

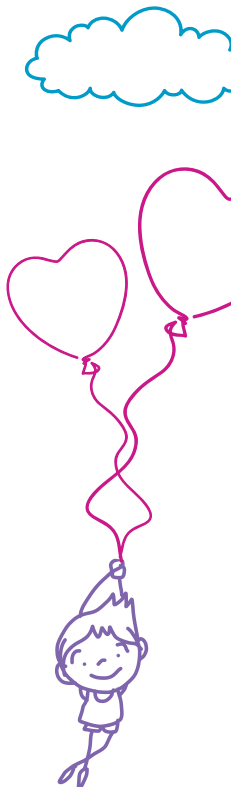
# Building Our **Legacy**

2024 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



**Nicklaus Children's  
Health System**

Where Your Child Matters Most™



# ABOUT US



## Mission:

To inspire hope and promote lifelong health by providing the best care to every child



## Vision:

To **CREATE** a healthy future for every child



## Values:

Collaboration • Responsibility  
Empowerment • Advocacy  
Transformation • Empathy



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# LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends of Nicklaus Children's,

What a remarkable year it has been! In 2024, we saw impressive milestones for our health system and, most importantly, the communities we serve. Over the past year, my colleagues and I at Nicklaus Children's Health System have been focused on implementing strategic plans and initiatives that continue to enable us to fulfill our mission – to inspire hope and promote lifelong health by providing the best care to every child.

In this report to the community, you will see how we are *Building our Legacy* as a pediatric health system. You'll learn about our research collaboration with Florida International University and how it allows us to bring the latest, targeted treatments to children in our region – often those who have run out of therapeutic options. You will read about twin brothers with a rare disease who are thriving after their treatment at Nicklaus Children's. And you'll also find more details about our brand-new, state-of-the-art Kenneth C. Griffin Surgical Tower, as well as our partnership with Broward Health to bring the best in pediatric care to patients in Broward County.

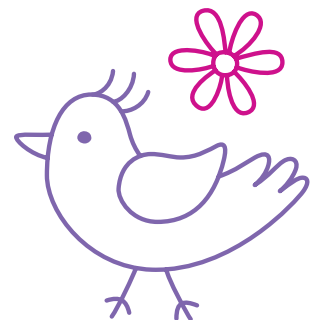
I hope the articles in these pages are as exciting and fulfilling to you as they are to my colleagues and me. None of these patient stories, collaborations, new facilities, or other achievements would be possible without the hard work, dedication, and passion of the entire Nicklaus Children's community – from our physicians, nurses, staff, and leaders to our community partners and donors. *Building our Legacy* takes a village, and in our case, we have the support of quite literally all of South Florida, for which I am eternally grateful.

Thank you for your support in 2024. I have never been more optimistic about what we can achieve together, for Nicklaus Children's as well as for the children and families we serve.

Nicklaus Children's is and always will be where your child matters most™.

Sincerely,

**Matthew A. Love**  
President and Chief Executive Officer,  
Nicklaus Children's Health System





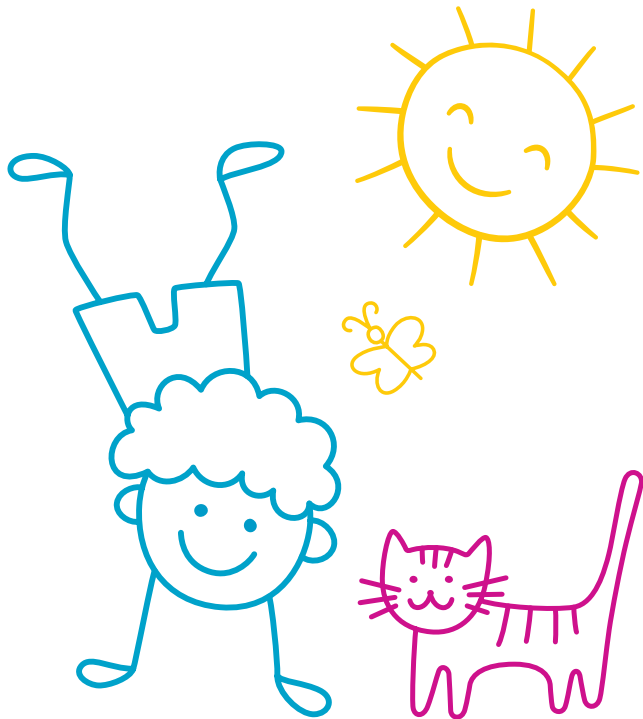


# AMAZING PATIENT CARE

## Expanding Pediatric Care Across South Florida

To meet the needs of those who matter most, Nicklaus Children's proudly opened Nicklaus Children's at West Pines in 2024, the health system's tenth Pediatric Care Center (PCC), offering appointments with board-certified pediatricians who serve as primary care providers (PCPs) for babies, children, and teens.

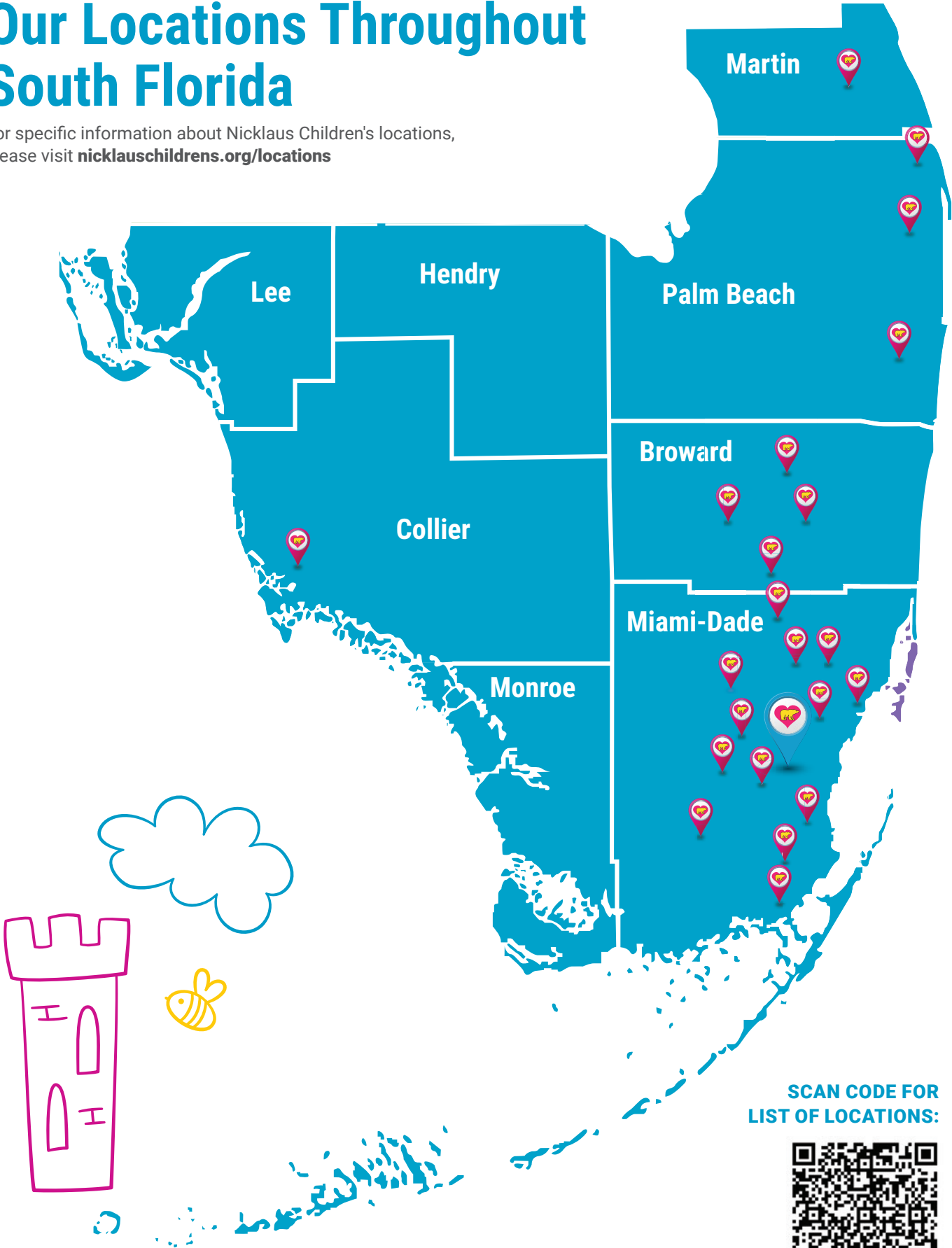
The health system will further expand access to appointments with board-certified pediatric specialists in Broward, Collier, and Palm Beach counties in 2025, ensuring even more families can receive exceptional care in their own neighborhoods.





