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A Publication of the Children's Hospital of Georgia

MIRACLES in the MAKING

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Children's Hospital of Georgia
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Miracle Treat Day is coming to Dairy Queen!

**There is nothing sweeter than
helping kids being treated at the
Children's Hospital of Georgia.**

Save the date for July 27, 2023!

**For every Blizzard Treat sold on Miracle Treat Day at
participating DQ locations, \$1 or more will be donated to
your CMN Hospital, the Children's Hospital of Georgia.**



**Children's
HOSPITAL OF GEORGIA**
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Children's
Miracle Network
Hospital



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Meet Christian Murphey



Dr. Valera Hudson Q&A

Pediatrician-In-Chief for Children's Hospital of Georgia

Q. Where were you when the Children's Hospital of Georgia opened in December 1998?

When the building opened in 1998, I was transferring the very first patient to the Children's Hospital of Georgia. At the time, I was a young pediatric pulmonologist and one of my patients was the first to be admitted. Keep in mind, though, that we have been providing care for children in this community since 1910. That represents over 100 years of caring for children. As far as my career status at the time, I was part of the team that helped to establish the hospital with a focus on patient- and family-centered care principals.



Q. What was your impression of the Children's Hospital of Georgia the first time you saw it, especially knowing that children helped in the design ideas and concepts?

Seeing the actual construction was a dream come true - we had been caring for children on the 8th floor of the adult hospital. We desperately wanted to have the facilities that would allow us to cater to all the unique needs of children. One of the amazing things about the Children's Hospital of Georgia is that it provides the totality of resources and services that are 100% dedicated to caring for children. Not only is everyone on the team dedicated to caring for children, but every team member has the training to do so.

Q. What is your favorite spot or feature at the Children's Hospital of Georgia and why?

One of the services that brings me joy is the facility dogs, which are part of the Child Life program. We have two facility dogs, and they help reduce the stress levels of our patients, family members, and even our staff. Our Child Life folks are trained in the development of children and help them cope with being in a hospital setting. They are also invaluable in helping translate information to the child and family.



Q. Why is the Children's Hospital so vital to Augusta and to Georgia as a whole?

The Children's Hospital of Georgia is the second largest children's hospital in the state and the only facility outside of Atlanta that can provide the highest level of care for the sickest patients. Plus, we serve as the academic hospital of Georgia and are a referral source for many communities.

Georgia is a big state and, unfortunately, there are big gaps in care as well as access issues throughout the state. Part of our mission and purpose is to help close these gaps.

Q. What are some of the services provided at Children's that set it apart from other area hospitals?

Our team represents all medical/surgical subspecialists that are needed. For example, we have a pediatric anesthesiologist. Our dedicated pediatric emergency room has a team whose members are fellowship-trained in pediatric emergency medicine. All our team members - nurses, therapists, radiologists, to name a few - are focused on the discipline of caring for children. We encourage families to help participate in the care of the child and we try to facilitate that. One way we do

this is by not adhering to any visiting hours. We welcome children and parents 24/7. Even in the Intensive Care Unit, parents are welcome at bedside.

Q. What are some of the newest clinical services or centers that we can expect to see in the near future?

Over the last five years, we have been focused on programmatic development and growth, particularly in the areas of cardiology, intensive care, and behavior and mental health. While the behavior and mental health program is not yet at full capacity, it is a priority.

Q. What is it like to be the pediatrician-in-chief of Georgia's second largest Children's Hospital?

I have the best job in the world and wouldn't trade it for anything; it is a privilege and truly humbling. I get to work with a great team. My task every day is to think about and operationalize how to improve the health of children. I can't think of more important work, and I am grateful and honored to do it.

Scan to read more
about Children's
Hospital and Dr.
Hudson. ▶



Parting thought – We are still surprised when we learn that members of our community are not aware that Augusta has a dedicated children's hospital.

