

FLY WITH US

2024 Annual Report



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
Foundation



Mission

To continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ.

Vision

Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital continues the healing ministry of Jesus Christ, focusing on the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of children and their families. Through valued professionals, staff, community partners and friends, we seek to enhance the lives of our community’s children by delivering on the promise of a healthier future today.

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Peter Baker

Peter Baker, JD, MBA

Senior Vice President and Administrator
Loma Linda University Children's Hospital



Roger Wadell

Roger Wadell

Foundation Board Chair
Loma Linda University Children's Hospital

Our Message

For over three decades, Loma Linda University Children's Hospital has been a beacon of care for the youngest and most vulnerable members of our community. Because of you — our donors, partners, and friends — our mission has flourished. Together, we are making history. In 2024, we celebrated a major milestone — the groundbreaking of our new Pediatric Specialty Clinics building. This five-story, 105,000-square-foot facility will bring nearly 30 pediatric specialties under one roof, revolutionizing how we care for children across our region. When it opens in 2026, families will have access to seamless, coordinated care in one central location — bringing hope closer to home. This is just the beginning. Our commitment to innovation continues as we advance leading-edge treatments in pediatric oncology. Through groundbreaking research and cutting-edge therapies, we are pushing the boundaries of what is possible, giving children and their families renewed hope in the face of life's most difficult challenges.

Through our Stronger Together campaign, we are expanding access to care for the 1.2 million children in communities we serve. Each year, more than 90,000 children rely on our hospitals and clinics — whether for lifesaving heart surgeries, complex treatments, or the compassionate care that defines who we are. Every child's success story, every milestone reached, and every family given hope is because of your generosity and belief in our mission. Because of you, Loma Linda University Children's Hospital is recognized among the best children's hospitals in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. Because of you, we can continue providing world-class care with compassion, faith, and excellence.

**You are the reason we can dream bigger, reach further,
and transform lives in ways once thought impossible.**



OUR COMMUNITY | OUR MISSION | OUR NEXT STEPS

Pediatric Cancer Breakthroughs Are Here NOW!

Your generosity is shaping the future of pediatric specialty care and transforming how we treat childhood cancer. As we create new spaces for healing, we are also bringing the latest cancer treatment breakthroughs to our region.

One of the most remarkable is CAR T-cell therapy — an innovative treatment that uses the body’s immune system to target and destroy cancer.



Bringing **HOPE** for our community through significant **CHANGE** in pediatric cancer and specialty care.

Hisham Abdel-Azim, MD
Chief, Transplant/Cellular Therapy

Part of our \$300 million Stronger Together campaign, with \$100 million dedicated to cancer care and research, these advances ensure children with complex diagnoses receive the best treatment close to home.

We are also pioneering radiation-free stem cell transplants, a safer alternative to total body irradiation. These innovations reduce long-term side effects and improve survival, helping young patients not just beat cancer, but thrive.

Your support fuels the next discovery, the next life-saving treatment, and the next child’s chance at a cancer-free future. Because of you, tomorrow’s cures are happening today.

Loma Linda University Cancer Center is the first and only center in the area to offer this life-saving therapy, giving children with leukemia and other blood cancers access to world-class care.



CAR T team at Loma Linda University Cancer Center. Physicians from left to right: Mojtaba Akhtari, MD, Chelsea Collins, MD, Sajad J. Khazal, MD, Albert Kheradpour, MD, Hamid Mirshahidi, MD and Hisham Abdel-Azim, MD.

To learn more about the Stronger Together Campaign, visit **lluh.org/StrongerTogether**, or scan the QR code.



Bringing Children’s Specialty Care Under One Roof

Thanks to your generosity, a new era of pediatric care is on the horizon. Last year, we broke ground on a state-of-the-art specialty clinic building designed to bring life-changing care to children and families all under one roof.

An initiative of our Stronger Together fundraising campaign, the five-story, 105,000 square-foot facility will centralize essential specialty services, including orthopaedic surgery, cardiology, high-risk infant care and speech therapy.

With a more accessible location, families will spend less time traveling between appointments and more time focused on what matters most — helping their children through their journey.

For patients like Bryson Morris, a brave five-year-old who recently received a heart transplant after months of waiting, this new facility represents hope. It ensures that children like him receive the specialized care they need, close to home, in a setting designed just for them.

With doors set to open in 2026, the impact of your giving will create a healthier future for our patients and be felt for generations.



Rendering of Loma Linda University Children's Health Specialty Clinics building on Barton Road.

