



# Growth:

Quality care that knows  
no boundaries

Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital 2023 impact report



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## Our quality care knows no boundaries.

As we reflect on the journey of Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital, we are deeply grateful for your steadfast support. That support has helped us grow our medical services to meet the changing needs of children in our community. Your generosity has been at the heart of our mission, and your support has helped get us to where we want to be: a next-level, innovative and compassionate place for our pediatric patients and families, where safety and quality are always at the forefront. We want to constantly innovate and add value to our patients and community.



Our pediatric intensive care unit, which offers lifesaving medical care to some of our sickest patients, stands as a testament to the impact of your contributions. With an average of 500 annual admissions, this all-private, eight-bed unit is located within the walls of Hemby Children’s Hospital and is a vital part of the remarkable care offered to any patient who walks through our doors.

Your child's medical care is the essence of our existence. With board-certified clinicians, unparalleled treatments, specialties and state-of-the-art technology, we strive to offer the highest standard of care. Our emergency room, the only children's ER in the area staffed 24/7 by board-certified pediatric emergency medicine physicians, stands as a beacon of hope for families in their time of need.

We are proud to share that we have joined the Children's Hospital Association, a collective voice for pediatric healthcare organizations. Our Pediatric Epilepsy Center, holding a level four accreditation, includes surgical intervention by renowned pediatric neurosurgeon Erin Kiehna, MD — ensuring leading-edge care for our young patients.

The Center for Pediatric Development addresses a central problem for families of children with disabilities and complex medical needs. Under one roof, we provide comprehensive medical care, reducing the burden of multiple appointments and allowing more time for the care these children truly deserve.

Our commitment extends further with the success and growth of our quality subspecialist care, and with the Martin Truex Jr. Children’s Emergency Services, bringing excellent pediatric emergency care to the Huntersville area.

In addition to medical care, we recognize the importance of providing places of respite and relaxation for our families. Our Blume Family Playground and Caroline’s Corner, a family kitchen, serve as havens for families to find solace during challenging times.

Looking ahead, our commitment to quality care knows no boundaries. As we care for the whole person, it is our priority to demonstrate next-level, compassionate care to our pediatric patients and our communities. The ongoing expansion of our children's hospital marks a new chapter in pediatric healthcare, where innovative design meets compassionate care. Your invaluable gifts enable us to stay focused on the vital work of improving lives and health across our community. Thank you for your continued partnership to provide lifesaving care to even more children every day.

With gratitude,

**Saad Ehtisham, DHA, FACHE**  
 President, Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center,  
 and senior vice president, greater Charlotte market

# By the numbers for Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital, 2023

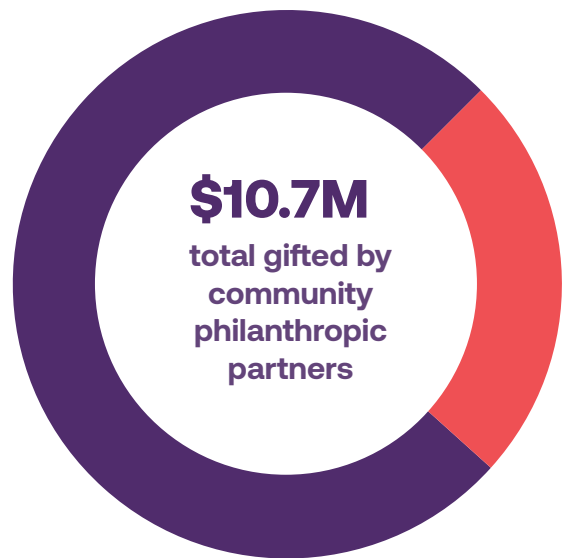
**541,631**

total patient encounters

**660**

patients seen in pediatric intensive care unit

**21,449** patients seen in pediatric ER



**\$10.7M**  
total gifted by community philanthropic partners

**\$2.7M**  
went to pediatrics



**827**

neonates have been served in our neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) since the expansion.