— Dr. Hudson



CELEBRATING



YEARS OF

**Healing, Hope and Miracles
in a hospital designed for children**

- ★ Georgia's second largest children's hospital
- ★ Designed by children for children
- ★ **227,000** square feet, five floors, **154** beds
- ★ **24/7** pediatric ER and trauma center
- ★ Highest level NICU care in the region (Level IV)
- ★ Highest level PICU care in the region (Level 1)
- ★ Developed Georgia's first heart-lung bypass (ECMO)
- ★ Region's only pediatric heart surgeons
- ★ Georgia's only hospital where mom and NICU baby stay under one roof
- ★ Helicopter and ambulance transportation for **159** Georgia counties and beyond
- ★ Pediatric care provided in rural communities through telemedicine
- ★ Indoor play areas, outdoor patios and water features
- ★ Two full-time facility dogs: **Nugget** and **Casey**
- ★ **Roary**, Chief Fun Officer and Children's Hospital mascot
- ★ Onsite Ronald McDonald House for family lodging



MEET Christian Murphey

Just 20 weeks into her pregnancy, Brittany Murphey and her husband Stephen learned that their baby boy would face at least 18 years of surgeries and treatment for a bilateral cleft lip and palate, beginning shortly after birth. Fortunately, the couple was referred to the Pediatric Cleft and Craniofacial Center at Children's Hospital of Georgia, a nationally certified center, and its Director Dr. Jack C. Yu.

"Upon receiving Christian's diagnosis, I gathered a list of questions I wanted answered once I met with Dr. Yu," said Brittany. "By the end of the appointment, all our concerns were addressed, and we had not even asked one question."

Yu, the chief of plastic surgery at Children's, had sketched out a tentative timeline indicating each surgery Christian would need, potential issues and when the Murpheys could expect these events – from a lip repair at 6 months old to palate repair at 1-year old and surgeries for potential hearing problems. Brittany, a self-proclaimed planner, said she found it very reassuring.

"It was overwhelming in an otherwise daunting situation" explained Brittany, "but also impressive because Dr. Yu wrote it all down for me. And I've kept it because I've saved different things for Christian. We use it to teach him and talk to him about what's going on, and it is helpful for us to refer back to."

The Cleft and Craniofacial Center at Children's is the only center in the region with a staff of specially trained surgeons and other health professionals who work together in multiple areas to care for cleft lip, palate, and other craniofacial anomalies. It's also one of only two craniofacial centers in Georgia that is nationally accredited by the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association.

After Christian was born, the Murpheys started working with Dr. Daniel Levy-Bercowski, associate director of the Craniofacial Center at Children's Hospital of Georgia, who specializes in pediatric dentistry, orthodontics and dentofacial orthopaedics. He fitted Christian for a nasoalveolar molding (NAM) device, a plastic plate that is held in place using small rubber bands that are taped to the baby's cheeks. This nonsurgical approach helps reshape the gums, lip and nostrils with the plate before cleft lip and palate surgery. Levy

was instrumental in guiding the Murpheys through the daily maintenance they would have to do.

"We went to Dr. Levy once a week for six months to do the NAM device," said Brittany. "The device must be taken out twice a day and cleaned. We had to make these tapes and all this stuff, so there was a lot I wasn't as comfortable with."

Yu and Dr. Maria Helena Lima performed Christian's surgeries, but Brittany praised the entire Pediatric Cleft and Craniofacial Center team for being so outstanding and helpful. She spoke highly about how everyone on the team went above and beyond to make her and her husband comfortable with everything, even giving the Murpheys their personal contact information so they could be reached after hours if needed. Brittany was also very complimentary of the Blue Coat Ambassadors who are stationed at hospital entrances and other busy areas.

Christian will return to Children's for ongoing care, including surgeries, as he grows and develops, but otherwise, he's a healthy, "rambunctious" 4-year-old.

"He's doing wonderful," exclaimed Brittany. "He's just a typical boy, you know, wild, like boys are. He likes to be outside, likes to play. We've started some tee-ball and he's doing good!"

Christian is getting used to school and being a big brother to his sister, Charlotte, who just turned 2 in May. The family added a new puppy this year, whom Christian also loves.

