



Nearly 1 in 4 households experienced food insecurity in 2020 which equates to about 32 million households. Even prior to a pandemic, an estimated 10.5% of U.S. households, on average, are food-insecure.

On average 60% of kids at Beacon Children's are food-insecure

Of children living in food-insecure households:

- 146.5% are more likely to experience delayed medical care due to cost
- 179% need care but will choose not to seek it out due to cost
- they are more likely to experience chronic health conditions

Sources: U.S. (1) Department of Agriculture. (2) Food Insecurity and Child Health, Pediatrics: Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, October 2019 | The USDA defines food insecurity as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life. Food insecurity refers to a lack of available financial resources for food at the household level.

Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Food Pantry

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

Approximately 60% of the children we serve are on Medicaid or Self-pay. This translates to families not having the additional resources to pack a lunch or snacks.

Children being treated in our pediatric hematology/oncology clinic spend up to 8 hours with us for each treatment or infusion. Some spend days, weeks and even months in our care. Walking to the cafeteria to buy a meal is well beyond the means of our families.

We understand caring for our kids includes supporting the whole family unit.

In the Isaac Ray Steiner Family Resource Room, families in our Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Program have access to nonperishable food items that can be used for meals or snacks any time they are here with us or to take home. Without limitations.

Proud partner with the Food Bank of Northern Indiana which provides reduced food item costs.

Your investment keeps our kids and family close to home for critical care:

\$100
provides applesauce for one month

\$500
supplies the pantry with a week's worth of food

\$1,000
supports a family of 4 with supplemental food items for one year

Thank you for investing in the families we care for because keeping our kids close to home is the right thing to do.





Creative and Support Services: Child Life | Art Therapy | Music Therapy

How do you explain to a child what a trach is and why she won't be able to talk? Who helps to calm and distract a child while a nurse puts in an IV? Who supports the divorced parents who love their dying child but can barely speak? Who coordinates birthdays and holiday's to try and create some normalcy for our critically ill and terminal kids?

Using Play to Diminish Fears

Being in the hospital is scary for anyone, but especially for a child. At Beacon, we have an expert child life team dedicated to easing the fear and anxiety of our children. They do this with distractive play therapy.

Our team works with infants up to age 21 and their families. By using play, our team of specialists can assess, educate, and prepare children and their families for what they can expect during their visit and with care procedures. All while trying keep life normal. At Beacon, we care for the whole family.

Using Play to Boost Healing

Sometimes words are tough. Often times, our kids aren't able to articulate how they feel. They have thoughts floating around inside them they need to get out. Fear, depression, anxiety and hope. With art and music therapy programs, our children learn how to express themselves in nonverbal ways.

Our services help families as well. Thanks to people like you, our music therapist can now record heartbeats. She then syncs the heartbeat with a favorite song of a terminally ill child, creating a keepsake for parents. One they will treasure and can listen to long after the loss of their child.

But Not Without You

These services are 100% donor funded. They are not "medical" services and not billable to insurance. And we offer them at no charge. Because it's the right thing to do. We believe a child should see the hospital and their medical team without fear in their eyes.

We believe someone should be there for families who are experiencing a challenging time. Because of you and others like you, who also believe in these things, we are able to offer Child Life Services, Art Therapy, Music Therapy, and many more support services to our families.



"I think 'peaceful' is the best way to describe how music therapy made me feel," Erica remembers. "For Kase, I think it made him feel safe, which, in my opinion, is exactly what he needed." – NICU Mom on her experience with Cambrae Fox; Beacon Children's Music Therapist



"I created this box as a space to store the thoughts, feelings, and memories of what I have been through in my life. I chose to paint the inside of the box to look like the sea, so you must open up the box to reveal the Sea of Feelings." – Jalliyah, a pediatric patient sharing about her Art Therapy project

"They helped me not be scared and have made me comfortable about everything. They have told me funny stories and keep me entertained. They are able to focus completely on me because they don't do things like putting needles in." – Ian, a pediatric patient talking about his child life specialist

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

