Caring for Kids
25 years and counting

Micah Moroney, 10 years old
“...if we could see through the eyes of a child...we would be able to see the beauty and the best of everything, and to understand that with faith and hope, wishes and dreams do come true.”

- Helen DeVos

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To read stories about the patients featured in this book, visit healthbeat.org/childrens-health.

To support these services and programs with your donations, contact Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital Foundation at 616.391.2000 or give.helendevoschildrens.org.

On the cover:
Micah Moroney, 10, benefits from the magnetic rods in her spine, which can be lengthened with a powerful magnet in the office by an orthopedic specialist instead of requiring annual surgeries as Micah grows.
The Helen DeVos Children's Hospital Family Advisory Council offers valuable feedback and insights to the leadership of Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital so that all of us can remain focused on one goal: creating exceptional care for our children and their families.

These dedicated volunteers, many of whom are parents of kids treated at the children’s hospital, are passionate about giving back. They serve as the voice of our families to ensure that we continue to deliver the highest-quality care and to provide the most comfortable and worry-free experiences possible.

Recommendations address important topics such as safety, communication and care processes. In addition, a teen council, made up of 13- to 19-year-olds, provides an adolescent’s perspective on a variety of issues, including inpatient engagement, the adolescent transition process, nutrition services and more.

Children at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital sport cool new pajamas and gowns after the teens council recommends a more age-friendly fashion motif.
Locations

Celebrating Kids’ Care Across Michigan

Grand Rapids
- Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital
  100 Michigan Street NE
- 25 Michigan Street NE
- 35 Michigan Street NE
- 145 Michigan Street NE
- 221 Michigan Street NE, Suite 300
- 330 Barclay Avenue NE
- 360 Lafayette Avenue, Suite 400
- 4069 Lake Drive SE, Suite 315

Cadillac
400 Hobart Street, Floor 4

Grand Haven
15100 Whittaker Way

Holland
588 E. Lakewood Boulevard, Floor 1

Kalamazoo
1000 Oakland Drive, Floor 2

Lansing
3960 Patient Care Drive, Suite 113

Marquette
580 W. College Avenue

Mt. Pleasant
1205 S. Mission Street, Suite 4

Muskegon
550 W. Grand Avenue
2009 Holton Road

Reed City
225 N. State Road

Rockford
515 E. Division Street, Suite 145

St. Joseph
3950 Hollywood Road, Suite 240

Traverse City
217 S. Madison Street
1105 Sixth Street
550 Munson Avenue, Suite 202

Zeeland
8333 Felch Street
Welcome to Our 25th Birthday Report

Birthdays are a time to reflect, both on our accomplishments and on the opportunities ahead. We can all be immensely proud of what we have built at Spectrum Health Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital—in just 25 years. Our team of physicians, nurses and all of our employees provide world-class care; our community provides generous support to continue building state-of-the-art programs; and our children and families continue to provide us with the incentive to reach higher.

It was the people—their collaboration, innovation, vision and dedication to excellence—that drew me here from St. Louis, Missouri, as a young pediatric surgeon in 1990. Grand Rapids had already developed a reputation as a strong medical community. Butterworth Hospital had a well-developed neonatal intensive care unit and had begun to attract passionate doctors, nurses and hospital leaders who believed our families needed and deserved a special hospital just for kids.

I’m enormously grateful for the opportunity to work alongside so many talented medical professionals and visionaries. I’m also thankful for the ongoing support from our community partners and philanthropists, like the Rich and Helen DeVos family, as well as so many others.

Like all worthwhile endeavors, our journey has taken time, expertise and perseverance. We started out first as a “hospital within a hospital” at Butterworth Hospital before building our new Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital in 2011, one of only 220 children’s hospitals in the country. With more than 300 pediatric physicians practicing in 50 specialties and programs, we also provide care close to home in regional clinics and share our expertise through Partners in Children’s Health: a collaboration with more than 30 hospitals throughout Michigan.

It is easy to be excited about our future. I foresee continued program development, clinics, research, residencies, fellowships and more.

