



Novack Family Child Life Services Reaches Funding Milestone

We are pleased to announce that Debby and Ken Novack fulfilled their transformative gift commitment creating an endowment for [Novack Family Child Life Services](#) at California Pacific Medical Center.

When Debby and Ken Novack committed to establish and name an endowment for the Novack Family Child Life Services at California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC), they did so because, as Ken put it at the time, “I can’t think of anything more traumatic for a child than being hospitalized. Anything that can ease that journey for a child is critical.” The Novack Family Endowment has enabled CPMC’s Child Life Program to grow significantly over the past five years.

- **Now Child Life specialists are available every day** in CPMC’s Emergency Departments, Pediatrics Department, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Deikel Family Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Antepartum Units, as well as Outpatient Surgery and Radiology.
- **Increased community outreach includes more Teddy Bear clinics** to educate children through medical play, and more support for children with chronic diseases to return to school.
- **A dedicated Child Life supervisor manages the program**, ensuring that Child Life specialists spend more of their time working with children and their families.
- **Two full-time certified music therapists provide another mode of expression** to families in Pediatrics, the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, the Deikel Family NICU, the Acute Care for the Elderly Unit, and at Coming Home Hospice. For example,
 - In the NICU, **music therapists integrate parents’ voices into songs** played to encourage premature babies to learn to suck so that they can leave the hospital and be fed at home.
 - In the Pediatric Emergency Department, **bonding over music with a Music Therapist** can enable a teen who’s missing school to feel less isolated.
- **Child Life specialists support the children of adults experiencing chronic illness** or coming to the end of their lives.
- **Therapy dogs** Barker Posey and Omega **encourage and accept all cuddles, hugs, and tears** from families and staff in the Pediatrics and Pediatric Intensive Care Units, in CPMC’s first Canine Companions for Independence program.
- **A new medical clown program** brings everyone’s silliness to the surface in the face of frightening circumstances.

You, too, can contribute to the Novack Family Child Life Endowment to support the care that Debby and Ken know makes the difference between enduring and thriving.

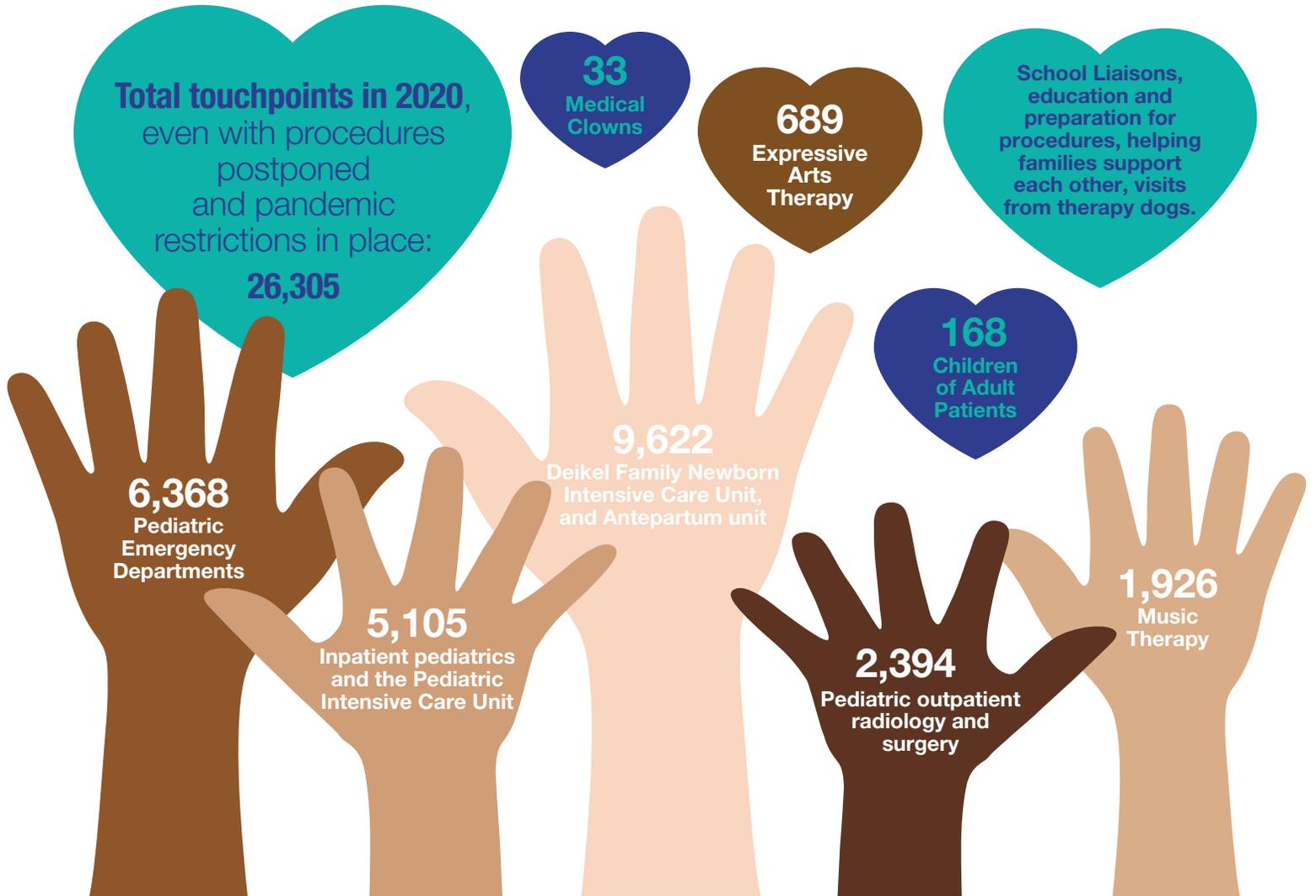
For more information, or to make a gift to the Novack Family Child Life Services Endowment, contact Fermin Nasol, nasolf@sutterhealth.org, 415-600-4431.

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The Novacks are focusing on the child's emotional wellbeing, and that is very profound. That is the key to pediatrics.”

– JUDY FUENTEBELLA, M.D.,
PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGIST, CPMC

Novack Family Child Life Services 2020 Impact



Endowments perpetuate your personal vision.

An endowment is a permanent fund that perpetuates the aspect of healthcare that's most important to you. Because the original gift – the principal – remains untouched and continues to earn interest forever, an endowment is a self-sustaining source of funding for the program, physician, or researcher you choose. Each year a portion of the endowment's earnings are made available for spending, and the rest keeps growing for the future.