





Dear Friends,

As we look back on 2022, it was a year marked by significant progress toward our goal of being the region's pediatric health care provider of choice. We are committed to providing highly accessible, world-class pediatric health care, close to our patients' homes, at an affordable price. Throughout the year, we were able to strengthen our position as an independent pediatric health care system while supporting our community with programs and services to keep children, teens and young adults safe and healthy.

In this year's report, you'll learn more about:

- How we're building on our 30-year relationship with The University of Akron to provide high-quality sports medicine services to college athletes and create a destination center for all students and young adults.
- Rehabilitative Services' expansive new space for speech, occupational and physical therapy and audiology services, and our new inclusive playground for children of all abilities.
- Our focus on diversity, equity and inclusion to further our efforts to provide culturally competent care for patients and an enriching environment for employees.

We are not doing this work alone; our volunteers, donors and community members continue to guide and support us on this journey. Thank you for your ongoing commitment and dedication to Akron Children's.

Christopher A. Gessner
President and CEO
Akron Children's

Virginia C. Addicott
Chair
Akron Children's Board of Directors



Patient Kaycee Clark

New sports health center for Zips Athletics



Future Akron Children's Sports Health Center for Zips Athletics

As the official Sports Health provider for University of Akron (UA) Zips Athletics, the Akron Children's Sports Health team is dedicated to keeping student-athletes healthy and in the game.

Our orthopedic and sports medicine physicians and fellows provide medical clinics and athletic event coverage year-round – from men's soccer and basketball to women's lacrosse. Our athletic trainers provide sideline coverage at practices and games, while helping athletes compete at the top of their game. Sports physical therapy rounds out our services.

To take our 30-year collaboration with UA to the next level, we are building the Akron Children's Sports Health Center for Zips Athletics, a visionary sports medicine facility within UA's athletics complex. It will not only serve UA athletes and students but be a destination for middle and high school athletes, club sport participants and weekend warriors up to age 26.

"The new facility will draw younger athletes who want to receive the same high level of sports medicine care as Division I college and other elite-level athletes," said Dr. John Polousky, lead orthopedic physician.

Improving access to care

We continue to prioritize access initiatives to ensure patients get the outpatient care they need, while supporting providers with the timely processing of referrals.

Following successful pilots last summer, we implemented point-of-care scheduling at all Akron Children's Pediatrics practices. Patients can now schedule recommended specialty care before leaving their primary care appointment.

"As easy as that might sound, several processes had to be established, along with staff training, to make that happen," said Ben Teske, director of Akron Children's Pediatrics operations.

Decision trees for 17 specialties ensure patients get to the right place at the right time with the right provider. Point-of-care scheduling creates a positive patient experience, enhances quality and continuity of care, reduces costs, eliminates redundancies such as repeat lab work and addresses barriers to care, such as the lack of phones among our Amish patients.

REFERRAL MANAGEMENT

As demand for our services has increased, our referral management team has improved scheduling processes so we can serve more children. New orders are now entered within two hours of receipt and patient calls are made within 24 to 48 hours.

Zips Athletics

500 STUDENT-ATHLETES

17 SPORTS TEAMS

Our UA Sports Health Team

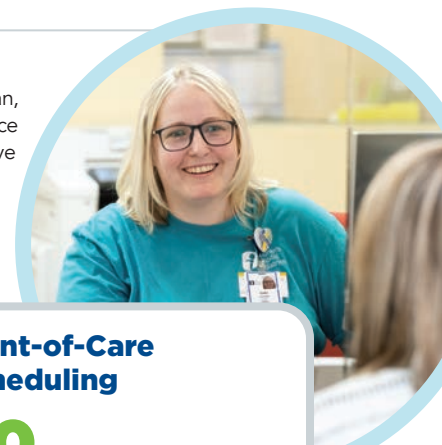
3 PHYSICIANS

2 FELLOWS

10 ATHLETIC TRAINERS

2 PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

Kara Kaufman,
patient service
representative



Point-of-Care Scheduling

70

PATIENT SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES TRAINED

1,605

POINT-OF-CARE VISITS SCHEDULED IN 2022

Rehab space transformed

Rehabilitative services is one of our busiest departments, with children of all ages receiving audiology services and participating in speech, occupational and physical therapy.

