

Ignite

Magazine

Future State

What comes next? OHSU charts a future of innovation, expansion, equity and workforce investments.

Inside this Issue

The Gateway to the Future: OHSU's profound community impact starts with its education mission

Creative Giving: Unique stories of support, from bovines to Burger King

A partnership of 25 years brings health and hope to rural Oregon



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Cover illustration by Aki Ruiz



OHSU is the state's only public academic health center; where research, education and clinical care come together to improve health and well-being for people in communities across Oregon and beyond.

OHSU has always relied on philanthropy to advance its vital public mission. Year in and year out, gifts from generous donors like you touch lives across the university: patients of all ages, students and faculty in every academic program, talented clinical teams across our health care workforce and people living in every corner of the state. Looking forward, philanthropy will play an increasingly critical role in OHSU's efforts to improve health care access — and equity — for all, and to grow in step with our region's changing health care needs.

In fact, this issue of *Ignite Magazine* is all about the future of OHSU and where we plan to go next.

As we look to the future, the OHSU Foundation is poised to “break new ground” with an upcoming fundraising campaign to support the OHSU Hospital Expansion Project. This historic initiative will improve access to in-patient health care for all patients and families by increasing OHSU's hospital bed count by more than one-third and expanding its capacity to serve those requiring state-of-the-art cancer and pediatric care. Additionally, in response to Oregon's chronic shortage of health care providers, OHSU is working to increase and diversify our student enrollment and workforce. Philanthropy-funded scholarships help us reduce or eliminate the financial barriers to a health care education for a larger, more diverse array of learners. Both of these donor-driven initiatives are vital steps toward improved health care access and equity for all Oregonians.

The OHSU Foundation helps advance OHSU's missions by igniting the power of philanthropy, and we could not do it without supporters like you. We are excited to keep you informed, inspired and involved in OHSU's success and future growth.

With gratitude,



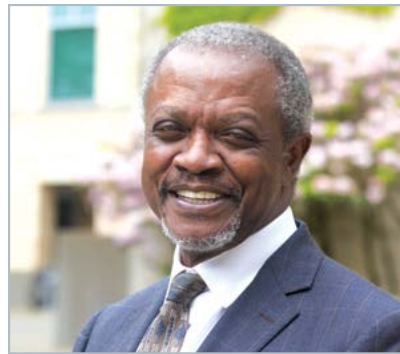
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Donor support of Oregon Health & Science University sparks the flame of hope for a healthier future for all. *Ignite Magazine* captures those sparks and turns them into stories of impact, inspiration and innovation — stories of lives made brighter by OHSU's exceptional people and programs, and by our community of generous supporters.

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Message from OHSU President Danny Jacobs



As I reflect on my five years as president and look to the future, I believe there are two truths about OHSU members and our partners:

1. Together, we can make amazing things happen, and
2. We will not rest in our pursuit of boldly building a healthier, more prosperous future.

Over the past several years, our team has navigated and responded with enthusiasm to both emerging and existing challenges, while simultaneously embracing our core missions to improve health and well-being through teaching, healing and discovery.

As we consider what COVID-19 has taught us and where we go from here, we are well-positioned to increase our positive impact on people in our state, region and beyond. One important example is through the OHSU Hospital Expansion Project currently in progress. With multiple floors dedicated to tertiary and quaternary care, this expansion will help alleviate capacity constraints that were exacerbated by the pandemic and will help better serve the needs of those who require complex care. When the project is complete, we plan to have 184 new in-patient beds for

medical and surgical care, including 24 ICU in-patient beds and space for 32 future beds. The expansion alone will put us on par with the capacity of two other premier academic health centers on the West Coast: University of Washington and University of California San Francisco.

Furthermore, our intention to join forces with Legacy Health to create a single, integrated health system, as announced in August 2023, will transform health care in the Pacific Northwest.

Together, we will expand access across the continuum of care to meet patients where they are and serve them for life. Success will accelerate and enhance our ability to serve our patients and communities by expanding high-quality, essential health care services. As a combined system, we will also be able to improve patient outcomes and better address health care disparities. We will draw from OHSU's unique expertise serving complex patient needs, administering public statewide health care education and training programs and conducting leading-edge research — and from Legacy's deep roots in providing high-quality, community-based care through a system of community hospitals, primary and specialty clinics and outpatient facilities.

This is an exciting and important moment for OHSU and Legacy, but more importantly, for the people who work, learn, need or receive care at our institutions. Thank you for your continued support and generosity as we boldly build the future of health care — your engagement will be foundational in this next chapter of our history.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danny Jacobs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



Aaron Bieleck

Future State



What comes next? OHSU charts a future of innovation, expansion, equity and workforce investments.

by Wendy Lawton

The COVID-19 pandemic was the biggest test in OHSU's 146-year history. Oregon's only public academic health center persevered and, ultimately, triumphed.

Employees delivered more than 1 million COVID-19 vaccines — roughly a fifth of all doses in Oregon — including in historically underserved communities. Staff opened a COVID-19 testing lab in just two weeks, and continue to maintain an extensive webpage of COVID statistics for the public. And OHSU's leaders transformed its clinical, research and education enterprises forever.

"COVID-19 made clear that OHSU is dedicated to its mission of supporting the health and well-being of the state of Oregon," said OHSU President Danny Jacobs, M.D., M.P.H., FACS. "We proved we can save and improve lives by thinking creatively and acting courageously, even in the face of great hardship. COVID also made clear our path ahead, one where innovation and access lead the way."

The pandemic brought together adversity and opportunity, suffering

and comfort, in the crucible of crisis. COVID made clear what the university must lean into to make the region healthier, stronger and more just. Its lessons — about the imperatives of equity and collaboration, and the continuous need to invest in people and infrastructure — inform OHSU's plans for future clinical care, research and education.

The vision for OHSU's future is improving care by improving access: to hospital beds for patients; to health care education for learners; to making the best tests and treatments available to people of color, critically ill newborns, rural residents and other vulnerable people who make the Pacific Northwest home.

Discovery is also key to OHSU's future. Whether it's turning stem cells into retinas in a petri dish or reviewing hundreds of scientific studies to find out what works best in health care, OHSU plans big investments in path-clearing research to benefit patients all over the Pacific Northwest, the nation and the world.

"With COVID, we saw what we were capable of, doubled down on

our values and we will not slow down now," said David Jacoby, M.D., dean of the OHSU School of Medicine.

