

FOUNDATION FOCUS

FALL 2026



43 YEARS OF GIVING

Tune in for the 43rd annual Children's Miracle Network Broadcast Celebration on KCBD NewsChannel 11 on Wednesday, September 16th.

You will hear firsthand from families whose lives have been forever changed, thanks to the care and resources made possible by generous donors throughout West Texas and Eastern New Mexico!





UMC Children's Hospital



Children's Miracle Network

MEET OUR *Miracle Kids*



*Eleanor
Ruthenford*



*Takkett
Holder*



*Thomas &
Scarlett Riojas*



*Zackary
Speck*

TRANSPORTING OUR *tiniest patients*

ELEANOR'S STORY OF COURAGE

WRITTEN BY: ELISABETH, ELEANOR'S MOTHER

Eleanor Sage Esparza was born at BSA in Amarillo, Texas, at 33 weeks gestation. We knew a transfer to UMC would eventually be necessary for an ENT evaluation because Eleanor was unable to wean from her PEEP support. We just didn't expect the journey to UMC to happen the way it did.

After a relatively uneventful seven weeks of life, Eleanor decided to make her "due date" memorable. She needed to be emergently intubated and received two blood transfusions. After being born seven weeks early, this was one of the most terrifying experiences we had faced as her parents.

Knowing she needed to be transferred was one thing. Knowing she would have to be flown by helicopter to UMC—intubated for the first time in her life—was another. It was terrifying.

The UMC NICU Transport Team was incredible. They walked us through every step of the process, answered our questions, and genuinely helped calm our nerves. Amberlee and Karly were amazing throughout the transport and continued to be there for Eleanor even after we arrived at UMC.

We spent four months in the UMC NICU. Through every trip to the operating room, every specialist consultation, every bedside intubation, and every attempt to wean Eleanor from respiratory support, the nurses and respiratory therapists were there.



"The UMC NICU Transport Team was incredible."

They weren't simply caring for Eleanor—they were invested in her success right alongside us. What began as a terrifying helicopter ride became the beginning of four months surrounded by people who fought for Eleanor, encouraged us, and helped carry us through some of the hardest moments of her life.

We will forever be grateful for the UMC NICU Transport Team and every nurse, respiratory therapist, physician, and specialist who cared for our daughter. UMC became so much more than a hospital to our family. It became a place where Eleanor was given the care, strength, and opportunity she needed to grow.

A YEAR OF IMPACT, *A FUTURE OF HOPE*

For more than 40 years, Children's Miracle Network (CMN) has played an important role in advancing pediatric care at UMC Children's Hospital. UMC joined Children's Miracle Network in 1983, the same year Lubbock's first local CMN Telethon aired on KCBD. That first telethon raised approximately \$80,000 and began a tradition of generosity that has continued for generations. Today, Lubbock is proud to be home to the longest-running Children's Miracle Network broadcast in the country.

Through the years, the generosity of our community has allowed UMC Children's Hospital to respond to the changing needs of our youngest patients and their families. CMN funding helps provide resources that enhance lifesaving care, support children throughout their healthcare journey and ensure families across West Texas and Eastern New Mexico can receive exceptional pediatric care close to home.

What makes Children's Miracle Network so special is that funds raised locally stay local, directly benefiting children cared for at UMC Children's Hospital. Every donation represents a community that continues to step forward when our children need us most.

For more than four decades, families, businesses, volunteers and donors have made this mission their own. Their generosity has helped UMC Children's Hospital grow alongside the communities we serve and continue investing in the future of pediatric healthcare.

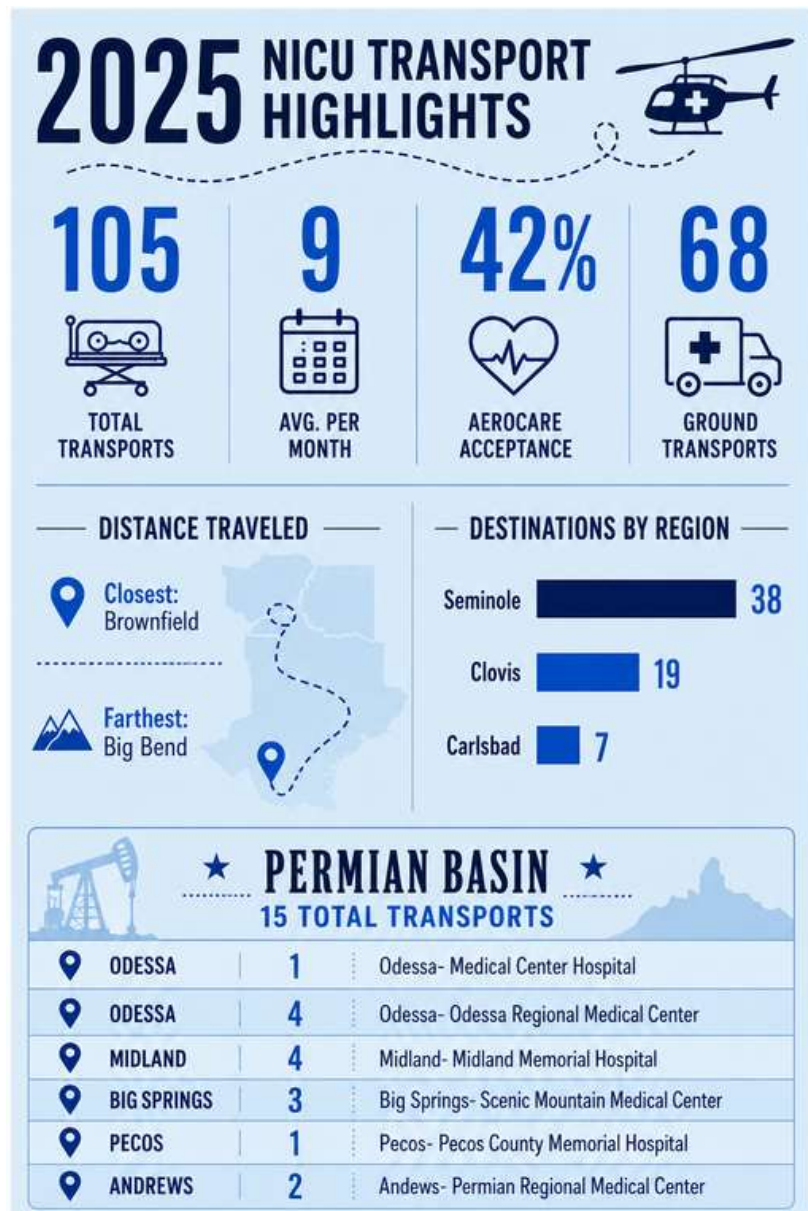
I am incredibly grateful to every donor, partner and supporter who continues to believe in this mission, and as we look to the future, our goal is to grow CMN funding even further so we can continue meeting the needs of our children and investing in the very best care for generations to come.