Steering our Campaign

Our Steering Committee, composed of dedicated leaders in our region, drives awareness to the Stronger Together campaign in the community. Together, they help promote funding advancements in cancer care, pediatric specialties, and nursing programs — ensuring a brighter future for children’s health.

We are grateful for our Chairs, Steve and Victoria PonTell, and members:

- Rachelle Bussell

Bob Ching

Phyllis Ching

Maggie Cotton

Bud Feldkamp

Richard Hart, MD, DrPH

Anthony Hilliard, MD, FACC

Tammy Hilliard

Cathy Kienle
- Steven Kienle

Darice Lang

Kevin Lang

Ken Ramirez

Sean Ramirez

Carol Troesh (Honorary Member)

Dennis Troesh (Honorary Member)

Frank Xavier

Mary Ann Xavier



2024 Giving



2024 Total: \$5,667,212

<div>Pledges</div> <div>\$1,000,000</div>	<div>Support Groups</div> <div>\$1,366,993</div>	<div>Individuals</div> <div>\$2,039,601</div>
<div>Foundations</div> <div>\$97,496</div>	<div>Employees and Alumnus</div> <div>\$285,628</div>	<div>Corporations</div> <div>\$877,494</div>

Heartache to Hope

In a hospital room decorated with posters of the Avengers and filled with wires, a courageous five-year-old, Bryson Morris, is waiting for a heart transplant at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital.

Bryson has called the Children's Hospital home for the past six months. He was born with hypoplastic left heart syndrome, a condition that severely affects the development of the left side of his heart, and he has already undergone two open-heart surgeries and numerous procedures to sustain his heart.

The Child Life department, led by specialists like Naomi Burroughs, has been instrumental in providing support to Bryson and his family. They make sure Bryson understands his medical situation, engage him in fun, entertaining activities, and help establish a routine for him to bring a sense of normalcy to his life.

Naomi highlights the strength and adaptability of children like Bryson, stressing the need for appropriate education and support to help them navigate their medical challenges. The Child Life specialists use simple language and visual tools to explain medical procedures and ease any fears the children may have.

"We use teaching dolls and models of PICC lines to help children understand what's happening," Naomi explains. "We also use gentle terms like 'pokes' instead of 'shots' to make discussions less intimidating."

One of the most challenging aspects for Bryson was adapting to having his PICC line changed, which is used for IV medications. With Naomi's assistance, Bryson has become accustomed to the process. "Now, he knows Naomi will be there on Wednesdays to guide him through the process, making him feel comfortable," says Leilany Morris, Bryson's mother. "Before, it was kicking, screaming, holding him down; now, it's a breeze," said Morris.

"We couldn't have gotten through this without the Child Life team," says Leilany. "They've made every holiday special for Bryson, and we're looking forward to returning to t-ball and swimming lessons once he's out of the hospital."



Dual Organ Transplant

At first glance, Zaina Ali is like any other eighth grader. She loves swimming, biking and playing the piano — Taylor Swift songs are her favorite. She crafts intricate origami stars and weaves colorful bracelets, her creativity shining through. Her straight A's and multiple Presidential Academic Awards reflect her dedication to learning.

Zaina was born with primary hyperoxaluria type 1, or PH1, a rare genetic disorder that prevents her body from breaking down oxalate, a waste product that, when left unchecked, can cause kidney failure. At just 2 months old, a sudden jerking movement — what looked like a seizure — sent her family rushing to the hospital. Tests revealed her kidneys were shutting down. Dialysis became her lifeline.

“The appointments, the blood tests, the long nights — it was overwhelming,” said her mother, Hina. “But we took it one day at a time.”

Doctors determined that Zaina would need both a liver and kidney transplant to survive. At just 20 months old, she underwent a complex, two-day surgery at UCLA — one 12-hour procedure followed

by another 10-hour surgery the following day. The new liver provided the missing enzyme. The new kidney freed her from dialysis.

Since then, Zaina's care has been co-managed by UCLA and Loma Linda University Children's Hospital. As a dual organ transplant recipient, her health requires careful monitoring.

Zaina's journey is only one piece of her family's story. Her father also required a kidney transplant while working to support them. And then there was the greatest heartbreak — Zaina's older sister, who also had PH1, endured years of dialysis and a failed transplant before passing away.

Through it all, Hina remained the family's rock. And in the midst of heartbreak, there was a miracle. Genetic testing showed that the youngest Ali sibling, Nyle, who is now six years old, does not have PH1.

