The Children's Inn at NIH

A Year Filled with EXTRAORDINARY Gratitude

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Letter from the CEO and Board Chair

We are delighted to share The Inn's 2025 Annual Report — a testament to the extraordinary individuals, organizations, and volunteers whose generosity makes our mission possible this past year. Your steadfast support has kept The Inn "A Place Like Home" for courageous children and families as we navigate an exciting period of transformation.

This past year, [821] families stayed with us free of charge while participating in pioneering clinical trials at the National Institutes of Health. These families came seeking hope and advancement in treatments for genetic conditions, cancer, bone and growth disorders, mental illness, rare diseases, and other profound health challenges. For many, the NIH represents the best chance for a cure and a brighter future — and The Inn provides the comfort of home while they pursue it.

Building Tomorrow, Today

We broke ground on The Inn of Tomorrow, embarking on an ambitious construction project designed to serve even more families. Our carefully phased approach allows us to remain fully operational throughout construction, ensuring uninterrupted service despite our reduced footprint. Phase One of this project focuses on completely renovating the north side of our building. In 2026, Phase Two will include renovation and expansion of the south building. We look forward to officially opening the doors of The Inn of Tomorrow in 2027.

> "Together, we are transforming lives for children and families facing their greatest challenges."

The completed facility will include the main building plus the Young Adult Residence across West Drive — a space specifically designed for the unique needs of our young adult guests, featuring six sleeping rooms and dedicated communal areas. Altogether, these improvements will increase capacity by 25%, allowing us to welcome 3,000 families annually.

A Year of Impact and Connection

Amid construction, our community has thrived. In May, *An Evening for Hope*, our signature annual event, raised over $1.8 million. This unforgettable evening shone a spotlight on Lucy and Landon, who you will read about in this report. The siblings were joined on stage by several other residents who shared their stories of hope. We welcomed the new NIH Director Dr. Jay Bhattacharya to The Inn and to *An Evening for Hope* shortly after his confirmation. We hosted two engaging author events featuring intimate fireside chats with the authors, both friends of The Inn: former NIAID Director Dr. Anthony Fauci and former NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins. We have also continued expanding exciting partnerships with the Washington Nationals, Washington Commanders, and Baltimore Ravens, giving our families VIP opportunities to get up close and personal with world-class athletes. And as we celebrate the 35th anniversary of The Inn, we are honoring three-and-a-half decades of impact on medical science while looking forward to an even brighter future.

Stories of Hope

In this report, you will discover stories of courage and commitment that define The Inn's mission. From special programs designed to build healthy dietary habits in young chefs to the unique support and insight of our corporate partners to the incredible dedication and advocacy of our generous donors, these stories show how The Inn remains a source of inspiration and hope not just for our families, but for our entire community.

Thank You

Thank you for being an essential part of this journey. Together, we are transforming lives for children and families facing their greatest challenges. We look forward to another year of providing care, comfort, and hope to all who call The Inn home.

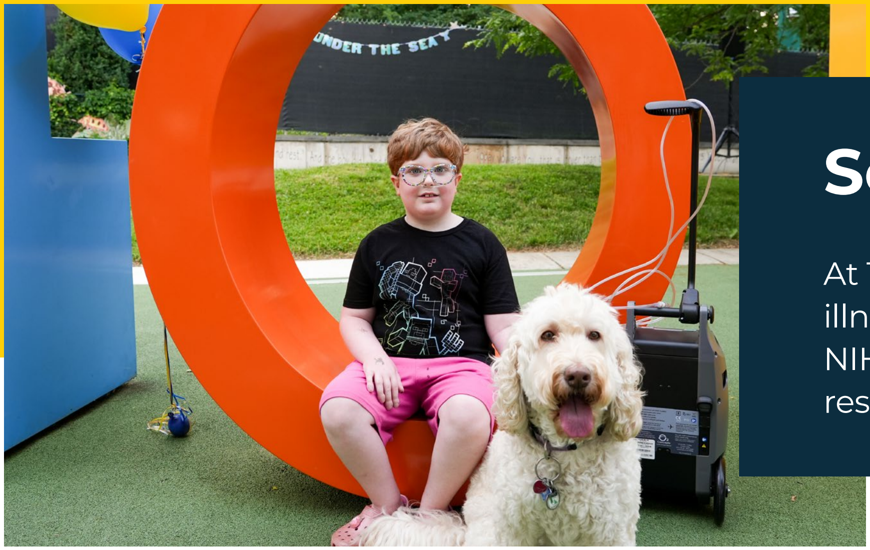
With gratitude,

Jennie Lucca
CEO, The Children's Inn at NIH

Jennie Lucca

Brian Kelly
Chair, Board of Directors, The Children's Inn at NIH

Our Impact July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025



Science | Hope | Support

At The Inn, everything we do strives to reduce the burden of illness on families, make childhood possible, and help advance NIH clinical research. In partnership with NIH researchers, Inn residents have contributed to many medical milestones:

SCIENCE

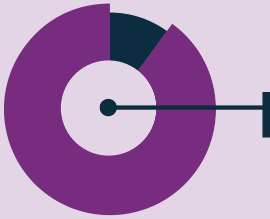
Demonstrating bone marrow transplants **cure sickle cell disease**.

Making HIV/AIDS **a treatable disease**.

Our Impact

Advancing new ways to **diagnose and treat** mental health conditions such as depression.

Pioneering **effective treatments** for many rare and serious genetic diseases, including gene therapy that **safely restores** the immune system of children with severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID), also known as “bubble boy” disease.



Increased survival rates **up to 90%** in children with the most common form of **blood cancer.**

HOPE

Served **821 families** from across the United States and the world. In a typical year, we serve more than 1,500 families. Our reduced capacity is due to The Inn’s current renovation and reconstruction project.

Provided free lodging to families for **14,170 nights**; each night **saves families $205**, the average cost of a hotel near NIH.

Patients staying at The Inn represented **110 different medical conditions and participated in studies at 14 of the 27 institutes and centers** at the National Institutes of Health.

Our Impact

SUPPORT

Offered 781 recreational, educational, and therapeutic activities for patients and their caregivers.

Provided **$62,000+ in Emergency Fund support** to 76 families, an average of $930 per family to help with bills, transportation, airfare, education, and supplemental medical supplies.

Spent $565,000+ on Feeding Families **16,943 meals**.

273 volunteers donated a total of **8,589 hours** of their time, which equates to **four** full-time employees.

2025 Financial Overview

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the world's premier biomedical research institution; the breakthroughs that happen here are the first steps toward eradicating diseases, easing pain, and making better lives possible. None of these medical advances would be possible without the people who drive them: children, families and caregivers, clinicians, and staff—the community The Children's Inn brings together. Supporters like you help us bring hope to the families who need our services as we advance medical breakthroughs.

Income & Investments

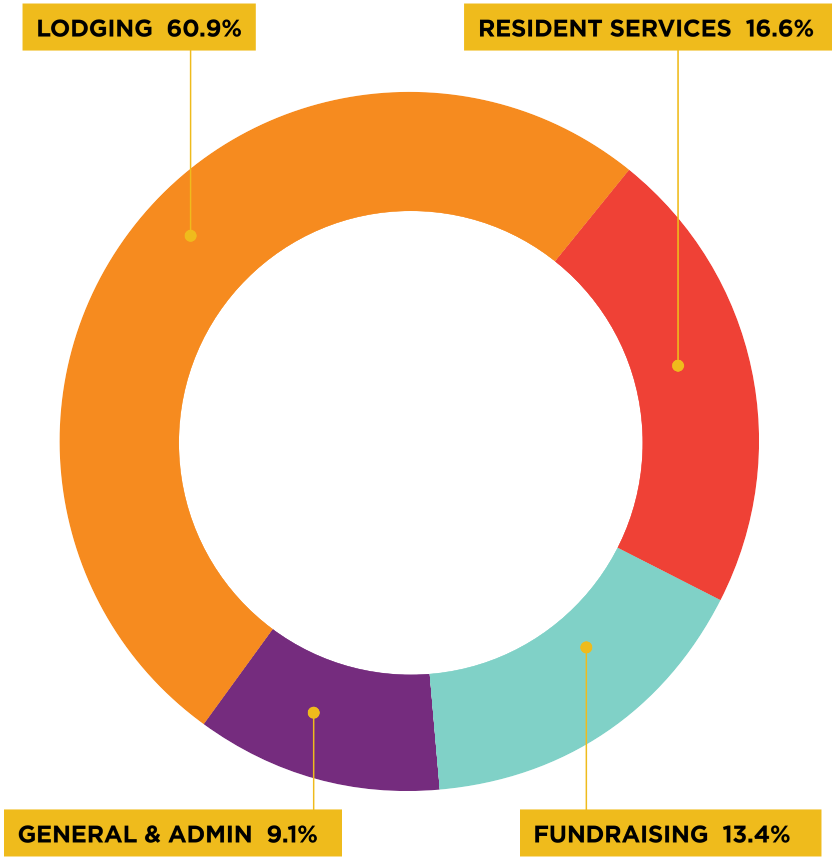
NIH Reimbursement	$1.04M
Investment Income	$7.03M
In-Kind Contributions	$3.62M
Individual & Corporate	$23.43M
Total:	**$35.12M**

