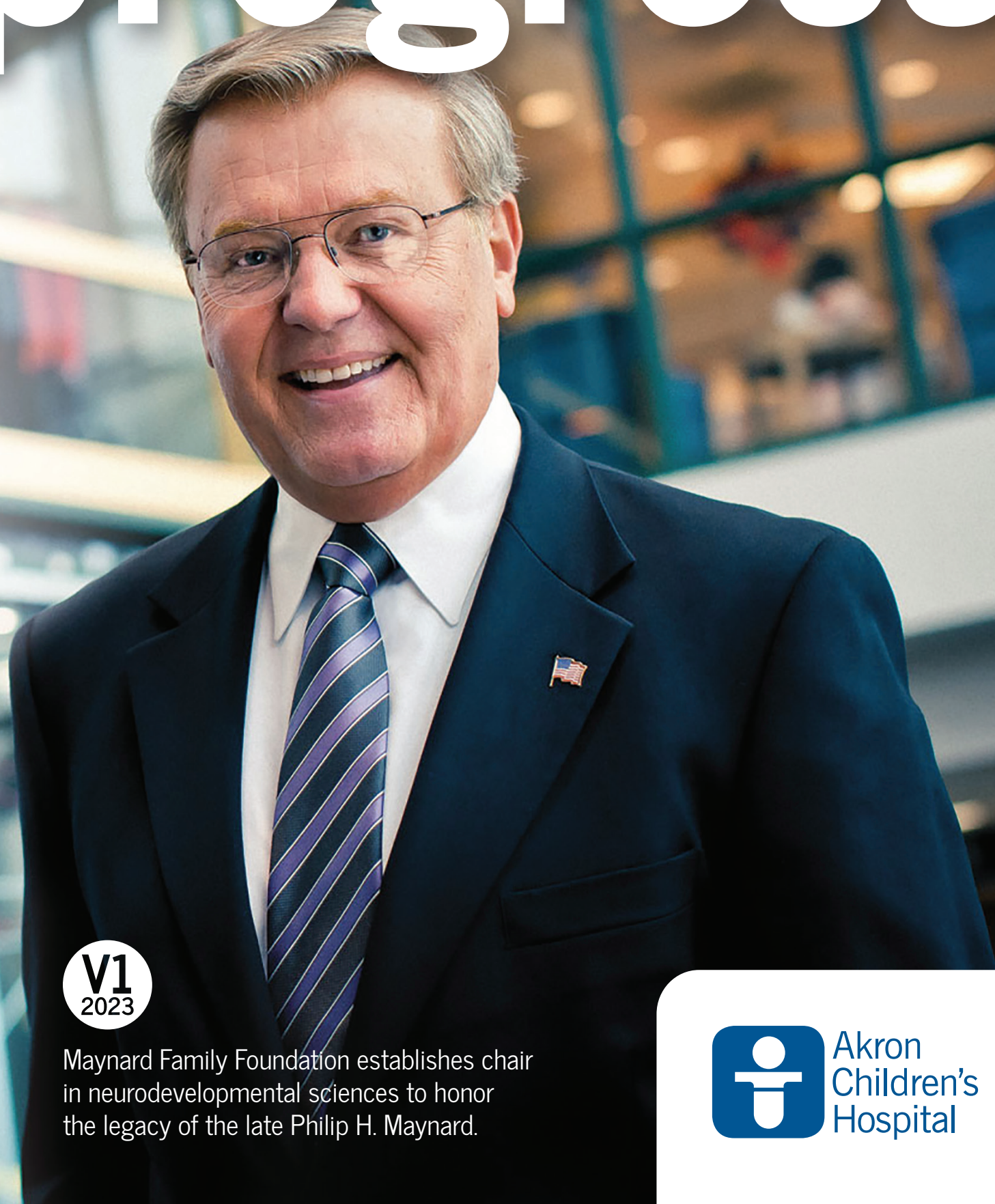


# Children's progress



**V1**  
2023

Maynard Family Foundation establishes chair  
in neurodevelopmental sciences to honor  
the legacy of the late Philip H. Maynard.



