



The **Children's**
Inn at NIH

At The Children's Inn at NIH, the power of childhood meets the power of research.

With every budding new friendship, game of hide-and-seek on our playground, field trip to Washington, D.C. ...

We make childhood possible for children who've already lived through more than most and who don't have many chances to just play.

To laugh.

To be themselves.

To be kids.

And with every unexpected breakthrough, hopeful outcome or "welcome home" from a volunteer after a hard day...

We provide relief, support and strength to families journeying into the unknown: they are the pioneers whose participation in medical trials at the NIH can change the story for children around the world.

As a partner in hope to families—and a partner in discovery to the National Institutes of Health (NIH)—

The Children's Inn is a part of the cure.

“The NIH is a gigantic institution, almost unimaginable in scale. Yet as a parent of an ill child, visiting the doctors there felt just like going to your neighborhood physician. They made the place feel very human, just like The Children’s Inn does.

As a child participating in clinical trials at the NIH—or as that child’s loved one—you are facing a giant, scary obstacle... maybe one of the biggest in your life. It’s incredible that The Inn has found a way to bring such humanity into these big moments. The way The Inn supports children and families, who are the brave pioneers that can help save countless others, is critical to the NIH.”

Brian Kelly, board member and father of David, who received treatment at the NIH



In our 29 years of service...



More than **15,000** families
have stayed at The Inn



Families have come to The Inn
from **50 states and 94 countries**
to help advance medical
discoveries around the world

In 2018...



The Inn served more than
1,700 children



The Inn's operating budget
was **9.4 million**



1,703 volunteers worked
19,608 hours

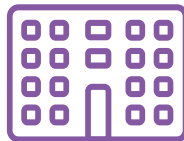
About the NIH Clinical Center...



Every year, research leads to **tens of thousands** of new scientific discoveries that change the ways we treat, diagnose, and prevent illness



This year, children participated in **546** clinical trials, representing advancements in the treatment of cancer, bone and growth disorders, mental illness, immune deficiencies, blood disorders and other life-threatening conditions



This year, Inn residents participated in pediatric protocols in **15 of the 27** institutes and centers



To date, **90** pediatric patients participating in the Undiagnosed Disease Program have received a diagnosis



#INN2025: A strategic plan rooted in compassion and developed in collaboration

The Children's Inn occupies a unique space between hotel, hospital, and home. And each sector we touch—medical research, patient care, hospitality, technology—is rapidly changing, presenting exciting opportunities to evolve our programs and services, and enhance our facilities to better support them.

In 2018, our staff and board members began a rigorous strategic planning process to consider the future of The Inn. We asked ourselves: what should The Children's Inn of tomorrow look and feel like, and what are we able to accomplish in partnership with the NIH?

After spending months examining the barriers that sometimes prevent families from participating in clinical trials at the NIH as well as researching emerging healthcare and hospitality trends, we posed these questions to our entire Inn community. We engaged nearly 200 families, staff members, donors and NIH leaders and clinicians. We asked them how The Inn can better support families through the recruitment and clinical trial process, fill existing gaps in service, improve facilities and expand our programs.

The result: #INN2025, a comprehensive strategic plan centered on three bold goals.

Evolving to a state-of-the-art “smart” living environment

We will redesign The Inn to reflect the things our families want and need as well as to support evolving patterns of clinical care—whether it's updating spaces to support growing programs, installing infection-reducing countertops or improving in-room technology to make it easier for a child in bed to stream their favorite shows or movies to the in-room television.

Strengthening our partnership with the NIH to better integrate discovery and care

We are determined to strengthen our partnership with the NIH. We will work together to meet our families' short- and long-term needs to make it easier for more families around the world to participate in clinical trials.

Maximizing community support to ensure financial sustainability

We will engage a diverse group of leaders, donors and volunteers in our ongoing work to expand our donor base to ensure The Inn's long-term financial sustainability.

Designing facilities that work for families



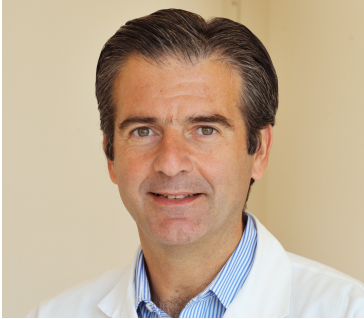
At The Inn, families come first. With their input, we will develop a master facility plan that reimagines resident rooms and common spaces for the comfort and safety of all.

"After years of treating Meghan's severe eczema, infections, and food allergies, a specialist finally discovered that all her troubles had one source: an immunodeficiency syndrome called DOCK8. Meghan's specialist referred us to Dr. Helen Su, a member of the NIH research team that discovered DOCK8, and we have been coming to the NIH for treatment and staying at The Inn ever since.

It's estimated there are only about 20 or 30 people in the world living with this condition—it's incredibly rare. And thanks to The Inn, we had an experience we wouldn't have had anywhere else: meeting other children with DOCK8 and their families. For Meghan to be able to talk to another little girl who knows and understands exactly what she's going through; for my husband and me to talk to other families with stories like ours—especially after our son, William, received a DOCK8 diagnosis just like Meghan—it was priceless.

The Inn is a community and a family: incredibly friendly and thoughtful in a way that helps you and your kids leave what happened during the day at the doorstep. So it's exciting and not at all surprising that they are applying the same approach to designing their new space and letting the needs of families like ours influence the decision-making process. Meghan isn't alone in the severity of her food allergies or the degree to which her immune system was compromised after her bone marrow transplant, so an Inn with an allergy-free kitchen or alternative washers and dryers for the immunocompromised would be a godsend."