To improve health care access and innovation, OHSU will pursue these strategic priorities to build a better future:

EXPANSION

The pandemic brought this critical issue into focus: Oregon and Washington do not have enough hospital beds. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, these states have the lowest per-capita hospital beds in the United States. OHSU Hospital already operated at or near capacity before COVID.

But the pandemic, followed by waves of influenza and respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, forced OHSU and other local health systems to declare staffing crisis standards of care in 2022.

To increase capacity, OHSU Hospital is expanding.

A 14-story building going up on Marquam Hill will add 128 beds, with space to add another 64. When complete, the project will increase

the total bed count to more than 750. This will place OHSU on par with the two nearest academic health centers on the West Coast — the University of Washington and the University of California San Francisco. Looking ahead, an addition to OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital currently under design will transform the experience of hospital-based childbirth for every family and every pregnancy, regardless of complexity, through an integrated center for mothers and babies and an expanded neonatal intensive care unit.

The hospital expansion will allow OHSU to continue to fulfill its unique role in the region. Many OHSU patients are referred from rural communities across Oregon — as well as Washington, Idaho and California — either because there is no room in their local hospitals or because their conditions require treatment only OHSU can provide. Simply put, the expansion will allow OHSU to serve the region in new ways by doing more of what it does best.

"Expansion of OHSU Hospital will allow us to care for the thousands of patients who rely on us, the only ▶

"The expansion is essential to our future — and to Oregon's future, as well."

John Hunter, M.D., FACS



Executive Vice President & Chief Executive Officer, OHSU Health

Architect rendering of hospital expansion, courtesy of NBBJ Architects and Motiv Studio



academic health system from Seattle to San Francisco,” said John Hunter, M.D., FACS, executive vice president and chief executive officer for OHSU Health. “The expansion is essential to our future — and to Oregon’s future, as well.”

EQUITY

COVID changed Donn Spight, M.D., FACS, FASMBS, and his career. The professor of surgery chose to take on the additional role of vice president for Health Equity at OHSU after watching the virus disproportionately impact underserved communities, including rural residents, people with disabilities and people who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community, among others.

Evidence shows that white, non-Hispanic people were overrepresented in COVID-19 vaccine trials, including those at OHSU, prompting Spight and colleagues Delvin Akins, M.D., Esther Choo, M.D., and Leticia Wyatt, M.D., to speak out nationally about the inequities.

“If we do not now design science and health care that benefits everyone,”

they wrote on NBCNews.com, “the enduring legacy of the pandemic will continue to be its terrible inequities.”

Spight and his team are implementing a health equity plan with three goals: deliver effective and equitable care, provide an optimal and inclusive clinical experience for every patient, and establish sustainable community partnerships. To start, OHSU leaders were interviewed to determine the institution’s readiness for health equity work, and department chairs were asked to offer two measurable, actionable steps they could take to advance equity goals — which resulted in a list of 56 action steps.

“My hope is that, in the future, there will be hundreds of action steps and that this becomes the new way of providing care,” Spight said. “In no way do I expect OHSU to fund and drive that work alone. Donors can lean in and say, ‘This is something that’s meaningful to me.’ That list of 56 items can start conversations that flip lights on across the system.”

This fall, Spight and his team began their equity work externally, nurturing relationships with community partners

and integrating their voices while building OHSU’s outreach efforts.

“The work will take as long as it needs to take,” Spight said. “Trust can’t be manufactured.”

INNOVATION

COVID-19 created a wave of generosity in the United States, with donors giving more than \$29 billion, according to the social sector nonprofit Candid. The generosity of philanthropists, along with government and corporate investments, made possible an unprecedented public health response, including a COVID-19 vaccine delivered just under a year after the first case of the virus was reported to the World Health Organization.

“COVID proved the power of research,” Peter Barr-Gillespie, Ph.D., executive vice president and chief research officer at OHSU. “We wouldn’t have medical treatments without it.”

Barr-Gillespie is now eyeing the future.

He and his team are in the process of refining strategic goals to capitalize ▶

“Philanthropy is not only essential to future discovery at OHSU, but it makes possible the most creative and beneficial research.”

Peter Barr-Gillespie, Ph.D.



Executive Vice President & Chief Research Officer, OHSU

on OHSU research strengths, including immunology, oncology, ophthalmology and neuroscience. OHSU also has emerging strengths in computational biology, machine learning and health systems research — areas that allow OHSU to integrate research more fully into health care and education. This blending benefits patients by giving them better, faster, safer care and more treatment options.

Barr-Gillespie said the future of patient care and medical education will rely on integrated research — an approach that requires significant investment.

Barr-Gillespie said OHSU will leverage decades of investments in its basic and clinical research, as well as recent global breakthroughs in science, medicine and technology: gene editing and big data, immunotherapy and vaccines, artificial intelligence and 3D printing. These advances are making possible new tests, treatments and diagnostic tools for a variety of cancers, infectious diseases, cardiac conditions and neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.

OHSU patients are already seeing the benefits. For example, the SMMART

Cancer Clinical Trials, which track patients' cancer over time using biopsy and test results to adjust drug combinations, help them stay ahead of cancer resistance. Developed at the Knight Cancer Institute, it's the first cancer treatment strategy of its kind in the nation. Its partner, SMMART Clinical Trials Research, brings together 10 OHSU labs, centers and programs.

"Philanthropy is not only essential to future discovery at OHSU," Barr-Gillespie said, "but it makes possible the most creative and beneficial research."

Continued on page 11 ▶



Bobby Cuadra

THE PATH TOWARD HEALTH EQUITY

by Mariana Phipps, Senior Communications Specialist, Health Equity + DEI, OHSU Health

When the COVID-19 vaccine became available, leaders at OHSU recognized that, for many populations, vaccination wasn't an issue of choice, but of access. In February 2021, these leaders formed the OHSU Vaccine Equity Committee to address disparities in vaccine access. OHSU knew that vaccination efforts needed to be tailored to different communities, so that everyone could feel supported and empowered to get the vaccine.

Two years later, the success of the Vaccine Equity Committee's work has highlighted that efforts to protect the health of Oregon's underserved communities need to not only continue, but to expand to all forms of health care delivered every day, all over Oregon. This January, the OHSU Health Equity Organization was formed at OHSU Health, OHSU's integrated health system, which includes OHSU Hospital, OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital, Hillsboro Medical Center, Adventist Health Portland and dozens of clinics across the Portland area.

