




HOPE in the AIR Foundation

2021 Stewardship Report

A blue-tinted photograph of a young child and a white dog, Dilly, lying together. The child is on the left, looking up with their mouth open, and the dog is on the right, looking down at the child. The background is a solid blue color with a white border. A small blue square is in the top left corner. Two thin yellow circles are in the bottom right corner.

Support for Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) comes in many forms that reflect the unique pediatric patient experience. Thanks to generous fundraising proceeds from HOPE in the AIR supporters, we have been able to provide meaningful resources for children at a time when the little things mean the most. Your contribution in support of our first Facility Dog Program has allowed us to offer yet another way to positively impact the healing process for children.

Coping and comfort can be offered to children in different ways. And sometimes it's in the form of a furry friend that can let kids just feel like kids again.

As the first full-time facility dog at CHOP, Dilly plays an important role within a child's treatment team. Dilly's extensive training has made him a helpful companion attending to patients across a continuum of care: physical and occupational therapy, procedural support, help with distraction, coping skills, and more. We are pleased to share some of Dilly's contributions made possible by your support.



Easing Patient Anxiety: Dilly in Action

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Dilly has a special heart.

— School-aged patient

Normalizing what is oftentimes a daunting hospital experience, Dilly has become a familiar and comforting touchpoint for patients. Dilly was critical in helping a young patient from the PICU who was afraid of riding in an ambulance to transfer to a long-term care facility. Before his transfer, the patient practiced the walk to the ambulance bay by walking Dilly on a secondary leash. Dilly helped familiarize the child with the process, such as demonstrating sitting on the gurney inside the ambulance. On the day of the transfer, Dilly was right alongside the patient to make their way to the ambulance. The patient was able to

successfully complete the ambulance ride to the new facility, accompanied by the assurance of those earlier dry runs with Dilly (and a Dilly stuffed animal in their arms).

In addition to easing transitions, Dilly has helped keep many other patients calm during similar medical interventions. In one such case, Dilly helped a teenage patient who was undergoing a test that required electrical signals with needle electrodes. The patient was able to remain calm by petting Dilly throughout the procedure, as he was positioned to offer deep pressure support throughout the exam.

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Dilly is the one thing that [Patient Name] looks forward to each week. It's the only time that [Patient Name] isn't being poked and prodded, and is excited.

— CHOP parent

Classroom Helper

For some patients, long-term stays mean the hospital can double as a classroom in order to maintain educational goals. Dilly has become an integral part of the curriculum through our Hospital School Program. In one lesson plan that combines math skills and ambulation, patients learn multiplication by walking Dilly on a secondary leash, counting his steps, and multiplying it by his four paws. Dilly also helps student-patients in reading, where simply petting Dilly while reading aloud can help with accurately sounding out words.

Empowering Progress

Dilly has been an essential part of patients' speech, physical, and occupational therapy journeys. He works closely with children and teens during their weekly goal-oriented sessions, and his presence encourages compliance among the patients during this critical rehabilitation stage. Dilly serves as a motivational factor in patient participation and his cues are built into the care plan with the team to help patients meet their specific therapy goals. Dilly's contributions have been so meaningful that several children have asked to walk Dilly during the graduation ceremony on the unit to symbolize their journey together.



Patients with Cancer

Dilly's visits include helping patients cope with their hospitalizations, and providing a sense of normalcy when all other things can feel so far from normal. For example, Dilly has engaged with oncology patients in medical play sessions, working on puzzles together as they watch him perform his cues such as spin and picking up objects. Sessions with Dilly also encourage patients to open up about difficult aspects of their medical care. One such difficulty can be taking medications — watching Dilly perform his medicine cue can help encourage patients to take their pill, as well.



From a grateful Children's Hospital, and Dilly, too

On behalf of our patients who have benefitted from Dilly's invaluable services, thank you. By providing both levity and learning on some of our patients' hardest days, Dilly has been an indispensable part of the healing experience at CHOP. Your support of the Facility Dog Program ensures yet another way for us to foster healthier, happier outcomes for our patients.