

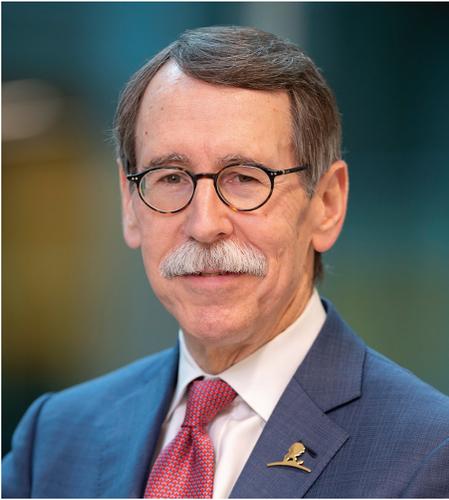
St. Jude patient **March**,
spinal muscular atrophy



2025 Give To Live Society Impact Report



ST. JUDE
give TO live
SOCIETY



James R. Downing, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

I am honored to address you as an esteemed partner in our lifesaving mission, and it is my pleasure to share this Donor Impact Report that details some of the hospital's accomplishments over the last year. It is so important to everyone at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital® that you understand what a profound difference you are making in the lives of children facing cancer and other life-threatening illnesses, not only here at St. Jude, but around the world.

When I first came to St. Jude nearly 40 years ago, walking through those doors, meeting every person who was part of this institution, part of the mission, I realized St. Jude was different than anywhere else I had been. Part of that difference is you, and other generous supporters, who give so that children can have a chance to survive.

A scientist's journey to find better treatments and cures can be one of unexpected challenges and setbacks. The unique operating model of St. Jude, where the majority of funding comes from generous donors, means dedicated institutional support ensures that our researchers have the security and confidence to pursue transformative and daring questions. Your support gives investigators at St. Jude the power to overcome obstacles and the resilience to continue generating knowledge to transform the outlook for some of the world's sickest children.

St. Jude is accelerating progress with the 2022-27 St. Jude Strategic Plan – a \$12.9 billion commitment. We are making gains across the plan's five focus areas: Fundamental Science, Childhood Cancer, Pediatric Catastrophic Diseases, Global Impact and People and Place, which you will read about in the following pages.

The generosity of people like you helps us build and support best-in-class environments that help employees advance the institution's lifesaving work and offer patients and families a home away from home. You have our deepest appreciation for all you help make possible for the children who turn to St. Jude for hope and healing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James R. Downing". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the "g".

James R. Downing, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

March's Story

St. Jude scientists and doctors discover new approach to treat rare neurodegenerative disorder

When baby March was colicky and screamed for the first three months of her life, her parents, Wes and Kelly, were thrilled. Her loud crying was a reassuring sign that March did not have symptoms of spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), a rare neurodegenerative disorder that causes progressive muscular weakness in infants – and had taken her older brother Graham's life.

When Graham was 6 months old, Wes and Kelly found out he had SMA-1, the most common and aggressive kind. Children with SMA-1 rarely make it to their second birthday. "They told us there was nothing they could do, no hope they could give," Wes said. "We left that appointment that day in hospice care."

Kelly cared for Graham as he began to lose the ability to cough and swallow, and finally, when he began to lose the ability to breathe on his own. From the time of diagnosis, they had 10 months with him until he passed away in August 2016. Losing Graham left them so bereft they relied on family and faith to get through, and their online SMA community of friends who understood their grief in a way few others could.

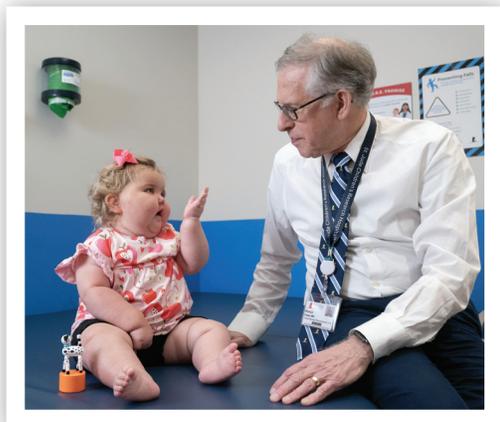
New possibilities with St. Jude

Kelly became pregnant with March and a test at the 20-week mark of her pregnancy revealed that this child also had SMA-1. Kelly sought help again with the online SMA community, where the name Richard Finkel, MD, appeared as an empathetic caregiver who'd spent decades caring for children with catastrophic neurological diseases. "If you're going to get one man's opinion, it's Dr. Finkel's. We knew that he was the expert," Kelly said.

Dr. Finkel had recently joined St. Jude and become the director of the Center for Experimental Neurotherapeutics. He joined St. Jude because he says, **"St. Jude is well known for its research in cancer, so it had all the infrastructure. It had everything I needed, all the building blocks to be able to use as resources, as I build out our neuroscience program."**

Dr. Finkel explained to Kelly and Wes that there were new therapies to treat SMA, and patients tended to do better the earlier the child was treated. He proposed that treatment during the prenatal period might add some additional benefit.

