Fiesta de los Niños raises more than $830,000

Annual Children’s Miracle Network Celebration set for June 9

Q&A with Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Driscoll Health System

GEORGIE
a joyous spirit
Earlier this year, we engaged one of the leading branding agencies in the nation, The Richards Group, to help us evaluate and refine the Driscoll Health System brand’s communication strategies. A brand is a company’s most valuable asset because it conveys the totality of all the thoughts, feeling, associations and expectations a person experiences when exposed to the name, logo, sign, designs, colors, symbols, staff and other forms of communication that represent it.

The first phase of our branding journey began with a discovery process. Numerous Driscoll stakeholders, including patients’ families, board members, donors, physicians, and employees, participated in interviews sharing information and experiences. The Richards Group conducted additional research on our behalf including a survey about attitudes, awareness and usage of Driscoll in Corpus Christi, Victoria, the Rio Grande Valley and Laredo.

A group of board members, physicians and leaders recently participated in a workshop to learn about the findings from the stakeholder interviews and research conducted. After reviewing the discovery information, we got to work on refining our brand promise of what the community can expect of Driscoll. By the end of the day, it was clear from every workshop participant that Driscoll exists for the well-being of all children. We are devoted to ensuring expert care for kids! One of the vital ways we demonstrate this devotion is by recruiting and retaining pediatric subspecialists, nurses, therapists, technicians, other caregivers and support staff that are passionate about being heroes for our brave patients and health plan members when they need it most.

The next phase of our brand enhancement journey is our organization’s first comprehensive, strategic marketing plan. By end of summer, we will have a marketing plan to guide us in telling our story in all of our markets. I am excited about our 35th annual Children’s Miracle Network (CMN) Celebration with KiiiTV3 on Sunday, June 9 at Whataburger Field. It is always great to share a few of our inspiring patient stories, thank our many CMNH sponsors and enjoy a Driscoll Night at the Ballpark with the Hooks!

Thank you for your ongoing support of Driscoll. Clara Driscoll would be incredibly thankful for all you do to help us continue our mission of caring for children.

Sincerely,

Eric Hamon, President and CEO
Driscoll Health System

Eric Hamon, President and CEO of Driscoll Health System, and Dr. Miguel DeLeon, Medical Director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, enjoy the festivities at the 34th annual Children’s Miracle Network Telethon in June 2018. This year’s celebration will be held Sunday, June 9, at Whataburger Field.
We have spent the month of May celebrating the miracles that take place due to the high quality of care provided at Driscoll Children’s Hospital and its many specialty clinics throughout South Texas. During the Miracle Month of May, inspirational patient stories are featured on KiiiTV3 that highlight just a few of the specialized medical programs available to our children through Driscoll Children’s Hospital. The celebration of miracles culminates with the annual Children’s Miracle Network (CMN) Celebration scheduled for Sunday, June 9th at Whataburger Field.

Driscoll Children’s Hospital is celebrating its 35th anniversary as a member of the Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals (CMNH) - a non-profit that raises funds and awareness for 170 member hospitals across the US and Canada. Since 1983, Driscoll Children’s Hospital has partnered with CMN national sponsors to raise funds $1 at a time through in-store Miracle Balloon icon campaigns and a variety of corporate fundraising promotions. Walmart/Sam’s Club, RE/MAX, Dairy Queen, Costco, ACE Hardware, Panda Express, Loves Travel Stops, and credit unions are some of the national CMN corporate sponsors that raise funds for Driscoll Children’s Hospital throughout the year. The power of the success behind the Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals is that 100 percent of the funds raised locally stay here in South Texas. We are thankful for every corporate sponsor, their employees, and customers who participate in support of Driscoll Children’s Hospital!

Special thanks to Joe Gazin and the team at KiiiTV3 who have served as Driscoll’s CMN media partner for all 35 years assisting in not only raising millions of dollars for Driscoll but spending countless hours sharing the inspirational patient stories to inform and educate the community on the work of Driscoll.

It is truly a pleasure being associated with Driscoll Children’s Hospital and learning about the endless opportunities to support the hospital and thank the wonderful community of supporters who share our passion for its mission. This summer we will welcome back the South Texas Cattlemen’s Roundup sponsored by Lyssy & Eckel Feeds. The Roundups are grass root fundraisers held throughout Driscoll’s 31-county service area bringing local 4-H clubs, FFA chapters, and County Extension Agents together hosting local auctions to raise funds for the hospital.

