



Forward For Generations

2023 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



**Nicklaus Children's
Health System**

Where Your Child Matters Most™

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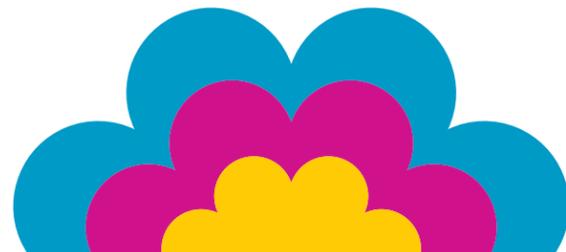
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♥ MISSION:

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





Dear Friends,

For generations. That's how long Nicklaus Children's has served the South Florida community and beyond. Since our founding in 1950 and through the decades to follow, enduringly, we have been the place where children matter most: the region's only freestanding children's hospital.

Even as we provide care for half a million children annually – offering nearly every pediatric specialty and the latest innovative therapies – we continuously reach forward to ensure that we are ready to serve generations to come.

Our 2023 momentum included many new initiatives. A Nicklaus Children's pilot study to assess the impact of rapid whole genome sequencing for critically ill children led to Florida Medicaid funding this innovative testing for undiagnosed children. This is supporting faster diagnoses and more targeted care for children right now, across South Florida.

We opened an Undiagnosed Disease Clinic to help provide answers for families on a diagnostic odyssey and we were the first in Florida to offer new treatments for Duchenne muscular dystrophy and anterior cruciate ligament tears as part of our commitment to bringing leading-edge care to the children we serve.

In our role as the South Florida affiliate of Project ADAM, we trained hundreds of area schools in how to respond to sudden cardiac arrest events. This positioned us to complete training for 100 percent of eligible schools in Miami-Dade County Public Schools in the first half of 2024. As a result of this initiative, three South Florida lives were saved in 2023 by Project Adam-trained school staff, including two teens and an adult.

I hope you will take a moment to review our many 2023 initiatives, as well as patient stories that illustrate the lifesaving and life-enhancing ways we support the children of South Florida and beyond. Our achievements would not have been possible without the commitment and leadership of our Nicklaus Children's family – physicians, clinical and support teams, donors, board members, and the patients and families who look to us for care and support.

Many exciting developments are underway in 2024 that will move Nicklaus Children's *Forward For Generations!* We look forward to sharing more information soon, and collaborating to support healthy tomorrows for the children of our region and beyond.

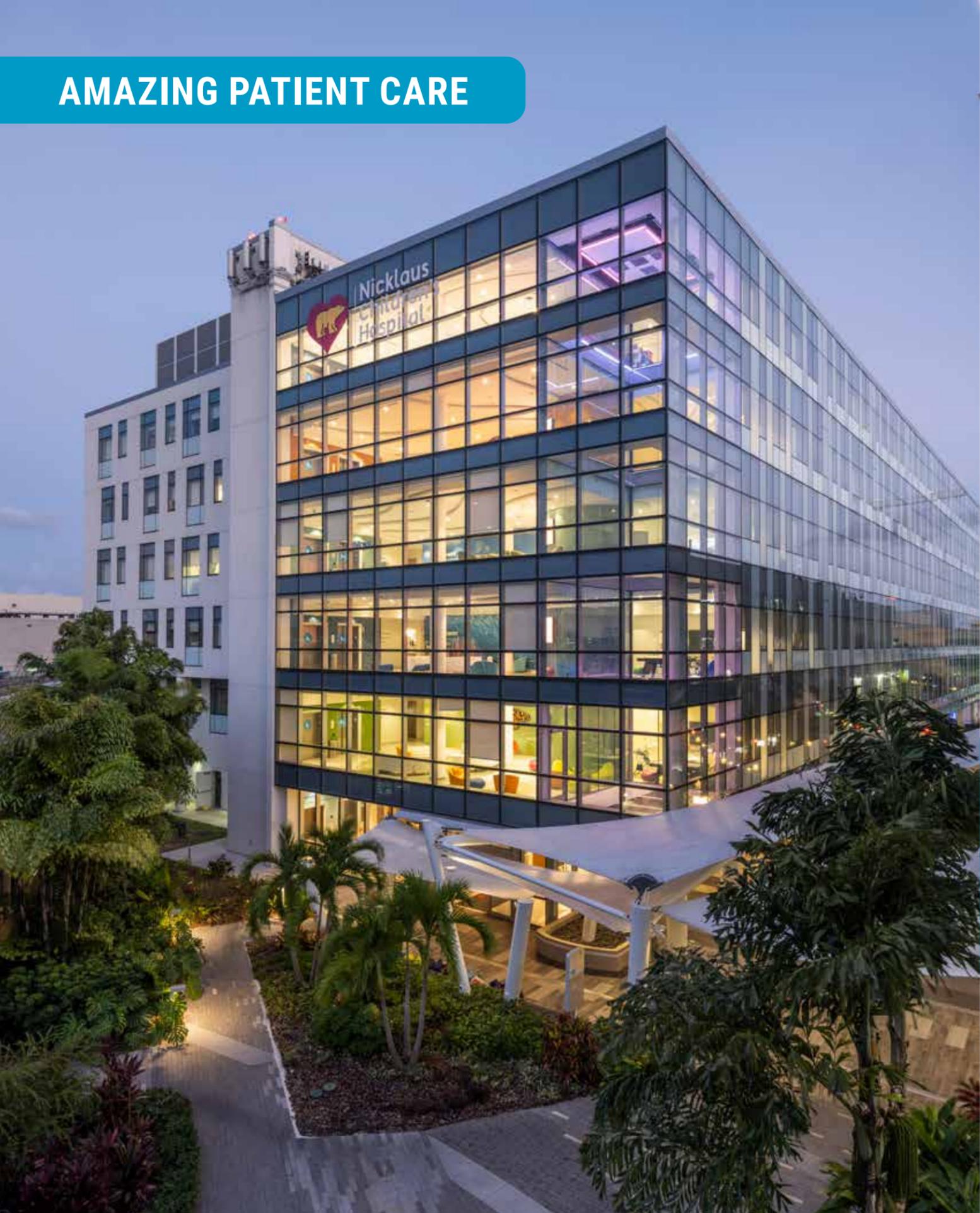
Sincerely,



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



AMAZING PATIENT CARE



RANKED AMONG THE NATION'S BEST

Five Nicklaus Children's Hospital specialty programs were again identified among the nation's best by *U.S. News & World Report* in its 2023-2024 "Best Children's Hospitals" survey results. No other hospital in South Florida has more ranked programs.

