



CHOC Foundation
Part of Rady Children's Health

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



ADVENTURES AHEAD:

BLAZING TRAILS FOR CHILDHOOD

With our community of supporters leading the way, Rady Children's Health Orange County, formerly CHOC, charts bold new territory in pediatric healthcare. Together, we pioneer new ways to heal, nurture, and protect every child's ability to thrive. This annual report celebrates the generosity of our donors and the shared spirit of adventure that continues to move us forward.

Every great adventure brings moments of uncertainty, courage, and discovery—and this past year at the CHOC Foundation was no different.

The year 2025 marked a year of extraordinary change and transformation. As we navigated the merger that formed the Rady Children's Health enterprise, celebrated the opening of our nine-story Southwest Tower, led the way in the rapidly evolving landscape of pediatric healthcare, and more, our path forward was not always predictable. Yet through it all, one thing remained constant: our community's unwavering commitment to children and families in need.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and their belief in our mission, we raised \$56.8 million in fiscal year 2025.

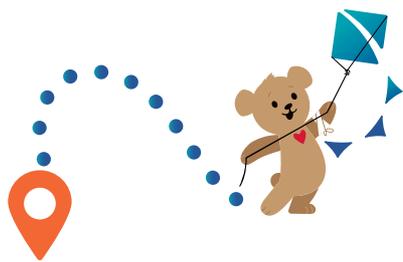
While this achievement is significant, it tells only part of the story. The true impact of philanthropy is measured in lives changed—in children who not only heal but also rediscover the joy of exploring who they are and who they can become beyond our hospital walls.

Together, we defend childhood, open doors to research and education, and ensure every child has the best chance for a brighter, healthier future.

Thank you for walking alongside us and being part of this adventure. We could not do this important work without you.



Jessica L. Miley
Senior Vice President
and Chief Development Officer



Same Exceptional Care, More Possibilities

In 2026, we celebrate the one-year milestone of our merger with Rady Children's Hospital San Diego to form our new parent company, Rady Children's Health (Rady Children's)—a premier pediatric healthcare system with more than 125 care locations across six counties and a combined legacy of more than a century of clinical excellence.

We strive to build healthier futures for every child who depends on us. Rady Children's is dedicated to advancing children's health and well-being through leading-edge research, innovative treatments, and compassionate care. We remain steadfast in our commitment to serving our local communities while extending the benefits of our enhanced relationship.

The same high-quality, personalized services are now supported by expanded resources and expertise through our unified health system.

Our new name creates a cohesive identity for families across Southern California. It strengthens our ability to attract top pediatric talent, conduct research, and develop resources that benefit our region's children, while also honoring the enduring generosity of prominent philanthropists Ernest and Evelyn Rady.

With our beloved Choco at the heart of our new, unified identity, the spirit and legacy of CHOC remain as strong as ever. Simply put: same bear, same people, new name.

Thank you to our donors for being cherished partners and champions during this time of transition and growth and for supporting the services, programs, communities, and passions we hold dear. There are exciting opportunities ahead to bring healing to every child, and we are deeply grateful for your support as we create a healthier Southern California together.