The Health Equity Organization is advancing how OHSU delivers health care effectively and equitably to communities across Oregon and Southwest Washington. Equitable access to quality health care is central to OHSU's missions. Everyone — regardless of ability, age, race, gender or ZIP code — should have the opportunity to be healthy.

This new team will also help OHSU providers learn new ways to care for patients with dignity. Dignity means many things: respecting culture, expressing empathy, protecting people from harm and creating safe and inclusive environments. Removing barriers to good health and upholding dignity for every patient will require time, trust, innovation and partnership. To make this vision a reality, the Health Equity Organization has created three goals:

- 1. Change how we work:** This includes creating effective policies and processes and using community health data to guide how OHSU delivers care.
- 2. Create a more inclusive hospital and clinic environment:** Ways to reach this goal include ensuring 24/7 access to interpreting services and training staff on racially and culturally informed care practices, with the end result that every OHSU team is able to provide an optimal experience to each patient.
- 3. Model health justice to external communities:** Modeling health justice requires creating partnerships with other health systems, with local schools and nonprofits and with businesses and neighborhood organizations. These relationships involve a two-way street of learning, understanding and change. OHSU understands the value of listening to and learning from underserved communities and the organizations that support them every day.

The creation of the Health Equity Organization is only one step in OHSU's efforts to create a more equitable health care landscape. There are many equity efforts, led by hundreds of people, across all of OHSU's campuses. These efforts, and the passionate individuals bringing them to life, are united in the knowledge that, though it will take time to reach every goal, making health care equitable is, simply, the right thing to do.



Health equity, health justice, underserved communities — what do these terms mean in a clinical setting? To learn more about the language of health equity, visit ohsu.org/health-equity

WORKFORCE

Growing the health care workforce is recognized in the Pacific Northwest and across the nation as a critical priority. OHSU has responded with plans to address high education costs, grow the rate of select health care clinical program graduates and increase learner diversity.

OHSU Executive Vice President and Provost Marie Chisholm-Burns, Pharm.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., M.B.A.,

FCCP, FASHP, FAST, FACHE, said supporting students through scholarships is at the top of her list. “I’d like to see every student with a scholarship,” she recently told the OHSU Foundation Board.

“Cost is a major barrier to attaining a health professions education, particularly among students from underrepresented backgrounds,” Chisholm-Burns said. “Scholarships are a proven strategy to help students overcome financial barriers and are

essential to attracting and retaining OHSU students.”

Student support not only includes financial aid, but also services and programs that directly influence students’ quality of life, wellness and ability to graduate. These include academic support services such as tutoring, health services and resources for housing, food and other basic needs. Support is also social, with interest and affinity-based groups for students to find

OHSU AND LEGACY HEALTH COMBINING TO BETTER SERVE OUR PATIENTS, COMMUNITIES

As announced in August, OHSU will exponentially increase access to medical and mental health care by combining with Legacy Health, Portland’s largest hospital system. If federal and state regulators approve it, the deal would close in 2024. A combined system would feature 32,000 employees, making it the largest employer in the Portland metro area. It would also include 100-plus clinical locations, including 10 hospitals, and strengthen the region’s leadership in patient- and community-focused health care. OHSU leaders say that combining with Legacy Health strongly matches the university’s vision for its future and advances the university’s enduring mission to improve health. Legacy is equally focused on eliminating health inequities, pursuing telehealth and other clinical and research innovations and strengthening the health care workforce in the Pacific Northwest.

connection and support with other students who share their identities, challenges and values.

Susan Bakewell-Sachs, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, dean of the OHSU School of Nursing, said the university has learned key lessons about nursing workforce investments thanks to an eight-year federal grant. From 2012 to 2020, OHSU supported 99 undergraduate and 19 graduate nursing students from underrepresented communities — and saw incredible results. Every student graduated, and 96% graduated on time. When surveyed about their experience, students said the top contributing factors to their success were test-taking strategy workshops, writing assistance to pursue scholarships and stipends to pay for exam preparation help. The number one reason for their persistence? Scholarships.

“Our graduates said: ‘I did this because someone believed in me,’” Bakewell-Sachs said. “They told us, ‘If they were going to give me a full scholarship, I was going to succeed. It’s the only reason I did.’”

Jacoby, the medical school dean, believes OHSU’s future is bright. The collaboration, speed and ingenuity reinforced during the COVID-19 pandemic will only grow.

“This point crystalized for me when the Supreme Court struck down *Roe v.*

Wade last year, just as we were climbing out of the pandemic,” he continued. “We faced that challenge head on, moving swiftly on multiple fronts to expand access to reproductive health care and truly define what it means to be a sanctuary state. At OHSU, we stand up for health and science.”



Aaron Bieleck

TIMBERLINE DAYDREAM

Thank you to all our wonderful sponsors, partners, performing bands and everyone who supported the inaugural Timberline Daydream, a celebration of music brews and bikes. Together we raised over \$197,000 for Doernbecher. **You helped make our Daydream come true!**

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Aaron Bieleck

The Gateway to the Future



OHSU students near Marquam Hill

OHSU’s profound community impact starts with its education mission.

by Josh Friesen

Since the turn of the century, Oregon has undergone some drastic changes.

The state’s population has ballooned from 3.43 million in 2000 to 4.24 million in 2022. Retirements and burnout — much a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic — have exacerbated health care provider shortages, especially in underserved communities. Environmental events such as wildfires, droughts and heatwaves are becoming more common, and the public health sector is learning more about how social determinants of health impact populations.

At least one thing, however, has not changed: Across the Pacific Northwest, health care workers with roots at OHSU are dedicating their time, careers, energy and lives to creating a healthier world.

As the only public academic health center in Oregon, OHSU shapes the future of health care through what it offers aspiring providers: a didactic curriculum, a humanistic

clinical approach and groundbreaking research innovations. By continuing to invest in, uplift and support its students, OHSU is poised to confront the health challenges of today and tomorrow.

“Education is really one of the bedrocks at OHSU,” said Marie Chisholm-Burns, Pharm.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., FCCP, FASHP, FAST, FACHE, executive vice president and provost at OHSU. “Education is the gateway to the future.”

Impacted students impact communities

It starts, of course, with OHSU’s students. Take Emily Sabins, for example.

