Capitalizing on the love that children have for animals, from creepy crawlies to adorable and cuddly zoo residents, Children's Hospital and the Zoo are partnering on even more events, wildlife viewing and venues for therapy and socializing.

Boo at the Zoo has been a long-standing successful fundraiser for both organizations, and a new partnership, Audubon Zoo Lights, debuted this holiday season.

"Children's Hospital has enjoyed a long tradition of celebrating families with Boo at the Zoo and, most recently, our participation in Mother's Day at Audubon Zoo," said John R. Nickens IV, president and CEO of Children's. "Audubon Zoo Lights presented by Children's Hospital brought more families together to enjoy another of our great city's treasures."

Audubon Zoo Lights transformed the Zoo into a wild, glowing wonderland. The event featured animal-themed light displays, holiday story times and performances, family-friendly activities and a Holiday Marketplace.

While the joint holiday events bring joy and comfort to patients and families alike, Children's partnership with the Zoo doesn't stop there. Patients enjoy monthly visits from Audubon's ZOOMobile and Bugmobile, and when personal visits are over, the in-house zoo television channel provides animal-themed entertainment and education. And at the right time of day, giraffes in their neighboring habitat can be spotted from the windows of the patients' rooms in the West Tower.

"We are making the most of a unique opportunity for two storied organizations to bring light and hope to so many families in our region. We are so grateful for the partnership of Audubon Zoo in creating a lovely respite and beautiful memories for our Children's Hospital patients," said Lynnsey Belsome, Children's director of Donor Relations and Stewardship. "We are taking this corner of Uptown and making it a family-friendly destination."



Mother's Day Festivities and Boo at the Zoo.

TALKING KIDS INTO A HEALTHY FUTURE

The latest weapon against childhood disease that Children's Hospital New Orleans is using wasn't developed in a lab; instead, it relies on the power of communication.

Let's Talk About Kids is a series of community conversations that focus on the well-being of children in Louisiana and the region. The concept for the program originated within the leadership of the hospital, whose members are determined to move Louisiana from dead last among states where it's safe to be a child, and who see promoting wellness and early childhood development as a critical part of the hospital's mission. "Our focus at Children's Hospital is on care for the whole child and the whole family. We initiated Let's Talk About Kids as a neutral convening opportunity of leaders across the region committed to the overall well-being of our region's children and families," said Alicia Franck, vice president of Development at Children's.

The first program in the series is part of

a national initiative called Talking Is Teaching, which helps parents recognize the power they have to increase their child's vocabulary and stimulate their brain through simple, everyday activities like talking, reading and singing.

"With half of all children in Louisiana lagging their peers in essential language, reading and social-emotional skills, the need for early intervention is becoming increasingly necessary," said Barbara LeBlanc, director of the Parenting Center at Children's.

Talking Is Teaching is part of the Clinton Foundation's Too Small to Fail initiative and is being implemented through a partnership that includes Children's, the City of New Orleans Health Department and Healthy Start New Orleans. The Kohl's Cares Foundation is providing the funding through a \$150,000 grant to the hospital's Parenting Center.

"This campaign equips parents and caregivers with resources needed to help boost early brain development and language skills," said New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell who, with Clinton Foundation Vice Chair Chelsea Clinton, visited Children's in June to announce the launch. "We remain committed to the success of our youth, and we look forward to the impact of this program on the lives of children across New Orleans."

BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

In 2018 the Board of Trustees added a dynamic civic leader and an esteemed Louisiana pediatrician to its membership.

Walton Goldring is active in several community groups in New Orleans, and she currently serves on the boards of local and national non-profit organizations. Her professional background includes stints in the hospitality industry in hotels and restaurants.

A graduate of Bard College in New York, she also attended and graduated programs of Le Cordon Bleu Culinary Schools in London and Paris and it is her training and professional expertise that brought her to New Orleans in 2006 when she arrived to manage a luxury bed and breakfast.

The mother of two young boys, Goldring first became acquainted with Children's Hospital when one of her sons had his first fall. That initial visit has been followed by numerous others, and because of them Goldring easily puts herself in the shoes of other parents. "I want people who have children in the hospital to be afforded the best care available during what is always a stressful time, and I know that is what they receive at Children's."

"My dear friend Fran Villere approached me about serving on the Children's Hospital board several months ago. My life is very busy now with my children and other endeavors — but Fran told me, 'This board is like no other you could serve on. Its magical. I promise, you will feel like you can make a difference. You need to do this.' and so I told her I'd be honored." Goldring



Pictured L to R: Anthony Recasner, Ph.D., chair, Children's Hospital Board of Trustees; Chelsea Clinton, vice chair, The Clinton Foundation; Mayor LaToya Cantrell; John R. Nickens IV, president & CEO Children's Hospital

Children's Hospital Partners with Tulane University School of Medicine

Late last year, Children's Hospital New Orleans entered into an agreement to collaborate with the Tulane University School of Medicine on clinical, academic and research activities. Children's Hospital has long enjoyed a strong academic partnership with LSU Health New Orleans, and the Tulane agreement brings the two major pediatric academic medical programs in the state — those of LSU and Tulane — under one roof at Children's.

"The prospect of these three great Louisiana institutions working together to improve health outcomes for children is compelling," said Jonathan Brouk, assistant vice president, Strategic Planning and Business Analytics at Children's. "Our communities face serious challenges when it comes to the health and well-being of kids, and addressing these issues will require new and innovative ways of thinking. We look forward to partnering with Tulane and LSU to address this important cause."

Through this agreement, Tulane physicians will begin seeing pediatric patients at the Children's Uptown campus and its network of satellite specialty clinics across the region. The parties will collaborate on growth opportunities to ensure that children across the state of Louisiana have access to high-quality pediatric healthcare services.

"This affiliation with the Tulane University School of Medicine affirms that Children's Hospital is the premier pediatric healthcare destination in our region," said John R. Nickens IV, president and CEO of Children's. "We are thrilled to welcome the well-known pediatric academic program at Tulane to the already vibrant academic community we enjoy at Children's with LSU Health New Orleans."



WALTON
GOLDRING



HENRY
PELTIER, MD

is enthusiastic about the mission of the hospital "to be the best of the best" and she hopes to help accomplish that by using her viewpoint as a parent who has first-hand experience with the hospital.

Henry Peltier, MD, is a pediatrician at The Center for Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine in Thibodaux, LA. He completed his undergraduate work at LSU and received his medical degree from LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans. He did his residency in pediatrics at Children's Hospital of Alabama in Birmingham.