Connie, mother of Inn residents Meghan and William, and their sister, Brooke



Partnering with the NIH to evolve and enhance The Inn experience

The NIH and The Inn depend on one another. Strengthening our partnership will help us discover new ways to change children's lives and new opportunities to move medicine forward.

"What we've been able to accomplish at the NIH over the years would not have been possible without The Inn. It's one of the many reasons why I'm excited to keep strengthening our partnership: scientific directors, investigators, and clinicians meeting with Inn leadership regularly to ensure The Inn knows about upcoming trials and studies, and can plan accordingly, exploring opportunities to integrate medical research into Inn programming and expanding The Inn's capabilities to help better serve specific populations who may be at The Inn for a number of months. Together, we can keep children and families happy and comfortable, save lives and move medicine forward."

Dr. Constantine Stratakis, NIH senior investigator, Section on Endocrinology and Genetics; NICHD/DIR scientific director; Children's Inn board member

Empowering care and discovery—today and in perpetuity

All that we do at The Inn—from the smallest, special details to the biggest medical necessities—depends on the financial sustainability of our organization and the vision of our leadership.

"I became involved with The Children's Inn because the mission grabbed me; anyone who has ever loved a child knows how heartbreaking it is to support children during times of severe illness. As a young mother, I knew that the need for this special place would not go away anytime soon. That's why we must take a longer-term view today: what will children and families need tomorrow? Where is the research going? With strong leadership representing all sides of our community of care and support—which is diverse in every sense—we can ensure The Inn has the strength and the resources to be the best possible partner for families and physicians alike."

Beth Maloney, board president, The Children's Inn at NIH

The Children's Inn at NIH



WHERE CHILDHOOD THRIVES

A day exploring the Smithsonian.

A night at a Nationals baseball game.

Hours spent working on fun art projects, playing and talking with new friends who truly understand each other's experiences.

Since we opened our doors in 1990, The Children's Inn has made childhood possible for more than 15,000 children across the world—from Utah to Uganda and everywhere in between. Childhood is about learning, growing and having fun, so our programs run the gamut: we offer 1,400 recreational, educational and therapeutic activities every year.

The children who walk through our doors face unimaginable challenges—but through it all, they're still kids. That's why we work to make every memory here at The Inn a great one.





WHERE RELIEF IS POSSIBLE

When a child is suffering, their entire support system feels it, too. That's why The Inn offers services, activities and programs just for parents, siblings and caregivers.

Siblings have opportunities to participate in activities and go on field trips. They also receive access to people who can help them understand what's going on with their brother or sister and how to cope with it.

Parents and caregivers are the glue holding their families together during the toughest times, so we work to make their lives as easy as possible through weekly grocery shopping trips, on-site laundry, help-yourself pantries and off-campus community connections. And with an Exercise Room, yoga classes and a Reflection Space, we also make it possible for caregivers to get the time and attention they need for self-care and relaxation.

We take care of the little things so families can stay focused on the big things: keeping their child happy, making time for themselves and supporting one another.

The Children's Inn at NIH



WHERE BREAKTHROUGHS HAPPEN

The bone marrow transplants that cure sickle cell disease,

The treatments that made AIDS a chronic condition instead of a death sentence,

The advent of chemotherapy and immunotherapy, and the personalized, targeted treatments physicians are starting to use today—

It all happened here.

The NIH is the world's premier biomedical research institution—and the breakthroughs that happen here are the first steps toward eradicating diseases, easing pain and making better lives possible.

But none of the medical advances that happen at the NIH would be possible without the people who drive them: children, families and caregivers, clinicians and staff—the community The Inn brings together.





WHERE ONE GIFT CAN TOUCH THE WORLD

A gift to The Inn sets change in motion.

It can provide the meal that starts an unforgettable friendship.

It can inspire a program with the power to ease minds and lift hearts at the end of a tough day.

It can give a child a home while participating in the trial that could save his or her life.

As a nonprofit organization that receives 80% of our funding from private philanthropy, none of our work could happen without the generosity of each and every donor. And with the ambitious goals we know we must accomplish for children and families as part of our strategic plan #inn2025, that philanthropic support means more than ever right now.

The Children's Inn is a testament to the power of many different people working toward one common goal:

Helping to make childhood possible today—and a cure possible tomorrow.



"Three of our four boys have X-linked agammaglobulinemia: a rare genetic disorder that makes their bodies' immune systems only about half as effective as most people's. There's a wonderful immunologist at the NIH who is following them as part of her studies and making sure they stay healthy.

Our family has been participating in trials and coming to The Inn for 14 years now—and at every age and stage, The Inn has been there for our boys. It's comfortable and welcoming—and even though you have access to the best medical center in the country, you get to cross the street at the end of the day and be somewhere that feels like home.

We want to thank the donors who give to The Children's Inn, making it possible for families like ours to come to the NIH. Without their help and their efforts, our boys would not have the quality of life that they do today."

Sonia, mother of Inn residents Holden, Harrison and Davis as well as Langford, who was born healthy





The Children's Inn at NIH

"As a co-founder of The Children's Inn, it has been a pleasure to see it grow and evolve over the years: from a promising idea to an institution unlike any other in the world. Every step of the way, The Inn has worked hand-in-hand with the families it serves and with the NIH, always thinking about ways to improve what they already do so well. It makes the difference between being a place to stay and being 'a place like home.'

I am proud to support The Children's Inn because they are always looking forward, and because I know my gift will have an impact at every level: from making a smile on a child's face possible on the toughest day to supporting discoveries that shape the future of medicine."

Lori Wiener, Ph.D.

Co-Director, Behavioral Health Core

Director, Psychosocial Support and Research Program

Pediatric Oncology Branch, Center for Cancer Research

National Cancer Institute

National Institutes of Health

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