



Rocky Mountain
Children's Health
FOUNDATION



2023
COMMUNITY
REPORT

Everchanging Needs.
Consistent Support.
Hopeful Families.

Celebrating 15 Years of Impact

Since its creation in 2008, Rocky Mountain Children's Health Foundation has been a vital source of support for pediatric patients and their families. Now, 15 years later, the need for our support continues to grow. We are inspired by how our community continues to come together to ensure these families don't face their child's medical journey alone.

In 2023, rising costs of housing, groceries, and other essentials added to the stress for families with a child in the hospital or undergoing serious treatment. But with the help of our incredible community, we provided relief to these families so they could focus on what truly matters: their child.

Our 15th year was full of reasons to celebrate: the 150th adoption through the Stink Bug Project, the establishment of our first endowment, and the inaugural Cradling Hearts Celebration honoring healthcare heroes. As we look to the future, we are optimistic and determined to build on these successes, especially as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Mothers' Milk Bank in 2024.

None of this would have been possible without you—our donors, volunteers, and partners. Your belief in our mission drives us to new heights each year. Together, we are making a lasting impact and creating brighter futures for children in need.

On behalf of our entire team and all the children and families we serve, thank you for being part of our journey.

Cathy Sandoval,
Executive Director



WE BELIEVE

Every family should feel supported through their child's medical journey.

Through direct financial assistance, the love and companionship of furry friends, and the magic of donor human milk, Rocky Mountain Children's Health Foundation supports families and children when they need it most. **Because when we do, families can focus on what really matters: *their child*.**

Thanks to your support, we provided critical support to thousands of children and families in 2023. **Here's a look at our year of impact:**

2,803 families received critical financial support through our Patient & Family Assistance program, including housing, food, and transportation

5,988 books, toys, distraction kits, and other items were distributed to children in the hospital and beyond, giving them a chance to just be a kid for a moment

1,088 support interactions from Posey, the facility dog at Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children, provided comfort and therapeutic support for children in their care

684,722 ounces of donor human milk were distributed to hospitals and newborns across the country

7 children were matched with loving companion dogs through The Stink Bug Project



Our Programs

FINANCIAL, NUTRITIONAL, AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

Patient & Family Assistance

When a child is ill or injured, stressors quickly pile up. Day-to-day expenses shouldn't be one of them. Our PFA program offers a lifeline for families to meet their essential needs, from housing to food to transportation, so they can focus on what really matters: their child.

PAWS for RMHC

Through a special partnership with Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children, our facility dog Posey helps ease the stress many children feel while at the hospital. Her companionship gives them something to look forward to and helps make the medical process less scary, both for them and for their families.

Mothers' Milk Bank

Mothers' Milk Bank plays a crucial role in supporting premature and medically fragile infants by collecting, processing, and distributing hundreds of thousands of ounces of donor human milk every year. The milk supports babies in the hospital—especially neonatal intensive care units—and those at home in need of additional supplementation.

The Stink Bug Project

Our Stink Bug dog adoption program embraces the healing power of animals by providing loving companion dogs for children facing difficult medical conditions. These dogs are thoughtfully trained to fit into a family with elevated needs, offering the children unconditional love that gets them through tough times.

2023 Board of Directors

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Highlights from 2023

CELEBRATING POSEY AND THE CHILD LIFE TEAM

Two years after Posey was first introduced through our PAWS for RMHC program, her impact as part of the Child Life team at Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children (RMHC) continues to inspire. Posey not only provides comfort and joy to children in the hospital, but also supports them with their treatment and recovery, from demonstrating procedures to assisting with mobility.

In 2023, we were honored to recognize RMHC's Child Life Team with our inaugural Cradling Heart Award. This award celebrates healthcare heroes in our community for their dedication to supporting pediatric patients and their families day in and day out. The team was honored at our first Cradling Hearts Celebration at the Denver Botanic Gardens, a new tradition we hope to continue for years to come.



150TH STINK BUG DOG!

In 2023, we passed an incredible milestone for The Stink Bug Project when we matched the 150th Stink Bug dog! Dolli was matched with Hanora, a 9-year-old girl with a rare chromosomal abnormality that causes severe developmental challenges. Within days, Dolli made a significant difference for Hanora's family. As her mom, Erica, says, "It's just joy upon joy for her, which brings me joy."

The Stink Bug Project provides a special kind of long-term impact for children facing difficult medical and behavioral health diagnoses. Learn more about Hanora and Dolli, and other incredible Stink Bug matches at rmchildren.org/stories.



25% INCREASE IN REQUESTS

With costs of housing, groceries, and other daily essentials on the rise, it was no surprise that we saw an increase in requests for Patient & Family Assistance support in 2023. Over the course of the year, we received **25% more requests for support than we did the year prior**. Compared to 2022, that 25% increase in requests resulted in a 45% increase in financial support provided, showing just how much these families needed it. As costs increased, we were so grateful for our community who helped us meet the need, ensuring families had the support they needed when they needed it most.



OVER 684,000 OUNCES OF MAGIC!

Mothers' Milk Bank distributed 684,722 ounces of donor human milk in 2023 to babies across the country. The majority of milk from Mothers' Milk Bank is distributed to hospitals and medical partners who use it in their neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) as life-saving nutritional support for the most fragile infants, whether they were born premature or are facing serious medical challenges.

HEALTHY BABY SUMMIT

Our 2023 Healthy Baby Summit provided critical education to perinatal professionals and paraprofessionals in a one-day conference focused on the theme ***Bridging the Gap Between Promotion and Practice: Making Equity Work***. Speakers included Mona Liza Hamlin, Sonal Patel, Jennifer Monks, Kelly McMullen, Kristi Conroy, and Katie Halverstadt, each offering important insights on lactation, the fourth trimester, and how we can work together to improve equity in lactation and beyond.



2023

Audited Financial Statement Ending December 31, 2023

Sources of Support

● Contributions	\$927,164
● In-Kind Donations	\$60,227
● Other Revenue	\$41,631
● Mothers' Milk Bank Program Revenues	\$3,393,280

Total Support	\$4,422,302
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Utilization of Support

Program Expenses

● Patient & Family Assistance	\$1,240,633
● Mothers' Milk Bank	\$2,219,825
Total Program Expenses	\$3,460,458

● <i>General Administrative Expenses</i>	\$471,455
● <i>Fundraising Expenses</i>	\$567,358

Total Annual Expenditures	\$4,499,271
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Revenue from our social enterprise, Mothers' Milk Bank, funds operating costs for our organization as a whole. Because of this, *donor contributions directly support the pediatric patients and families we serve.*

Rocky Mountain Children's Health Foundation, a registered 501(c)(3), depends on the donations of individuals, foundations and corporations to fund critical programs.

rmchildren.org/give



Rocky Mountain Children's Health FOUNDATION

OUR MISSION

*To ensure newborns, pediatric patients,
and their families have the financial,
nutritional, and emotional support
they need during the most challenging
moments in their lives.*



If you are interested in supporting
the programs of Rocky Mountain
Children's Health Foundation, please
contact us or visit us online:

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rmchildren.org

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