I look forward to celebrating with you on June 9th for the 35th annual CMN Celebration at Whataburger Field and all summer long through the Cattlemen’s Roundups. Thank you for the continued support.

Sincerely,

Diane Gates, President of the Development Foundation Board
Jorge Perez, age nine—known to family and friends as Georgie—was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis when he was three years old. Cystic fibrosis, or CF, comes from a gene that causes a thick, sticky buildup of mucus in the lungs, pancreas and other organs. That mucus is broken down through a number of regularly administered treatments to help clear the airway, prevent infections in the lungs, and aid digestion.

Georgie’s treatments involve a daily regimen of about 30 pills, morning and evening inhalant and nebulizer, and “the vest”. The vest is shorthand for an inflatable vest attached to a machine that mechanically performs chest physical therapy by vibrating at a high frequency, loosening and thinning mucus. Typically, each of Georgie’s vest sessions takes 30 minutes.

According to his mother, Victoria Perez, if Georgie picks up a cough or cold, he often needs to do extra treatments.

For the first four years after his diagnosis, he and his family regularly traveled more than five hours from Brownsville to a treatment program in Houston. Because of this travel commitment, the Houston program recommended the family seek treatment closer to home, at Driscoll Children’s Hospital. That was where Georgie and his family began working with a new pulmonology department, including his new Pulmonologist, Jon Roberts, MD, FCCP.
Dr. Roberts serves as Director of Pediatric Pulmonology at Driscoll Children’s Hospital and Program Director of its Cystic Fibrosis Center. “Georgie loves him,” Victoria Perez noted about Dr. Roberts. “There was a connection between Georgie and Dr. Roberts right away.”

“Dr. Roberts is not just an awesome doctor but an awesome person. We never leave his office with any doubts—he is always honest. When you appreciate your doctor, it makes a difference,” said Perez.

The experience has been a positive one for Dr. Roberts as well. “It has been great working with Jorge and his family. The parents are very involved with his care, and because of this, Jorge remains relatively healthy. Jorge is still young and figuring out what it means to have cystic fibrosis. But with such strong family support, he is likely to adapt very well as he gets older,” Dr. Roberts said.

Since summer 2018, the drive to healthcare has gotten even shorter for Georgie and his family. That was when the physicians of the Pulmonology Department began traveling to Driscoll Children’s Specialty Center in Brownsville to treat their Rio Grande Valley patients. The regular visits are all part of Driscoll Health System’s efforts to bring more care to more kids.

In addition to seeing Dr. Roberts every three months, Georgie’s healthcare from Driscoll also includes visits with Ashok Jain, MD, Pediatric Gastroenterologist, and a respiratory therapist. Georgie and his family also have an annual visit with a Driscoll Children’s Hospital social worker and dietitian, among others. “All are helpful and compassionate,” said Perez.

Georgie has a strong support system beyond Driscoll, according to Perez, which includes his father Jorge and three older sisters, Cassandra, Andrea, and Julianna. They help their brother by playing with him during treatments and comforting him when he gets scared or doesn’t feel well. There is also the support of Georgie’s school, where faculty and staff keep Georgie from kids who may be sick, make sure he’s eating well, and provide a room for him to take his treatments if necessary.

Down moments don’t keep Georgie from living like any other third grader—he enjoys baseball, swimming, playing his Nintendo Switch, and singing in the school choir.

The spirit of Georgie and other patients like him inspire and teach Dr. Roberts time and again. “I always learn something from my patients. From CF patients in particular, because they have multiple organs affected and because they require daily intensive treatments, I feel humbled talking to patients and families,” Dr. Roberts said.

“Despite having to go through up to 2 hours of respiratory treatments each day, taking digestive enzyme capsules before every meal and snack, and—unfortunately—spending more time in the hospital than most, these patients find a way to have friends, go to school, play sports, and live a normal and productive life. I’m not sure I’d be able to do that,” he said.

When it comes to Georgie’s experiences with Driscoll, Victoria Perez compares it to being part of a family.

“Dr. Roberts calls to follow up. Everyone calls to check in. Overall, we’ve been very fortunate. There are times when you’re in a parent’s worst nightmare, but it’s comforting knowing you’re with a place that takes care of your child,” she said.

