NEW OUTDOOR GARDEN AND THERAPY AREA

The outdoor space next to Blank Children’s Hospital has been transformed thanks to Judy Blank, the Blank Family and Variety - the Children’s Charity. This new garden offers a peaceful reprieve for patients, families and team members. The garden provides great benefits including:

- Sensory experiences through an “I Spy” game.
- A table with shaded umbrella for crafts or projects.
- Seating and wheelchair accessibility.
- A swing!
- Space to promote play through games, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, and more.

There is also a dedicated space for patients receiving services from the Variety Pediatric Therapy Department. This new space creates an extension of the therapy gym so children can participate in their physical, occupation or speech therapies in an outdoor setting.

A big thank you to the donors who brought this new space to life.
Helping Kids Thrive

Your support can be seen throughout Blank Children’s Hospital; in the little moments that bring a smile to a child’s face and the big, important moments that forever change lives.

Thanks to you, Blank Children’s continues to meet the unique health care needs of children throughout Iowa and beyond. Areas impacted include:

**Advocacy & Outreach**
Offer important education across all 99 counties through child birth classes, the Fire Safety House, Safe Kids programming and more.

**SHINE/Pediatric Palliative Care**
Provides key resources to comfort and support children and their families diagnosed with complex illnesses.

**STAR Center**
Serves more children in crisis each year. Last year the STAR center provided 4,079 services to 1,520 children.

**NICU**
Update life-saving equipment and state-of-the-art beds in the Variety Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

**Compassion Funds**
Support families under financial hardship through the Compassion Fund.

**Child Life**
Child Life Specialists partner with medical teams to reduce stressful and traumatic situations.

**Pediatric Therapy**
Provide new therapy equipment and hearing screening system for Pediatric Therapy.

**Transport**
Transport 579 newborn babies and critically-ill children by teams that specialize in this care – by ground in our Pediatric Critical Care Ambulance or by air in our LifeFlight helicopter.

**Support**
Support 50 newly diagnosed cancer patients along with 33 clinical trials, and ongoing treatment for hundreds of children and teens in the Cancer & Blood Disorders Center.

**Provide**
Provide 26,501 Emergency Department visits for patients with injuries and illnesses that couldn’t wait.

**Offer important child birth education classes** to 2,900 people in addition to 234 tours to 850 patients and families.

You care deeply about the children in our community, and it shows. Take a look at some of the things your support made possible in 2023. You made a difference!

**YOU HELPED …**

- **Provide 4,890 patients, including 947 NICU babies, staying in the hospital with compassionate, expert care.**
- **Transport 579 newborn babies and critically-ill children by teams that specialize in this care – by ground in our Pediatric Critical Care Ambulance or by air in our LifeFlight helicopter.**
- **Support 50 newly diagnosed cancer patients along with 33 clinical trials, and ongoing treatment for hundreds of children and teens in the Cancer & Blood Disorders Center.**
- **Provide 26,501 Emergency Department visits for patients with injuries and illnesses that couldn’t wait.**
- **Offer important child birth education classes to 2,900 people in addition to 234 tours to 850 patients and families.**

Deliveries

For the **ninth year in a row**, more babies in central Iowa were born in our hospitals than anywhere else. We helped welcome 5,043 totally amazing babies in 2023.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IOWA METHODIST</th>
<th>METHODIST WEST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3,569</td>
<td>1,474</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Child Life

**INTERACTIONS**
42,273

**PHILANTHROPY-FUNDED**
100%

Being in the hospital or visiting a doctor can be very stressful for children and their families. Child Life Specialists foster healing and recovery by helping children express their concerns and cope with fears.

Giving

**TOTAL GIFTS**
$4,360,272

**NUMBER OF GIFTS**
3,417

**NUMBER OF DONORS**
2,191

As more and more families choose Blank Children’s Hospital for care, we continue to add team members and services to meet the needs of the community. Your support makes a difference in helping provide these life-changing and life-saving programs to children and families when they need it most.