Net Assets

Without Donor Restrictions	$22.78M
With Donor Restrictions	$66.89M
Total:	**$89.67M**

Operating Expenses

Lodging	$12.94M
Resident Services Program	$3.53M
Fundraising	$2.84M
General & Administrative	$1.94M
Total:	**$21.25M**



Strategic Plan

Since we launched our strategic plan in 2018, The Children's Inn at NIH has prioritized three strategic goals:

- Evolving to a state-of-the-art "smart" living environment
- Strengthening the integration of discovery and care
- Maximizing community support to promote financial viability

To date, we have made considerable progress on each of those goals. This year has been particularly exciting as construction is underway, and The Inn of Tomorrow is taking shape before our eyes.

Goal One

Evolve to a State-of-the-Art "Smart" Living Environment

The Inn of Tomorrow is on its way to becoming a reality after The Children's Inn at NIH held a groundbreaking ceremony on November 13, 2024, to commemorate the official beginning of the renovation and expansion project that has been in the planning phase for the past several years. By late December 2024, all families, staff, and volunteers were relocated to Building 62A in preparation for the start of construction. Whiting-Turner Contracting began construction in late February 2025, with project milestones including the completion of extensive interior demolition work, the installation of structural steel to support the new design layout, and the framing of interior walls. A new balcony has been installed on the second floor of the existing Living Room to gain future access to an outdoor terrace, and new mechanical, plumbing, and electrical installations are underway. Additionally, the new location for the Sport Court in the Playground has been cleared and prepped, and underground stormwater improvements are underway.

As expected, the renovation revealed a fragmented and aging IT infrastructure that required comprehensive upgrades to support The Inn of Tomorrow's vision. The outdated cabling, hardware, and unreliable access controls created daily frustrations for families and

Strategic Plan


Rendering of The Inn of Tomorrow


New terrace and play house


New sport court foundation

staff while posing safety risks and operational inefficiencies that threatened the facility's ability to meet future needs. In response, the first construction phase prioritized a complete technological overhaul, installing new Ethernet wiring and network hardware throughout the building, implementing VoIP phone lines in guest rooms for enhanced connectivity, and modernizing security and access control systems to ensure that family safety remains paramount. These improvements now enable families to stay digitally connected thousands of miles from home, while new communal areas feature modern IT resources for education and entertainment, including streaming and gaming services, and the Young Adult Residence has been equipped with both NIH and Inn networks featuring fiber connections and audio/visual capabilities in guest rooms and common areas.

Young Adult Residence

Construction on the residence continues, and several notable milestones were achieved during this past fiscal year. On the exterior, the house was upgraded with new drainage and moisture control systems, new electric lines were run underground, and improvements were made to the storm system. On the interior of the house, all demolition was completed, and new walls to support the re-configured design have all been constructed. HVAC, electric, and plumbing upgrades are almost complete. Due to a few delays on the project related to site work approvals and existing condition challenges, the completion of this phase is anticipated to wrap up in February 2026. At that time, The Inn will engage a General Contractor to complete Phase Two of the project, which will focus on interior fit-out, furniture, and building security.

Goal Two

Strengthen the Integration of Discovery and Care

Even amid construction constraints, our Programming and Resident Services teams have remained flexible and committed to ensuring that our families' experiences continue to be uplifting and positive. They have done this in part through increased commitment to education and collaboration among our partners, as well as a personalized focus on each family that stays at The Inn.

The Inn's Pediatric Support Program has welcomed both the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research and the Biomechanics Research Sections as protocol partners advancing care for families affected by cerebral palsy. Through these partnerships, we educated eight new medical teams and welcomed 12 new patients to The Inn.

The All of Us Research Program launched Social and Emotional Workshops, equipping families with resilience-building tools, stress management techniques, and connections to community resources. The NIH School program created seamless educational continuity by matching volunteer tutors to residents' curricula and bringing NIH educators on-site.

Meanwhile, in response to feedback received from families, The Inn has focused in particular on two key areas: maintaining clean and inviting rooms, and enhancing staff and volunteer training. We have been conducting audits of our apartments and collaborating with facilities and housekeeping to prioritize keeping clean and welcoming spaces during construction. Staff have been receiving regular training, including quarterly

Inn the Know training sessions, building a deeper understanding of the complex needs families face during medical journeys.

This year, our programming team has launched personalized experiences, enabling unique and memorable moments tailored to each family. These individual outings have led to stronger connections with our families and meaningful participation for those who have been involved so far. The team has also developed several options for our Adolescent and Young Adult programs, including practical life skills workshops and career readiness opportunities. These programs also provide safe spaces for peer connection and emotional support through monthly AYA mixers and integrated programming that bridges education, health, and life skills.

Goal Three

Maximize Community Support and Promote Financial Viability

This year, The Inn deepened its engagement in the local community through expanded outreach to individual, corporate, and foundation partners, state and federal officials, as well as collaborations with several professional sports teams across the Washington and Baltimore regions.

We continued to evolve our approach to corporate partnerships through meaningful collaborations. When companies reach out through donations or volunteer inquiries, we aim to design tailored experiences

Goal Three

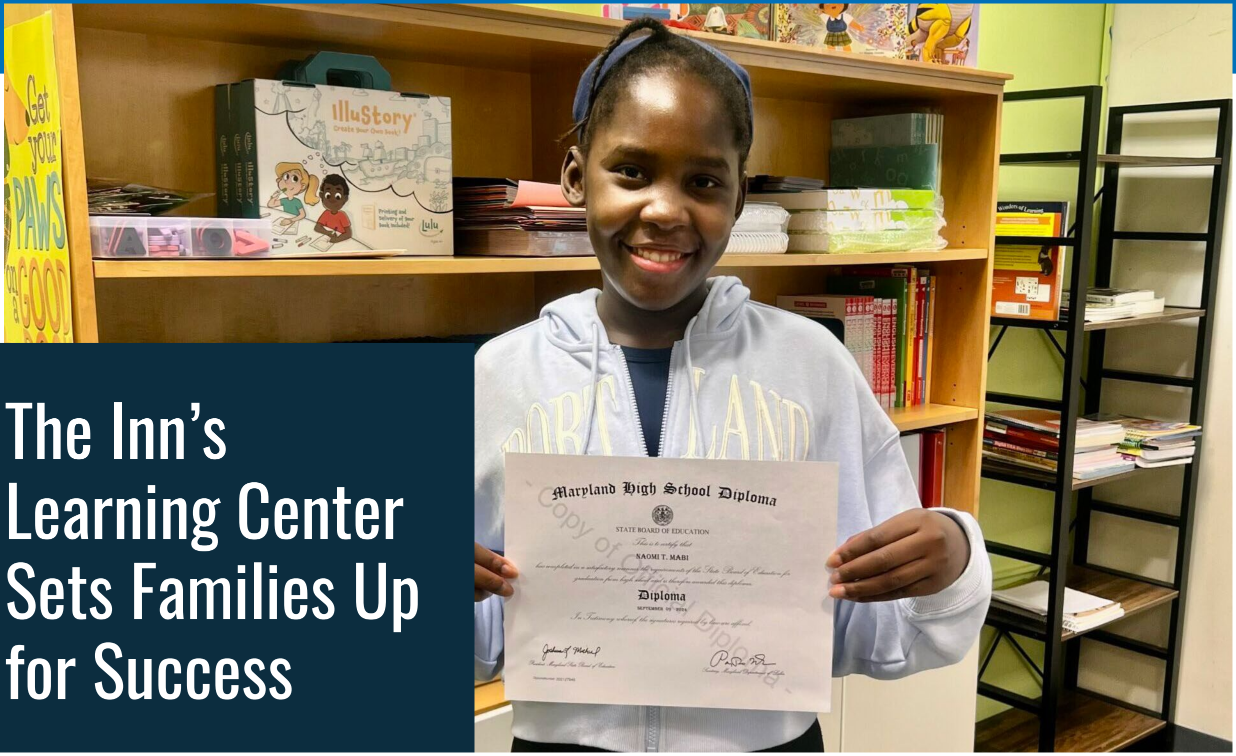
Maximize Community Support and Promote Financial Viability

that foster a genuine connection to our mission and work to create authentic relationships built on shared purpose.