Nicklaus Children's was recognized in the following specialties:

- ✦ Cardiology and Heart Surgery
- ✦ Neonatology
- ✦ Neurology and Neurosurgery
- ✦ Orthopedics
- ✦ Pulmonology

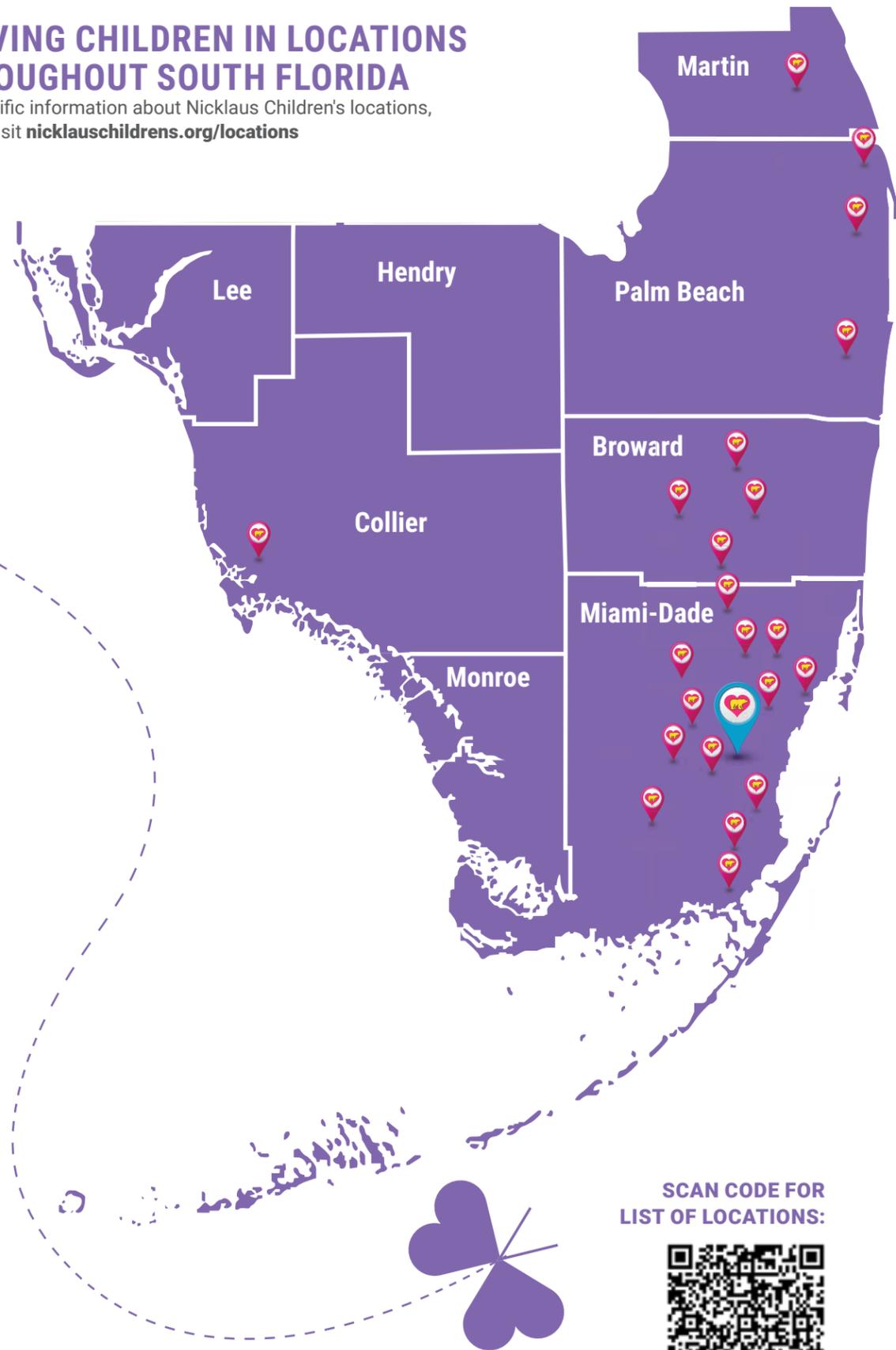


"It is always a tremendous honor to be recognized for the excellence of our pediatric specialty programs," said Matthew A. Love, President and CEO of Nicklaus Children's Health System. "For those we serve, it means that families don't need to travel far from home to receive amazing pediatric care, furthering our promise that Nicklaus Children's is the hospital where your child matters most™."



SERVING CHILDREN IN LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT SOUTH FLORIDA

For specific information about Nicklaus Children's locations, please visit nicklauschildrens.org/locations



SCAN CODE FOR LIST OF LOCATIONS:



Denotes a Nicklaus Children's location.

EXPANDING A HEART-SAVING MISSION – AND SAVING LIVES!

Nicklaus Children's Heart Institute is leading our community forward in preventing sudden cardiac death, a common cause of death among adults and children nationwide. By the end of 2023, institute team members had provided training to address sudden cardiac arrest events for staff at 291 schools, including many within the Miami-Dade County Public Schools system, as well as private and charter schools in Miami-Dade and Broward counties. By the first half of 2024, all eligible Miami-Dade public schools had received the training.

The effort is paying off and saving lives. In 2023, two students and an adult were resuscitated by school staff trained by the Heart Institute's Project ADAM team members.

Nicklaus Children's Heart Institute, a regional leader in the care of children with congenital heart defects, is proud to be the local affiliate of Project ADAM, an organization dedicated to offering life-saving training to counter sudden cardiac arrest.

Staff at participating schools learn how to perform CPR, use automated external defibrillators and develop a site-specific response plan. Upon completion, participating schools receive a two-year Project ADAM certification and commit to performing monthly drills.

Project ADAM at Nicklaus Children's receives support from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation and the Coral Gables Community Foundation.

To learn more and become a Project ADAM-certified facility, visit nicklauschildrens.org/ProjectADAM



291 Number of schools Project ADAM designated through 2023



NEW CLINIC OFFERS HOPE FOR FAMILIES ON A 'DIAGNOSTIC ODYSSEY'

For some families of children with rare diseases, the search for a diagnosis can be a prolonged and frustrating experience. Many have found themselves on a "diagnostic odyssey," visiting multiple specialists in search of answers.

In 2023, Nicklaus Children's opened its Undiagnosed Disease Clinic in the Precision Medicine Center, offering new hope to families in search of answers. The clinical team has access to the latest genetic testing options, including many that are not commonly available, such as rapid whole genome sequencing (rWGS). The Undiagnosed Disease Clinic helped 237 children in 2023.

Also in 2023, thanks in large part to research conducted by Nicklaus Children's in collaboration with the Sanford Children's Genomic Medicine Consortium, Florida Medicaid began funding rWGS for critically ill children with unknown diagnoses who are receiving care in intensive care units. This means more families now have access to this vital tool, which can identify diagnoses and potential treatments.

For more information, please visit nicklauschildrens.org/UDC

 **20,000 - 25,000**
Genes that can be assessed through advanced testing



 **60%** Reduction in perception of pain associated with use of Smileyscope

MAKING NEEDLE STICKS MORE KID FRIENDLY

For patients in Nicklaus Children's Emergency Department, blood draws and injections are now mostly stress free. How? In 2023 the hospital introduced Smileyscope, a virtual reality therapeutic device to soothe kids during such procedures.

"Needle procedures can be very stressful for children of all ages," said Dr. Vincenzo Maniaci, Medical Director of the Nicklaus Children's Emergency Department. "The Smileyscope virtual reality (VR) tool supports our emergency clinicians in providing the artful distraction that is so beneficial to children during such procedures. Families can request VR support to reduce their child's discomfort and anxiety."

One of the most requested VR experiences sought by children is Smileyscope's underwater adventure, featuring images of waves washing over the injection site and a fish nibbling on the child's arm during the injection. Clinical trials have shown this VR program can safely and effectively reduce pediatric needle pain by up to 60 percent and anxiety by 40 percent, allowing for a more comfortable and positive patient experience. The use of Smileyscope is supported in part by the Hecktman Family Foundation.

HELPING TEENS ON THE SPECTRUM MOVE FORWARD BEHIND THE WHEEL

Securing a driver's license – a rite of passage for many teens and young adults – can seem out of reach for many on the autism spectrum. Anxiety associated with taking the driver's test can pose a barrier for neurodivergent youth.

As part of its commitment to supporting neurodiverse children and teens on their life journey, Nicklaus Children's Hospital launched a virtual reality program aimed at helping prepare eligible students to take their driving exams.