A board-certified pediatrician, he has been referring patients to Children's for decades because "it's always had a great reputation, they have a multitude of specialties and they always take good care of our patients," he says.

Dr. Peltier is a past president of the LSU Medical Alumni Board and is a founding member of the Bayou Country Children's Museum in Thibodaux.

As a new member of the Board, he is committed to helping the leadership at Children's reach their ambitious goals. "There are big things going on at the hospital, led by the energetic people on staff. They are committed to taking the hospital to the next level, and I am excited to be part of that effort," he says.



Pictured L to R: John R. Nickens IV, president & CEO Children's Hospital; Nathan Hubbell general manager Tulane IMG Sports Marketing, Dr. Samir El-Dahr chair of Pediatrics at Tulane University Medical School

The parties also plan to convert subspecialty clinics located on the Tulane Lakeside Hospital campus to Children's clinics. "Families who take their children to Tulane pediatricians for outpatient clinic services in Metairie and other clinic locations will be able to continue to do so. They will be seen by the same Tulane University physicians and will receive the same level of quality care they have come to expect from Tulane Pediatrics," said Dr. Samir El-Dahr, chair of Pediatrics at Tulane University School of Medicine.

With more than \$5 million annually in federally funded pediatric research, Tulane University School of Medicine is one of the largest pediatric research organizations in the state. Collaborating with Tulane will give Children's the opportunity to expand clinical research in pediatrics, giving families greater access to the latest innovations in medicine. The addition of new researchers and new pediatric learners will require investment in infrastructure to support Children's expanded academic scope, and both the Tulane and LSU programs are expected to benefit from these new capabilities.

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER

In August 2018 Children's Hospital New Orleans broke ground on a new Behavioral Health Center on the hospital's State Street campus. With a total of 51 beds, it will provide state-of-the-art facilities and enable the hospital to continue its commitment to offer the very best in behavioral health treatment for children and adolescents.

"Children's hospitals across the nation are struggling to meet the demands of child and adolescent behavioral health," said Jamie Wiggins, senior vice president and chief nursing officer of Children's Hospital. "When construction is complete, what Children's Hospital in New Orleans will offer in terms of behavioral health will be among the best in the entire nation, completely state-of-the-art, making us one of a few industry leaders in terms of this type of care."

The current 39-bed Behavioral Health Center is located on the hospital's Calhoun Campus and offers acute inpatient treatment. Patients admitted to the program are experiencing acute psychiatric and emotional symptoms that are interfering with their ability to function at home, school and in their social environments. Patients are treated in a safe and carefully structured environment by

a multidisciplinary team of child and adolescent psychiatrists, pediatricians, psychiatric nurses, psychologists, social workers, certified recreational therapists and mental health technicians.

"This facility will allow us to branch out in a vast manner of exciting and innovative ways," said Andrew Williams, MD, director of Psychiatry at Children's and medical director of the acute behavioral health hospital.

"Our goal is to create a truly integrated continuum of care which not only expands our inpatient program, but includes outpatient services and substance abuse treatment, as well as improved support for autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders. Our focus will be on collaboration with the growing network of LCMC hospitals, regional primary care and specialist providers, schools and community programs to develop and support an integrated network of unsurpassed mental healthcare resources for the Gulf South," added Dr. Williams.

The New Orleans architecture firm Fernandez+Johnson designed the 70,000 sq. ft, five-story structure, which honors the height and historical restrictions of the area.

The Topping Out ceremony for the Behavioral Health Center held January 2019.





CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL



SUPERHERO

Hospital Embraces Sidekick Campaign

Last Spring, Children's Hospital New Orleans (CHNOLA) debuted its spring fundraising campaign with the theme "Every Superhero Needs A Sidekick." The launch coincided with the celebration of National Superhero Day on April 28. The goal was to show the patients as strong, brave and resilient – just like Superheroes – and to have some fun showing doctors, nurses, parents and siblings as Sidekicks who stand with them.

"We did some really creative things – doctors and nurses wore Sidekick masks for a video, life-sized cutouts were made of patient Superheroes with their doctor Sidekicks, a special Sidekick pin was created, and then things just took off," said Kelley Adamec, director of Annual Giving. "We didn't anticipate that the idea of being a Sidekick would get so much traction – it has really become how we see our work."

The video developed for the campaign is now shown at each Children's Hospital new hire orientation.

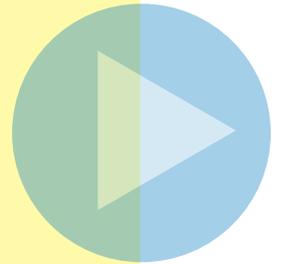
"Being able to share this heartfelt video has been incredibly rewarding," said Rachel Perkins, Human Resources manager. "It shows that we support our brave patients and showcases how honored we are to be part of the CHNOLA team. In just a few short minutes, this amazing video reminds us that we are all on this journey together to help kids get better."

To continue the theme, every patient admitted to the hospital is welcomed with an inspiring and comforting message.

"Hospitalizations can be scary," said Lisa Labat, RN, BSN, MBA, senior director of Acute Care Services. "We recognize the courage and superpowers of each newly admitted Superhero with a CHNOLA custom-made Superhero Balloon and Welcome Card."

Children's staff have especially embraced the idea of being Sidekicks for patients.

"The nursing division is proud to be Sidekicks," said Evelyn Frieberg, RN, BSN, MSHCM, senior director of Peri-Operative Services. "We want the families of all our Superheroes to know: Whatever happens, we will take care of them!"





Building Our Future



The towering cranes along the skyline of Henry Clay Avenue at the Mississippi River can be seen as a beacon of hope, as the city witnesses a major metamorphosis of the go-to pediatric facility in the state, Children’s Hospital New Orleans (CHNOLA).

The vision for this growth was more than a decade in the making: The Board of Children’s Hospital foresaw a campus that could compare with any of the leading children’s hospitals across the U.S. But it was years – including one with a major hurricane – before a series of architectural renderings unfolded.

With the project green-lighted in 2016 and a ground-breaking in early 2017, the charge forward is now being led by the CEO of just a year, former Texas Children’s Hospital executive John R. Nickens IV, who brings three decades of healthcare experience to the table.



A beautiful glass-enclosed sky bridge connects the 600-car parking garage with the welcoming light-filled “living room” of the hospital, the Betty & Hank Lauricella Pavilion.

“What enticed me to come to CHNOLA,” responds Nickens, when asked why he took the job at Children’s Hospital, “was a chance to be transformational and impactful. I saw a hospital and a system with a history of providing excellent care ready to be innovative and bold. I saw physicians and nurses wanting to do something more than episodically healing sick children. I saw a place ready for the future, where a pediatric hospital is creating an environment of health for children and families. I saw an opportunity to use my skills and experience to tell that story and to lead an effort to have that recognized throughout the country.

