



# HEROES

with a *future*

**2020**  
ANNUAL  
REPORT



**N** **NOVANT**  
**HEALTH**

Hemby Children's Hospital

# content

- Message from our president .....3
- Our specialties ..... 4
- Welcome, new 2020 physicians .....15
- New medical programs in 2020 .....16
- NICU updates.....18
- PICU updates.....20
- What happened in 2020 .....20
- Donor funds .....21
- Renovations and projects ..... 22
  - Blume Family Playground..... 23
  - The legacy of Caroline Comly ..... 24
  - Martin Truex Jr. Foundation Children’s Emergency..... 26
- Community involvement .....28
- Novant Health Children’s Trust .....36
- Hemby Heroes .....38
- What’s to come in 2021.....40
- Novant Health Center for Pediatric Development.....41
- Meet your leadership team.....42
- Superhero Donors .....43



*Saad Ehtisham*  
**Saad Ehtisham, FACHE**  
*President, Novant Health  
greater Charlotte market and  
Novant Health Presbyterian  
Medical Center*

**It’s hard to believe, but we’ve once again come to the time of year when the collective consciousness shifts toward the possibilities a new year brings.**

At Novant Health Hemby Children’s Hospital, we’re doing the same. Even with all the challenges 2020 brought, we also had many things to be grateful for as we begin a new year filled with hope.

Reflecting on 2020, our gratitude must begin with recognition of our team members in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic. From the beginning, Presbyterian Medical Center became a central site for COVID-19 within the Novant Health system. In the greater Charlotte market, we allocated 790 beds for COVID patients and took the lessons learned from cities, states and countries hit hard by the novel coronavirus to create a plan that gave us the best chance of fighting the pandemic and winning. Although our youngest patients were not impacted as severely by the virus, their lives were certainly upended with school transitions, learning to wear masks and increased anxiety about health.

As I look back on the ways COVID-19 has impacted our pediatric population, I am inspired by the way our teams worked together to ensure parents had access to their children inside our walls, behavioral health needs were met and wellness visits remained safe, as they are vital to the health of our children. Our team members have never lost sight of the future, a time when the coronavirus no longer monopolizes global healthcare communities. And throughout this year, we’ve continued advancing new initiatives that will bring even more remarkable care to our community.

We are excited to move forward with construction on two major projects that have been in the works for some time now. Hemby Children’s Hospital will continue to be a welcoming place for our families with the addition of the Blume Family Playground and Caroline’s Corner, a family kitchen that will provide a place of respite and relaxation for our families. We are also thrilled to announce the opening of the Center for Pediatric Development. This center will solve a central problem for families of children with disabilities and complex medical needs by providing everything these children need in terms of medical care under one roof, cutting down on time traveling to multiple appointments and allowing more time for their care. Our reach continues to expand with the progress we have made with the Martin Truex Jr. Children’s Emergency, which will provide access to excellent pediatric emergency care in the Huntersville area. We added a pediatric allergy and immunology clinic to our long list of impressive specialties and continued to see great success and growth in our subspecialist care. Throughout this trying year, we were continually humbled by the support we received from our community in the form of donations ranging from meals to masks, toys and games for patients.

These moments and milestones are just a handful of what 2020 taught us and what 2021 will bring, and you will learn more in the pages of this report. It is important to note none of it would be possible without your generosity and commitment to Novant Health. In this unprecedented and challenging time, your gifts allowed us to stay focused on the important work of saving lives across our community. Now our work must go on, and your continued support will be more important than ever.

From our family to yours, here’s to health and happiness through the rest of 2021 and beyond. **And once again, thank you for all you do.**





# Our specialties

When your child needs care, you want medical expertise and a compassionate touch. Novant Health Children’s Health Institute offers subspecialist doctors who work closely with pediatricians to give children comprehensive care tailored to their unique needs.

**At Novant Health, you’ll find world-class pediatric subspecialists with expertise in areas that include:**

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| • Allergy and immunology   | • Nephrology                     |
| • Cardiology   | • Neurology and sleep medicine   |
| • Developmental and behavioral pediatrics  | • Neurosurgery                   |
| • Endocrinology  | • Pediatric emergency department |
| • Gastroenterology   | • Pediatric intensive care unit  |
| • Hematology/oncology (St. Jude Affiliate Clinic at Novant Health Hemby Children’s Hospital) | • Pulmonology                    |
| • Infectious disease   | • Sports medicine                |
| • Neonatal intensive care unit   | • Surgery                        |

Our pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists understand that nothing matters more to you than your child’s well-being. Our providers will take time to listen to your concerns, answer your questions and get to know your child. You’ll find seamless care that includes highly specialized medicine with leading-edge treatments for complex conditions. It’s comprehensive, compassionate care — right here at home.

## Novant Health Pediatric Allergy and Immunology



Puja Rajani, MD



**Conditions we treat:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • Food allergies (food hypersensitivity)                                      | • Recurring infections (immunodeficiency)  |
| • Allergic reactions to medications   | • Overgrowth of mast cells in your skin or organs (mastocytosis)   |
| • Seasonal allergies, such as hay fever (allergic rhinitis)                   | • Unusually high counts of a type of white blood cell (eosinophil) in your stomach, small intestine or colon (eosinophilic gastrointestinal disorders) |
| • Asthma  | • Severe allergic reactions, including suddenly narrowed airways (anaphylaxis)   |
| • Hives (urticaria)   |  |
| • Persistent swelling (angioedema)  |  |
| • Eczema (atopic dermatitis)  |  |
| • Chronic sinus infections (sinusitis)  |  |
| • Skin rashes caused by touching an irritating substance (contact dermatitis) |  |



## Novant Health Pediatric Cardiology



Matthew Brothers, MD



William Hammill, MD



David Ohmstede, MD



Frances Travelli, MD

**Conditions we treat:**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| • Heart murmurs   | • Arrhythmia (irregular heartbeat, including a heart rhythm that is too fast or too slow) | • Blood pressure concerns   |
| • Chest pains   | • Heart palpitations (feeling that the heart is racing, pounding or skipping beats)       | • Congenital heart conditions (heart conditions present from birth) |
| • Syncope (a drop in blood pressure resulting in a loss of consciousness) |   |   |

# Novant Health Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics



Christie Babson, DO



James DuRant III, MD



Angelica Robles, MD



Ashley Dauenhauer, PNP



Kari Mohrien, PA-C

Conditions we treat:

- Developmental delays with or without symptoms that affect behavior
- Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD, including preschool and complex ADHD, as well as consultations for medication)
- Diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders and medication to help manage behavior
- Genetic syndromes and abnormalities with behavioral symptoms

# Novant Health Pediatric Endocrinology



Malaka Jackson, MD



Leslie Thompson, PNP



Conditions we treat:

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Type 1 diabetes</li><li>• Type 2 diabetes</li><li>• Thyroid disorders</li><li>• Growth concerns</li><li>• Early and late puberty</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Calcium and bone-related disorders</li><li>• Metabolic syndrome, dyslipidemia</li><li>• Obesity</li><li>• Hypoglycemia</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adrenal disorders</li><li>• PCOS, menstrual irregularities</li><li>• Pituitary disorders</li><li>• Endocrine effects of cancer treatment</li></ul> |
|--|--|--|

# Novant Health Pediatric Gastroenterology



William Stokes Houck III, MD



Timothy Menz, MD



Melanie Rhue, MD



Conditions we treat:

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Acid reflux</li><li>• Constipation</li><li>• Infantile colic</li><li>• Abdominal pain</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS)</li><li>• Hepatitis</li><li>• Vomiting and diarrhea</li><li>• Crohn's disease</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ulcerative colitis</li><li>• Celiac disease</li><li>• Other digestive conditions</li></ul> |
|---|--|--|

# Novant Health Pediatric Infectious Disease



Nazario Rivera Chapparo, MD

Conditions we treat:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recurrent infections</li><li>• Infections acquired during travel</li><li>• Travel clinic (vaccines and prophylactic medications)</li><li>• Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection</li><li>• Adoption screenings</li><li>• Infections in patients on immune modulating therapy</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pre-transplant evaluation</li><li>• Transplant infections</li><li>• Primary immune deficiency</li><li>• Issues related to MRSA infection, C. difficile, Lyme disease or other tick-borne diseases or infections</li><li>• Tuberculosis</li><li>• Congenital and newborn infections; herpes, HIV, hepatitis, syphilis</li></ul> |
|---|--|





# Novant Health Pediatric Nephrology



Poornima Baddi, MD

Conditions we treat:

- Acid-base balance and electrolyte disorders
- Calcium and phosphorus disorders, including calcium deficiencies
- Frequent urinary tract infections (UTIs)
- Reversed flow of urine (vesicoureteral reflux)
- Kidney swelling due to urine buildup (hydronephrosis)
- Bloody urine (hematuria)
- High levels of protein in urine (proteinuria)
- Kidney inflammation (nephritis)
- High blood pressure (hypertension)
- Kidney stones
- Birth defects in the kidney and urinary tract
- Cysts in the kidneys (cystic kidney disease)
- Acute and chronic kidney failure

# Novant Health Pediatric Neurosurgery



Erin Kiehna, MD

Conditions we treat:

- Congenital malformations of the brain and spinal cord
- Hydrocephalus
- Plagiocephaly
- Craniosynostosis
- Brain and spinal cord tumors
- Drug-resistant epilepsy
- Vascular malformations
- Spasticity
- Trauma



# Novant Health Pediatric Neurology and Sleep Medicine



Melissa Cirillo, MD



Cynthia Pudukadan, MD



Shana Wallace, MD



Sandra Harris, PNP

Conditions we treat:

- Developmental disorders
- Headaches
- Metabolic and genetic disorders affecting the central nervous system
- Movement disorders
- Seizures
- Tourette Syndrome (TS)
- Behavioral insomnia
- Sleep disordered breathing, including sleep apnea and snoring
- Excessive sleepiness
- Narcolepsy
- Enuresis (bed wetting)
- Nightmares
- Night terrors
- Sleepwalking
- Circadian rhythm disorder
- Restless legs syndrome





# Novant Health Pediatric Pulmonology



Marc Chester, MD



Maxine Eikani, MD

**Conditions we treat:**

- Asthma
- Apnea of prematurity
- Aerodigestive problems (reflux, dysphagia and aspiration)
- Bronchiectasis
- Bronchopulmonary dysplasia
- Bronchiolitis
- Chronic cough
- Croup
- Cystic fibrosis
- Interstitial lung disease
- Laryngomalacia
- Pneumonia
- Primary ciliary dyskinesia
- Pulmonary hypertension
- Tracheomalacia
- Vocal cord dysfunction



# Novant Health Pediatric Sports Medicine



Christian Turner, MD

**Same-day visits for the following injuries:**

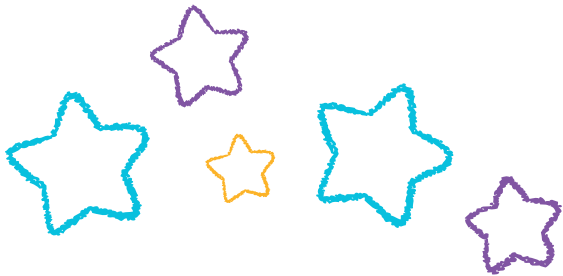
- Buckle, clavicle and other simple fractures
- Wrist, ankle and knee sprains
- Shoulder injuries
- Muscle strains
- Growth plate injuries
- Acute hip pain and limp

**Other conditions we see**

- Sports-related concussions
- General nonoperative orthopedic conditions: scoliosis, in-toeing, flat feet, etc.
- Stress reactions/stress fractures
- Sports-related nutrition concerns

**Services available**

- X-ray (Midtown location)
- Casting
- Durable medical equipment (boots, crutches, splints, braces)







Hematology/oncology (St. Jude Affiliate Clinic  
at Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital)



Jessica Bell, MD



Christine Bolen, MD



Paulette Bryant, MD



Jenny McDaniel, MD



Joanne  
McManaman, MD



Courtney Carr, PNP



Andria Kokoszka, PNP



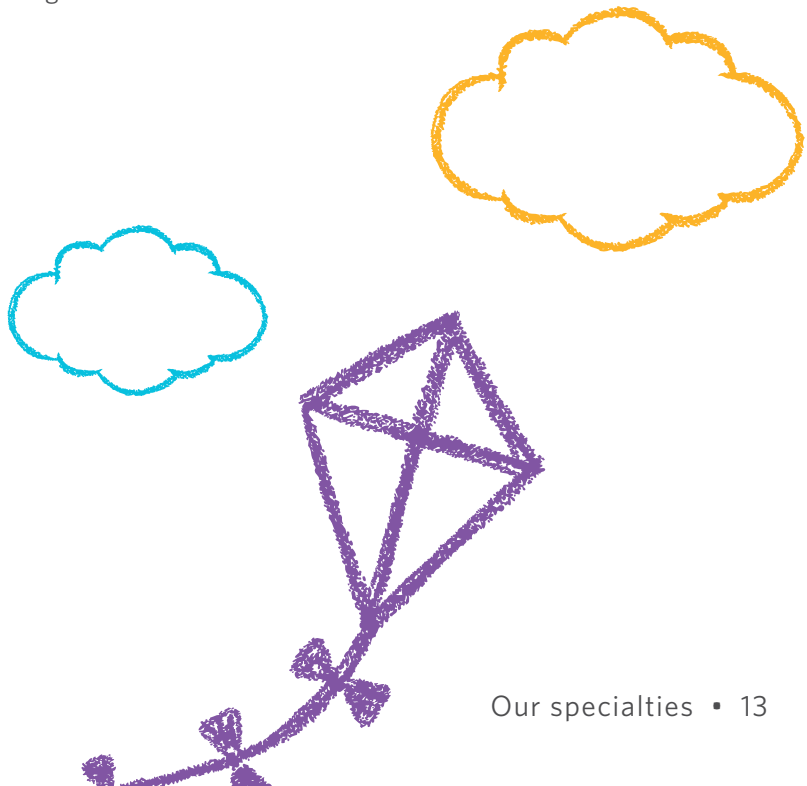
Courtney Saine, PNP



Jennifer Weisner, PNP

Conditions we treat:

- Pediatric cancer
- Hematology and clotting disorders
- Hemophilia and bleeding disorders
- Sickle cell disease







# Novant Health Pediatric Emergency Department

## Specialized emergency care for newborns, children and teenagers

The Hemby Children’s Hospital Emergency Department is **the only children’s ER in the area staffed 24/7 by board-certified emergency medicine physicians.** A trip to the children’s emergency room can be scary for children, especially with all the strange sounds, smells and people. We offer a warm and caring environment for the whole family. Our experienced staff is specially trained to understand the unique needs of children and our commitment is to treat your child like one of our own.

- Conditions we treat:**  
(All children 0-17 years of age, for any emergent complaint)
- Respiratory distress: bronchiolitis, pneumonia, asthma, etc.
  - Abdominal pain: vomiting and diarrhea, appendicitis, etc.
  - Seizures
  - Lacerations/cuts
  - Broken bones
  - Headaches
  - Urologic complaints
  - Chest pain



Welcome, new 2020 physicians



**Puja Rajani, MD**  
**Clinic:** Novant Health Pediatric Allergy and Immunology  
**Specialty:** Pediatric Allergy and Immunology



**Kelli Wheeler, MD**  
**Clinic:** Novant Health Eastover Pediatrics  
**Specialty:** General pediatrics



**Candice Castellino, MD**  
**Clinic:** Novant Health Pediatrics Mint Hill  
**Specialty:** General pediatrics





## New medical programs in 2020

### Novant Health Pediatric Allergy and Immunology



**Puja Rajani, MD**



#### Conditions we treat:

- Food allergies (food hypersensitivity)
- Allergic reactions to medications
- Seasonal allergies, such as hay fever (allergic rhinitis)
- Asthma
- Hives (urticaria)
- Persistent swelling (angioedema)
- Eczema (atopic dermatitis)
- Chronic sinus infections (sinusitis)
- Skin rashes caused by touching an irritating substance (contact dermatitis)
- Recurring infections (immunodeficiency)
- Overgrowth of mast cells in your skin or organs (mastocytosis)
- Unusually high counts of a type of white blood cell (eosinophil) in your stomach, small intestine or colon (eosinophilic gastrointestinal disorders)
- Severe allergic reactions, including suddenly narrowed airways (anaphylaxis)

### Pediatric Allergy and Immunology program highlight

*A letter from our first greater Charlotte-area allergy and immunology specialist, Dr. Rajani*

I am honored and proud to be the first Novant Health allergy and immunology specialist in the greater Charlotte area. I came from University of Rochester Medical Center in Rochester, NY. I graduated fellowship in July 2018 and got to spend more than a year as an assistant professor in pediatric allergy and immunology at University of Rochester Medical Center/Golisano Children's Hospital. I was fortunate to be able to help grow the clinical program there as well as take an active role in fellowship education. I served as principal investigator on a clinical trial for food immunotherapy and was a sub-investigator for other cutting-edge clinical trials for food immunotherapy.