A multi-year, multi-million-dollar renovation and expansion of this space has transformed the second floor of our Akron hospital. This project also reworked the hospital's main entrance on Bowery Street to improve wayfinding and accessibility.

The design incorporates similar elements from our regional health centers, such as public corridors used as running tracks, expansive gyms, our student art program and as much natural light as possible to incorporate the outdoors. It also includes a regulation-size, half-court basketball gym for adolescents, with separate gyms for toddlers and infants. A large sensory integration room offers a child-friendly place for kids to develop their skills through play.

"We love the bright colors and sunshine that we now have in these patient care spaces, but, most of all, we are excited that this project allows us to serve many more children," said Chris Gessner, Akron Children's president and CEO.

added **33,000**
square feet



Physical therapists Jamie Petit and Sarah Brown with patients Rowan Garland (l) and Jordan Pollock (r) in the newly renovated rehabilitative services space

Rehabilitative Services Renovation

23

NEW TREATMENT ROOMS

COLORFUL, INTERACTIVE
ARTWORK FOR CHILDREN

NEW INCLUSIVE OUTDOOR
PLAYGROUND

Inclusive playground welcomes all children

Creating a space where children of all abilities can play, learn and have fun was central to the design of the new inclusive playground on our Akron campus. Located just outside the new rehabilitative services waiting area, it's easily accessible for outdoor therapy sessions. It was made possible by a generous gift from our Women's Board.

The inclusive playground provides opportunities for special needs children to do the same things as other kids, and features wide walkways, wheelchair ramps and a swing that accommodates wheelchairs. Play equipment promotes the development of large muscle groups and upper extremity strength, while interactive activities with sound and music encourage children to touch and explore. A communication board with symbols fosters communication and play between verbal and non-verbal children.



Patient Spencer Beal

Our renewed vision for academics and research

As Akron Children's first Chief Academic Officer and the William H. and Rebecca D. Considine Endowed Chair for Pediatric Research, Dr. Michael Forbes is working to establish Akron Children's as a leader in applying research to improve patient outcomes and the health of all children.



Dr. Michael Forbes

"Akron Children's is responsible for the public health of children. That is the ultimate report card of the effectiveness of our pediatric health care system," he said.

With more than 400 research projects currently underway, including numerous clinical trials for neurological conditions and pediatric cancers, we are leveraging scientific knowledge to advance patient care. Through our membership in Children's Oncology Group, the world's largest organization dedicated to pediatric cancer research, we offer the latest cancer treatments. Childhood cancer, once incurable, now has a combined five-year survival rate of 80%.

Our Akron Children's Pediatrics network, with more than half a million annual visits, represents a significant opportunity to apply research in the delivery of pediatric primary care, addressing social determinants of health that impact access, equity and outcomes.

Along with increasing collaborations and expanding relationships with regional academic partners, we are also recruiting more physician-scientists and creating preeminent learning experiences for faculty, residents and fellows.

Training future pediatric emergency medicine physicians

For decades, our Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellowship program has trained future generations of ER doctors. These pediatric specialists are prepared to treat everything from routine bumps and bruises to sudden illness to traumatic injuries from motor vehicle accidents. They spend the majority of their time working in our ER, while also gaining exposure to pediatric intensive care, burn injuries, child abuse and adult emergency/trauma care.

During their training, our fellows participate in research and quality improvement projects that are published and presented nationally. They are also educators sharing their pediatric emergency expertise with residents and community EMS providers. This ensures our region's first responders are ready to meet the unique needs of children during those critical moments following a serious injury.

Our graduates can be found within our walls, around the state and across the country, making a far-reaching, and life-saving, impact on the level of specialized emergency care that's available to children.



