



RJ Children's HAVEN

An Immune Recovery Center



FAST FACTS:

2924 cherry

A building has been purchased in the Hospital Hill neighborhood at 2924 Cherry, less than five blocks from a world-class, pediatric hospital. Construction will begin in spring 2019 with an anticipated opening of summer of 2019, just in time for the new school year.

NO SHOES allowed

No shoes will be allowed indoors—a mobile cubby will store all shoes upon entry to keep germs and dirt out of the facility.

Children who attend RJCH and become ill will be contained in a separate and safe space until they can be picked up.

OPERATING ROOM-GRADE ventilation

To support a clean and safe environment, RJCH will have a hospital operating room-grade ventilation system to aid in removing dangerous airborne spores and contaminants.



WHAT IS RJ CHILDREN'S HAVEN?

RJ Children's Haven (RJCH), an **Immune Recovery Child Care Center**, supports the body, mind and spirit healing of children with cancer and life-threatening conditions.

The first of its kind in the nation, RJCH offers a safe environment for child care, therapies, socialization, education, and support for children who are immunocompromised and their families.

RJCH is **inspired by Rachel and Jason**. Rachel is a young woman who was treated for pediatric cancer and survived. Jason was a passionate nurse who used his gifts to heal children with cancer but lost his life too soon.

Across this nation, children who are immunocompromised are grouped together and attend hematology/oncology clinics every day. RJCH will mirror this model for success and employ the same care standards.

WHO WILL BE THERE?

RJCH will care for 30 children, **ages two to eight years old**, to help them continue to learn and develop through interaction with other children, volunteers and staff. The age range of children and number of children served will be expanded in the future. Plans for operations are Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Paid staff will include an onsite trained and certified child care center director, an experienced pediatric nurse and trained staff as needed per state guidelines. Adult **volunteers** will range from retired nurses, retired teachers, parents, grandparents and some nursing training programs to facilitate the children's activities.

Space for **extra support services** (requested by a parent) for each child will be provided, such as visits from teachers, home health staff, physical and occupational therapists, speech pathologists, social workers, nutritionists and psychologists.

School-age children will study assignments from their regular teachers while center volunteers assist. Younger children will participate in typical developmental activities of a day care/pre-school setting such as creative play and reading activities. Music, art and play therapies and recreational activities will be offered to all age groups.



BACKGROUND & LEADERSHIP

RJCH obtained **non-profit**, 501(c)(3) designation in February 2011 and is led by Executive Board founders, including a stem cell transplant retired registered nurse, a 35-year veteran registered nurse, and a healthcare administrator and organizational leader.

The **Executive and Advisory Boards** are comprised of professionals with decades of experience treating children with life-threatening health conditions. This includes nurse practitioners, pediatric specialist physicians, parents, licensed social workers, Blue Valley school teachers, music and play therapists and business leaders.

The **highly qualified RJCH staff** have the medical training and personal knowledge of caring for this group of children as well as the ability to link medical, social and educational supports as needed.

A child care center director, an experienced pediatric nurse and trained staff will help the team develop a full-range of learning/social activities for children of all ages.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Several donors from the community have purchased the building at 2924 Cherry. It will be provided to RJCH **rent-free** for three years.

By late September 2018, \$800,000 has been pledged by some of the city's largest architecture, construction and equipment firms to support the design and buildout costs of RJCH. This value is **expected to be over \$1 million** prior to construction.

Several **fundraising events** as well as ongoing outreach and solicitation will secure initial and ongoing operating funds. These donations will also support the purchase of specialty equipment, furnishings and developmental resources and materials for the children.

A full listing of sponsorship opportunities and donation information is available on the website.

WHY IS RJCH IMPORTANT?

Cancer Care Annual Reports from the local pediatric hospital show more than **200 new patients** are added to their cancer registry annually. Cancer, genetic disorders, transplants, inflammatory disease, radiation and certain drugs weaken children's immune systems and can place them at a short-term risk for infection.

When a child's immune system is suppressed, he or she cannot attend school, day care or activities in the community without risk of infection. Children can spend formative months and years in isolation at home.

As a priority, RJCH wants to help all children dealing with loneliness and depression that can occur because of their diagnosis and isolation. The **children of RJCH can support each other** because their journeys are similar.

Parents often must give up a job (sometimes the source of health insurance) to stay home with their child and attend multiple appointments and treatments. RJCH can **help parents** return to work or take care of other family members knowing their child is being cared for in a safe and supportive environment.

FUNDING & INSURANCE COVERAGE

RJCH has applied for and received several **small grants**. Continued outreach and grant submission to local and national healthcare funders and private foundations is planned and underway.

Partial to full insurance **reimbursement** will cover therapies and many of RJCH's services. Additionally, families will cover some costs with private pay subject to their ability.

Grants and **donations** will support program development, operating costs and unmet costs of care for children.

CONTACT US

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