Help Credit Unions for Kids raise $5 million to build a new home for healing for families in crisis

McKenna Matteson was diagnosed with brain cancer at age 2. Now, with 16 surgeries behind her, she’s full of hope. Over the years, McKenna and her family have made nearly 100 trips from their home in Eugene to OHSU Doernbecher Children’s Hospital. As frequent guests at Ronald McDonald House in Portland, they know that having a safe, supportive place to stay makes a world a difference during a health crisis.

McKenna’s family is one of hundreds who arrive at OHSU Doernbecher from Alaska, northern California, rural Oregon and elsewhere to help their child recover and thrive under the care of Doernbecher experts. That’s why Credit Unions for Kids has committed $5 million to help OHSU build the new Gary & Christine Rood Family Pavilion. The five-story guest house on the South Waterfront will help thousands of families every year – providing a place for patients and families to rest, heal and support each other.

In 2015, Doernbecher hosted 763 family visits for 8,794 nights at West House Waterfront, a temporary facility operated in partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Oregon and Southwest Washington. Between January and July 2016, the hospital had turned away families 2,173 times due to lack of space at West House, and the rate is quickly increasing.

Slated to open in 2019, the Gary & Christine Rood Family Pavilion will be 100 percent funded by philanthropy.

Donate through Credit Unions for Kids and help bring hope to kids like McKenna.
MEETING A GROWING NEED
Approximately half of patients staying at OHSU Hospital or Doernbecher Children’s Hospital live outside the Portland metropolitan area. We anticipate serving even more patients from out of town as more seriously ill children come to Doernbecher for cancer care, complications at birth and neurosurgery. The new Gary & Christine Rood Family Pavilion will allow us to keep Doernbecher families together when they need it the most.

With this new resource, OHSU anticipates being able to provide a home away from home to more than 3,000 patients, families and caregivers a year – a significant increase over current capacity.

The Rood Family Pavilion will provide a crucial lifeline to patients and families in crisis, providing the means for parents and caregivers to stay rested, strong and consistently available to support the ill child.

HEALING FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
The gift from Credit Union for Kids benefits pediatric patients and families. While the Rood Family Pavilion will serve patients of all ages, the Credit Unions for Kids gift goes to support the pediatric portion of the guest house. Doernbecher families can stay at the guest house if they have a child in treatment under the age of 21, reside at least 30 miles away and are referred by their Doernbecher social worker.

A LONGSTANDING PARTNERSHIP
OHSU is fortunate to have an extraordinary partner in the Ronald McDonald House Charities. OHSU is raising money to build the guest house. Once built, RMHC will provide services and programming to all pediatric families and management services for adult patients.

MORE THAN JUST A PLACE TO STAY
The pavilion will include:

- Two floors with 38 suites for pediatric patients and their families
- Two floors with 38 suites for adult patients and their families and caregivers
- Rooftop garden and play area
- Winter garden and indoor play area
- Fitness room
- Meditation room
- Separate communal dining rooms for both pediatric and adult patients and families
- Game room
ACCESS TO THE LATEST TREATMENTS

GIVING KIDS ACCESS TO CLINICAL TRIALS ONLY AVAILABLE AT OHSU DOERNBECHER
Doernbecher is the only academic health center in the region – it’s where researchers test new therapies that can make the difference between life and death. When children with cancer participate in clinical trials, it is absolutely essential that they be near the hospital during the most crucial and fragile time of the healing process. Nearly half of the patients who seek treatment at Doernbecher are coming from afar. With a resource like the Rood Family Pavilion, Doernbecher’s most fragile patients are never far from their care team.

It can be challenging for researchers to recruit enough patients for clinical trials. Travel makes it impractical for many families, who must learn to juggle jobs, school and childcare. With the Rood Family Pavilion just a tram ride from OHSU’s Marquam Hill campus, staying close to the hospital is no longer a concern. Most importantly, being close to medical teams brings families peace of mind.

PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE HEALING

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES CREATES A NURTURING COMMUNITY
We want to provide a guest house every bit as excellent as the care OHSU offers. The family pavilion isn’t simply a hotel room – it will include amenities and programs designed to reduce stress and promote healing.

An entire floor of the guest house will be dedicated to community activities and will include a fitness room, indoor areas for children to play and adults to relax, and a communal kitchen. Guests will have access to an expansive outdoor area that will include a Zen garden for adults and the Silver Family Children’s Park, designed to accommodate children of all mobilities. Guests will also have access to onsite free parking, laundry, wifi and business center.

Beyond the structure of the new guest house are the programs that will make it extraordinary. Ronald McDonald House Charities will operate the facility, providing a refuge away from the hospital where families can join a supportive network of parents going through a similar experience. The organization will provide arts and crafts classes for children, massage for parents, and home-cooked dinners for families to enjoy together after spending hours in the hospital.

One key RMHC program is structured playtime with board games, crafts and more where children receive positive, kid-friendly attention focused entirely on them. During this time, both patients and their siblings have time to play while caregivers get time to breathe and hold private conversations about their children’s care. Another celebrated program allows families to sit back, unwind and enjoy a meal prepared by community volunteers.
Credit Unions for Kids is a program in partnership with Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals that raises funds for children at 170 pediatric hospitals in the United States. Through the generous contributions of members, employees and leadership, credit unions in Oregon and southwest Washington have collectively raised more than $13 million for OHSU Doernbecher Children’s Hospital, directly impacting the lives of more than 200,000 children a year. Contributions by Credit Unions for Kids over the last three decades have made services possible that are unavailable anywhere else in Oregon.

ONLY AT OHSU DOERNBECHER
Patients travel to Doernbecher for specialized services that other regional hospitals don’t offer:

- advanced cancer care
- access to Phase 1 clinical trials
- pediatric bone marrow transplants
- pediatric epilepsy surgery
- advanced fetal therapy
- pediatric brain tumor surgery

“\textit{When a child is ill, the thing that child needs more than anything else is for their family to support them. And that means being there, but for the family it also means having a place where they can regroup and recharge their batteries and be ready the next day to support their child all over again.}”

– Dana Braner, M.D.
Credit Unions for Kids Chair
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