Dr. Roberts noted that the diagnosis of CF can initially lead to shock and, sometimes, denial from parents and family members. “But what then develops is strength and resolve beyond the imagination,” he continued. “It is impressive, and I have nothing but respect and admiration for them.”
Every day brings visual changes to the North Pavilion that is currently under construction at Driscoll Children’s Hospital. Staff, patients, and visitors have witnessed the meticulous laying of bricks over the past month, and the brick installation is a graphic reminder that a completion date is drawing near.

The North Pavilion will soon house a new Outpatient Surgery Center and an expanded, more contemporary Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), designed with families in mind. The third through fifth floors will offer shell space, available to accommodate further growth of Driscoll Children’s Hospital. The renovation of the Surgical Services Department will provide much needed space to an area that supports the entire hospital, incorporating two new operating rooms.

“We are grateful to the many contributors who participated in the success of our futuresbright capital campaign. The support from so many has played a vital role in bringing this project to fruition. It is exciting to watch the progress being made on the New Pavilion each day and we look forward to hosting a few ‘hard hat’ tours soon,” said Martha Avery, Vice President of Development, Driscoll Children’s Hospital.
NORTH PAVILION

Projected Opening Date: Summer 2020

Construction updates:

• West-side brick placement complete, with continued movement to north side of building for brick install.

• Pavilion connector to main facility is nearing completion. General Contractor worked with departments that were impacted by the work, minimizing disruption to patient care.

• Anticipate first major equipment delivery end of first quarter 2020. Design committee working through final selections of fabrics and furnishings. Taking into consideration ergonomics of items, patient and family comfort, functional aspect, and durability.

SURGICAL SERVICES

Surgical Services review sessions were held with physicians, and through the reviews, they identified the need for an additional procedure room, easing demand on the OR as Driscoll works through the buildout. Renovation and buildout of the OR suites will require aspects of the project to be designed in several stages while ensuring services continue uninterrupted. Timeline to begin is mid-year 2020.
Driscoll Life recently visited with Mary Dale Peterson, MD, MSHCA, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Driscoll Health System.

A part of the Driscoll team for 35 years, Dr. Peterson began her career at Driscoll Children’s Hospital in 1984 as the hospital’s second full-time anesthesiologist, board certified in anesthesiology and critical care medicine. From anesthesiologist, Dr. Peterson went on to help manage the care in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). She has also served as Chief-of-Staff and has been part of numerous hospital committees.

Dr. Peterson was named to her current administrative role in October 2018. Prior to that, she served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Driscoll Health Plan (DHP). Under her 13-year leadership of the Health Plan, Dr. Peterson oversaw tremendous growth in membership, services, and improving population health in South Texas.

What led you to advance beyond your role as an anesthesiologist, and what motivated you to lead the Driscoll Health Plan?

I always like to learn something new, and explore new opportunities for growth. Going from the anesthesia world, I spent a lot of time in the PICU, and (at the time) there was no physician leader there. Then-CEO Joel Allison asked me to run it. I had always been taught – sometimes to my detriment – to try to say yes when people ask you to do things.

Another CEO asked me to help with this fledgling new health plan, and I was already working a lot of hours, but he convinced me to spend a little bit of time over there. When we were recruiting for the (Driscoll Health Plan), and the CEO and I were interviewing outside candidates, I thought, “You know, I have been doing most of these jobs already, and I think I can do a much better job than any of the people we were interviewing.” As a physician leader, I had a vision along with our other medical director, Dr. Buck, of where we needed to go with healthcare and the vision of Clara Driscoll. My more than 20 years in the operating room, in the ICU, I saw where we weren’t really doing a good enough job in healthcare at preventing illness, disease, accidents, and I felt like by coming over and leading the Health Plan, we could be very creative and innovative.

While serving as President and CEO of the Driscoll Health Plan, you oversaw tremendous growth in its membership and services. What makes you proud of the DHP and where it is today?

Well, I couldn’t be more excited with and proud for our team. We launched a tremendous effort in the last year to insource a lot of services that were outsourced, providing an improved customer service to both our physicians and our members.

We had the opportunity for a new managed care product called STAR Kids and that’s a unique product of taking children with very significant disabilities and putting them in managed care. That was
something I advocated for at the state level for a long time, and that we really needed to get right, because that’s a very fragile population. So we spent a lot of work and effort in helping the state launch that product.