“We treat the entire family unit in pediatric care,” Sheth said.

“The burden is immense, and our role is to provide comprehensive support.”



A Teen's Tumor

Pamela Iniguez still remembers the moment everything changed.

Her daughter, 15-year-old Samara Serafini, had just told her, "Mom, it's happening again."

It began with a twitch in Samara's right big toe. Then her foot started shaking. Soon, her entire leg was moving in a rhythmic pattern she could not control. At first, the family thought it was stress, or maybe too much screentime. But these were the first signs of something far more serious.

Doctors at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital (LLUCH) diagnosed Samara with a meningioma, a tumor pressing against the part of her brain that controls movement. Though often noncancerous, this kind of tumor can still be dangerous — especially when it grows near critical areas. In Samara's case, it had already caused two seizures and was threatening to cause permanent damage.

"Had this gone any longer, Samara could have been permanently paralyzed," Iniguez said.

The solution was not simple. Samara needed a craniotomy, a procedure where part of the skull is removed so surgeons can access and remove the tumor.

"Samara arrived at LLUCH with ongoing symptoms including headaches, seizures and significant weakness in her right arm and leg. She also had trouble walking, which had worsened in the weeks before her diagnosis," said Dr. Tanya Minasian, a pediatric neurosurgeon at LLUCH. "After successful removal of the tumor in its entirety, Samara has completed rehabilitation, is fully recovered and has a normal neurological exam."

The surgery lasted seven hours. Recovery took even longer. Samara spent three weeks in rehabilitation, learning how to walk again and regaining strength in her right arm and leg.

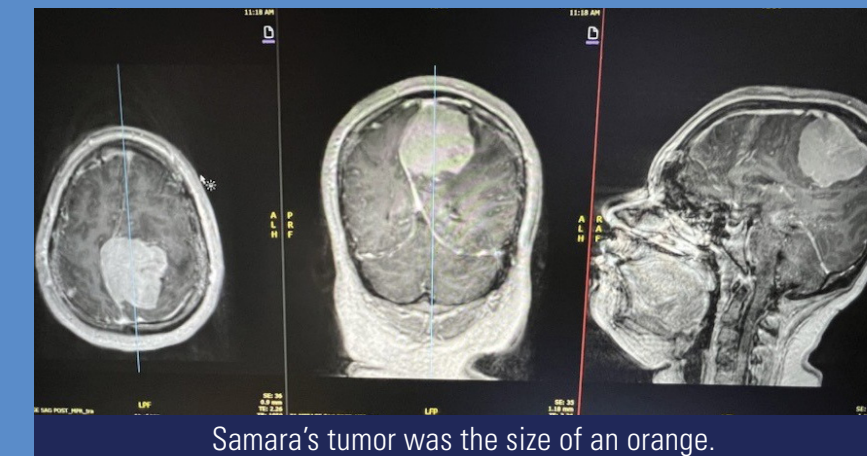
Through it all, Iniguez said the team at LLUCH made all the difference.

Now that she has fully recovered, Samara has a new outlook. She crochets in her free time — creating thoughtful, handmade pieces with plans to give them to other children in the hospital. Her mom shared, "She wants patients to know they're not alone."



Samara and her surgeon, Dr. Tanya Minasian

"I couldn't have asked for a better team," she said. "Dr. Minasian and the entire neurosurgery team were so supportive and informative. The ICU nurses were great, too. One of the nurses was the sweetest, kindest and most empathetic nurse I could have asked for my daughter."



Samara's tumor was the size of an orange.





Cell Therapy Remission

It was New Year's weekend, and 14-year-old Paul Conriquez had just stepped outside to help his stepdad take down Christmas lights. It happened in the blink of an eye — one moment he was steady on his feet, and the next, his body gave out.

"Dad, I don't feel good," he said, before going pale and unresponsive. His stepdad, Robert, caught him and laid him down on the ground.

Robert, and Paul's mom, Helen, rushed him to Loma Linda University Children's Hospital. At first, they thought it might be dehydration. On New Year's Eve, the doctors gave them a diagnosis no family wanted to hear: leukemia.

"I was scared," Helen shared. "I thought I was going to lose him."

The early weeks were filled with chemotherapy. Paul remembers losing his hair, feeling sick and not being able to eat. "I wasn't really tasting anything," he said. "It just tasted real nasty." Before long, it became clear something was wrong. His body was having an allergic reaction to one of the drugs. He grew weak, stopped eating and collapsed more than once.

