Circle of Friends

Arkansas Children's Hospital

Report to our community
Arkansas Children’s Hospital

for every child,
for every child, every day, in every community
Some people are born to care and nurture others. Samantha Logue is one of those people.

When Samantha was 14, she went on a mission trip to Honduras. There, she helped set up a clinic to benefit the economically challenged Hondurans.

“I always knew I wanted to help people,” says Samantha. “But it wasn’t until I went to Honduras that I decided I wanted to be a nurse. I had such a great time setting up the clinic, and it was extremely satisfying knowing I was helping those less fortunate.”

When Samantha graduated from nursing school, she knew exactly where she wanted to start her nursing career.

“I have always wanted to work at Arkansas Children’s Hospital,” says Samantha. “I knew it would be wonderful to help kids, because kids are so much fun! I knew ACH was the place for me.”

Samantha has been at ACH for five years. She worked in specialty clinics on campus before moving to the Circle of Friends Clinic.

“I love working in the Circle of Friends Clinic,” she says. “Every kid provides an opportunity to do something different.”

Samantha feels lucky to work in such a great work space. “The clinic is so nice and kid-friendly. The parents love it! We have a really great team working here, who all enjoy their jobs. I think that shows in our care,” she says.

ACH Facts
Throughout this report, watch for Arkansas Children’s Hospital facts designated with colorful boxes.

Clinical
The Circle of Friends Clinic opened on the ACH campus in October 2007, providing more space to accommodate more patients in outpatient specialty clinics.
Welcome! If you are reading this report, we have something in common…a curiosity about Arkansas Children’s Hospital. As president and president-elect of the Circle of Friends State Board our initial curiosity has become a driving passion focused on building a community. With this report we aim to introduce you to the community we envision.

Circle of Friends is a group of individuals who are changing the future for children. We are working with ACH to make treatment methods better, to find research breakthroughs faster, and to ensure every child in every community of our state knows how to keep themselves as healthy as possible – because we all know healthy children are essential to healthy communities.

However you came to look at this report, we hope you will find a new reason to support ACH. On behalf of Circle of Friends, we encourage you to open the door to a new perspective – by joining a chapter, volunteering your time or donating to this hospital’s wonderful mission.

Life is filled with memories and images that remind us of community – the suburban sidewalk, the child swinging, a yellow school bus. We found that as we searched for images of community, the finest example we have is Arkansas Children’s Hospital. As you read through this report, we hope you feel that sense of pride and unity that we feel, knowing we are supporting such a wonderful organization.

From our community to yours,

Kate Schaffer  
State Board President  
2008-2009

Clara Sims  
State Board President  
2009-2010
Clinical

No child in the state of Arkansas is more than 55 minutes from ACH with the Angel One helicopters.

Family Support

Chaplains in the ACH Pastoral Care department make sure every patient and family is aware of the availability of spiritual support. ACH chaplains work to accommodate patient/family requests for specialized ministries and respond in times of crisis when spiritual support is essential.

Arkansas Children’s Hospital

A famous proverb says, “It takes a village to raise a child.” The same could be said for healing a child – or keeping a child healthy – this too is a community effort and Arkansas Children’s Hospital is a big part of that community.

ACH has been changing children’s lives for almost 100 years as the only pediatric hospital in the state. What began in 1912 as a home for orphans has grown into a world-renowned pediatric health care facility that records more than 280,000 patient visits each year. The campus houses 316 beds, a staff of approximately 500 physicians and more than 4,000 employees. Arkansas Children’s Hospital also supports and staffs specialty clinics across the state.

Arkansas Children’s Hospital has become a worldwide leader in medical breakthroughs and research innovations. Ground-breaking medical treatment is not the only thing patients receive at Arkansas Children’s Hospital. A community of caregivers – doctors, nurses, therapists and staff – are dedicated to providing care, love and hope to each patient.

The staff of Arkansas Children’s Hospital knows that great care is not the only essential ingredient for keeping a child healthy. Educating the family and community is also vital for a healthy childhood. Through the Community Outreach department, Injury Prevention program and other statewide initiatives, ACH involves the community as much as possible in activities that promote children’s health and safety.