Patient Spotlight: Trent



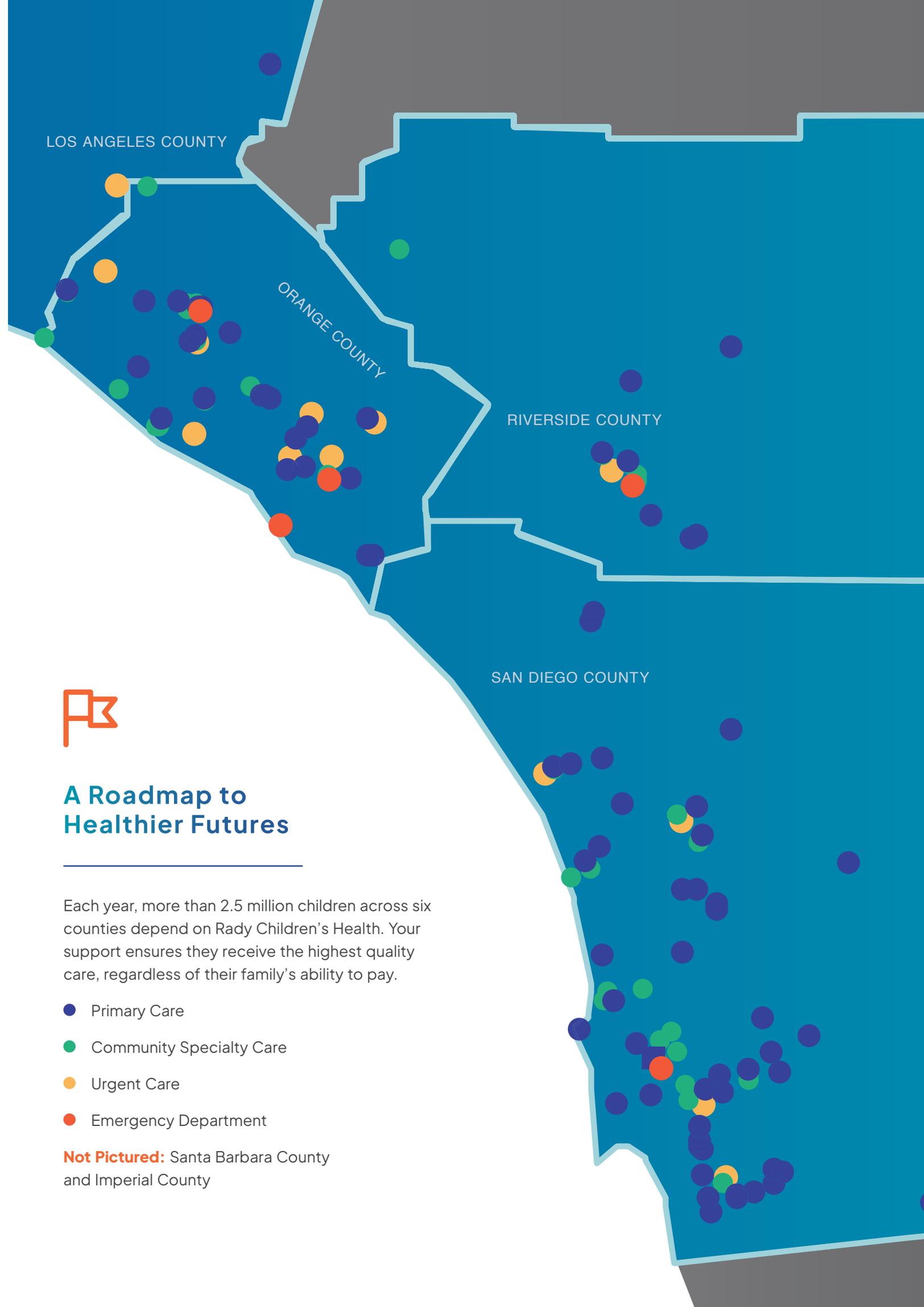
Trent might not be able to give you the specifics on how Rady Children's Health came to be, but he'll be able to tell you about the expert, compassionate care he received at both hospitals after being diagnosed at 8 years old with a fast-growing malignant brain tumor—a rare cancer with less than a 40% chance of being cured in the first 18 months.

["I would say it's miraculous," child neurologist Dr. John Crawford, division chief of child neurology at Rady Children's Hospital Orange County, says of Trent's recovery.](#)

His journey required cutting-edge treatment and collaboration between the two hospitals. Because of this, Trent, now 13 years old, defied the odds and has graduated from cancer patient to long-term cancer survivor.

Watch Trent's Story:



A map of Southern California counties: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Diego. The map is filled with colored dots representing different types of care. Orange County has the highest density of dots, followed by San Diego County. Riverside County has a moderate number of dots, while Los Angeles County has fewer. The dots are color-coded: dark blue for Primary Care, green for Community Specialty Care, yellow for Urgent Care, and red for Emergency Department. The map is set against a dark blue background with white outlines for the county boundaries.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

ORANGE COUNTY

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

SAN DIEGO COUNTY



A Roadmap to Healthier Futures

Each year, more than 2.5 million children across six counties depend on Rady Children's Health. Your support ensures they receive the highest quality care, regardless of their family's ability to pay.