**12**

new NICU bays were added — allowing care for 25% more infants at one time.

**3**

new physician sleep rooms were added to provide a space of peace and respite.

**13**

child life specialists work every day to support patients and families.



**ST. JUDE AFFILIATE CLINIC**

**2,400**

children have been served in our St. Jude Affiliate Clinic.

**10**

6 dedicated physicians and 4 advanced practice providers are committed to ensuring every child has the chance to excel.

**2**

fully functioning labs have been installed in the expansion.

**1**

new team member was added — Puggle — a service dog that provides comfort and motivation.



**11**

days is the average length of stay.



**>8,000**

toys were donated.



**488**

patients were admitted for behavioral health.

**12,404**

pediatric behavioral health referrals were made.



**781**

families were served by Ronald McDonald House Family Room at Caroline's Corner, where families can rest, reflect and recharge just steps away from their child's bedside.



**9,575**

total visits were made to Caroline's Corner.



**1,633**

families were served by Ronald McDonald Happy Wheels Carts, providing refreshments, care items, activities and more to families.



**2,855**

total people were served by Ronald McDonald Happy Wheels Carts.



Our community is expanding. So is Hemby Children's Hospital.



Our community is growing — and Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital is expanding to meet the growing needs of our residents. The Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital expansion heralds a groundbreaking chapter in pediatric healthcare, promising to provide even more infants with access to lifesaving care in the neonatal intensive care unit and expanding our ability to care for children battling cancer in our community.

By the end of 2024, the renovations within our St. Jude Affiliate Clinic at Hemby Children's Hospital will be complete. We will continue innovating our design and level of care by adding an intermediary care space within the children's hospital. Here's a glimpse into the exciting details.

**Size and beyond:** Enhancements already completed aren't only about increasing physical space to care for our littlest patients. These upgrades reflect a holistic approach aimed at enhancing clinical workflow. Finished improvements in our expanded NICU include a rejuvenating haven for physicians with three new sleep rooms, and an upgraded team lounge for fostering team member camaraderie. Most significantly, these updates have created the opportunity to offer lifesaving care to more babies each day, with a remarkable 827 neonates served in 2023.

**Affiliate clinic marvel:** The renovation and expansion of the St. Jude Affiliate Clinic at Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital will be completed fall 2024. Designed with the captivating themes of the Arctic and northern lights, Amazon rainforests and the deep blue sea, the various clinical spaces boast innovative "ice cube" and "leaf-like" light fixtures, "ice cap" and "bamboo" millwork, and the delightful presence of arctic and aquatic animal friends. Beyond its aesthetic appeal, the affiliate clinic includes two fully equipped labs, 21 state-of-the-art exam rooms, two new therapy/play areas, and four open infusion bays. Our pediatric hematology and oncology team has always provided remarkable care — and now their space will reflect the high standard of their work.

**Intermediary care space:** As part of the ongoing Hemby expansion, an intermediary care space will be built at Hemby Children's Hospital. This area, set to be ready by end of 2026, will feature six rooms for children with cancer and other medically complex conditions. Fundraising efforts will launch toward the end of 2024 to support the construction of this additional care space. The renovation plan extends to enhancing the entire Hemby unit.

The Hemby Children's Hospital expansion project is a testament to our commitment to advancing pediatric healthcare and providing a nurturing environment for both patients and our expert care team. This is more than a renovation — it's a transformative journey, where each detail is dedicated to ensuring the health and wellness of our youngest patients.

# A family and care team celebrate a first-grader's victory over cancer.

Lucan Patel is more than ready for his fresh start.



In 2020, Lucan Patel was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, known as ALL. A cancer of the bone marrow and blood system, ALL is the most common childhood cancer, accounting for about 75% of all leukemia diagnoses in people under 20.

Today, Lucan's parents, Reena and Chirag Patel, are determined to help create special childhood memories for Lucan, now 7, and his sister Kira, age 5, that they couldn't before. After two and a half years of treatment under the care of the pediatric cancer medical teams at the St. Jude Affiliate Clinic at Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital in Charlotte, Lucan and his family are moving ahead.