I am proud of the well-deserved national recognition that Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital has garnered year after year by U.S. News & World Report for our commitment to delivering safe, high-quality specialty care.

Mostly, this birthday is a celebration of our patients and families who put their trust in us every day. Reflecting back, our children’s hospital has turned out to be better than we could ever have imagined. Think how wonderful it will be in another 25 years!

Robert H. Connors, MD
President
Spectrum Health Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital
A handful of passionate, skilled pediatric specialists joined Butterworth Hospital in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. They started to build capabilities in children’s specialties such as neonatal, cardiac and intensive care. Their enthusiasm and expertise created momentum to attract more talent and philanthropy.

Still, many families at that time had to travel outside of the area when seeking care to treat the sickest, smallest and most critically injured babies and children.

The dream to build a full-service children’s hospital began taking shape based on the needs of the community. The pioneers at Butterworth Hospital believed that creating a program in West Michigan with state-of-the-art technology, comprehensive pediatric expertise and advanced lifesaving services was not only necessary, but possible.

In the summer of 1990, hospital and physician leaders committed $44 million to build the Helen DeVos Women & Children’s Center at Butterworth Hospital. Rich and Helen DeVos provided $5 million for leading-edge programs. Additional community philanthropy, including the first Butterworth Gala and the Children’s Miracle Network telethon, supported further growth.

The DeVos Children’s Hospital opened in September 1993, bringing together into one 10-story tower women’s health services, The Birthplace, and a dedicated children’s hospital with a larger neonatal intensive care unit, 24 private patient rooms, family waiting areas and special treatment rooms.
A Dream Comes True

As the children’s hospital’s reputation, expertise and specialty offerings continued to grow—and the demand for specialized and comprehensive pediatric care in the area escalated—the children’s hospital needed more space.

Spectrum Health announced plans in October 2005 to build a larger, free-standing facility. The 14-story, $286 million Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital opened in January 2011, with the help of contributions from more than 6,000 donors. One of just 220 children’s hospitals in the country, it provides world-class medical and surgical care to infants, children and adolescents from Michigan, across the country and around the globe.

Focused entirely on the physical and emotional needs of kids, the children’s hospital sports walls with bright primary colors and 2,000 pieces of children’s artwork. Outpatient clinics provide close-to-home pediatric expertise and services to children and families in communities throughout West Michigan.

Most remarkable are the more than 2,000 dedicated physicians, nurses, child life experts and other employees who are committed to children and their families.

Working together as integrated, multidisciplinary teams, they consistently earn national recognition for excellence in clinical care, safety and patient experience.

The journey has been a rewarding one for all of us. We remain committed to helping kids grow up healthier and happier.
Hospitalists, Nursing, Education

Doctors and Nurses—Just for Kids

A doctor in-house
When children are treated in the hospital, they require specialized and often complex clinical care. Our dedicated hospitalists are specially trained in managing children’s care within a hospital setting.

Hospitalists focus on treating each child’s unique needs. They also coordinate and communicate with the family, other specialists, care teams and a child’s own pediatrician to provide safe, high-quality, evidence-based and efficient care.

Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital handles 9,100 inpatient admissions annually.

Expert nurses
Our pediatric nurses provide the nurturing, positive care that remains so critical to creating extraordinary experiences for our children and families, each and every day. We are proud of the international distinction our nurses have received since 2009 for their exceptional care through the Magnet® Recognition status by the American Nurses Credentialing Center Magnet Recognition Program®.

Investing in the future
Our medical residents and fellows represent a longstanding and vital part of our pediatric medical staff. They bring energy, passion and innovative thinking to caring for our children and families.

Through a robust graduate medical education partnership among Spectrum Health, Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital and Michigan State University, about 75 Spectrum Health residents and fellows come from across the country to provide care at the children’s hospital each year.

Our six pediatric residencies and fellowships specialize in critical care, emergency medicine, hematology and oncology, hospital medicine, internal medicine/pediatrics, and pediatrics—all with a special focus on kids’ care. The list of programs continues to grow to meet the needs of kids and families in Michigan.

Jamie Albert, RN, checks 9-year-old Lilly Vanden Bosch’s central lines as Lilly begins the conditioning leading up to a bone marrow transplant for leukemia.

