



Resilience through Your Support

In these past months, we've begun to reimagine what it means to join together. Separated by distance but united by a commitment to our mission, our unique community here at Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare has quickly adapted. Our leadership immediately enacted protocols to keep patients safe at our hospital and clinic locations—and providers implemented new ways to bring health and wellness to families at home. **Generous donors stepped forward to meet the needs of our patients and staff**, making financial contributions to support our exceptional care and bringing everything from hand-sewn masks to patient family meals to our doors. Thanks to the strength your support brings to Gillette, we've been able to rise to meet the challenges of the current public health emergency. There is still a long road ahead, and the impacts will be significant and lasting, but with you standing with us, we're able to remain focused on our mission and dedicated to serving our patients and the community.

Highlights from Gillette's Response

Technology Facilitates Access to Care

Virtual Care has been a vital tool in keeping patients safe while still providing vitally needed care. Gillette's virtual care program was launched with support from the community and continues today through the generosity of donors like you. Through a convenient online platform, providers are able to meet with patients whenever possible and clinically appropriate – allowing them to deliver essential care from a distance.



Gillette's music therapists perform every week for an audience of patients and families on Facebook Live.

Healing through the Power of Music

Music therapy, which is often part of an integrative care plan, can help children cope with stress, anxiety and grief. When COVID-19 affected the ability of Gillette's music therapists to connect with their patients in person, they discovered a way to reach their patients and unite the entire community through song. Every Wednesday, they stream a music therapy session on Facebook Live and post the recordings to Gillette's YouTube page.

Keeping Kids Happy and Healthy at Home

Meeting the social, emotional and physical needs of a child while self-isolating is a challenge—but the experts at Gillette have been there to support families every step of the way. In addition to routine resources and supports, our recreational therapists have offered

Continued

Resilience, continued

videos focused on keeping kids engaged and healthy at home. Through a partnership with KS95, this expert advice was also distributed as a weekly on-air feature, benefiting households across our community.

Gillette's Orthotics, Prosthetics and Seating team puts their sewing skills to work creating masks.



Help us continue this vital work—and meet the rapidly increasing need for Family Financial Assistance with your contribution today.



Featuring
Micah
Niermann,
MD

Micah Niermann, MD, is an internal medicine and pediatric physician and was named vice president for clinical affairs and medical director of Gillette in 2019. He took over for pediatric orthopedic surgeon Steven Koop, MD, who was Gillette's medical director from 2001 to 2019.

In our **Three Questions** series, we ask a Gillette staff member a series of questions that give you an inside perspective on our mission and work.

1. What sets Gillette apart from other healthcare organizations?

What truly distinguishes Gillette from other healthcare organizations is our vision—the vision of potential realized. What's inherent in that vision, to me, is hope. Often in medicine, patients are seen for what limits them, but at Gillette, our patients are seen for what they're capable of doing. That is truly remarkable, and it's a vision you see shared across the organization. Everyone feels strongly about it, and that makes us incredibly unique. It creates a culture that is very patient-focused.

2. How has community support shaped Gillette's care?

Philanthropy helps us launch and develop programs – especially those that start organically in response to the needs of our patients and families. Having that funding

available to make programs more robust can really make a big difference. Our virtual care program is a great example. It started with generous donor support, allowing us to respond quickly to launch our virtual platform to continue our care.

Gillette's community support is extraordinary—from grassroots efforts such as lemonade stands to generous individual gifts or corporate partnerships. It is great to see the community realize the importance of providing this level of care to patients with complex medical needs.

3. Is there something you wish the public knew about the Gillette community?

That there is an enormous amount of work families and caregivers have to do in order to care for their loved ones. Patients succeed because of the strong partnership between families and care teams at Gillette. It takes effort and coordination to make sure patients with complex medical needs stay healthy and that families are well-supported. There are a lot of sacrifices families make that go unrecognized. We want more people to understand what is required—what these families need, and what their loved ones need.

I know so many stories of physicians, nurses and other Gillette staff who have gone out of their way to do extra work for their patients just to make sure they're getting what they need—not just the medical care, but also in the community and at school. That's pretty extraordinary. That speaks to the amount of support that's required for our patients, and it can't be done by one person. It has to be a team. That captures what makes Gillette really unique.

An Enduring Gift for Rural Families

For parents of children with complex medical needs, the costs of care can be a major source of worry—not only for ongoing treatments and therapies, but also for food, lodging and transportation during inpatient stays. When a family lives in a rural area, these concerns may be compounded. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Americans living in rural areas experience higher rates of poverty, and less access to healthcare, and they are less likely to have health insurance.