“If you look at the enthusiasm around, for instance, the Saints, or the joy expressed at Mardi Gras, you can see there’s a passion in New Orleans for what’s beloved, and we need our community to channel that energy into the

care of our children. I wanted to be a part of that change.”

That change means a \$300 million investment that will eventually increase the overall hospital footprint by 235,000 square feet. Making room for this massive overhaul meant expanding its land base, and in 2014 Children’s Hospital acquired property along the Tchoupitoulas corridor between State Street and Henry Clay Avenue, land that was once the site of the former New Orleans Adolescent Hospital. The plans call for adaptive reuse of existing buildings for family housing and a community auditorium, all enhanced by gardens and plenty of green space, so that patients and families are in a space that doesn’t feel like a typical hospital.

The revamping of the hospital will come in stages. The first stage was completed in October 2018 and involved the opening of a 600-space

parking garage, which connects via a glass-enclosed skybridge to the grand, new, light-filled Betty & Hank Lauricella Pavilion, the dynamic two-story outpatient clinic entrance provided by a generous donation from Betty Lauricella. The Lauricella Pavilion comes with special touches like interactive game stations for kids and even incorporates an area with a lowered ceiling and noise-reducing acoustics, to provide a place of peace and comfort to children on the autism spectrum.

“The Lauricella Pavilion really is our new ‘living room.’ It is designed to welcome all of the children who come here, including those with special needs,” says Matthew Schaefer, senior vice president and COO of Children’s. “There will be other areas of the hospital that will encourage family life, like the outdoor gardens, the chapel, and our

Stage One

PARKING GARAGE, HOGS HOUSE, LAURICELLA PAVILION AND SKYBRIDGE OPEN

January 2017
CHNOLA BREAKS GROUND

Campus construction begins on the Children’s Hospital \$300 million transformation and expansion initiative.

April 2018
PARKING GARAGE OPENS

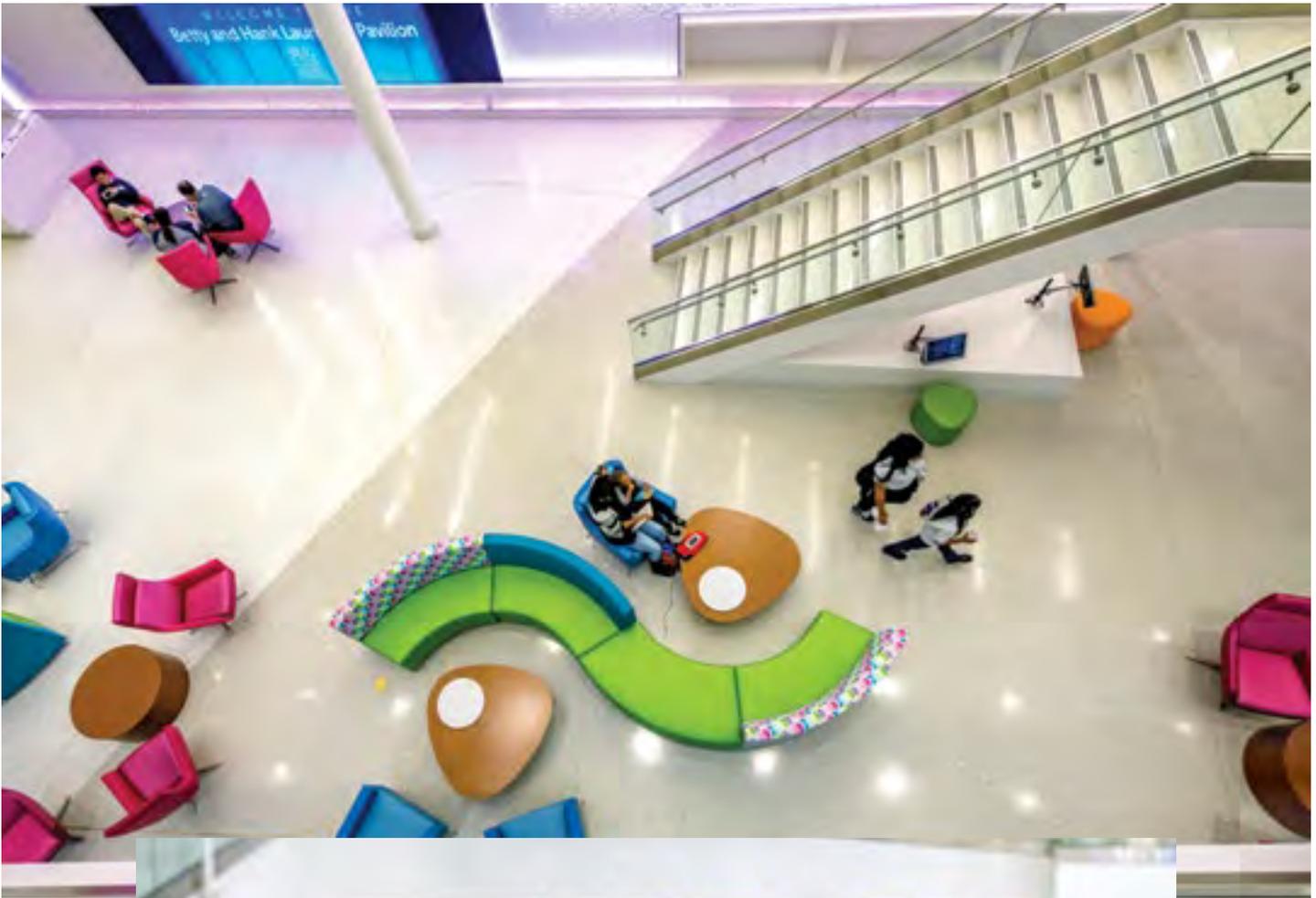
New garage adds 600 public parking spaces for patients, families and visitors.

April 2018
EMERGENCY AMBULANCE BAY MOVES

The temporary covered ambulance bay and entrance in front of the hospital allow easier navigation and access for emergency cases.

September 2018
HOGS HOUSE FAMILY CENTER OPENS

New family housing unit on campus provides rest and respite for families of patients.



October 2018
LAURICELLA PAVILION
AND SKYBRIDGE OPEN

New skybridge connects parking garage to pavilion and outpatient registration center providing added convenience and access.