# Our Locations Throughout South Florida

For specific information about Nicklaus Children's locations, please visit [nicklauschildrens.org/locations](https://nicklauschildrens.org/locations)

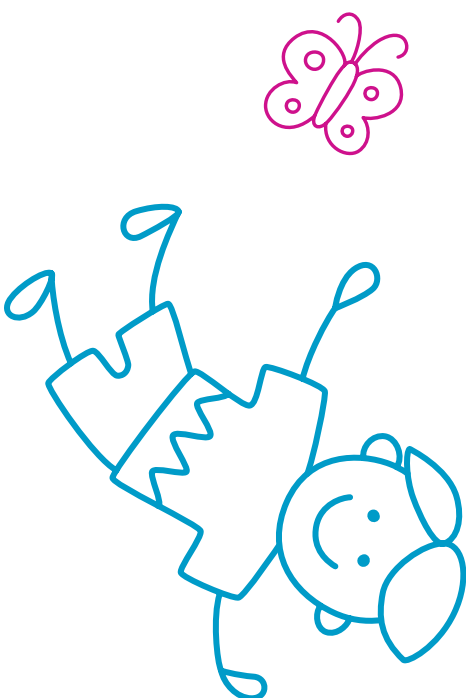
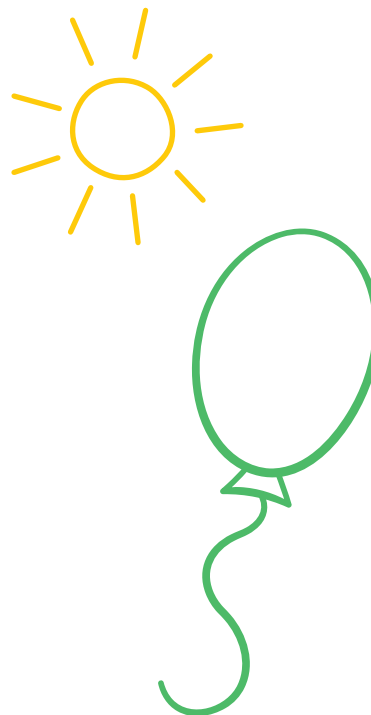


 Denotes a Nicklaus Children's location.

# OUR STORIES

Providing healing, hope, and ultimately joy to children and families across South Florida is at the heart of our mission. Patient stories offer glimpses into lives made better and challenges overcome, thanks to Nicklaus Children's experts and families dedicated to ensuring their children – and all children – receive the best care.

We hope you take a moment to read about Logan, Juniper, Natalie, Emilio, Benjamin, Keily, Harry, and Jamie. Their stories are part of the Nicklaus Children's legacy. Together with their care teams, they are forging a path forward to healthier lives and futures and demonstrating why Nicklaus Children's is the hospital where children matter most.







## Nicklaus Children's Teamwork, Life-Saving Care Saved Juniper

**"You just can't describe the feeling when your child is being whisked away for emergency brain surgery."**

Juniper's parents, George and Renee, found themselves in that terrifying situation in 2024, after brain scans at Jupiter Medical Center (JMC) in Palm Beach County revealed their little "June bug," then age 3, had a large and aggressive malignant brain tumor.

Juniper was transported from JMC to Nicklaus Children's Hospital, where clinical teams from the renowned Nicklaus Children's Brain Institute and the Helen & Jacob Shaham Cancer & Blood Disorders Institute formed a collaborative plan for her care. Immediate surgery with the neurosurgical team was needed to remove the fast-growing tumor, after which the cancer and blood disorders clinicians developed a chemotherapy treatment plan to ensure that any remaining cancerous tissue was eliminated.

Then came the joyous happy ending. In the fall of 2024, Juniper completed her treatment and rang the celebration bell in the Shaham Cancer & Blood Disorders Institute inpatient unit to mark this important milestone.

"What's next for Juniper is healing and recovering, and she is going to have a beautiful, long life," said Renee.

To learn more about how the Helen & Jacob Shaham Cancer & Blood Disorders Institute is transforming pediatric care, please visit [nicklauschildrens.org/shaham](https://nicklauschildrens.org/shaham)







## State-of-the-Art Kenneth C. Griffin Surgical Tower Gives Natalie Fresh Start

### 12-Year-Old Overcomes Rare Spine Disorder

Natalie was only 19 months old when she was diagnosed with early-onset scoliosis, a very rare and severe curvature of the spine that emerges in early childhood. She is thriving today after years of careful monitoring and management by the Nicklaus Children's Orthopedic, Sports Medicine, and Spine Institute team – nationally recognized leaders in scoliosis care.

As a very young child, Natalie was treated with casting and bracing to help shape her spine as her little body grew strong enough for surgery. At age 7, she had her first surgery, implantation of magnetic growing rods to help straighten her spine incrementally as she grew. Her third and final surgery took place in 2024 in Nicklaus Children's newly opened Kenneth C. Griffin Surgical Tower, where her growing rods were removed and replaced with new permanent rods for the final scoliosis correction.

Her 10-year treatment odyssey now behind her, Natalie, now age 12, is ready to embrace all that lies ahead: a future filled with hope and joy.

To learn more about the Kenneth C. Griffin Surgical Tower, please visit [nicklauschildrenssurgicaltower.org](https://nicklauschildrenssurgicaltower.org)



## Nicklaus Children's Tackles Rare Disease

### Twin Brothers Emilio, Benjamin Thrive After Treatment

Soon after his birth, tiny Emilio showed signs of a rare disease that occurs in one of 5,000 births. He was diagnosed with Hirschsprung's disease, a congenital condition that prevents normal bowel movements. The newborn was treated by a highly experienced surgical team at Nicklaus Children's that removed the diseased portion of the baby's colon, enabling normal bowel movements.

Fast forward a year, and Emilio's twin brother Benjamin also began exhibiting symptoms of Hirschsprung's. In 2024, he, too, underwent surgery with the same trusted team from Nicklaus Children's.

Medical literature captures only 21 cases worldwide of identical twins with Hirschsprung's disease. Today, this remarkable set of twins is thriving, following their care at Nicklaus Children's.

"We are very grateful. We can now just live our lives and see our babies grow as healthy little boys," said Maria, Emilio and Benjamin's mother.







