



MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

TURNING CRISIS INTO CATHARSIS

One in every five children suffers from a mental health condition. That's more than 150,000 children in Orange County alone.

To combat these statistics, CHOC Children's, in partnership with committed organizations and community groups, has created an outstanding mental health system of care for children, teens and young adults throughout Orange County.

The flagship program of this initiative is our new Mental Health Inpatient Center, which opened in April 2018 and serves children ages three to 17. The Center is the first of its kind in Southern California to accommodate children under 12 years old, and in its first year has already served over 600 children in need of specialized care.

The mental health initiative is changing the way mental health is treated in all aspects of care. With an early intervention after school program, a co-occurring clinic, a young child clinic and regular screenings for every patient who comes through our emergency department, CHOC prioritizes both the physical and mental well-being of children.

As a non-profit hospital, CHOC relies on community support to continue providing these vital services. Together, we can offer urgently needed mental health services to patients and families during the most difficult time in their lives.



GROUNDBREAKING PRACTICES

While most pediatric mental health units prescribe visiting times for parents that range from 15 minutes to an hour a day, our Center welcomes families 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Parents are thankful they can spend nights at our Inpatient Center with their child.

At CHOC Children's, we have found that teaching coping skills to children is significantly more effective when we integrate the family into the education process. Our specialists include families in therapy sessions and guide them through crisis situations to ensure they know how to utilize de-escalation techniques with their children.

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CHILD LIFE

HELPING KIDS STAY KIDS

Hospitalization can be stressful and scary, especially for children and adolescents. These fears may disrupt the essential healing that they need. To counteract these potential issues, CHOC Children's helps our patients normalize their hospital stay through our child life program.

The Cherese Mari Laulhere Child Life Department at CHOC provides patients and their families with age-appropriate support to help minimize their anxiety and help them understand diagnoses and medical treatments. Pre-surgery preparation, sibling support, grief education and therapeutic medical play are just a few of the many ways that child life comforts and strengthens the whole family through the treatment process. Child life also offers special programs like music therapy, pet therapy and entertainment from Seacrest Studios that can ease painful medical procedures with memorable, one-of-a-kind experiences.

Since CHOC is a nonprofit hospital, the fact that most of these programs are uncompensated by insurance means that we rely on community support to give our patients the emotional and social support they need. From bedside playtime to group support activities and more, philanthropy allows us to encourage each patient and family to stay positive and engaged with the healing process.



TURTLE TALK WITH CRUSH

Turtle Talk with Crush airs twice daily in the Disneyland Resort® lobby for children and families who may not otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy a Disneyland Attraction.

Similar to the show of the same name in Disney California Adventure® Park, Turtle Talk allows patients to interact and play with their favorite "Finding Nemo" characters through advanced computer graphic techniques, image projection and clever improvisation. Approximately 238,000 patients have enjoyed the show at CHOC thus far.

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RESEARCH INSTITUTE

FROM LABORATORY TO BEDSIDE

At CHOC Children's, we understand the life-saving power of innovative research. That's why our Research Institute has over 350 studies in more than 30 specialties to provide children with access to leading-edge treatments. Our scientists translate the latest advances in clinical trials to bring hope to patients with rare conditions or conditions not responding to traditional treatments.

Centers at the Research Institute include our Center for Genetic & Molecular Research, Center for Neuroscience Research and Center for Clinical Research, among others. Across all centers, CHOC puts patient needs first.

CHOC continues to be on the forefront of conducting clinical trials with investigational drug treatments for children who desperately need them and for whom other therapies have failed. For example, CHOC is one of only four hospitals in the Southern California region that administers the novel drug Spinraza to children affected with spinal muscular atrophy. CHOC is also one of just three institutions in California that participates in the Children's Oncology Group Phase I Consortium. Access to these trials enables our patients to receive the very latest research-based treatments before they become available in most other hospitals in the country.



CHANGING LIVES WITH RESEARCH

CHOC Children's physicians, staff and parents teamed up to bring a promising drug called Brineura to our hospital to fight Batten disease, a rare disease of the nervous system.

Today, CHOC Children's is the largest center in the United States and the second largest center in the world treating Batten disease with this breakthrough drug.

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KidsCARE

BECAUSE ALL CHILDREN DESERVE THE BEST CARE

KidsCARE, which stands for clinical care, advancement, research and education, is CHOC Children's unrestricted fund. Support for KidsCARE gives our care teams the ability to respond to immediate or unexpected needs of the patients we serve.

Gifts to KidsCARE help CHOC:

- offer food vouchers to families whose finances and time are overwhelmed by their child's medical stay.
- provide bus passes for guardians who may not have access to transportation they need to take their children to critical appointments.
- respond to distant and delicate emergencies with CHOCI, our very own in-hospital helicopter.
- assist families with financial relief and insurance planning, ensuring that the care and equipment their child needs are covered.

With the generosity of our supporters, CHOC has the opportunity and the flexibility to give every patient their best chance to heal.



MAKING FAMILIES STRONGER

With community funding, our team offers essential non-reimbursable care to families in need. We help parents navigate the insurance and healthcare systems, alleviating stress and reaching the best outcomes possible for each child.

By assisting the family every step along their care journey, we give them the opportunity to focus solely on their child's well-being.

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YOUR GENEROSITY SUPPORTS



Transport Helicopter

The only helicopter based out of a hospital in Southern California, CHOC1 is equipped with life-saving technology to begin treatment as early as possible.



220,000+ Children

We are proud to serve over 220,000 children at CHOC every year, regardless of their family's ability to pay.



Autism Support

We have begun construction on the Thompson Autism Center, which will provide comprehensive care to families facing autism spectrum disorder (set to open later this year!).



Mental Health

This year, we served nearly 600 children at our mental health inpatient center and implemented a suicide prevention program that has changed the lives of over 300 children.



Immediate Care

Our transport team continues to be one of the busiest in the country, traveling over 100,000 miles in 2018 to bring nearly 4,200 patients to CHOC so they could receive immediate care.



Music That Heals

We provided over 2,500 music therapy sessions this year, helping our young patients express themselves and find healing through music.



Care for All

This year, CHOC offered over \$52 million in uncompensated care, protecting children's health regardless of their family's ability to pay.



Preemie Health

This year, we treated 25 percent more newborns than last year at our recently expanded neonatal intensive care unit.



Transformative Research

We became one of the first hospitals in the US to use the breakthrough drug Brineura to fight Batten disease, a rare disease of the nervous system.

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