Stage Two

EMERGENCY CENTER EXPANDS; CRITICAL CARE, CANCER, AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTERS OPEN

Summer 2019
EXPANDED
AMBULATORY
SUBSPECIALTY
CLINICS OPEN

Subspecialty clinics to include neurosciences and otolaryngology.

Fall 2019
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
CENTER OPENS

New 51-bed facility exclusively dedicated to meet the mental healthcare needs of children and adolescents in crisis.

Spring 2020
NEW HOSPITAL
CAFÉ OPENS

New café and expanded space along with nutritious dining options better accommodate the needs of patrons.

expanded Child Life Center, where patients and their siblings can play together in an age-appropriate setting.

“We want Children’s Hospital to automatically come to mind when people think of best-in-class healthcare for kids, because we’re treating more than illnesses here...we’re taking care of entire families,” adds Schaefer.

Being family-friendly is what it’s all about. At the end of September, the magnificent Hogs House (built with monies donated by Hogs For the Cause, which hosts an annual fundraiser that benefits families of children with brain cancer) opened its doors on the State Street campus, providing 13 family suites and beautiful communal spaces with a boutique-hotel feel, ready to accommodate out-of-town families who have children in the hospital (see related story on page 14). And this is just the beginning of the transformation, which will be completed by the end of 2021, and will see strategic changes geared to the hospital’s growing medical and surgical programs.

“Children’s Hospital has grown to really focus on the gamut of care for all children, and we have designed the expansion to reflect that growth,” says Burn Sears, chief architect on the project and a senior project director from EYP; he’s based in their Atlanta office.

A new four-story tower is the next stage of construction, enabling Children’s to expand its multi-specialty programs and outpatient services. “The tower will link the current hospital and outpatient clinic, connecting areas that provide complex care in a way that makes sense and allows room for future growth,” says Schaefer.

The main artery of the hospital, the first floor will feature an inviting, two-story, glass-enclosed corridor that will house an expanded gift shop and cafeteria and will lead to the expanded Emergency Department. The rest of the tower – the heart of the master plan – will be the new home for cardiac intensive care, and a new surgery center that can accommodate

state-of-the-art equipment, including innovative robotic surgical care and telemedicine options.

Advanced cutting-edge technology, with new diagnostic imaging equipment, is certainly part of the end game. So, too, is giving the trained medical professionals the space needed to perform at optimal levels.

“We want the facility of Children’s Hospital to equal the exceptional care we provide,” says new Chief Medical Officer George Bisset III, a pediatric radiologist himself.

“Our new Behavioral Health Center will offer expanded outpatient services and will house our large Psychology and Psychiatry teams. In addition, we will have 51 inpatient beds. Most children’s hospitals don’t have the depth that we have in behavioral health, and we are certainly distinctive with our inpatient capabilities. Coming soon are new cardiac catheterization labs, and our expanded Heart Center for treating congenital heart disease,” he says.

“We are starting our liver transplant program again in partnership with Tulane, and we will be doing both liver and kidney transplants. Kids are not little adults. All our specialists are pediatric-trained. That makes us special.”

Children’s Hospital had almost 200,000 patient encounters in 2018, and with the facility’s ever-continuing expansion, it will be able to handle more specialized cases from throughout the Gulf South region and beyond.

“We are expanding strategically – focusing on enhanced spaces for specialized service lines – and we are expanding our reach,” adds Benjamin Whitworth, assistant vice president, Hospital Operations. “Our 24/7 helicopter transport gives us the ability to get kids across the region here fast. And once they are here, kids will be in new private rooms that permit their parents to stay with them and to interact with doctors and nurses in the planning of their child’s care protocol.

“For the last 60 years we have expanded

where we could, when we needed, without the luxury of a master plan for our campus. The 17 acres across Henry Clay Avenue have given us the opportunity to create the campus we want, and our kids need. The end product will be a well-planned campus, built and organized to provide a seamless hospitable experience to kids and their families,” adds Whitworth.

The CHNOLA transformation is not limited to the hospital’s physical structure; the executive leadership and provider team is also blooming. “The innovative environment created by the expansion is attracting influential pediatric healthcare leaders from across the country to New Orleans. This influx of new energy combined with the wisdom of existing CHNOLA leaders promises powerful impact across the state,” says Nickens. And, as he puts it, the newbies see New Orleans through a different lens.

“New Orleans is unique among American cities. It has a European feel to it – a real community with a past and a present filled with stories and incredible characters. I have fallen in love with this culture. Yet I find it fascinating that in a place known for telling stories, we haven’t told ours. That’s going to change,” Nickens declares.

“I want this community – our hospital team, but most important, the families we serve – to know how spectacular this place is, and that this is a place they deserve. Think about it. In 2025 we will be 20 years away from Katrina. We’ll be five years out from a state-of-the-art facility with world-class providers. And we’ll be ranked among the top 20 pediatric hospitals in the country. Now that’ll be a great story to tell.”

Spring 2020

NEW TOWER OPENS

New tower enhancements include the addition of private patient rooms, expanded clinical space to facilitate seamless pre-operative, operative and post-operative care transitions, and state-of-the-art equipment.

Fall 2020

COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER OPENS

Expanded Center combines inpatient, outpatient and infusion services with all care provided in one location.

Fall 2020

EMERGENCY CENTER EXPANDS

Expanded 45-bed Emergency Center opens with a dedicated entrance and intake area, and separate behavioral health evaluation unit.

Stage Three

BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPED OUTDOOR GROUNDS, CHILD LIFE CENTER, AND A NEW MAIN COMMONS OPEN

Spring 2021

CAMPUS LANDSCAPE

Beautiful landscaped outdoor grounds offer more play space for children and a lush environment for respite and reflection for patients and families.



The Lauricella Pavilion comes with special touches like interactive game stations for kids and even incorporates an area with a lowered ceiling and noise-reducing acoustics, to provide a place of peace and comfort to children on the autism spectrum.