Akron  
Children's  
Hospital



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After devastating loss, a couple gives to help parents in similar circumstances

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Alissa Hazlett  
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### **Contributing Writers**

Desidara  
Alissa Hazlett  
Kathryn Mahon

### **Contributing Photographers**

Ted Stevens  
Tiffany Swift

### **Graphic Design**

Desidara

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**Children's  
Miracle Network  
Hospitals**

Akron Children's Hospital embraces a philosophy of family-centered care. We believe that every child has the right to world-class medical care, regardless of a family's ability to pay.

Member, Children's Hospital Association (CHA)

Member, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals

**Children's progress is published  
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One Perkins Square  
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# THE IMPACT OF ACCESSIBLE MENTAL HEALTH CARE

## Donors help Akron Children's Hospital expand services

There's a youth mental health crisis sweeping our country – and northern Ohio.

Access to high-quality, individualized mental health care is a major obstacle for children and their families. So are long wait times.

At Akron Children's Hospital, we are strategically responding to these challenges, taking action to remove barriers to care – and filling the gaps where care is lacking and continued philanthropic support is needed. Support from our community of donors is making our efforts possible.

"We highly value our relationships with our donors," said Doug Straight, clinical operations director, psychiatry and psychology at Akron Children's. "Their support helps us bring mental health services and programming to even more children in our service area. They become part of our continuum of care to ensure that youth have access to the right services at the right time."

### ○ Addressing an urgent need

The new challenges that today's young people face are particularly hard to navigate. From the pressures of social media to the life-changing impact of a global pandemic, these obstacles can have a devastating effect on youth mental health.

In 2021, the team at The Lois and John Orr Family Behavioral Health Center at Akron Children's served nearly 10,000 patients through more than 49,000 unique visits, with the need for care growing by more than 16% from the prior year. It's why mental health expansion is a critical focus for our hospital.

### ○ Expanding through donor support

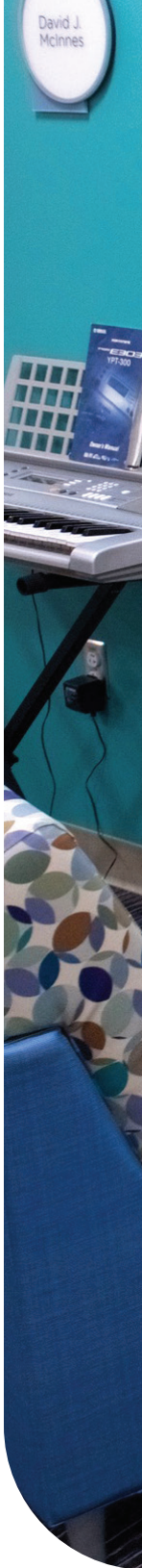
The center specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of emotional or behavioral disorders affecting children, teens and their families. Our services include child and adolescent psychiatry, behavioral medicine, outpatient individual and family therapy, clinical consultation and liaison, intensive day treatment programming, addiction treatment and emergency department behavioral health crisis services.

And donor support has been integral to the expansion of these services.

We opened the doors to Akron Children's Hospital Pediatric Psychiatry and Psychology, Boardman in 2019. Support for the facility and its services came from the Mahoning Valley community, including gifts from Christopher Thompson and his family, Hine Memorial Fund, the James and Coralie Centofanti Charitable Foundation, Peg's Foundation and Kikel Charitable Foundation. Since its opening, we've helped 8,226 patients through 25,795 visits.

While our hospital actively recruits behavioral health providers, hiring qualified practitioners remains a challenge. In response to this urgent need, The J.M. Smucker Co. generously funded scholarships in 2022 to help our nurses get the necessary training to become psychiatric-mental health nurses. Through this \$215,000 gift, we will be able to add more knowledgeable practitioners and increase the number of children we can treat.

Donor contributions also are supporting the construction of new mental health care facilities in Stark and Richland counties. Each will begin providing services in 2023. These new locations will provide increased access to psychiatric services, partial hospitalization programs, intensive outpatient programs, outpatient psychological therapy and mental health therapy closer to home in these regions.







## STARK COUNTY

**2nd highest** rate of behavioral health diagnoses in six-county service region.

► According to Akron Children's latest Community Health Needs Assessment.