Paul's form of leukemia was aggressive, and the typical treatments were not working. Doctors knew they had to change course, so they offered the family an option: CAR T-cell therapy, an innovative treatment that reprograms a patient's own cells to recognize and attack cancer. Paul became the second child treated with CAR T-cell therapy at LLUCH.

"I didn't get sick at all," Paul stated. And for a while, the cancer was gone. But when early signs of relapse appeared, his care team did not waste a moment. Because of the close monitoring and cancer research Paul received a bone marrow transplant just in time, while still in remission, sparing him from even more intense treatment, and today, Paul is cancer-free.

Paul is back fishing again, something he says helps him feel at peace. He is back to playing games, going outside, and enjoying the spicy foods he could not eat during treatment. "I'm feeling really good now," he said with a smile. And when asked how he feels about his care team, he did not hesitate: "I feel real grateful for them... at the end of the day, they saved my life."



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Champions for Children

Fueling the Future of Children's Health

The Corporate Champions for Children program unites the foundation with businesses and support organizations dedicated to improving children’s healthcare. These committed groups pledge to gift at least \$5,000 annually, often employing creative fundraising strategies such as donating a portion of sales or facilitating register donations. These vital funds directly support the expansion of essential care for the 1.2 million children served within the region. We are proud to recognize these Corporate Champions for their dedication building a healthier future for the children of the Inland Empire.

To get involved or learn more, please call 909-558-5368.

Current Champions

Baker’s Drive-Thru
Big Air Kids Fair
Cardenas Markets Foundation
Corky’s Kitchen & Bakery
Farmer Boys
Hospitality Medical Aesthetics
KFRG 95.1 FM

La Loma Federal Credit Union
Moss Bros.
Ontario Auto Center
Spirit of Children
Stater Bros Charities
Quaid Harley-Davidson
Walter’s Auto Group



Champion Fundraising Events

- Baker’s Drive-Thru – Round up the change
- Corky’s Kitchen & Bakery – \$1 per cookie in October
- Farmer Boys – Golf tournament and portion of sale donations
- Quaid Harley – Rallies the biker community for cash and toy donations
- Hospitality Medical Aesthetics – Percent of sales for a month
- Moss Bros. – Percent of sales for a month
- Spirit of Children – Simply asks all customers for two months
- Walter’s Auto Group – Annual golf tournament

Local businesses make a difference through creative fundraising efforts! We are so grateful for the effort and creativity our Champions put into their annual fundraisers.



Bakers Drive-Thru Customer Fundraiser



Walter's Charity Classic



Spirit of Children Customer Fundraiser

Champion Spotlight: Bakers Drive-Thru

Feeding Hope One Meal at a Time

In a world where corporate responsibility and community spirit intersect, Baker's Drive-Thru stands out as a shining example. Its commitment to Loma Linda University Children's Hospital Foundation has blossomed into a partnership, fueled by compassion and a desire to make a tangible difference in the lives of children facing life-threatening illnesses.

At the heart of this impactful collaboration is Alfredo Mira, Chief Operating Officer of Baker's Drive-Thru. His personal journey, marked by his son's diagnosis of leukemia in April 2021, ignited a profound desire to support pediatric cancer research. Thankfully, his son is now in remission, but Alfredo's dedication to helping other families facing similar challenges remains unwavering.

In 2023, Alfredo and the Baker's team joined forces with the Children's Hospital Foundation to launch an annual summer fundraiser engaging customers in a simple yet powerful way. At the register or drive-thru, patrons are invited to make small donations, collectively creating a significant impact.

To date, Baker's Drive-Thru has raised a remarkable \$122,000 for our hospital, with a clear mission to increase donations each year. These funds directly support vital research and resources for pediatric cell and transplant therapies.

"We are so happy to be supporting Loma Linda University Children's Hospital and its efforts to broaden safe and effective cancer therapies" expressed Mira. His heartfelt commitment reflects the genuine passion driving Baker's philanthropic efforts.

Beyond fundraising, Baker's has participated in fun patient activities, bringing joy and smiles to children facing difficult circumstances. Additionally, its support during the annual Stater Bros Charities K-Frogers 4 Kids Radiothon has been invaluable, helping to spread awareness and garner crucial support for the hospital. By leveraging its platform and engaging its customers, Baker's has become a true Champion for Children, and we are grateful for the efforts of Baker's Drive-Thru.