Their journey started in May 2020, as Lucan and Kira were playing. A slip on the wet floor sent Lucan to his pediatrician, Calli Wirsing, MD, at Novant Health Arboretum Pediatrics 51. X-rays revealed a break that would heal with the help of a wrist guard.

But over the next few days, Lucan's condition worsened.

"He was really lethargic," Reena said. "He wasn't eating, he was just lying down ... and he started limping."

New X-rays showed a hairline fracture in Lucan's lower leg, from an injury that had happened about a month earlier. Reena couldn't think of an accident that could have caused it. Something was wrong.

**"He's such a happy spirit ... and it's hard not to get that positivity from him." - Reena Patel**

Blood tests revealed that Lucan was clearly fighting an infection. Everyone's thoughts turned to COVID-19. But within days, Lucan began to spike dangerously high fevers. Wirsing recommended that Reena and Chirag take Lucan to the Hemby Children's Hospital Emergency Department right away, where he was scheduled for a bone marrow biopsy.

"Let's rule out the worst of the worst," is what Reena thought. Her heart sank when Joanne McManaman, MD, a pediatric oncologist and hematologist at the St. Jude Affiliate Clinic, asked to speak to both parents. McManaman told Reena and Chirag that Lucan had pre-B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

"And I don't remember anything she said," Reena said. "It was like a complete blur."

Lucan's ALL treatments lasted more than two and a half years. He bravely faced spinal taps, bone marrow examinations and central line surgeries.

"If he had a blood transfusion or an immunoglobulin transfusion and then chemo, sometimes we were there for eight to 10 hours, just at the clinic," Reena said. "The nurses become your best friends. They see your child every day; they're amazing. They become like a second family there."

Lucan lost his hair. He gained weight on steroids, then lost it again when chemo gave him an upset stomach. But through it all, Lucan, his family, McManaman and the rest of Lucan's medical care team never gave up.

Lucan crossed the chemo finish line in January 2023. Six months later, he completed all his medications. He gets monitoring blood tests every four months. As he looked forward to starting first grade, Lucan was excited to explore his interests: science, arts and crafts, baseball and soccer.

The Patels are eager to share knowledge, funds and resources with other families fighting ALL. Lucan is happy to meet and talk with kids and adults alike, and be his shining, charismatic self, embracing the chance to help other children facing the diagnosis he conquered.

"He's such a happy spirit," Reena said. "And it's hard not to get that positivity from him."



## Generosity at work: Gifts to Novant Health Foundation support children at Hemby

Reassuring visits with a new furry friend. Engaging activities with a trained child life specialist. And comforting family time in the Ronald McDonald House Family Room at Caroline's Corner, a private space for families of pediatric patients. All of these services, spaces and more are made possible for patients at Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital through the support of Novant Health Foundation donors.

The philanthropic partners of the foundation — organizations and individuals who give — are providing comfort and courage to our youngest patients. Therapy dog visits help patients relax and stay calm. Certified child life specialists offer everything from preparation and distraction during treatment to facilitation of activities for teens to help explaining a medical condition to a patient's siblings. At Hemby, spaces such as Caroline's Corner offer a dedicated spot where families can find care, comfort and hope. The foundation support enables care teams to focus on what they do best — and provides patients and their loved ones the best environment possible.



**You make a difference. Scan the QR code to support Hemby Children's Hospital and kids like Lucan.**



# Community support makes all the difference.

From dropping off holiday toy donations, to swinging golf clubs, to volunteering time toward enriching the experience of our pediatric patients, the community stepped up in major ways to support Novant Health Hemby Children’s Hospital in 2023. We’re grateful for the opportunity to work together with our community partners to transform patients’ lives for the better.

