



# Wings of Hope

**A Minute With Matt**

**Your Dollars In Action**

**Regional Events**

**Tickets For Hope**

**New Website**

**Storybook**

**Coming Soon –  
Holiday Notecards**

## A Minute With Matt

Dear Friends,

As we enter this time of Thanksgiving, it's a perfect opportunity to thank everyone who helps make the UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation (UHCCF) work. This includes our contributors, volunteers and partners.

All of our accomplishments are only possible because of the many people who help us. We owe a debt of gratitude and extend a huge thank you to everyone who supported us during the 2013 Giving Campaign. And thank you to all of our volunteers, who give their time, energy and passion to help us carry out our mission of enhancing the lives of families in need, one child at a time.

I continue to be incredibly proud of the work we do to help deserving children and their families. We're again featuring recent grant recipients in this issue; please take a moment to read their stories. They inspire us and remind us of the UHCCF's wonderful work.

Once again we are offering holiday cards and calendars. New this year is our new book "Oliver and Hope's Amusing Adventure." Be sure to take advantage of these special offers in time for the holiday season and surprise a special someone while helping the UHCCF.

We promote the UHCCF on a national basis and know that the best promotion is word of mouth. If you know of a qualifying family that would benefit from a medical grant, please refer them to our new website, [www.uhccf.org](http://www.uhccf.org).

We encourage you to look through this issue of Wings of Hope to learn more about us or visit our website and meet some of the children who have benefited from the UHCCF's work.

On behalf of the UHCCF team, our best wishes to you and your families for a safe, happy and healthy holiday season, and a very happy new year.

Sincerely,

Matt Peterson  
UHCCF President

# Your Dollars In Action

We would like to introduce you to three of our grant recipients and how UHCCF grants have impacted not only the children, but their families. Two-year-old Adele needs special supplements to help her grow and thrive; Jackson requires extensive therapy to improve his ability to stand and walk; and surgery was necessary to keep Katie's airway passage open. Following are their stories.

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Dear Selection Committee Members,

Our family would like to thank you for the grant awarded to our daughter, Adele, to assist with doctor visits and dietary supplements. Since our visits to the doctor and daily routine of supplements, Adele has avoided a serious illness. Most importantly – no hospital stays!

Adele, diagnosed with respiratory syncytial virus, was in the hospital last winter for 12 days. The supplements have made it possible for us to moderate Adele's health condition and eliminate some of her other medications. On a recent visit to her gastrointestinal doctor, he was thrilled to see her progress. Because of this progress, Adele might not have to take prescription drugs for the rest of her life.

We are so grateful for the support UHCCF has given our family in improving the health and quality of life of our daughter. People who see her now say she is thriving and we agree!

Adele's Family



# Your Dollars In Action

Dear UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation,

I wanted to thank you for the generous grant for my son, Jackson. Your grant enabled us to take my son to the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Maryland for a week of intensive therapy. This therapy helped my son to improve his standing and walking as well as the electrical stem therapy. While there, KKI also evaluated Jackson's hip and were able to refer us to the best doctors for treatment.

Our family is truly thankful for your most gracious gift. There is not enough room on this card to list all the ways your grant has made it possible for us to ensure my son is receiving the best treatment available. Your kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity are a true blessing to families in need such as ours.

Jackson's Family



# Your Dollars In Action

Ten-year-old Katie is a fighter – not with her fists but with strength and courage. Diagnosed with lymphangioma, a rare congenital disorder of the lymphatic system causing large tumors and cysts in the face and neck area, the condition not only affects a child’s appearance, but it can block breathing and swallowing as well.

Katie was 3 when her lymphangioma first appeared as a mass that was pushing against and threatening to close her airway. Surgical removal of the mass was too dangerous but Katie was a perfect candidate for a drug called OK-432. After undergoing five surgeries to inject the drug, the mass to the airway went away.

After being dormant for two years, a simple cold triggered a flare-up near her left ear. The only option was a complicated, risky surgery to remove the mass that could result in permanent paralysis to the left side of her face. UHCCF provided a grant making it possible for Katie to travel to New York to be treated by lymphangioma specialists. The mass was successfully removed with no damage to the nerves or surrounding tissue.

“Without the grant from United Healthcare Children’s Foundation, Katie’s road to recovery would have been so much more difficult,” said Katie’s mom, Allison. “It made a huge difference to our family not only in relieving some of the financial burden from the surgeries, but allowing us to focus more on Katie and getting her and the rest of our family through this difficult time.”