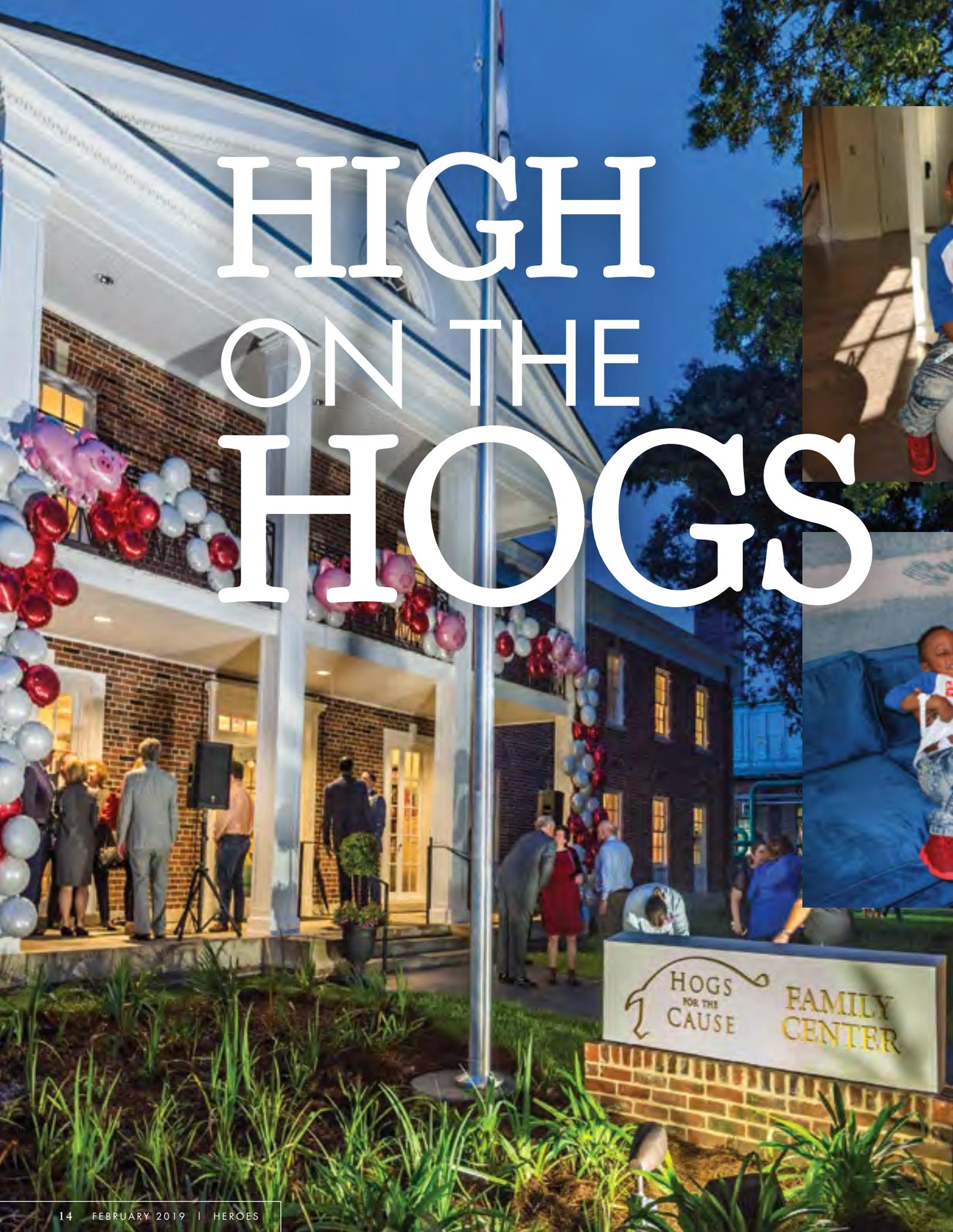


Summer 2021
CHILD LIFE CENTER OPENS
 Child Life Center features age-appropriate play rooms and family support services.

Fall 2021
NEW EXTERIOR PEDESTRIAN ENTRY OPENS
 The new drop-off circle serves as the new exterior pedestrian entry and exit for all patients and visitors.

December 2021
NEW MAIN COMMONS OPENS
 First-floor lobby and concourse transforms into a comfortable and engaging gathering space for patients, families and visitors.

HIGH ON THE HOGS





LEFT: The Grand Opening of the Hogs for the Cause Family Center on September 27, 2018.

TOP: Apollo enjoys some downtime in the Hogs House Playroom.

BELOW: Mom also gets to relax and have some recovery time while being able to stay close to Apollo.

Spending some time away from her son Apollo was the best way Kizzy Solomon could show her love for him. As the four-year-old boy was being prepped for surgery at Children’s Hospital New Orleans (CHNOLA), Mom was in a nearby operating room having her kidney removed so that it could be transplanted into Apollo, giving him a chance for a healthy life. Apollo was born with a congenital anomaly of the kidneys and urinary tract that required him to be on dialysis for nine hours a day.

After the surgery, Kizzy spent every one of the next 13 days glued to Apollo’s bedside. When she needed a quick shower or a change of clothes, she didn’t have to worry about making the 90-minute drive home to Fluker, Louisiana. Instead she headed to the Hogs House Family Center, CHNOLA’s new on-campus residence for patients’ families.

The 8,500 sq. ft. home-away-from-home was designed for families who travel from out of town to receive treatment at Children’s. Its addition is part of a massive campus expansion project that reflects a \$300 million investment in Children’s, as the hospital’s leadership continues its efforts to make it the regional destination of choice for pediatric patients.

Having her family residing nearby was an enormous convenience for Kizzy and the whole Solomon family. “I slept with Apollo every night in his hospital room while my mother and niece and two-year-old son slept at the Hogs House,” Kizzy explained. “It took a lot of stress off my mind knowing that they were there and that I could go back anytime to the residence for showers and meals.”

A 1920s townhouse on the site of a former military facility adjacent to the hospital has been transformed into the whimsically welcoming “Hogs House” thanks to a nearly \$2 million donation from Hogs for the Cause. The nonprofit has long supported pediatric services at Children’s from funds raised at its popular, large-scale barbecue competition and festival. The home’s decor is a “hog’s heaven” for children, with images of playful pigs and hogs adorning colorful walls and highlighting family areas throughout.

There are 13 family suites with private bathrooms in each, two common areas, lounges, kitchen spaces and a laundry room. The open design fosters a bonding experience for families staying under the same roof, where they can share stories of their children’s recovery and help each other – even if it’s just with a little moral support.

As guest services supervisor for the facility,

Thomas Mitchell finds himself wearing many hats. In addition to making sure guests are comfortable, he is continually mulling over and scheduling activities to help family members relax and have fun when they have a little downtime.

“It’s already hard enough for the parents to go through what they’re going through, and some of the siblings that are staying with us are a little bit too young to really understand what’s going on, so we give them some activities to ease their minds as well,” he said.

With that as their motivation, the staff made the most of the fall season and supervised pumpkin painting for Halloween as their first coordinated event for the kids. And even when there’s no holiday to celebrate, there’s plenty to occupy the children temporarily residing there. There is a ready supply of books and games. And for those children who simply want to go outside and play, a beautiful front lawn is a safe setting for supervised activities.