While food allergy is my passion, allergy and immunology as a field covers a wide breadth of diseases. I follow children with atopic dermatitis (eczema), contact dermatitis, asthma, allergic rhinitis, stinging insect allergy, food allergy (IgE and non-IgE mediated food allergy, such as food protein-induced allergic proctocolitis (FPIAP), food protein-induced enterocolitis syndrome (FPIES) and eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE), drug allergy, urticaria and angioedema, anaphylaxis, eosinophilic gastrointestinal disorders, immunodeficiency, chronic sinusitis and nasal polyps and mastocytosis. Currently, in my office, we are able to perform skin testing (to foods, aeroallergens and medications), aeroallergen immunotherapy (allergy shots), patch testing, food challenges, medication challenges and pulmonary function tests. I also offer biologic therapies such as omalizumab, mepolizumab, benralizumab and dupilumab for asthma/chronic urticaria/atopic dermatitis. My hope is to one day grow the program to be able to offer venom immunotherapy (including fire ant immunotherapy, though fortunately venom immunotherapy is not generally indicated in the pediatric population unless there is history of anaphylaxis, which is rare), and hopefully sooner, food immunotherapy. Also, regarding immunodeficiency, it would be beneficial if at some point we could develop an infusion center in pediatrics where children could receive IVIg therapy if needed, which is generally a small subset of patients.

Food immunotherapy specifically is a hot button topic these days. The first-ever, FDA-approved food immunotherapy by Aimmune has become available this year for peanut allergy. It is now in the market. However, food immunotherapy has been offered off label for many years now. There are many physicians who have been providing therapies for various foods, including milk, egg and wheat, for many years and there are safe protocols available that could be implemented. My plan would be to start with the FDA-approved peanut immunotherapy and go from there. This does require frequent visits and a lot of close follow-up and provider availability, so this program can be established as we grow the clinic. It is important to note that food immunotherapy is not a cure for food allergies, rather a way to improve quality of life and anxiety surrounding food allergy by raising the threshold over which anaphylaxis would occur with an accidental ingestion by providing a small, quasi steady state dose of food in the diet on a regular basis.

My dream would be to one day be a nationally recognized FARE (Food Allergy Research and Education) Clinical Network Center of Distinction, which we would qualify for as a clinical care center that recognizes that we provide exceptional patient care and community education while generating real-world data through daily clinical care. We are probably a few years away from this, but I think it would be achievable as we grow!

Allergy and immunology is a field with active research and new and exciting treatments around the corner. Biologics have changed the way we treat asthma, and now even atopic dermatitis. It is a constantly changing field and I am excited to be a part of it and to bring my expertise to children in the Charlotte community!

**Puja Rajani, MD**

Novant Health Pediatric Allergy and Immunology





# NICU updates

## Level 4 NICU with 38 licensed beds

Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center is home to a Level IV neonatal intensive care unit with availability and capability to provide comprehensive complex care to infants born at 22 weeks and later, inclusive of respiratory, metabolic, surgical and neurological conditions. The unit serves as a tertiary center for other area hospitals unable to provide the level of care these infants require. It takes an army to care for these fragile infants and the unit proudly houses that army. Medical direction is given by a team of 11 neonatologists and 25 neonatal nurse practitioners. Over 140 specially trained nurses and CNAs, along with respiratory therapists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, dietitians, medical social workers and chaplains make up the rest of the team.

In 2019, 830 infants received care in our NICU. The unit's average daily patient count was 56 with an average length of stay of 24.8 days. Some infants require months of hospitalization before they are ready to graduate to home. It is not uncommon for more than half of our NICU infants to be on respiratory support, with 15 to 20 infants on ventilators at any given time. The team's focus is not only on the medical needs of the infant but also the emotional needs of their families. Our team members support parents as they navigate difficult days and celebrate the good days with recognition of the milestones that their baby achieves each day.



565 admissions  
year-to-date

(4% increase over this time  
last year)



14% decrease  
in length of stay  
(LOS) from 2019

LOS averages  
2019 - 27.2 days  
2020 - 22.5 days



Averaged 56  
babies per day  
in 2019

Averaging 52  
babies per day  
in 2020

## New programs

We implemented the **Neonatal Therapeutic Hypothermia Program** for Neonatal Encephalopathy in 2018. We have treated a total of 11 babies to date. This program allows for rapid treatment to minimize brain injury in infants, which increases their chances for survival without neurodevelopment impairment. This program also allows our neonatal transport team to start this treatment during the transfer of infants born at outlying hospitals so they can get care faster.

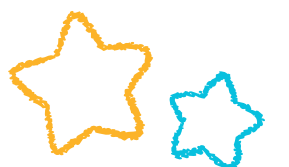
We have implemented a new approach for treating infants born with **Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)**. This approach, called **Eat, Sleep and Console**, is for babies who are withdrawing from opioids after delivery. We began the program in June 2020, and it has shown a significant decrease in the need for pharmacologic interventions. The program focuses on other measures to provide comfort for these infants. We have also seen a significant decrease in length of stay (LOS) for these infants — decreasing LOS from approximately 21 days to five to 10 days.

## Needs for the coming year

We were able to meet the need to obtain a Glidescope that will be used in our NICU to assist with intubations. Intubations are a very challenging procedure both for the baby and the clinician. The Glidescope will allow for a more controlled procedure with an increase in success rates.

We still have an outstanding need for an ultrasound machine for our NICU to allow for easier placement of percutaneous central lines, as well as assisting with basic bedside procedural guidance and evaluations.

We also need additional beds to provide adequate room for the growing patient projections in our census.





# PICU and pediatric updates

Life-threatening illness and injuries do not discriminate based on age. With an average of 500 annual admissions, our pediatric intensive care unit offers lifesaving medical care to some of our sickest patients. This all-private, eight-bed unit is located within the walls of Novant Health Hemby Children’s Hospital and is a vital part of the remarkable care offered to any patient that walks through our doors.


Both inpatient and outpatient sedated procedures can be performed in the PICU’s two dedicated procedure rooms. The near 400 sedations performed annually can include things such as lumbar punctures, bone marrow biopsies and hearing screens. Our PICU is staffed by some of the most skilled experts in the region including intensive care doctors, specially trained nurses, respiratory therapists and other healthcare professionals. Our staff of child life specialists are trained in the developmental impact


of illness and injury and are available to address the emotional, developmental and cultural needs of each family. The providers include nine pediatric hospitalists, four advanced practitioners and three pediatric intensivists. The PICU is equipped with necessary technology such as ventilators, respirators, brain pressure monitoring, continuous video EEG monitoring, ultrasonography for procedures and dialysis.


Alongside all of these extensive resources, the intimate size of the PICU unit allows families to receive individualized care while facing some of the most severe and life-threatening injuries and illnesses. We offer a compassionate environment that will encourage and empower families to take an active role during their child’s stay. Our leading-edge facility offers large, private and family-friendly rooms to support direct family involvement in the care of PICU patients.


# What happened in 2020


## Novant Health


**391,260\***  
Pediatric encounters

**45,347**  
Virtual visits

**213**  
Pediatric providers


**643**  
Pediatric team members

**27** General pediatric locations  
**29** Specialty pediatric locations

**Pediatric on-demand visits**  
**150** E-visits | **1,808** Video | **127** TytoCare™


## Novant Health Hemby Children’s Hospital


**35,986\***  
Patient encounters

**1,616\***  
Pediatric surgeries

**14,641\*\***  
Pediatric ER visits

**11,526**  
Births

**30** Pediatric licensed beds  
**38** NICU licensed beds | **8** PICU licensed beds

**NICU statistics**  
**923** Admissions | **19,012** Patient days  
**20** Babies admitted under 750 g (1.6 lbs)  
**465 g (1.02 lbs)** Lowest birth weight

\*Unaudited numbers subject to change

\*\*Down significantly due to COVID. 2019 ER visits: 23,897



# Donor funds

Through your support, 2020 brought essential pieces of equipment as well as other upgrades that will improve our patients’ experiences using various funds dedicated to pediatrics. We are so thankful for our donors who continue to support our young patients by ensuring that we have the most up-to-date equipment and developmentally appropriate support items to provide remarkable care each day.