The launch of our Celebrity Ambassador Program this year strengthened connections with local sports teams and created unique opportunities for families to engage. This has led to new and enhanced partnership benefits, such as a behind-the-scenes meet-and-greet with Washington Nationals players Jake Irvin and Jacob Young before a game at Nationals Park. That encounter sparked a creative collaboration with Inn patients and artists Naomi and Sam, who created cleats worn by the Nats duo during MLB Players Weekend. The hand-designed cleats gained visibility across the Nationals' social media platforms and in Sports Illustrated, amplifying awareness of The Inn's mission to a national audience.

There are many ways to support The Children's Inn. Learn more about how you can help the children and families who call The Inn home.

GET INVOLVED ➔



The Inn's Learning Center Sets Families Up for Success

19-year-old Naomi earned a GED while fighting sickle cell anemia

The Children's Inn at NIH provides a free "Place Like Home" for children, teens, and young adults coming to NIH to participate in groundbreaking clinical trials. These families come to The Inn full of hope for cures to rare and serious diseases that, in many cases, they have dealt with for their entire lives. While a family's primary goal is improving their health, The Inn's Learning Center ensures that other goals — like getting an education and starting a career — are not forgotten.

Cristian Lemus serves as The Inn's Family Program Coordinator in Education and runs the Learning Center, a quiet and cheerful space off the main lobby of The Inn. In addition to serving as a tutor himself, Lemus coordinates a team of volunteers — many of whom are retired K-12 educators — who work with residents on specific subjects ranging from general elementary education to advanced degrees. The Learning Center is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Learning Center staff have an open-door policy and work with residents individually to best serve their educational needs.

"Our residents have to take a lot of pauses in their education due to their circumstances, so we try to bridge those gaps," explained Lemus. "That's my goal — to bridge the gaps, especially for our young adults who are missing that high school diploma. We still have to consider their future. So, while they're here, why not make that a positive impact and ensure that they are achieving their goals for their future."

One such resident is Naomi, a 19-year-old whose family is originally from the Congo and has most recently lived in South Africa. Naomi was born with sickle cell anemia, a disorder that impacts red blood cells and can lead to sudden and severe pain crises, stroke, lung problems, and kidney disease, among other complications. Despite that, she persevered through her schooling until she

The Inn's Learning Center Sets Families Up for Success

was accepted into a bone marrow transplant research study through the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI).

"I was in my last couple months of high school back in South Africa," Naomi remembered. "I kept getting sick before taking my final exams, and my teachers were worried about me. My doctors emailed NIH to see [when I could go], because I was doing really bad. I had to drop out of school, and I was stressed about it because I wanted to finish before I came."

Naomi arrived in the United States in September 2023 and spent the next four months living with family in Washington, DC. Though focused on maintaining her health and strength, Naomi learned about the General Educational Development (GED) program for people who want to earn a high school equivalency diploma without graduating from high school. It was an intriguing option — maybe her educational journey wouldn't have to be postponed after all — but figuring out how to get started felt overwhelming.

Upon arrival at The Inn, Naomi quickly discovered the Learning Center and realized that Lemus and the volunteers could guide her through the process of pursuing her GED. She also learned about The Inn's Innrichment Program, which allows residents access to educational funding. Through it, she was able to have her GED classes paid for.

"I started studying in March," Naomi recounted. "My transplant was scheduled for April, but then it was moved back to July. So, I had four or five months of uninterrupted work. It was a perfect time for me to study and write."

Education had always been important to Naomi, and her family knew the GED program would prove perfect for her. But the eagerness with which she attacked the schoolwork and the plan she laid out for herself surprised even them.

"My family expected me to do it after the transplant, but there were too many months of just doing nothing," Naomi laughed. "I don't like the stagnation of not doing anything, so when I came here, I decided I was here to study."

Naomi also devoted time to programs such as Art with Dave, a weekly art studio open to Inn residents of all ages. She had always loved art and hopes to pursue a studio art

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>
> *—Cristian Lemus, The Inn's Family Program Coordinator in Education*

The Inn's Learning Center Sets Families Up for Success

degree in college. The Innrichment Fund and volunteers like Dave helped that passion flourish at The Inn.

"Naomi planned to use her Innrichment funds to pay for her GED classes, but she also has some additional money that can support her for an enriching activity such as music or dancing," Lemus explained. "Anything that is enriching to her life would qualify."

Working with Dave, Naomi created a large art piece that she donated to The Inn's *An Evening for Hope* gala auction. It sold at the event, an achievement that makes her beam with pride.

Though she could not quite complete the GED requirements before her transplant, Naomi resumed them as quickly as her doctors would allow. In September, almost exactly a year after she arrived in the United States, her hard work was rewarded when she earned her GED.

With members of her family currently pursuing college degrees in Canada, Naomi has a new goal to join them. First, though, she plans to stay in the Washington area to continue the next step of her education. "I have my GED, but the rest of my high school grades are in South Africa," she said. "It would be easier to study here for the first two years and be close to my medical team, and then I can transfer to a [four-year] college."

Like any other young people, the children, teens, and young adults who come to The Children's Inn have hopes and dreams that go beyond their health. Thanks to The Inn's Learning Center, those educational dreams do not have to be put on hold during their time at NIH.

To learn more about the Learning Center and volunteer opportunities, contact Cristian Lemus at Cristian.Lemus@nih.gov.

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Keeping Up with Dominic

Two-year-old Wisconsin native is the latest of three brothers to enroll in NHGRI studies surrounding GM1 gangliosidosis

Sitting still is not Dominic's strong suit. Then again, it isn't a strong suit for many two-year-olds. A native of Stevens Point, Wisconsin, Dominic recently made his first visit to The Children's Inn at NIH, where the rambunctious and playful toddler has made himself at home and endeared himself with staff and other families with his bright smile and enthusiastic babbling. It's hard to believe that this energetic child is here to treat a disease that has robbed two older brothers of speech and mobility functions that seem to come so naturally to him.

The three brothers — Dominic, Oliver (8), and Joey (16) — suffer from GM1 gangliosidosis, a neurodegenerative condition that impacts one in every 100,000 to 200,000 newborns. Dominic is being treated at a younger age than either of his brothers, and his mother, Maria, hopes that the early treatment will lead to better results as he ages. Oliver, who has been in the same trial for five years, joined Dominic at The Inn midway through the younger sibling's two-month visit for his introduction to the trial.

Though Dominic and Oliver are receiving treatment at the NIH under the care of Dr. Cynthia Tifft at the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), the trial came too late for Joey to take part. "Around the age of four, we noticed that Joey was plateauing developmentally," Maria remembered. "He started to struggle with things that he should have been making progress with, like his fine motor skills and his overall development. He was starting to fall behind, but it wasn't significant. He was a happy and active kid."

Pediatricians could not identify any physical reason for the lack of development, but when

Keeping Up with Dominic

Joey was about five-and-a-half, he began losing the motor skills he already had. He would also complain of illness that left him bedridden for a day, but carried no other obvious symptoms besides fatigue, and disappeared after a day.

When he was around eight, his parents noticed a lump on his lower spine. They pointed it out to the pediatrician, who started a chain of referrals that led to a neurologist who diagnosed him with GM1 later that year.

“I had to get online and find out what was going on in terms of treatments,” Maria explained. “I got connected with a researcher in Alabama who put me in touch with Dr. Tifft here at the NIH. They had a natural history study*, and we came here with Joey and Oliver in the fall of 2017 for the first time.”