Our pediatric emergency fellows participate in ultrasound training.

Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellowship

- 3** YEARS OF TRAINING
- 9** TOTAL FELLOWS PER YEAR
- 76** TOTAL GRADUATES
- 22** GRADUATES ON STAFF
- 3** REGIONAL TRAINING PARTNERS:
METROHEALTH,
SUMMA HEALTH,
CLEVELAND CLINIC
AKRON GENERAL
- 14** NATIONAL/REGIONAL PRESENTATIONS IN 2022



Eppiona Bloodworth
with daughter Jayonna Nance

Literacy and early brain development starts with the 3Ts

Akron Children’s is the first children’s hospital to host a pilot project to promote literacy and brain development in babies and toddlers. The “Ready to Learn” project is a collaboration with Summit Education Initiative and the Thirty Million Words (TMW) Center for Early Learning + Public Health, a research institute at the University of Chicago.

“Babies’ brains are unfinished at birth, but in the first three years, billions of connections are formed that create the foundation for learning. Early experiences with responsive and loving caregivers drive those connections,” said Dr. P. Cooper White, who co-leads the pilot with Dr. Diane Langkamp.



During babies’ well visits in the first 6 months, patient families in our Locust Pediatric Care Group learn simple, proven strategies to use every day to build their child’s brain. These strategies are focused on the 3Ts – *Tune In*, *Talk More* and *Take Turns*.

Jayonna Nance

Tuning In and being present reminds parents to respond to their baby’s cries and coos, talking to them about the toys or other objects that capture their attention. *Talking More* encourages parents to narrate day-to-day routines and read aloud to their baby. *Taking Turns* shows parents how to keep the conversation going, responding to baby’s sounds, gestures and words – and giving them time to respond.

“Back and forth talk between a parent or caregiver provides building blocks for the child’s brain to grow. Hearing words from a TV or video are no match for the personal interaction between baby and their loving caregivers, which can make a major difference in the child’s readiness for kindergarten and school success later,” said Dr. Langkamp.



Art therapist Diane Troyer leads behavioral health patients in expressing their emotions through art.

Prioritizing pediatric mental health and wellness

Every three years, Akron Children’s conducts a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) to identify the most pressing health care needs of the children and families we serve, and guide our work to address these priorities. In 2022, we conducted and published our fifth CHNA in partnership with the Center for Community Solutions.

We engaged more than 1,000 parents, caregivers and community partners through this process, including vulnerable and underserved populations, as well as public health experts and social service representatives from 12 counties within our service area.

“A key takeaway from the community input we solicited is that kids’ mental and emotional health is top of mind for so many. This was loud and clear in every conversation and across every community within the region.”

– Bennett L. Williams,
Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer and
Vice President for Community Initiatives

Many participants expressed concern about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children’s mental well-being. Community leaders cited widening gaps for students in both academic and social-emotional skills, with particular concern about children from low-income families, those with disabilities and students of color. Families described heightened stress and anxiety within households, and concerns about increasing gun violence in their communities. They also voiced the importance of a “back to basics,” prevention-oriented approach to supporting child wellness post-pandemic.

With the input of hospital thought leaders and partners from our CHNA Steering Committee, we are prioritizing pediatric mental and behavioral health and community-based health and wellness. We are addressing these issues through strategies such as the continued integration of behavioral health services within our system and in partnership with community providers, a behavioral health workforce development program and youth suicide prevention education and awareness. Our community-based health and wellness goals are focused on addressing disparities in preventive health care and food security and improving access to wellness services through our school-based health care network.

CHNA PRIORITIES



To tailor wellness strategies for some of our most vulnerable populations, we are relying on data, including vaccination rates and missed well child visits.

