

## Investing in Children's Health

Pediatric Emergency Services – Staff Specialists, Education and Equipment

**Funding Goal: \$450,000**

*Help us provide “ouchless” emergency care for Marin’s youngest residents*

Imagine a young girl brought to the Emergency Department (ED) with a broken ankle after a bicycle accident. How can doctors and nurses calm and communicate with her and perform standard procedures — from inserting an IV to imaging — without overwhelming their patient? Imagine another youngster who has a newborn sibling in the NICU. How can hospital staff help a big brother cope when his parents are stressed?

At MarinHealth Medical Center, where 18% of all Emergency Department patients are pediatric patients, we understand that children are not just little adults. When facing a medical emergency, they need urgent care that addresses their unique social and emotional needs, and — whether for performing ultrasounds, stabilizing airways, or administering IV fluids and medications — equipment that can accommodate smaller bodies.

MarinHealth is committed to providing the best, most child-centric care possible in emergencies. Taking action on this promise, in May 2021, our ED achieved a critical milestone in child medical care, winning certification from Marin County as an Advanced Pediatric Receiving Center. This designation assures families that MarinHealth operates an Ouchless Emergency Department, where staff specially trained in pediatric care incorporate child-friendly protocols that help take the pain and anxiety out of an ED visit.

Certification as an Advanced Pediatric Receiving Center requires that MarinHealth adhere to rigorous standards and provide funding and planning to sustain its program. By providing support for essential specialists, ongoing staff education, and child-friendly tools and equipment, philanthropy can ensure that families can find emergency care tailored to our youngest patients, employing the same best practices used in exceptional pediatric hospitals, without leaving Marin County.



*“As a nurse and a father, I am proud that MarinHealth operates an Ouchless ED, and I am grateful for the philanthropic support that helps us build on that foundation. We are very lucky to live in a community that values the best care for our children.” — Matthew Mullis, Director of Critical Care and Emergency Services, MarinHealth Medical Center*



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## Child-centric Pediatric Emergency Care, Close to Home

MarinHealth is fortunate to have an excellent partner in UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital for consultations and referrals in pediatric specialties. But when childhood emergencies happen in our community, Marin families need expert emergency care close to home. Now certified as an Advanced Pediatric Receiving Center, the MarinHealth ED is continuing to build and sustain a pediatric emergency toolkit and a team of physicians and nurses trained to meet the special needs of children.

Our first priority is to secure philanthropic funding for key resources, required for certification, that are beyond the hospital's operating budget. One such requirement is the hiring of a Child Life Specialist – a pediatric professional trained in the psychosocial development of children and experienced at providing care in an ED setting. Child Life Specialists prepare children for medical procedures, implement age-appropriate pain management and coping strategies, and oversee play and self-expressive activities. Sometimes called upon to explain difficult medical situations to young patients, they also offer support, guidance, and information to parents, siblings, and other family members.

With ongoing education required to retain certification, our Child Life specialist will train and coach other ED team members in pediatric best practices, and consult across the hospital. Funding priorities also include a Pediatric Nurse Liaison, who coordinates with Marin County and the hospital to ensure that all the requirements for ongoing certification are met.

### What can philanthropy do?

In a community like Marin County, where people celebrate good health at any age, access to pediatric emergency care is not just "nice to have"; it is essential to community wellbeing, and it is a priority for MarinHealth. We want families here to know that, if they must bring their child to the Emergency Department at MarinHealth Medical Center, they are coming to a facility of exceptional capabilities and qualifications, where children receive the best care possible from the first moment they need it. We are grateful to charitable partners who share our commitment to this important area of care.

### At-a-Glance

#### Your gift to MarinHealth Foundation can:

- Fund a **Child Life Specialist**, on duty 40 hours per week and available for consultation and staff training.
- Fund a **Pediatric Nurse Liaison** who will coordinate with Marin County and hospital staff to ensure pediatric ED standards are met.
- Support **Pediatric Education** — a two-day class for all ED nurses, plus ongoing training required for pediatric ED certification.
- Cover costs of mobile ultrasound unit, glide scope, IV, pediatric scale, and distraction **supplies** as well as new, **advanced equipment** that will improve pediatric care.

To learn more or make a gift that helps MarinHealth Medical Center provide Marin families with child-centric emergency care close to home, please contact MarinHealth Foundation at **1-415-925-7770** or **Foundation@mymarinhealth.org**.