1988
Dominic Sanfilippo, MD, the first pediatric intensivist and critical care specialist in West Michigan, joins Butterworth Hospital.

1989
Butterworth Hospital brings the first pediatric hematologist-oncologist, James Fahner, MD, to West Michigan.
Taking Cues From Child’s Play

A hospital can be a scary place for kids. That’s why child life experts at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital pay close attention to creating a reassuring experience. They take their cues from what kids know best—their own world.

Child life services are funded entirely through the generous support of community donors.

Certified child life specialists work with children, siblings, parents and extended family members to incorporate elements of a child’s everyday life—play, music, pets, art, fun—into their hospital stay.

These kid-friendly techniques can help reduce anxiety and stress, and promote healing. The program offers a range of services:

- Education for children and family members before and during procedures, including pre-procedural tours
- Music, play and pet therapy, and special events—for the whole family
- School program with a certified teacher to help kids keep up in school and smoothly transition back to the classroom
- Individualized support to meet the cultural and developmental needs of children and their families

Music offers a universal language for Francois Hakizamana, 5, of Burundi, Africa, and music therapist Bridget Sova.
Parents are never really ready for their kids to experience a sudden medical emergency. Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital is ready.

As West Michigan’s only Level I pediatric trauma center, we have state-of-the-art equipment, medications, supplies and teams to treat emergency medical conditions and provide the specialty care children may need.

If necessary, children can be transported via ambulance or helicopter with emergency flight teams through Aero Med Spectrum Health or North Flight Aero Med.

Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital handles 56,000 emergency department visits per year.

In addition, our pediatric emergency medicine team is trained to handle the highest level of medical care. The team works with experts in every type of care available—from the pre-hospital phase through the rehabilitation process.

Protecting kids’ safety
Committed to proactively preventing injuries, Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital is the lead agency for Safe Kids Greater Grand Rapids. We educate families, agencies, health care professionals and children on injury prevention, such as bike and car safety, through community events and educational resources.

The Injury Prevention Program checked 5,600 car seats and boosters in 2017.

Kathryn Dotas, 17, hugs her mom, Julie Starnes. Both are thankful for the expert multidisciplinary care and two lifesaving procedures Kathryn received following a car accident.

1990
First Butterworth Hospital Gala kicks off, raising $87,000 for patient care, education and research in pediatrics.

1990
Richard DeVos pledges a $5 million gift in honor of Helen DeVos for the Helen DeVos Women & Children’s Center to support pediatric programming.
A Close Watch

Our 24-bed pediatric critical care unit offers round-the-clock care for infants, children and teens with traumatic injuries or life-threatening illnesses, as well as post-surgery recovery services.

A multidisciplinary team led by board-certified pediatric intensivists provides the highest level of treatment and monitoring, including nutritional support, pain management and complex patient evaluation.

We’re also the first children’s hospital in Michigan to offer highly specialized pediatric neurocritical care services for kids in the PCCU who are at risk of new or ongoing neurologic injury. The goal: to improve outcomes and send children home sooner.

Our pediatric critical care unit handles more than 2,200 admissions a year.

When Calvin Monroe was 3 months old, his heart stopped beating. It regained its rhythm due to medical expertise, timing and technology.

1991
Construction begins in June for a new 10-story tower to become the new Helen DeVos Women & Children’s Center at Butterworth Hospital.

1992
Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital’s extracorporeal membrane oxygenation program treats its first baby. At the time, it was the first ECMO program in West Michigan, one of only three in the state and among just 90 worldwide.
Radiology

Picturing Solutions

No matter what type of diagnostic imaging kids may need, Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital has it covered, offering the only full-service pediatric radiology department in western Michigan.

Our providers use leading-edge technology and innovative imaging exams to help diagnose illnesses, injuries and diseases.

While imaging can be an important part of diagnosing medical conditions, we are committed to using the safest, most kid-friendly options available.

A specially equipped incubator gives preemies a safe haven to undergo magnetic resonance imaging scans so that doctors can evaluate a baby’s brain development.
A Dose of Comfort

We understand the concerns families face when their children require anesthesia or sedation.