## 1

## Lacing up for children: Novant Health Charlotte Marathon supports Hemby Children’s Hospital



Novant Health Hemby Children’s Hospital has been the primary beneficiary of the Novant Health Charlotte Marathon since 2014. Over the past 10 years, the relationship has grown, allowing us to serve more patients and help each kid grow to be the strongest in their class. This year was an exciting year of growth with the debut of several new race-day programs.

In 2023, the Novant Health Foundation partnered with the race to launch the “Meaningful Miles” program. Six pediatric patients were selected to represent a mile of the race through a poster with their name and story on it. Their posters were on display at the race expo the day before the event. All six patients also attended the race event, and the announcer shared their stories while the children joined organizers onstage to help hand out awards to runners.

Mile 2 introduced runners to 7-year-old leukemia hero Lucan Patel. At mile 11, they met 4-year-old leukemia warrior Dominic Thomas. Mile 12 was for 3-year-old NICU graduate Lawson Campbell. Olivia Reardon, 11-year-old rhabdomyosarcoma overcomer, was highlighted at mile 13, and 10-year-old lymphoma survivor Palmer Goforth was showcased at mile 26. When they finished racing, runners gathering at the Team Hemby tent learned about Nyla Brown, a 5-year-old congenital heart defect thriver.

Donations also came from the fundraising efforts of Sunkul Soni and Jimmy Molina, who ran the race as “charity chasers” for Hemby Children’s Hospital. The two runners started at the back of the race and ran their way to the front, with their corporate sponsors pledging to donate \$1 per person they passed. They ended up passing 1,295 runners — raising \$2,590 just on race day!

This year also included the addition of a new corporate sponsorship program. In partnership with the Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center Foundation, Eager 2 Motivate (E2M) sponsored Meaningful Mile 26. E2M’s mission is focused on healthy lifestyles, making it a natural fit for them to engage with the race-day participants while giving back locally to the Charlotte community.

Finally, year two of Team Hemby was a huge success, with 168 members. This dedicated group of runners committed to running on behalf of Hemby Children’s Hospital on race day. They peer-fundraised while training for the race, utilizing social media and personal networks to engage others on their running efforts and the mission of Hemby.

Through the combination of all of these efforts, over \$138,000 was donated in 2023 to support the patients of Hemby Children’s Hospital.



Scan the QR code to join Team Hemby, and save the date for the 2024 Novant Health Charlotte Marathon events.



2

3

4

5

## 2 Toys to spark joy: Hemby Holiday Toy Drive - Drive Through Drop Off

On Dec. 3, the Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center Foundation and the Novant Health Hemby Teen Council hosted the first Holiday Toy Drive - Drive Through Drop Off event in support of Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital. Families were invited to drive up and drop off their toy donations with ease. Because of generous philanthropic partners, grateful patient families and our wonderful community, we collected over 1,000 toys! We're

grateful for you — for making the holiday season merry and bright for the kids of Hemby Children's Hospital.

Be on the lookout: We are planning to host our second Hemby Holiday Toy Drive - Drive Through Drop Off on Dec. 8, 2024!



We appreciate donations of toys and other children's items year-round. Scan the QR code to learn more.

## 3 Teeing off: Hemby Golf Classic 2023 recap

Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center Foundation hosted the 25th annual Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital Golf Classic on April 17, 2023. Thanks to our generous sponsors, the golf tournament raised over \$544,574 in support of our youngest patients and their families.

Since the tournament's inception, over \$6.7 million has been raised to support pediatric programs and initiatives. These include:

- State-of-the-art equipment and technology, including neurology testing
- A pediatric critical care transport unit
- The neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) expansion
- Child-friendly furnishings, such as giraffe beds for procedure rooms
- A playground for the children in our care

During the reception, attendees heard the story of Palmer Goforth, a 10-year-old who was diagnosed with stage 3B Burkitt's lymphoma. His mother, Brittany Goforth, talked about how the care team and staff at Hemby Children's Hospital constantly went above and beyond for her son and their family. The Hemby Golf Classic allows us to continue to improve the experience and increase the peace of mind for kids and families just like the Goforths.