From the beginning, The Inn provided a sense of calm and normalcy for the family as they navigated a frightening and uncertain future. “The staff at The Inn is always very welcoming and friendly,” Maria smiled. “There’s always a lot of stuff for the kids to do during their downtime. My kids love

Dominic is all smiles

> “With so much to see and do there is no time for rest in Dominic’s world. Even though it can be hard to keep up, he and his family are hopeful that the breakthroughs happening at NHGRI and across the NIH campus make it so he doesn’t slow down anytime soon.”

Keeping Up with Dominic

the playground and the book nook. A lot of times we weren't here long enough to do too many activities, but I know there have been some fun activities and field trips while we've been here."

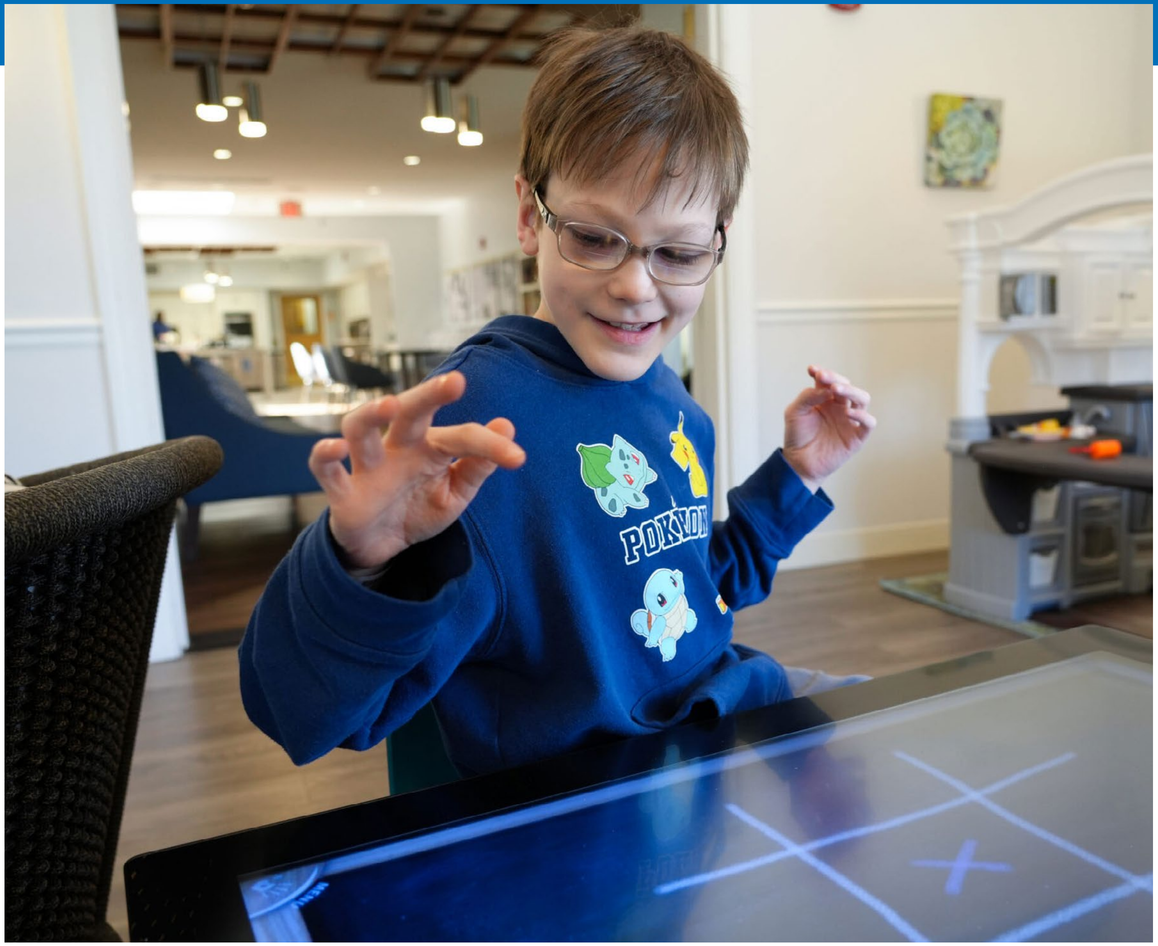
By 2019, the researchers at NHGRI had started a gene therapy** trial for the treatment of GM1 and discontinued the natural history study. By the time that trial started, Joey was considered too low functioning to qualify for the trial. So, Oliver enrolled, and the family arrived back at NIH in early 2020 for his first treatments.

"Gene therapy for GM1 is most beneficial when done before symptom onset," Maria said. "Once the symptoms start, it's like trying to stop an avalanche."

Joey, now 16, remains a happy and social kid but is completely nonambulatory and nonverbal. Though he can still eat some, a feeding tube was recently inserted. Maria is optimistic that he will ultimately benefit from an orally ingested treatment, but for now, they are focused on symptom management.

For Oliver, Maria believes that the gene therapy treatment has slowed the progression of the disease. "He was only the third child treated," she recalled, "so he was treated with a low dose of the gene therapy. Treatment began before symptom onset, and he functions higher than Joey did at eight years old. But there is still some regression. His speech in particular is affected. He is in a regular classroom [at school] but modified significantly for him."

Five years after Oliver was a pioneering gene therapy patient, his brother Dominic is beginning his own course of gene therapy.



Oliver playing with an interactive game table at The Inn

Keeping Up with Dominic

He will receive triple the dose that Oliver received and at a younger age. Those variables make his parents hopeful that his prognosis will be even better.

In the meantime, Dominic is getting used to his new surroundings at The Inn. He makes frequent tours of the building on a tricycle and loves exploring the toys and play areas currently available during The Inn's renovation and expansion project. He also has taken part in some of the special programming going on, including a visit from NASA astronauts in early March, and loves visiting Zilly and the rest of the therapy dogs that visit The Inn.

With so much to see and do, to say nothing of his frequent visits to the NIH Clinical Center, there is no time for rest in Dominic's world. Even though it can be hard to keep up, he and his family are hopeful that the breakthroughs happening at NHGRI and across the NIH campus make it so he doesn't slow down anytime soon.

> “Five years after Oliver was a pioneering gene therapy patient, his brother Dominic is beginning his own course of gene therapy. He will receive triple the dose that Oliver received and at a younger age. Those variables make his parents hopeful that his prognosis will be even better.”

**A natural history study follows a group of people over time who have, or are at risk of developing, a specific medical condition or disease. A natural history study collects health information in order to understand how the medical condition or disease develops and how to treat it.*

***Gene therapy involves the delivery of functional DNA to target cells. For GM1, the leading approach utilizes viral vectors, predominantly adeno-associated viruses (AAVs), to restore β-gal activity to its normal state with a single injection*[1] (link)

You don't have to be a corporate partner to make a difference. Support our families by donating today!

DONATE →

A Ball of Light: Resilient Cyrus Keeps Fighting

Battling Chronic Granulomatous Disease has defined five-year-old Cyrus' young life

The long flight from Los Angeles to Dulles had just touched down. The plane was still taxiing to the gate. Five-year-old Cyrus, sitting with his mother Crystal and father Chahriar, was still buckled in his seat but his attention had already turned to what was coming next. With a wide grin on his face, Cyrus turned to his mother and asked: "Playroom?"

Cyrus first discovered the playroom at The Children's Inn in August 2023 when he was just three years old. Born in Los Angeles just a few months before the COVID-19 pandemic paralyzed the United States, he has been coming to NIH to fight Chronic Granulomatous Disease (CGD), a genetic disorder in which white blood cells are unable to kill certain types of bacteria and fungi. People with CGD are highly susceptible to frequent and sometimes life-threatening bacterial and fungal infections.

"Cyrus is a ball of light," said Crystal. "He is really a joy. He is very interested in everything. Anything that he sees, he has lots of questions and he wants to know how it works. And he wants to physically see it and touch it and do it, and maybe even take it apart. He's very aware. From the moment he was born, he was looking around like, 'what is this place?'"

Crystal described CGD as "an invisible life-threatening illness." As a baby, Cyrus could be irritable. New to parenthood, his mother and father just thought he was a typical moody baby. In addition, he would not gain weight very quickly, and wounds took a long time to heal. But his various maladies were never serious enough to warrant a hospital visit, and his pediatrician could treat them simply enough. "He had a bunch of things that were unusual," remembered Crystal. "But they would heal. These things were never a problem for long."