That’s why we take the utmost care to devise the best plan for each child to alleviate any pain, discomfort or anxiety associated with a medical or diagnostic procedure.

After consulting with the medical team managing the case, our anesthesia team and sedation specialists provide support that is tailored not only to the procedure but to each child’s specific needs.

A group of pediatric specialists at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital pioneered a sedation program in the early 1990s. Pediatric sedation programs are now widely accepted as essential components to the care of children.

**Pediatric specialists at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital pioneered a sedation program that is now one of the country’s largest**

Jessica Jaskowiak, 11, holds her mom Lynn’s hand as she goes under anesthesia before a transformational craniofacial surgery.

1994
- Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital Pediatric Advisory Committee is established.

1995
- Heart surgery is performed by Rodolfo Neirotti, MD, on a 2-week-old baby weighing less than 5 pounds.
General Surgery, Blood Management

Kid-Sizing the OR

Kids aren’t just grownups in small bodies—they need kid-size approaches. So when children need surgery, we have pediatric surgeons who work together with other operating room professionals to provide high-quality, safe procedures designed especially for kids.

Our general surgeons specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of elective and urgent surgical conditions for kids through young adulthood. Our subspecialty surgeons are experts in specific areas of the body, from major organs like the heart, brain and kidneys, to vital areas like eyes, ears, skull and spine.

Respecting individual beliefs

We’re one of just a few children’s hospitals in the country with a blood management program. That means we’ll do our very best to work proactively with parents who wish to avoid blood transfusions for their children due to religious or personal beliefs.

8,700 surgeries are performed at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital each year 📈

Melissa Seide, 6, undergoes surgery to repair her leg after it was injured in a devastating earthquake in Haiti.
We’ve got kids covered from head to toes, with a range of specialized care.

Healthy bones spell G-O
Our nationally ranked orthopedic physicians specialize in growing bodies. They treat a wide range of conditions affecting the bones, joints and muscles of infants, children and teens.

From small fractures to complex spine problems, our goal is to work with children and their families to find the right treatment plan to give kids the ability to grow and do what brings fun and smiles. That’s because we know active lifestyles help create healthy habits for a lifetime.

Sounds like ...
A child’s sense of hearing is critical to language development, social skills and more. The pediatric otolaryngology (ear, nose and throat) team at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital provides diagnosis and treatment of disorders and diseases of the hearing and balance system for children of all ages. This includes comprehensive care for airway disorders, head and neck tumors, ear disease, sinus disease, sleep apnea and swallowing difficulties. Infants to adolescents benefit from inpatient and outpatient medical as well as surgical care that is highly coordinated with other specialties.

The eyes have it!
Vision can make a big difference in healthy development, too. So we have a high-quality pediatric ophthalmology program to provide specialized care for children with vision problems or diseases of the eye, including diagnosis, assessment, medical treatment and surgical intervention.

Our specialized team includes ophthalmic technicians, a medical social worker, opticians, orthoptists, a pediatric optometrist and pediatric ophthalmologists.

Pediatric and Family Optical provides contact lenses and eyeglasses for infancy through adulthood.
Neonatal Intensive Care

Our Tiniest Heroes

The Gerber Foundation Neonatal Center offers at-risk newborns and their families the highest level of quality care. As the only Level IV neonatal intensive care unit in West Michigan, Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital provides the area’s most advanced lifesaving care for babies.

Using leading-edge technology, scientific and research advances, and best practices, our specialized neonatal teams diagnose, treat and manage a range of critical conditions, including prematurity, breathing disorders, birth defects, surgical needs and infections.

We understand that the physical and emotional well-being of family members is just as important as the individualized attention we give their kids. With that in mind, we provide compassionate, integrated, family-centered care 24/7. We also bring critically ill infants safely to our center with the help of a dedicated neonatal transport team, either by specially equipped ambulance or helicopter.

Our children’s hospital has one of the nation’s top 10 largest contiguous neonatal centers. As one of the pioneering pediatric programs at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital, our neonatal services reflect a legacy of clinical excellence and innovation.