**Lowest rate** of practicing child and adolescent psychiatrists.

**Opening July 18, 2023:**

Akron Children's new 11,000-square-foot facility dedicated to mental and behavioral health.

**25 staff and mental health providers\*** employed by 2024.

**10,231**

visits\* in first year.

**14,212**

visits\* a year by 2026.

\*PROJECTED.

**Donor support:** ► Timken Foundation of Canton  
► The Hoover Foundation

## RICHLAND COUNTY

**1st** in six-county service region for number of children who have experienced two or more adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

► ACEs are traumatic events like abuse or neglect.

**High rates** of drug overdoses, which can impact the mental health of children of addicted parents.

**Low rate** of practicing child and adolescent psychiatrists.

**Opening June 13, 2023:**

Akron Children's new 10,000-square-foot facility dedicated to mental and behavioral health.

**20+ staff and mental health providers\*** employed by 2025.

**3,067**

visits\* in first year.

**10,214**

visits\* a year by 2027.

\*PROJECTED.

**Donor support:** ► 33 Forever Inc.  
► The S.N. Ford and Ada Ford Fund  
► Gorman Family Foundation  
► Robert and Esther Black Family Foundation  
► Richland County Foundation

Financial support allows Akron Children's Hospital to strategically expand mental health care services across our entire service region.





Donna and Jeff Heck founded 33 Forever Inc. after the death of 33-year-old daughter Danielle “Dani” Leedy in 2019. The nonprofit recently awarded a \$175,000 grant to the new Akron Children’s Hospital Behavioral Health, Mansfield.

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If you have a loved one who needs **support** for mental or behavioral challenges, please reach out to a health care professional or call:

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline  
**988**



# GRANT SUPPORTS EXPANSION OF MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

## 33 Forever Inc. awards \$175,000 to Akron Children's Hospital Behavioral Health, Mansfield

Donna and Jeff Heck and the team at 33 Forever Inc. are on a mission: to provide hope, help and empowerment to those with mental health issues.

When Donna and Jeff's family lost 33-year-old daughter Danielle "Dani" Leedy in 2019 after a long battle with chronic depression, friends, family and the Mansfield, Ohio, community rallied around them, sparking the formation of 33 Forever. Now, the nonprofit organization is transforming this support into a \$175,000 grant to the new Akron Children's Hospital Behavioral Health, Mansfield.

### ○ Connecting over a common goal

33 Forever was created to honor Dani's life. It focuses its work on supporting those with mental health issues – specifically depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other image and self-worth issues, including suicidal thoughts. All of its funding comes from donor contributions.

"When we heard Akron Children's behavioral health center was coming, we were excited. We wanted to be a part of providing additional resources needed so badly in our community, especially in the pediatric area," said Jeff.

"From our own experiences, we learned that mental health challenges often start in the teen years and can go undiagnosed and untreated for way too long. The sooner you identify and treat it – like any health issue – the better the outcomes."

The Hecks said that supporting the center felt like a "full-circle" moment for their family.

"When Dani first attempted suicide when she was 15, our family had no familiarity with mental health challenges," said Donna. "She spent a week at Akron Children's, and it was everything that she needed. The hospital helped us in the beginning, and now it's here in our community. It felt like the perfect fit for us to support this project."

### ○ Bringing much-needed services to the Mansfield region

Once it's completed in June 2023, Akron Children's Behavioral Health, Mansfield will provide youth with moderate to severe mental illness and their families with increased access to psychiatric services, partial hospitalization programs, intensive outpatient programs, outpatient psychological therapy and mental health therapy.

"Jeff, Donna and the staff at 33 Forever have been amazing in helping us make the right connections with other agencies in the Mansfield community to best serve the behavioral health needs of its youth," said Doug Straight, clinical operations director, psychiatry and psychology at Akron Children's. "Their commitment and passion for raising awareness about suicide prevention and breaking the stigma associated with mental and behavioral health is unparalleled. We are very thankful for their support."

And when the doors open, 33 Forever and Dani's legacy will have a presence in the waiting room.

"We hope it's a sign of support for people in our community," said Donna. "It's letting them know we're a connector, that we're here to help them end the stigma of mental health."