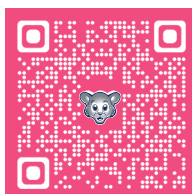
So far, the timeline put together by Yu seems to be happening right on schedule and the family is moving forward. The next series of procedures are anticipated to begin when Christian turns 7. At that point it's expected he will undergo bone grafting to reconstruct his jaw and be evaluated for orthodontic needs.

"He has to have some bone marrow removed from his hip and fused into his jawline, and then orthodontics work to realign his jaw," Brittany said.

Once the jaw position is corrected, when Christian's face is more fully developed, around age 18 or 19, they may want to make changes to the nose, since an oral-facial cleft can pull the nose to one side. But the Murpheys have every confidence in the care provided by Children's.

"I can't say enough positive things about each member of the cleft team," praised Brittany. "I feel like they have treated Christian like one of their own and have taken the absolute best care of him. Without them, our sweet boy wouldn't experience the same quality of life, and we are forever grateful."

Scan to learn
more about
giving to
Children's
Hospital of
Georgia. ▶



Pediatric Cleft and Craniofacial Center

Children's Hospital of Georgia performs specialized cleft and craniofacial surgeries on patients with congenital facial differences, including cleft lip, cleft palate, and a variety of other craniofacial conditions, from birth to age 21.

One of only two centers in Georgia nationally accredited by the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association.

Conditions We Treat

We evaluate and treat children using the latest plastic surgery techniques for:

- Cleft lip/Cleft palate
- Craniosynostosis
- Pierre Robin syndrome
- Rare craniofacial syndromes
- Scar revisions





New sensory room helps calm young patients and meet therapeutic needs

Sydney Painter's son Knox used to cry every time she took him to the hospital.

"He was very sensitive to the hospital in general. He didn't like coming to appointments or therapies," Painter said.

A hospital visit can be upsetting for children, especially when they are already feeling fear, discomfort, or pain.

Knox, age 2, battles CHARGE syndrome, a pattern of birth defects that impacts many areas of his body such as the heart, eyes, ears and nose, and causes developmental delays. He has spent significant time in the neonatal and pediatric intensive care units at Children's Hospital of Georgia, and Painter brings him in for frequent follow-up care at Children's.

Research shows that creating a sensory room for young patients like Knox can reduce stressors and help them better cope with the patient care experience. Children's designed a sensory room on the second floor in pediatric rehabilitation services, and this room is where Knox now goes for physical and occupational therapy sessions.

"The first time they brought him in was the first time he didn't cry," Painter said.

"He's definitely re-engaging, and it's rewarding to see that he's responded so well to this room," said Ashley Inman, an occupational therapist at Children's who works with Knox.

Put simply, a sensory room is designed to create a calm and relaxing atmosphere, and common amenities that create this environment might include:

- Comfortable kid-friendly furniture.
- Soft music and sound makers.
- Soft light in the room.
- Small toys that children can hold in their hands and fidget with are a great distraction tool.

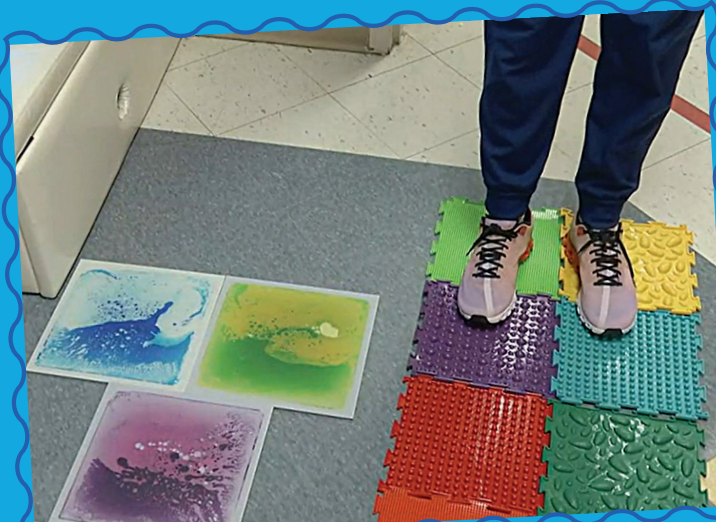
"Visual and tactile experiences can be calming for sensory room visitors," Inman explained. "We've got a bubble wall and light-up fingerlings. On the floor we have different types of sensory tiles that have visual components."

