

# THE MIRACLE CONNECTION

GUNDERSEN MEDICAL FOUNDATION



**Children's  
Miracle Network  
Hospitals®**

Change Kids' Health.  
Change the Future.

GIVE TODAY. [gundersenhealth.org/cmnhospitals](http://gundersenhealth.org/cmnhospitals)

SPRING/SUMMER 2025

## Introducing our 2025 Heroes

Children's Miracle Network Hospitals is proud to introduce our newest group of ambassadors. These Heroes represent the hundreds of local kids and their families whose lives are changed because of your gifts to CMN Hospitals.

Thank you to our Hero program sponsors:



Oaklynn

Age 6, Utica, Minn.

Stage 4 Wilms' tumor

**Oaklynn** is a strong, energetic and playful girl who loves going to parks and playing outside with her siblings. She also helps raise chickens and recently began learning karate. When Oaklynn grows up, she wants to be a doctor, pilot or chef.

**CMN Hospitals support:**  
Gas cards and meal vouchers



Rhett

Age 8, Brownsville, Minn.

Hydrocephalus, cerebral palsy, seizure disorder and developmental disability

**Rhett** has a contagious smile and witty sense of humor. He loves to cuddle and have books read to him. One of his favorite books is "The Little Blue Truck."

**CMN Hospitals support:**  
Weekly music therapy, feeding tube supplies, adaptive equipment, gas cards and meal vouchers



Athena

Age 6, Brownsville, Minn.

Cystic fibrosis

**Athena** is a happy little girl with a huge stuffie collection. She loves unicorns, playing dress-up and going to parks or the beach. When she grows up, she wants to be a singer and a cowgirl.

**CMN Hospitals support:**  
Chest physical therapy and respiratory equipment, horse therapy, specialized baby formula, gas cards and meal vouchers



Liam

Age 10, Viroqua, Wis.

Type 1 diabetes

**Liam** is best known for his resilience and kindness. He likes being outdoors, climbing boulders or trees and taking care of animals. He loves to make people laugh. When he grows up, he wants to be a policeman so he can help others.

**CMN Hospitals support:**  
Diabetes supplies and medical expenses, gas cards and meal vouchers



Marbree

Age 8, Holmen, Wis.

Congenital heart defects

**Marbree** loves to be creative and spends time singing and songwriting. She is thoughtful and generous with her time. In the summer, she and her friends host a lemonade stand in support of CMN Hospitals.

**CMN Hospitals support:**  
Gas cards, lodging, meal vouchers and music therapy





## Making miracles happen

Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals and Mid-West Family La Crosse hosted the 2024 Radiothon fundraiser Oct. 10-11. The event featured interviews with local children and families helped by CMN Hospitals and was broadcasted live on Z93, 95.7 The Rock and KQ98. It was also live-streamed on Around River City.

### Radiothon 2024 by the numbers:

**\$118K+** raised to support Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals patients and families

**9**

local **business sponsors**

**20**

**families and kids** interviewed live on air

**20**

**“Miracle Teams”** created by businesses and Emplify Health by Gundersen departments



Meet our 2025

Radiothon Champion

**Silas**

Age 12, Chaseburg, Wis.

**Silas** entered the world prematurely, weighing just 3 pounds and 14 ounces.

He spent the first six weeks of his life at Emplify Health by Gundersen, managing a diagnosis of Down syndrome and receiving emergency care related to lung and intestinal issues.

#### CMN Hospitals support:

Gas cards, meal vouchers and an iPad to build communication skills

### 2024 Radiothon sponsors

#### Title Sponsors

E. Stanek Electric  
River Valley Remodelers

#### Family Interview Area Sponsor

GPC, DEW-ing Good

#### Thursday Day Sponsor

Seland’s Karpetland

#### Miracle Room Sponsor

Altra Federal Credit Union

#### Text Sponsor

Ace of All Trades

#### Miracle Team Phone Bank

Paul’s Heating and Air Conditioning

#### Miracle Team Phone Bank

Wieser Brothers General Contractor

#### 15-Minute Match

Luke’s Auto Repair

Save the date!

The 2025 Radiothon will be held Oct. 9-10, in the Clinic Lobby at Emplify Health by Gundersen La Crosse Hospital. For more information about sponsorship or volunteer opportunities, please email [cmnhospitals@gundersenhealth.org](mailto:cmnhospitals@gundersenhealth.org).



# Changing lives, one child at a time

Thanks to your generosity, Children’s Miracle Network (CMN) Hospitals at Emplify Health by Gundersen raised \$1.2 million to help local families during the 2024 fiscal year.



## What we do... because of you!

**435,774**  
visits from pediatric patients



More than **\$1.2M** funded **patient care** for children and families when they needed it most in 2024



**CMN Hospitals** distributes funds where they are needed most









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Thanks to your donations, CMN Hospitals at Emplify Health by Gundersen provides critical funding for pediatric medical equipment and family support services, giving children specialized care needed to heal and thrive

**CMN Hospitals supports:**

- Meal vouchers
- Gas cards
- Lodging
- Music therapy
- Sensory equipment
- Nutrition drinks
- Diabetes supplies
- And much more

**25-county service area**, regardless of where patients receive care

Thank you for helping to change the future by changing kids’ lives!



# A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE

*Dear Children's Miracle Network Hospitals,*

*Our daughter, Briyelah ("Bri"), was born prematurely at 32 weeks in May 2024. She was born across the state in Oshkosh, Wis., and because of her medical needs, she stayed in the NICU there.*

*Our family traveled almost three hours each way to visit her. Her challenging medical complexities continue to impact many organs, from her brain to her kidneys. However, her main diagnosis is severe pulmonary hypertension, for which there is no cure.*

*In June, Bri was transferred to a hospital in Madison for a heart procedure. Once again, we made many unexpected trips to see our little girl through different procedures.*

*Bri spent 66 days in the NICU between the two hospitals, so the costs added up quickly.*

*Children's Miracle Network Hospitals has been our lifesaver by helping with hotel stays, gas cards and meal vouchers, not to mention providing emotional support by checking in on Bri.*

*As of October, our little girl is back in Madison fighting for her life. Her pulmonary hypertension is very severe. Incredibly, CMN Hospitals has already reached out to see how they can help.*

*Many years ago, we decided to donate monthly to CMN Hospitals, and we are so glad we did. Support for CMN Hospitals truly makes a difference to so many families, including ours.*

*Your support and kindness have meant the world to us, helping to carry us through the toughest moments. We are so grateful to have you by our side.*

*Danielle, Kevin, Eliyanah and Briyelah Root*



## TOGETHER, WE HELP CHILDREN

Children's Miracle Network Hospitals®, a service of Gundersen Medical Foundation, is dedicated to saving and improving the lives of children. We directly assist children and their families and support pediatric programs and services that help kids battle diseases and injuries of every kind. In the Emplify Health by Gundersen service area, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals has raised more than \$24.8 million since 1986. Each charitable donation—whether through special events, annual gifts, business partnerships, sponsorships or planned giving, such as bequests—benefits children locally throughout the region and provides support for specialty medical care, research and preventive education.



### **Children's Miracle Network Hospitals | Gundersen Medical Foundation**

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