

# empower

SAVING KIDS LIVES | CLOSE TO HOME

Having a critically ill or injured child is one of the most frightening things a parent can experience.

At Beacon Children's Hospital, we see more than 10,000 children each year. Each with their own set of challenges. Some visit us for a day or two and some spend weeks and even months with us.

Our children come to us with a broad range of health challenges including, cancer, sickle cell disease, asthma, developmental disorders, diabetes, trauma, and others.

As the region's only Children's Hospital, we support 31 referring hospitals in North Central Indiana and portions of Southwest Michigan.

Because of you we are keeping children and families close to home and near those they love, which is essential to their healing.





## **Prepared to Win**

When a child is sick, part of their childhood is slipping away. In Pediatric Hematology/ Oncology we are seeing more children than ever before. Even more challenging, we have seen a dramatic increase in complicated cancer diagnoses. Your support helps them in their fight to be cancer-free and helps us to provide cutting-edge diagnostic services and innovative treatment plans for children with all types of cancers and hematologic disorders.

With their future in mind, our team of pediatric specialists often collaborate with other pediatric centers and physicians across the United States to ensure their treatment plan is the best possible option for success. With nine private infusion rooms, we offer a comfortable space for families and a wide variety of outpatient chemotherapy administration, blood product transfusions, medical infusions, and therapies.

We know being in the hospital can be scary for anyone, especially for a child. To help children cope with the emotional and physical trials of their disease, we have a unique team of child-life specialists and an art and music therapist on staff. In addition to education, distractive play therapy, and non-verbal creative processes, they also celebrate small milestones. Petting a dog, painting a picture, or blowing out candles for their birthday are important everyday acts to help our children be kids.

### **Working with Families**

#### **Angel Eyes**

Sometimes an infant's stay with us is extended, and parents cannot be with their baby around the clock. The decision to leave their newborn with us while they attend to other life responsibilities is tough. Our Angel Eyes program provides a convenient way for parents to watch over their babies with bedside live-stream video 24/7.

#### Eat, Sleep and Console

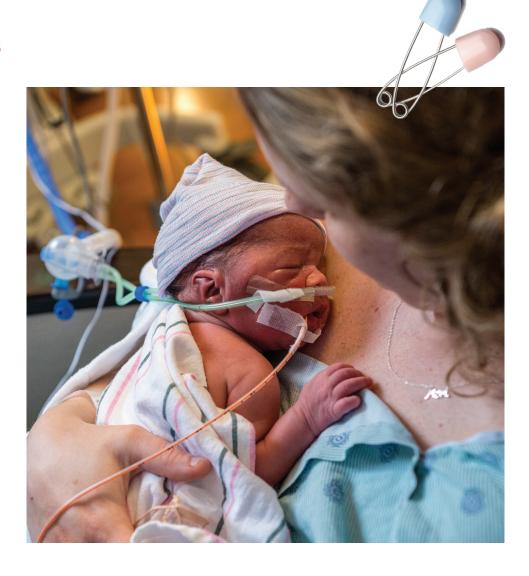
Some of our babies are born addicted to narcotics. In the past, these babies were given medication to wean and work through withdrawal. At Beacon NICU, when possible, we are trying something new called Eat, Sleep, and Console.

With this process, parents become partners with our health care team and commit to spending the majority of their time with their baby. While babies will experience signs of withdrawal, they are able to eat on demand, sleep, and be consoled. With this method, the use of medications is drastically reduced. And, often, they go home sooner.

Sometimes parents are not available. During those times, generous volunteers have stepped up and come in at all times, day or night, to care for these babies.

Dominic arrived 9 weeks early, weighing in at 3 pounds 7 ounces. He spent weeks in our NICU developing his breathing, eating, sleeping functions and gaining weight. During this time, his mom and dad had to return to work.

The Angel Eyes program allowed them the chance to follow Dominic's progress from work, in the middle of the night, and even during a baby shower planned long before his original due date.



## From the Beginning

Our team is here for families from the very beginning. Many babies are born in our hospitals every day. It's a joy to see parents receive their newborn into their awaiting arms. However, sometimes the unexpected happens. If, and when this happens, Beacon Children's Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) provides Level III trauma care for babies born prematurely as well as babies born with a critical illness.

Conveniently located next to the Memorial Special Care Obstetrics Unit, our NICU is able to respond immediately when emergencies happen during childbirth. Our internationally recognized NICU includes 36 beds and cares for 400 newborns each year. Whether the baby is born at Memorial or transported from another hospital by our NICU transport team, we are here to assist.







When parents enter our Children's Hospital, they have a lot on their minds. Hunger should not be one of their concerns.

On average 60% of the children we serve are Medicaid or Selfpay. Parents do not have the additional resources to pack a lunch or snacks for day-long treatments. And, walking to the cafeteria and buying a meal is beyond their means.

In the Isaac Ray Steiner Family
Resource Room, families in
our Pediatric Hematology/
Oncology Program have access to
nonperishable food items. These
can be used for meals or snacks
any time they are here with us, or
to take home.

At Beacon, we know caring for a patient includes caring for the whole patient and their support system.



Helping children heal and get well is our primary focus. Did you know, studies show single-family rooms reduce the length-of-stay by as much as 40 percent?

Our single-family rooms provide the privacy and intimacy for families to focus on getting well, and our medical to meet with families while allowing them to remain close to their children.

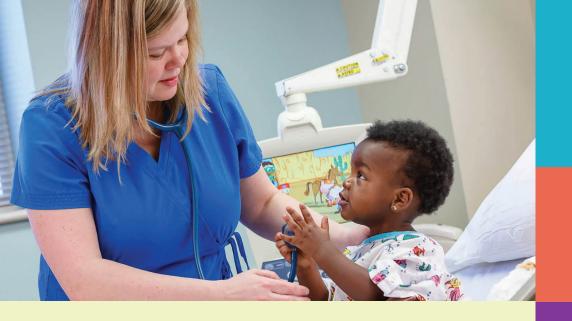
## **Transportation**

Imagine needing help and not being able to reach it. When a child is injured or sick, the time it takes to access medical care is critical. Our Pediatric Transport Service provides inter-hospital ground transportation for critically ill or injured children. Our goal to respond to any request for transport within 30 minutes. When a family needs us, they can be assured that help is on the way.









Philanthropy plays an essential role at Beacon Children's Hospital. Here are just a few ways your generosity has impacted the lives of our smallest patients.



9,984

hours of Child Life Services helped kids understand and cope with their illness or injury

## All of this is done with your help

Many of the services we offer at the Beacon Children's Hospital are not covered by insurance and yet are provided at no charge to patients and families.

Because of you, the children and families who walk through our doors have food when they are food insecure, they have a talented team who walks with them on their journey and they are able to celebrate the little milestones.

Because of you, families can focus on the things that matter, have the privacy and support to heal and have an eye on their most precious gift even when they cannot be present.

Because of you we are home to some of the best pediatric specialists in the country and provide the most advanced medical care available to our families.

Thank you for investing in the children of our community. Thank you for believing in keeping kids close to home where the people who love them can be near.

8,000+

Teddy bears comforted nervous children when they came to the hospital

104

Games of BINGO provided a fun distraction when kids

4,160

hours of Art & Music
Therapy improved
children's physical and
emotional health through
self-expression



To learn more about how to get involved, email give@beaconhealthsystem.org or call 574.524.GIVE.