“It has allowed us to share with other families going through similar situations. To be able to pass on our knowledge about UHCCF grants has been such a gift not only to us but to other families that are looking for any possible assistance with their child’s medical needs. UHCCF provides help that can make a huge difference in a child’s life forever. And the difference it made in Katie’s life cannot be measured.”

Katie is now the typical little girl who loves riding horses, shopping, school, ice cream and reading.



# Regional Events

## Annual Flagship Wings of Hope Golf Classic a Huge Success!

The UnitedHealthcare Children Foundation's (UHCCF) 2013 annual flagship Wings of Hope Golf Classic fundraiser was once again a huge success. Held at the prestigious Hazeltine National Golf Course on August 5, this year's event included two flights of golf. Participants from both flights enjoyed golf, contests, a social hour with wine tastings from Three River Providers Network, auctions and fine food.

The afternoon and evening programs were hosted by KARE-11 News' Sven Sugaard and Julie Nelson. UHCCF guests of honor were two grant recipients, siblings Ghabe (age 7) and Yszy (age 11). Ghabe and Yszy assisted the auctioneer in raising funds during the auctions. Both children have faced medical challenges at an early age and have received UHCCF grants to assist with their medical expenses.

Unscripted moments throughout the day had the audience in tears and truly showcased the compassion and generosity of the participants. Unexpected to the day's agenda, a lemonade stand was set up on one of the greens. A family of young heroes who live adjacent to the Hazeltine golf course wanted to help raise money for the foundation and succeeded more than they would have guessed – a single glass of their lemonade was auctioned at the evening program for \$2,500! Another family offered Ghabe and Yszy a trip to Disneyland in appreciation for their heroism and leadership of the UHCCF cause.

The tremendous quality of relationships made in planning and executing the event, innovative approaches to new events throughout the day, generosity and integrity of the participants all came together for what was a very moving and memorable event resulting in more than \$1 million in donations to the UHCCF, nearly double the amount raised in 2012. The event drew numerous UnitedHealth Group business partners and senior leaders. The foundation thanks the more than 400 participants and 100+ sponsors who took part in both events – vendors, partners, employees and volunteers.



# Regional Events



## Century Ride

Leaders cast a wonderful shadow to benefit the UHCCF kids by encouraging others to become involved with UHCCF through their actions. These leaders demonstrated that they are living healthy lives by riding 100 miles on a bike! Members of the Century Ride team presented a check for more than \$135,000 to the UHCCF this year (up from \$50,000 last year in their inaugural ride) at the Wings of Hope Golf Classic at Hazeltine. The foundation thanks the riders for their support.

# Regional Events

## Southeast

The fourth annual Bowling With the Atlanta Falcons Tournament was held in June. There were 250 people in attendance at this wonderful event, which raised more than \$45,000 for the UHCCF. The event featured a silent auction for spectacular items such as a suite at a Falcons football game, a week at a timeshare and golf at the Atlanta Athletic Club.

The guest of honor was local resident 7-year-old Sarah, a grant recipient in 2009 and 2010. Diagnosed with periventricular leukomalacia, cerebral palsy, microcephaly and a seizure disorder, Sarah received UHCCF grants that have assisted with the costs of aquatic therapy and a stroller. Sarah is now able to bear weight, walk with assistance and walk with her gait trainer.



Grant recipient Sarah with her family and Atlanta Falcons cheerleaders.

## Northeast

The fourth annual UHCCF 2013 Wings of Hope Golf Classic Maryland was held in September at Manor Country Club Golf Course in Rockville, Maryland. More than 100 people participated, including Baltimore Ravens cheerleaders, who were a colorful addition and brought lively interaction with the event participants.

One of our grant recipients, 4-year-old Hope, also attended and touched the hearts of many. A shy little girl, Hope has been diagnosed with congenital heart disease. Having undergone heart surgery last year, Hope will require lifelong follow-up visits and testing. The UHCCF grant has helped with these expenses.

This yearly fundraiser was a huge success and continues to grow. We beat last year's total by \$20,000 and have high hopes for next year!



Kevin Ruth, SVP, Health Advancement, UnitedHealthcare Medicare & Retirement, with grant recipient Hope.

# Tickets For Hope



Since its inception in August 2012, the UHCCF Tickets for Hope program has provided employees with exclusive and fun tickets to various entertainment and sporting events. All proceeds from the ticket sales support UHCCF programs, making Tickets for Hope a sustainable component of our foundation's fundraising strategy. Generous ticket donors enterprise-wide have allocated tickets for more than 15 events nationwide through this program, grossing more than \$32,000 in donations for the UHCCF in 2013. Recent ticket offerings have included performances by Taylor Swift, Jimmy Buffet, JayZ, Michael Bublé and Blake Shelton. To view current events, visit [www.ticketsforcharity.com/uhccf](http://www.ticketsforcharity.com/uhccf).