"The DRIVE Program uses fully immersive virtual reality technology to provide students with an experience that simulates a driving exam," said Dr. David Seo, Senior Vice President and Chief Information and Digital Officer for Nicklaus Children's Health System. "Students receive immediate feedback related to various driving scenarios in which they participate through a computer-simulated instructor."

In addition, a trained behavioral analyst helps guide students through each scenario while monitoring student stress and anxiety levels. Students work with the behavioral analyst to learn the rules of the road through a tailored course curriculum. The program was launched with support from The Taft Foundation.

For more information, visit nicklaushealth.org/DRIVE





Dr. Migvis Monduy, with Jacob, a patient receiving treatment for Duchenne muscular dystrophy at Nicklaus Children's.

BREAKTHROUGH TREATMENT FOR DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

Nicklaus Children's Hospital became one of the first in the nation and only the second hospital in Florida to offer a newly approved gene therapy for Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD). Nicklaus Children's Brain Institute offers Sarepta Therapeutics ELEVADYS, which is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for treatment of DMD in ambulatory pediatric patients ages 4 to 5. Two patients received the treatment in 2023.

"At Nicklaus Children's we always seek the latest, emerging treatments to support children with complex disorders," said Dr. Migvis Monduy, Medical Director of the Neuromuscular and Movement Disorders Program. "It is our hope this treatment will delay or halt the progression of DMD for eligible children, offering them brighter tomorrows. Our use of emerging treatments is one more reason why Nicklaus Children's is the hospital where children matter most™."

For more information, please visit nicklauschildrens.org/Brain or call 1-833-55BRAIN.

 **1 in 3,500** Incidence of DMD in newborn males



The Nicklaus Children's clinical team participating in a Phase I trial studying the role of low-frequency focused ultrasound in the care of children with a lethal type of brain tumor. Team members include (from left) Dr. Nolan Altman, Chief, Department of Radiology; Dr. Ziad Khatib, Interim Medical Director, Nicklaus Children's Shaham Cancer & Blood Disorders Institute; Dr. Toba Niazi, Co-Medical Director Nicklaus Children's Brain Institute; Dr. John Ragheb, Chief, Department of Surgery.

AMONG FIRST IN NORTH AMERICA TO STUDY NEW INVESTIGATIONAL TREATMENT

In 2023, Nicklaus Children's became one of three sites in North America taking part in a Phase I clinical trial studying the role of a new technology called low-frequency focused ultrasound in the care of children with a lethal type of brain tumor that forms in the brainstem. Physician scientists at Nicklaus Children's are hopeful that the addition of the focused ultrasound will help chemotherapy agents to better reach diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG) tumors by disrupting the blood-brain barrier that typically protects the brain from some agents in the bloodstream.

Nicklaus Children's is proud to be one of the largest providers of pediatric research in Florida, managing studies that bring potentially breakthrough treatments to children and families seeking new hope as they battle critical illness.

For more information, please contact DIPG.ClinicalTrial@nicklaushealth.org

NEW SURGICAL METHOD KEEPS KIDS MOVING FORWARD

Nicklaus Children's Orthopedic, Sports Medicine and Spine Institute became the first in South Florida to offer a breakthrough treatment for anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) tears in 2023. The BEAR® Implant is a medical advancement to enable the body to heal its own torn ACL, offering an alternative to the current standard of care – reconstruction that replaces the ACL with a graft – and appears to promote faster recovery. Since March 2023, the hospital has performed five BEAR implant procedures on patients ranging in age from 14 to 17.

Every year, approximately 400,000 ACL injuries occur in the U.S. The population group most affected by these injuries is adolescent females ages 15 to 20, followed by males of the same age. A torn ACL does not heal without treatment, resulting in ACL reconstruction being one of the most common orthopedic procedures in the U.S. "For eligible patients, there are a number of advantages to restoring a ligament instead of replacing it," said Dr. Craig Spurdle, Medical Director of the Orthopedic, Sports Medicine and Spine Institute.

For more information, please visit nicklauschildrens.org/SportsHealth or call 1-855-NCH-SPRT.

 **400,000** ACL injuries occur in the U.S. annually





ADAPTIVE CARE: FORWARD FOR CHILDREN WITH NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS

For children with neurodevelopmental delays and their families, a hospital stay can be challenging. Hospitalization separates neurodivergent children from the routines and predictability they typically find soothing. Unfamiliar people, places and equipment add to the discomfort.

To help create a better hospital experience for this patient population, Nicklaus Children's in 2023 founded its Adaptive Care Program. The care team works with the child and family to understand patient preferences, modify the environment when indicated, and plan response strategies for challenging behaviors. The program was made possible with generous support from The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation.

"The Adaptive Care Program is truly transforming the inpatient care experience for our patients who have communication and behavioral vulnerabilities, such as our neurodivergent children," said Jessica Thomas, Executive Director of Inpatient/Outpatient Rehabilitation Services. "It has been an honor to work alongside families and the many professionals who have helped develop this important program. As a result, our neurodivergent patients receive individualized care plans that create a hospital experience that is less stressful, not only for the child but for the entire family."

TWO DECADES OF ACCREDITATION LEADERSHIP

Nicklaus Children's Helen & Jacob Shaham Cancer & Blood Disorders Institute renewed its accreditation from the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT) in 2023, marking the 20th year that the hospital has been recognized by the nonprofit organization.

FACT is dedicated to optimizing healthcare cellular therapy practice through rigorous and comprehensive inspections of participating organizations.

"Nicklaus Children's Shaham Cancer & Blood Disorders Institute is committed to offering the highest level of care. Our voluntary participation with FACT and our longstanding accreditation ensures patients and families of our commitment to offering children the best possible, safest care," said Dr. Jorge Galvez Silva, Medical Director, Blood and Marrow Transplant Program.

Blood and marrow transplants are used in the treatment of a wide range of disorders in children, including malignant leukemias, lymphomas and neuroblastomas. The approach is also used in the treatment of non-malignant conditions, including sickle cell disease, metabolic storage disorders and more.



 **20** Years of FACT accreditation

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF THE NICKLAUS CHILDREN'S DAN MARINO OUTPATIENT CENTER



The Weston community came out to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Nicklaus Children's Dan Marino Outpatient Center in 2023 and what a day it was! The lively carnival-themed event was attended by Dan and Claire Marino and representatives of their Dan Marino Foundation, Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Broward County Vice Mayor Nan Rich, Weston Mayor Margaret Brown as well as patients and their families.

The Nicklaus Children's Dan Marino Outpatient Center provides comprehensive rehabilitation services offerings for infants, children and teens. Families from as far away as South America and Europe visit the center every year.

 **25** Years of serving children in Broward County

OUR STORIES



Patient stories offer glimpses into lives made better and challenges overcome thanks to Nicklaus Children's Hospital and devoted families dedicated to ensuring their children – and all children – receive the best care.

We hope you will take a moment to read about Jacob, Nicole, Kai and Candido and their individual healthcare journeys. Together with their care teams, they are the heroes of their own stories, forging a path forward to healthier lives and futures.



NEW HOPE FOR JACOB

Hope was in short supply for Jacob and his family after he was diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Duchenne is a rare, genetic disease characterized by progressive muscle damage and weakness that occurs in approximately one in every 3,500 newborn males worldwide. Those affected typically succumb to the disease in their 20s or 30s.

Thanks to a new treatment offered at only a few hospitals nationwide, Jacob, now age 6, was able to receive the first FDA-approved gene therapy for DMD at Nicklaus Children's in 2023.

Jacob's mother Erika said, "Being the first patient in South Florida to receive this treatment, and for everything to be a success has given me hope for his future."