Apollo is making dramatic improvement every day and his energy levels are on the rise, a welcome challenge for Kizzy. The child’s physician, Dr. Isa F. Ashoor, pediatric nephrologist and assistant professor of Clinical Pediatrics at LSU Health New Orleans, said Apollo has received the best type of donor kidney a child can receive – one from their own parent.

National transplant statistics show that children in Apollo’s age group who receive kidney transplants tend to have the best outcomes. But a transplanted organ is always at risk of being rejected by the recipient’s immune system, so Apollo will need to take immunosuppressive medications for the rest of his life.

“Despite all the setbacks that can accompany kidney failure, Apollo has done really well, which is a testament to his family’s commitment to all of his complex medical, nutritional and developmental needs,” Dr. Ashoor said. “Given that track record, I have no doubt he will continue to thrive and do even better now after his kidney transplant.”

Apollo was discharged from the hospital two weeks after his surgery. The Solomon family will return for regular doctor’s appointments, and they will follow the usual protocols for kidney transplant patients. Apollo’s spirits are high and his appetite is good. For breakfast, his favorite food is pancakes and – what else? – bacon.

HEALING HEARTS FROM

Every now and then, there is a child from China in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at Children's Hospital New Orleans. Or perhaps it is a baby from Mongolia, Algeria or one of 30 other faraway countries. They come for lifesaving heart surgery performed by volunteer surgeons.

It is an international mission of goodwill facilitated by Children's Hospital and HeartGift Louisiana, a nonprofit that sponsors surgeries for children suffering from congenital heart defects that can't be treated in their home countries.

HeartGift underwrites all travel and accommodations for a sick child and a parent. The cardiac medical team members perform the surgeries on their own time, fitting them in during the wee hours of the morning or whenever their schedule allows.

The team is led by Dr. Timothy Pettitt, surgical director of The Heart Center at Children's Hospital, who says that children arrive frightened and in a variety of physical conditions. "These patients come to us in pretty bad shape because of their defects. Many are malnourished and in some cases very blue, cyanotic. They can't walk very far and have poor exercise tolerance," he said.

"It's extremely rewarding to help these children who have no other options and resources.

Some of these children arrive with oxygen saturation rates in the 60s [very low], yet when they leave here, they are pink and well-fed. They blossom in the short time they are with us. This program really provides a lifeline to very sick children in medically underserved countries," Dr. Pettitt said. "It's why we do what we do."

"It really takes a village to pull this off," said Stephanie Berault, executive director of HeartGift

Louisiana, who explains that one in every 100 children in the world is born with some form of congenital heart disease. But in 93% of the world, she said, there is simply no access to care. "Our local chapter covers travel and underwrites a portion of the medical expenses, and The Heart Center team does the rest. The commitment of the surgeons, anesthesiologists, cardiologists, CICU intensivists, nurses and staff is awe inspiring. It is a herculean task that pays rewards tenfold."

Together, Children's and HeartGift have sponsored over 50 children in the last eight years. Hospital President and CEO John R. Nickens IV recently increased its participation, doubling the number of patients it treats annually, so the number is expected to increase by 12 patients a year. Matthew Schaefer, chief operating officer of the hospital, is an active member of HeartGift's board of directors. "This is exactly the type of partnership that we should be involved in," Schaefer said. "One that aligns with our mission to care for every child as our own, regardless of their ability to pay. Simply put, The Heart Center team is privileged to have cared for the patients HeartGift Louisiana has brought our way over the years, and we look forward to serving many more patients and families in the future."

HeartGift Louisiana has sponsored patients from Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Belize, Jamaica, Haiti, Morocco, Kosovo, Algeria, Liberia, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, China, Mongolia and the Philippines.



A AROUND THE WORLD

CHILDREN'S HEART CENTER ADVANCES

Children's
\$300 million
transformation includes several significant upgrades to The Heart Center to further bolster its position as the region's pediatric cardiology care leader

**A DEDICATED
PEDIATRIC
CARDIAC
INTENSIVE
CARE UNIT**

**NEW OPERATING
ROOMS SPECIFICALLY
DESIGNED FOR
PEDIATRIC HEART
SURGERY**

Pediatric Cardiac Intensive
Care Unit expansion from 20 to
28 rooms
all private

VISIONARY TO LEAD THE HEART CENTER

Children's Hospital New Orleans' Pediatric Cardiology program took another step toward national prominence with the appointment of Thomas Kimball, MD as director of the division of Pediatric Cardiology and co-director of The Heart Center. Dr. Kimball is one of the top pediatric cardiologists in the country, and he will lead the hospital's growth in pediatric cardiology services.



Dr. Kimball comes to Children's Hospital from Cincinnati, where he was medical director of Cincinnati Children's Hospital's Heart Institute and professor of pediatrics at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. Cincinnati Children's is ranked in the nation's top three best hospitals by U.S. News & World Report.

The opportunity to expand the cardiology program was a major factor in Dr. Kimball's decision to join Children's Hospital New Orleans.

"I look forward to capitalizing on the exciting opportunities that lie ahead as the hospital continues its transformation – particularly in pediatric cardiology – throughout the Gulf Coast region," said Dr. Kimball.

Dr. Kimball's demonstrated background in quality-driven cardiac care will further The Heart Center's focus on high-quality outcomes and innovative strategies for care delivery. He will join LSU Health New Orleans as the Nelson K. Ordway Professor of Pediatric Research. His academic interests relate to echocardiography, and he has made numerous scholarly contributions in the field of ventricular function utilizing echocardiography, particularly in the field of hypertension and obesity. He is expected to expand The Heart Center's portfolio of cardiovascular research and play a central role in education for the department.

A native of California, Dr. Kimball graduated with distinction and honors from Stanford University and earned his medical degree from New York University. He completed his pediatric internship and residency at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and his pediatric cardiology fellowship at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.



A SITE HISTORY OF CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

BY RICHARD CAMPANELLA
GEOGRAPHER, TULANE UNIVERSITY

Three hundred years ago, the space occupied today by Children's Hospital New Orleans sat by the crest of the natural levee of the Mississippi River, covered by hardwood forest and fronted by dense canebrake. New Orleans founder Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville laid claim to this land, and by 1737 rented it out to planters named Le Sr. Roy,



Le Sr. Belair and Simon Conde. Native tribes camped at the next bend upriver were named "Chapitoulous," and, because the riverfront was the only way to get to the camp, its road came to be called "Tchoupitoulas Street," now the site of Children's Hospital.