2024 check presentation



Alfredo Mira and his son, Alfredo Mira IV



Baker's Drive-Thru team members helping at "Partners in Play" day at the Children's Hospital

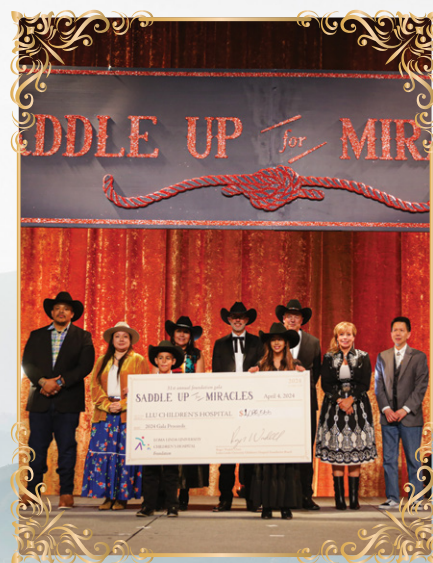


Mira spreading the word to the community at the K-Frogger 4 Kids radiothon

2024 Signature Event Highlights *A Country-Themed Double Header!*

Saddle up for Miracles Gala

Our annual “Saddle up for Miracles” gala in April 2024 welcomed over 800 guests to the beautiful Riverside Convention Center for a fun and beautiful western themed evening complete with entertainment, delicious food, auctions, inspiring stories from some of our doctors, and memorable patient testimonies of the amazing care at Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital. Together we raised almost \$1.2 million for our Stronger Together campaign.



K-Froppers 4 Kids Radiothon

Our annual December K-Froppers 4 Kids radiothon, sponsored by Stater Bros. Charities, took place in Bass Pro Shops in Rancho Cucamonga in December. It was a touching day, complete with 30 recorded patient stories, country music celebrities calling in to motivate listeners, and surprise visits from Santa and former patients. We were also blessed with corporations dropping in with generous donations. The popular radio personalities did an amazing job rallying the community to contribute. We raised almost \$200,000. Be sure to listen to 95.1 FM on December 4, from 5 a.m.-7 p.m., this year to listen to this fun and touching radiothon!



Endowments

Endowments ensure that the healing care offered by Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital will be available to future generations of children. In addition, named endowments provide a lasting tribute to an individual or a family’s legacy of philanthropy.

The A. Gary Anderson Family Endowment

Carrying out Mr. Anderson’s legacy to meet community needs, the A. Gary Anderson Family Foundation has generously funded the A. Gary Anderson Playroom at Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital. This playroom allows young patients to interact with others and enjoy diversionary play under the caring supervision of child life specialists.

The Jerry L. and Shirley N. Pettis Family Research and Operating Endowment

The Pettis Family Endowment provides funds for pediatric hematology and oncology research and clinical care at Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital. In recognition of their generous contribution, the pediatric hematology/oncology and stem cell transplant wing of Children’s Hospital was named in their honor in 2005.

The Ken Ramirez Family Endowment

The Ramirez family is dedicated to the eradication of childhood diabetes. Ken Ramirez founded this endowment, which is supported by members of the extended Ramirez family. Annual proceeds support treatment and education provided to Inland Empire children by the Pediatric Diabetes Center at Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital.

The James W. Totman Pediatric Cancer Research Endowment

A longtime resident of the Inland Empire, James W. Totman established a trust that provides an endowment for ongoing pediatric cancer research at Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital.

The Coral and Richard Tegley Memorial Endowed Education Fund

In remembrance of his wife, a longstanding member of the pediatric critical care nursing team at Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital, Richard Tegley established this fund to provide greater knowledge to other critical care nurses through educational conference opportunities.

Shawnee’s Smile

Inspired by their youngest daughter Shawnee, Tommy and Maria Ramos established a resource at Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital to help families of children born with a cleft palate or cleft lip.

Woolley-Pettis Endowed Chair for Pediatric Research

The Big Hearts for Little Hearts Desert Guild launched the Woolley-Pettis Endowed Chair to support pediatric research and teaching at Loma Linda University Children’s Health in honor of E. Jane Woolley, MD, and The Honorable Shirley N. Pettis-Thompson: two visionary women who established the Desert Guild through their passion and desire to help children.

The James and Rowena Ramos Family Endowment

James and Rowena Ramos were inspired to provide for community children through an endowment at Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital. Their inspiration grew from the care provided by the hospital for young members of their family, including granddaughters Summer Fawn and Shawnee Ramos, grandsons Tom Strongwind Ramos and Hawk Brown Ramos, and great-grandson Bryce Ekel. They were also guided by the examples provided by Rowena’s son, Ken Ramirez, and her parents, Raoul and Martha Chacon.