Sabins grew up in Roseburg, Oregon, a small town that — like other cities its size — lacks the robust health care resources available in the state’s more populous areas. Places like Roseburg are scattered throughout the state — 34.7% of the state’s population lives in rural communities, defined as being 10 or more miles from a population center of more than 40,000 people. Those areas feel the urgency of the widening rural health care gap. Sabins decided to be a part of the solution.

Now a second-year student pursuing a Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree, she is a recipient of OHSU’s Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative (SHOI) scholarship, which aims to address the increasing cost of tuition and the state’s rural health

care needs. The support provides full tuition, and in return, recipients agree to practice in rural or underserved communities for one year longer than the years they received funding.

Sabins, however, is in it for the long haul and intends to be a permanent rural provider. Motivated by a desire to change lives and foster well-being in her community, she knew OHSU was the best place to start her journey.

“I was confident OHSU would not only shape me into a competent physician assistant, but it would also shape me into the mindful and informed provider I aim to be,” she said. “As a person who values whole-person health care, I sought out this program because I knew it was the right fit for me.”

While Sabins prepares for her future as a rural provider, OHSU graduates

are already making waves in health care across the region today.

Sylvia Ross, B.S.N. ’09, RN, grew up in eastern Oregon in the small town of John Day. After attending the OHSU School of Nursing La Grande Campus, she returned to her hometown, where she is now director of home health at the Blue Mountain Hospital District.

“Something that really started to impact me in high school was the thought of being able to come back to Grant County and take care of the people that helped raise me,” she said. “I felt really strongly that the town I grew up in was a huge part of my success and me being able to go to OHSU. I was really proud to come back and start my nursing career here in John Day.” ▶

OHSU EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS

4,221

Total students
in OHSU degree or certificate programs in Fall 2022, including joint programs with Oregon State University, Portland State University and Oregon Institute of Technology

55+

Degree and certificate programs
accepting admission applications

1,142

Degrees and certificates awarded
in the 2022-2023 academic year

Building the workforce of tomorrow

The seeds for success at OHSU are planted early and nurtured often as students enter and progress through their programs. Recruitment services hosted by bodies like the Oregon Office of Rural Health help get students in the door, particularly those from underserved communities, while pathway programs like the Wy'east Post-Baccalaureate Pathway set them up to thrive. The OHSU Office of Student Affairs boasts a variety of resources and programs that meet students where they are and foster a supportive and enriching learning environment.

“We care for the whole person as students learn and work to make a difference in the world,” said Michael Walsh, Ed.D., vice provost for student affairs at OHSU. “That includes academics, the clinical environment, taking tests, etc. But just as, if not more, important is the outside-the-classroom context. Family lives, personal lives, mental health, physical health, accessibility, activities, student

life, leadership development. All the things that make us whole persons are what we focus on in student affairs.”

Though OHSU’s whole-person support network empowers students in their educational journey, the cost of tuition remains a major hurdle, especially for underrepresented students. Many students who come to OHSU have already borrowed money to earn an undergraduate degree from a different institution. The cost of a higher-level degree can be a major stressor, and even deterrent, for students.

OHSU is taking steps to ease financial burdens. According to the OHSU Student Financial Aid Office, in 2012-2013, grants and scholarships awarded totaled \$10.6 million. In 2021-2022, that figure more than doubled to \$21.5 million. The success of the Sprint for OHSU Students fundraising campaign, which was created in response to the urgent financial strains created by COVID-19, demonstrated the impact philanthropy can have on the ongoing need for scholarship support

for students. By providing financial support to learners, OHSU is able to recruit and retain an exceptional and diverse student body that is more representative of the many communities in Oregon.

“When I think about my vision for us at OHSU, it comes down to a few words: building bridges of access and success,” Chisholm-Burns said. “Access and success are so very important for all learners but particularly for learners at OHSU. Our graduates are leaders and major contributors to improving the health and well-being of Oregonians and beyond.”

Added Lola Sosanya, a current student in the OHSU School of Medicine and OHSU-PSU School of Public Health: “Being a scholarship recipient, I know it has reduced a lot of that burden that I carry. I feel like I’m able to redirect my focus to what really matters right now, which is being a successful learner and thus working very hard to becoming a compassionate and knowledgeable physician. I’m convinced that this type of investment is an investment in the future health of our community.”



Aaron Bieleck

Endless opportunities

The effect of OHSU’s education mission extends beyond Portland and stretches into the future, but it starts here and now. For Conor Scanlon, D.M.D. ’23, a recipient of the Valentine Brown and Dori L. Drumm Rural Health Scholarship, his connection to his patients and community grew as he progressed through his program in the OHSU School of Dentistry.

“This experience enabled me to feel like I was helping to personally address the lack of access to dental care we face in Oregon with a

shortage of assistants, dentists and hygienists,” Scanlon said. “I loved my rotation in Eugene so much, I accepted a job to work there following graduation in a clinic that sees 100% [Medicaid] patients.”

The support students receive guides them toward success and is paid forward in the communities they serve. Through initiatives to grow student diversity, build an equitable learning environment, increase accessibility and decrease financial burdens, OHSU’s commitment to its students is the foundation on which a brighter, healthier tomorrow is created. ▶

Read more of Emily Sabins’s story at: ohsuf.org/sabins

SUCCESS OF THE SPRINT FOR OHSU STUDENTS BY THE NUMBERS
From 2020-2023

\$24 million raised for OHSU students

67 new scholarship and student support funds

38 new endowed scholarships

5,200+ gifts

2,383 individual donors

“Our purpose is to prepare new generations of students for tomorrow’s world.”