Marge Betts and her late husband, Charles, recognized the unique challenges that rural families face, and

decided that part of their legacy would be to ensure exceptional, affordable care to every Gillette patient who needs it. **Marge worked with the Gillette Children's Foundation to create the Rural Minnesota Assistance Endowed Fund through her estate plan.** This fund promises to provide a reliable future source of financial assistance for families, especially those from rural areas.

Currently, Gillette's financial assistance program relies on annual contributions from donors. That ongoing support is absolutely vital—but endowed gifts help this critically important program remain consistently strong

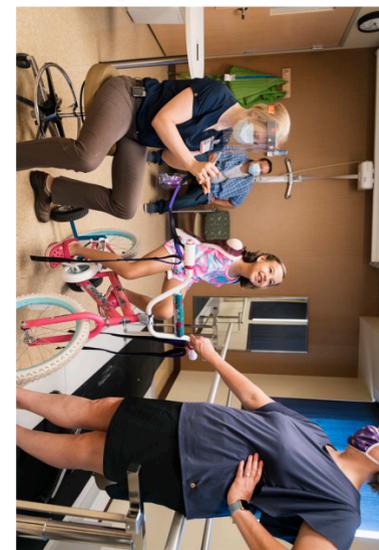
and resilient even in challenging economic times. **Gifts like the one planned by Marge and Charles have a deep and lasting impact because endowed funds create a perpetual resource.** Patients will continue to benefit from their generosity for decades to come.

For Marge Betts, her desire to make a difference is rooted in memories of her childhood. "I remember my grandparents—farmers who worked hard to earn their living—always lending a helping hand to neighbors without a lot of fanfare. When you see that spirit of kindness early, it sticks with you throughout your life."

Learn more about how you can make a difference through endowment by contacting Chris Cheney at (651) 310-1888 or visiting us at gillette.giftlegacy.com. You can also support family financial assistance with your contribution in any amount today!



Marge Betts and her late husband, Charles, created a lasting legacy through the Rural Minnesota Assistance Endowed Fund.



Michelle Hall, CPO, helps Gillette patient, RE, with adjustments to the device that helps her ride a bike. Because of your support, Gillette continues to provide the care needed to help kids thrive.

View a list of all honor and tribute gifts at gillettechildrens.org/tribute

Honor or remember a loved one.

This gift is:

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Please send a letter informing the honoree of my gift:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Yes, I want to help Gillette change lives!

- Enclosed is my gift of: \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 Other _____
- I'd like to sign up for monthly giving. Please bill my/our credit card monthly in the amount of \$ _____.
- Please make checks payable to Gillette Children's Foundation.

- My employer matches charitable gifts. Employer Name: _____

Please charge my gift to:

Name _____ (as it appears on card)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Card # _____ Card Security Code (CSC) _____

Exp. Date _____ / _____ Signature _____

Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Give online at gillettechildrens.org/summerconnections



Community Connections

Noteworthy Gillette news and events

Walk & Roll Goes Virtual

The current public health emergency has changed the ways we can safely gather together, but the community created and the funds raised by our **Walk & Roll Family Fun Day** are more vitally important than ever.

That's why we've decided to make the **2020 Walk & Roll Family Fun Day 100% virtual on our new event date,**

Saturday, Sept. 12, 2020. Registration is FREE, and because this is a virtual event, teammates from across the country or around the world can be a part of the fun.

Learn more and register today at www.gillettechildrens.org/walkroll.



Save the Date: KS95 for Kids Radiothon

The KS95 for Kids Radiothon is an annual on-air fundraiser to benefit Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare and our partner charity, Children's Cancer Research Fund. Mark your calendars to tune in on Dec. 11, 2020 for moving testimonials from Gillette families and special incentives to show your support.

Tim Mahoney Concert for Gillette Families

Minnesota musician and NBC's The Voice contestant Tim Mahoney delighted Gillette patients and families with a live concert on Thursday, May 21. The family-friendly performance was streamed on Facebook Live and the recording is now available for view on our YouTube page. We're grateful for the support of people like Mahoney who are helping us create community despite the restrictions of social distancing.



Delta Air Lines Child Life Fellow Brings Camp to Kids

Child Life Fellow Marissa Olson will be facilitating virtual camp events on Facebook Live in July and August to help kids stay active and engaged through the summer months. Olson joined Gillette in January, supporting the work of our Child Life team. Her fellowship is funded through the generous support of Delta Air Lines, a Children's Miracle Network Hospitals partner.

Connections is a publication of Gillette Children's Foundation. Contact us with comments or questions at 651-229-1726 or foundation@gillettechildrens.com.

Connect With Us!