## New Griffin Surgical Tower Helps Put Smile on Toddler's Face

### Keily Makes History as First Patient

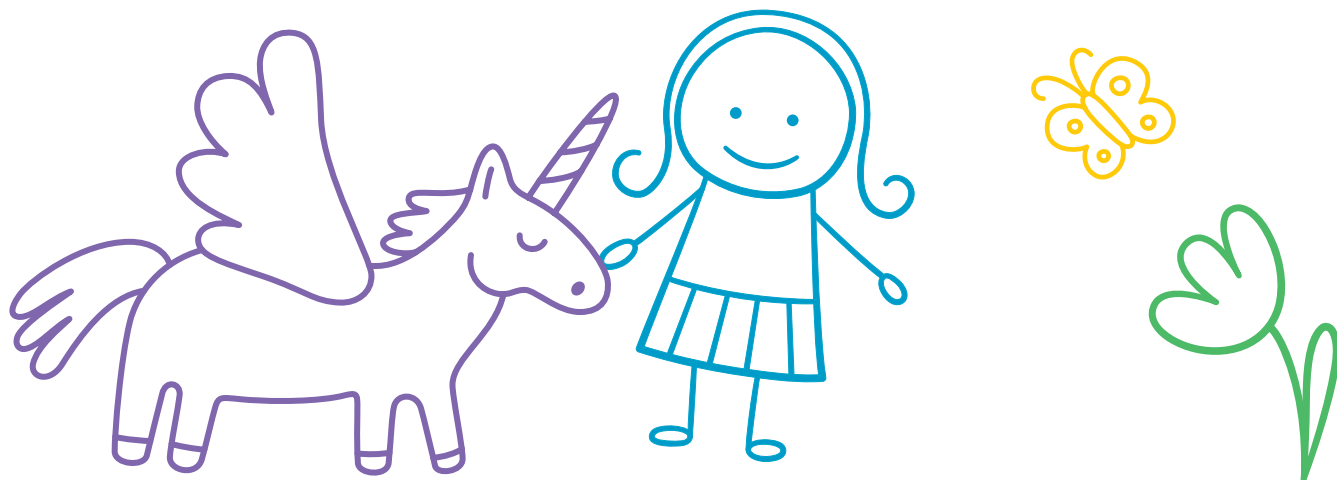
At only a year old, Keily is already making her mark in the world. The Miami-area toddler, born with a bilateral cleft lip and palate, became the first patient to undergo surgery in Nicklaus Children's new state-of-the-art Kenneth C. Griffin Surgical Tower in 2024.

Keily has been in the care of the Nicklaus Children's Craniofacial Center since birth. Her care plan has included surgical and nonsurgical treatments to ensure she is able to speak and eat independently and live a healthy life, free of limitations. Among the treatments she received was nasoalveolar molding, which involves use of a dental appliance to help gradually close gaps in the lip and mold surrounding tissues in preparation for surgery.

"As a mother, my hope is that all affected children can receive the care my baby received," said Keily's mother, Flor. "The result is as if she never had any craniofacial defects at all."

## Cleveland Clinic, Nicklaus Children's Collaborate to Save 8-Year-Old Harry

Harry, an 8-year-old boy from the Cayman Islands, was connected to Nicklaus Children's Hospital by way of the Global Health department after it was discovered he had a large mass in a critical area of his pancreas which caused him to have debilitating pain. With the mass covering almost 80% of his pancreas, Nicklaus Children's physicians consulted with the surgical director of the Pancreas Center at Cleveland Clinic Weston, due to the size and location of the large mass. Together, the physicians, along with their teams, performed surgery to remove the mass just in time for Harry and his family to return home for the holidays healthy and pain-free.





## Jamie: A Free Screening and a Brighter Future

A routine EKG screening offered at a City of Miami-sponsored summer camp may well have had a life-saving impact for Jamie, age 6. In 2024, the Miami-area kindergartener was identified by clinicians from the Nicklaus Children's Heart Institute as having a heart condition that could potentially lead to sudden cardiac death.

Jamie's free EKG was part of an ongoing collaboration between the City of Miami and Nicklaus Children's, which conducts the screenings for youth ages 5 to 21 at city parks. Since founding its free EKG program in 2011, the Nicklaus Children's Heart Institute has performed 65,000 screenings in collaboration with community partners as well as at the 17 Nicklaus Children's locations in South Florida where the screenings are routinely offered.

As for Jamie, he underwent a minimally invasive heart procedure at Nicklaus Children's and has a clean bill of health to pursue sports activities. Go, Jamie!

For more information, please visit [nicklauschildrens.org/freeEKG](https://nicklauschildrens.org/freeEKG)



GETTING  
HEALTHY



## The Only Children's Hospital in Florida Offering Innovative Intestinal Ultrasounds

Cases of pediatric inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) are on the rise, with 100 to 200 out of 100,000 children in the U.S. experiencing symptoms of this condition. Visualizing the presence and effects of IBD is essential for proper diagnosis and management. As part of our dedication to delivering hope and healing through innovation, in 2024, Nicklaus Children's was proud to become one of only four pediatric hospitals in the U.S. to offer a transformational technology, intestinal ultrasound, to children and teens who have been diagnosed with, or are suspected of having, IBD.

An intestinal ultrasound is a noninvasive ultrasound of the lower gastrointestinal tract that provides highly detailed images of the small intestine and colon. Unlike colonoscopies and endoscopies, the pain-free procedure doesn't require any bowel preparation, fasting, or sedation and allows a specially trained gastroenterologist to provide immediate feedback and discussion of the findings. While an intestinal ultrasound cannot replace endoscopy for diagnosing IBD, it can significantly reduce the number of colonoscopies and endoscopies needed to evaluate inflammation and track the patient's condition over time.

Board-certified pediatric gastroenterologists Dr. Lina Felipez, who leads the intestinal ultrasound program and also serves as associate medical director of the IBD Center and director of IBD Research, and Dr. Luis Caicedo Oquendo, director of the Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition Fellowship Program and medical director of the Fecal Care Program at Nicklaus Children's Hospital, are among only a handful of physicians in the nation who have received specialized training to perform intestinal ultrasounds.







## First Mobile MRI of its Kind Unveiled

As part of our commitment to offering innovative technology to children and teens, Nicklaus Children's replaced an existing magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine with a new, state-of-the-art MRI system, the Philips 1.5T Ambition X, at its West Kendall Outpatient Center. This bold step is transforming healthcare delivery for children and helping us ensure no child has to leave home to receive the care they need.

Nicklaus Children's is the first hospital in the nation to adopt a mobile version of the Philips 1.5T Ambition X. Among its features, the cutting-edge system delivers high-quality images with more efficiency, enabling faster setup and exam time, allowing for potential reduction in the time a child is sedated. The system also has interactive experience tools to help put children at ease during an MRI procedure. With this new device, Nicklaus Children's has expanded MRI offerings at its West Kendall location to include imaging of total body, long bones, kidney, and more.

# INNOVATION



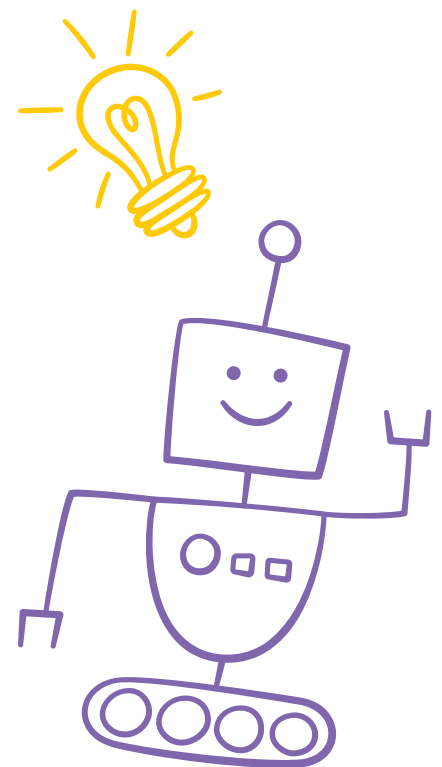
Nicklaus Children's Steven J. Melnick, M.D., Ph.D., chief, Department of Pathology and Clinical Laboratories, and David Mancuso, PharmD, executive director of pharmacy and laboratory services, analyze pharmacogenomics testing data.