Interested in sharing with others? Forward our brochure found at [www.uhccf.org/uhccf/media/Docs/Tickets-for-Hope.pdf](http://www.uhccf.org/uhccf/media/Docs/Tickets-for-Hope.pdf).

Acceptable donations include:

- Corporate and personal ticket donations
- Tickets in areas such as arts, sports and music
- Tickets of an exclusive nature at major venues

Donors are asked to submit their donated tickets five or more days before the event. Any unsold tickets will be returned to the donor before the event.

Are you ready to donate? Contact us: Call a UHCCF associate at **1-855-MYUHCCF** or send an email to [customerservice@uhccf.org](mailto:customerservice@uhccf.org).

A UHCCF associate will help to coordinate the transfer of physical tickets.

# New Website



## Announcing the Launch of Our Redesigned Website!

UHCCF has unveiled its new website, brochure and Facebook page!

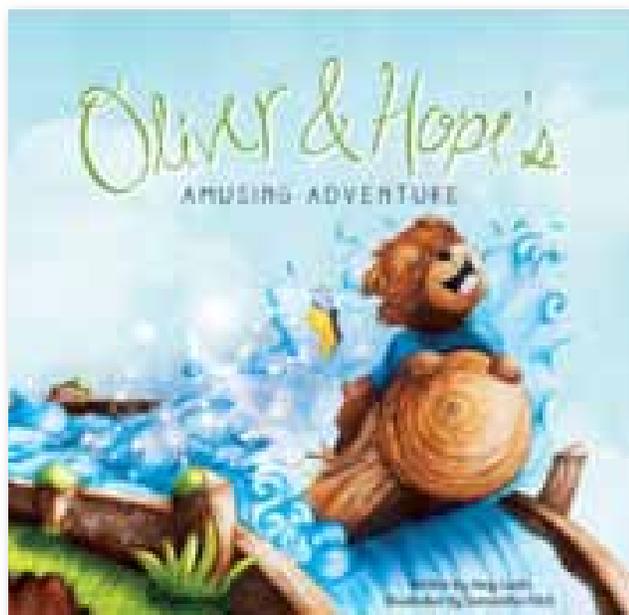
The new [uhccf.org](http://uhccf.org) website includes a fresh new look and feel in addition to enhanced features that improve the online experience for visitors, making it easier to submit a grant application, contribute or find out the latest news and latest brochure to share with others.

Simplified site navigation provides immediate access to important information. Learn about the grant application process, understand ways to donate to UHCCF, attend one of the upcoming events, learn how to get involved, join our mailing list, read stories from families who have received grants, and connect with additional resources on our “Friends” page.

Please Like Us and Friend us on Facebook to keep current on the foundation’s news and share our website or brochure with friends and family or anyone you think might benefit from UHCCF!

Visit the “new” [www.uhccf.org](http://www.uhccf.org) today!

# Storybook



## UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation Launches New Storybook and Characters

UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation (UHCCF) has announced the release of "Oliver & Hope's Amusing Adventure," a new children's book featuring a story of adventure, perseverance, hope, trust, courage and imagination. And, in many ways, these same elements help guide UHCCF's mission.

Readers can follow the story of Oliver, the brave bear, and his best butterfly friend, Hope, as they journey to an amusement park that is very far away. Their travels take many twists and turns, and show how hope and imagination can help save the day. Through it all, they discover that sometimes the most fun is found in the journey, rather than the destination.

Visit [www.uhccf.org](http://www.uhccf.org) to learn more and watch for future opportunities to purchase Oliver & Hope's merchandise, all of which will benefit the UHCCF. It's not too early to start thinking about the holidays, and this would make a perfect gift for someone special. New merchandise will be available this fall.

Join us to watch Oliver & Hope's adventure unfold!

# Coming Soon – Holiday Notecards



Stay tuned for exciting new merchandise to be offered this winter/holiday season!

UHCCF will continue its annual tradition of offering ornaments, calendars and holiday cards this 2013 season, but be sure to watch for our new additions, such as books and our new bear. Sales of all merchandise benefit UHCCF kids – what a wonderful way to benefit two people (yourself and a UHCCF grantee) with a single purchase!



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To learn more about  
the UnitedHealthcare  
Children's Foundation,  
visit [www.uhccf.org](http://www.uhccf.org)