LIFE-SAVING CARE FOR NICOLE

"My brain hurts, mommy." Tamara remembers vividly when her daughter, Nicole, now 11, began complaining of head pain. When the pain persisted, the family was referred to Nicklaus Children's for evaluation.

The clinical team at Nicklaus Children's quickly noted the child's eyes were swelling and ordered more testing, which revealed a malignant brain tumor requiring immediate neurosurgery. The family benefited from the collaborative care of the Nicklaus Children's Helen & Jacob Shaham Cancer & Blood Disorders Institute and the Nicklaus Children's Brain Institute, which together oversee the hospital's Neuro-Oncology Program.

Today, Nicole is thriving. "We are so very fortunate that we received the best cancer care imaginable for Nicole right here in our home community," said her mother, Tamara.



HELP FOR KAI, A NEXT-GENERATION HEART PATIENT

When Jackie and Rob received the news that their baby-to-be would be born with congenital heart defects, they knew exactly where to seek care. Having been diagnosed with a heart defect herself as a teenager, Jackie had undergone heart surgery years before at what was then known as Miami Children's Hospital.

Once Kai arrived, he was immediately transferred to the Nicklaus Children's Heart Institute, where he eventually underwent a successful open-heart surgery to correct his anomaly. Kai is thriving and continues to be monitored by the Heart Institute team.

"It's never easy to hand your baby over for care. In my case, it was made easier, knowing it was the same surgeon who had cared for me," said Jackie.

INNOVATIVE TREATMENT HAS CANDIDO RACING FORWARD AGAIN

Candido, age 3, is a little body in fast motion once again, thanks to a complex state-of-the-art treatment for a rare bone defect called congenital pseudoarthrosis of the tibia (CPT). Candido's condition only came to light after the active preschooler took a tumble that landed him in the emergency room, where an X-ray revealed the rare condition that affects one in 250,000.

The family was referred to the Orthopedic, Sports Medicine and Spine Institute at Nicklaus Children's where Dr. Daniel Ruggles offers special expertise in treating children with limb deformities. Candido underwent surgery to remove abnormal fibrous tissue, stabilize the bone and create an environment to promote growth of a straight and strong tibia, through use of internal and external fixators.

"Our ultimate goal in CPT is to restore a child to normal function. To run, play, and function normally requires restoring the leg bone's strength and ability to grow and heal," said Dr. Ruggles.

Candido is well on his way.



BUILDING THE FUTURE



2023 BRINGS EXPANDED HAGERTY FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UNIT AND PLANNING FOR NEW OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH OFFICE

2023 saw the opening of 20 new beds within the hospital's Psychiatry Unit, doubling the number available to support inpatient psychiatry care, a huge need within the community and beyond.

The expansion was made possible through the generosity of philanthropists Michelle and Michael Hagerty, who contributed \$5 million to establish what is now the Hagerty Family Behavioral Health Unit.

In addition, the hospital received \$1 million in 2023 federal funding to establish a Nicklaus Children's behavioral health outpatient office in South Miami. The new facility will offer expanded consultative space to enable the program to serve more children. The associated funds were made possible thanks to the work of Congresswoman Maria Elvira Salazar.

"The last few years have shone a light on the importance of supporting the mental health needs of children," said Dr. Marcos Mestre, Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Nicklaus Children's Hospital. "We are so grateful to the Hagertys and Congresswoman Salazar for understanding the vital need to provide children with mental health support," he said.

The Nicklaus Children's inpatient unit is one of the state's largest mental health units dedicated especially to the care of children and teens.



\$5M Hagerty family donation that made unit expansion possible



\$1M Federal funding provided in 2023 to establish a new behavioral health outpatient office





Scan the QR code and sign up to receive updates!

BIG NEWS IS COMING SOON!

Nicklaus Children's Hospital Foundation is working on something BIG! Stay tuned for exciting news in 2024.

ALLISON BAKER APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF FOUNDATION

Allison W. Baker was named Vice President of Development for Nicklaus Children's Health System and President of the Nicklaus Children's Hospital Foundation in 2023, responsible for raising funds and support for Nicklaus Children's mission of delivering world-class pediatric care.

Baker brings to the role more than 25 years of fundraising experience in principal and major gifts, as well as annual giving. Most recently, she served as Executive Director of Development for Women's and Children's Health at Johns Hopkins University & Medicine.



25+ Allison W. Baker's years of fundraising experience and leadership

TOPPING OUT PUTS GRIFFIN SURGICAL TOWER ON TRACK FOR 2024 OPENING

Nicklaus Children's leaders and construction crew members celebrated the "topping out" of Nicklaus Children's Kenneth C. Griffin Surgical Tower in 2023, placing the final structural beam atop the 131,000-square-foot construction site.

As part of the celebration, employees, donors and patient families signed a construction beam displayed in the lobby. Hospital namesakes, Jack and Barbara Nicklaus, and donor Ken Griffin were among the hundreds who added their signatures to the beam. The completion of the construction milestone ensures the project is on track for the planned 2024 opening, when the tower will offer a state-of-the-art setting for the 16,000-plus pediatric surgeries performed annually at the hospital.

The Kenneth C. Griffin Surgical Tower is named for philanthropist Ken Griffin, Founder and CEO of Citadel and Founder of Griffin Catalyst, who made a transformational \$25 million gift to support the tower and the future of pediatric surgical care.

 **131,000** Square footage of new Griffin Tower





FOUNDATION CELEBRATES REMARKABLE FUNDRAISING YEAR

In 2023, Nicklaus Children's Hospital Foundation raised nearly \$24.5 million to benefit the patients and families of Nicklaus Children's Hospital. Generous donations included:

- A \$1 million donation from the Saka family to support various programs including the Adaptive Care Program, music therapy, palliative care, children's experiences, and the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (CICU).
- The Batchelor Foundation issued a \$250,000 grant to benefit the Mobile Dental Unit. Other grantors include Delta Dental, Florida Blue Foundation and the Kirk Foundation, with new 2023 support for the Mobile Dental Unit totaling \$357,000.
- Hyundai Hope on Wheels, STOP Children's Cancer of Palm Beach County and Ayúdame a Vivir Foundation issued grants totaling \$192,000 overall for cancer research.

 **\$24.5M** Raised to benefit the patients and families of Nicklaus Children's



FOUNDATION LAUNCHES DONOR ADVISED FUND

Nicklaus Children's is among the first health systems in the state to offer its own donor advised fund, following Nicklaus Children's Hospital Foundation's 2023 launch of the fund in collaboration with BNY Mellon. The donor advised fund offers donors a tax-efficient way to maximize their charitable giving.

Learn more at nicklauschildrens.org/giftplanning

CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK EXPANSION LEADS TO RECORD FUNDRAISING YEAR

In 2023, Nicklaus Children's expanded its fundraising footprint in South Florida as a result of a growing collaboration with Children's Miracle Network (CMN) Hospitals. Nicklaus Children's is now the official CMN member hospital for Palm Beach and the Treasure Coast, which includes Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Okeechobee and Indian River counties.

Nicklaus Children's Hospital has been a CMN member hospital since 1985, serving Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe counties, and with this growth, Nicklaus Children's is now the member hospital for eight counties across South Florida.

This territory expansion brought exciting new fundraising opportunities for Nicklaus Children's Hospital through CMN's partners and programs. In 2023, Nicklaus Children's raised more than \$4.3 million through CMN to benefit patients and families. CMN fundraising partners include Publix Super Markets, Costco Wholesale, Walmart, Sam's Club, Panda Express, Marriott, RE/MAX and more.

Learn more at nicklauschildrens.org/cmn



 **\$4.3M** Raised in 2023 through CMN Partners

Nicklaus Children's Hospital's 2023 CMN Champion Family, Leo and his parents, Flavia and Stalin.