Decades later, the land under current-day Children's came into the possession of Juan Lafite (not to be confused with Jean Lafitte) and Francisco Langlois, who in 1774 sold it to Juan Piseros, whose widow in 1781 transferred it to Etienne Boré. In 1795, Boré refined techniques to granulate sugarcane juice. Within a few years, most regional plantations converted to sugarcane production. Boré's extended family included the Fouchers, who would

later own Audubon Park and, for this reason, Boré's granulation breakthrough is often associated with the park. In fact, it happened near Children's.

After Boré died in 1820, the Fouchers sold the plantation to the LeBreton family, who in 1829 sold it to the Marigny clan. Two years later, Dominique

François Burthe acquired the land and, in 1854, hired a surveyor named Numegger to subdivide it. "Burtheville" was mostly a semi-rural landscape and would take decades to urbanize. Until 1870, it wasn't even in New Orleans; it was part of the short-lived City of Jefferson in Jefferson Parish.

The great change came in 1884, when the World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition opened at what is now Audubon Park, bringing attention to the area and triggering a housing boom. That same year, the U.S. Marine Hospital moved to Tchoupitoulas Street between State and Henry Clay. Other healthcare facilities later opened on Calhoun.

As for the current Children's square of land, it became home in 1920 to the J.S. Otis Mahogany Company, where logs from Honduras were milled into veneer and lumber. The enterprise later became the Mengel Mahogany Mill. It was liquidated right around the time that citizens began a campaign to create a "Crippled Children's Hospital." The two-and-a-half-block site was ideal for a rehabilitation center, being on high ground with good access, in a quiet residential neighborhood, and with already existing healthcare facilities nearby. Advocates purchased the parcel for \$125,000, and on September 6, 1950, supporters planted a sign at the corner of Henry Clay and Tchoupitoulas that read, "The Crippled Children's Hospital Will Be Built Here." The facility opened in 1955; in 1976, it expanded to a full-service facility renamed Children's Hospital. After years of growth, Children's acquired the former Marine Hospital in 2014, and is currently completing its renovation.

The site history of Children's is a microcosm of the historical geography of Uptown New Orleans, and the site retains a remarkable relict of the past, the last remaining pre-1840 structure in the vicinity, which is currently undergoing restoration.



TOP LEFT: Detail of Plan of New Orleans and Environs (1855), showing Burthe property; future Children's Hospital site at lower center. *Courtesy Library of Congress.*

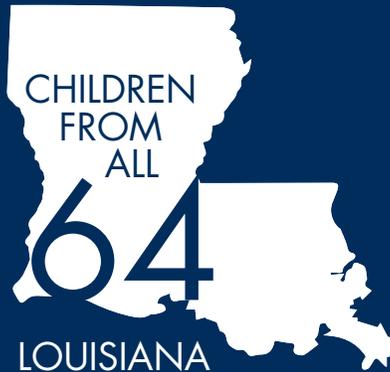
BOTTOM LEFT: Original Crippled Children's Hospital in 1955.

BY THE NUMBERS

THE HEART
CENTER
PERFORMED
OVER

5,300

ECHOCARDIOGRAMS
LAST YEAR



LOUISIANA
PARISHES ARE PATIENTS



43

PEDIATRIC
SPECIALTY
PROGRAMS

THERE
ARE

14

LOCATIONS OF
CHILDREN'S PEDIATRICS
(A SUBSIDIARY OF THE HOSPITAL)

AND THEY TREAT

110,000

PATIENTS/
YEAR

MAIN CAMPUS,
UPTOWN NOLA



SATELLITE LOCATIONS—
BATON ROUGE,
COVINGTON,
LAFAYETTE AND METAIRIE



2

AFTER HOURS
LOCATIONS

PARTNERSHIPS WITH 2
ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS



The Vision of the Sugarplum

In the beloved holiday classic *The Nutcracker*, the Sugar Plum Fairy hosts a lavish banquet in honor of a young child.

In New Orleans, the annual Sugarplum Ball honors the youngest among us, too, dedicating the proceeds of an evening of fun and entertainment to support lifesaving research or to purchase a critical piece of medical equipment for Children's Hospital New Orleans.

The first Sugarplum Ball was held in 1981 in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the hospital, and in recognition of the original Board of Trustees who were so instrumental in the hospital's creation. Since that time, the Ball has emerged as a highlight of the New Orleans spring social season with its dazzling décor, food from more than 30 restaurants, some of the city's best live entertainment, raffles, a silent auction and more than 1,200 guests.

As important as the details of the event is what the Ball has accomplished on behalf of Children's. Since 1981, the Ball has raised more than \$5 million, helping Children's fund everything from artwork to brighten up the hospital's corridors to neonatal cardiac monitors to this year's goal of raising \$350,000 to purchase equipment for a new pediatric simulation training center.

The Ball is also an opportunity for Children's to honor an individual, business or organization for their dedication of time, effort or money in support of the hospital's mission.

"Our Ball Co-Chairs, the committee of community volunteers and our event staff put on an amazing event that is different every year," said Lynnsey Belsome, director of Donor Relations and Stewardship at Children's. "Our Sugarplum Ball patrons look forward to helping the hospital fund a specific item it needs or a critical project."

Besides honoring those who have shown an exceptional commitment of time, money or treasure to Children's, Sugarplum Ball is a chance to connect the community with the hospital and its mission and purpose, according to Belsome.

"It's our opportunity to engage with friends who have been with us for a long while, and to introduce new people to the good work we do here. Sugarplum is a unique moment when everyone has a great time while supporting something of critical importance to patients and their families," Belsome said.

The 2019 Sugarplum Ball will take place at the Sugar Mill on March 23. Co-Chairs Lisa Ballay and Karey Haslauer promise an unforgettable evening for an undeniably great cause. Entertainment for the black tie event will be provided by the popular and versatile KARMA, a band whose repertoire features classics from the '60s to the present day. Tickets start at \$350 per couple, with sponsor packages also available. To purchase tickets, visit www.chnola.org/sugarplum



Photos from the 2018 Sugarplum Ball with the theme "Grecian Gala" held at the Hellenic Cultural Center.

CO-CHAIRS: Cherie Moore and Jessica Schulman

HONOREE: Marriott International

PRESENTING SPONSOR: The Lemoine Company

FUNDING PROJECT: Surgical Robot, ROSA, for the hospital's Neurosciences service line





Philanthropists and Revelers: Physicians Celebrate Giving with a Reveillon Dinner

Doctors at Children's Hospital New Orleans see kids 24/7, 365 days a year. They are primary care physicians, surgeons, cardiologists and emergency care specialists.

