



Chelsea's Closet pilot and expansion to serve rural pediatric oncology patients at Asante Medical Center

Background/Introduction

Rural communities have always had minimal access to healthcare programming due to the geographical location of their communities. While Portland hospitals have access to many nonprofits that want to increase programming within their patient base, rural communities typically have access to one or two programming options.

Chelsea's Closet goal is to increase positive patient participation in treatment by offering pediatric patients the ability to play, pretend and laugh during often difficult procedures and long days in the hospital.

Patients from rural communities have taken part in our Chelsea's Closet program in Portland based hospitals and bringing it to rural communities is our next step.

Project Goals:

Current Project Goals:

- Increase programming efforts of rural pediatric patients.
- Bring laughter and joy to children during difficult procedures.
- Evaluate and implement a mobile dress up closet and the need of improving patient engagement in a pediatric oncology setting.
- CHF will provide costumes and accessories that the oncology Child Life team can utilize when we are not in the to enhance the children's ability to understand and cope with the impact of diagnosis and life changing procedures.

Project Design

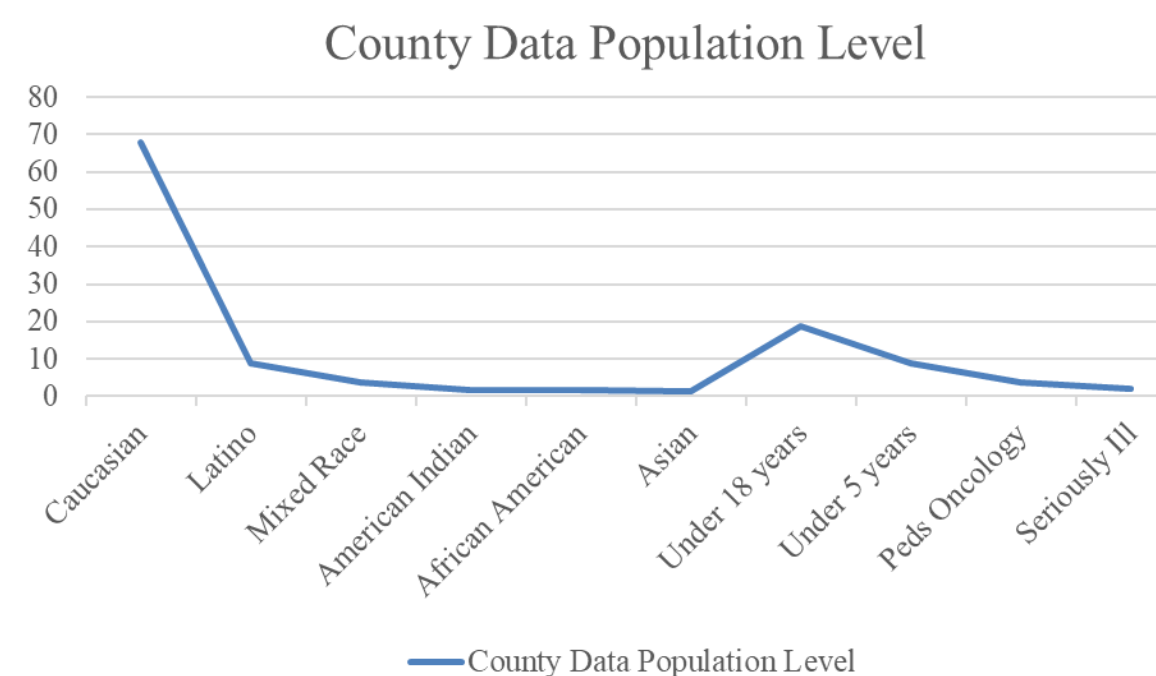
- This project will focus on pediatric oncology patients seeking treatment at Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center (ARRMC) in Medford, Oregon.
- Currently ARRMC has minimal programs and nothing consistent for the children they serve.
- Our aim is to improve the pediatric oncology journey by also combating their physical and mental capabilities.
- Evaluate population of inpatient vs outpatient participants and ways to engage both sectors through the Costume Care Package program.
- Pilot will include 4x quarter visit to ARRMC for the mobile program over 12-month period.
- Vet out custom size mobile closet to specifically fit smaller hospital units.

Chelsea's Closet Mobile Closet Program

Since 2010, Chelsea Hicks Foundation (CHF) has worked with Doernbecher Children's Hospital and Randall Children's Hospital at Legacy Emanuel to support pediatric treatment and recovery by providing costume facilitated therapeutic play opportunities to more than 2,400 children annually. Through this work, CHF staff observed the child life teams requesting certain costumes to aid ongoing physical and emotions well-being of patients undergoing long rounds of inpatient chemotherapy and radiation.

This project will evaluate the impact of costume facilitated therapy play on pediatric oncology patients and pilot Chelsea's Closet at a rural hospital. Patients seeking treatment at Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center come from rural counties in Oregon including Curry, Coos, Douglas, Harney, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, and Malheur. We are focusing on this rural community because of the disparity of positive program options in this geographic location.

While research has documented significant benefits for therapeutic play, there are minimal studies currently documenting the impact that costumes have on children during long term care.



Costume Care Packages

Costume Care Packages were starting in 2020 due to hospital eliminations volunteer groups. Pediatric patients were still in treatment but the isolation of the visits, and long hospital stays took a negative toll on the children and family mental health. This is where Chelsea's Closet pivoted to an online ordering system to take care of those fragile children that are already fighting for their lives.

Over the course of the next 10 months, Chelsea's Closet is looking to increase our presence and reach pediatric patients and their families in their community. In addition to educating the staff that we are not a Halloween only program and to highlight the program with new families and spread the work we do to help pediatric patients along their journey.

A Costume Care Package contains.

- 1 - 2 New Costume(s)
- 1 - 2 New Accessories
- 3x Toys and Stuffed Animals



References/Acknowledgements

- Funding for this project was provided in part by the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute Community Partnership Program, a grant program that supports communities across Oregon in addressing local cancer-related needs.
- County Population metrics were noted from ARRMC.
- County Population metrics were noted from Curry, Coos, Douglas, Harney, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, and Malheur.