After a major effort led by St. Jude to coordinate a groundbreaking first-in-human clinical trial, March was the only patient in this research that explored treating SMA in utero with the drug risdiplam. The treatment was administered orally to Kelly during her final six weeks of pregnancy, and March continued to take the medication after she was born.



St. Jude patient **March**, during a check-up with Richard Finkel, MD

The approach seemed to pay off: March was evaluated at 18 months, and she had no identifiable features of SMA. Since then, she has continued treatment with risdiplam and also received another approved SMA therapy. She is now 3 years old and still has no symptoms of SMA. She feeds herself, plays with toys and loves her twin big sisters.

"St. Jude has been great at kicking cancer's butt," says Wes. "If they can start to do that for these neurological disorders, then we're just at the beginning of some really exciting times and saving a lot more kids' lives."



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Going global: St. Jude is leading a clinical trial open to children in limited-resource countries

Thankfully, childhood brain tumors are rare. However, that makes testing targeted therapies challenging. A new study run by St. Jude called GLOBOTRK aims to recruit patients not just at St. Jude, but in Egypt, India, Jordan, Brazil and Peru. The goal is to test a promising targeted therapy called entrectinib for children whose tumors have fusions of oncogenes NTRK or ROS1. These fusions can send strong proliferation signals to cells and suppress the systems that should prevent unrestrained growth. “This is the first St. Jude-led clinical trial that will open in low- and middle-income countries,” said Daniel Moreira, MD, MEd, St. Jude Global Neuro-Oncology program co-director, and Department of Global Pediatric Medicine assistant member. “We are discovering and learning how to run a global trial, overcoming steep learning curves to get children access to these new cancer therapies.”

A major advance in our understanding of difficult-to-treat leukemias

Standard treatment is often ineffective against pediatric acute myeloid leukemia (AML), a cancer that commonly relapses with poor prognosis, particularly when the disease is fueled by fusion proteins involving NUP98. Scientists at St. Jude and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute reported the identification of a novel combination therapy approach to treat AML and the findings were published in the journal *Cancer Discovery*. The scientists found that NUP98 fusions drive leukemia by assembling proteins that switch on the expression of genes and turn normal cells into leukemia cells. They combined a drug that stops a protein involved in controlling leukemic gene expression, with a drug that targets a complex they found to interact with NUP98 fusions. The results were striking and showed these inhibitors can prevent activation of these cancer-driving genes and block leukemia cell growth.

Meeting of the minds: World renowned scientists and clinicians collaborate to tackle groundbreaking projects

As a key element of the strategic plan, St. Jude has formally established the St. Jude Research Collaboratives Program to create multi-disciplinary teams consisting of St. Jude scientists and their peers at other institutions who can address specific challenges involved in the treatment of pediatric cancers and other catastrophic diseases. As part of the collaborative search for new discoveries that will advance cures for these devastating diseases, St. Jude made a \$13 million investment to help fund a research collaboration with scientists at Columbia University, Duke University and Stanford University to expand the understanding of G-protein coupled receptors (GPCR), which are vital proteins that impact human health and disease. St. Jude researcher, Scott Blanchard, PhD, says, “Here, we’re bringing together our individual unique innovations and expertise so we can understand the mechanism by which GPCRs operate, with the ultimate goal of using this information to identify and design more effective drugs.” GPCRs have been linked to or implicated in more than 100 human diseases and disorders.

Cost of Childhood Cancer: Neuroblastoma

Effective cancer treatment requires specialized equipment, medicines and care providers. Treating children for cancer adds further complexity, with equipment and medication doses tailored for smaller bodies and care providers specialized in treating children. As the only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center devoted solely to children, St. Jude is designed to provide this specialized care, which can be costly. Because childhood cancer is a diverse category of diseases, treatment approaches and the associated costs can also vary widely.

To illustrate this difference, consider two St. Jude patients with neuroblastoma who were treated in 2023-2025. Neuroblastoma is the most common solid tumor found outside the brain in children, and it is typically diagnosed in children under five. Nearly all patients with low-risk neuroblastoma survive, often requiring minimal treatment; in some cases, the disease even resolves without treatment. In contrast, patients with high-risk neuroblastoma endure grueling treatment plans and face lower survival rates. These differences have a major impact on how much it costs to treat each patient.

Patient A had intermediate-risk neuroblastoma, with a tumor near her spine in her abdomen. She received eight cycles of chemotherapy, followed by surgery to remove the tumor. She now shows no evidence of cancer and continues regular monitoring.