**The Hemby Children’s Fund** was created to benefit programs and staff of Hemby Children’s Hospital. This year that fund was able to do just that by providing pediatric friendly radiology updates. The radiology department is an area of the adult portion of Presbyterian Medical Center that many Hemby patients have to visit. These age-appropriate updates will help children feel more at ease while they go through their procedures.

**The Dorothy Shelton Fund** provides support for special needs, sick and injured children. This fund was able to provide Medkin dolls, which are medical dolls used by our child life team for therapeutic play and diagnosis education.

**The Shelby Mitchell Fund** which strives to provide patient care, research and educational support was able to provide a great deal for our patients this year. Five new iPads were purchased for our Pediatric Emergency Department.

Patients who visit our Pediatric Emergency Department will be able to use these iPads for distraction and play through therapeutic applications. Lastly, we purchased essential clothing items that are consistently needed.

**Daniel’s Pediatric Fund** was able to provide essential items currently needed for our inpatient rehab patients, as well as items that have been recommended to families for home that they had to purchase in the past.

A great need was filled for our PICU patients with the purchase of a new ultrasound machine by the **Gupton Pediatric Fund**.

Our NICU team was able to purchase 16 syringe pumps which are used to feed our tiniest patients using **The Intensive Care Nursery Hemby Fund**.

Several vital signs machines were purchased using multiple funds including: **The Johnson Pediatrics Fund;** **The Barnes; Doctor & Margaret Alford Pediatrics Fund;** **The Stephanie M. Warren Pediatrics Fund;** and **The Sherri Blume Fund**. The Sherri Blume Fund was also able to provide one pediatric tray scale and cart for our pediatric oncology patients.





# NOVANT HEALTH HEMBY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL Renovations and projects 2020



## Blume Family Playground

Within the walls of the St. Jude Affiliate Clinic at Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital, Novant Health team members work together to provide remarkable care, along with emotional and spiritual support to children with cancer and blood disorders and their families.

Over the last two decades, Hemby Children's Hospital has treated thousands of children, and is a beacon of hope that began with a 5-year-old girl named Sherri Blume. In 1967, Sherri was in treatment at Presbyterian Hospital for a metastasized brain tumor. Although she lost that courageous fight, her family never forgot the kindness of the staff and how they were welcomed with open arms. They stayed in touch with Sherri's care team over the years and as the Blume family business prospered, Sherri's parents knew they wanted to give back.

A tradition of giving began, as the Blume family brought presents, paid medical bills and offered comfort in any ways they could to patients and their families.

That generous spirit continues to this day with the Blume Family Playground. This Foundation-funded initiative will renovate an existing 3,971-square-foot covered play area located at the front entrance to Hemby Children's Hospital and will be easily accessible to all rooms.

**With an “under the sea” theme this space will provide an exciting, colorful and developmentally appropriate play space for patients to use while staying in the hospital.**

The playground will have wheelchair access, many climbing structures and musical elements. Some of the eye-catching pieces include a large pirate ship, a tunnel, a yellow submarine and numerous sea creatures, including a sea turtle, a seahorse and a starfish.

Children can experience the benefits of music by using the conga, chimes and cabasa. The flooring will be a durable poured material, displaying a colorful and engaging pattern to complement the theme. Additional updates will include new lighting, a decorative bird screen and a new, accessible restroom.







## The legacy of Caroline Comly

### How one family turned a tragic loss into a mission to support physicians and families at Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center

John and Ginny Comly met in Romare Bearden Park, back when it was a gravel parking lot. John was leaving work late. Ginny had just gone for a swim at the gym and couldn't start her car. "I wasn't exactly a knight in shining armor, but I was someone with jumper cables," John recalled with a laugh.

In the years since that chance encounter, John and Ginny have built a life together. Their son, Robert, will be 11 in September. Their daughter, Katherine, turns 9 that same month. And this fall, they will honor the memory and legacy of their daughter, Caroline, with the opening of Caroline's Corner within Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center.

"One of the important things for me, and the reason I want it to be called Caroline's Corner, is that, in 20 years, people will still be saying her name. To me that's an important thing," John said. "I also hope it will take little things off people's plates, both the caregivers and their families. I hope it will make their experience less trying than it already is."

Unfortunately, it's an experience the Comly family knows well. Baby Caroline was born four weeks early, in January of 2018. Despite arriving sooner than expected, she was happy and healthy. Two days after she was born, she was able to join her brother and sister at home. Then, one Sunday, Ginny had trouble waking Caroline to feed. After driving her to the Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital Pediatric Emergency Department,

Caroline was transferred to the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU). Ginny and John didn't know what was happening, but tests eventually diagnosed Caroline with an extremely rare condition — bacterial meningitis. Caroline was put into a medically induced coma as the medical team worked to find a way to fight her illness. Further testing revealed the situation was far worse, however, and five days after she came to the hospital Caroline passed away.

In the wake of tragedy, it can be hard to find meaning. But the Comlys have found it, in part, in serving those who served them during the toughest time of their lives. John and Ginny were so moved by the work of Caroline's care team, they wanted to make their lives and work easier. After seeing firsthand that staff had no dedicated space to recharge, they built one within the pediatric intensive care unit. There's a couch and a TV, a coffee maker and a computer. It's a simple, dedicated space for the people who do so much for the patients and families in the PICU.

"I think for all the positive stories they get to experience, there's so much heartbreak," John said. "Their job is as much of a calling as anything else. You think about people who run into harm's way. These people aren't running into battlefields with bullets, but they're running into the most painful emotional environment every day with the hope of fixing a few of them, and that's pretty special."

But helping the caregivers wasn't enough. The Comlys' experience in the PICU showed them all the issues that families face when medical crises hit. To that end, the Comlys have spearheaded the construction of Caroline's Corner, a dedicated space within Presbyterian Medical Center for families with loved ones in Hemby Children's Hospital. When it opens this fall, this renovation of an existing



1,100-square-foot observation unit will feature comfortable seating, TVs, work stations, food service, a shower, laundry — everything families need when they can't go home because their loved ones are fighting for their lives. Through a partnership with the Ronald McDonald House, the Family Room will be staffed with dedicated volunteers and will offer programming to families such as visits with therapy dogs and evening activities.

"What we really wanted was just a peaceful place that had peaceful colors — to make it warm, comfortable, as much like home as possible," Ginny said.

**"I was thinking about a way to make it not feel like a hospital, but to make it feel like a place where your mind could take you somewhere peaceful."**

That mission is reflected in the tagline for the space: "Care, comfort and hope."

"That's what we view as the ultimate goal, because having a child in the hospital is a life experience where there is little, if any, comfort and hope," John said. "When Caroline died, it became more of a mission that we wanted to do this and to do it in her name. And this can hopefully be

part of a number of legacies that she's able to leave even though she's not with us."

Those legacies are taking shape at home, too.

"We always celebrate her birthday. She's interred at our church, and we'll go there as a family on Sundays and holidays," John said. "Her room is no longer a nursery, but it's a bedroom and sometimes the kids sleep there at night. There's a garden outside the window of her room that we put together in her honor, and we hang her stocking at Christmas."

All of that helps keep Caroline's memory alive and well, just as Caroline's Corner will when it opens this fall.

"It really has been part of our grief process," Ginny said. "There is an outlet there that takes a little bit of the tragedy away and helps us create something beautiful and hopeful and comforting."

*You can do your part to support the patients, providers and families at Novant Health with a gift to the Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center Foundation. The foundation facilitates the remarkable care that happens here every day, and your generous contributions are a vital part of that process.*



# Martin Truex Jr. Foundation Children's Emergency

## Novant Health Huntersville Medical Center is bringing pediatric care close to home

Thousands of children in the Lake Norman and Huntersville communities require some level of urgent care annually, yet their residents have limited access to nearby emergency services. To address this growing concern, Martin Truex Jr. and Sherry Pollex partnered with Novant Health to introduce the Martin Truex Jr. Foundation Children's Emergency at Novant Health Huntersville Medical Center. This new state-of-the-art facility will be the first children's emergency department in the Lake Norman-Huntersville area.