## Personalized Medicine, Pharmacogenomics Testing Means Better Care for Kids

Pharmacogenomic testing is an emerging technology that offers significant benefits for patients. By using a person's genetics, clinicians can determine the most effective, safest medications and dosage.

In 2024, Nicklaus Children's became the first children's hospital in South Florida to offer in-house pharmacogenomics testing as part of its growing commitment to precision medicine. This was made possible with the acquisition of the Applied Biosystems™ PharmacoScan solution and GeneTitan MC Fast Scan instrument. Combining pharmacogenomics test results with other information such as a patient's overall health, lifestyle factors, and family history can help teams determine a personalized treatment plan for each patient.

"At Nicklaus Children's, pharmacogenomics is integral to building our legacy," said Matthew A. Love, president and CEO. "Our long-term goal is to establish pharmacogenomic testing as the standard of care for all of our patients, offering each child the best possible care treatment and outcome."











## Expanded Access to Groundbreaking Gene Therapy for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

Nicklaus Children's expanded its offering of the approved gene therapy ELEVIDYS for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), following the FDA's decision in June 2024 to offer the drug to patients over the age of four. This decision by the FDA allows more people living with Duchenne than ever before to access the disease-modifying therapy, which has the potential to help them live stronger and longer than the once certain progression of the disease dictated.

"We are excited to offer this emerging treatment to patients who have been eagerly awaiting the FDA's decision on expanding availability to additional age groups," said Dr. Migvis Monduy, medical director of the Neuromuscular and Movement Disorders Program at Nicklaus Children's Hospital. "We are hopeful that the treatment will delay or halt the progression of DMD for all eligible children, giving them the best chance for a better future."

Nicklaus Children's was among the first in the nation to offer treatment to kids diagnosed with DMD like Jacob, age 5. Within a year after treatment, Jacob was back to jumping and being an active young boy.

To learn more, please visit [nicklauschildrens.org/Brain](https://nicklauschildrens.org/Brain)





## Innovative Deep Brain Stimulation Gets Tamryn Back on His Feet

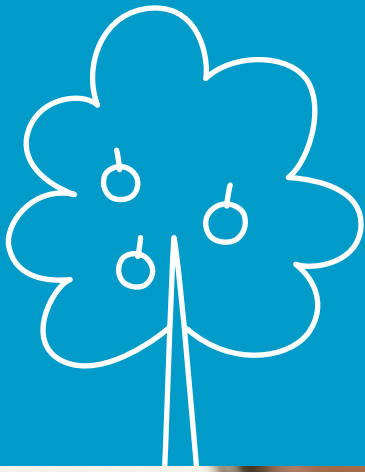
When 9-year-old Tamryn began losing all muscle function, his parents sought help at the Nicklaus Children's Brain Institute, after other facilities across Florida were unable to provide answers. The Tallahassee family had been desperately trying to find a solution for their son, who in just two years went from being an active child to losing the ability to walk. Genetic testing revealed he had a rare condition called TOR1-A Torsion type 1, a form of dystonia.

Tamryn's body had become so contorted that he could no longer control his movements, requiring hospitalization. He was experiencing brain storming, an extreme stress reaction caused by brain injury, and was in intense pain. Due to the severity of his condition, a multidisciplinary team at the Brain Institute determined he was a candidate for deep brain stimulation (DBS) surgery, implanting a device that works as a pacemaker for the brain, aimed at controlling abnormal movements. Just five months after the groundbreaking surgery in 2024, Tamryn showed significant improvement. He regained control over his movements and was able to walk again.

Tamryn is back to enjoying his favorite activities, like being outdoors, biking, and running. His parents are deeply grateful for the dedicated care team at Nicklaus Children's for helping him overcome this challenging condition.

To learn more, please visit [nicklauschildrens.org/Brain](https://nicklauschildrens.org/Brain)





# BUILDING THE FUTURE





# Transformational Affiliation to Enhance Pediatric Care for Broward County Families

In 2024, Nicklaus Children's Health System and Broward Health announced a collaboration to expand and enhance pediatric services across Broward County, with a goal of fully integrating and enriching pediatric care offerings by the latter part of 2025. This strategic affiliation is designed to improve access to high-quality pediatric services for the children and families of Broward County, with a shared commitment to delivering expert, compassionate care closer to home. Currently, approximately 16 percent of pediatric patients in Broward County must leave the county for specialized care. This partnership aims to reduce these transfers, keeping children and families closer to home while providing the highest standard of care.

Through this collaboration, Nicklaus Children's will become the dedicated pediatric provider at Broward Health's Fort Lauderdale and Coral Springs locations, ensuring that families can benefit from world-class pediatric care and specialty treatments in their local community.

"Broward Health has been making great strides in expanding pediatric specialty care and the approval to move into an affiliation with Nicklaus Children's Health System is one more win for our community," said Broward Health President and CEO, Shane Strum. "Nicklaus Children's brings a vast array of subspecialty care, an enviable workplace culture, and an adherence to safety and quality that Broward Health values deeply. By aligning our two great systems, we will change the landscape of pediatric medicine for Broward County."

Together, Broward Health and Nicklaus Children's Health System are poised to create a stronger, more integrated healthcare system to benefit children and families across the region, reinforcing our shared mission to deliver world-class, compassionate pediatric care.





## Elevating Pediatric Surgical Care with the Kenneth C. Griffin Surgical Tower

Bringing hope and healing to families across South Florida, Nicklaus Children's Hospital celebrated the official opening of the Kenneth C. Griffin Surgical Tower in 2024. One of the most innovative pediatric surgical facilities in the United States, the Griffin Surgical Tower combines leading-edge technology with a focus on delivering a compassionate patient experience to ensure that children and adolescents don't have to leave Florida for expert pediatric surgical care.

The five-story, 131,000 square-foot facility is equipped with 12 advanced and fully integrated operating suites, used to perform even the most complex pediatric surgeries. Pediatric surgical offerings include trauma care, surgical cancer interventions, and pediatric plastic and reconstructive surgeries including cleft lip-and-palate, orthopedic and spine, brain, and heart surgeries.

"The grand opening of Nicklaus Children's Hospital's Kenneth C. Griffin Surgical Tower marks a historic moment in our 75-year legacy," said Matthew A. Love, president and CEO of Nicklaus Children's Health System. "The Griffin Surgical Tower connects advanced technology with world-class surgeons to deliver expert, compassionate care to children and families. We are grateful to Mr. Griffin and to all our donors for helping us create the future of pediatric healthcare right here in South Florida."

The Griffin Surgical Tower is named in recognition of Mr. Griffin's historic \$25 million gift announced in 2023. The gift – one of the largest in the hospital's 75-year history – has helped fund surgical care programs, technology, and services, with support also benefiting Nicklaus Children's four major institutes, advancing pediatric care related to the brain, cancer and blood disorders, the heart, and orthopedics.

*Forward for Generations*, the most ambitious campaign in the hospital's history, is raising vital funds to transform the future of children's healthcare through clinical innovations like those at the Griffin Surgical Tower, with the belief that healthy communities begin with healthy children.

**To learn more about supporting Nicklaus Children's Hospital, please visit [give.nicklauschildrens.org](https://give.nicklauschildrens.org)**







## Transformational \$15 Million Gift from South Florida Philanthropists Helen and Jacob Shaham

South Florida philanthropists Helen and Jacob Shaham are helping provide hope to families in South Florida and beyond by impacting world-class pediatric cancer care and research for children everywhere, through the hospital's Cancer and Blood Disorders Institute. In recognition of the \$15 million gift, the program now proudly bears the name, the Helen & Jacob Shaham Cancer & Blood Disorders Institute.

Their generous gift is elevating pediatric cancer care and research to ensure no child ever has to leave the state for treatment and is enhancing the hospital's standing as a leading cancer care provider for children through investments in groundbreaking research focused on new cures, treatments, and diagnostic procedures.