Scan the QR code for tips on having meaningful conversations with your kids.



# TAKING CARE OF THE 'KIDDOS' OF THE FUTURE

## Maynard Family Foundation establishes chair in neurodevelopmental sciences at Akron Children's Hospital

After every visit to Akron Children's Hospital, philanthropist and Akron business leader Philip H. Maynard would share stories about children he met.

"You should've seen the kiddos," he would tell family and co-workers.

Phil passed away in 2021, but the Maynard Family Foundation has ensured that its namesake's concern for children carries on in his absence.

Through a Maynard Family Foundation gift, the Philip H. Maynard Chair in NeuroDevelopmental Sciences will foster research and advancements in this field. Neurodevelopmental issues can manifest as conditions that affect children's cognition, language, motor skills and behaviors – like autism and cerebral palsy.

The new chair will power investigation into the causes and treatments for these and other disorders. Bruce H. Cohen, MD, FAAN, chair, NeuroDevelopmental Science Center; Philip H. Maynard Chair in NeuroDevelopmental Science Fund; chairman, American Academy of Neurology Advocacy Committee; and pediatric neurologist will serve as the first chair.

### ○ A spirit of giving

"Dad was raised to help others, and he was a man of faith, which he unashamedly shared," said his daughter Amy Griffith. "Akron Children's was his first major step into philanthropy, which is why it has remained an important organization to our family."

Phil was an ardent supporter of our hospital up until his passing. He served on the Akron Children's Hospital board of directors from 2003 to 2021, acting as chairman from 2003 to 2007. He also was on the Akron Children's Hospital Foundation board of directors from 2007 to 2021. He chaired the Building on the Promise capital campaign and helped raise \$60 million for the construction of the Kay Jewelers Pavilion. The chair in neurodevelopmental sciences is a new expression of his commitment to Akron Children's.

### ○ Funding a need

"Dr. Cohen served on the board of directors with Phil," said Pamela Loughry, executive director of the Maynard Family Foundation. "As we learned more about the important work of this area of science, we thought it would be an excellent investment and something Phil would have championed."

"I am honored to serve as the first chair that carries Phil's name," said Dr. Cohen. "Through this generous gift, we can make a difference in the lives of many children and their families. We will do Phil proud in this arena."

Pamela said that naming opportunities did not interest Phil when he was alive, but posthumously, his name adds credibility.

"When people see the Maynard name attached to a nonprofit program, they know that it was 'Phil approved,'" she said. "Dr. Cohen and the neurodevelopmental sciences chair is definitely Maynard-worthy."

"Dad knew what a treasure it is to have Akron Children's and physicians like Dr. Cohen in our community," said Amy. "His desire was to fund initiatives like this – right here in Akron."







Established through a gift from the Maynard Family Foundation, the Philip H. Maynard Chair in NeuroDevelopmental Sciences will foster research and advancements in its field. Pictured (from left): Pamela Loughry, executive director of the Maynard Family Foundation; Amy Griffith, daughter of Phil Maynard and director of the Maynard Family Foundation; and Dr. Bruce Cohen, the first holder of the new chair.

To learn more about **funding endowed chairs** or to further the work of Dr. Cohen in **neurodevelopmental sciences**, contact:

**John LaGuardia**  
Senior director of special projects

[jlguardia@akronchildrens.org](mailto:jlguardia@akronchildrens.org)  
330-388-1116





Norm and Denise Wells renewed their commitment to Akron Children's Hospital's workforce development program, Career Launch, making their second gift to the initiative in 2022.



# CREATING A 'WIN-WIN' FOR AKRON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND OUR COMMUNITY

## Denise and Norm Wells renew commitment to Career Launch

Denise and Norm Wells believe in their community – and Akron Children's Hospital.

When we started the workforce development program Career Launch in 2019, it was a natural initiative for the couple to support with an inaugural gift. In 2022, the Wellses renewed their commitment to the program through a second, generous gift.

"Denise and I get satisfaction from seeing people get opportunities they wouldn't normally have to improve their lives," said Norm. "This is a long-term commitment for us. When we made our first gift, we did so thinking about the series of years it would take to help the program develop and grow. With our recent gift, we're reinforcing our belief in this program and encouraging other donors to step up and give these young people opportunities they wouldn't have."