## 5 Hemby Teen Council

The Hemby Teen Council is a hub for learning, volunteer opportunities, service and leadership development. Through their involvement with toy drives, book drives, volunteering at the hospital and events, and fundraisers, teen council members help raise awareness of Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital. Their work is leaving a lasting impression on the Hemby community, with members showing how getting involved can lead to positive change.

Current members:

Devin Bell	Veda Dayananda	Gavin Jones	Maggie Myers	Ahana Satija
Amelia Betancourt	Aaron Dunnigan	Sandhya Konar	Eleanor Ohmstede	Kate Schaffer
Ivy Brown	Austin Edwards	Anna Longshore	Jordan Patterson	Avery Simmons
Jolin Cheng	Sia Gullapalli	Anne Mason Moore	Jordan Ramesh	Lawson Surles
Catherine Crunk	Camilla Hart	Srinikitha	Emily Pacheco	Skylar Wright
Aniruddh Dayananda	Parker Hyland	Muthukumaraswamy	Ramirez	Jake Zulueta
			Yaretzi Pacheco	
			Ramirez	



Know someone who would be interested in joining Hemby Teen Council? Contact Sarah Grace Burton at [SGBurton@NovantHealth.org](mailto:SGBurton@NovantHealth.org).

## 4 An Evening with Hemby

There's harmony between art and healing — and creativity provides a nurturing environment for our youngest patients at Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital. Exploring how we encourage our pediatric patients to express themselves artistically was the focus of our "Evening with Hemby" event, held in October at Anne Neilson Fine Art gallery in Charlotte.

Panelists shared how our dedicated team members employ the power of art to support children and their families. Art and creativity provide a time for children to discover, thrive and feel empowered. From syringe painting to rock gardens to memory-making, art is there to provide comfort for the whole family throughout the patient care journey. This includes using art to help children process diagnoses and treatments, prepare for procedures, create lasting memories, navigate their medical journey and embark on the road to healing.

Through this event, philanthropic partners raised over \$72,000 to support our team in leveraging art and play to cultivate healing. We celebrated the generosity of Wendy and Jay Bilas, who are passionate about art's ability to heal. That passion inspired them to match all donations up to \$25,000. Thanks to the generosity of this group, we welcomed an art therapist to the team in 2024 to enhance the level of care we offer kids in our community.

Special thanks to Winestore and Matthew Hartley for donating wine for the evening, Ginny Comly and Neely Purcell for donating all florals, and our six brave Hemby patients who created art for this event: Dominic, Lawson, Lucan, Nyla, Olivia and Palmer. And our heartfelt gratitude to the members of the Novant Health Hemby Advisory Council for hosting the evening.