- Primary Care
- Community Specialty Care
- Urgent Care
- Emergency Department

Not Pictured: Santa Barbara County and Imperial County



Philanthropic Pathfinders



Cari and Chad Peets

Cari and Chad Peets have been steadfast supporters of Rady Children's, championing programs that protect, heal, and uplift our patients and their families during their most vulnerable moments.

Their philanthropy in 2025 includes a \$2 million pledge to sustain and advance ambulatory care programming focused on child protection, human trafficking intervention, mental health, trauma-informed care, and suicide prevention, as well as a \$250,000 commitment to energy metabolism research.

Through the Peets family's ongoing commitment to our Child Protection Program and generous support of the CHOC Let's Talk: Mental Health Luncheon, we see a hopeful future where children are heard, prioritized, and protected when they need it most.

In the Q&A below, Cari and Chad Peets reflect on their legacy of giving.

Q: Why does our mission resonate with you?

Your dedication to delivering world-class care to every child—regardless of circumstance—mirrors the fierce, unconditional love we feel for our four children. We support Rady Children's because every family deserves that same assurance in their darkest moments.

Q: What inspired you to get involved with the CHOC Foundation?

We fiercely believe that those who have the resources bear a responsibility to give back, turning gratitude into meaningful action. Supporting Rady Children's through the Foundation furthers our goal to provide extraordinary, compassionate care to patients and families in Southern California.

Q: What impact do you hope to leave with your philanthropy?

Our family aspires to advance pioneering research, expand access to cutting-edge treatment, and preserve the moments of childhood joy that heal the spirit. Above all, our hope is that our gifts inspire our children to carry forward a legacy of generosity that strengthens Rady Children's for generations to come.



SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union

Guided by their philosophy of "people helping people," SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union (FCU)'s longstanding partnership with Rady Children's reflects a shared value that caring for children strengthens entire communities.

Most recently, SchoolsFirst FCU announced a generous \$3 million gift in support of our Southwest Tower, an innovative ambulatory

building designed to enhance outpatient care for children and families across Southern California. In recognition of this transformative donation, the tower's first-floor lobby is named the SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union Lobby.

"We are deeply committed to supporting Rady Children's and its mission to deliver world-class pediatric care. By nurturing, supporting, and safeguarding children's health, we address the broader factors that influence well-being, offering care that goes beyond medicine to improve the overall quality of life for children and their families," states Bill Cheney, chief executive officer at SchoolsFirst FCU and CHOC Foundation board member. "This new facility will provide essential comfort, healing, and hope to thousands of families in need, and we are profoundly honored to be a part of making this vision a reality."

This latest gift brings SchoolsFirst FCU's total giving to Rady Children's to \$4.7 million over the past 23 years. As a longtime partner of Children's Miracle Network—the charity of choice for credit unions—SchoolsFirst FCU has supported Rady Children's greatest needs, allowing us to direct resources where both the need and promise are highest.

In addition to their philanthropy, SchoolsFirst FCU team members consistently volunteer their time at CHOC Walk in the Park, CHOC Gala events, Halloween celebrations at our Orange campus, and activities such as assembling holiday care bags and serving meals to patients and families.

Because of SchoolsFirst FCU's enduring partnership, Rady Children's is better positioned to advance pediatric health care and send children and families home with a lifetime of possibility ahead. We are grateful for their leadership, generosity, and unwavering commitment to making a meaningful difference for our community.

CureDuchenne



Rady Children's commitment to children's health mirrors our own mission at CureDuchenne: to improve lives through science, care, and community. We are proud to partner with Rady Children's and fund the CureDuchenne Clinic, which will deliver expert, compassionate care and make cutting-edge treatments and clinical trials available to more families facing Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

CureDuchenne has helped advance groundbreaking research for Duchenne muscular dystrophy, but progress only matters if families can access it. That's why our partnership with Rady Children's is so important. Through the CureDuchenne Clinic, Rady Children's is delivering expert care, emerging therapies, and clinical trial access—bringing hope closer to home for families facing Duchenne.