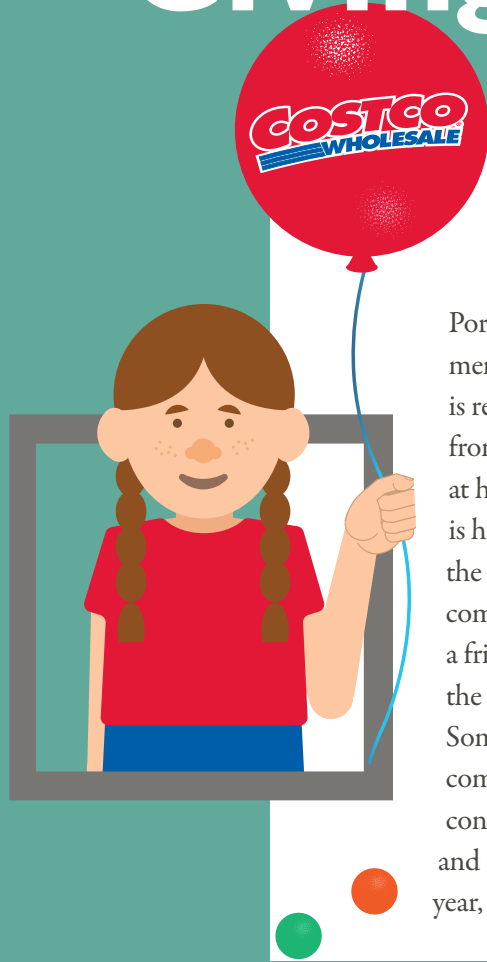
Marie Chisholm-Burns, Pharm.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., FCCP, FASHP, FAST, FACHE

Executive Vice President, Provost, J.S. Reinschmidt Endowed Professor, OHSU

Creative Giving

Not every gift is a check. From auctioning art pieces created by livestock to donating a fast food restaurant, there's no shortage of unique and creative ways donors have found to support OHSU and OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital.

Illustrations by David Sims



Tigard Costco's friendly competition

Each May, Costco warehouses participate in a month-long campaign to raise funds for their local Children's Miracle Network Hospital (CMNH). In the Portland and Southwest Washington area, that's Doernbecher. Costco cashiers ask members if they would like to donate to support Doernbecher, and each donation is represented by a miracle balloon decorating the aisles of the store. Junior Reyes, front-end manager at the Tigard Costco, has been in charge of the CMNH program at his warehouse for the last decade. He believes the secret of the warehouse's success is how much their employees and members care about their community and maintain the utmost respect for the work being done at Doernbecher to help kids heal. But a competitive spirit doesn't hurt, either. The internal competition between cashiers is a friendly one, Reyes insists, because that's what helps Doernbecher. At the register, the cashiers playfully pit themselves against each other — but it results in big gains. Some cashiers raise more than \$10,000 for Doernbecher each May. And the team's competitive spirit extends beyond the Tigard Costco location's four walls, as they consistently rank in the top 5 fundraising locations in the nation. Each year, Reyes and the Tigard team try to best previous records — in 2022, they raised \$157,356; this year, \$190,494. Next year, they're aiming even higher.



Tillamook High School: Making Miracles for Doernbecher since '93

For over 30 years, Tillamook High School has raised money and awareness for Doernbecher with its annual Charity Drive. What began as a fundraiser for the March of Dimes became a Kids Making Miracles program in 1993. Over the years, the school has raised more than \$1.5 million for Doernbecher. Each class, with the help of an adviser and volunteer parents, hosts an event or activity each day of the 10-day, February event. From scrap metal collections and car washes to student-hosted dinners and cornhole tournaments, Charity Drive is truly a community event. Tillamook residents, local businesses, firefighters and public utility workers come together to donate, volunteer and participate in the philanthropic festivities. Over the years, Charity Drive has boasted many fun and unique events, including an infamous fire department vs. police donkey basketball exhibition and the up-and-coming Mr. Tillamook High School pageant. With so many different opportunities to participate, there's no denying that Charity Drive is a fundraiser for everyone.

Extra Life puts the 'fun' in fundraising

Play your favorite video games and raise money for Doernbecher? It's the ultimate win-win. Doernbecher is one of hundreds of CMNHs across the country that use the Extra Life platform to help gamers promote giving. Extra Life participants pledge to play, ask their friends and family to donate or even play along with them to raise funds for Doernbecher — all while, yes, gaming! Since becoming a CMNH program in 2010, Extra Life has raised \$900,750 for Doernbecher. Extra Life supports the Child Life Program at Doernbecher, a team of caretakers who help kids and families cope with being in the hospital through play, education and creative activities. The therapeutic gaming program made possible through Extra Life allows the Child Life team to offer opportunities and resources for patients to play, as kids should. From hours-long Xbox sessions to simply talking gaming strategy, gaming often gives patients and families a much-needed respite from the stress and strain of a long hospital stay.



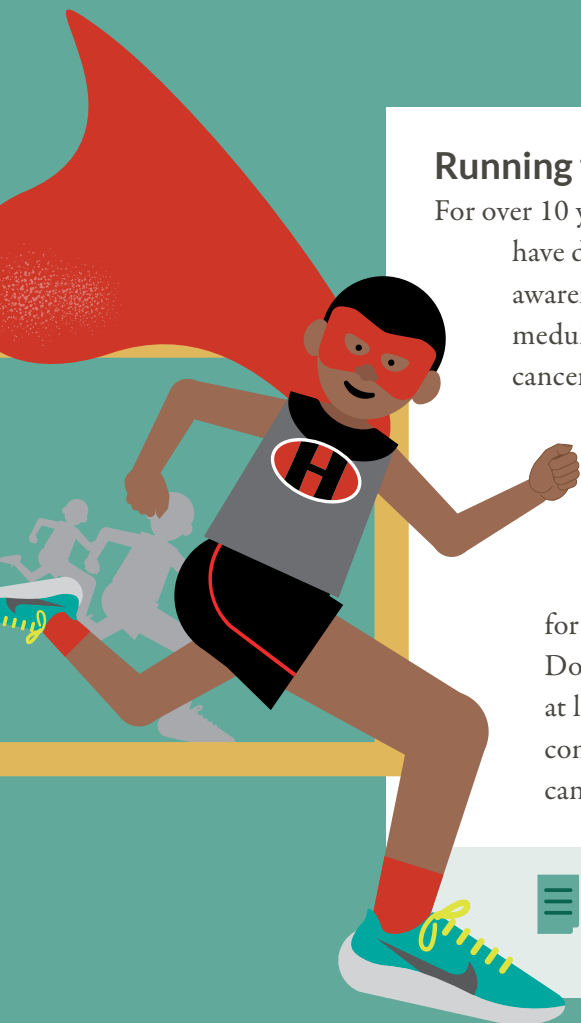
Farm to Fine Art: The Great Salt Lick

What started out as a joke between friends turned into an auction that has raised nearly \$120,000 to support OHSU's Parkinson's Center. Whit Deschner, who was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2000, observed that a salt lick on his friend's property had been shaped by a deer's tongue in a way he likened to modern art — and you know what they say, art sparks creativity. Thus, the Great Salt Lick was born. The auction, hosted in Baker City, Oregon, featured salt block "sculptures" from across the state, and sometimes around the world. Each submission was required to have been licked by cows or other livestock — no humans allowed — and animals were subject to steroid testing, as the Salt Lick's website jokingly warned. Awards were given for People's Choice, Forgeries, Most Artistically Licked and Best With and Without a Poem categories; followed by the fundraising auction. The Great Salt Lick concluded its 15-year run this September — but don't be dismayed if you didn't get to see these great salt sculptures in person. Just take a cruise down Main Street in Baker City, where you'll find a 4-foot-tall bronze salt lick statue commemorating the auction. Or maybe you'll see one of these briny works of art on your next museum visit.



