



Children's Medical Center of Dallas  
*A Report to Donors 2000*



*A*s a tribute to you — a treasured member of the Children's family — we have assembled *Portraits of Giving*. Inside these pages, you will find a keepsake collection of stories and photos celebrating how your contributions in 2000 made a difference in the lives of specific children and thousands more.

Your relationship with the Children's family is critically important and appreciated. It assures that sick and injured children continue to receive the quality medical, surgical, social and emotional care they need. We hope the smiles and words captured herein make you feel a heartwarming gladness for being a part of our family.

Innovation  
Courage  
Hope  
Healing  
Promise.  
Compassion  
Inspiration

*The Children's Family Album*



# Promise

*Gifts where  
needed most*

In 2000, generous donors gave nearly \$3.5 million to Children's in the form of unrestricted funds. These undesignated gifts are important to the financial health of the hospital because they enable Children's to apply the gifts where they are needed most and to respond quickly to current needs. In 2000, these gifts funded programs throughout the hospital including research, injury prevention and translation services.

## *Injury Prevention*

*Lisa Venincasa* is a true believer in the Children's injury prevention program. Today, her four children — ranging in age from 2 to 7 — scamper around her Dallas home without her worrying about their safety around the family's swimming pool.

The situation was different one day in August 2000. That's when she found her 16-month-old son, *Patrick*, floating unconscious in the pool, having wandered out a door unlocked by a guest while she tended to the other children inside. She administered CPR, an ambulance rushed him to the hospital and, by the next day, he was released.

To assure the potentially fatal incident didn't happen again, Venincasa contacted Patti Rhynders, manager of injury prevention education and outreach at Children's, after having seen a Children's advertisement about pool safety in a local newspaper. Rhynders shared with her the importance of putting up layers of barriers to isolate the pool so her children would not have unsupervised access. She gave her tips to reduce the chance of a child drowning during poolside activities.

Because injuries are the leading cause of death and disability for children, programs at Children's focus on topics such as child passenger and pedestrian safety and preventing choking, strangulation and suffocation.

Children's assisted 5,000 families like Venincasa in 2000 to help make the world safer for children. In fact, Venincasa is a volunteer speaker for injury prevention, carrying her first-person account of the importance of pool safety to other families.



*Lisa Venincasa with son Patrick.*