To learn more about supporting Nicklaus Children's Hospital, please visit [give.nicklauschildrens.org](https://give.nicklauschildrens.org)







## Ryan Seacrest Foundation Selects Nicklaus Children's Hospital for its Newest Seacrest Studio

In 2024, the Ryan Seacrest Foundation (RSF) selected Nicklaus Children's Hospital as the home of its newest Seacrest Studio, a state-of-the-art studio for pediatric patients to explore the creative realms of radio, television, and new media. Soon to be South Florida's first and only Seacrest Studio, this will be the 15th location for RSF and will help deliver joy and healing to patients at Nicklaus Children's. The Seacrest Studio will serve as a hub for patient activities, education, and ways to engage with celebrities who visit Nicklaus Children's to help brighten the days for patients. Seacrest Studios are charitable endeavors of the Ryan Seacrest Foundation, founded by radio and television host and producer Ryan Seacrest, along with his family.

Scheduled to open its doors in late 2025, Seacrest Studios will provide a wide variety of English and Spanish programming to patients through a closed-circuit network, whether physically in the studio or in one of the hospital's inpatient suites watching from in-room TV screens. Patients will have the chance to be their own version of a media professional with the opportunity to host their own radio and television shows, watch live musical performances, play games, and even interview celebrity guests who visit.

**It is such an honor to expand our reach to South Florida and welcome Nicklaus Children's Hospital to the Seacrest Studios Family. Miami has brought me such joy over the years, and I am proud to return the favor and spread the joy and creative power of broadcast media to Nicklaus Children's Hospital.**

- Ryan Seacrest, founder & chairman, Ryan Seacrest Foundation





## Record-Breaking Diamond Ball Launches *Forward for Generations* Campaign

Nicklaus Children's publicly launched the largest multi-year fundraising campaign in its 75-year history, *Forward for Generations*, at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Diamond Ball on October 26, 2024. This monumental event marked a record-breaking evening as philanthropists from across South Florida gave \$6.9 million to directly benefit children served by Nicklaus Children's Hospital.

"This is the 17<sup>th</sup> year of bringing South Florida philanthropists together to celebrate and gather with one goal in mind – providing our community with the best in pediatric healthcare," said Allison Baker, president of Nicklaus Children's Hospital Foundation. "We are focused on the future and made history with the launch of our *Forward for Generations* Campaign, garnering record-breaking donations that will support our vision to ensure a healthy future for our children."

Over 500 community members attended this year's Diamond Ball, themed "Dream With Us: *Forward for Generations*." During the evening, Nicklaus Children's Hospital Foundation Board Chair Peter Lopez and Allison Baker announced that the Campaign had already reached more than 60 percent of its \$200 million fundraising goal prior to going public. The *Forward for Generations* Campaign – chaired by board members Alex and Juliana Kryz – creates a brighter, healthy future for kids now – and for generations – by transforming children's healthcare, breaking medical boundaries, investing in new technologies, and bringing top clinical specialists to Nicklaus Children's.

Diamond Ball sponsors in 2024 included Citadel, Citadel Securities, Griffin Catalyst, CNN en Español, City National Bank of Florida, Ensemble Health Partners, Navarro Discount Pharmacy, Greenberg Traurig, Intermedia Touch, Kidz Medical Services, MBF Healthcare Partners, L.P., Perry Ellis International, Stearns Weaver Miller, ab+a advertising, Baptist Health, Polsinelli PC, Miami Herald/El Nuevo Herald, Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits, Loews Hotels, EdgeUno, Inc., Jupiter Medical Center, Premia Global Advisors, West Coast University, Colliers, Corporate Financial Risk Services, and FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine.



# JOY







## Miami Heat's Coach Spo Gives Back, Brings Community to Nicklaus Children's with Inaugural 5K

Topping off the 2024 holiday season was Coach Spo's 5K benefiting the kids at Nicklaus Children's and the Miami HEAT Charitable Fund. On December 22, 2024, nearly 850 members of the South Florida community gathered at Nicklaus Children's Hospital for the walk/run, attended by special guests including Coach Erik Spoelstra, current and former Miami HEAT players, and Santa Claus, cheering on race participants who traversed a course starting and finishing at the hospital in support of Nicklaus Children's patients and families. As a perfect way to wrap the day, Nicklaus Children's patients received special holiday visits from Coach Spo and HEAT legend Bam Adebayo.





# National Recognition for Our Children's Miracle Network Team

After a record-breaking fundraising year that brought in \$4.7 million through community and corporate sponsorships, the Foundation's Children's Miracle Network (CMN) team was named "CMN Foundation Team of the Year" at the CMN National Fundraising Forum, among teams from 170 children's hospitals from the U.S. and Canada.

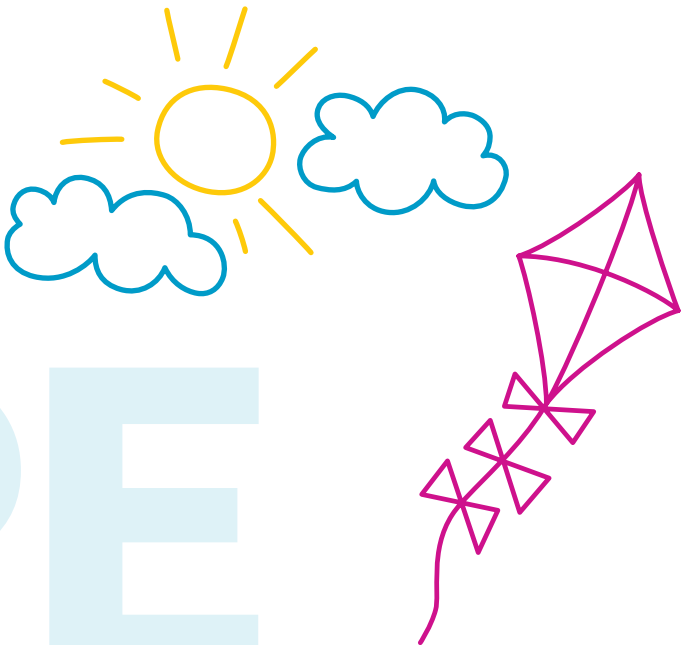


Nicklaus Children's patients enjoy Children's Miracle Network events celebrating the Lunar New Year and Halloween with fun activities and games.



Nicklaus  
Children's  
Hospital

a member of  
Children's Miracle Network Hospitals



HOPE

# Philanthropic Support Makes Our Mission Possible

## Total Raised in 2024: \$43M

Through the generosity of our supporters, Nicklaus Children's Hospital Foundation raised more than **\$43 million** in 2024. Together, we care for Nicklaus Children's patients, push clinical discoveries, and develop new innovative treatments.

### Record-breaking results:

- ♥ \$6.9M raised at 17<sup>th</sup> annual Diamond Ball Gala, "Dream With Us: *Forward for Generations*."
- ♥ The public launch of our historic \$200M *Forward for Generations* Campaign.
- ♥ Over 46% increase in employee giving.
- ♥ Nicklaus Children's Young Ambassadors (NCYA) group raised \$150K at their 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Fashion Gives Back event.
- ♥ Peer-to-peer fundraising success from community members and supporters like the grateful patient family who started The Little Piggy Fund in honor of their daughter India and exceeded their 2024 \$100K fundraising goal.
- ♥ With more than \$81K raised by 224 donors, Give Miami Day yielded a 22% increase in revenue, 35% increase in donations, and more than 30% increase in total donors over 2023.
- ♥ Spread Joy Toy Drive collected more than \$825K in toys for our patients and families, one of the largest hauls in the event's history.







Dr. Marisa Azaret, director of clinical psychology at Nicklaus Children's and co-chair of the Digital Safety Alliance advisory board, introduces the Teen Advisory Council for a panel on the impact of social media at a Safe+Sound event.

