

Offering Support Where It's Needed Most

UVA Children's Hospital Heart Family Fund

Families at University of Virginia Children's Hospital Heart Center take comfort in knowing their children are being treated at one of the premier cardiac care centers in the mid-Atlantic region. They know that the pediatric cardiologists at UVA have decades of experience in treating congenital and acquired heart disease. Sitting at bedside, or holding their child's hand during appointments, they see firsthand the exceptional level of care and dedication that makes UVA Children's Hospital a referral destination for hospitals across the state.

Yet, these assurances cannot erase the fear and worry that go hand in hand with a serious childhood illness. Unfortunately, for many families, a sick child creates other, financial stressors, as well.

Many travel long distances to receive their care at UVA. This might mean a day out of school or, for caregivers, a day off work. When extended hospital stays are required, the daily routines of life are altered for weeks or months at a time. For families already struggling financially, losing income for any period of time can be devastating... especially with the added expenses of gas, lodging, and food away from home.

In 2008, the Children's Heart Family Fund was established to help meet the needs of these families. The fund provides food vouchers, gas cards, and lodging for families travelling from across Virginia to hospital and clinic appointments. Every dollar donated to the Heart Family Fund makes a difference. Relieving these smaller, financial worries gives families the energy and space to do the most important work at hand - supporting their child and each other in a time of uncertainty.



Martha Carpenter, MD, with a young patient

Contributions to the Children's Heart Family Fund are tax-deductible. For more information, please call (800) 297-0102 or (434) 924-8432. Or, to make a gift, please send your check (with Children's Heart Family Fund written on the memo line) to:

**UVA Fund/UVA Children's Hospital
Alumni Hall
P.O. Box 400314
Charlottesville, VA 22904**

In its first year, the Heart Family Fund provided more than \$4,500 in gas cards, \$2,350 in meal vouchers, and eleven nights of lodging for families in need.