Driscoll Health Plan prides itself on its HEDIS (Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set) scores and our health plan report cards. We are the highest scoring plan in our regions because of our great partnerships with our physician network as well as our staff. In addition to making sure that children get their well-child visits, we have had an intense focus on our pregnant members with the goal of decreasing preterm births. We have been very successful in this endeavor, decreasing prematurity from over 15% to less than 10%. This means we have a lot more healthy babies in our communities who have a better chance for normal lives.

Our newest launch is creating medical home models, embedding our own employees within the physician practices to help them coordinate care. This is something the state never paid adequately for, to prevent unnecessary ER visits and hospitalizations, and provide better satisfaction for our members and physicians.

We’ve grown a lot, but we have more opportunities for growth, too. We’re the number one health plan in the Nueces service area, with 75 percent of the market share with three plans in the market. In the Hidalgo service area, with ten counties, there are four plans in the market and we’re the number two plan, and I will never be satisfied until we’re the number one plan and have a majority market share. So there’s always work to do to improve and grow.

What are some of the biggest challenges children and families face in getting the care they need? Or, some of the biggest health challenges for children in South Texas?

We are still experiencing shortages in pediatric specialists. Let me just set the framework: Texas ranks 42nd in the nation, and 48th in primary care and specialty care. So we already have an overall problem with the number of physicians per thousand people. And then we come to South Texas, where I think we have had a paucity of higher education, whether it’s two-year colleges or four-year universities. We have a brand-new medical school in South Texas, so we haven’t had a lot of resources to train the healthcare workforce that we need for our large South Texas growing community. We have to attract people from elsewhere to come to South Texas, which is a different culture and environment and, unfortunately, it’s also a more impoverished environment, so you have a higher government payer mix. I think that’s a challenge.

I think the other challenge that we have relates to education – specifically health literacy. Your health is very much impacted by your educational level. So we’ve got to encourage our communities, especially our Hispanic communities, for kids to finish high school and at least get a two-year community college degree because those are the jobs of the future. I think that’s a barrier for people understanding if their child has a chronic illness – how do you manage that at home if you don’t have basic health literacy? Obviously, poverty in itself is a barrier because you have transportation issues, you have difficulties getting off work to take your children to the doctor or a therapist. Then there may be just all the financial pressures at home and chaos at home that may impair your ability to take care of your kids.

In your new role as Driscoll Health System’s Executive Vice President and COO, you are working to foster communication from the executive team to all of the system’s employees. One way you do this is by emailing a Monday Morning Outreach message weekly to all employees. What do those messages entail, and why do you believe in this communication avenue?

Well, I belong to some other organizations and I think the Monday Morning Outreach is just a great way to have a touch point with our employees, who number around 2,500. It’s a lot and they’re spread across a really large geographic area that’s as big as some states. I welcome input from our employees on what they would like to see in the Monday Morning Outreach, because it’s just sort of what comes to my mind when I look at my schedule during the week – what’s happened, what’s in the news, what’s going on in our organization that’s new, exciting, and of course always trying to have a focus from our patients or members and how we’re following The Driscoll Way.

All the employees are hearing what’s on my mind, but it’s a two-way street. I like to hear what’s on their mind as well and what they would like to see. Am I giving the right amount of information? Too much, too little? I do want to incorporate what’s going on in the world so that we’re not too introspective. We’re so fortunate to be able to deal with children because I think seeing the world through a child’s eyes gives us wonderment every day, but we have to articulate that and share that with each other. It’s just a small way of trying to connect us as the Driscoll Family.

What inspires you most today about the Driscoll Health System, and how do you see Driscoll Children’s Hospital evolving over the next few years?

What excites me the most is our engaged employee workforce. We just did an engagement survey that showed very high engagement, the dedication of our physician staff, that we really are here fulfilling that mission of taking care of the children in South Texas. That’s what brought people here. That’s what keeps people here. We just had a transition with our cardiac surgery program that I’m very excited about – everybody is engaged there.

We have tremendous opportunities in South Texas, where people are inviting us in to manage the pediatric care in South Texas because we are known for our ability to provide quality care to children and their families, and to me, that’s a great compliment of the foundation that we have established. Now it’s time for us to grow and capitalize on that foundation and be the true leader in South Texas, with our footprint of hospital clinics, our physicians on the ground, and we’ll do this hand-in-hand with our physician groups, with our relationships and network of physicians that we’ve built over many years, as well as the Health Plan.