DIAMOND BALL RAISES \$2.5 MILLION TO FUND THE FUTURE

With support from Diamond Ball Co-Chairs Oscar and Ellen Feldenkreis, Nicklaus Children's signature fundraising event raised \$2.5 million in October to benefit the hospital's programs and services. Presented by Diamond Ball Honorees Mario and Bibiana Murgado and Murgado Automotive Group, the Roaring Twenties-themed event brought together hundreds of philanthropists and community leaders to support the great work of the hospital. Other major Diamond Ball sponsors included Ensemble Health Partners, CNN en Español, The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood and City National Bank of Florida.

Learn more at nicklauschildrens.org/diamondball

 **700** Guests who attended the 2023 Diamond Ball

Celebrating together at the 2023 Diamond Ball are (from left) honorees Mario and Bibiana Murgado, and Perry Ann Reed, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the health system and President of Nicklaus Children's Hospital; and Matthew A. Love, President and Chief Executive Officer of Nicklaus Children's Health System.

MOVING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CLINICIANS FORWARD

Nicklaus Children's has a long and distinguished history of training future pediatricians and subspecialists, always with the future of pediatric healthcare top of mind. Founded in 1958 and accredited in 1962, Nicklaus Children's pediatric teaching program is currently **the largest in the southeastern United States**. Program graduates practice in South Florida as well as throughout the U.S. and the world, helping build a better future for children everywhere.

Those in training in 2023 included:



86 Pediatric residents



44 Subspecialty fellows



10 Pediatric dentistry residents



2 Pediatric pharmacy residents



7 Child psychology interns and fellows

FUNDING THE FUTURE OF NURSING

Nicklaus Children's advanced its commitment to supporting the nurses of tomorrow in 2023.

In the fall of 2023, the hospital launched a scholarship program in collaboration with Florida International University (FIU) to fund up to 10 scholarships for students accepted to FIU's bachelor's program in nursing. The first contingent begins their studies in spring 2024 and receive up to \$20,000 each toward their educational expenses.

This builds on a similar program launched in 2022 and ongoing with Miami-Dade College, which provides \$10,000 awards to up to 10 students accepted to the associate of science in nursing program.

"Nursing is an amazing career. We are excited to help these future nurses to pursue their goals and make dreams come true," said Shannon Odell, Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer.



10 Nicklaus Children's scholarships available to FIU students annually toward a bachelor's degree in nursing



OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE



LEAPING FORWARD WITH QUALITY AND SAFETY RECOGNITION



Nicklaus Children's was one of only eight children's hospitals nationwide to be named a Top Children's Hospital by the Leapfrog Group. This national watchdog organization is a recognized standard-setter for healthcare safety and quality.

The quality of patient care across many areas of hospital performance is considered in establishing the qualifications for the award, including infection rates, practices for safer surgery, and the hospital's capacity to prevent medication errors.

More than 2,100 hospitals were considered for the Leapfrog Top Hospital award. Among those, Nicklaus Children's Hospital received a Top Children's Hospital distinction. A total of 132 Top Hospitals were selected, including the eight Top Children's Hospitals, in which Nicklaus Children's was listed.



8 Number of children's hospitals selected nationally for this recognition from among 2,100 hospitals vying for the honor



TRANSFER CENTER MOVES CARE FORWARD

The Nicklaus Children's Transfer Center, established in 2023, is invisible to the patients and families it serves. The center provides a single-point-of-contact resource to ensure the safe and timely transfer of children from hospitals, emergency departments, urgent care centers and physician offices. Due to the enhanced coordination, it is creating a better experience for doctors and referring healthcare organizations, and, subsequently, the patients and families they serve.

 **3,800** Number of patients transferred in 2023

ADVANCING CARE ACCESS: YES, THE DOCTOR CAN SEE YOU SOON!

Waiting weeks to see a specialty doctor can be a common occurrence in the world of healthcare. In 2023, Nicklaus Children's Pediatric Specialists, the employed clinical practice of Nicklaus Children's, continued its intensive focus on seeing new patients quickly for their first appointments.

By focusing on creating new appointment slots, use of telehealth, physician assistants and advanced nurse practitioners, the health system was able to schedule a significantly higher percentage of new patients within just three days of their appointment request in 2023.

"When families are referred to a specialist, they are concerned and eager to get answers. We are pleased that we continue to make progress in helping families receive the care they are seeking within a week's time," said Dr. Chad Perlyn, Senior Vice President, Nicklaus Children's Health System; President, Nicklaus Children's Pediatric Specialists.



 **12,083** New patients who were seen within three days in 2023

FOOD FOR SALUD: MOVING FAMILIES FROM FOOD INSECURITY TO NUTRITION SECURITY

As part of a focus on supporting the overall health of patient families and our surrounding community, Nicklaus Children's launched *Food for Salud*, a program dedicated to using the power of food and nutrition to promote the well-being of children and families.

Food for Salud is part of the hospital's Office of Community Health, founded in 2023, which convenes internal and external collaborations to advance children's health and serves as an incubator for new community health programs and initiatives led by Nicklaus Children's experts. This multi-disciplinary office addresses social drivers of health, community health services, our community health needs assessment and implementation plans, and our community benefit work.

"Nicklaus Children's has a long tradition of supporting the health and well-being of families in our community," said Dr. Jennifer McCafferty-Fernandez, Senior Vice President of External Affairs and Experience and Chief of Staff. "The Office of Community Health is elevating our focus and championing new initiatives such as *Food for Salud* that are making a difference for the most vulnerable members of our community."

During 2023, the hospital screened over 19,000 patients for food insecurity, identifying 2,354 families facing challenges in obtaining nutritious foods.

Families experiencing food insecurity are referred to Feeding South Florida, an organization whose mission includes providing immediate access to nutritious food. In addition to providing this critical access, Feeding South Florida assists with enrollment in benefits such as WIC and SNAP.

The hospital also leveraged experience in clinical nutrition to provide education and cooking demonstrations at the hospital and in the community to help children and families learn fun and approachable ways to incorporate nutritious foods into their lives.

For more information, please visit nicklauschildrens.org/Foodforsalud

 **19,902** Patients screened for food insecurity in 2023



NICKLAUS CHILDREN'S AMONG 'MOST LOVED WORKPLACES'

Nicklaus Children's employees were feeling the love once again in 2023, boosting the health system higher on *Newsweek's* 2023 Top 100 Most Loved Workplaces ranking. Nicklaus Children's was ranked #41 – the highest-honored healthcare organization in the listing.

Rankings were determined after a survey of more than two million employees from businesses with workforces varying in size from 50 to more than 100,000. The list recognizes companies that have created a workplace where employees feel respected, inspired, appreciated and are at the center of the business model.

"This recognition is a testament of our commitment to our employees who work hard every day providing amazing, high-quality care to the children and families we serve," said Matthew A. Love, President and Chief Executive Officer of Nicklaus Children's Health System. "We know our workforce is the key to our success and the reason we are the place where children matter most. That's why we strive to provide our employees with the benefits and resources they need to live healthy, well-balanced lives."