When a child's shoes are removed, they walk across a set of raised floor tiles of varying materials and experience the tactile feel as well, Inman explained.

Painter says the sensory room has changed her little boy's life, and she is thankful for every donation -large or small - that made this vital resource possible at Children's.

"I tell everybody that before Knox was born, I didn't think about the importance of living close by a children's hospital, but now I couldn't live without one."

Scan to learn more about pediatric rehabilitation services. ▶



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: IHEART MEDIA



For two and a half days every December, Christmas music and holiday cheer fill the lobby of the Children's Hospital of Georgia for the iHeart Media Cares for Kids Radiothon.

The radiothon is the single largest annual fundraiser for the Children's Hospital of Georgia – a Children's Miracle Network Hospital. The event also represents a 23-year partnership between the not-for-profit Children's Hospital and iHeart Media.

"The Cares for Kids Radiothon gives us a chance to show the 'heart' in iHeart Media," said Ivy Elam, market president for the iHeart Media Markets Group that includes Augusta, Macon, Newnan and LaGrange. "It gives us a chance to connect with our listeners on a more personal level and truly shows the heart of our community."

Radio stations WBBQ 104.3, 96.3 KISS-FM and 105.7 The Bull and local TV station WRDW-TV News 12/NBC 26 broadcast from the Children's Hospital during the event, sharing stories of hope from families whose lives have been changed by the care their children received at Children's Hospital of Georgia.

When Radiothon wrapped up Dec. 10, 2022, representatives from iHeart Media, along with Children's Hospital leaders and volunteers, unveiled a symbolic check for \$260,000 in donations and pledges – all to benefit Georgia's second largest Children's Hospital.

"All donations from the event stay in Augusta and are used to purchase items unique to the Children's Hospital. We truly rely on community support to purchase equipment, including Giraffe beds, Zaky Hugs and Bili Blankets for premature babies, and amenities such as playrooms, playgrounds and our two full-time facility



"It gives us a chance to connect with our listeners on a more personal level and truly shows the heart of our community." – Ivy Elam

dogs that make the hospital less intimidating for little patients," said Catherine Stewart, director of Philanthropy at Children's Hospital of Georgia. "We cannot provide these vital resources without the support we receive during Radiothon."

Months of planning goes into Radiothon for iHeart, including recording interviews with patients and families to emphasize the lifesaving care at Children's. iHeart Media teams work diligently to organize social, digital and online promotions and to schedule local and celebrity on-air talent, like Murphy, Sam & Jodi, to attend the radiothon in-person and tee up stories and support. And, most importantly, an engineering team must prep and test the location for the broadcast to make sure it can be executed effectively as scheduled.

"We often highlight the 'media' with different events throughout the year, but this partnership allows iHeart Media to show our heart and save lives in the process. It doesn't get any better than that," said Elam.





\$4 million needed to fund renovations that will create Kisner Center at Children's Hospital

Any parent who has sought help for a child with a mental, behavioral or developmental problem can readily attest to the heartbreak and challenges involved in finding help. But thanks to the generosity of the Kevin and Brittany Kisner Foundation, the Children's Hospital of Georgia is improving availability and access to health care resources to meet these needs.

The Children's Hospital of Georgia is honored to be partnering with the Kevin and Brittany Kisner Foundation to establish the Kisner and Friends Center for Pediatric Development, Behavioral Health and Wellness. The Kisner Foundation has made a \$5.3 million commitment to fund and sustain the patient care services for the center. However, additional funding is needed to construct the center itself.

Children's Hospital leaders have identified space on the second floor immediately outside the main elevators as the future location of the Kisner Center. It will cost approximately \$4 million to convert this space into

a waiting and check-in area, exam rooms, testing and counseling spaces and to bring together the multidisciplinary services and experts that will comprise the Kisner and Friends Center for Pediatric Development, Behavioral Health and Wellness.

