OUR MISSION
As people of Providence, we reveal God's love for all, especially the poor and vulnerable, through our compassionate service.

OUR CORE VALUES
Respect, Compassion, Justice, Stewardship, Excellence, Stewardship

Providence Health & Services, a not-for-profit health system, is an equal opportunity organization in the provision of health care services and employment opportunities.

Providence Child Center Foundation

830 NE 47th Ave.
Portland, OR 97213
503-215-2406
www.providencefoundations.org/childcenter

Opportunities for joy

Providence Child Center
Wish Book
Edition 4
The morning is full of weekday rituals that offer structure and consistency for all the kids at the Center for Medically Fragile Children. Fifteen-year-old Kelton gets her hair brushed as 10-year-old Trinity has her teeth brushed and is dressed for the day with her favorite sparkly shoes.

These are the things parents want for their children: a fun and challenging school day, after-class activities, friends, field trips, music lessons, pets to play with. The 58 youngsters at Providence Child Center get to experience all the joys of childhood possible...despite the tubes, wheelchairs and complex, around-the-clock medical attention they need.

All of the children have physical and neurological conditions that keep them from being ambulatory or from communicating with words. Many of the children are tube-fed. But the caregivers at the center don’t see this reality as a barrier to the joys of childhood. These are kids who learn, interact and live a full life.

- **Cost of around-the-clock care per child:** $150,000 a year
- **Portion covered through donor contributions per child:** $25,000 a year
Time for school

More than 70 percent of the kids go off to school each day. Rather than teach traditional science or spelling lessons, teachers (below right) engage the children through sensory activities. Smells, textures, colors and sounds take the place of textbooks.

Back at the child center, a certified instructor home schools the kids who are too fragile to attend off-site classes. The center’s recreation therapist combines leisure activities, education and therapy for all the children, including those staying at the center for short-term or respite care. This type of care is for children who need medical management because of a change in their health, such as after surgery or trauma, or whose parents need respite to rejuvenate from the 24-hour care they are providing their child at home.

After the school day

After school, some children engage in social activities at the center, and some, such as Maria (pictured below left), meet weekly with a speech therapist. Providence Neurodevelopmental Center for Children offers outpatient assessments and therapies for youngsters with special needs from the child center and the community.

Assessing children’s developmental progress are developmental pediatricians; speech, physical and occupational therapists; social workers and nutritionists. They work with families to create personalized treatment programs designed to help each child reach his or her highest potential. Maria’s speech therapy includes improving her skills in using an assistive communication device, designed to give those who cannot speak a voice.

✦ Two weeks of short-term care: $702 (portion not covered by Medicaid)
✦ Switch-adapted sensory toys: $50
✦ Speech therapy session with a child: $70
✦ Speech-enabling switches and devices: $50 to $1,000 each
Treating children with profound disabilities as kids rather than patients is the staff members’ top priority. By providing fun-filled activities and exceptional care, they help the young residents and their families stay healthier and happier.

Cost of an enriched childhood:

- **Field trips for center residents**: $90 per week
- **One-hour aquatic therapy session**: $150 per child
- **Annual cost of special events (Rose Festival, prom, seasonal celebrations, birthday parties)**: $2,000

The medically fragile children’s on-the-go lives are remarkably similar to the lives led by children beyond Providence Child Center. After-school and extracurricular activities abound. Art projects, musical instruments, board games and even a Wii are adapted so that the kids can enjoy them. There also are swim sessions in the on-site whirlpool spa or in the pool at Providence Portland Medical Center next-door.

The children are encouraged to participate fully in the community. They score tickets to Portland Trail Blazer games, make outings to Oaks Park and take trips to the library. When it’s not possible to be out in the community, the community comes to them. Boy Scout and Girl Scout meetings take place monthly at the center, and local musicians perform in the multipurpose room.
As in most families, dinner and evening activities at the Center for Medically Fragile Children wind down by 8 p.m. Then it’s time for a bath, pajamas, teeth brushing and quiet time. Volunteer grandparents and devoted staff laugh and cuddle with the children. The kids curl up with picture books, soft music and cozy blankets. Tucked in their beds, they nod off. And one by one, the caregivers whisper a sweet goodnight and give a kiss on the forehead. There’s another big day waiting tomorrow.

**Specialized bed:** $3,220  
**Scoop mattress (to prevent falls):** $330  
**Musical blanket:** $140  
**Interactive book:** $25

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Resources for families and loved ones

It’s 6 p.m. and Chelsea is among a group of parents entering Providence Child Center. They’re here for a parenting class offered by the Swindells Child Disability Resource Center. Chelsea, who’s able to participate because of a scholarship, takes the class to learn techniques for parenting her son Judah, who has sensory processing disorder. She has learned valuable skills that have benefited her whole family (pictured), including her husband, Daniel, and their other children.

The parenting class is just one benefit offered at the Swindells Center, which provides resources, information and training on how to care for children with disabilities. Whether it’s a helpful book or a speaker series, all resources are offered to families, caregivers and friends of children with disabilities on a sliding scale or free of charge because of philanthropy.

- **Library books:** $60 each  
- **Scholarship for parenting program:** $180  
- **Swindells speaker series:** $2,500 per session

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A kiss goodnight

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Opportunities for joy

For more than 65 years, Providence Child Center has sought to provide the very best care for children from throughout the Northwest with a range of needs and disabilities. Through its programs, the center strives to meet the ever-expanding needs of children with disabilities and complex health care challenges and to provide support for their families. More than 182,000, or 22 percent, of Oregon’s children have chronic health and developmental conditions, and an estimated 1,500 are considered medically fragile.

Your donation helps cover the nearly $2 million annual shortfall for programs, services and items not funded by Medicaid or insurance.

Your gift immediately funds a wish and starts to enrich the lives of children and their families, now and for years to come.

Thank you for choosing to make a wish come true!

Providence Child Center provides a rich continuum of services for children with disabilities, including:

- **Center for Medically Fragile Children**: This center serves as the Northwest’s only 24-hour pediatric skilled nursing facility for children and youth up to 21 years of age. Long-term, short-stay and end-of-life care is provided at no cost to families.

- **Specialty Pediatric Medical and Dental Clinic**: Professionals with expertise in the complexities of treating children with profound disabilities provide medical and dental services in one convenient, centralized location at the child center.

- **Swindells Child Disability Resource Center**: With five sites in Oregon and an interactive website, the Swindells Center provides one-on-one support, information, referral and education to thousands of families and caregivers each year.

- **Providence Neurodevelopmental Center for Children**: Staff members provide outpatient assessments and therapies at three locations in the Portland area.
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