Children have unique needs — from properly sized medical equipment to extra reassurance when things get frightening. It is important for them to be treated by physicians trained in pediatric emergency care in an environment designed with kids in mind. The Martin Truex Jr. Foundation Children's Emergency will be staffed with physicians and nurses who specialize in caring for kids. This facility will also staff a child life specialist to better meet the needs of our smallest patients. Additionally, our new pediatric emergency department will include:

- Nine private treatment rooms
- Triage room
- NASCAR-themed, family-friendly waiting room
- Advanced medical equipment specifically designed to treat children
- Family consultation room
- Flat-screen televisions
- Treatment room for minor emergencies
- Sleep chairs for late-night emergencies



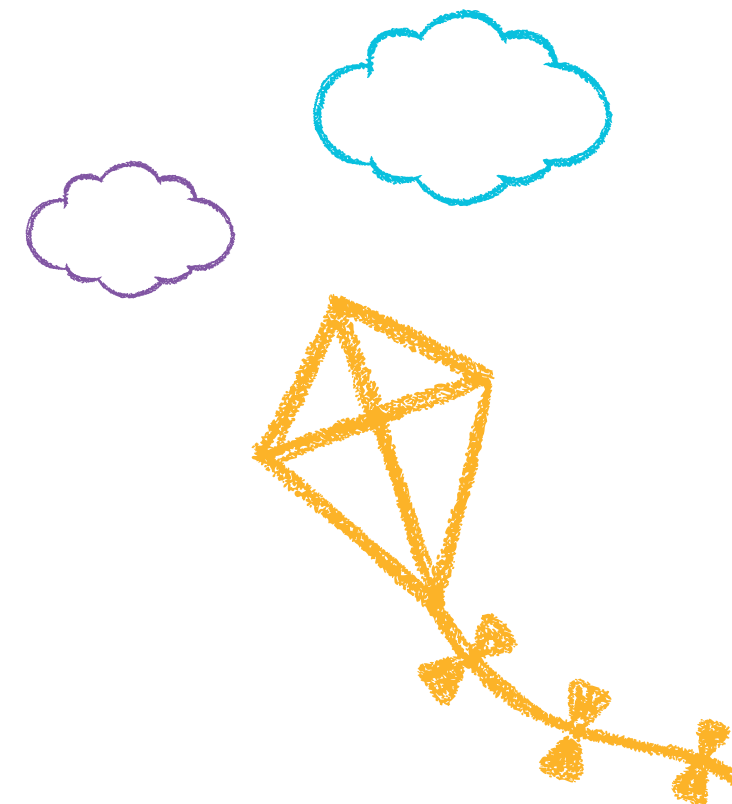
Our child life specialists work to reduce stress and trauma in clinical settings for children and their families. Stress and trauma can affect the development, health and well-being of children and family members as well. A family-centered approach is used to address children's social and emotional needs. Child life services can support families in the following ways:

- Age-appropriate preparation before treatment and information about a diagnosis
- Sessions to help a child play through medical experiences while in the hospital
- Coping plan for an upcoming medical experience
- Support and distraction during procedures
- Information regarding sibling responses to hospitalization
- Grief resources for families who have lost a loved one

The Martin Truex Jr. Foundation Children's Emergency is a critical long-term strategy to create a healthier community. Philanthropy is required for initial construction and retrofitting costs. We are asking our donors to join Martin, Sherry and Novant Health to help create a more efficient healthcare system that encompasses all of our children's healthcare needs.

**With your participation, leadership and generosity, we can strengthen our community by ensuring every child has access to lifesaving services close to home.**

To learn more about recognition opportunities and how you can support this critical need, contact **Nichole J. Burton** at [n.burton@NovantHealth.org](mailto:n.burton@NovantHealth.org) or **704-384-5389**.





# Community involvement



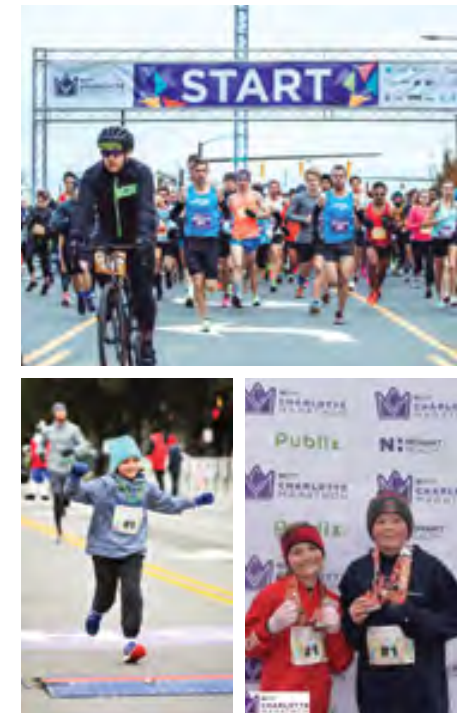
## Novant Health Charlotte Marathon

Since 2004, the Novant Health Charlotte Marathon has donated \$169,447 to the Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital child life program, and in 2019 their impact continued with a \$30,000 donation, plus an additional \$7,732 raised through online event registrations.

These gifts have helped support the program's greatest needs and patient programming items and supplies to help make the hospital feel a bit more like home for the children — from arts and crafts to movies, wagons and toys.

In 2020, funds supported Caroline's Corner, a new kitchen and family living room for patients and families at Hemby Children's Hospital. Caroline's Corner brings care, comfort and hope to families with a hospitalized child. The spacious area creates a private and peaceful retreat uniquely designed to meet the needs of pediatric patients' families. This newly completed area is now available to make every day spent at the hospital a little more comfortable, enabling families to focus on their child's healing and recovery.

*Due to COVID-19 the 2020 Marathon was a virtual race.*



## Community Care Cruiser program

Childhood immunizations and annual flu shots are critical tools needed to get many children ready for school. The Novant Health Community Care Cruiser partners with community centers, schools and the public health department to provide school-age children with vaccines and referrals for school entry physicals. Uninsured youths 0-18 receive free immunizations at community sites, specific middle school clinics and flu vaccine clinics.

Started in 2007, the Community Care Cruiser program, housed within Novant Health Community Engagement, addresses a community health concern: lack of access to immunizations that causes students in low-income areas to miss critical school enrollment deadlines, which in turn could impact their long-term health, continuing education and upward mobility.

In 2019, the Community Care Cruiser team members administered approximately 4,157 immunizations to 1,166 youths. The program also assisted in providing flu vaccines to the children's parents by way of private grants and donations.



## Child life chalk photos

Our role as child life specialists is to help patients and families cope with the fear and anxiety that may result from coming to the hospital. We are working together with other child life specialists across the nation to develop resources to support patients, families and healthcare workers as we navigate this significant life experience together. We have created books, flyers and other visual aids, including uplifting messages written in chalk on the sidewalks surrounding our facility, to help explain COVID-19 in ways children can understand. We also have developed tips and suggestions to help children and families cope during this challenging time.



# Support keeps us strong

We couldn't care for kids without you. Here's just a sampling of some of the community support we received this past year.



## Next-level thanks to Child's Play

Child's Play is a game industry charity dedicated to improving the lives of children with toys and games. They gifted us an Xbox One, controller and a slew of games to keep our patients' minds busy and off of treatment.



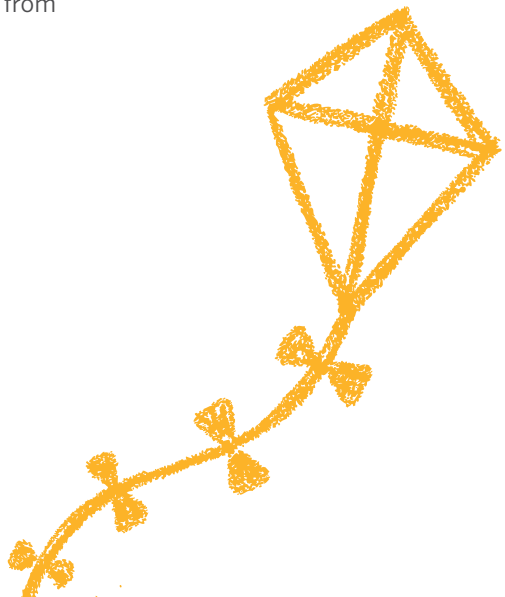
## Refueled by CLTStrong

In April, a food donation was provided by CLTStrong, an organization started by a fertility nurse. She originally started a GoFundMe page to raise money to feed frontline workers, and wound up raising enough to feed not only frontline workers all across Charlotte but to support local restaurants as well. The pediatrics and PICU departments both received more than 10 different meals from March through June.



## A very merry Jeepstyle toy drive

Lake Norman Jeepstyle Jeep Club held its annual "Christmas in July Toy Drive" for Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital on July 26, 2020, at Lost Worlds Brewing. In addition to toys, they raised \$785 for Hemby Children's Hospital and purchased the child life department a new iPad!