When the renovation is complete and the space opens, families will be able to literally open the door to a place built around the interconnected care needs of their children. The Kisner Center will provide for and allow growth of vital services at Children's Hospital of Georgia, including testing and treatment for mild behavioral issues as well as more complex diagnoses.

Thanks to early patient care funding from the Kevin and Brittany Kisner and the Kisner Foundation, the Children's Hospital has already begun to:

- Provide families with access to evaluations and testing.
- Refer families for counseling and other mental and behavioral health services when children need help for more challenging issues.

- Recruit and hire new pediatric specialists – including a developmental pediatrician – needed for everyday evaluation and treatment plans.

Help us take the next big step. Co-locating essential services into a centralized location will:

- Enhance collaboration among pediatric neurology and pediatric rehabilitation services, including speech, occupational and physical therapy.
- Allow for expanded developmental-behavioral health services.
- **Increase psychiatry consultation services, including the only intensive outpatient program in the area.**
- Promote comprehensive and timely care.

As parents, Kevin and Brittany Kisner recognize the value of investing in children's health. The Kisners believe that supporting this center will give more children the opportunity to become successful adults who make meaningful contributions to society.



Find out more about the Kisner Center and how you can support the renovations at Children's:

Philanthropy@augusta.edu
Catherine Stewart, Director of Philanthropy
Children's Hospital of Georgia
706.832.1804
castewart@augusta.edu

\$4 Million space renovation on the second floor of the Children's Hospital

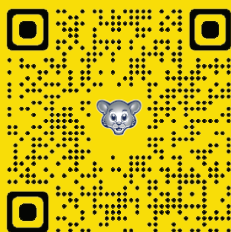


By giving to fund renovations for this center, you will help equip Children's Hospital to provide:

- Improved access for thousands of patients and families waiting for help.
- Better health and wellness outcomes for children and youth.
- More efficient and coordinated behavioral, mental, and developmental care.
- Higher rates of treatment.
- Better compliance with treatment plans.
- Reduced parental stress and frustration.
- Improved patient and family satisfaction.

1 in 6 children have a developmental disability such as:

- ADHD
- Learning disability
- Autism spectrum disorder
- Stuttering or stammering
- Intellectual disability
- Hearing loss or impairment
- Vision loss or impairment
- Behavioral issues
- Anxiety, depression



Scan the QR code

To help fund the renovations to create the full center.





Transport teams bring sickest little ones to Children's for highest care

All hospitals are not equally staffed or equipped. This is especially true when it comes to neonatal and pediatric intensive care. Children's Hospital of Georgia provides the highest levels of NICU (Level IV) and PICU (Level 1) care, as outlined by American Academy of Pediatrics standards.

For this reason, hospitals throughout the state of Georgia and surrounding states may need to transport an acutely ill child or extremely premature infant to Children's Hospital to give the child the best chance to survive and thrive. Emergent conditions that most often require a hospital-to-hospital transfer include heart defects, prematurity, the need for ECMO (heart-lung bypass), respiratory distress, seizures or sepsis.

When saving time is imperative and your infant or child needs to go where the most advanced care is, it's a relief to know that Children's Hospital of Georgia can send an ambulance or helicopter to pick up your child, and onboard will be the highly skilled neonatal or pediatric transport team to provide lifesaving, specialized care for your child during the entire transport.

The transport care team stays in constant contact with neonatal and pediatric experts at Children's to ensure they are giving the most expedient and appropriate care from point A (referring hospital) to point B (Children's Hospital of Georgia).

AirCare Takes Flight

With speeds of 155 miles per hour and a range of 350 miles, the new AirCare ambulance – a twin engine helicopter – can reach young patients farther and faster. The helicopter improves access to Children's Hospital of Georgia, which has the region's only Level 2 Pediatric Trauma Center and provides the highest level NICU and PICU care for infants and children.