In September 2021, when he was not quite two years old, Cyrus contracted COVID-19. Unusually for someone his age, he did not recover quickly. One day, Crystal noticed

A Ball of Light: Resilient Cyrus Keeps Fighting

Cyrus gets a golf lesson through an Inn programming event

> He is now able to play arcade games and play in the sand. He is resilient and energetic, and loves music – particularly electronic and classical music. "He loves to dance. He's a little raver at heart."
>
> *—Cyrus' Mother, Crystal*

him guarding the area around his appendix. That prompted a visit to urgent care where, for the first time, more extensive labwork was done. The doctors told her that her son had a raging infection coursing through his body and recommended an immediate emergency room visit.

The emergency room at Children's Hospital Los Angeles performed a litany of tests. At first, doctors thought the results pointed to liver cancer. A day later, they leaned more towards a rare case of tuberculosis. Finally, after the tests were sent out of state, the results showed that Cyrus was among the roughly two-in-a-million people born with CGD.

Suddenly, much of Cyrus' early irritability made sense. CGD makes it nearly impossible for its sufferers to interact with nature. The bacteria and algae found in natural bodies of water, beaches, sandboxes, trees, or leaves can be fought off easily by a healthy immune system, but not one infected with CGD. Fortunately, doctors were able to prescribe prophylaxis medicines that allowed him to simply exist in the world around him. And the doctors at CHLA told his parents that a bone marrow transplant could be curative.

Cyrus was hospitalized at CHLA for over two months, undergoing surgery for a liver abscess. "It was hard," recalled Crystal. "Nothing prepares you for this type of navigation."

The doctors at CHLA wanted to rush Cyrus in for a transplant after the liver abscess had healed. Their treatment protocol, however, involved significant courses of chemotherapy. Crystal and Chahriar did not want that for their toddler. If chemo was necessary, they agreed, they wanted to use the least possible amount.

Fortunately, a friend told them about Dr. Harry Malech at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Though Cyrus would have to wait until he was four years old, NIAID was recruiting participants for a study of the Jasper protocol, a bone marrow

A Ball of Light: Resilient Cyrus Keeps Fighting

Cyrus loves the play spaces at The Inn

transplant procedure that would call for a minimal amount of chemotherapy.

For most of the next two years, Cyrus shuttled between home and CHLA, where he would have to stay for multiple prolonged visits. "He went from no medications to a lot of medications," said Crystal. "There were a lot of blood draws, and the medication made him nauseous. We became experts at predicting when he would throw up, and we had vomit bags all over the house and the car."

The sudden changes in Cyrus' routine were jarring for the toddler. "One of the biggest difficulties for us was getting him to take his meds," Crystal remembered. "I would have to hold him down to force him to take them, multiple times a day for over a year. He started to take pills early on — at age three, which was a miracle. That helped eliminate the vomiting. But then he started not wanting to take his meds. So much has happened in his medical history I try to decipher if it's just because of his age or if it is the trauma, or both. It's a trauma that doesn't go away. But we just keep adapting and learning how to ask the right questions so we can advocate best for Cyrus."

In August 2023, as he approached his fourth birthday, Cyrus made his first trip to NIH and The Children's Inn. He immediately fell in love with The Inn. A precocious eater — Crystal laughed as she described him ordering cheese fondue, lamb chops, and artichokes while inpatient at the Clinical Center — he especially loved the toy food and kitchen in the playroom where he could prepare his own make-believe meals.

For that first visit, Cyrus threw himself into as many activities at The Inn as he could, including a field trip to TPC Avanel for a children's golf clinic. He was officially cleared for the transplant in late February and arrived back at The Inn on March 10. The transplant took place on March 29.

Though his doctors are not yet fully satisfied with his test results in the months following the transplant, Cyrus has been able to start venturing out into the world. Since the transplant, his parents have been able to reward the continued difficult treatments with trips to Santa Monica Pier, where he is now able to play arcade games and play in the sand. He is resilient and energetic, and loves music — particularly electronic and classical music. "He loves to dance," laughed his mother. "He's a little raver at heart."

His doctors and family are hopeful that his numbers will begin to stabilize and show decreasing levels of CGD in his body. If not, there will be other options available as he continues through the five-year study that he has joined. For now, he looks forward to a normal childhood, including the start of kindergarten in the fall as he remains a ball of light for everyone he meets, at home or in the playroom at The Children's Inn.

Two Journeys for One Family

Lucy and Landon get the bone marrow transplants they need in the fight against Severe Combined Immunodeficiency

Lucy, Landon, and Lucy's twin sister Lani with their parents, Mary and Darrell

Everyone who stays at The Children's Inn at NIH is making their way through a unique medical journey. Even within the same family, dealing with siblings who share a diagnosis, the journeys can take wildly divergent paths.

Take, for example, Lucy and Landon, siblings who arrived at The Inn in early March 2024. For seven-year-old Lucy, that arrival culminated in two years of searching for answers. For 12-year-old Landon, it opened up a path he hadn't even realized he was traveling. Now, several months later, both are well on their way to recovery and a resumption of their active childhoods in North Carolina.

Lucy is a friendly and articulate girl who loves school, especially since it means seeing her friends. In 2022, when she was only five, Lucy began developing spots all over her legs. They looked like mosquito bites, and her parents, Mary and Darrell, thought for a while that was all they were. But the spots persisted, and later that year, she had a huge spot on her hand that showed no signs of improving.

"We took her to [Brenner Children's Hospital] in Winston-Salem," Mary remembered. "They did some tests and couldn't figure out what was going on, and nothing was getting better."

Two Journeys for One Family

> It's wonderful just having all the amenities here, especially with the programming team and the activities they're providing. Not many places provide bikes and things like that. It gives them something to do and gets their mind off things around them. It's good to blow off steam, laugh, cut up and carry on."
>
> —*Mary, Lucy and Landons' Mother*

Lucy at Washington Commanders training camp

Lucy was in and out of doctors' offices and hospitals for the next year and a half. In October 2023, she had to be airlifted to Brenner with a bad case of double pneumonia. She was in the step-down ICU for a week before she was cleared to come home from that visit.

Shortly after that, one of the spots on her leg burst open, leaving it oozing and infected. It remained bad in February 2024 when, on what her family thought was a routine trip to Brenner for bloodwork, she was admitted and remained there for nearly a month.

During that extended stay, a rheumatologist was able to run a gene panel that flagged her with a rare genetic disorder known as Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID). Lucy had a form of the disorder that allows patients to survive beyond infancy and sometimes into adulthood, but still carries with it the risk of severe infections and abnormal immune system activation. Immediately, wheels were set in motion, leading to a comprehensive immunology evaluation by experts in her rare disease at the National Institutes of Health.

"We pretty much checked out of one hospital and checked in here," laughed Darrell. The family had two days at home after the last trip to Brenner before they checked into The Children's Inn at NIH.

At first, the focus was entirely on Lucy. But it did not take long for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases doctors examining her to ask Mary and Darrell to bring the rest of their

Two Journeys for One Family

four children in for testing, too. Lucy's twin sister Lani and her older brothers Landon (12) and Levi (15) all made the trip to Bethesda, where they underwent testing for the genetic changes found in Lucy. It revealed that only Landon — to that point, a seemingly-healthy sixth-grader with a love of dirt bikes and remote-control cars — shared his sister's diagnosis.

"At first, I was a little bit mad," Landon remembered. "But at least I knew that I can get it over with. It was good that they found out now instead of when it got worse."

Landon and Lucy with their Uncle Robbie and Aunt Crystal at The Inn

The good news was that even for Lucy, who had been dealing with ailments related to her condition for two years, the SCID had been detected relatively early. After a successful bone marrow transplant with a working immune system from another person, the problem should be behind them. More good news came when Levi was determined to be a match for Lucy, and a first cousin was able to serve as a donor for Landon.

"My understanding of [SCID] is that they can't fight infections the way we fight infections," Mary explained. "Over time, it gets worse and attacks the organs from the inside out." She recalled meeting a man who had been diagnosed with the same disorder at age 35 after a lifetime of perplexing illness. He had lost all his hair and nail follicles, suffered vocal cord damage, and had lung damage and heart issues as a result of his condition. He underwent the necessary bone marrow transplant at age 40 on the same protocol and with the same team of bone marrow transplant doctors at the National Cancer Institute but was in a coma and had a rough recovery. "Sometimes this

Two Journeys for One Family

Landon at Baltimore Ravens training camp

goes untreated and the outcome is not the best," she said. "Their bodies are fighting what they can, but all it takes is one infection to blow the whole immune system up. We are very lucky that Lucy and Landon never got a major infection that could have been devastating."