 **2M** Employees surveyed nationwide for *Newsweek's* "Most Loved" recognition



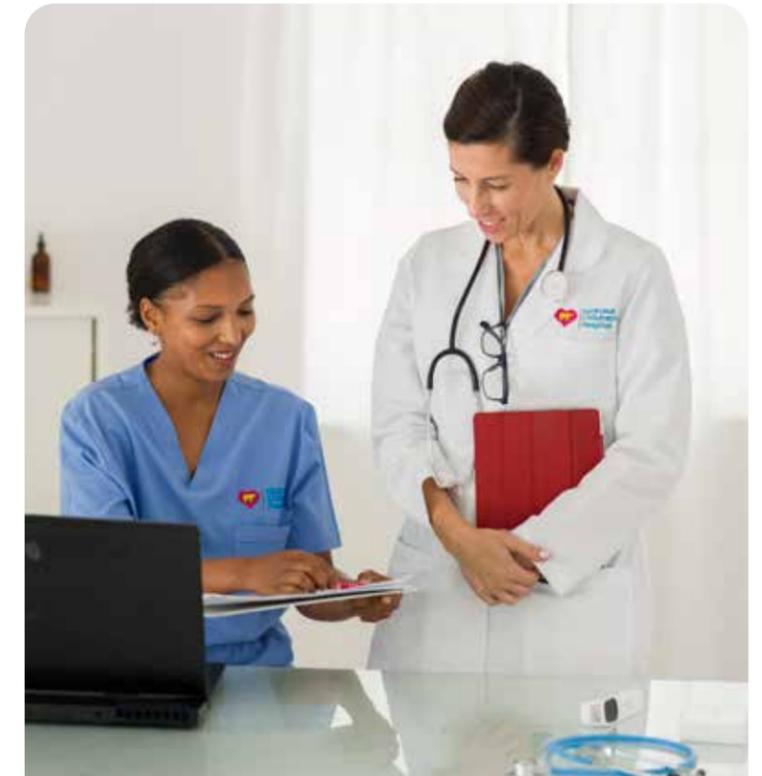
FORWARD IN RETAINING OUR AMAZING WORKFORCE

As hospitals nationwide grapple with talent shortages for vital positions, Nicklaus Children's has found the secret sauce for ensuring that it retains its talent, measured by staff turnover rates that are consistently below state and national averages.

"We are committed to a comprehensive approach that considers the wellbeing of our employees and prospective future employees at every facet of life," said Kara Marante, Vice President and Chief People Officer.

Elements of this comprehensive approach include competitive salary and benefits, retirement contribution matching, tuition reimbursement and robust programs that promote employee wellbeing, including a staff psychologist, life coaching, wellness programs and more.

And don't forget the fun! Each year, Nicklaus Children's celebrates its amazing workforce with September 2 Remember (S2R), a month-long celebration for employees that includes special events, games and recognitions for staff achieving service milestones.

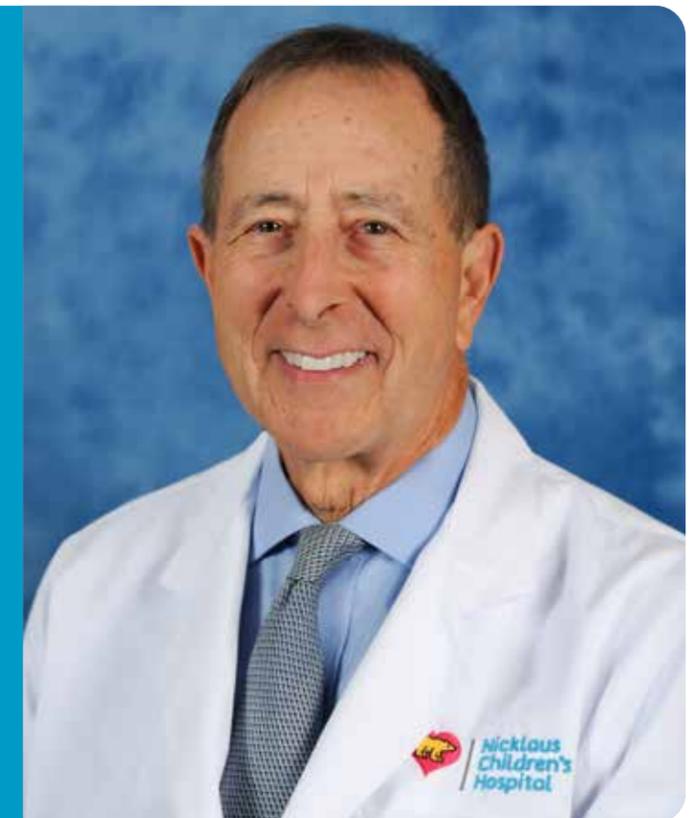


 **4,606** Total number of employees in 2023

HONORING DR. DUCHOWNY'S FOUR DECADES OF SERVICE

Dr. Michael Duchowny, esteemed pediatric neurologist and pioneer in the treatment of epilepsy in children, announced his retirement in 2023 after more than 40 years of service. A celebration was held in his honor.

Dr. Duchowny joined Nicklaus Children's Hospital in 1980 and soon became founding director of the hospital's comprehensive epilepsy program. His storied career has been dedicated to the fight against childhood epilepsy, a condition that can cause devastating and life-altering seizures. Since the program's inception in 1982, the hospital has been recognized routinely as one of the best in the nation for the treatment of pediatric epilepsy.



RECOGNITIONS



GEARING UP TO CELEBRATE 75 YEARS OF PEDIATRIC LEADERSHIP

With a legacy such as ours, 75 years of serving the region's children is truly a milestone worth celebrating!

In 2023, planning was underway for a grand-scale celebration, slated for 2025, to mark three-quarters of a century of Nicklaus Children's Hospital pediatric care leadership.

Since its founding in 1950 as Variety Children's, the hospital has touched – and often transformed – the lives of countless children and families and supported them through their healthcare journeys. No other hospital in the region has a longer commitment or more experience and recognition in meeting the care needs of children.

Festivities planned for 2025 include special observances, a museum display, storytelling to convey the many ways Nicklaus Children's has made a difference for children in our community and around the world, and more.

For more information, visit nicklauschildrens.org/history



NATIONAL RECOGNITION 2023

RANKED ONCE AGAIN AMONG BEST CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS BY U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

Five Nicklaus Children's Hospital specialty programs are again identified among the nation's best by U.S. News & World Report in its 2023-2024 "Best Children's Hospitals" survey results. No other hospital in South Florida has more ranked programs.

Nicklaus Children's was recognized as follows:

Only ranked program in South Florida.	Only ranked program in South Florida.	No other program in Florida is ranked higher.	No other program in Florida is ranked higher.	Only ranked program in South Florida.



AMONG NEWSWEEK'S WORLD'S BEST SPECIALIZED HOSPITALS

Nicklaus Children's Hospital is included within Newsweek's list of World's Best Specialized Hospitals 2024 (announced in 2023), marking the third consecutive year the hospital has been honored in the ranking. This prestigious award is presented by Newsweek and Statista Inc., a world-leading statistics portal and industry-ranking provider. Nicklaus Children's Hospital is the top-ranked pediatric hospital in South Florida.



HEALTH SYSTEM NAMED TO NEWSWEEK'S LIST OF THE TOP 100 MOST LOVED WORKPLACES

Nicklaus Children's Health System has been ranked #41 in Newsweek's 2023 Top 100 Most Loved Workplaces® list - the highest-ranked health system within the listing. The results were determined after a survey of more than two million employees from businesses with workforces varying in size from 50 to more than 100,000. The list recognizes companies that have created a workplace where employees feel respected, inspired, appreciated and are at the center of the business model.



HOSPITAL EARNS 2023 LEAPFROG TOP HOSPITAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING QUALITY AND SAFETY

The Leapfrog Group named Nicklaus Children's a Top Children's Hospital, highlighting the hospital's achievements in patient safety and quality. The award is widely acknowledged as one of the most competitive awards American hospitals can receive. The Leapfrog Group, a national watchdog organization of employers and other purchasers is known as the toughest standard-setters for healthcare safety and quality.