## Colorful gifts from our Miss and Mrs.

Aly McNair, Miss North Carolina High School America 2020, and Corey Moore, Mrs. Cosmos South Carolina 2020, got together with their families and friends to gather arts and crafts items for pediatric patients. Coloring books, crayons and colored pencils were just a few of the many items that were graciously donated to Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital.



## Giving with lots of heart

The Go Heart Foundation surprised the Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital staff with donuts, Munchkins, hot and iced coffee! This group is a huge support to Hemby Children's Hospital, and helped with almost all of the holiday parties last year.



## Doing Halloween with Dunkin'

In October, Dunkin' Donuts' Halloween Partnership provided a spooky surprise for our Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital patients. They delivered individual donut decorating kits as well as pumpkin decorating activities for our patients to enjoy on Halloween.



## Leveling up thanks to Gamer's Outreach and MarkstromTV

In November, through Gamer's Outreach, streamer MarkstromTV donated eight portable gaming carts equipped with eight games and Xbox Ones to help keep patients entertained.



# The story of ‘Sweet Baby Luke’

## After the most difficult day of their lives, this family is on a mission to support Novant Health Hemby Children’s Hospital

His name was Luke, but more often than not, his family didn’t call him that. The 1-year-old boy with the infectious smile and joyful personality was better known as “Sweet Baby Luke.”

“We would call him that because he was so wonderful and sweet all the time. He loved people and dogs and playing with his brother. He was an absolute joy,” said Arliss Day, Luke’s mother and store manager of the Kendra Scott jewelry store in SouthPark mall.

Then, one day in December of 2019, Luke had to be rushed to the emergency room at Novant Health Mint Hill Medical Center. One moment, he had been laughing and dancing; the next, Day and her family were watching Luke fight for his life.

“He was happy and healthy,” Day said. “As we anxiously waited in the ER to figure out what was going on, we had no idea we would later be saying goodbye to Luke.”

The medical team admitted him immediately, working feverishly to determine what was causing Luke’s rapid and devastating decline.

“He passed away in my arms, and they revived him,” Day said. “The entire emergency room team was at the door with us. They were doing everything in their power to help us, but nobody knew what was wrong.”

Soon, the family was transferred by ambulance to Novant Health Hemby Children’s Hospital Emergency Department, where they met Dr. Emily Nazarian and the team of medical professionals who would be there with them through the most difficult day of their lives.

“We knew they truly loved Luke. They asked what he liked to do, what his personality was, and we appreciated that they never gave us false hope,” Day said. “They were very upfront with what was happening, but they delivered it in such a sincere way and they were there for us as much as possible.”

The doctors were eventually able to pinpoint what was happening to Luke: He had volvulus, a twisting of the intestines more common and treatable in newborns. It is rare in children Luke’s age, and four hours after he was rushed to the ER, it took his life.

“We never had to leave Luke’s side. I was able to stand over the hospital crib and hold his hand and kiss his head. They could have easily sent me out to the waiting room, but they never did. They let me continue to love on him,” Day said.

The past few months have been hard, to say the least, but Day has found bright spots. Kendra Scott gave her three months off after Luke passed away, and she threw a fundraiser to help cover some of the family’s expenses. Day and her husband have a 3-year-old son named Adam, and as he adjusts to his new reality, he has taken to making LEGO creations to leave next to Luke’s grave every time the family visits.

The family is also turning its energy toward giving back. Day and her husband, Kelvin, have started the Luke Day Foundation to help other families who lose a child unexpectedly. And they want to continue to honor and recognize the staff at Hemby Children’s Hospital.

That work began in January. Day was eager to show her support and gratitude to Dr. Nazarian and all the nurses who had cared for Luke and her family, so she worked with her team at Kendra Scott to orchestrate a delivery of lunches and jewelry, giving each team member in the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) a piece from the Kendra Scott collection.

“It was a bittersweet day. I didn’t know if I would make it through the doors of the PICU,” Day said. “When we showed up, we saw so many familiar faces. They told us this wasn’t necessary, and we said, ‘Yes, this isn’t even enough.’”



Kendra Scott has since made Hemby Children’s Hospital part of the Kendra Cares program, which brings the company’s signature Color Bar to pediatric hospitals to allow patients and families to design their own complimentary pieces of jewelry. And, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Day is planning a return trip to the hospital to deliver lunch and Kendra Scott face masks during Nursing Team Member Week.

“I think about them a lot. I pray. They’re the true heroes in it all, and I know it’s not easy for them. They all have families of their own, as well. Being able to balance that, it’s really hard, and they are put into such difficult situations. My heart has gone out to them. You worry about them,” she said.

Day has also been working with Kendra Scott’s nonprofit partners to orchestrate other events to benefit the team at Presbyterian Medical Center. Typically, the Kendra Scott location in SouthPark mall hosts five philanthropic

events per week. With the pandemic, those events have all been canceled, but Day has been working with organizers to take them from in-person to virtual and to have the proceeds benefit frontline healthcare workers.

“We have a lot of things in the works, and hopefully we can gear it all toward the Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center Foundation and have a big give after all of this,” Day said. “The team at Hemby Children’s Hospital made the most horrible situation that anyone could possibly go through bearable for me and my family. They’re there for a reason. We look back, and we look at Novant Health, and we’re just thankful.”

If you would like to show your support to those remarkable team members who care directly for our Hemby Children’s Hospital patients, consider a gift to the Hope for Remarkable Team Aubergine Fund, which provides essential healthcare workers with the resources they need now so they can focus on the important work of saving lives. It’s the work they do every day, but the work we all need more now than ever.

Learn more at [supportnovanthealth.org](https://supportnovanthealth.org)



# Kendra Cares



## A dazzling partnership

Our relationship with the team from Kendra Scott Jewelry, located in SouthPark mall, began in 2019 when they provided lunch to our PICU staff. This gesture was to show their appreciation for the team that cared for the son of a Kendra Scott employee who passed away in 2019. (See the story of Sweet Baby Luke on the previous pages.)

The Kendra Scott team returned a few weeks later with a mobile jewelry bar as part of the Kendra Cares program. Patients and their caregivers were given a break from everyday routines with the chance to design their own piece of customized jewelry at no cost.

This amazing partnership has continued to grow in 2020. Amid the restrictions due to COVID-19, the Kendra Scott team has continued to find creative ways to support our

patients, families and team members. They provided masks, jewelry and Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams vouchers for National Ice Cream Day, as well as a virtual jewelry bar for patients in honor of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.



# Grier's Gallery



## Artistic endeavors

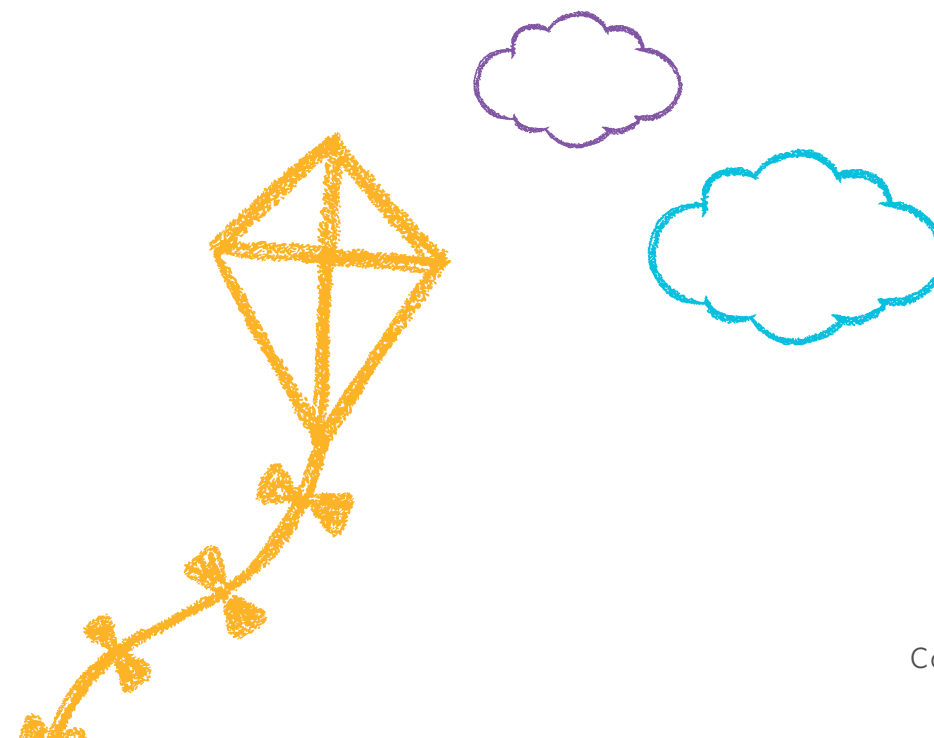
Grier's Gallery relaunched in 2019 at Hemby Children's Hospital with the help of Novant Health Foundation board member Wendy Bilas and the child life staff. Grier's Gallery's mission is to normalize the hospital environment and facilitate some relief for parents and families by providing educational art experiences.