We have a tremendous growth opportunity in the next two or three years that will require aggressive recruitment to fill all those slots for the pediatric specialists that we need in South Texas, and we’re committed to doing that. There’s only so many patients every physician can see every day and so many nights on call. How do we grow and, at the same time, not burn out the great resources that we have? So that’s the challenge I think we have before us. I feel certain we can meet the challenge and really be in a different place five years from now, with our foundation of quality care, an engaged staff and a supportive Board of Directors. Together, we can meet the needs of our children in South Texas.
Driscoll events offer the community a chance to gather and support our mission.

"My Special Aflac Duck" brings joy to cancer patients

Nkechi Mba, MD, Medical Director, Cancer and Blood Disorders Center of Driscoll Children’s Hospital, and oncology patient RT Sanchez play with the My Special Aflac Duck, a gift from the national insurance company. My Special Aflac Duck, designed by Sproutel, is a social robot that uses medical play, emotions, and lifelike movement to engage and help comfort children during their cancer care. “It is great to see the comfort it provides to the children; it is amazing,” said Dr. Mba.

Driscoll Oncology patients enjoy trip to Spurs game

Five patients from the Cancer and Blood Disorders Center at Driscoll Children’s Hospital and a parent/guardian attended a Spurs/Knicks game in San Antonio on March 15 as part of a Live Auction package purchased at this year’s Fiesta de los Niños.

Rodeo Corpus Christi visits Driscoll patients

(Front row, kneeling from left) Miss Rodeo Texas Samantha Cayton, Miss Rodeo America Taylor McNair, and Driscoll Children’s Hospital Oncology patient Logan Martinez, 6, of Mathis; (Back row, from left) Bull Fighters Blue Jeans and Weston Rutkowski, Rodeo Clown Justin Rumford, and Barrel Man Cody Wade were all smiles as members of Rodeo Corpus Christi stopped by Driscoll Children’s Hospital in May to visit pediatric patients.
35th Annual Children’s Miracle Network Celebration
(formerly “Telethon”)
June 9, 2019
LIVE at 2:00 p.m. on Kiii-TV3

Driscoll Night at the Ballpark
Sunday, June 9, 2019
Whataburger Field

2:45 p.m. Gates open
3:15 p.m. Driscoll employee/families parade on field
(Wear your Miracle Maker shirts.)
3:40 p.m. Pre-game show featuring a Miracle Story and
first pitch by Driscoll patients
4:15 p.m. Game - CC Hooks vs Amarillo Sod Poodles
• Special reserved seating for Driscoll employees and families
• H-E-B Kids Day with fun activities in kids zone
• Raspa night
• All kids run the bases at the end of the game

Three Ways to Donate:
• Text DRISCOLL to 71760
• Call (800) 815-1504
• Go to www.driscollchildrens.org/donate

For discounted tickets for family and friends:
Go to https://offer.fevo.com/amarillo-sod-poodles-uxlwzef-ce1bbe9

Any gift of $100 or more will be
entered in a drawing for a chance
to win four tickets to a Houston
Astros game Father's Day weekend.
Drawing to be held on June 10, 2019
Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month:
Driscoll’s Cystic Fibrosis Center collaborates for care

Natasha Busch, RN, AE-C, Cystic Fibrosis Coordinator at Driscoll Children’s Hospital, and Dr. Jon Roberts, MD, Director of Driscoll Children’s Hospital Cystic Fibrosis Center, smile brightly with Madison Gonzalez, age 3, CF patient.

In a traditional clinic setting, patients typically sit in the same room while waiting for their name to be called. For patients with Cystic Fibrosis (CF), it’s not that simple.

Cystic Fibrosis is a genetic disease that causes a buildup of thick, sticky mucus in a patient’s lungs. It causes ongoing lung infections and progressive lung damage. CF also affects other parts of the body, including the pancreas, and can make it difficult to absorb nutrients from food and maintain a healthy weight. More than 30,000 people in the United States have Cystic Fibrosis.

To avoid cross-infection, guidelines suggest that people with CF maintain a distance of six feet between each other because germs can spread as far as six feet when someone coughs or sneezes.

“With CF, you don’t want patients sharing bacteria that could be multi-resistant. We stagger appointments to avoid having multiple patients in the waiting room at the same time, and we provide masks to patients and staff,” said Jon Roberts, MD, Driscoll Children’s Hospital Cystic Fibrosis Center Director.