Lucy, whose condition left her in more urgent need of a transplant, underwent her procedure on April 5. Landon's followed on June 17. Though Lucy experienced some issues with her new immune system being overactive, which led to pneumonia, doctors were able to ease her from a twice-a-day antibiotic schedule to twice-a-week visits to the NIH Clinical Center for blood draws. Landon has experienced a smooth recovery so far.

As they recovered, Lucy and Landon began to explore the opportunities available to them at The Inn. Lucy adored the programming team and especially enjoyed the arts and crafts activities they regularly performed. She also became very fond of Zilly, The Inn's therapy dog. Missing the wide open spaces around home, Landon made the best of his surroundings by using The Inn's bikes to speed around the playground and parking lot. Both of them also spend a lot of time in the game room, where they play pool. After their procedures, they both got remote-control cars, which could be seen zipping around the indoor and outdoor spaces at The Inn.

"It's wonderful just having all the amenities here, especially with the programming team and the activities they're providing," Mary said with a smile. "Not many places provide bikes and things like that. It gives them something to do and get their mind off things around them. It's good to blow off steam, laugh, cut up and carry on."

Doctors are pleased with the early results of their transplants. Both siblings will make annual visits — Landon looks forward to being able to drive himself in a few years — but are expected to make a full recovery.

Though Lucy and Landon came from the same house and got the transplants they needed at the same time, their paths to get to that point were very different. Now, though, they look forward to forging their own paths to healthy lives knowing that The Inn will be there for them as they make their way forward.

A Recipe for Kindness

A retired orthodontist, Elias keeps smiles bright as a volunteer at The Children's Inn

Elias had always enjoyed working with children. After retiring as an orthodontist in Chevy Chase, where his practice focused largely on young patients, he sought out volunteer work that would keep him busy and engaged. It was a former staff member at The Children's Inn at NIH who first told him about the opportunity. Intrigued by the idea of giving back in a meaningful way, Elias decided to give volunteering a try.

For the past two-and-a-half years, Elias has been an invaluable member of The Children's Inn team of volunteers. He works primarily at the front reception desk, greeting families and helping with day-to-day operations, and also is part of the Volunteer Advisory Committee. But his contributions extend far beyond administrative tasks. Elias is a beloved fixture at The Inn for his eagerness to get involved and interact directly with the families staying at The Inn whenever he is there.

Elias has channeled his own passions into ways to help others. He loves to bake with the kids, and through the Happily Hungry program, he teaches them the art of cooking and food preparation.

"When they are little kids, they've never had a knife because you don't want your six-year-old to hold a sharp knife, right?" Elias chuckles as he recalls the first moments of teaching the children to chop vegetables. "In the beginning, it's a little bit shaky. But once they learn, they do it well and enjoy it very much. It's a great program. It's truly amazing watching them learn."

Elias acts much like a sous chef for the families participating in Happily Hungry, often focusing on baking or cooking skills, as well as making smoothies. The participants, ranging from as young as four to their parents and caregivers, gather to follow recipes and learn new culinary techniques. The program provides a fun, educational experience that helps them focus on something other than their challenging medical journeys.

A Recipe for Kindness

Elias's impact at The Children's Inn is not limited to his role in the kitchen or at the front desk. He has developed deep connections with several of the families, many of whom he helps communicate with in one of the seven languages he speaks: English, Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, Arabic, and Hebrew.

"I've developed a nice relationship with several of the families," Elias says. "[Language] is the main entrance with them. Sometimes families come here that are totally lost with the language, and so I try to help with that."

Elias's ability to connect with families, whether through language or simple compassion, makes him a trusted friend and shoulder to lean on. He knows that the families who come to The Children's Inn are often facing challenging situations. As much as he can, he provides them with emotional support.

"You just have to be there for them," Elias reflects. "That's it. You cannot say too much because there is nothing to say. It can be very painful, everything that they're going through. If they need anything, I try to provide whatever they need or guide them to somebody who can."

Elias also contributes his time and energy to events away from The Children's Inn, such as An Evening for Hope, the Golf INNvitational, and Rock and Roll for Children. Whenever he has the time, he's eager to help out.

Elias's passion for life extends beyond his volunteer work. He and his wife, Daniela, travel frequently, particularly to places like Mexico, Panama, and Argentina. His love for languages and new experiences has been a constant throughout his life.

"I enjoy languages and learning new places. I've been traveling all over the world since I was very young," he shares.

Elias is also active in his community, serving on the board of his synagogue in Rockville and regularly socializing with friends. He credits Daniela with keeping him young at heart.

The dedication and joy that Elias finds in his volunteer work at The Children's Inn are evident to everyone who meets him. But for him, he is simply grateful to be a part of such a special place.

"I keep saying all the time that the people at The Children's Inn are just amazing," he smiled. "Each one in their own way. They're just incredible people. "I see that there is a lot of dedication among the staff. So I appreciate being here very much, and I enjoy it very much. This is a really special place."

> "You just have to be there for them. That's it. You cannot say too much because there is nothing to say. It can be very painful, everything that they're going through. If they need anything, I try to provide whatever they need or guide them to somebody who can."
>
> *—Elias*

Elias joins other volunteers at The Inn's annual volunteer appreciation brunch

Teaching Kitchen Preps Families for a Feast

Dr. Andrew Bremer and the NIH Office of Nutrition Research team up with The Inn for a unique quarterly activity.

As families across the United States prepare to fill their tables with delicious food for Thanksgiving dinner, families at The Children's Inn at NIH are also getting into the spirit. Through a new program called Teaching Kitchen, they are getting the opportunity to learn how to make simple, healthy meals that put new twists on classic tastes.

Dr. Andrew Bremer, Director of the NIH Office of Nutrition Research, was joined by his Office's dietitians, the leader of Happily Hungry, and the Executive Chef of Food & Friends, a community-based organization that provides home-delivered medically-tailored meals, groceries, and nutrition therapy to local families living with cancer, HIV/AIDS, and other serious illnesses. Together, they welcomed Inn families into the E kitchen, where they had several recipes and ingredients prepared for participants to put together.

"The team from the Office of Nutrition Research and our partners couldn't have been more thrilled at our inaugural Teaching Kitchen event at The Children's Inn," reflected Dr. Bremer. "Our goal with the Teaching Kitchen program is to support parents and children staying at The Inn and not only teach them life-long culinary skills, but also that cooking healthy, nutritious, and tasty meals can be fun and exciting! A good time was had by all."

The recipes varied in complexity, with younger chefs able to put together simple snacks like an Almond Butter and Banana Roll-Up and Cinnamon Roasted Chickpeas, while some of the teenagers and young adults who gathered made Apple Cinnamon Protein Muffins and Hidden Veggie Hamburgers.

Teaching Kitchen Preps Families for a Feast

"The Teaching Kitchen is something we have been working on for a long time, and we are thrilled that the first time went so well," said The Inn's Family Program Operations Manager Kristin Arabian. "Our families were really excited to take part, and we are looking forward to seeing this program grow."

After the cooking was finished, Dr. Bremer and the Teaching Kitchen team joined the families from The Inn to share a five-course meal. During the dinner, they discussed their thoughts on the food prepared and their willingness to incorporate these types of healthy dishes into their future meals and snacks.

Dr. Bremer and the Office of Nutrition Research will be back quarterly to continue the program with families at The Inn. There will be new recipes and new chefs-in-training in the kitchen, but the goal of bringing healthy and simple food options to the young residents at The Children's Inn will remain the same each time the Teaching Kitchen is open.