Debra Miller
Founder and CEO of CureDuchenne



Where Your Support Leads

The following programs and services from the past year would not have been possible without the generosity of donors:



54,000

Patients served through our child life teams, therapies, and services—an 8% increase from the previous year.



140

Guests welcomed to our annual J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation Rady Children's Oncology Patient Ball—a masquerade-themed night for our adolescent and young adult cancer patients and survivors.



2nd

Home for adolescents, teens, and young adults who are receiving care through our newly renovated teen room in Orange—thanks to Boot Barn and The Conroy Family.



12

Associates trained in crisis management and de-escalation techniques through the newly launched Marcus Crisis Prevention Program at the Thompson Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center.



600

Coping kits distributed to every new patient at the Cheresse Mari Lauhere Mental Health Inpatient Center—an 11% increase from the previous year.



3,524

Patients enrolled in 624 active studies; to date, the Research Institute at our Orange campus has completed 1,987 publications.



360

Patients received treatment in our Mental Health Crisis Clinic—a 25% increase from the previous year. The clinic provides short-term crisis services for 3- to 18-year-olds and their families.



1st

Elementary, campus-wide WellSpace opened in the program's history at Arovista Elementary School in the Brea Olinda Unified School District, establishing a foundational model for early learners. The space was developed in collaboration with the Orange County Department of Education and the Swenson Family Foundation.



6,205

Spiritual care visits provided by our six full-time, in-unit chaplains—a 252% increase from last year—offering words of comfort and providing families with opportunities for prayer and meditation.



>45

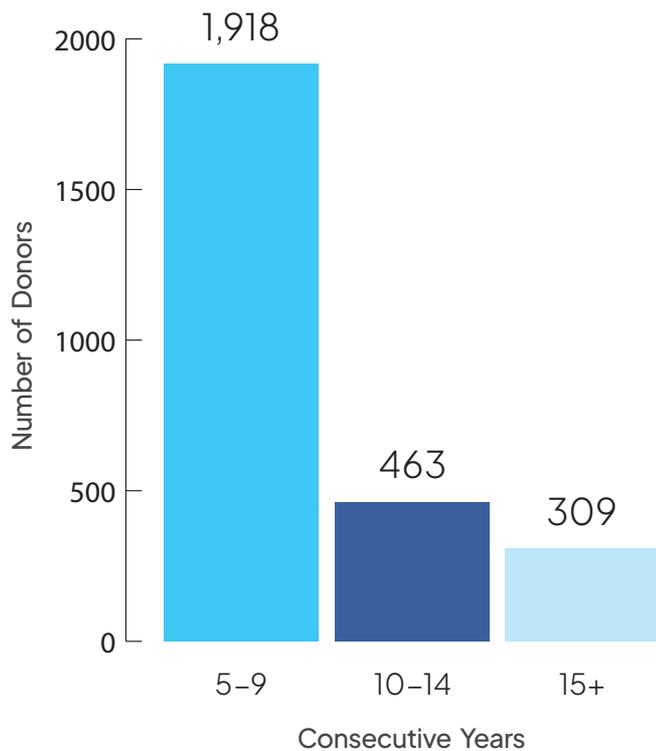
Events hosted by our child life team for patients and their loved ones, including family nights, art nights, and teen-specific nights featuring themes such as wellness and vision boarding.

Giving by the numbers

A Community That Shows Up—Again and Again

Award-Winning Pediatric Care

Donors by consecutive years



96% of gifts in FY25 were \$500 or less.

