

Big hearts, little donors

Philanthropists come in all shapes and sizes. Children, in fact, often show a generosity of spirit that is far above the actual amount of their gifts. Examples of children selflessly giving to help the kids treated at Children's Memorial Hospital abound. Here are just a few examples.

Casey's experiences inspire fundraising

When Casey Patton was diagnosed with a brain tumor in August 2006, it would have been easy to understand if she had spent her time feeling sorry for herself. Instead, the west suburban high school student was inspired by the courage of the other kids she saw at Children's Memorial who were also undergoing surgery, chemotherapy or other treatments. Along with friends Brittany Robbins, Susan Donner and Aileen Reed, Casey decided to raise money for pediatric cancer research at the hospital through selling special Be The Cure t-shirts. “The care I continue to receive at Children's Memorial has changed my life, so cancer research at the hospital seemed the perfect area to support,” she says. “Nationally less than 3 percent of all government-funded cancer research dollars goes to pediatrics, and much more research is needed to find new and safer treatments for kids. I decided I wanted to be a part of the cure.” Casey says she originally expected to raise about \$3,500. In July, Casey and her Be The Cure team presented a check for \$11,000 to the hospital raised through t-shirt sales and donations. For more information visit [Be The Cure](#).



Casey Patton's own experiences at Children's Memorial inspired her to sell special Be The Cure t-shirts to raise money for cancer research at the hospital.

Elise and Julia quench thirsts while supporting hospital



When Elise King, 10, and her friend, Julia Sullivan, 7, decided to set up a neighborhood lemonade stand and donate the proceeds to help sick kids, Children's Memorial was a logical choice. Julia's dad, Dan, reports the girls did brisk business all day and also met several former Children's Memorial patients, who spoke about their experiences at the hospital. In just one afternoon Julia and Elise raised nearly \$65. “I feel good about raising this much money for kids who are recovering from a sickness or maybe just broke a bone,” says Elise. “It makes me feel

Julia Sullivan (left) and Elise King (right) raised nearly \$65 for Children's Memorial from their lemonade stand's proceeds.

great.” The girls' parents were very impressed with their initiative. “We couldn't be prouder of them for their giving spirit, and that others in the neighborhood shared it with them and made the day such a big success,” says Dan.

Kevin recycles for the kids

When Kevin Riley decided he wanted to raise money for Children's Memorial, it was because the hospital already had a special place in his family's heart. It was the place where his younger sister, Emma, then 3 ½, was diagnosed and successfully treated for a rare disorder that resulted in a tumor growing in one of the bones of her skull. Kevin, now 8, decided to start a drive to collect aluminum cans and exchange them for money at a recycling center in his west suburban community. Kevin helped distribute flyers about the drive in his area, and friends and neighbors pitched in and eventually raised \$56. As a bonus, a neighbor decided to match that amount for a total gift of \$112, which Kevin personally presented to the hospital. “Kevin just wanted to find a way to help kids like his sister,” says his mom, Karen. “He's a very generous kid.”



Kevin Riley started an aluminum can recycling drive to raise money for Children's Memorial, where his younger sister was treated for a rare disorder.

Keara gives from the heart



Ten-year-old Keara Hurley presented a jar containing money she raised from selling baked goods to her cardiologist, Barbara Deal, MD.

When she was an infant, Keara Hurley spent three and a half weeks at Children's Memorial being treated for an abnormal heart rhythm. Now 10, Keara continues to have regular checks-ups at the hospital, and is scheduled for a corrective procedure in September that will hopefully eliminate the need for her to take heart medicine for the rest of her life. Inspired by the stories of other kids treated at Children Memorial, Keara decided to bake and sell brownies and Rice Krispies treats during a family garage sale in June, with the proceeds being donated to the hospital's Division of Cardiology. Later that month she presented her doctor, [Barbara Deal, MD](#), head of Children's Memorial's [Division of Cardiology](#) and the Marvin E. Wodika Research Professor in Cardiology, with a jar containing the \$23 she raised. “She was so excited to bring the money in,” says Keara's mother, Diane. “She feels a lot of empathy for other kids, especially those with any sort of serious medical condition. She really does

have a big heart.”

Children's Memorial Hospital

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