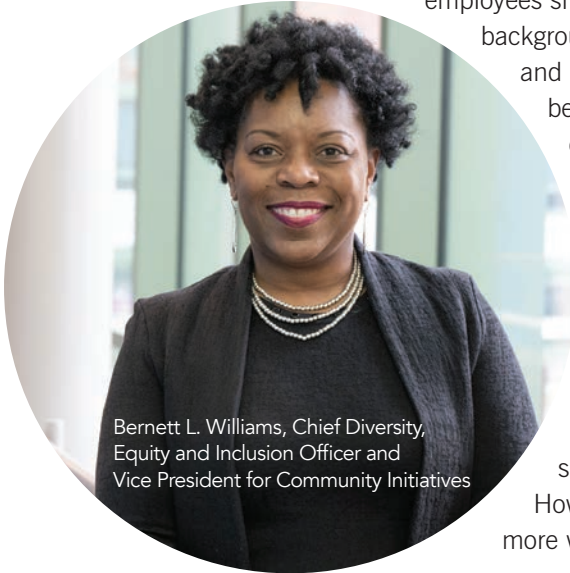
“What sets this CHNA apart from previous ones are three cross-cutting commitments that must be embedded in everything we do – advancing health equity, improving access to health care and fostering resiliency,” said Williams.



Nurse practitioner Elizabeth Forcina with patient Lisette Walker

Celebrating our differences makes us stronger

Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) is a cornerstone at Akron Children’s. We know that when our patients, families and employees share their unique backgrounds, values and beliefs, we all benefit.



Bernett L. Williams, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer and Vice President for Community Initiatives

In our efforts to create a more inclusive environment, rooted in culturally competent, equitable care, our organization has made significant strides. However, there’s still more work to be done.

In her new role as Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer and Vice President for Community Initiatives, Bernett L. Williams and her team have created a roadmap to take our DEI initiatives to the next level.

“When I think about DEI at Akron Children’s, I view it in terms of our diverse workforce, our patient population and the communities we serve,” said Williams. “I would love for Akron Children’s to be the DEI leader in this community.”

In laying the foundation to achieve this vision, we are expanding DEI education and hired a dedicated DEI trainer. The growing team will move into a newly created space, where all staff can feel safe, welcome and supported.

With the expanded focus on DEI, we are launching a new way to measure and track our progress. This DEI scorecard will target health equity, workforce and supplier diversity, and education and training, providing benchmarks and identifying gaps where more work is needed.



Employee So Ma Ya

To learn more about employee So Ma Ya’s story, scan the QR code:



Honors & Awards

NURSING EXCELLENCE:

- Magnet Hospital Recognition by the American Nurses Credentialing Center

BEST WORKPLACE:

- Forbes’ America’s Best-in-State Employers
- Becker’s Hospital Review 150 Top Places to Work in Healthcare

PATIENT CARE:

- U.S. News Best Children’s Hospitals for Orthopedics (25th) and Neurology & Neurosurgery (36th)
- Newsweek’s World’s Best Specialized Hospitals – Pediatrics
- Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center, Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons
- Level 1 Children’s Surgery Center, Children’s Surgery Verification Quality Improvement Program of the American College of Surgeons



Children’s Surgery Verification
American College of Surgeons



AaLashiya Harris with baby Aa'Zeir Harris

Akron Children's At-A-Glance All data in this report is from 2022.