>50 specialty areas offered,
from allergy to urology

>1,400 physicians on the medical staff

>825,000 healthcare visits each year

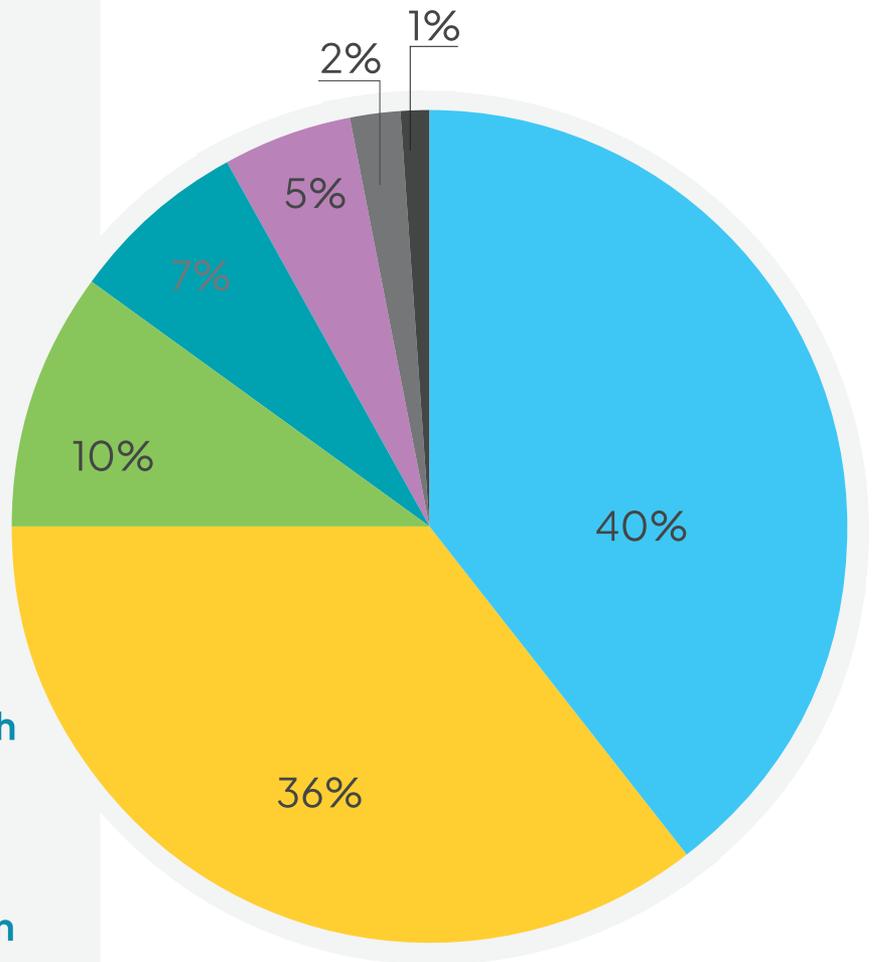
>500 residents, fellows, and medical students trained each year

Below are the financials for the fiscal year (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025).

TOTAL DONATIONS:
\$56,828,935

Giving by Area

- \$363,772
| Innovative Technology
- \$1,220,705
| Other
- \$2,936,937
| Deferred Commitment
- \$3,780,200
| Groundbreaking Research
- \$5,636,849
| Leadership and Education
- \$20,253,764
| Patient & Family-Centered Care
- \$22,636,708
| Greatest Needs



69,271
Number of gifts

27,808
Total Donors

Record-Breaking Support, Lasting Impact

In calendar year 2025, the power of community was on full display. For the first time, all CHOC Foundation signature fundraising events achieved record-breaking results. We are beyond grateful to our dedicated donors, supportive volunteers, and passionate committee members, who all made these events truly impactful. Every mile walked, applause heard, conversation shared, and dollars generously given transform children's lives.



Held at the beautiful Pelican Hill Golf Club® in Newport Beach, the 13th annual CHOC Classic **raised more than \$930,000**, bringing patients and families closer to greener, brighter tomorrows. The CHOC Classic continues to be a premier event for philanthropic-minded golfers, business leaders, community partners, and sponsors for a full day of golf, inspiring stories, and celebration.



More than 1,000 community and philanthropic leaders gathered at the Grove of Anaheim for the 16th annual CHOC Gala, **raising \$6.4 million** in support of Rady Children's Health Orange County's greatest needs. The evening featured moving stories from patients and families, along with a heartfelt mission moment with honorary co-chairs Freddie and Chelsea Freeman. Guests enjoyed a live auction experience and a starlit concert with country music star Blake Shelton and surprise guest Gwen Stefani—creating an unforgettable night for Rady Children's.