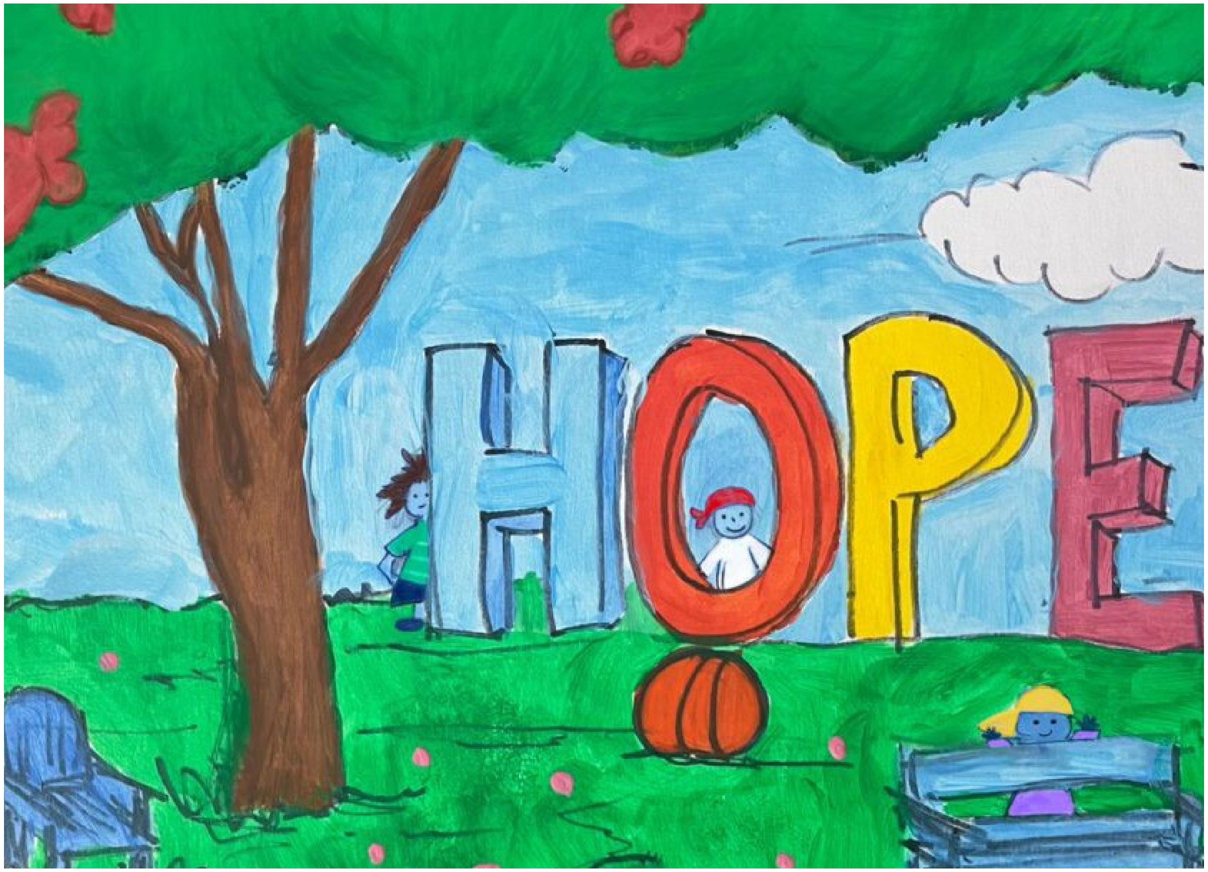
> "Our goal with the Teaching Kitchen program is to support parents and children staying at The Inn and not only teach them life-long culinary skills, but also that cooking healthy, nutritious, and tasty meals can be fun and exciting! A good time was had by all."
>
> *—Dr. Andrew Bremer, Director of the NIH Office of Nutrition Research*

Families pose with their culinary creations

Booz Allen: Measuring What Matters

Corporate partner provides service and data to help The Inn evolve.

For more than 35 years, The Children's Inn at NIH has offered families "A Place Like Home" during some of the most difficult journeys of their lives. Children, teens, and young adults arrive with their families to participate in groundbreaking clinical trials at the NIH Clinical Center – often far from home, facing daunting diagnoses, and carrying the heavy burdens of illness.



Booz Allen has been a proud corporate partner of The Inn for more than a decade. During that time, it has donated more than $1.65 million to The Inn through sponsorships of key events such as An Evening for Hope, Snowed Inn, and the Golf Innvitational. At the same time, Booz Allen employees have engaged with The Inn in a variety of meaningful ways, including serving family meals and volunteering time and resources to help operate fun and engaging programming for families.

"Booz Allen is proud of its long-standing support of The Children's Inn's mission-driven purpose of enabling transformational biomedical research, reducing the burden of illness, and making childhood possible," said Booz Allen Senior Vice President and Children's Inn Board Member Roman Salasznyk. "As an advanced technology company, we recognize the important role that The Inn plays in accelerating scientific discovery while improving health outcomes for children and families faced with debilitating and life-threatening illnesses. Our corporate culture emphasizes passionate service and meaningful engagement, and events like Family Dinners are where our core values come to life. Our people

Booz Allen: Measuring What Matters

> "Our corporate culture emphasizes passionate service and meaningful engagement, and events like Family Dinners are where our core values come to life. Our people enthusiastically embrace these opportunities to support and interact meaningfully with the residents of The Inn."
>
> *—Roman Salasznyk, Booz Allen Senior Vice President*

enthusiastically embrace these opportunities to support and interact meaningfully with the residents of The Inn."

This year, Booz Allen's partnership reached a new level, helping The Inn measure its impact with greater clarity than ever before. Its report, *Measuring Impact of The Children's Inn at NIH*, confirms what families and staff have always known: The Inn does more than provide a place to stay. It reduces the burden of illness, makes childhood possible, and enables life-saving scientific discovery.

"The Inn has excelled in its mission over the last 35 years to provide a free 'A Place Like Home' to children and young adult patients and their families across the United States and the world," said Salasznyk. "In an effort to quantitatively express this impact, The Inn asked us to analyze the clinical trial journey of families, patients, and clinicians to assess how the services that The Inn provides contribute to research and scientific discovery. For this project, Booz Allen facilitated various structured interviews with members of The Inn leadership and staff, Inn volunteers, patients and caregivers, and clinicians and medical staff; conducted a thematic analysis of research findings; and developed actionable recommendations in a comprehensive report."

Families interviewed for the study spoke of the ways The Inn lifts both visible and invisible burdens. Its location on the NIH campus eases the stress of daily appointments. Specialized isolation rooms allow immunocompromised children to avoid extended hospital stays while remaining safe and comfortable. Volunteers – whose service equals more than four full-time staff – create programs, coordinate meals, and walk The Inn's therapy dog, ensuring families feel supported at every turn.

Parents expressed relief knowing their children are safe inside The Inn's welcoming walls, giving them precious moments to rest or simply take a walk. One mother shared how a tutoring program lifted the enormous weight of managing her son's disrupted education. Another patient marveled that when their family requested a shower chair at check-in, "someone was at the door within minutes."

The Inn is a place where children are free to be kids, not patients. Arts and crafts, Bingo Nights, puppet shows, and cooking classes balance the medical challenges of each day. Through the Adolescent and Young Adult program, teens and young adults gain life skills, friendships, and encouragement to dream beyond illness. Families described The Inn as a "second home," where children laughed, played, and made

Booz Allen: Measuring What Matters

memories that might otherwise have been lost to treatment schedules.

International families spoke of the relief of seeing their culture and language reflected in meals, music, and even small notes of welcome written in their native tongue. One child, who dreaded long hospital days filled with tests, said they always looked forward to returning to The Inn because "there would be no more tears. It's a happy, comforting place."

Perhaps most striking, Booz Allen's findings highlight how essential The Inn is to advancing medical research at NIH. Without The Inn, many clinical trials simply would not be possible. Families reported that without its support, half of them might not – or could not – participate. Clinicians confirmed that The Inn is a cornerstone of their ability to recruit and retain diverse participants, particularly for rare disease studies, long-term trials, and international patients.

One clinician put it simply: "The Inn is an equalizer for health disparities." By removing financial, logistical, and emotional barriers, The Inn ensures children from all backgrounds can access cutting-edge treatments, and that science itself can move forward.

Booz Allen staffers serving dinner at The Inn

Through its pro bono engagement, Booz Allen has given The Inn a powerful new tool: the ability to measure, document, and share its impact. Aside from confirming the success The Inn has had in fulfilling its mission, the report provides actionable recommendations including expanding data collection, enhancing translation services, enriching programs, and strengthening communication with NIH clinicians. These steps will help The Inn not only continue its mission, but also demonstrate, in measurable ways, the profound difference it makes for families and for science.