# Hemby Advisory Council

# Board of directors

Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center Foundation



## Neely Purcell

Nurse practitioner; community volunteer

## Ginny Comly

Community volunteer

## Rachel Lee

Founder and president, Madelyn's Fund

## Sarah Turza

Program manager, Madelyn's Fund

## Kevin Reardon

Director of golf, Providence Country Club  
Co-founder, Olivia Strong Foundation

## Christina Meyers Reardon

VP, program governance, EverBank  
Co-founder, Olivia Strong Foundation

## Laura Coleman

Community volunteer

## Kurt Coleman

Stewardship and scholarship administrator,  
Charlotte Latin

## Chris Davies

Development manager, Pavilion Development Company  
CoLo Technologies

## Courtney Hallock

Community volunteer

## Emily W. Harry

Co-founder, Baby Bundles

## Ghazale Johnston

Principal, Joon Solutions, LLC

## Robbie Isaac, PE

Senior project engineer, Day & Zimmerman

## Jermeliah Martin, MD

Pediatric hospitalist, Novant Health Hemby  
Children's Hospital

## Christopher Sheehan

Director, Bank of America Securities

## Matthew Hartley

President and founder, Winestore Holdings

## Pooja Satija

President and CEO, Anthro Health

## Chris Frye\*

Vice president, Barringer Construction

## Sara Linn, RN\*

Registered nurse, NICU at Novant Health Hemby  
Children's Hospital

## Aubrey Carroll\*

Community volunteer

## Chirag Patel\*

Chief operating officer, Carolina Pharmacy Group  
Chairman, Lucan's Lions

## Shelia Ankrah, MD\*

Pediatrician, Novant Health Elizabeth Pediatrics

## Grace Wynn\*

Partner, Bain & Company

\*2024 members

## Leadership

### Kate Hatcher

Chairperson  
Attorney, retired

### Tiffani M. Jones, MD

Vice chairperson  
Physician, Novant Health

### Jennifer A. Doyle

Secretary  
Managing director, Wells Fargo

### Will Cowan

Treasurer  
Executive vice president and  
chief strategy officer, National  
Storage Affiliates

## Members

### Natalie S. Alston

Community leader

### Oliver Badgio

Chief brand officer, Prime Steak  
Concepts

### Jerry L. Barron, MD

Physician, Novant Health Orthopedics  
& Sports Medicine - Cotswold

### D. Steve Boland

Chief administrative officer,  
Bank of America

### John Cashion

Managing director, JLL

### Ayanna Chance

Senior corporate counsel, mergers  
and acquisitions, Trane Technologies

### John Comly

CEO, American Safety Council

### Amanda Weisiger Cornelson

Vice president, Weisiger Group

### Sidney M. Fletcher, MD

Senior vice president chief clinical  
officer, executive administration,  
Novant Health Presbyterian Medical  
Center

### Oscar Grooms

Managing director, Grooms Business  
Solutions LLC

### Emily W. Harry

Co-founder, Baby Bundles

### John Hondros

Managing director, senior vice  
president sports and entertainment  
private wealth management, Truist  
Bank

### Jewell Hoover

Senior official, U.S. Treasury  
Department, retired

### Vonda Huss

Chief human resources officer,  
Brighthouse Financial

### Terrence Linnert

Attorney, retired

### Luis Lluberas

Attorney, Moore & Van Allen

### Ed Martinez

Senior vice president/relationship  
manager, Comerica

### Chip Nisbet

Managing partner and portfolio  
manager, Lions Gate Capital LLC

### Caldwell R. Rose

President, NAI Southern Real Estate

### Stoney Sellars

President and CEO, StoneLaurel  
Consulting

### Charlotte Wickham

Community volunteer

### Mike Wiles

Vice president, office brokerage, NAI  
Southern Real Estate

### Mary Winston

President, WinsCo Enterprises Inc.

## Ex-Officio Members

### John Gizdic, MBA, MHA

Executive vice president and chief  
administrative officer, Novant Health

### Saad Ehtisham, DHA, FACHE

President, Novant Health Presbyterian  
Medical Center, and senior vice  
president, greater Charlotte market

### Katie Boylan

Chief philanthropy officer, Novant  
Health Presbyterian Medical Center  
Foundation

### David C. Voellinger, MD

Chief of staff, Novant Health  
Presbyterian Medical Center, and  
bariatric surgeon, Novant Health  
Bariatric Solutions

### Joshua Dobi

Lake Norman Advisory Board





## About Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital

Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital offers patients remarkable care, while offering parents peace of mind. From neonatal and pediatric intensive care to a wide variety of pediatric specialties, Hemby Children's Hospital is small enough to give patients individualized attention, yet large enough to attract some of the most skilled experts in the region.

It's also home to the only St. Jude Affiliate Clinic in the Carolinas, giving local patients with cancer and blood disorders access to novel therapeutic approaches and innovative clinical trials in partnership with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

For more information, please visit [NovantHealth.org/Hemby](https://NovantHealth.org/Hemby).

### Contact us.

If you would like to make a transformational gift, please contact Amy McKinney at [Amy.McKinney@NovantHealth.org](mailto:Amy.McKinney@NovantHealth.org).