Step by step, our amazing CHOC Walk in the Park community gathered at Disneyland® Resort with spirit and heart, **raising more than \$3 million** to help our patients find their way back to the magic of childhood. More than 7,000 participants across over 400 teams celebrated children's health and well-being. From proudly holding "Why I Walk for CHOC" signs to hearing CHOC Walk Ambassador Belle Wuich's inspiring cancer journey, every walker added to the CHOC Walk story that's three decades in the making.



Our third annual Luncheon **raised more than \$1.1 million** to support mental health services and programs at Rady Children's Health Orange County. Emmy Award-winning American Meteorological Society meteorologist and KTLA 5 Morning News sportscaster Henry DiCarlo moderated a powerful interview with Emmy Award-winning choreographer, multi-talented entertainer, and *New York Times* best-selling author Derek Hough on the mental health effects of bullying and digital media.

Patient Spotlight: Dylan



After Dylan's mom, Nicole, was rushed to their local hospital in San Francisco to deliver her first baby at just 24 weeks pregnant, Dylan spent her first four months in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). Dependent on feeding tubes and breathing support, she developed severe oral aversion and required a gastrostomy tube (g-tube) for nutrition and hydration.

As Dylan grew, persistent acid reflux and vomiting made feeding even harder.

Despite assembling a team of specialists, Nicole realized, "You don't just need a team—you need the right team."

For Dylan's family, like so many others, that support came from the experts at Rady Children's. Dylan was evaluated by pediatric gastroenterologist Dr. Ashish Chogle and began feeding therapy at Rady Children's Orange campus in January 2025. For two months, Nicole flew back and forth from San Francisco to Orange County. Thrilled by Dylan's progress, the family relocated to Orange County in March.

Today, Dylan is thriving—eating and drinking without her g-tube, even getting to celebrate her first birthday with a smash cake—an achievement her family once thought impossible.

[Read Dylan's Full Story](#)





Moments That Move Us Forward

Our community's generosity is charting the course for pediatric excellence.



Introducing the Southwest Tower

In June 2025, the opening of our Southwest Tower ushered in a new era in pediatric care. The nine-story outpatient and research facility in Orange brings together more than 25 specialty clinics, thoughtfully designed care spaces, and cutting-edge technology in a vibrant, family-friendly environment. We are grateful to every donor, partner, and supporter who helped bring this vision to life, including SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union, Jatain Foundation/George C. and Christie Cheng, Sherry and John Phelan, the Clemons Family Foundation, and Mattel, Inc.



Growing Our Resident Dog Program

Wise and Haines are our newest resident dogs and joyful additions to Rady Children's! Both join Lois, our first resident dog, in bringing comfort, smiles, and support to pediatric patients and their families.

Thank you to the generosity of Edie Barvin, the CBIZ Foundation, an Anonymous Donor, the Jatain Foundation, and the many other compassionate supporters who made Wise's and Haines' arrival possible.



Using Food as Medicine

Launched in August 2025 through the vision of Rady Children's gastroenterology (GI) team and a generous gift from Sherry and John Phelan, the GI Integrative Health and Culinary Medicine Program is helping children with chronic digestive conditions find relief not only through medicine but through mindful eating, targeted nutrition, and hands-on cooking education with dietary specialists.

Explore our Culinary Medicine recipe index for healthy meals made simple by our pediatric dietitians.





Expanding Pediatric Neuroscience Care

The new Neuroscience Unit in Orange strengthens our ability to deliver comprehensive, leading-edge care for children with neurological conditions. With support from Kristie and Gabriel Griess, Epilepsy Foundation Greater Orange County, Jenny and Bill Klein, The Walden W. and Jean Young Shaw Foundation, and many generous donors, the unit includes 28 private rooms, featuring a 12-bed epilepsy monitoring unit equipped with advanced EEG (electroencephalography) technology for continuous seizure observation.