For more, check out "The Great Salt Lick: 15 years of Whit Deschner's creative philanthropy": ohsuf.org/salt-lick

Continued on the next page ▶



Running for a Super Cause: Hero-Up for Children’s Cancer Race

For over 10 years during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in September, runners have donned their superhero masks, capes and costumes to raise funds and awareness for children’s cancer. Darcee Burnett’s son, Keith, was diagnosed with medulloblastoma at age 3. After being treated at Doernbecher and fighting the cancerous brain tumor for 19 months, Keith passed away. In his memory and to help improve the options for children’s cancer research, Darcee created the Hero-Up for Children’s Cancer Race, which combines her love for running with her late son’s love of superheroes. To date, the Hero-Up race has raised \$230,000 for Doernbecher’s Pediatric Brain Tumor Program research repository. The repository houses tumor samples used for study to develop more effective therapies for children with brain tumors. Doernbecher has made this repository available to the research community at large through the Children’s Brain Tumor Network. Friends, family and community come together to run and volunteer in support of kids battling cancer or, as the Hero-Up community calls them, superheroes.

Want to know more? Read “Hero-Up for Children’s Cancer Race in its 11th year connecting heroes to childhood cancer research” here: ohsuf.org/hero-up



A Whopper of a Gift: Donating a Burger King

When Dale and Julie Burghardt wanted to do something transformational to increase research and treatment for rare food allergies, like the one their grandson is diagnosed with, they got creative with their assets. Working with the team at the OHSU Foundation, they cooked up a generous gift idea: donating a Burger King. The couple owned an out-of-state Burger King property and LLC they were looking to sell. Instead, they gifted it to OHSU. Gifting the business directly reduced the cost of the gift for the donors significantly by eliminating capital gains and providing an income tax charitable deduction for the full market value of the business. Once the due diligence was complete, the Foundation

transferred the LLC and sold the Burger King for just over \$3 million. The sale contributed to the Burghardt’s \$5 million commitment to establish the Burghardt Food Allergy Center at OHSU — the Pacific Northwest’s first and only comprehensive food allergy-focused center for research, patient care, community outreach and provider education.



OHSU Doernbecher NICH program wins Innovation Award at international conference

Michael A. Harris, Ph.D. (pictured above), a professor of pediatrics in OHSU’s Institute on Development and Disability, pitched the Novel Interventions in Children’s Healthcare (NICH) program at the 83rd Scientific Sessions of the American Diabetes Association in San Diego to earn funding to expand the program.

Harris co-developed NICH in 2011 with his colleague Kimberly Spiro, Ph.D. The program supports young people with complex and chronic medical conditions in accessing the highest level of health care while “interventionists” help their families navigate complex social situations, such as houselessness, transportation challenges, underemployment and unemployment, among many others. NICH has 17 interventionists serving regions across Oregon.

Harris was one of six finalists from a competitive pool of more than 60 applicants. The audience and judges voted, and NICH was named a winner of the Innovation Award, along with two others. The honor gives Harris access to the judges, who represent three potential funders: Helmsley Charitable Trust, Swiss Diabetes Venture Fund and Startup Health.

For Harris and the rest of the NICH team, this win opens possibilities for growth and expansion throughout Oregon and beyond.

OHSU research offers clues for potential widespread HIV cure

New research from OHSU is helping explain why at least five people have become HIV-free after receiving a stem cell transplant. The study’s insights may bring scientists closer to developing what they hope will become a widespread cure for the virus that causes AIDS, which currently infects about 38 million people worldwide.

The OHSU-led study describes how two nonhuman primates were cured of the monkey form of HIV after receiving a stem cell transplant. It also reveals that two circumstances must co-exist for a cure to occur and documents the order in which HIV is cleared from the body — details that can inform efforts to make this cure applicable to more people.

Jonah Sacha, Ph.D. (pictured below), the study’s lead researcher and a professor at OHSU’s Oregon National Primate Research Center and Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute, has hope for this research’s impact. “This study is helping us home in on the mechanisms involved in making that cure happen. We hope our discoveries will help to make this cure work for anyone, and ideally through a single injection instead of a stem cell transplant.”



A partnership of 25 years brings health and hope to rural Oregon

by Susie Frank

Xandra and Joe McKeown in Coos Bay.

Julie Noggle



Xandra and Joe McKeown have cultivated a remarkably long and multifaceted relationship with OHSU.

They've been board members, patients, advisors, donors and connectors. Over the past 25 years, their partnership with and support of OHSU has created a ripple effect of change that will last long into the future.

The McKeowns are proud Oregonians — Joe grew up in Coos Bay and Xandra in Pendleton. After raising their sons in Portland, the McKeowns returned to Coos Bay and embraced life on the southern Oregon coast. They both credit their rural roots and values for their unwavering support to OHSU.

“What we like about rural Oregon,” explained Joe, “is there’s a strong propensity to give back. We’ve been successful, and we felt rural Oregon was in real need of support they should have. Simply put, the values of living in a rural part of the state are important to us. There’s a strong sense of community and support, and that appeals to us.”

Their connection with OHSU began much earlier, though. While pursuing an M.B.A., Xandra happened to be in the same class as former OHSU President Joe Robertson, M.D., M.B.A.

“We were in a study group for two years,” said Xandra. “Our families became great friends and my husband and I became more and more interested in OHSU.”

Xandra joined Doernbecher Children’s Hospital’s Board (now part of the Doernbecher Philanthropy Board) in 2000, and later served as that board’s president. In 2014 she became an OHSU Foundation Board Trustee and has lent her time and business acumen to close to a dozen board committees, and her involvement continues to expand.