## Safe+Sound: Leading the Way in Digital Safety for Kids

The health and safety of children in the digital world is one of the biggest concerns among today's parents. With research pointing to a correlation between internet and social media access and an increase in children's suicidal thoughts, depression, and other health-related concerns, Nicklaus Children's rolled up its sleeves to help in 2024.

In January, the health system collaborated with the Digital Safety Alliance to launch Safe+Sound, a national campaign to promote awareness of the risks associated with digital access and provide tools to help parents create a safer world for children online.

The multimedia campaign included two media events that garnered national and international coverage, with a combined potential audience reach of nearly five million, as well as social media posts, monthly blogs, and collaborations with organizations offering technological and instructional solutions to promote children's safety online.

To access the full array of Safe+Sound resources, including parent guides, expert blogs, and information on the latest safety technology, visit [nicklauschildrens.org/safesound](https://nicklauschildrens.org/safesound)



## Nicklaus Children's Launches Ortho-Oncology Program

In 2024, the Nicklaus Children's Hospital Orthopedic, Sports Medicine & Spine Institute welcomed Dr. Thomas Utset-Ward, a pediatric orthopedic surgeon focused on pediatric orthopedic oncology. He specializes in the treatment of complex bone cancers such as sarcomas, as well as bone cysts and tumors, limb preservation and reconstruction, benign bone tumors, and joint replacement.

The Ortho-Oncology Program is a unique and highly specialized orthopedics program. Our orthopedic oncologists work closely with clinicians from Nicklaus Children's Shaham Cancer & Blood Disorders Institute and a variety of other specialists in multiple disciplines to provide children with comprehensive care.

The team focuses on the preservation of limbs after bone cancer treatment whenever possible, as well as reconstruction options when necessary. Orthopedic oncologists are also integral in helping children rehabilitate after bone cancer or bone tumor treatment. The program is one of a few in the region to utilize oncological prostheses for limb salvage that make it possible for a child's leg to grow through a series of nonsurgical adjustments, eliminating the need for future leg-lengthening surgeries. The department also coordinates rehabilitative care following cancer surgery.







INNOVATION



# A LEGACY OF TEACHING EXCELLENCE

The largest pediatric residency training program in the Southeastern United States continues to grow.



**86** Pediatric residents



**10** Pediatric dentistry residents



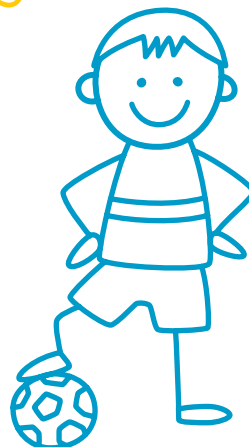
**40** Subspecialty fellows



**3** Pediatric pharmacy residents



**7** Child psychology interns and fellows







## Nicklaus Children's Hospital Ranks in Top 1 Percent of U.S. Hospitals to Achieve Fifth Consecutive Magnet® Recognition

Nicklaus Children's Hospital attained Magnet recognition by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Magnet Recognition Program® for the fifth consecutive term in 2024. Nicklaus Children's is one of only five children's hospitals in the nation to have received a fifth Magnet designation and joined the ranks of only one percent of hospitals nationwide that have attained this fifth-term Magnet milestone. What's more, only 9.7 percent of hospitals in the United States currently hold Magnet recognition status, and only one percent of those are pediatric hospitals.



The Magnet recognition program distinguishes healthcare organizations that meet rigorous standards for nursing excellence and is the highest and most regarded honor an organization can receive for professional nursing practice. Nicklaus Children's was the first pediatric hospital in Florida and the fifth pediatric hospital in the nation to achieve ANCC Magnet designation in 2004.

# OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE





## Nicklaus Children's Commitment to Safety for All

At Nicklaus Children's, safety is our promise—not just for our patients but also for families, staff, and the entire community. In 2024, we elevated this commitment by launching our "Safety for All" integrated safety and quality framework, designed to prevent harm to patients, staff, and visitors. Through this initiative, teams across the health system collaborate to continuously improve workflows and implement processes focused on achieving numerous quality improvement milestones. Due to our focused efforts in 2024, we experienced a significant reduction in preventable safety incidents and a decrease in already rare healthcare-acquired infections. "Our unwavering dedication to providing high-quality care has led to continuous improvements in patient and staff safety, operational efficiency, and better overall outcomes," said Randy Harmatz Matott, VP and Chief Quality Officer of Nicklaus Children's Health System. "We will continue to build our legacy of safety and healing to better serve the children and families in our community and beyond."



## Nicklaus Children's Advances Access and Outcomes for Patients with Online Scheduling

Nicklaus Children's proudly announced online scheduling in 2024 to revolutionize accessibility and convenience for children and families in South Florida. Families now have the option to self-schedule appointments with board-certified specialists and primary care providers. The benefit of this new service includes searching by location, clinician or pediatric specialty (if known), as well as by condition, diagnosis, or treatment. With the platform's bilingual capabilities, language barriers for families searching and scheduling their next appointment are reduced.

The care access platform also allows Nicklaus Children's to enhance capacity utilization, strategically routing patients to advanced practice practitioners for efficient care while reducing wait times. Other benefits of the platform include tracking engagement and behavioral insights to improve care journeys. In the first three months, the platform helped families complete 36,742 searches to find the right provider at Nicklaus Children's.

Today's parents value quality and ease of access. Through this initiative, Nicklaus Children's significantly advanced healthcare accessibility and convenience for families and referring clinicians in the community.



# NATIONAL RECOGNITION



## Ranked "Most Loved Workplace" for the Third Consecutive Year

Newsweek once again named Nicklaus Children's Health System one of America's Top Most Loved Workplaces®. The health system was also recognized for being a Top Most Loved Workplace for Parents and Caregivers, a Top Most Loved Workplace for Career Advancement, as well as a Top Most Loved Workplace for Wellness. With the list expanding to highlight 200 organizations, the results were determined after surveying more than 2.6 million employees from businesses with workforces varying in size from less than 50 to more than 10,000. Recognized organizations put respect, caring, and appreciation for their employees at the center of their business model and, in doing so, have earned the loyalty and respect of the people who work for them.



## Gold Level Recognition by the AHA for Promoting Healthy Work Culture

The American Heart Association, a global force for longer, healthier lives for all, has awarded Nicklaus Children's Health System Gold Level recognition in the 2024 Well-being Works Better™ Scorecard, representing a notable commitment to the health of its workforce and community. Organizations can earn a recognition level of Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum based on their adherence to the Association's science-backed recommended practices in areas such as health equity, burnout prevention, compensation and benefits, and more. The hospital achieved Gold Level recognition in only its second year of participation in the Scorecard initiative, excelling in communications, engagement, community partnerships, advocacy, health equity, and organizational well-being.



## Earned 2024 Leapfrog Top Hospital Award for Outstanding Quality and Safety

For the third consecutive year, Nicklaus Children's Hospital was named a Top Children's Hospital by The Leapfrog Group, a national organization of employers and other purchasers known as the toughest standard-setters for healthcare safety and quality. The Leapfrog Top Hospital Award is widely acknowledged as one of the most competitive awards American hospitals can receive. Nearly 2,400 hospitals were considered for the award this year. Among those, Nicklaus Children's is one of only eight hospitals to achieve a Top Children's distinction.



# Recognized Once Again Among Nation’s Best Children’s Hospitals by U.S. News & World Report

Paving the way for advanced pediatric care in Florida, five of Nicklaus Children’s Hospital’s specialty programs ranked in the top 50 among the nation’s best by U.S. News & World Report in its 2024-2025 “Best Children’s Hospitals” survey results.



Only ranked program in South Florida.



No other program in Florida is ranked higher.