The Circle of Friends Community

In 1983, a group of women gathered to create a support organization for Arkansas Children’s Hospital. A grassroots volunteer movement began, and a statewide network of Circle of Friends chapters was soon created.

Over the past 25 years, Circle of Friends has grown to include more than 700 members. These members have raised nearly $10 million for the children served by Arkansas Children’s Hospital. The strength and power of Circle of Friends comes from these volunteers, who give their time, talents and treasures every year.

Arkansas River Valley • Faulkner County
Garland County • Greene County • Harrison Regional
Jefferson County • Jonesboro • Lawrence County
Magnolia • Northwest Arkansas • Spring River • Texarkana
One day in 2003, Hanner acted sluggish and tired and that night, he began wheezing while trying to sleep. Concerned, his parents took him to a children’s clinic.

As his oxygen levels continued to drop and his breathing got worse, doctors decided to send Hanner to ACH in Little Rock.

Over the next few days, Hanner had four chest tubes placed in his right lung and as many as 15 pumps simultaneously supporting him.

Hanner was diagnosed with staph pneumonia, which is a viral lung infection. Hanner was eventually moved out of the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), where he had spent 28 days, and into a regular hospital room. After leaving the PICU, Hanner began physical and speech therapy because he had not walked or talked for an entire month. While at ACH, Hanner enjoyed the T.A.I.L.S. animal therapy program, which allows specially trained dogs to visit hospital patients.

Hanner is now a bundle of energy who loves playing soccer and T-ball. Even though he no longer visits ACH, he does take breathing treatments twice a day in the winter and speech therapy three times a week. Hanner’s mother, Felicia, is very happy with the care her son received.

“We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful hospital in Arkansas,” she says. “Without ACH, we would not have Hanner with us.”
Jake had his first open heart surgery at Arkansas Children’s Hospital when he was just 5 days old.

In 2003, Jake was born a healthy baby, or so it seemed. His doctors were concerned that he was so pale, and after running a few tests, he was diagnosed with congenital heart disease four hours after he was born. Immediately after the diagnosis, the ACH Angel One helicopter was dispatched to Jake’s hometown of Texarkana to pick him up.

Once at ACH, his parents, Theresa and Hampton, found out that Jake had been born with seven different heart defects. After undergoing his first surgery, he spent several days in the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU). Jake’s parents were told that his first open heart surgery would not be his last – he would need two others over the course of the next few years.

Jake and his family returned to ACH five months later for his second heart surgery. The surgery went very well, and Jake again visited ACH in 2008 for his third heart surgery, which was a success. Theresa notes that although they have a long road ahead, they are not afraid.

“At ACH, there is always someone there to explain a medical procedure or help us with the emotional overload that every parent goes through with a child in critical condition,” Theresa says. “ACH takes care of both the patient and the family.”

**Clinical**
The ACH Heart Center is the only pediatric cardiac center in Arkansas and boasts a 98 percent survival rate for complex surgeries.
**Membership**

Membership Goal – To increase membership to 900 members by 2012.

Each fall we open our doors to friends, family members and corporate colleagues in our communities, inviting them to join our circle through membership drives.

**Service**

Service Goal – To have 450 of the 900 members actively involved in board service, committee work or at least one core fundraising activity.

- Kampaign for Kids (corporate event)
- Kids Caring for Kids (school-based event)
- Radiothon (pledge-driven event)
- Phone Phrenzy (pledge-driven event)

Invite members to become active in a corporate, school-based or pledge-driven event. Using these proven models allows us to maximize our time and resources.

**Revenue**

Revenue Goal – To raise $1 million annually in support of Arkansas Children’s Hospital by 2012.

A chapter or business can help grow Circle of Friends revenue in the following ways: Attend best practice training, sponsor an event, make an individual gift or participate in one or more core fundraising activities. For more information, please see page 16 of this report.

**Achievements**

In 2008, *U.S. News and World Report* named ACH one of America’s Best Children’s Hospitals. ACH also received this honor in 2005 and 2006.

**Toward Success**
Report Card

Where does your gift go?