As donors, the couple has been generous and steadfast supporters of the Knight Cancer Institute, the Knight Cardiovascular Institute and Doernbecher Children’s Hospital. They often have supported immediate or urgent needs on short notice, such as the COVID-19 Pandemic Response Fund and the Doernbecher Growing@Home NICU in-home monitoring program. They also have a history of honoring beloved institutional leaders, such as Robertson and the late Mark A. Richardson, M.D., M.B.A., former dean of the OHSU School of Medicine.

“I feel a personal affinity with OHSU,” said Joe. “They have seen me through some major health issues — I received wonderful care and treatment at the Knight Cardiovascular Institute and the Knight Cancer Institute. My providers still follow up with me.”

“We’ve become acquainted with so many amazing physicians, members of the leadership team and Foundation employees. They are all just incredible,” said Xandra.

Rural health enhancement is a key focus for the McKeowns, both in their personal giving and in Joe’s role as the President of the Judith Ann Mogan Foundation. The Judith Ann Mogan Foundation is dedicated to supporting programs and building strategic partnerships in Coos, Curry and coastal Douglas counties. “OHSU is a vital partner throughout rural Oregon, including the south coast. We are proud of funding a couple of sizeable grants to OHSU that provide direct service to this region,” said Joe.

With Joe’s involvement, the Judith Ann Mogan Foundation has made a concerted effort to support rural health care. Their grants have funded a number of OHSU initiatives, including transportation and lodging for south coast patients receiving care at the Knight Cancer Institute; improvements to the OHSU Rural Campus – South Coast facilities; and supporting the expansion of the Novel Interventions in Children’s Healthcare (NICH) program, which provides support and resources for families navigating chronic health conditions.

“We know how important quality health care at all stages of life is,” said Xandra. “Our community — us included — have benefited from OHSU’s rural health initiatives, including partnerships with OHSU’s cardiovascular and cancer

programs. We have seen how those partnerships really work to benefit us all, from the individual to the community level. For many families, it’s a big deal to no longer have to travel to Portland for specialized care.”

“Establishing rural training programs and bringing new health care providers into rural communities makes a profound economic impact, too,” added Joe.

Xandra and Joe’s passion for supporting OHSU is infectious, and they do their best to bring new supporters to the cause.

They enjoy hosting “salons” — small, social fundraising events — in support of the OHSU Foundation in their Coos Bay home, which allows them to share their enthusiasm and drive home the importance of OHSU’s programs to rural Oregon. Their salons have introduced their community to Joaquin E. Cigarroa, M.D., Director of the OHSU Knight Cardiovascular Institute, and to Sanjiv Kaul, M.D., the Ernest C. Swigert Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and former director of the Knight Cardiovascular Institute. They also hosted a talk by former OHSU Provost Jeanette Mladenovic, M.D., M.B.A., who spoke about the importance of rural training programs for aspiring doctors, nurses and other clinicians.

“Our philanthropy is targeted,” said Joe. “We don’t take a shotgun approach. We stick to our priorities because we want to make a difference.”

Their support of OHSU has made a difference. Thousands of Oregonians have benefited from their generosity — from the parents who can bring their newborns home sooner with Growing@Home, to the rural heart patients who can access expert care in their own communities, to current students exploring the joys of practicing in rural Oregon.

“We are fortunate to receive support from Xandra and Joe,” said Joaquin Cigarroa, M.D., Director of the Knight Cardiovascular Institute. “Despite efforts, substantial disparities in care continue to occur between metropolitan and rural regions. With their support, we are focused on reducing disparities in care by engaging communities, including in the Coos Bay region.”



Joaquin E. Cigarroa, M.D.

The impact of their support will last long into the future. OHSU is a significant part of their estate plan.

“We do it without a second thought because we recognize the significant value of having an academic medical center like OHSU that anyone in the state can turn to,” said Xandra. 🌊

The Anguish of the Unknown: Isabel's Story

by Willow Bacon



Image courtesy of isabelschance.org

When Isabel Cowan was born in 2014, her parents, Robert and Katie, were over the moon. With her big round eyes, bright smile and dark curly hair, she looked like everyone's idea of a thriving baby girl. But as Isabel began to miss development milestones at the one-year mark, Robert and Katie started to worry that there might be something wrong.

Evaluations with pediatricians followed. Then evaluations with specialists. Then rounds and rounds of bloodwork, EEGs, MRIs and

hospital stays. The only diagnosis doctors could provide was painfully vague: *global developmental delay*.

After five long years, genome testing revealed an ultra-rare disease: Beta-propeller protein-associated neurodegeneration (BPAN). Impacting only a few thousand people worldwide, this progressive condition results in profound physical and mental decline.

"BPAN is considered an 'orphan disease' because very few doctors are aware of it or trained in managing it," Robert explained.

In 2020, the family was meeting with a specialist to discuss Isabel's case when she told them about some doctors they should meet. "These are the folks that discovered the genetic mutation that leads to BPAN," she said.

As it turned out, those doctors were at OHSU.

A place for answers, care and empathy

Medical geneticist Susan Hayflick, M.D., Ph.D., and movement disorders neurologist Penny Hogarth, M.D., did more than find the genetic

underpinnings of BPAN — they and their team led the international effort to create a clinical management guideline for the disease.

"OHSU is a magnet for people around the world who want to sit in a room with doctors who actually know about and understand these diseases," Hayflick explained. Hayflick is the chair of the Department of Molecular and Medical Genetics at the OHSU School of Medicine, as well as a professor of pediatrics and neurology. She is considered an international leader in the study, care and management of neurodegeneration with brain iron accumulation (NBIA) — a family of rare genetic disorders that includes BPAN.

The Cowans were understandably eager to meet her; so, after a few email introductions, the entire family made the journey from their home in Southern California to OHSU. They came away from the experience thoroughly impressed.

"All of the clinicians there were incredible," said Robert. "Not only did they give Isabel a full evaluation, they also gave us a tour of the

Hayflick Lab and even set up little experiments for our two other kids. They loved it, and we got a great sense of where the work is headed."

In addition to answers, the Cowans also received some much-needed support. "As the parent of a child with a rare disease, you feel like you could always be doing more," Katie admitted. "To sit in a room with 10 medical professionals and have them tell us we were doing a great job is incredibly comforting."