Once a month on the inpatient unit, Grier's Gallery provides patients the opportunity to express themselves through artwork, interact with other patients and spend time out of their rooms engaging in normalizing activities. Patients have the freedom to create alongside other children who are also going through similar experiences of hospitalization.

With the support of our community, Grier's Gallery hopes to create an Artists in Residence program at Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital to instill a long-term appreciation for the arts in the children it serves. One goal is for Grier's Gallery to engage local volunteer artists to serve as creative guides and provide inspiration for children to find healing through the creative arts.



To learn more about Grier's Gallery, visit [GriersGallery.org](https://GriersGallery.org).





# Children's Trust brings hope to children and families

At Novant Health Foundation, we believe remarkable care is so much more than expert medical treatment. It's about providing comfort and support to every person who comes through our doors. And a philanthropic effort is helping lead the way for patients and families.

The Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center Foundation Children's Trust provides donors with an opportunity to serve as champions for pediatric health and wellness. Through the trust, donors contribute to nonmedical initiatives that improve the overall quality of life of pediatric patients and their families. Children's Trust donors also have the opportunity to establish direct volunteer connections with the Novant Health system. The Children's Trust was conceived by a group of four passionate supporters of Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital: Amanda Weisiger Cornelson, Will Cowan, Bobby Pittenger and Will Stevens. Cornelson said the idea was to create an annual giving or membership program to facilitate direct support for pediatrics.

"We really wanted to build something that would support all of pediatrics at Novant Health and involve community members in a way that was really meaningful to them," Cornelson said. The trust launched in February 2019 and has grown to 161 members, raising close to \$80,000. To date, the trust has helped fund new amenities for Hemby Children's Hospital patients, including:

- A handicap-accessible children's playground at the Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital campus
- Funding support for a new Martin Truex Jr. Foundation Children's Emergency
- An interactive discovery center waiting room in Novant Health's Center for Pediatric Development

Anyone who donates \$1,000 or more is recognized as a Superhero of the Children's Trust. Superheroes have the opportunity to vote on Presbyterian Medical Center Foundation funding opportunities and are provided with a dedicated phone line maintained around the clock by nurses who can answer questions or recommend specialists. The trust gives donors many ways to get involved in improving the lives of children in the Charlotte community.

"Being able to participate in something like the Children's Trust helps drive health equity across the community, and we can all agree children deserve every opportunity we can give them," Cornelson said.

The work of the Children's Trust has taken on new significance during the COVID-19 pandemic, with shifts in education and overall support systems under strain. Amy McKinney, development manager at Presbyterian Medical Center Foundation, said the trust has been particularly meaningful for the Center of Pediatric Development. "With over 50% of the children seen at the Center for Pediatric Development on Medicaid, the financial support from the Children's Trust has been crucial in providing better nonmedical care for these pediatric patients," McKinney said. "With the support of the Children's Trust, our team stands ready to support a family through any obstacle, from general counseling to extensive physical and occupational therapy."

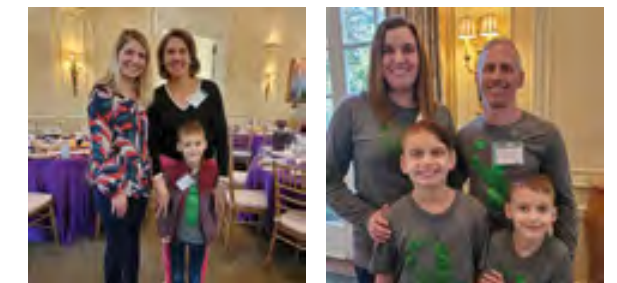
For Cornelson and other trust members, the Children's Trust has been an opportunity to help build a safe and loving community at Novant Health with all the amenities a child needs to feel comfortable during a challenging time. "Everybody wants the absolute best for their child," Cornelson said. "It's so important that we offer that same experience for every child, no matter what their resources are or where they come from."

## Celebrating the Novant Health Children's Trust

On March 6, 2020, our donors, physicians, staff and friends gathered at the Duke Mansion for a breakfast hosted in honor of our Novant Health Children's Trust Superheroes, as well as to celebrate the anniversary of this annual giving program that supports pediatric initiatives at Novant Health.

During this celebration, we announced our newest Hemby Hero, Cole Russell, who was also celebrating his birthday on March 6! We are grateful to all of our Superhero donors and look forward to sharing exciting pediatric updates and progress with each of you throughout the remainder of the year.

To learn more, visit [SupportNovantHealth.org/ChildrensTrust](https://SupportNovantHealth.org/ChildrensTrust).



You have the opportunity to make a direct impact on children in your community and the pediatric care they receive. Through a gift to the Children's Trust, you can **support the treatment and amenities children receive** at Novant Health.





# 2020 Hemby Hero

## Meet ‘the mayor of the PICU’ at Novant Health Hemby Children’s Hospital

On June 26, 2019, 6-year-old Cole Joseph Russell got sick. Things went from bad to worse fast, and Cole was rushed to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Novant Health Hemby Children’s Hospital, where doctors told his parents the boy would need emergency surgery.

“We knew it was very, very serious,” Cole’s mom recalled.

Over the next seven months, one surgery turned into 12. Cole had suffered a volvulus, or a twisting of intestines, and a loss of bowels. He also had a stroke while he was in the hospital and, for a time, couldn’t move the left side of his body.

Through all of that, Cole kept fighting — his spirits staying high. He got a breathing tube and quickly learned how to plug it up and create funny noises to tease the medical staff. He’d show off his dance moves — particularly “the floss.” He’d build Hot Wheel car ramps and engage in Nerf gun battles in the halls of the hospital.

“We called him ‘the mayor of the PICU,’” said Dr. Emily Nazarian, a pediatric critical care physician at Novant Health. “Cole wins your heart whenever you see him.”

These days, Cole is home with his family and back to his old self, his mother said. He plays sports, jokes around with his brother and is doing better than anyone could have imagined.

“Our family will forever be grateful for Novant Health Hemby Children’s Hospital and everything they did for our Cole,” his mother said. “I can’t imagine taking him anywhere else.”

To support the lifesaving work that happens at Novant Health Hemby Children’s Hospital every day, consider a donation to the Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center Foundation today.



**Cole Joseph Russell, age: 6**  
**Diagnosis: Volvulus (twisting of intestines) and loss of bowels**

*Are there any special doctors, nurses or clinical staff you would like to recognize?*

Dr. Bambini (who Cole has nicknamed “Dr. Warm Hands”), Jessica Pierce, Dr. Emily Nazarian, Jennifer Major, Nikki Polson, Danielle De Gorter, Kim Cappuzzo, Kimberly Chapman, the entire PICU staff and child life team.

*What do you want others to know about your experience?*

We received the best possible care by the best possible team. Everyone knew all about Cole and his interests and made him feel at home!

# 2021 Hemby Heroes



**Connor Loomis, age: 4 months**  
**Diagnosis: Intestinal malrotation and volvulus**

From Connor’s family: “EVERYONE AT HEMBY WAS AMAZING! We especially want to recognize Dr. Schulman, Alyse, Danielle, Ronnie, Nikki, Jordan, Jennifer, Jaime and Nicole (NP), Dr. Nazarian and Dr. Trakas.

Everyone treated Connor like he was their own child and were always there to help and answer any questions we had as first-time parents of a child who had a 1 in 10,000 condition. They would check in on him on their days off. They taught us how to read the monitors, even change his diaper!

