

Thank you for considering a gift in support of **The Child Life Program**, headquartered at Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital. Your philanthropy will directly impact patient care, promoting healing in our youngest patients by reducing anxiety and creating a sense of normalcy during illness or hospitalization.



Pediatric Care at Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital

Central DuPage Hospital (CDH) is the provider of choice for pediatric care in the Western Chicagoland area, serving approximately 1 in 3 pediatric cases in the region – nearly 60,000 children annually.

Notably, CDH is the first non-children's hospital – and only the ninth in the world – to receive ChildKind Certification, an elite distinction by ChildKind International for demonstrating institution-wide excellence in assessment, prevention, and treatment of children's pain.



The Child Life Program at CDH

The American Academy of Pediatrics recognizes Child Life programs as a quality benchmark of patient-focused and family-centered care, as well as an indicator of excellence.

All Northwestern Medicine Child Life Specialists possess a Bachelor's degree, with many holding a Master's degree. Our specialists' essential credentials include: (1) education in child development; (2) significant skill and experience in understanding and meeting the unique needs of children, teens, and families; (3) the completion of a clinical internship with a certified Child Life Specialist; and (4) passing the national certification exam.

Every day, our nine Child Life Specialists provide support tailored to each child's individual needs, on both an inpatient and outpatient basis. Through therapeutic play, music and art expressive activities, and procedural education, our specialists prepare children for medical tests and surgery.



In fiscal year 2019, Central DuPage Hospital Child Life Specialists enabled 70 percent of pediatric patients to successfully complete diagnostic imaging procedures, such as MRI's and CT scans, without any form of sedation.

They also help to manage patients' pain through non-pharmacological means; play an integral role in reducing trauma in children undergoing difficult medical procedures; address the needs of siblings; facilitate coping; and provide bereavement support. Collectively, all these efforts promote favorable outcomes, marked by reduced length of hospital stay and decreased sedation.

You Can Make a Difference

Our Child Life Specialists' services are truly essential to the health and well-being of many children and families. However, these services are not reimbursable by insurance. Philanthropy has played, and will continue to play, a vital role in the daily functioning and development of our Child Life Program.

Each year, three of our nine Child Life Specialists' salaries are supported by philanthropy (**a total of approximately \$210,000**) – a generous investment that helps to insure both the near-term and the long-term strength and success of our pediatric program. As many other suburban pediatric programs limit or close programs, CDH will need to accommodate a steadily increasing number of pediatric patients.

In light of this growth, as well as limitations on large scale event fundraising for Child Life due to COVID-19, we respectfully ask that you consider providing crucial funding for Child Life salaries in the form of **a generous gift of \$100,000**.

The Power of Partnership

With help from you and others, our Child Life Program will continue to provide the highest quality of care for our youngest patients and their families throughout Northwestern Medicine's West Region. Moreover, your philanthropic partnership will enable us to elevate our program and services to new heights, and to further enhance the health of our communities.

Names of Donors, thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this proposal, and for all that you do to support pediatrics at Central DuPage Hospital. I look forward to continuing our conversations. In the meantime, if you have questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

GIFT OFFICER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION HERE