A team of physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, physical therapists, pharmacists, nutritionists, and social workers operate as a well-oiled machine to protect CF patients’ health and safety. The team meets weekly to discuss the patients coming into the clinic, to look over appointment times and confirm that there is enough time in between patients, and to make a plan for each patient.

If a patient becomes hospitalized, they are placed under a “purple precaution” – or reverse isolation.

“There are times where we may have two CF patients hospitalized at the same time. If that happens, we just have good communication and we make sure that they don’t cross paths. We put them in separate halls and they have different nurses to prevent them from sharing bugs,” said Natasha Busch, RN, AE-C, CF Coordinator at Driscoll Children’s Hospital.

Social Worker Jessica Rombs says that CF, unlike other chronic illnesses where you want the patients to get together and bond, can be very isolating. She uses technology to connect CF patients and their parents to others living with or caring for those with the same illness.

As the only Cystic Fibrosis Foundation-accredited center in South Texas, the hospital has access to tools, resources, and guidelines, which are implemented and accessible to the inpatient and outpatient staff. Driscoll’s Cystic Fibrosis Center provides care to patients in the Coastal Bend, Rio Grande Valley, and Laredo.

“This fulfills a big need for our region of the state,” said Rombs. “It’s important for the CF patients from all parts of South Texas to have regular evaluations, and our accreditation allows them to have those visits here at Driscoll.”
The spirit and generosity of the Rio Grande Valley community makes miracles a reality.

Panda Express helps kids in need

Osbaldo Cepeda (from left); Raquel Peña; Casey Barrios; Rogelio Rodriguez; Emma Juarez; Maritza Oyerudes; and Maria Lira.

Panda Express team members and customers joined together to raise more than $100,000 for Driscoll Children’s Hospital. Their continued support helps fund vital medical care and equipment that save and improve the lives of sick and injured children in our South Texas communities.

World Kidney Day celebration

Driscoll Children’s Hospital celebrated the 12th annual Transplant Reunion in the Rio Grande Valley on February 21st in observance of World Kidney Day. The “Driscoll Bridging Kidney Care for Kids in the Rio Grande Valley” was the first event held locally to promote the awareness of pediatric kidney disease, dialysis, and transplantation. More than 50 patients, along with their siblings and parents, enjoyed a night of fun with other dialysis and nephrology patients.

Patient Yarethzy Trevizo, sister Kethzia Trevizo, mom Ilse Monroy and patient Delia V. Hernandez

Child Life Month glow party

Patient Yarethzy Trevizo, sister Kethzia Trevizo, mom Ilse Monroy and patient Delia V. Hernandez

Driscoll Children’s Hospital celebrated Child Life Month with a glow party theme at the Driscoll Children’s Medical Plaza – McAllen on March 13th. The 5th annual event included games, arts and crafts, popcorn, and refreshments for patients and families. The Stripes Child Life specialists at Driscoll strive to promote coping and reducing anxiety of children by embracing the power of play to teach children about their diagnosis and prepare for and support during medical procedures.

Cardiology patients celebration

Driscoll Children’s Pediatric Cardiology Clinic in McAllen observed Congenital Heart Disease Awareness Month by holding a Heart Celebration for Rio Grande Valley patients and their families. The fiesta-themed celebration was held at the International Museum of Art & Science as a way to bring awareness to the community about the many South Texas children with heart defects. The Heart Celebration included dancing, games, refreshments, and face painting for the more than 100 children and their families across the Valley. It was a touching way to recognize children with heart defects, remember loved ones who’ve lost their battle with congenital heart defects, and honor those dedicated to working and helping our local patients.

Riley Salinas, Driscoll Heart Warrior, and family
It is with deep gratitude that we thank our friends across South Texas for their gifts to Driscoll Children’s Hospital.

The JLH Foundation awards $50,000 to assist transplant patients

The JLH Foundation in Houston approved a $50,000 grant for Driscoll Children’s Hospital to support transplant patients and their families by providing financial assistance for the following: insurance, medical supplies, dental screening and care, lodging, travel expenses, and related miscellaneous expenses. The JLH Foundation is named for John L. Hern, who befriended many transplant patients while he awaited a heart transplant. He longed to help those who could not afford all of the costs associated with a transplant, and through his family, the foundation was created and serves that purpose.