For The Inn's leadership, staff, and volunteers, the findings affirm years of dedication. For families, they validate the comfort and joy they feel when staying at The Inn. And for donors and partners, they provide tangible evidence that supporting The Inn is not just an act of generosity – it is an investment in children's lives and in the future of medicine.

The Children's Inn at NIH has always been a haven where burdens are lifted, childhood is cherished, and discoveries are made possible. With Booz Allen's partnership, The Inn now has the tools to ensure this story is told with clarity and strength – for families, for donors, and for generations to come.

Lives Impacted: Meet Sonny and Anita Bloom

A meaningful connection inspires lasting generosity.

When Sonny and Anita Bloom attended The Inn's An Evening for Hope gala as guests in 2022, they had no idea that one special evening would mark the beginning of a profound commitment to The Children's Inn at NIH.

Their introduction to The Inn came through a dear friend and Inn Board Member, Prachee Devadas, who had invited them to the annual gala. The Blooms had known Prachee since Sonny hired her shortly after her graduation from college, and remained close over the years. That night, the Blooms won a vacation through the silent auction—a generous commitment in itself. But after learning about The Inn's mission and the families it serves, they knew they wanted to do much more.

"It was a perfect storm of things coming together," Sonny remembered. "[Prachee] got us involved at the gala and participating that way, and I don't know how anyone could not see what they could do to help once they knew about The Inn."

After the gala Devadas put the Blooms in touch with Liza Cole, The Inn's Senior Director of Leadership & Legacy Giving. Through Cole, Sonny and Anita became members of The Innkeeper's Society by including The Inn in their estate planning.

"We wanted to do something more substantial," he explained. "We've made some donations each year, but in our estates, we have a charitable fund that's already funded. We've designated [several] charities that we're familiar with that we wanted funds earmarked for, and one of those now is The Children's Inn."

Lives Impacted: Meet Sonny and Anita Bloom

Though their association with The Inn spans just a few years, their commitment runs deep and will continue supporting families long into the future.

Bringing Others Along

Sonny and Anita didn't keep their passion for The Inn to themselves. As members of the Woodmont Country Club in Rockville, MD, they were already deeply involved with Woodmont Cares, a member-led organization committed to using the club's reputation and resources to assist causes near and dear to those members' hearts. Sonny championed The Inn regularly at Woodmont Cares meetings and helped organize club involvement at The Inn.

"Every year, there is typically at least one evening where members of the club would provide dinner onsite for families at The Inn," he explained. "Many members were not aware of the extent of The Inn's support to the families whose children were treated at NIH. From our exposure to The Inn, thanks to Prachee and Liza, we could share the depth of The Inn's role to families often over several years."

Through visits to The Inn, Sonny and Anita have had a chance to meet some of the families whose lives have been touched by the generosity of donors like themselves. They were captivated by the warmth and positivity shown to them by families facing unimaginable challenges which only deepened their resolve to continuing their support of The Inn, and inspiring others to do the same just as Devadas has done for them.

L-R: Jim Seevers, Prachee Devadas, Sonny, and Anita at Prachee and Jim's wedding

"There's no substitute for going there to really understand the whole array of what's involved inside The Inn," he noted. "It's not just that our contribution is helping pay for medical treatment. You really get an appreciation for the caring for the entire family and how long that relationship is provided for."

The Blooms' journey with The Children's Inn exemplifies how one meaningful connection can blossom into lasting impact—not just through their own generous support, but through the countless others they've inspired to join them in supporting families when they need it most.

Seven Years of Transforming Lives: Women for The Inn Helps Power The Mission

Dedicated members of WINN have contributed more than $640,000 to create "A Place Like Home" for thousands of families

Since 2018, the Women for The Inn community has brought together a dedicated group of women from a broad range of backgrounds to embrace and support the mission of The Children's Inn. The group, referred to as WINN, now boasts over 100 members and is heavily involved in supporting The Inn with donations and providing the experiences that make staying with us feel like "A Place Like Home" for hundreds of families each year.

"It's been a remarkable experience seeing the growth that WINN has had since the beginning," said WINN co-chair Debra Cohen. An active supporter and volunteer at The Inn for 17 years, Cohen has served as WINN co-chair alongside Monica Granovsky since January 2023. The duo will remain in their leadership roles through June 2026.

"I was honored to take on a leadership role at WINN with other fantastic leaders on our team in hopes of being even more impactful," said Granovsky, whose involvement with The Inn dates to her years as a pediatric oncologist at the National Cancer Institute. "I particularly enjoy recruiting NIH speakers who share their research and insights with our WINN members. Each NIH speaker has helped contextualize why science research matters and is so important to our health and well-being, creating an important bridge between the scientific community and the public."

In addition to hearing from some of the leading medical experts in the nation at their regular meetings, WINN members vote on allocating their collective membership contributions for maximum impact. WINN members have directed over $640,000 to The Inn's areas of greatest need over the

Seven Years of Transforming Lives: Women for The Inn Helps Power The Mission

past seven years. That money has funded welcome packages for residents, playground renovations, kitchen supplies, seasonal celebrations, family meals, and educational experiences among other priorities.

WINN members are inspired to act by the perseverance and strength of the families who stay at The Inn. "It's just incredible seeing the resilience of the families and the patients," explained Cohen. "A lot of times they're putting their lives on hold; sometimes they don't know when they're going home. But they are able to leave here so much better and stronger and healthier. They go on to resume life, and it's the most heartwarming thing. It's just wonderful to be part of that."

This past year, the group raised $103,246 for the WINN Fund, $5,000 of which helped provide monthly family meals at The Inn. The remaining $97,938 was directed to support the Emergency and Transportation Funds, both of which provide critical relief to families during their most stressful moments.

In addition to monetary support, WINN members were involved in activities that ranged from preparing the building for the expansion and renovation project—which

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>
> —*Debra Cohen*

WINN co-chairs Monica Gronovsky (L) and Debra Cohen (R)

Seven Years of Transforming Lives: Women for The Inn Helps Power The Mission

began in earnest last winter—to providing meals and creating Thoughtful Treasures. The opportunity to serve meals is always a highlight, giving members a chance to get to know the families.

“Joining WINN is such a wonderful opportunity to build community,” Granovsky said. “You are joining other women who are passionate about The Inn’s mission and you are working together to make such a difference for these children and their families.”

“I think WINN has exceeded everyone’s expectations,” Cohen said as she reflected on the last seven years. “It’s one thing to have people dedicate their philanthropic efforts, but really these women have dedicated their time to do things for the families and serve as ambassadors for The Inn within their own communities. WINN shows passion for what The Inn does and compassion for the families who stay here.”

Join WINN

Membership is open to those who contribute **a minimum annual donation of $1,000** to the WINN fund, which is fully tax-deductible and may be paid in full or in monthly installments.

LEARN MORE →

THE EMERGENCY FUND

The Emergency Fund assists families by relieving financial burdens when other resources are exhausted or unavailable. This fund provides immediate emergency financial assistance to families in crisis within 24 hours, including but not limited to housing, car bills, transportation, utilities, and medical expenses outside of the NIH. In addition, the fund provides financial assistance for families facing obstacles to fully care for their sick child.

$61,379
TOTAL SPENT

66
Familes Helped

$930
Average Assistance per Family

THE TRANSPORTATION FUND

The Transportation Fund offers convenient, private, door-to-door transportation services for first-visit families traveling to and from all three local airports to The Children’s Inn.

$77,767
TOTAL SPENT

354
Families Transported

$170
Average Cost per Transport

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US News & World Report
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Zolon Tech

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The Innkeepers Society is a group of dedicated supporters who have made plans for a future gift to The Inn through their estate plans, gifts by will, trust, retirement plan assets, life insurance policy, or other legacy gifts.

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Sharon Zeigler
—In honor of Stephanie Pirinelli

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Northern Stars

The Children's Inn at NIH honors these individuals who have donated to The Inn consecutively for 20 years or more.

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Byron and Sharon Zeigler

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Women for The Inn (WINN) Community

2025 WINN Members

Women for The Inn is a community of women who support the mission of The Children's Inn at NIH. Joining this group provides members with the opportunity to connect with healthcare luminaries, volunteer their time, donate (and direct) funds towards Inn projects, and network with like-hearted women.

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Monica Granovsky, WINN Co-chair

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Linda Abravanel
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To learn more about WINN, please visit **childrensinn.org/ways-to-give/winn**.

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