Launching a Dedicated Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU)

The 23,600-square-foot unit is the only dedicated pediatric CVICU in Orange County and has doubled to include 24 private patient rooms. Thanks to the generosity of Delphine Lee and Ron Ainsworth, The Edwards Lifesciences Fund, Rob Caulfield, Lietzau Patterns, Inc., The Medtronic Foundation and many other supporters, the increased capacity of our new CVICU will allow us to care for more complex cardiac patients, particularly those requiring surgery and ECMO, a life-saving technology for the sickest patients.



Opening Our First Pediatric-Only Urgent Care in Irvine

The Tsao Family Foundation's generosity and commitment to pediatric excellence have created a space where children can receive trusted after-hours care, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Families in central Orange County now have a nearby, walk-in clinic option for their kids' medical needs without needing to visit the emergency room.



The 30th Anniversary of the Charley Awards



Each year, the CHOC Foundation acknowledges and celebrates members of our community whose generosity and leadership strengthen our mission.

At our annual awards ceremony, these supporters are recognized with the Charley Award—our highest honor, named after lifelong Foundation supporter, Charles Hester, who exemplified generosity and compassion.

In 2025, we recognized the **Tsao Family Foundation, Ron Ainsworth, Dr. Terrie Inder, Doug McCombs, Bill Thompson, Spirit Halloween, and Motorhome Madness.**

Watch Our Honoree Videos:



Patient Spotlight: Phillip



At just 11 years old, Phillip's seemingly ordinary summer turned into a life-changing ordeal when what started as leg pain—later spreading to his back—was diagnosed as cancer.

After imaging and a biopsy, Phillip began chemotherapy and subsequently underwent an eight-hour surgery to remove part of his right femur and replace it with a nickel-cobalt prosthetic anchored into his tibia.

The operation also required the removal of a significant amount of muscle, and his recovery involved intensive physical therapy to regain strength and flexibility.

Despite these hardships, Phillip's story took an inspiring turn—he returned to his passion for dance and musical theater. He says the prosthetic actually gave him fluidity, returning movements he once feared he'd lost—and in his latest musical theater audition, he owned the stage.

Now cancer-free, Phillip enjoys singing, dancing, and even hiking challenging trails at places like Mount Rubidoux and Zion National Park. His experience not only marks a medical victory but a return to joy and the chance to dream again.

Read Phillip's Full Story



Patient Spotlight: Max



In July 2025, Max suddenly had a noticeable limp and kept tripping and falling. His mother, Chelsea, took her son to a clinic, where Max's condition continued to worsen, leaving him unable to stand or sit up. He even stopped eating and drinking.

Chelsea took her son to see his pediatrician. After taking Max's vitals, she told Chelsea to go to a pediatric emergency department immediately and called an ambulance.

Chelsea's husband and Max's dad, Los Angeles Dodgers first baseman Freddie Freeman, rushed to get on the first flight back to Southern California from Houston, where his team was playing a series against the Astros.

Chelsea described the next few hours as "the scariest of my life."

While checking in at the Julia and George Argyros Emergency Department at Rady Children's Hospital Orange County, Max's heart stopped.

Doctors and nurses quickly came alongside Max to assess and treat him. Within a few hours, Max couldn't move any part of his body below his neck. Freddie arrived to see his young son hooked up to a ventilator and breathing tube.

"To see one of your kids on a ventilator fighting ... it was hard," Freddie recalls.

The next day, the Freeman family had a diagnosis: Max had Guillain-Barré syndrome, a condition in which the body's immune system attacks its nerves. After receiving two rounds of immunotherapy, Max was able to shrug his shoulders. Within 48 hours of paralysis, Max came off the ventilator—and minutes after that, he was sitting in Freddie's lap.

"I can't tell you how good that felt, to be able to hold my son again," Freddie says.

Max spent eight days in our Josie Y.S. Lee Pediatric Intensive Care Unit before being discharged.

The following day, he started physical therapy to relearn how to do nearly everything.

Max is expected to make a full recovery, thanks in part to the resources made possible through philanthropy, which empower our care teams to respond to emergent, complex and critical needs. Their greatest needs are met through our community's generosity, ensuring that kids can get back to being kids.