The needs may change and medicine may advance, but the heart of Children's Miracle Network remains the same: our community taking care of its children.

Thank you,

Misti Welch

Misti Welch
Vice President &
Chief Philanthropy Officer



Thank you to our donors, partners, volunteers, and team members. Your generosity changes lives.

IMPACT IN ACTION GRATEFUL PATIENT



Honorees gathered at our first Grateful Patient Luncheon, celebrating the meaningful difference they have made in the lives of patients and families. Through the Grateful Patient Program, donors chose to recognize these individuals with gifts to the hospital in appreciation of the care, compassion, and support they provide every day.



GRATEFUL patient



GRATEFUL
patient



MARK'S MEMO

I want to reintroduce you to a wonderful program at UMC that is administered quietly yet truly defines the best of our Service is our Passion culture. The No One Dies Alone Program (NODA) has been active for many years. It provides compassionate companionship for patients at the end of life who have no one available to be with them.

UMC team members and TTUSOM medical student volunteers volunteer their time as a sacred vigil... offering the gift of presence, dignity, and often prayers during a patient's final hours. Our Chaplains, in partnership with UMC's Palliative Care Team, ensure the NODA program achieves its noble purpose. How does it work? Trained NODA volunteers receive a text message with the chaplain's contact information, patient details, and instructions to reply with their availability. My thanks to all those involved in this unique and special blessing.

As momentum builds toward our Emergency Center expansion project, a few of us have traveled

to ERs that have been remodeled, as well as one that is in the final planning stages... to learn what we can... to maximize our efforts and gifts of philanthropy for the future. In Jackson, MS, we toured the University of MS Medical Center – where we were privileged to witness a great “welcome back” celebration for our very own Dr. Chris Piel, who trained there. Next, we traveled to Houston to tour LBJ Hospital and the soon-to-be-expanded Ben Taub Hospital. Reviewing ER expansion plans that have been “poured over” already was very helpful. Why reinvent the wheel? More to follow as we move closer to this meaningful project.

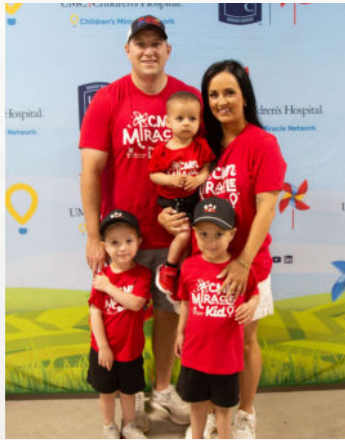
As always, thank you for your gifts of time, attention, and resources!

Thank you,

Mark Funderbuck

President & Chief Executive Officer
UMC Health System





 **KLAIDS**
for **KIDS**



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SEPT
16

CMN BROADCAST



SEPT
26

NICU REUNION



NOV
15

NATIONAL
PHILANTHROPY
DAY



DEC
13

UMC CANCER
CENTER PEDIATRIC
HOLIDAY PARTY



JAN
29

UMC GALA



GIVE \$5
for Miracle Kids
LIKE RUBY



**NOW THROUGH
OCTOBER 31**

WITH YOUR HELP, WE CAN *Make Big Change for All Kids*



YOUR IMPACT STARTS HERE



GIVE ONLINE



GIVE BY MAIL

UMC Foundation
PO Box 5980
Lubbock, TX 79408

When you tune in on Wednesday, September 16th, you will learn about the urgent effort to fund new Neonatal Transport Incubators – mobile intensive care units that give the region's most fragile newborns the best chance at life.

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES LIFESAVING CARE POSSIBLE.

Your gift today will ensure that every child and family in West Texas and Eastern New Mexico who walks through our doors receives the very best care. Every dollar you give stays local and will provide lifesaving treatments, cutting-edge equipment, and essential support services that offer hope and healing to the most vulnerable among us

HELP US CREATE MORE MIRACLES FOR LOCAL KIDS.

Please use the form below to make your gift and help us continue creating miracles at UMC Children's Hospital!



Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Amount _____ Check Included _____ Invoice Me _____

Where Should Your Gift Be Directed? _____

Please make checks payable to UMC Foundation. Mail to: PO Box 5980, Lubbock, TX 79408



FOUNDATION

umchealthsystem.com/giving