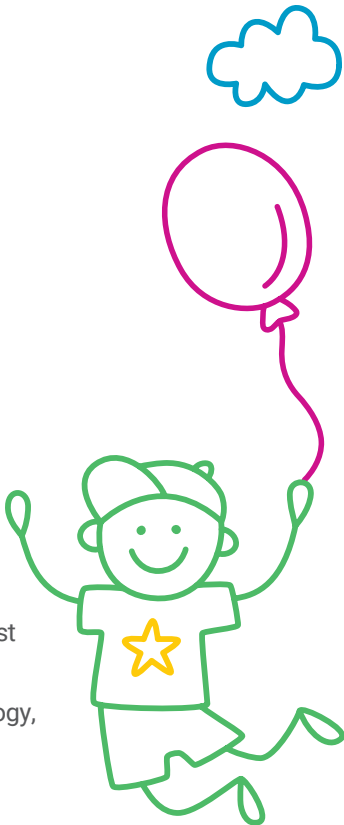


Only ranked program in South Florida.



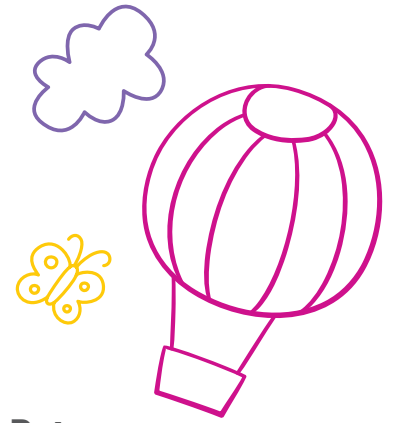
## Among Newsweek’s Best Children’s Hospitals

Nicklaus Children’s Hospital was included in Newsweek’s list of America’s Best Children’s Hospitals 2024. Nicklaus Children’s was recognized with the most programs ranked within the state of Florida with distinctions in gastroenterology, neonatology, neurology, and endocrinology.



## Gold Certification for Commitment to Infant Safe Sleep

Nicklaus Children's Hospital was recognized by the National Safe Sleep Hospital as a "gold certified" hospital for its commitment to best practices and education on infant safe sleep. Created by Cribs for Kids®, a national infant safe sleep organization, The National Safe Sleep Hospital Certification Program is dedicated to preventing infant sleep-related deaths due to sudden unexpected infant death (SUID) and accidental suffocation. As a leader in providing pediatric care across the state of Florida, Nicklaus Children's is continuously educating parents and guardians on safe sleep practices for infants, and this recognition is a testament to our commitment of promoting the importance of sleep safety to our patient families and staff while creating a lasting impact throughout our community.



## Recognition for Commitment to Improving Cardiac Arrest Survival Rates

Nicklaus Children's Hospital has again earned the prestigious American Heart Association's "Get With the Guidelines®" Resuscitation Gold award for its unwavering commitment to treating in-hospital cardiac arrest incidents, ultimately helping to improve survival rates. The Get With the Guidelines - Resuscitation program was developed to help save the lives of patients who experience in-hospital cardiac arrests by consistently following the most up-to-date research-based guidelines for treatment as outlined by the American Heart Association. Guidelines include following protocols for patient safety, medical emergency team response, effective and timely resuscitation (CPR), and post-resuscitation care. Recipients of this award have implemented best practices to ensure the care provided to patients is aligned with the latest guidelines.

## Craniofacial Center Recognized as an ACPA-Approved Team

A team of physicians and care providers who specialize in serving patients with cleft lip, cleft palate, and other craniofacial disorders at the Nicklaus Children's Hospital's Craniofacial Center has earned "Craniofacial Team Approval" from the American Cleft Palate Craniofacial Association (ACPA). The Craniofacial Center team is one of 200 Approved Teams in the U.S. and Canada that have been recognized for meeting the Standards of Team Care for Cleft and Craniofacial Teams. The ACPA Team Approval process ensures that cleft and craniofacial care is provided in a coordinated and consistent manner, follows the proper sequence, and takes place within the framework of the patient's overall developmental, medical, and psychological needs. The ACPA also recertified the Craniofacial Center as a "Cross-Specialty Team." Nicklaus Children's Craniofacial Center is one of Florida's leading specialty centers for children with craniofacial disorders.

## Recognition for Digital Excellence

Nicklaus Children's Hospital was recognized by the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME) with a Level 9 achievement for the Acute survey selection and, for the second year in a row, Ambulatory survey selection. Among the almost 48,000 facilities represented, Nicklaus Children's Hospital ranked above peers in critical categories such as analytics and data management, population health, infrastructure, and patient engagement. "Receiving recognition from CHIME for the eighth consecutive year speaks to Nicklaus Children's advancements and commitment to providing digital health excellence," said Dr. David Seo, Senior Vice President and Chief Digital and Information Officer. "As healthcare continues to be revolutionized through technology, we're proud to be trailblazers using technology to enhance the expert pediatric care we deliver to the children and families we serve for years to come."

## 70 Nicklaus Children's Physicians Named 2024 Top Doctors

Nicklaus Children's demonstrated in 2024 that your child truly matters most, with 70 physicians on its medical staff honored on Castle Connolly's 2024 Top Doctors list. From neurosurgeons to orthopedic surgeons, cardiologists, endocrinologists, and gastroenterologists, these accolades encompassed almost all of Nicklaus Children's specialty areas. For more than 30 years, Castle Connolly, a leading research and information resource, has identified top doctors through a peer-nomination process that recognizes the top 7 percent of physicians in the U.S. as best-in-class for excellence in medicine, while also setting the standard for compassionate care.

# ACHIEVEMENT



# COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

## First Florida Hospital to Support Food Rescue US

Each year, the hospital serves more than 240,000 inpatient meals and snacks and 1.128 million cafeteria meals/snacks for patient families and employees. In 2024, the hospital food service team began earmarking food for rescue and coordinates twice-weekly handoffs to Food Rescue US, a nonprofit organization dedicated to collecting rescued food and providing it to families with food insecurities. Nicklaus Children's is the first hospital in Florida to support the vital mission of Food Rescue US.



## Miami-Dade Schools Reach 100 Percent Heart Safe through Project Adam Training Program

Nicklaus Children's Heart Institute is leading a community initiative, Project ADAM, aimed at preventing sudden cardiac death, a leading cause of death among adults and children nationwide. Since becoming an affiliate of Project ADAM in 2022, Nicklaus Children's has trained school faculty at participating schools on how to perform CPR, use automated external defibrillators (AED), and develop a site-specific response plan. As of April 2024, 100 percent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools are Heart Safe recognized as well as an array of private and charter schools in Miami-Dade and Broward counties.

## Celebrating 40 Years of Epilepsy Surgery Innovation

Nicklaus Children's Hospital's Brain Institute celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Epilepsy Surgery Program in March with a patient reunion at Zoo Miami. The fun-filled event was attended by nearly 200 former patients and their family members as well as clinical and support staff. Since its inception, the program has performed over 1,600 surgeries for children with epilepsy. The program continues its commitment to providing the latest and most comprehensive care options to offer patients and families the best chance of achieving seizure freedom. Current techniques include laser and focused beam ultrasound to ablate epileptic areas of the brain that are difficult to reach. Neuromodulation, including Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS), and Responsive Neuro Stimulator (RNS) implants are also utilized to detect and stop seizures.