RECOGNIZED FOR OPTIMIZING CARDIAC ARREST SURVIVAL IN NEONATES AND INFANTS

The American Heart Association has once again recognized Nicklaus Children's Hospital with Resuscitation Gold for its continued success in using the Get With The Guidelines® Program. This recognition is for hospitals applying the latest, evidence-based treatment guidelines to improve patient care and outcomes in the communities they serve. Nicklaus Children's received the award for meeting specific measures in treating neonate and infant patients who suffer cardiac arrests in the hospital. It is the only freestanding children's hospital in the region.

HONORED FOR EXCELLENCE IN LACTATION CARE

The International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners® (IBLCE®) and International Lactation Consultant Association® (ILCA®) recognized Nicklaus Children's Hospital for excellence in lactation care. Nicklaus Children's received the IBCLC Care Award in recognition of its commitment to staffing the hospital with professionals who hold the prestigious International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant® (IBCLC®) certification and providing a lactation program for breastfeeding families.

HOSPITAL EARNS 'AUTISM-FRIENDLY' DESIGNATION

The University of Miami-Nova Southeastern University Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (UM-NSU CARD), South Florida's leading resource for autism support, recognized Nicklaus Children's Hospital as its newest "Autism Friendly Partner" as part of the organization's initiative to create more inclusive places in the community for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their families.

RECOGNIZED AS A GOLD LEVEL CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN LIFE SUPPORT

Nicklaus Children's received the Gold Level ELSO Award for Excellence in Life Support from the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO). The award highlights programs that have distinguished themselves by having processes and procedures that promote excellence and exceptional care in extracorporeal membrane oxygenation. Extracorporeal Life Support Services are provided through the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) at Nicklaus Children's, the leading pediatric care facility in South Florida.

DEPARTMENT EARNS EMERGENCY NURSES ASSOCIATION LANTERN AWARD

Nicklaus Children's Hospital's Emergency Department was selected as a recipient of the Emergency Nurses Association's (ENA) 2023 Lantern Award for demonstrating exceptional innovation in leadership, practice, education, advocacy, and research performance. The Lantern Award showcases the emergency department's accomplishments in incorporating evidence-based practice and innovation into emergency care. The award serves as a visible symbol of an organization's commitment to quality, safety, and a healthy work environment.

NICKLAUS CHILDREN'S DESIGNATED ACR DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Nicklaus Children's Hospital was designated a Diagnostic Imaging Center of Excellence® (DICOE) by the American College of Radiology (ACR). The DICOE program, which represents the pinnacle of medical imaging care, is an achievement that goes beyond accreditation to recognize best-quality imaging practices and diagnostic care. The DICOE designation recognizes excellence at multiple levels including the professional staff, the technology, and the policies and procedures the organization follows.



HIMSS HONORS NICKLAUS CHILDREN'S FOR ONGOING EXCELLENCE

Nicklaus Children's Hospital was honored by a global health advocate, Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), for excellent patient care through effective use of its electronic medical records. HIMSS has again recognized the hospital for achieving Stage 7, the highest rating for both inpatient and ambulatory services on the Electronic Medical Record Adoption Model and Outpatient Electronic Medical Record Adoption Model, respectively. Required to be revalidated every three years, the hospital had previously attained the pinnacle in 2016 and 2019.

HONORED FOR DIGITAL EXCELLENCE AS A 2023 DIGITAL HEALTH WIRED SURVEY RECIPIENT

The Digital Health Most Wired Survey sponsored by the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME) reflects the commitment of healthcare providers to digital health transformation. Nicklaus Children's achieved Level 9 for both the Acute survey selection and Ambulatory survey selection during the 2023 data collection period. Among the more than 55,000 facilities represented, Nicklaus Children's ranked above peers in categories like analytics and data management, population health, infrastructure, and patient engagement.

BABY STEPS PROGRAM DESIGNATED AN AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSING 'EDGE RUNNER'

Nicklaus Children's Hospital and the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies' collaborative Baby Steps program was designated an Edge Runner by the American Academy of Nursing (Academy). With generous funding from Florida Blue Foundation and Nicklaus Children's Young Ambassadors, Baby Steps is a virtual program that supports families of hospitalized infants who transition to home care.



COMMUNITY RECOGNITION 2023

REGIONAL FAMILY MAGAZINES HONOR NICKLAUS CHILDREN'S

Readers of three regional family magazines once again selected Nicklaus Children's as the area's top children's hospital in 2023. Recognitions were as follows:

- *Miami Kids Magazine* readers chose Nicklaus Children's as the Best Pediatric Hospital in Miami.
- *South Florida Family Life* readers selected Nicklaus Children's as the Favorite Pediatric Hospital in Miami-Dade, and as the Favorite Special Needs Provider for Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties.
- *Florida Villager* readers voted Nicklaus Children's the Best Children's Hospital.

DAWN JAVERSACK CHOSEN AS A 'CFO OF THE YEAR'

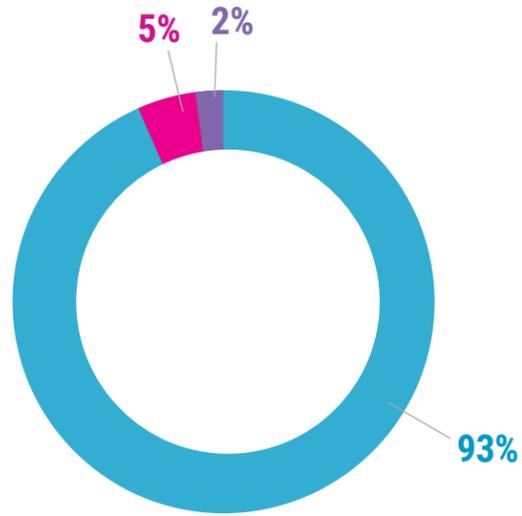
Dawn Javersack, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Nicklaus Children's Health System was the recipient of a 2023 CFO of the Year Award, presented by the *South Florida Business Journal*. Javersack was the award recipient in the Nonprofit Organization category. She joined Nicklaus Children's in March 2020, just as the pandemic was emerging. In 2021 and 2022, she helped lead the organization to solid financial results.



2023 FINANCIAL & STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS

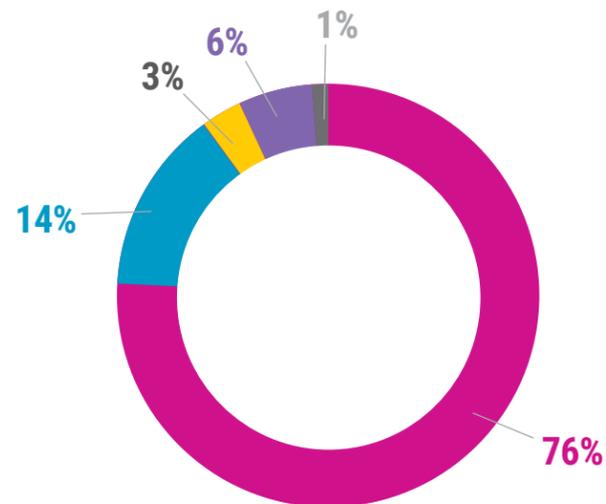
REVENUE

- Net patient service revenue
- Grants & other revenue
- Investment income and realized gains (losses)