Another state-of-the-art feature of the NICU is our Small Baby Unit, with specially trained employees to support the medically complex needs of micro-preemies, babies born at or before 27 weeks. We are one of the few hospitals in the country with a designated space in the NICU to care for these infants.

Our multidisciplinary teams meet twice daily to discuss each at-risk newborn in the unit to ensure timely decisions and individualized care plans.

Noah Markle was born at 22 weeks and a mere 1 pound, 4 ounces. He is the youngest born survivor to graduate from the NICU.

Our 108-bed NICU helps more than 1,400 newborns each year.
The Congenital Heart Center at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital provides leading-edge diagnosis and treatment for all congenital heart conditions. We offer the highest standard of care for children born with the most complex heart problems.

Since children born with heart defects require ongoing monitoring and treatments, the Congenital Heart Center establishes vital and seamless transitions of care from childhood through adulthood—it’s one of only a few such heart programs in the nation.

Our nationally and internationally recognized cardiologists, interventionists and cardiothoracic surgeons work together to provide innovative solutions and high-quality outcomes for children and their families.

**Services include:**
- Advanced cardiac imaging, including 3-D echocardiography and printing
- Cardiovascular and thoracic surgery
- Electrophysiology program
- Fetal heart program
- Interventional cardiology
- Research and innovation
- Adult congenital heart program

A designated six-bed pediatric cardiac intensive care unit opening in January 2019 will give pediatric congenital heart patients specialized care and monitoring.

**A total of 1,650 cardiothoracic surgeries, 1,075 catheterizations and 420 electrophysiology procedures have been performed between June 2012 and June 2018.**

The Congenital Heart Center is one of only 11 programs in the country to receive the highest star rating from The Society of Thoracic Surgeons for excellence in patient care and surgical outcomes.

Isaiah Lunsford, 8, receives a life-changing, eight-hour surgery aided by innovative 3-D technology to fix heart defects. “We have all been blessed,” says mom Autumn.
Hematology and Oncology

The Future of Possible

Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital has one of the largest children’s cancer treatment programs in the Midwest, and it is nationally and internationally recognized for excellence and innovation.

For nearly 30 years, our pediatric hematology and oncology teams have been committed to providing state-of-the-art, comprehensive care for children and their families in treating and coordinating compassionate, supportive care in the management of blood disorders and cancers.

Because the biology and treatment of childhood cancers are very different from those for adults, our pediatric oncology care is based on a comprehensive, multidisciplinary team of dedicated and highly trained pediatric specialists.

Dedicated to discovery and committed to cure, we are among only a handful of programs in the country with Phase I and Phase II clinical trials for high-risk childhood cancers using detailed molecular analysis of each child’s tumor. With insights from the Beat Childhood Cancer consortium, headquartered at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital, and our Haworth Family Innovative Therapeutics Clinic, we can design an individualized treatment plan using personalized medicine for each child.

Our nationally accredited Blood and Bone Marrow Transplant program, the only one in West Michigan, is a leading member of the National Marrow Donor Program. Our active membership in the Children’s Oncology Group gives our children access to the most current promising new therapies, and our pediatric oncology resource team offers a wide range of comfort and support services for families, whether they’re from across town, across the nation or around the globe.

We have performed 266 pediatric blood and marrow transplants since the program started in 1998.

Mistha Jackson, 2, conquers a rare, usually fatal disease with help from an experimental drug and her mom’s bone marrow.

2005
Richard C. Breon, President & CEO, Spectrum Health, announces in October plans for a new children’s hospital.

2005
Robert Connors, MD, becomes president of Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital in December.
Easing the Pain

Our pain and palliative medicine program blends evidence-based approaches with individualized care so that kids with serious medical conditions may experience the highest quality of life, with as little pain and discomfort as possible.

A dedicated multidisciplinary team offers inpatient, outpatient and consultative pain and palliative services for kids and their families. Treatment plans focus on the child, rather than the illness.

For kids who need help managing persistent pain, we have a pain clinic that offers comprehensive evaluation and a personalized approach for a range of pain-inducing conditions.

