

# GIVE HOPE TO: Pediatric Research and Patient Care

**OUR GOAL:** Raise \$80 million to advance medical care for children and pursue cures for life-threatening and life-altering diseases.



Anthony Firulli, Ph.D.

**“To be able to provide resources that help children with pediatric illnesses do better and thrive is something anybody can get behind. I feel that the lives of children should all be as perfect and happy as possible.”**

**- Anthony Firulli, Ph.D.**

Riley Heart Researcher and Donor

## ▶ Giving Hope to Hunter

Riley research is helping give children like Hunter Schermerhorn of Fort Wayne the best odds for a healthy future.

The sports lover is cancer-free today after a battle with acute lymphoblastic leukemia that included life-threatening complications. “He’s got his whole life ahead of him. It’s very positive,” says Riley Pediatric Oncologist Sandeep Batra, M.D.

Hunter’s treatment has been guided by the latest advancements in leukemia research, including work being done at Riley’s

research facility, the Wells Center for Pediatric Research. “I work with a group of 40 researchers who are working day and night to identify the causes and treatment for pediatric leukemia,” says Wells Center Cancer Investigator Reuben Kapur, Ph.D. “My dream has always been to find a cure for pediatric leukemias. Your support is absolutely critical to drive enthusiasm that is needed to find these new cures.”

Riley research investigators reported new discoveries in 177 publications in 2018, not just for cancer but also for illnesses including diabetes, heart disease, allergies and infectious disease. Donors provide critical funding to get new projects off the ground and help investigators obtain larger grants.

“Riley is such an important place. They do amazing research here to help kids like Hunter,” says Hunter’s mother Rhonda Schermerhorn. “If it weren’t for the donors that give to Riley Children’s Foundation, there wouldn’t be a place for Hunter to go for the treatment he has needed. You have to have answers, and those answers are at Riley.”



Hunter Schermerhorn, Fort Wayne



## WHY YOUR GIFTS ARE NEEDED

The need is great for philanthropic support for research into childhood diseases. In the past 20 years, only three new cancer drugs have been approved specifically for children. Comprehensive children's hospitals like Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health lead the way for pediatric research innovation. Our affiliation with the Indiana University School of Medicine, the nation's largest medical school, makes Riley a natural leader to advance the future medicine for children. With your help, we are answering the call to provide hope to sick children.

## RILEY RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS

Philanthropy is driving an unprecedented chapter of Riley research growth.

- Riley has developed the **first Pediatric Precision Genomics program** in the nation for children with aggressive cancer.
- The first national pediatric cancer research project chosen by the National Cancer Institute's **SPORE Initiative**.
- Indiana's only member of the **Children's Oncology Group Phase 1 & Pilot Consortium**, which includes 21 of the leading children's hospitals across the nation.
- Fourth in the nation in the number of children enrolled in therapeutic clinical trials including new cancer and diabetes treatments.
- **New therapies** are being developed at the Wells Center for Pediatric Research for diseases including: neurofibromatosis; childhood leukemias; asthma; heart defects; diabetes; Friedreich's ataxia; and Fanconi anemia.
- Focus on **translational research** means we can speed discoveries in the lab to the bedsides of children.

## 10-FOLD RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Now is the time to capitalize on growing momentum for Riley research.

### \$1=\$10

Every dollar you invest in research at Riley leads to about \$10 in federal grant support.

### TOP 10

Because of donors' gifts, Riley is now among the top 10 pediatric research hospitals in the nation.

### GROWTH TREND

Riley's annual research funding has nearly doubled in the past five years thanks to donors' investments.

### 230 STAFF MEMBERS

Donors' gifts helped open the Wells Center in 1991 with a staff of seven; today the team includes more than 230 investigators and research staff members.