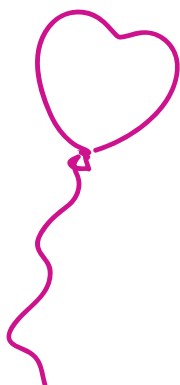
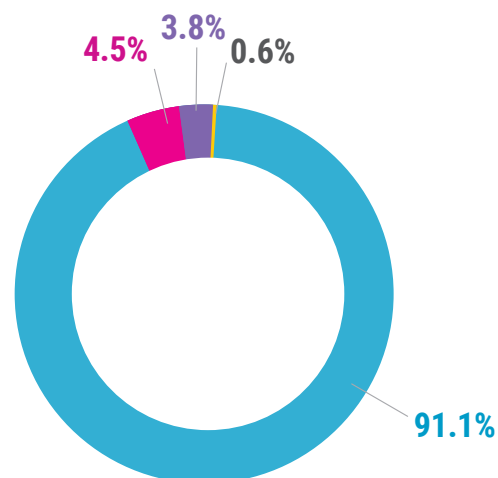


# STRONG FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



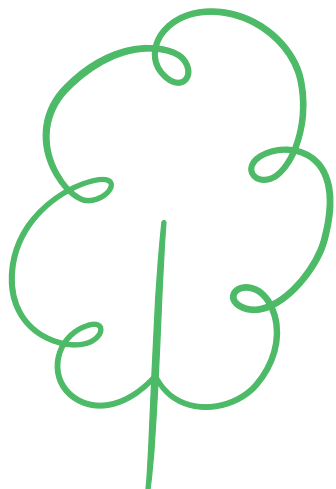
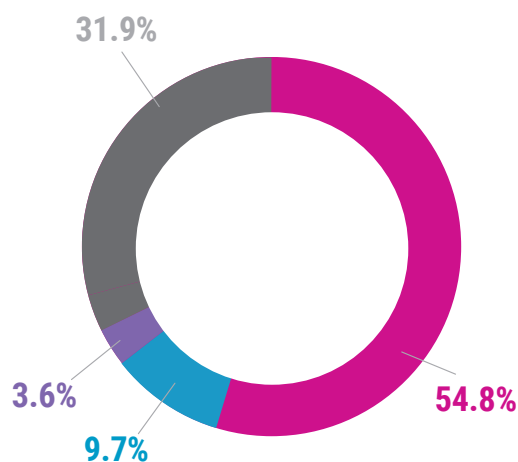
## REVENUE

- Net patient service revenue
- Grants & other revenue
- Investment income and realized gains (losses)
- Net assets released from retrictions used for operations



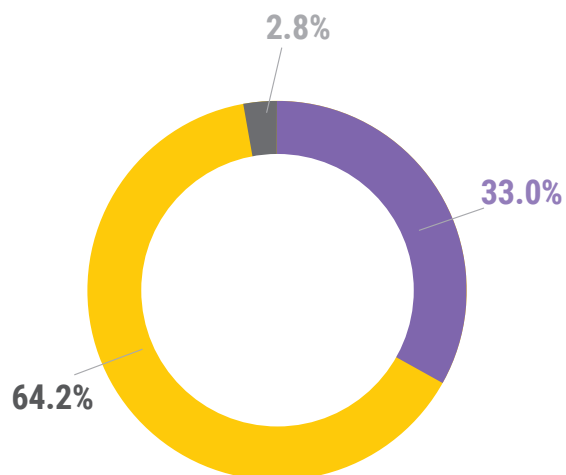
## EXPENSES

- Salaries & benefits
- Supplies, net of rebates
- Depreciation and amortization
- Other operating expenses



## PAYOR MIX

- Commercial
- Medicaid and Other Govt
- Self Pay





## STATISTICAL DATA



**60,426**

Total inpatient days



**18,073**

Total admissions  
and observations



**189**

Average daily census



**92,765**

Total ER visits (main campus)



**444,667**

Outpatient visits



**970,763**

Physician visits



**16,248**

Total surgical cases



**5.6**

Average length of stay (days)



**325**

Licensed beds



**30,296**

Telehealth visits



**4 out of 5**

Children living in Miami-Dade county  
visited a Nicklaus Children's location  
for care\*

## BENEFITTING SOUTH FLORIDA



**4,735**

Number of employees



**86**

Number of pediatric residents\*\*



**40**

Number of subspecialty  
fellows



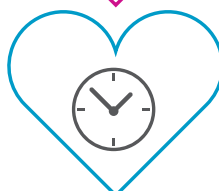
**1,385**

Nursing students who  
received pediatric training  
at Nicklaus Children's



**15**

Nurse scholars at FIU and MDC  
awarded full scholarships to  
train at Nicklaus Children's



**4,724**

Hours of staff participation  
in Community Connect  
events\*\*\*

## Fitch, S&P Affirm, Upgrade Nicklaus Children's Bond Ratings



Nicklaus Children's Health System received an upgraded AA- bond rating with a Stable outlook from Fitch Ratings and a reaffirmed A rating with an improved Positive outlook from Standard & Poor's in 2024. The rating agencies recognized Nicklaus Children's as the premier pediatric hospital in South Florida and for its leading and growing market share, expanding ambulatory footprint, and growing hospital affiliations in the region.

\*visits over the last three years

\*\* largest number of pediatric residents in the Southeast

\*\*\* community events for which the health system provides paid time off for staff participation

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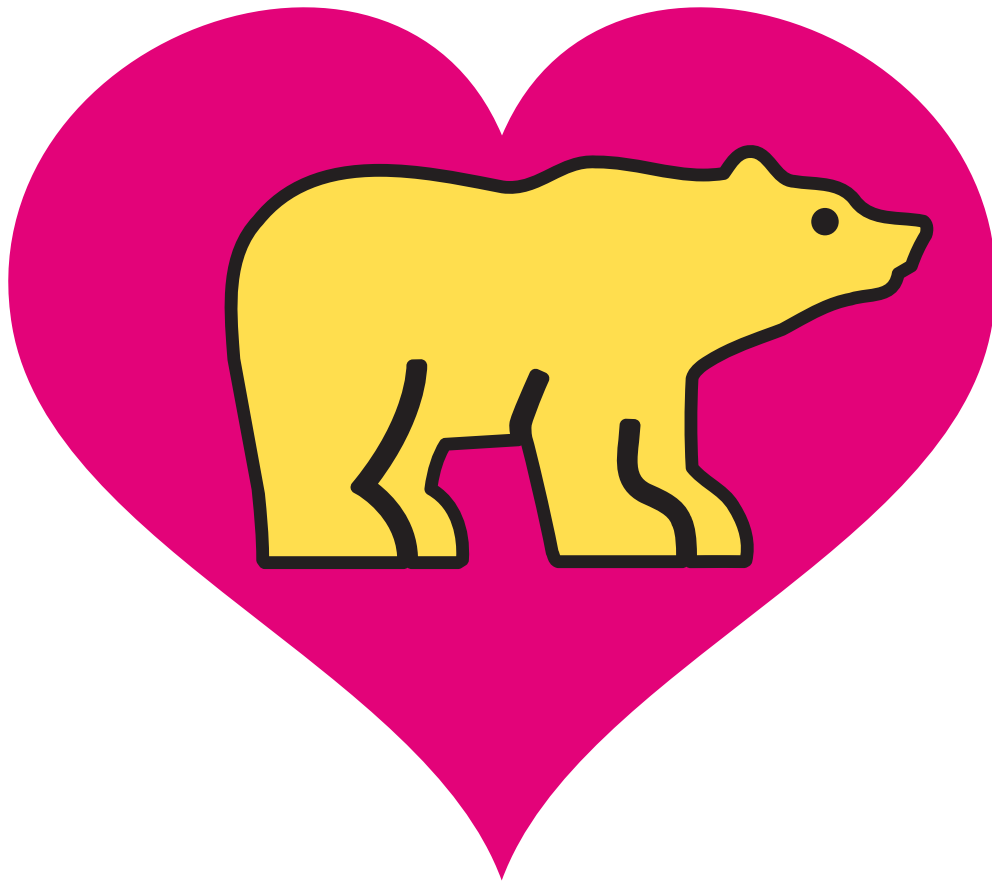
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**Nicklauschildrens.org**