We are the only physician-led pediatric palliative care program in West Michigan.

**Musculoskeletal disorders**
Rheumatologic conditions are autoimmune diseases that affect joints, muscles and connective tissues. Our pediatric rheumatologists—among only 300 in the country—work with kids, parents and other specialists to develop treatment plans that incorporate safe, healthy levels of activity.

Collin Scarpino, 17, is back in the game after a diagnosis and treatment plan to battle juvenile arthritis.
Unlocking Mysteries of a Child’s Brain

We know that early diagnosis of a neurological problem has significant benefits to a child and family. Our pediatric neuroscience program provides expertise parents can trust in identifying disorders and treating children and teenagers who experience symptoms related to the brain, spine or nerves.

Our neurologists work with multispecialty teams and families to provide expert, comprehensive care for a broad range of neurological conditions, including epilepsy and seizures, migraine headaches, brain tumors, and neuromuscular and movement disorders. Treatment plans are individualized for each child.

A pediatric epilepsy monitoring unit also allows specialists to evaluate children with complex epilepsy and seizure disorders.

We are the only pediatric neurosurgery program in the region, bringing advanced capabilities, research and procedures to West Michigan. Our neurosurgeons use state-of-the-art techniques and tools, such as minimally invasive approaches and computer-assisted technology, to achieve the best possible results.

The Gerber Center for Infant Development and Nutrition helps young children with health challenges such as prematurity, developmental delays or feeding problems by offering evaluation and treatment recommendations from an interdisciplinary team consisting of neurodevelopmental pediatric specialists, nurse practitioners, a social worker and a pediatric dietitian. We work closely with community early intervention providers and therapists to optimize each child’s outcome.

Designated as a Level 4 epilepsy center, Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital’s epilepsy care program is the only such program for kids in West Michigan and is among the most comprehensive in the state.

Maci Nichols, 6, now enjoys a life free of seizures and medication after a successful two-year treatment regimen.

2006
The Congenital Heart Center at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital, which combines cardiology and cardiac surgery programs, enters the planning stages.

2007
In collaboration with Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital begins a fellowship in pediatric hematology/oncology.
In collaboration with Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital begins a fellowship in pediatric hematology/oncology.

Heart, Mind and Body

The behavioral health team at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital is dedicated to caring for the whole child, focusing on a range of mental health, physical, educational and social needs. Proper diagnosis and treatment of behavioral symptoms and disorders can change a child’s—and a whole family’s—future.

Our experts use a multidisciplinary approach to determine the cause of problems that children and teenagers may experience, and then take a 360-degree approach to establishing a treatment plan, if needed.

We offer hospital-based services, including pediatric behavioral health consultation, evaluation and treatment for children with acute illnesses, as well as outpatient services, including child psychiatry and psychology clinics, and an autism spectrum disorders clinic and Intensive Feeding Program.

Established with the generous support of the Gerber Foundation, the Intensive Feeding Program is one of only a few such programs in the country.

Brianna Rondeau, 7, enjoys applesauce and more after overcoming an eating disorder with support from the Intensive Feeding Program.

2007
Partners in Children’s Health network begins with 22 community hospitals, growing to more than 30 partners by 2018.

2007
Pediatric hematology/oncology clinic in Traverse City opens in partnership with Munson Medical Center.
Allergy and Immunology, Pulmonology and Sleep Medicine

A Breath of Fresh Air

Our nationally ranked pediatric pulmonary and sleep medicine program offers diagnosis and treatment of disorders related to breathing, lungs and sleep.

Our specialists use advanced technologies and services to quickly and accurately make a diagnosis and offer leading-edge treatment for one-time occurrences to chronic conditions.

Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital has the only pediatric pulmonary function testing lab and the only mechanical ventilator program in West Michigan. We are designated as a Therapeutic Development Network Center by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, leading impactful research in pulmonary medicine.

As the only pediatric sleep lab in West Michigan, our specialists offer sleep assessment and monitoring services to help kids suffering from insomnia, restless leg syndrome, sleep apnea, narcolepsy and other sleep disorders. Assessments are done during a one- or two-night stay in a comfortable bedroom-like setting.