Patient B had high-risk neuroblastoma, with cancer found in his abdomen, bones, bone marrow and lymph nodes. His treatment also included chemotherapy and surgery, but he needed additional treatment including chemoimmunotherapy due to an inadequate response. He then went on to receive two stem cell transplants, radiotherapy and additional immunotherapy. He continues to be monitored at St. Jude.

Thanks to generous donors, families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing or food.

St. Jude Care and Treatment

Cost Breakdown	Patient A	Patient B
Anesthesiology	\$21,300	\$62,479
Critical Care	\$6,857	\$40,260
Inpatient Care	\$42,420	\$359,204
Outpatient Clinics	\$12,272	\$57,892
Pathology	\$22,365	\$201,046
Pharmacy	\$65,128	\$1,494,152
Psychology	\$0	\$6,814
Radiotherapy	\$0	\$35,997
Radiology/Imaging	\$39,189	\$84,954
Rehabilitation Services	\$3,143	\$25,736
Specialty Care	\$0	\$9,781
Surgery	\$30,996	\$157,781

Total Cost*

 **\$243,670**

 **\$2,536,096**

**These amounts reflect the institution's costs for providing care. Thanks in part to generous donors, families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing or food. If a family has insurance, St. Jude will bill the insurance company for care.*



Art by Vivek Choudhary, DVM, PhD, MPH, Lab Operations manager at St. Jude, illustrates the powerful role of science as a source of hope and healing. The tree's roots, embedded with symbols of science – DNA strands, cells and microscopes – represent the foundational research driving breakthroughs in pediatric medicine. The branches nurture and support vibrant leaves and glowing flowers, symbolizing the resilience and recovery of children. "I believe art and science go hand in hand. It makes complex scientific concepts more accessible and engaging," says Dr. Choudhary.

2022-27 ST. JUDE STRATEGIC PLAN MILESTONES

More than 200 individuals contributed to the creation of the St. Jude Strategic Plan to ensure St. Jude continues to make advancements that will lead to better treatments and cures for not only our patients, but for children everywhere. Your dedicated support, working in concert with our staff, helps to achieve the goals of the plan's five main areas: Fundamental Science, Childhood Cancer, Childhood Catastrophic Diseases, Global Impact and People and Place. Here are just a few of the milestones achieved in the past year:

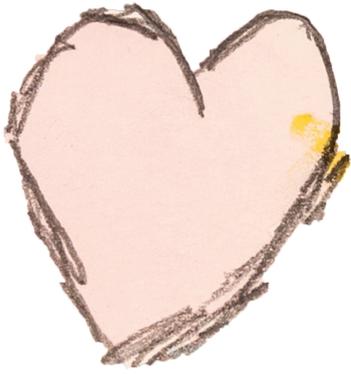
- In 2025, St. Jude reached a historic milestone in nursing excellence. For the third consecutive term, St. Jude has earned Magnet® designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), a prestigious recognition awarded to health care organizations for their nursing philosophy, leadership and commitment to improving patient care. Multiple studies have found that hospitals achieving Magnet status have lower patient mortality and fewer medical complications. This year, St. Jude achieved Magnet with Distinction™, an elite honor reserved for the top 1% of nursing programs nationwide.
- In collaboration with the World Health Organization, The Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer Medicines officially launched on February 11, 2025, by providing essential cancer medicines to two pilot countries, Mongolia and Uzbekistan. Shipments have now been completed in Ecuador, Nepal and Zambia, with more countries expected to be receiving shipments soon. Fewer than 30% of children with cancer in resource-limited countries have successful outcomes, where access to lifesaving cancer medicines is nonexistent, inconsistent or too costly.
- The groundwork is being laid on the St. Jude campus for a 16-story research facility that will shape the future of pediatric care and innovation. The Advanced Research Center II (ARC II) will stand 865,000 square feet tall and is part of our plan to create best-in-class environments to advance our lifesaving work.

PATIENT FAMILY-CENTERED CARE



On May 1, 2025, the St. Jude Teen Formal took place. The theme was “Garden of Dreams,” and patients and their guests took a limousine ride through downtown Memphis and walked down a red-carpet entrance before dinner and dancing at the Domino’s Event Center on the St. Jude campus. Teen Formal is one of several events coordinated by St. Jude to provide patients a sense of normalcy by marking important moments they may have otherwise missed while undergoing treatment for cancer or other life-threatening diseases. A story about the St. Jude Teen Formal was featured in *People Magazine* in the May 28, 2025, online edition.

St. Jude patient **Yike**, acute myeloid leukemia



Every child deserves a chance to live their best life and celebrate every moment. When

you support St. Jude, **you can help make cures possible for kids with cancer.**

TOGETHER, we can save more lives.



Finding cures. Saving children.
ALSAC • DANNY THOMAS, FOUNDER

stjude.org/impactgiving

St. Jude patient **Laylah**,
osteosarcoma

Art by St. Jude patient **Kinsley**