Circle of Friends Clinic
$355,000

Arkansas Children’s Hospital Research Institute
$50,000

PULSE Center
$75,679

Kids Care
After-Hours Resource Line
$100,000

Parenting in Arkansas magazine
$40,000

Community Outreach
$125,000
This past year was a phenomenal one for Circle of Friends. Financial goals were surpassed and membership goals were shattered.

Each year, Circle of Friends leaders set aggressive goals. With our amazing success over the past couple of years, Circle of Friends is changing the face of pediatric health care in Arkansas.

### Funds Raised

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Mac visited Arkansas Children’s Hospital very early in his young life - when he was still in utero.

When Mac’s mother, Erin, went for a routine 20-week check-up during her pregnancy, her doctor informed her that the baby growing inside her had a serious problem. The baby suffered from omphalocele, meaning his abdominal organs, including his intestines, stomach, spleen and liver were on the outside of his body. Erin, a previous Circle of Friends member, immediately came to ACH, where she visited with a pediatrician and a surgeon who explained exactly what to expect.

When Mac was born, he was transported to the ACH Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), where he stayed for two months.

The omphalocele was so large, Mac could not immediately have surgery. Doctors “painted” Mac’s organs with an antibiotic cream, which allowed the shell around the organs to harden. He was sent home, but under very strict orders. He could only go home and to ACH, due to the risk of infection.

At 12 months old, Mac had surgery to place his abdominal organs inside his body. The surgery was a success, and Mac left the hospital after only five days.

Mac still visits ACH for follow-up care. He visits many clinics, including several now located in the new Circle of Friends Clinic.

“We call Mac our little miracle,” says Erin. “We are so happy with the care we receive from the hospital and the clinics.”

Family Support
The child life and education department addresses the emotional, social, educational and recreational needs of hospitalized children.
In 2008, the Circle of Friends State Board pledged $1.8 million in support of the Circle of Friends Clinic, a new facility on the ACH campus housing numerous clinics. To date, the organization has paid $1 million toward that pledge.

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the clinic, more than 125 members cheered and shed tears as the Circle of Friends State Board representatives cut the ribbon officially opening the doors to the space they had worked tirelessly to support and fund.

“This clinic is named in honor of a $1.8 million gift from Circle of Friends and it is a tribute to the power of grassroots fundraising and the synergy of volunteers working together,” said David Berry, ACH senior vice president and chief operating officer, during remarks at the ceremony in May. “We are grateful to the Circle of Friends for this generous contribution that will have an immediate and lasting impact on children and families all over Arkansas.”

Outpatient clinics on the ACH campus and in regional clinics throughout Arkansas host almost 250,000 patient visits per year. Clinic space on the ACH campus has been cramped, with some specialties sharing space, making for longer wait times for non-urgent appointments. The Circle of Friends Clinic will help ease some of the clinic congestion.

“Improving access to quality health care for children, no matter where they live, is a priority for Circle of Friends,” says Kate Schaffer, president of the State Board and a member of the Garland County chapter. “It is so important to our members to fund projects that help open doors to better health care for children all over Arkansas, and this clinic is a perfect fit in meeting that objective,” she says.

The ACH Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) provides care to the most critically ill and injured children. The award-winning PICU possesses state-of-the-art facilities that focus on family-centered care.
Through our funding priorities, Circle of Friends is committed to educating as many people as possible on the importance of healthy futures for Arkansas children.

**Kid’s Care After-Hours Resource Line**

Earlier this year, a mother in El Dorado phoned Kid’s Care, the ACH after-hours resource line for parents, with a puzzling dilemma. She described her toddler son as having minor cold symptoms, yet his breathing was not steady, and the mother wondered what to do.

The ACH nurse on the line could hear the child’s labored breathing in the background, and encouraged the mother to get her child to the nearest emergency room immediately. The mother took her son to the ER, where doctors found a foreign object in his airway, completely blocking one lung. The Kid’s Care nurse saved this young child’s life, with expert advice given from many miles away.

Kid’s Care, which is funded by Circle of Friends, provides after-hours telephone advice for parents of patients from community pediatricians throughout Arkansas and the General Pediatric Clinic at ACH. Approximately 55,000 calls are made to Kid’s Care each year. Half of the calls received each year do not require a visit to the emergency room. Instead, the on-call nurse provides information to the parent on how to deal with the situation at home, thus saving the family the trouble of a hospital visit.