Allergies and more

Our pediatric allergy and immunology specialists use leading-edge protocols and evidence-based medicine to diagnosis, treat and manage kids’ allergies—environmental, food, drug and insect bites. They treat allergy- and immunology-related conditions, including eczema, hives, asthma and immune system disorders. Services include child-focused testing, food and drug allergy challenges, allergy shots, desensitization and biologic therapies, and immunoglobulin replacement.
Our nephrology and urology programs at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital are ranked among the nation’s best.

**Healthier kidneys**

We have the largest pediatric nephrology and kidney transplant program in West Michigan, and our pediatric nephrology specialists are leaders in kidney care and research, using the latest technology.

Our board-certified nephrologists provide comprehensive diagnosis and treatment for infants, children and adolescents with kidney and urinary tract disorders, ranging from kidney ultrasound to the most effective forms of dialysis to filter waste and extra fluid from the blood.

**Healthier systems**

The urology team, led by a dedicated group of board-certified and fellowship-trained physicians, provides medical and surgical care for children with urinary, kidney and reproductive tract issues. The team also may consult with families prior to delivery to streamline and coordinate postnatal care.

**In the past 10 years, our pediatric nephrology team has performed more than 60 kidney transplants**

Acacia Walter-Rooks, 14, gets a new kidney through the generosity of Beth Hill (right), a 46-year-old mom of four. At left, dad Ryan Rooks.

2011 The new 14-story, 212-bed Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital officially opens Jan. 11 with an all-about-kids facility and employees.

2011 Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital Outpatient Center at 35 Michigan Street opens as a central location with numerous outpatient pediatric specialty clinics, connected by bridge to the hospital.
Helping Kids Be Kids

Partnering with children and families as soon as possible to help manage chronic conditions and develop healthy lifestyles can make a difference in overall health throughout childhood and during adulthood.

Everyday support
Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital is home to the largest diabetes and endocrinology program for children in Michigan. We take a proactive medical and educational approach to help children control diabetes and other hormonal disorders.

The multispecialty team includes board-certified pediatric endocrinologists, nurse practitioners, nurses and diabetes educators.

Tummy troubles
Digestive health, weight and nutrition are also important to a child’s development. Our pediatric gastroenterology team delivers family-centered, advanced, multidisciplinary care for kids with digestive system disorders involving the intestine, liver, gallbladder and pancreas.

The ABCs of nutrition
In addition, Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital’s Healthy Weight Center offers families an individualized approach to helping children and adolescents achieve healthy habits and weight through medical management, education and goal-setting.

Our pediatric endocrinology team has the largest insulin pump program in the state

Emma Scott, 7, looks forward to being a “normal” kid despite living with Type 1 diabetes.

2014
Floor 5 of the children’s hospital opens to meet the growing needs of children and families, bringing the total hospital bed count to 234.

2015
The Small Baby Unit within the Gerber Neonatal Center opens.
Comfortable in Their Own Skin

For a variety of reasons, children may require plastic surgery or skin treatments. Since the very conditions that can be helped by dermatology or plastic surgery often cause emotional discomfort and impair self-confidence, we treat every young patient with respect and compassion.

Our board-certified plastic surgeons are internationally recognized as experts in pediatric craniofacial and reconstructive surgery. Focused on restoring both function and appearance using the most advanced techniques, they specialize in a variety of conditions, including:
- Cleft lip or palate
- Craniosynostosis (abnormal development of the skull bones)
- Hemifacial microsomia (asymmetrical development of the face or ears)

- Mandibular hyperplasia (excessive growth of the lower jawbone)
- Maxillary hypoplasia (insufficient growth of the upper jaw)

In addition, our board-certified pediatric dermatologists treat children of all ages for skin conditions ranging from minor to complex, including acne, psoriasis, eczema, melanoma and moles, autoimmune disorders, rosacea, skin cancer (as well as performing screening), skin infections, warts and skin growths.

Internationally recognized corrective techniques for cleft lip or palate were pioneered by plastic surgeons at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital.

Diraj Lackan, 1, traveled 3,000 miles from Guyana to undergo an intricate surgery to repair a severe cleft palate.