### ○ Educating tomorrow's workforce – today

Career Launch is a workforce development program that creates financial stability and career advancement for community members and employees. It provides education to tomorrow's caregivers by removing barriers to education like cost, access to child care or transportation – and by providing mentorship and support.

"We're removing the financial concerns of returning to school – prepaying for the costs of tuition, uniforms, books, supplies, equipment and more," said Rhonda Larimore, chief human resources officer at Akron Children's. "Participants can build skills that will put them on the path to a stable career with advancement opportunities."

Participants can either work for our hospital while attending school part time or attend school full time and then fulfill a three-year commitment to our hospital after graduation. It's an arrangement the Wellses believe is needed in today's current landscape.

"Health care is a big part of the northeast Ohio economy, and everybody is looking for qualified people to fill open positions," said Norm. "The need for skilled nurses and technician positions hasn't changed. It's challenging hospital systems to the core."

### ○ A call for support

The Wellses see their gift fulfilling two purposes: to provide the hospital with a stream of potential caregivers while at the same time providing opportunities for people in Akron to develop their skills and take their careers to another level.

"Akron Children's is ahead of the curve by looking futuristically while at the same time looking for opportunities for people who want to enter health care," said Norm. "So I challenge other donors to think about the future, to think about helping to put people from this area into the health care economy – and setting them and the hospital up for success. It's a win-win for everyone."

Scan the QR code to learn more about  
Akron Children's Career Launch program.



# SELFLESS GIVING

After devastating loss, a couple gives to help parents in similar circumstances

When it was discovered that their newborn daughter Jennah had a rare genetic condition, Abdullatif "Abdu" and Tahira Terkman sought specialists in the United States outside of the country of Oman, where they were residing at the time.

They reached out to several specialists in America. Bruce Cohen, chair, NeuroDevelopmental Science Center; Philip H. Maynard Chair in NeuroDevelopmental Science Fund; chairman, American Academy of Neurology Advocacy Committee; and pediatric neurologist, responded to their inquiry and welcomed the family to Akron.

Friends, family and strangers rallied around the Terkmans, raising \$90,000 through GoFundMe for the expensive medical transport. Unfortunately, Jennah passed away before the transport could occur. She was just 47 days old.

"We were uncomfortable asking for help, but it was the only way we would've been able to get Jennah to Akron Children's," said Abdu. "We were overwhelmed by the support. Many people gave just a dollar, but every dollar counted."

## ○ Honoring Jennah's memory

More than a year after their loss, the Terkmans identified places to give the money that was raised for Jennah,

including a \$50,000 gift to establish a travel fund for families and a contribution to Dr. Cohen's mitochondrial research. They also gave to Ronald McDonald House and a few other nonprofit organizations.

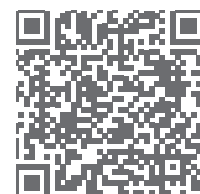
"We wanted to honor Jennah by giving the money away that was raised for her," said Tahira. "The gifts to Akron Children's Hospital reflect our feelings of being so close to an answer but too far to make it happen. We want to let parents with sick kids know that there are people with open arms ready to receive them."

Dr. Cohen was saddened that he and his team were not able to meet the Terkmans, but he is honored by their tribute.

"We did not know if we could help Jennah, but we were ready to do everything we could," he said. "Jennah is an example of why our research into genetic issues is so important."

Tahira said that Jennah's name in Arabic means "heaven," a detail that has brought them peace during this difficult time.

"Helping other people through these funds may be the reason for Jennah's life," said her mother. "Dr. Cohen's fast response and the help of so many who gave us money restored our belief that people are good. Jennah touched many lives, and through this fund, she will continue to have an effect."







After the loss of their daughter Jennah to a rare genetic condition, Tahira and Abdullatif "Abdu" Turkman made a gift to Akron Children's Hospital in her honor.