The AirCare helicopter is well-equipped for emergency care, including video laryngoscopy, high-flow ventilator, point-of-care ultrasound, portable Intra-aortic balloon pump for inflight heart catheterization, portable ECMO (heart-lung bypass) system and point-of-care lab testing. It's also supplied with blood products, fluid warmers and IV pumps and has an onboard Wi-Fi to transmit critical patient data to Children's Hospital of Georgia while the patient and medical team are in flight.



Scan to learn more about AirCare ▶



Mark Your Calendar for These Upcoming Fundraisers



Give at the Register – Did you know you can support the Children's Hospital of Georgia while shopping? Give a gift at **Walmart** and **Sam's Club** from June 12 through July 14, at **Ollie's Bargain Outlet** from June 12 through July 9, and at **Love's Travel Stop** all year long. Whether it is rounding up your purchase to the nearest dollar or making a \$5 donation, your gift makes a difference.

Dairy Queen's Miracle Treat Day – July 27

For every Blizzard Treat sold on Miracle Treat Day at participating Dairy Queen locations, **\$1 or more will be donated to your local Children's Miracle Network Hospital, Children's Hospital of Georgia.** Each year, Dairy Queen donates millions to local Children's Hospitals across the United States and Canada. All contributions are made to local CMN Hospitals to directly help kids in your community.



ACE Hardware Bucket Days – August 4-6

Stop by your local **ACE Hardware** between Friday, August 4 and Sunday, August 6 and buy a 5-gallon bucket for just \$5 in support of Children's Hospital of Georgia, your local Children's Miracle Network Hospital. Your \$5 donation to the Children's Hospital not only gets you a one-of-a-kind CMN Hospital branded bucket, but you will also receive 20% off on almost everything you can fit inside the bucket. Visit your local ACE Hardware store during ACE Bucket Days to purchase this special bucket and support children's health!



Brave the Shave – August 30

Brave the Shave for a child with cancer by raising money and shaving your head. Cancer remains the leading cause of death by disease for children under the age of 15. According to the American Childhood Cancer Organization, about 15,780 children under the age of 19 are diagnosed with cancer each year. In recognition of National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and in support of children who may lose their hair during cancer treatments, Children's Hospital of Georgia is hosting its annual Brave the Shave event. Participants are asked to raise \$100 or more and then shave their heads on August 30. Sign-up link: www.augusta.edu/giving/bravetheshave

Meet a Machine – September 16

Spend your Saturday getting an up-close experience with Augusta's machines and the amazing teams who operate them! This annual event features police cars, fire and rescue trucks, helicopters, an airplane, a garbage truck and more. Hosted by Augusta Regional Airport, Meet a Machine is a family fun event benefiting the Children's Hospital of Georgia.



Extra Life – November 4

Extra Life unites thousands of gamers around the world to play games in support of their local Children's Miracle Network Hospital. Since its inception in 2008, Extra Life has raised more than \$70 million for sick and injured kids. Sign up today at www.extra-life.org. Dedicate a day of play for kids at Children's Hospital of Georgia. Be a Hero!



GS Miracle's Chili Cook off, Statesboro GA – November 5

GS Miracle, a student led organization on the campus of Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, GA will hosts its annual chili cookoff on Sunday, November 5. Individuals and organizations from GSU will enter pots of chili for attendees to sample in hopes of winning the recognition of "Best Chili". Live music, children's activities along with a corn hole tournament will add to the excitement of the day.



23rd Annual iHeart Media Cares for Kids Radiothon – December 7-9

The sounds of phones ringing, bells dinging, Christmas music and laughter will fill the lobby of the Children's Hospital of Georgia during the 23rd annual iHeart Cares for Kids Radiothon. Mark your calendar for the Children's Hospital's biggest fundraiser, which airs on WBBQ 104.3, 105.7 The Bull, Kiss 96.3 and WRDW-TV News 12/NBC 26 on December 7-9.

For more information on any of these events, please contact the Children's Hospital philanthropy team at (706) 721-4004 or email castewart@augusta.edu.