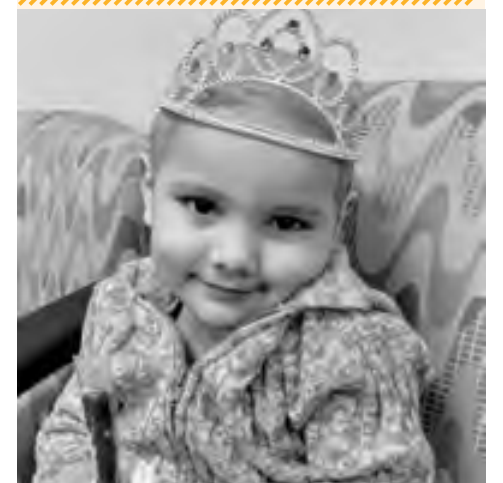
Hemby Children’s Hospital is amazing! The doctors and nurses truly make you feel like family, yet remain completely professional. All staff was knowledgeable about everything and helped us remain positive in the most troubling time of our lives. They listened when we were concerned and always addressed the questions/concerns we had immediately. We were there for six weeks during COVID, which was isolating in itself. The staff became our friends/family and we are forever grateful.”

**Emely Varela Salvador, age: 5**  
**Diagnosis: Acute lymphoid leukemia**

From Emely’s family: “Hemby Children’s Hospital treats you like family. They care about their patients and try to make it seem as if they are not in a hospital. They want you to be as comfortable as possible. The doctors and nurses who have taken care of Emely show her love and try to make the stay there a great experience.”

**Kaden, age: 2**  
**Diagnosis: TEF tracheoesophageal fistula and tracheomalacia**

From Kaden’s family: “The doctors and nurses were UNBELIEVABLE. They were very patient with us and gave the best care to Kaden. We stayed in the NICU for 169 days. We were released home on December 11, 2018. He has conquered so much since that time. He’s eating solid foods, talking and has the best hair and personality. We are so grateful for all the surgeons, doctors, nurses and everyone in between that helped get Kaden get where he is today — a happy, loving and smart little warrior.”





# What's to come in 2021

The Novant Health Children's Health Institute looks forward to 2021 with excitement! 2020 was a year focused on safety and adaptation as we learned to live with the novel coronavirus. Our first priority at all times is to ensure we provide safe, remarkable care to our pediatric patients. Our goal in 2021 is to continue that high quality of care in a safe environment as we grow our services to serve our community.

- Growing pediatric practices that will start the expansion process in 2021:
  - Novant Health Arboretum Pediatrics 51
  - St. Jude Affiliate Clinic at Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital
  - Novant Health Child and Adolescent Medicine — Wesley Chapel
  - Novant Health Pediatrics South End

- Our NICU will begin the expansion process.
- Novant Health Pediatric Allergy & Immunology will start a food allergy desensitization clinic.
- Novant Health Pediatric Endocrinology will start offering in-office infusions for patients and Growth Hormone Stimulation testing.
- Novant Health Pediatric Cardiology will add additional access to our North Charlotte/Huntersville area.
- Novant Health Pediatric Pulmonology will expand its cystic fibrosis program.
- Novant Health Pediatric Sports Medicine will expand its spine and scoliosis program.
- Expansion of cleft-lip palate comprehensive program.
- Expansion of the Center for Pediatric Development.
- Expansion of NICU follow-up clinic.



## NOVANT HEALTH Center for Pediatric Development



The core purpose of the Novant Health Center for Pediatric Development addresses the problem that children with disabilities have complex medical needs and often have multiple healthcare appointments in myriad locations. The center's goal is to provide everything these children need under one roof, with less time spent traveling and more time spent receiving care. The center provides an opportunity for providers and care teams to work together — in one location — communicating and building on each other's work in order to create innovative healthcare approaches for our patients and community. Anticipated outcomes of the unique structure of the Novant Health Center for Pediatric Development include:

- Increased number of children screened for early toxic stress
- Increased number of children receiving care for adverse childhood experiences
- Efficient processes to connect patient to therapies and community services in a timely manner

Novant Health Center for Pediatric Development opened in the second quarter of 2020 and is the full-time home of Novant Health Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics and Novant Health Pediatric Rehabilitation, which includes audiology, occupational therapy (OT), physical therapy (PT) and speech therapy. Additionally, community partners, including Alternative Behavior Strategies, will co-locate in the building. In addition to PT, OT and speech therapy, pediatric subspecialties such as pediatric neurosurgery provide rotating support.

The new center includes four core service areas comprised of multidisciplinary clinics:

- Adverse childhood experiences
- Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and learning differences
- Autism
- Developmental delays and follow-up from the NICU



# Meet your leadership team



**Saad Ehtisham, FACHE**  
President, Novant Health  
greater Charlotte market  
and Novant Health  
Presbyterian Medical Center



**Sidney Fletcher MD, FACEP**  
Senior vice president,  
chief clinical officer core  
Charlotte market



**Jamie Feinour, MHA, MT(ASCP)**  
Vice president, professional  
and support services



**Kelli Sadler MHA, BSN, RN**  
Vice president, nursing, market  
chief nursing officer greater  
Charlotte market



**Patricia Campbell, MSN, RNC**  
System admin executive,  
Novant Health Women's &  
Children's Health Institute



**Navin Bhojwani, MD**  
System physician executive,  
Novant Health Women's &  
Children's Health Institute



**Stephanie Appling, MPH**  
Senior director, Novant  
Health Women's &  
Children's Health Institute



**Catherine Ohmstede, MD**  
Market physician executive,  
Novant Health Women's and  
Children's Health Institute



**L. Eugene Daugherty Jr., MD**  
Novant Health Hemby  
Children's Hospital medical  
director, pediatric intensivist



**Diana Sutton, MSN, RN, CPN**  
Director of nursing,  
children's services



**Scott Painter**  
Regional clinic manager



**Amber Sullivan**  
Regional clinic manager



**Morgan Hunt, BSN, RN**  
Nurse manager, pediatrics



**Jessica Osborn, CCLS**  
Hemby Ambassador



**Phyllis Waddell, BSN, RNC-NIC**  
NICU nurse manager



# Super Hero Donors



Thank you to our 2020 Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center  
Foundation Children's Trust donors.

Mr. Travis Anderson

Mr. Brian D. Bailey and Mrs. Dianne C. Bailey

Mr. Steve Beatty and Mrs. Georgia Beatty

Steven Bernal, MD

Mr. Michael E. Blair and Mrs. Elizabeth B. Blair

Mr. Dan Boone

Joseph Lawrence Brady, MD

Matthew Barclay Brothers, MD

Herbert W. Clegg II, MD, and Mrs. Regina V. Clegg

Carolina Rapids Soccer Club

Mr. John D. Comly and Mrs. Mary V. Comly

Mr. Timothy Condon and Mrs. Denise Marie Condon

Mr. Martin S. Cornelson and Mrs. Amanda W. Cornelson

Mrs. Laura McIntyre Corsig

Mr. William S. Cowan Jr. and Mrs. Georgina B. Cowan

Mr. Perrin Quarles Dargan III and

Mrs. Elizabeth Amanda Dargan

Mr. Joshua A. Dobi and Mrs. Kerri Renea Dobi

Mr. Saad Ehtisham

Mr. Edward I. Weisiger Jr. and Mrs. Betsy Fleming

Lili J. Poon, DO, and Ben Graef, DO

Ms. Jacqueline C. Griffin

William Hammill, MD, and Mrs. Campbell Hammill

Mrs. Sharon Carr Harrington and Mr. Robert E. Harrington

Mr. Andrew Heywood and Mrs. Carla Heywood

Mr. Karl Frederick Hightower

Mr. Joe Hollmeyer

Mr. Marvin E. Lich and Mrs. Victoria K. Lich

Matthew Lineberger, DDS,  
and Megan Lineberger, DDS

Jermeliah M. Martin, MD, and Larry Martin, MD

Ms. Trudy Lee Rowe Morton

David P. Ohmstede, MD, and Catherine Sauls  
Ohmstede, MD

Mr. Christopher Opie and Mrs. Brenda A. Opie

Mr. Chad Phillips

Ms. Stephanie Pietsch

Mr. Robert M. Pittenger Jr. and Mrs. Jodi E. Pittenger

Mr. David L. Powell and Mrs. Elizabeth B. Powell

Mr. Scott Reschly and Mrs. Marla Reschly

Shelley D. Rinker, MD, and Mr. Cameron Rinker

Mr. Daniel W. Roberts

Mr. Joseph T. Roy IV and Mrs. Nancy N. Roy

Eric A. Eskioglu, MD, and Ms. Lauren Speas

Mr. William Michael Stevens and Mrs. Kelly W. Stevens

Ms. Amber L. Sullivan

Mr. Jay A. Thomas and Mrs. Aimee R. Thomas

Ms. Sarah Turza

United Technologies

Mr. Michael Charles Wiles and Mrs. Kimberly N. Wiles

Mr. Richard N. Younts





Hemby Children's Hospital