

TOPICS

What it Means to Invest in Our Kids

The Transformative Power of Flexible Funding

Breakthrough programs. Unexpected needs. Life-changing opportunities. Flexible funding makes “yes” possible. Over the past year, discretionary gifts have allowed us to meet our patients’ most urgent needs. Here’s how.



DISCOVERY

Breakthroughs Born From Bold Investment

Every day, scientists at UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospitals tackle the toughest challenges in pediatric medicine so kids can get back to learning, playing, and growing. Discretionary funding has helped spark precision cures for aggressive childhood cancers, advance breakthrough gene-editing research that could cure sickle cell disease, and launch vaccines that protect millions of lives. Flexible donor support fuels innovation at its earliest, most fragile stages, when bold ideas need a champion and the potential for impact is enormous.



SOCIAL SERVICES

Support That Makes Healing Possible

Great health care is about more than just great medicine. It’s about ensuring that families have what they need during the most challenging moments of their lives. Flexible funding empowers our social workers to provide crucial, often life-changing support, including vital medical equipment, transportation, lodging, food assistance, supportive counseling, and family therapy. These resources lighten the financial and emotional load, allowing families to focus on what matters most: helping their children heal.



ACCESS

Keeping Our Promise to All Kids

UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospitals are world-class centers of pediatric excellence as well as a safety-net for Northern California families. More than 70% of the patients who visit our Oakland campus — and nearly half at our San Francisco hospital — are uninsured or underinsured. Flexible investments make millions of dollars in free and discounted care possible, ensuring that all kids have a fair shot at healthy futures.



CHILD LIFE

Protecting the Magic of Childhood

Our Child Life programs — including art and music therapy, our hospital school, and our beloved facility dog program — nurture the emotional resilience that help kids heal. When families reflect on their hospital experience, they consistently cite our child life programs as having played a key role in helping them endure. “Medical treatment was just one piece of the healing puzzle,” says Dawn, whose daughter underwent cancer treatment. “Child life gave Scarlett these precious, magical, simple moments of joy and laughter.”

These transformative services are not covered by insurance — they exist only because of donors who believe every child deserves comfort, hope, and joy, even amid illness.