Fighting for Isabel

Like so many families facing a diagnosis of rare disease, the Cowans were frustrated by the lack of research funding. "There's this perception that because a rare disease affects fewer patients, it's not worthy of the same level of investment as more mainstream diseases like cancer," Robert explained.

The couple refused to sit by hoping that financial resources for BPAN research would somehow appear. Instead, they took a DIY approach and started their own nonprofit organization devoted to raising

awareness and funding for BPAN. To date, Isabel's Chance has raised more than \$100,000 to support the small but mighty community of BPAN investigators around the world, including at OHSU.

The path forward

Today, Isabel is a cheerful nine-year-old who loves music, dancing and all things Disney. She works hard in her physical and occupational therapy sessions and continues to make good progress in her development. While Robert and Katie tend to take it one day at a time, they can't help but feel optimistic about what the future might hold for their daughter.

"The scientists at OHSU are making advances all the time, working on promising treatments like gene therapy," said Katie. "That's what keeps us going, and that's what gives us hope." 🍀

For more, read "OHSU: A sleeping giant of rare disease research" here: ohsu.org/sleeping-giant

"OHSU is a magnet for people around the world who want to sit in a room with doctors who actually know about and understand these diseases."



Susan Hayflick, M.D., Ph.D.

Chair, Department of Molecular and Medical Genetics and Professor, Pediatrics and Neurology, OHSU School of Medicine

Complex family care: A year of impact by the numbers

On June 24, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court voted to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, which for nearly 50 years had protected a pregnant person's ability to receive abortion care. As a result, basic health care services have become unsafe and inaccessible to individuals in more than a dozen states, disproportionately affecting people with low incomes and already marginalized communities. In response, OHSU reaffirmed its commitment to providing comprehensive complex family planning care and training the next generation of reproductive health providers. Here is a brief look at OHSU's impact in the past year:

Education

From states where abortion services are banned or restricted

4

medical residents trained at OHSU

12

medical residents scheduled to train at OHSU

(2022-23 academic year)

(2023-24 academic year)

Partnered with ECHO Network to launch the

first reproductive health rural training course

and trained 42 providers across the state

Research

New Center for Reproductive Health Equity

to focus on investigating key disparities affecting reproductive health and clinical care

Care

Launched new pilot telehealth program in August

in response to a **137% increase**

in patients receiving medication abortion care at home via video appointments and pills mailed to their home. This enabled increased service for some of the most rural counties (*Coos, Klamath, Malheur, Union, etc.*).

Doubled OHSU's clinical visit capacity to serve individuals needing reproductive health care.

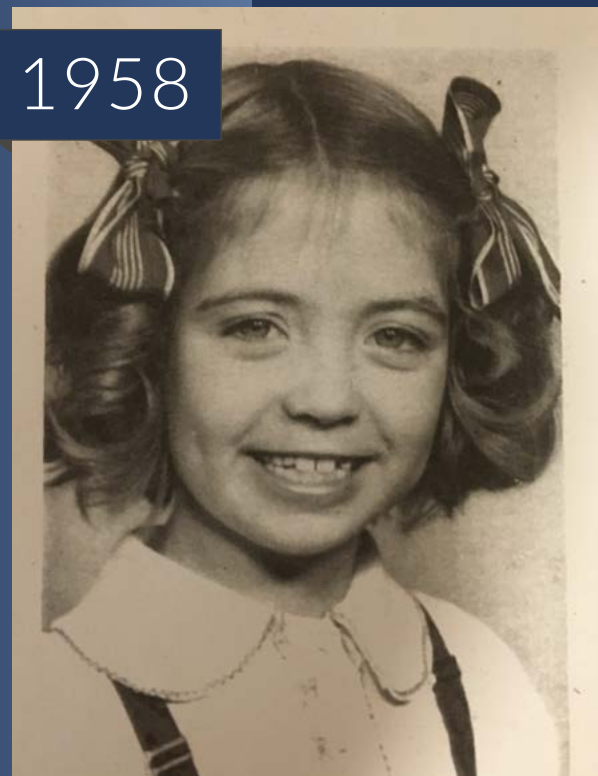
Partnered with Planned Parenthood and the Lilith Clinic to

provide abortion services statewide

and to serve individuals needing to travel to Oregon for care.

A Look Back: Pediatric heart surgery

1958



2023



This year marks the 70th anniversary of OHSU's first pediatric cardiac surgery. At the age of 11, Lois Peterson was one of the first five pediatric patients nationally to receive a pulmonary valvotomy, today known as a pulmonary valvotomy, a procedure to open blocked heart valves. She traveled from Astoria, Oregon, to first receive a cardiac catheterization before being readmitted for the then-novel surgery. At that time, patient survival rates after heart surgery were much lower than today, so the surgery was a risk for the young patient and her family. Peterson not only survived, she thrived after her recovery.

"I'm 81 years old and I lived through all that," said Peterson earlier this year. "I'd say that's a pretty good record for Doernbecher!"

Today, Doernbecher Children's Hospital is opening a novel hybrid operating room for other young patients with complex heart conditions. Pediatric heart surgeons and interventional cardiologists will work together to care for babies and young children in need of their expertise. Funded in part by a \$5 million pledge by the Credit Unions for Kids organization, this hybrid operating room will help thousands of children have the opportunity to live long, meaningful lives — just like Lois Peterson. 🌟

**THANK YOU—
WITH YOUR SUPPORT,
NOTHING IS
i'MPOSSIBLE**



Chris, Garrett, Hailey, Hugo, Macey and Sydney took inspiration from their own extraordinary lives to create this year's Doernbecher Freestyle Collection.

Through donor support, better care becomes possible. Through clinical research, groundbreaking treatments become possible. Through the determination of a medical team, healing becomes possible. Most importantly, hope becomes possible.

On October 27, the Doernbecher Freestyle community of donors, health care providers, Nike visionaries and patient-designers came together to celebrate what's possible when we all rally together. Since 2004, this remarkable partnership between OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital and Nike has raised more than \$33 million to help save lives, develop new treatments and provide the best care for kids. **We are so grateful for your support.**

Look for the Doernbecher Freestyle XIX Collection available December 2023! **To learn more about Doernbecher Freestyle, visit doernbecherfreestyle.org**





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& Science University
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OF GIVING
HAS ARRIVED!**

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OHSU and OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital.
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