For the first time ever, the integration of computed tomography and three-dimensional transesophageal echocardiography are pioneered successfully at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital for printing a hybrid 3-D model of a patient’s heart. Surgeons perform the first procedure using an integrated 3-D heart model as a guide.

Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital begins a new multicenter clinical trial in October through the Neuroblastoma and Medulloblastoma Translational Research Consortium, in partnership with the Translational Genomics Research Institute and a grant from Dell.
Our academic clinic for general pediatrics offers general pediatric services, such as newborn care, well-child visits, laboratory services and vaccinations for children from birth through age 21. This includes care of acute and chronic conditions, as well as serving the needs of children with medical complexity.

Dedicated to offering the highest quality of care and supporting families in making the best choices for their kids’ future, our pediatricians work with highly skilled, caring nurses, medical assistants and social workers.

Special attention for young adults
Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital also offers an adolescent and young adult medicine practice to meet the unique needs—medical, social-emotional and developmental—of young people ages 12 to 22. We offer comprehensive primary and subspecialty care. This includes preventive care and counseling, for both adolescents and young adults. We treat a range of conditions, including attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, depression, anxiety, substance abuse, reproductive health care and eating disorders.

Our family-centered, multidisciplinary approach to care is designed to empower young people to make smart decisions about their health and to inspire healthy lifestyle choices so that they can live their best lives.
We understand parents already navigate enough unknowns in the normal course of raising their kids. We’re there to help handle the medical uncertainties with expertise and high-quality, proactive care.

**Preventing and treating infection**
Our infectious disease program provides expert consultation, diagnosis and treatment for all types of infections, including those that are either recurrent or occur due to other medical problems. We also provide evaluation and care for children with immune deficiencies and chronic or recurring fevers.

The team facilitates international adoption for children chronically infected with HIV and hepatitis B. The team is also committed to preventing illness and infections while traveling out of the country, providing consultation and immunizations for the whole family through a travel medical clinic as well as providing urgent clinic visits for travel-related illnesses.

**Listening to the stories genes tell**
Genes influence a child’s growth, development and health. Our pediatric genetics team provides evaluation, treatment and genetic counseling for families of children with known or suspected inherited disorders, birth defects, developmental delays and inborn errors of metabolism.

We use genetic testing to discover the cause of a child’s condition or to provide information about a previously diagnosed genetic disorder.

Our multidisciplinary pediatric biochemical genetics program also provides evaluation, prevention, treatment and discovery of diseases caused by defects in human biochemical processes.

Mallory Hersman is thankful for a network of support and medical expertise to raise siblings Renner, 1 (left), and Alsae, 4 (right), born with different rare genetic conditions.
Philanthropy
With Help From Our Friends

Philanthropy is an essential cornerstone of Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital. Donations help us to develop and sustain exceptional clinical programs, provide compassionate and comprehensive support to kids and their families, and pursue leading-edge research and innovations.

Due to the generosity of tens of thousands of donors over the past 25 years, $260 million has been given to help save and change the lives of patients and their families at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital. Of the total donations provided, $103 million was given to create the new Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital, which opened in 2011.

Gifts are generated by young children holding lemonade stands, customers donating a $1 bill at their local retail shop, community groups organizing fundraising events, individuals making legacy gifts—and everything in between.

These donations are used to create world-class programs, such as the Congenital Heart Center and the Signatures Program, which helps physicians individualize treatments to help kids battle cancer. They also help to provide annual sustainable funds for The Center for Child Protection, which protects the health, safety and welfare of about 800 children annually. This program has one of just seven child abuse physicians in Michigan.

To help support the patients and their families at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital, visit give.helendevoschildrens.org.

The Peter and Joan Secchia CarePartners Program helps more than 250 families coordinate care for kids who have complex needs and multiple specialists. The program was made possible through a lead gift from Peter and Joan Secchia.

2017
A $1.2 million endowment for Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital’s Edward and June Prein Family Endowed Pediatric Music Therapist program is established.

2017
Floor 5 of 35 Michigan Street, the Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital Outpatient Center, is expanded.