To further research  
in **rare diseases** like  
Jennah's, contact:

**Laura Purdy**  
Major gifts officer

[lpurdy@akronchildrens.org](mailto:lpurdy@akronchildrens.org)  
**330.543.0810**





Meet the Ryznars. Pictured (from left): Mimi, Maeryn, Jeff and Kyra.



# Q&A JEFF AND MIMI RYZNAR

## Five questions with our feature donors

Jeff and Mimi Ryznar firmly believe in giving back to others – and supporting the Mahoning Valley community. The business owner and physician both feel that everyone has gifts to use and share. Here, they explain why they share their time, talents and treasures with Akron Children's Hospital.

### 1 How did you become interested in philanthropy and giving back?

While our professional lives allow us to make a difference, we wanted to do more and make a lasting impact on the world around us. We know that we are called to treat others as we want to be treated. To have that empathy in trying to live the golden rule provides examples for our daughters to carry on a legacy of caring that will, hopefully, outlast us all.

### 2 Why does your family support Akron Children's?

We do our part, however small it may be, with the intention that we are fulfilling the obligation set out to ensure that the continuum of care Akron Children's provides the Mahoning Valley is always available and provided to children in need.

### 3 Jeff, you hear a lot of stories in your role as a marketer. Tell us the story of how you and Mimi became involved with Akron Children's.

Akron Children's cared for our daughters – Maeryn (10) and Kyra (8) – early in their lives. During one of Kyra's visits to the Akron campus, a code blue alarm went off.

Our thoughts, prayers and feelings immediately went to that child and family. Our gratitude for our girls' good health, thanks to Akron Children's, turned into a commitment to the institution. We were going to do whatever we could to make sure families who have to go through something like that have support, that no child is turned away and that every Akron Children's caregiver knows how special and vital they are to this mission.

### 4 What would you say to someone who is thinking of donating to Akron Children's?

That just by thinking about making a gift, you will learn more about how your time, talents and treasures will impact the hospital. Talk to your family and friends who have benefited from the hospital's wraparound care. Connect with the hospital's talented and compassionate Foundation team members. They can share stories of how contributions – of any size – leave a lasting legacy on our community, our neighbors and children's lives.

### 5 We hear that both of you are pretty competitive. Tell us about that.

The thrill of competition drives us to perform at a high level. It's not about winning but seeing how far we can push ourselves and get the best out of each other. It's not uncommon for us to have friendly banter during Browns and Steelers games, on the golf course or tennis court, or even playing Monopoly or Scrabble. We push each other, but we both want to come out on top.

Scan the QR code to join the Ryznars  
and support the needs of children  
in your community today.



# MEET BRUCE AND SANDY BAILEY

How their designated beneficiary gift will support the future of vision care

Philanthropy has always meant a great deal to Bruce and Sandy Bailey.

The couple has given time, talent and treasure to a number of civic, educational, health and charitable endeavors – including Akron Children's Hospital. Recently, Bruce and Sandy made a designated beneficiary gift to create the Bruce and Sandra Bailey Endowed Fund, which will support Akron Children's Hospital's Vision Center.

"We know how important Akron Children's is to families in our community," said Sandy. "We're happy to be able to help in our own way."

## ○ A vision for helping others

The Baileys made their first gift to our hospital in 1989. Since then, they've supported efforts like the Children's Fund, the Champion for Children's Fund, the Building on the Promise campaign and the Bruce F. Rothmann, M.D. Endowed Chair in Pediatric Surgery. They decided to make their most recent planned gift after their granddaughter, Catherine Culp, MD, spent a summer as an intern in our vision center.

"She loved working there," said Sandy. "Plus, all of our children have had to wear glasses. Bruce has worn them since he was 5 years old. We've seen many different eye experts over the years. We understand the challenges that these children and families face."

By establishing the Bruce and Sandra Bailey Endowed Fund, the couple hope to support pediatric vision care for generations to come – and to help ease financial burdens on families.

## ○ A vision for the future

Bruce and Sandy established their fund by naming Akron Children's as a designated beneficiary of their charitable remainder trust, with the funds going to the vision center. Beneficiary designations are tax-wise gifts that can be made from retirement plans, life insurance policies or commercial annuities, as well as charitable remainder trusts. They create an effective and easy way to establish a legacy that involves no out-of-pocket money. It's also a quick and easy process to name our hospital as a beneficiary.

