

# Brightening the Lives of Our Youngest Patients

**The UC Davis Child Life and Creative Arts Therapy Department**



As a baby, Emily Love could light up any room with her sunny smile and joyful energy. But at just 19 months old, her parents began to notice mystifying changes.

One moment Emily would be playing happily, and the next she would be inconsolable. All would seem well again for days, until she became suddenly listless or lost her appetite.

At a loss to explain her unpredictable symptoms, Emily's parents brought her to UC Davis Children's Hospital. After extensive lab tests, the pediatric ER team determined she had leukemia — and what started as a precautionary trip to the hospital led to a month-long stay.

Today, more than a decade later, Emily is cancer-free, with a bright outlook on her future. Her mother says Emily “sees the sunshine through the rain” — a mindset the Love family credits to the warm, hopeful and positive environment that embraced Emily throughout her two-year cancer journey. Emily and her parents came to feel as though they were among family at UC Davis Children's Hospital, where the latest advances in pediatric therapy are amplified by a compassionate care team and a wealth of resources to support a child's emotional well-being.

At the heart of this caring environment is UC Davis' Child Life and Creative Arts Therapy Department, which offers healing resources for children and families coping with health challenges — from art materials, toys and musical instruments to engage children like Emily, to therapy dogs who bring comfort, joy and companionship to our youngest patients.



## The gifts of laughter, hope and healing

Resources that let young patients play, express themselves, make new connections and create positive memories have a powerful impact — providing the emotional well-being that is key to physical healing.

With your support, the UC Davis Child Life and Creative Arts Therapy Department has a vision to brighten the lives of all our pediatric patients and their families.

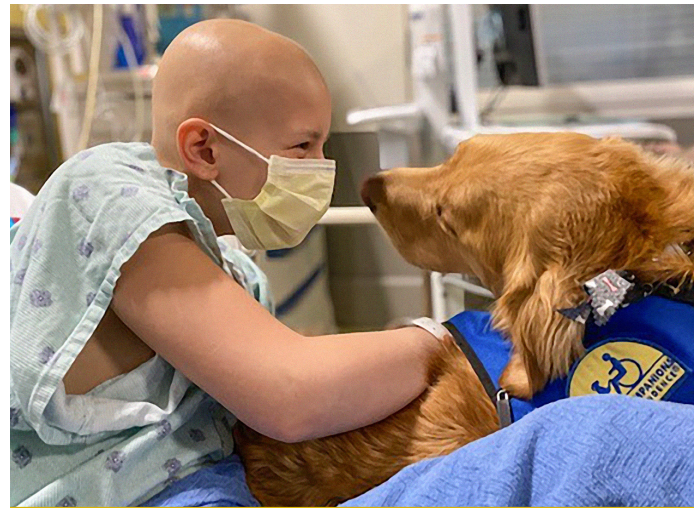
# The UC Davis Child Life and Creative Arts Therapy Department

## Support that fosters healing

The stress and uncertainty of an illness, an unexpected loss or a hospital stay can be overwhelming for anyone — and all the more so for a growing child. Opportunities for creativity, play and connection can make all the difference.

At UC Davis Health, we know that emotional well-being is vital to physical healing and wellness. We've watched finger paints, building blocks and musical instruments help young patients share what they're feeling when words aren't enough. We know that bonding with supportive peers is often a critical first step in healing after personal loss. And we've seen that one game of hide-and-seek with a canine companion can rival the most rigorous physical therapy session.

By providing resources like these and more, our Child Life and Creative Arts Therapy Department is focused on fostering the continued growth, well-being and development of children and teens impacted by life-changing health challenges — whether they are experiencing illness, injury or hospitalization themselves, or struggling with loss and bereavement.



### Philanthropic Opportunities

**Support seasonal events** and special celebrations

\$25,000 TO FUND ONE YEAR OF EVENTS

**Sponsor a facility dog**

\$10,000 TO SUPPORT ANNUAL CARE AND NUTRITION

**Fund key bereavement support**

\$10,000 TO PROVIDE NEEDED SUPPLIES

**Sustain support groups** for siblings, bereaved youth and children of adult patients

\$10,000 ANNUALLY PER GROUP

With your partnership, we will ensure that every child facing health challenges has the resources and support they need to cope, heal and thrive.