The Raoul and Martha Chacon Family Endowment

The Chacon family believes in the future of our children. Family members have chosen to honor this belief through an endowment that provides life-saving and compassionate care at Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital for the children of this community.



Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild

Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital is fortunate to have dedicated volunteer chapters like the Loma Linda Chapter of Big Hearts for Little Hearts. These generous guild members host events and activities that raise vital funds and increase awareness about the healthcare needs of children in our community. In addition to their fundraising efforts, they also bring joy to young patients by organizing fun activities and donating items such as books, teddy bears, gingerbread houses and colorful blankets.

Loma Linda Guild 2023-2034 Season Highlights

- \$32,400 – Two neuroendoscopes
- \$25,000 – One da Vinci surgical robot lens
- 500 sets of Lego for children in hospital and clinics
- \$30,000 donation to Stronger Together campaign
- Six book reading productions for hospital TV programming
- 606 books for patients on units
- 1,540 stuffed animals to patients on units



2024 Loma Linda Guild Board Members

Diane Adams
Leigh Anderson
Heather Burton
Lisa Carlson
Bev Ching

Caryl Clover-Shelby
Julie Cutler
Evelyn Gusseck - Co-President
Eloise Habekost
Elaine Mavis

Sandy McCoy
Penny Moores - Treasurer
Laurie Munson Boss - Past President
Lynn Sleeth - Co-President
Jeni Smith

Joyce Waner
Dixie Watkins
Ardis Wazdatskey - Secretary

Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild Events

- Valentine’s Day Party
- Spring Into Reading
- Fourth of July celebration
- Fall Into Reading
- Gingerbread House Village
- Dishes for Wishes
- Trees of Hope
- Membership Fundraising Event



Loving Hearts, Loving You.



Spring into Reading



Gingerbread Decorating Day

Big Hearts for Little Hearts Desert Guild

We are also grateful to have the Desert Chapter of Big Hearts for Little Hearts, consisting of 19 loyal members. This generous group of guild members brings creativity and heart to their fundraising efforts on behalf of our patients.

They are deeply connected within the community and add a fun flair to everything they do — often hosting fashion shows, designer shoe and purse parties, and more. They also organize festive events like the “Bunny Hop” and “Santa Stroll,” during which volunteers visit the hospital to deliver thoughtful gifts to our patients.

Desert Guild Resources Raised

- \$350k given to cancer research
- 2,000 blankets to patients
- 400 bears with Disney outfits
- 150 Christmas bears
- 150 Easter-themed teddy bears



2023-2024 Desert Guild Board Members

Brenda Banister
Debra Carrington
Joyce Engel
Jill Golden
Eva Guenther-James - Secretary

Amirah Halum
Roland Karim - Treasurer
Jeanne Mace - 2023 President
Angie Nelson - 2024 President
Terri Neuman

Dona Nixon
Dawn Rashid
Lizette Vela
CJ Westrick-Bomar
Mary Ann Xavier

Josh Zahid
Julie Zicovich

Big Hearts for Little Hearts Desert Guild Events

- Fashion Show Luncheon
- Come Fly With Me Gala
- Jimmy Choo Event
- Santa Stroll
- Membership Brunch Fundraiser
- Putting for Our Kiddos
- Sparkle and Savor Fundraiser



Santa Stroll



Fashion Show Luncheon Fundraiser

Patient Diversionary Events

These fun activities brought much-needed joy to children facing extended hospital stays. Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers and generous business partners, we hosted numerous events that provided cheerful moments and a welcomed break from the clinical environment.



Val Verde PD Unit Visit



Wheels Squared BMX



Partners in Play Day



Cops for Kids Fly-In



Quaid-Harley Toy Run



Big Air Kids Fair



Cops for Kids Fly-In



Spirit of Children Fall Festival



Shop with a Cop

Loma Linda University Children's Hospital Foundation 2024 Board of Directors

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Dave K. Stockton
Ken Stream
George D. Voigt
Dixie Watkins
Mary Ann Xavier

Proud to serve Loma Linda University Children's Hospital *Meet the Foundation Team*

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Team left to right: Tiffanie, Denise, Shelley, Austyn, Meg, Joanna

Make a Difference



Help us provide the most advanced and quality care for our community's children and families. Point your camera at the QR code, or visit us at llu.org/annualreport to make a difference today.

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Website

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LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
Foundation