At the CHOC Foundation, we believe the future of children’s health is built by those willing to reimagine what’s possible and explore what’s next. None of this progress happens alone.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Foundation Board of Directors, whose leadership, wisdom, and steadfast commitment continue to guide this life-saving work but also inspire and mobilize others to join us in defending childhood.

To the community of individuals, organizations, and foundations who continue to strengthen our mission, thank you. Your generosity elevates our work, forges new paths in care and treatment, and supports children and families across our region.

Together, we are creating a future where every child can heal, play, grow, and embark on adventures that truly make childhood magical. With your kindness and dedication, the journey continues—and the best is yet to come.



Meet our Board of Directors

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

When our community comes together, every gift becomes a compass, pointing toward hope and healing. Every act of generosity is a guidepost, leading the way back to childhood. And every child becomes a brave explorer—ready for their next great adventure.

See a list of our generous donors:

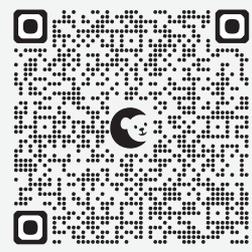




CHOC Foundation

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1201 West La Veta Ave
Orange, CA 92868



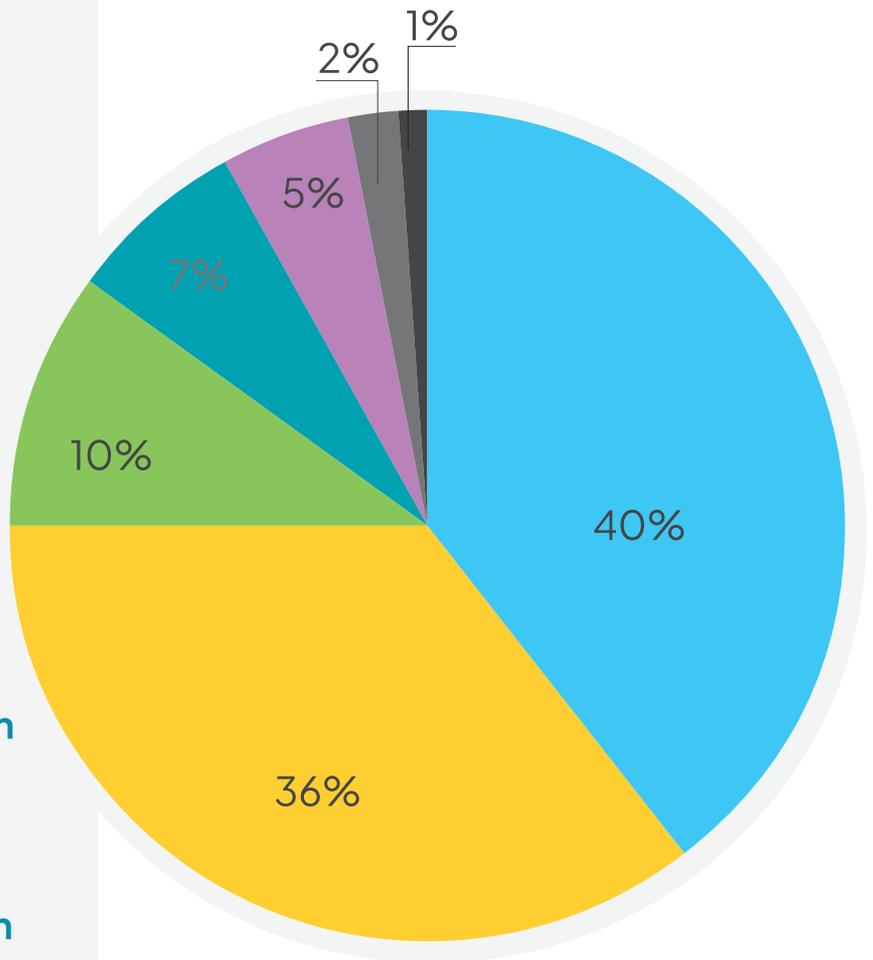
[Watch annual report video](#)

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