2
HOSPITAL
CAMPUSES



39
PEDIATRICIAN
OFFICES



98,621
ER VISITS



572,606
PRIMARY CARE
VISITS



1,306,605
TOTAL
OUTPATIENT VISITS



4
URGENT
CARES



288,703
INDIVIDUAL
PATIENTS



38,206
URGENT CARE
VISITS



17,898
SURGERIES



10,946
INPATIENT
ADMISSIONS



264
AIRBEAR®
TRANSPORTS



2,551
GROUND
TRANSPORTS



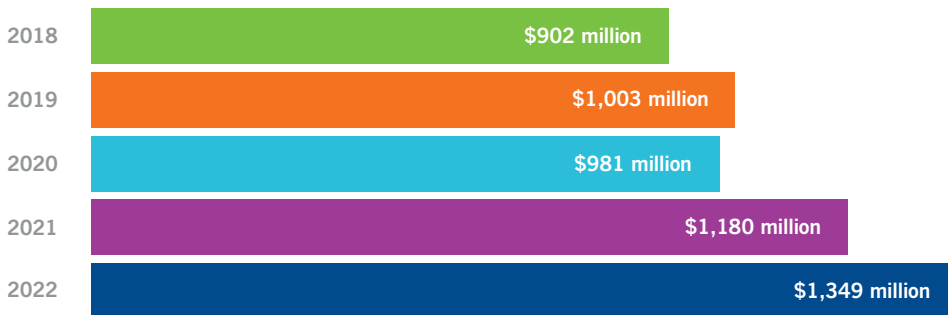
316,823
SCHOOL HEALTH
CLINIC VISITS



3,896
CHILDREN'S HOME
CARE VISITS

Financials: 2018-2022

OPERATING REVENUES



For additional financial information, go to <https://emma.msrb.org/Home/Index> and search for Akron Bath Copley Joint Hospital Township District.

Foundation Totals: 2018-2022

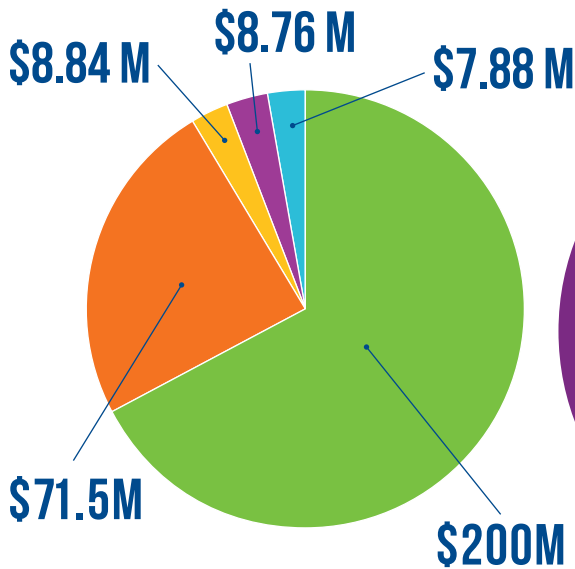


Our investment in the children we serve would not be possible without the tremendous support of our donors. We are grateful for this generous support, which helps us fulfill our mission of building a stronger, healthier future for all children.

Community benefit financials

To be included in community benefit reporting, activities must incur a cost to the hospital and address an identified community need and at least one of four objectives:

- Improve health care access
- Enhance community health
- Advance medical or health knowledge
- Reduce the burden on government and community-based agencies



TOTAL COMMUNITY INVESTMENT
\$297 M*
M=MILLIONS
*UNAUDITED — FINANCES IN THE REPORT ARE PENDING IRS REVIEW.

- UNREIMBURSED MEDICAID & UNCOMPENSATED CARE**
 - The unreimbursed portion of services for Medicaid patients and financial assistance for families who are unable to pay for all or part of their medical expenses
- SUBSIDIZED HEALTH SERVICES**
 - Clinical services that are delivered despite financial loss because they address community needs
- RESEARCH, ADVOCACY & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**
 - Non-proprietary research supported by internal or eligible grant funds
 - Advocacy for community health improvement
 - Cash and in-kind donations to community organizations with missions that align with our own
- HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION**
 - Training, clinical rotations, internships and continuing education for practitioners
- COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT SERVICES & COMMUNITY BENEFIT OPERATIONS**
 - Community health education, outreach programs and supports that do not generate revenue
 - Staffing, administrative supports and other resources to operate and sustain community benefit programs



Patient Brooklyn Cooper with PT student Lexy Snell

Thank you to our CHNA Steering Committee

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 Kay Conley
 Monique Cook

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 Christina Hodgkinson
 Cassandra Holtzmann
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Patient Benjamin Lindeman
with Christine Lindeman



Patient Harlow Finley



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