And, once a year, they become physician philanthropists, securing funds from their colleagues in support of the patients and families that they serve every day. "As physicians and leaders, it is incumbent upon us to invest in our region's children and families," said Dr. Mark Carbon, who co-chaired the 2018 Physicians Campaign with Dr. Julia Schweizer. "Participating in the Physicians Campaign provides doctors with an opportunity to go beyond providing medical care for our patients. It allows us to have a direct impact on the future of the hospital."

Under the leadership of Dr. Carbon and Dr. Schweizer the 2018 Physicians Campaign was the most successful ever, raising over \$80,000 to support a much-needed Children's Hospital Family Resource Center that is being developed as part of the hospital's commitment to providing family-focused care. "Parents who have children in the hospital often need a place to take a break and get caught up on other family responsibilities like paying bills or coordinating childcare," noted Dr. Schweizer. The Family Resource Center will be a calm and comfortable getaway space and, in addition to providing social services assistance, it will be equipped with a business center with phones, computers and printers.

To cap the annual campaign, which has raised over \$1.2 million since 1990, the physicians take off their philanthropy coats and put on their physician reveler hats, hosting a festive and celebratory Reveillon Dinner. "We were excited that the campaign was so successful. And we were thrilled that over 100 physicians attended the dinner. It gives doctors a chance to celebrate the campaign, celebrate the hospital, and celebrate the work we do as a team for children," said Dr. Carbon. "I am proud of that."

Visit www.chnola.org/docsdinner to see pictures from the Physicians Reveillon Dinner held December 2018, in celebration of the close of the campaign.

SOFIA'S STORY INSPIRES A LEGACY OF GIVING

Sofia Fazzio has been cancer-free for 16 years. This is a remarkable milestone for any cancer patient, especially one who had been diagnosed with a malignant tumor. It is even more remarkable when you consider Sofia's age. She turns 17 in April.

Sofia's journey at Children's Hospital New Orleans began even before she was born. At 25 weeks gestation, her mother's obstetrician's ultrasound technician made a disturbing discovery. A routine ultrasound revealed that Sofia appeared to be missing a right kidney. In the place where one of her tiny, bean-shaped organs should have been, there was a dark spot.

When Sofia was born, a CAT scan confirmed there was a mass on her right side where her kidney should be, and she was sent to Children's Hospital the same day.

"After six days at Children's, we were ready to take Sofia home," her grandmother Crystal Naiman recalled. "Then the pathology came back that it was malignant and it was neuroblastoma."

Children's surgeon Dr. Charles Hill removed the mass, which was actually on Sofia's right adrenal gland and pushing down on her kidney; her kidney was fine.

Naiman credits Dr. Maria Velez, Sofia's oncologist, Dr. Hill and the entire medical and care staff at Children's for saving her granddaughter's life.

"There was no radiation, no chemo, except checkups to confirm the tumor had not returned," Naiman said. "With the expertise of Children's Hospital and God's help we have our granddaughter."

The Naimans have never forgotten the gift they received – not for a minute. While that troubled time has receded with each passing year and each milestone of Sofia's young life, Naiman and her husband David have continued to donate annually to the Kids Fund.

"Children's Hospital has had a place in me and my husband's heart ever since," Naiman said.

Through the years, the Kids Fund has enabled Children's to provide critical care for the sickest children and babies, conduct life-saving research into childhood diseases, remain at the forefront of pediatric care, and serve families who otherwise could not afford quality healthcare.

It is the final item on this list that has most moved the Naimans — and families and others like them from across the city and region — to contribute to the Kids Fund year in and year out.

You can measure the depth of feeling in Naiman's voice as she speaks of this:

"For research, for whatever the hospital needs to treat these kids — we give so that no child will ever be turned away."

When asked to describe Sofia's health today, Naiman speaks in superlatives: "Fabulous," she said of the growing teen.

"God is good."

She also lauds the work of doctors in detecting the presence of the tumor so soon, noting that, often, such anomalies are not discovered until the early years of a child's life, a time frame that is sometimes too late for young patients.

Kelley Adamec, director of Annual Giving, calls the Kids Fund "the heartbeat of our fundraising at Children's Hospital" with more than 2,000 supporters each year choosing to give to our area of greatest need.

"Donations given to the Kids Fund — whether it's \$5, \$500 or \$5,000 — truly touch every area of the hospital and enable Children's to focus on our highest priorities," Adamec said. "Our consecutive donors who have been giving for years — we want them to know that they have truly left a legacy!"

To join the Naimans in contributing to the Kids Fund visit www.CHNOLA.org/DonateNow.



FROM LEFT: Jessica Fazzio (Sofia's mother), Sofia Fazzio and Crystal Naiman (Sofia's grandmother)

Children's Hospital opened **3** NEW PRIMARY CARE FACILITIES and conducted over **110,000** primary care visits in 2018

Children's Hospital has the **ONLY** Joint Commission-accredited and CMS*-approved PEDIATRIC DIALYSIS program in the state of Louisiana, with over **2,000** treatments performed in 2018

Children's **CARDIAC INTENSIVE CARE UNIT** treated **200** CICU patients in 2018

Children's has the **ONLY** CMS*-APPROVED PEDIATRIC KIDNEY TRANSPLANT PROGRAM in Louisiana... **8** transplants performed in 2018

ABBY, the Children's Hospital transport helicopter, is the **LARGEST CRITICAL CARE TRANSPORT HELICOPTER** in the state of Louisiana with a **250-nautical mile radius**. It flew over **300** transports in 2018

Children's is the first hospital in the state to use **ROSA**, a **SURGICAL ROBOT** that treats epilepsy patients without invasive procedures

Children's Hospital's new **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER** will be a **51-BED** inpatient facility — one of the largest in the United States

CHNOLA VIRTUAL AFTER HOURS CLINIC has seen over **600 PATIENTS** remotely, saving families over **42,500** miles as a result of the hospital's telemedicine technology

Children's Hospital **EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM** has over **150 YEARS** of combined healthcare administration experience

*CMS – Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services

ALLERGIC REACTIONS (RASHES) | ALLERGIES | MINOR ASTHMA ATTACKS
MINOR BURNS | DIARRHEA | MINOR DOG BITES | MINOR HEAD INJURIES
INSECT BITES | PINK EYE | RASHES | SINUS INFECTIONS



When a little emergency
really is a little emergency.

Our Virtual After Hours Clinic is a phone- or tablet-based app that allows you to speak with a provider during off hours — such as in the evenings or on weekends — to discuss your child's minor issues and conditions.

www.chnola.org/virtual-care



CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL

200 HENRY CLAY AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70118

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT
504.896.9375



View of Lauricella
Pavilion and Skybridge.