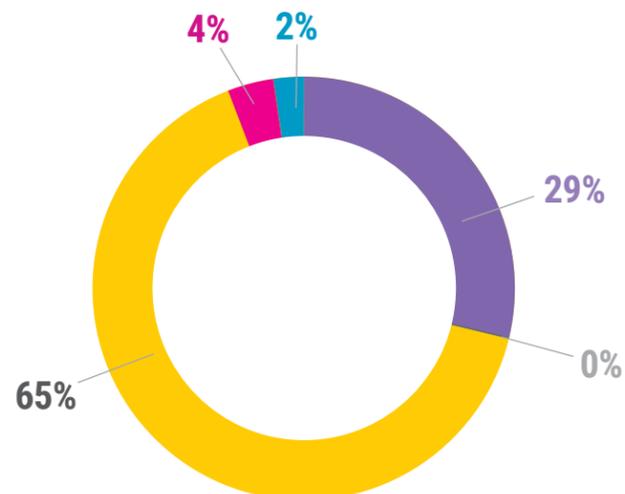
EXPENSES

- Salaries & benefits
- Supplies, net of rebates
- Malpractice and other insurance
- Depreciation and amortization
- Interest expense

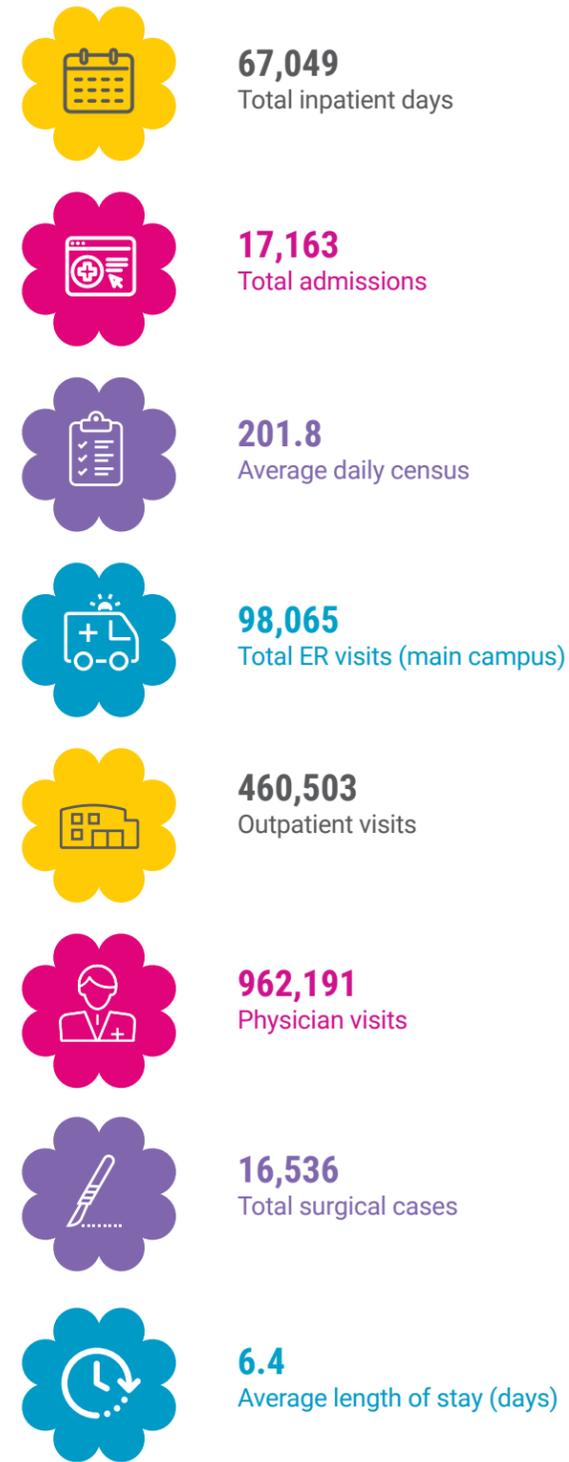


PAYOR MIX

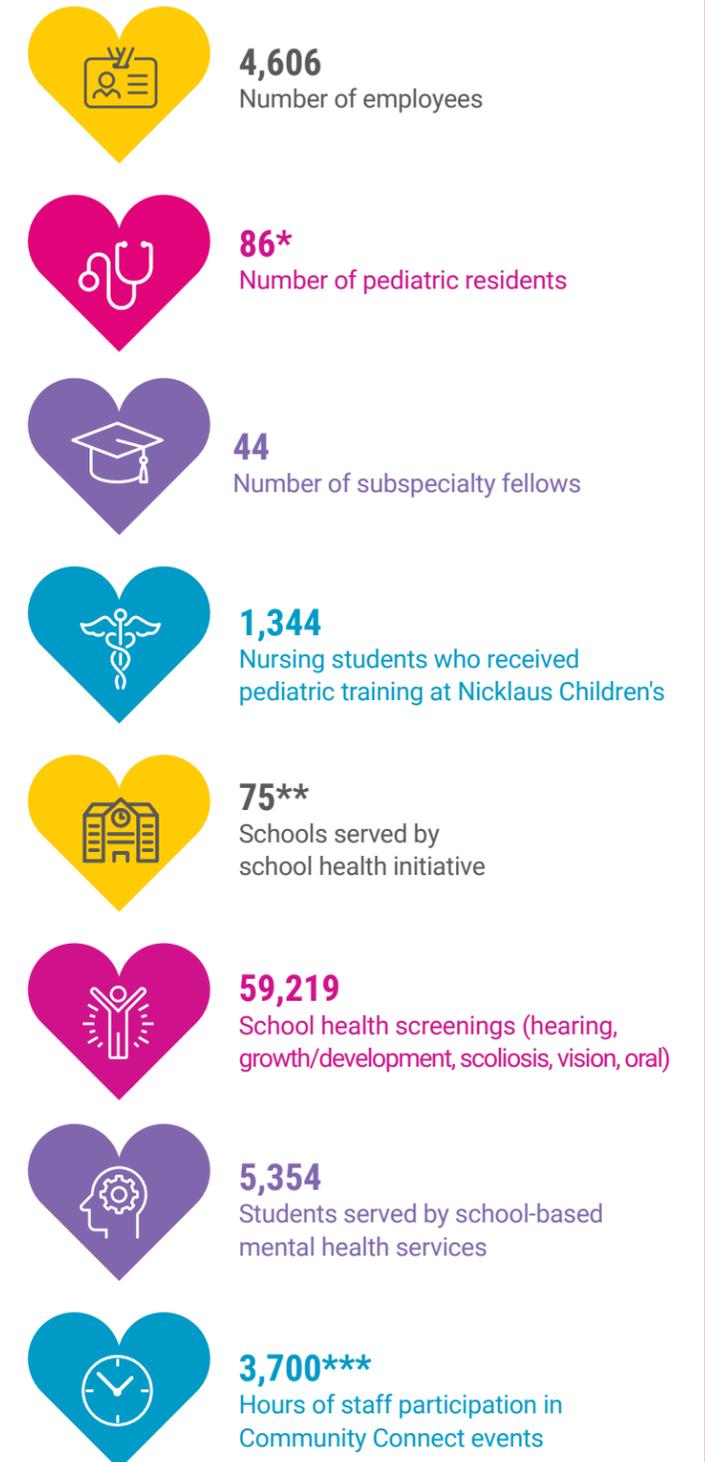
- Commercial
- Medicaid
- Other Govt
- Self Pay
- Medicare



STATISTICAL DATA



BENEFITTING SOUTH FLORIDA



* largest number of pediatric residents in the Southeast

** in collaboration with The Children's Trust, Miami-Dade County Health Department and Miami-Dade County Public Schools

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

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- **Allison W. Baker**, Vice President of Development, Nicklaus Children's Health System; President, Nicklaus Children's Hospital Foundation
- **Iris Berges**, Vice President, Operations, Nicklaus Children's Hospital
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The Report to the Community is produced by the Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Nicklaus Children's Health System

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