By supporting this program, Circle of Friends is ensuring that even when local clinic doors are closed, the doors to Arkansas Children’s Hospital are always open.
Community Outreach

When 6-year-old Samantha Smith was awakened from sleep by her older brother because their house was on fire, Samantha knew exactly what to do, thanks to a trip through a Fire Safety House. Because of the community outreach efforts of Arkansas Children’s Hospital, Samantha knew exactly how to lead her family to safety.

The Community Outreach department at ACH is working to make stories like the one above more common. More than 30,000 Arkansas children each year go through a Fire Safety House, an excellent teaching tool for instructing school-age children how to best respond should their home catch on fire.

The Community Outreach department was started 12 years ago with funds raised by Circle of Friends. Community Outreach representatives, in their travels across Arkansas, devote time and resources to equip communities with the information necessary to encourage healthy behaviors in children. In addition to fire safety, other programs provided by Community Outreach include ATV and bicycle safety, child passenger safety and general wellness.

If you would like more information on bringing one of these programs to your community, call the Arkansas Children’s Hospital Foundation at 501-364-1476.

Clinical

The ACH Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) first opened in 1980 with a 75 percent survival rate; today, that rate is 96 percent. The NICU can accommodate 85 babies, which makes it one of the largest in the country.
PULSE Center

Circle of Friends is making a difference through the PULSE (Pediatric Understanding and Learning through Simulation Education) Center, for medical and other professionals who are trained there each year. The PULSE Center is among the nation’s first comprehensive simulation education facilities dedicated entirely to pediatric care. The facility boasts state-of-the-art education and training through medical simulation, innovative teaching and assessment and the use of standardized patients.

All senior medical students at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences going into pediatric-based residencies rotate through a number of procedure stations at the PULSE Center. The PULSE Center gives these student doctors hands-on experience in situations similar to what they will face when they are on-call.

Because of the support of Circle of Friends, the ACH PULSE Center is impacting thousands of children’s lives across the state.

Clinical

The ACH hematology/oncology department cares for children with cancer, sickle cell disease, hemophilia and other blood disorders. The unit cares for 90 percent of all Arkansas pediatric cancer patients.

Family Support

T.A.I.L.S. (Therapeutic Animal Intervention Lifts Spirits), a program within the child life department at ACH, provides patients therapeutic opportunities to interact with trained therapy dogs. These interactions often result in reduced anxiety, reduced pain and a more positive outlook on the hospital experience.
Miracles are celebrated throughout the year at Arkansas Children’s Hospital – children successfully beating cancer, premature infants finally getting to go home, babies having innovative surgery to repair a birth defect.

These miracles often begin at Arkansas Children’s Hospital Research Institute (ACHRI).

Research is a vital part of the care given to patients at Arkansas Children’s Hospital. Physicians pride themselves on providing “bench to bedside” care, which refers to a research approach that strives to bring advances from the laboratory to the bedside as quickly as possible to benefit patients.

Circle of Friends is an integral part of that care, due to their support of ACHRI. Researchers at ACHRI work to improve children’s health, development and well-being through researching new medical technologies, new therapies and new means of prevention for pediatric illness.

Arkansas Children’s Nutrition Center (ACNC) is only the second Human Nutrition Research Center in the United States to focus on pediatric nutrition. It is a cooperative effort of the United States Department of Agriculture, ACH and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.
“One generation plants the trees; the next generation enjoys the shade.”

Proverb

Will you be a leader in your community for Arkansas Children’s Hospital?

**Individual**
- Join Circle of Friends.
- Invite a friend to join.
- Volunteer for a project.
- Take a leadership role.
- Bring ACH information to your community.
- Become a Miracle Maker (monthly giving club).

**Corporate**
- Make a gift.
- Make a pledge (to be paid in the future).
- Match the amount raised by an employee program that currently raises funds for the hospital.
- Sponsor an event.
- Create an employee campaign at your workplace.

For more information on how you can support Arkansas Children’s Hospital through Circle of Friends, call the Arkansas Children’s Hospital Foundation at 501-364-1476 or 1-800-880-7491 or email cof@archildrens.org.