"Akron Children's is certainly a worthwhile organization to support," said Bruce. "We don't know what the future of eye disease will be. But we have a strong belief in the work of Akron Children's. This money will help build more research and find more solutions to eye problems for children."

"We know that any child can have an accident that might endanger their eyes," added Sandy. "Many families might not have insurance or be able to afford that care. We don't want that to be a problem and hope our contribution will help these families in some way."







Sandy and Bruce Bailey made a planned, designated beneficiary gift to support Akron Children's Hospital's Vision Center.

To learn how you can support  
Akron Children's through a  
**designated beneficiary gift**, contact:

**Maureen Katanic**  
Senior director of planned giving

[mkatanic@akronchildrens.org](mailto:mkatanic@akronchildrens.org)  
330-543-8343





Laura Culp, CPA, MT, CCIFP  
Tax Partner with Sikich LLP and Wealth Advisor with Sikich Capital Management

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To learn how you can support  
Akron Children's through a  
designated beneficiary gift, contact:

**Maureen Katanic**  
Senior director of planned giving

[mkatanic@akronchildrens.org](mailto:mkatanic@akronchildrens.org)  
330-543-8343



# THE BENEFITS OF DESIGNATED BENEFICIARY GIFTS

Q&A with Laura Culp, tax partner with Sikich LLP and wealth advisor with Sikich Capital Management

Maureen Katanic, senior director for planned giving at Akron Children's Hospital, sat down with Laura Culp, a tax partner with Sikich LLP and a wealth advisor with Sikich Capital Management, to discuss designated beneficiary gifts. Here's what Laura had to say about these gifts, as well as the designated beneficiary gift her parents, Bruce and Sandy Bailey, made to Akron Children's Hospital Foundation.

**Maureen:** *We're grateful that your parents chose to support Akron Children's with a designated beneficiary gift from their charitable remainder trust (CRT). As a financial advisor and CPA, why do you support donors making this type of gift?*

**Laura:** The beauty of a CRT is threefold:

1. Donors can fund a CRT with a gift of appreciated assets, which are sold by the CRT trustee and the proceeds reinvested. The capital gain tax on the sale is delayed and the donor receives a current charitable deduction for the present value of the charity's remainder interest.
2. The CRT's income beneficiaries, the donors or other family members, receive a stream of income for life, or 20 years, diversifying their income and providing financial stability.
3. Donors can plan major donations to charities by designating specific beneficiaries, like Akron Children's, to receive all or a portion of the assets in the CRT after they have passed away.

While these played into my parents' decision to create their CRT, it mostly was a wonderful way for them to support Akron Children's and recognize their granddaughter (my daughter), Dr. Catherine Culp.

**Maureen:** *Is a designated beneficiary gift for everyone?*

**Laura:** Yes, every donor can consider designating all or a portion of their retirement plan assets, life insurance, annuities, bank accounts, CDs or brokerage accounts. It's a great planned gift and it's easy to do. CRT's, however, aren't for every donor. They take more planning and there are ongoing administrative costs.

**Maureen:** *When your clients express an interest in supporting a charity, do you encourage them to contact the organization?*

**Laura:** Absolutely! Charities like Akron Children's can provide insight on the needs of the organization and how a gift will benefit their mission. Many charitable organizations even have gift calculators that create illustrations for their donors.

**Maureen:** *That's a good point. If a donor is interested, I can use our PGCalc software to create free gift illustrations for all kinds of planned gifts. Our website [akronchildrens.planmygift.org](https://akronchildrens.planmygift.org) is another great resource for donors and advisors. Is there anything else you would like to add?*

**Laura:** People give to organizations that have impacted them or whose mission tugs at their heart. My family and I are especially grateful to Dr. Richard Hertle, who leads Akron Children's Vision Center and mentored Catherine during her medical school rotation at the hospital.

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Visit [akronchildrens.org/pages/Fundraising-Events](https://akronchildrens.org/pages/Fundraising-Events) for the most up-to-date calendar listings.



## THANK YOU DONORS!

You helped raise \$404,206 during the 2023 98.1 KDD Radiothon.

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