Heavenly Flores, who is currently on the wait list for a kidney, offered her appreciation to the JLH Foundation. Funds from the JLH Foundation have helped provide a bed, laptop, and printer for Heavenly.

XOOM Energy’s MiraclePower 24 program raises over $40,000

The proceeds from the first quarter of 2019 of XOOM Energy’s MiraclePower 24 program benefitting Driscoll totaled $40,919.98.

When a customer enrolls in the MiraclePower 24 fixed rate plan, five percent of XOOM Energy Texas charges will be donated to support Driscoll’s mission. Stephen Wheeler, with XOOM Energy, said that because of its success, they will continue the promotion for the foreseeable future.

The team at XOOM Energy present a check to Driscoll Children’s Hospital for $40,919.98. This amount was raised through XOOM’s MiraclePower 24 fixed rate plan in the first quarter of 2019, which donates five percent to Driscoll.
Stripes® In-Store Campaign to raise funds for Driscoll

Stripes® stores hosted an in-store charitable fundraising campaign benefiting Driscoll Children’s Hospital.

From April 22 through May 19, Stripes stores in South Texas gave customers the opportunity to donate $1 to raise funds for Driscoll Children’s Hospital. These funds will also benefit DCH specialty clinics in Victoria, the Rio Grande Valley, Laredo, Eagle Pass and Del Rio. In return for Stripes customers’ generosity, each donor received one Driscoll Children’s Hospital “I Donated” mobile icon with a $1 off coupon for a 1-liter bottle of DASANI® water.

This year celebrates the 10-year anniversary of Stripes’ commitment to the Child Life program and its renaming to the Stripes Child Life Program at Driscoll Children’s Hospital. The program assists Child Life trained professionals to help decrease stress and anxiety that may be felt by some patients and their families during their hospital experience.

ACE Hardware - Rockport gives $30,135

On April 5, employees at the ACE Hardware store in Rockport, a Children’s Miracle Network corporate sponsor, presented Driscoll Children’s Hospital with a check for $30,135 raised during their year-long in-store fundraising campaign.

Pictured left to right: Linda Grunewald; Joanna Thomison; Philip Mats; Stephanie Salerno; Tammy Radcliff; Becky Daniels; Daniel Schick; Bob Wood, store manager; and Richard Harris, CMN manager for Driscoll Children’s Hospital.
Driscoll’s Fiesta de los Niños raises more than $830,000

The 27th annual Fiesta de los Niños raised more than $830,000 for the children of South Texas at The American Bank Center Exhibit Hall on February 8. More than 1,500 people attended the event.

Funds raised will support the purchase of a new state-of-the-art Dual Energy/Ultra-Fast CT (computed tomography) scanner for the Radiology Department at Driscoll Children’s Hospital. Driscoll officials say they chose the advanced technology of the CT scanner because it offers faster scan times, less radiation exposure to patients, and sharper 3-D imaging.

“We extend a special thank you to our title sponsor, Flint Hills Resources, as well as the many generous supporters and community volunteers who have assisted Driscoll Children’s Hospital in enhancing our services and programs for the children of South Texas,” said Martha Avery, Vice President of Development, Driscoll Children’s Hospital. “Also, many thanks to the hard-working committee, numerous volunteers, and generous supporters who contributed to the mission of Driscoll Children’s Hospital,” she said.
Employees of Flint Hills Resources, the title sponsor of Driscoll Children’s Hospital’s Fiesta de los Niños since its inception 27 years ago, were proud to do their part for the children of South Texas.

Dale Obermueller, Vice President, Clinic & Physician Practices (front row, from left), and Ava Obermueller. (Back row) Laura Zamora, Physician Practice Administrator.

Ernest Buck, MD, Medical Director, Driscoll Health Plan (from left); Fran Willms; Bruce and Janet Freeman.

Laura Commons, 2019 Fiesta de los Niños Co-Chair (from left); Karen Haug, 2019 Fiesta de los Niños Co-Chair; and Allison Webster.

Garbine Goya, MD, Pediatric Cardiologist (from left), and Thomas Graf, PhD, Developmental Pediatric Medicine.
Honor giving
December 20, 2018 to April 30, 2019

Aubree Avants
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Mazzola

Aria Bjerke
Mr. and Mrs. Bradford K. Duda

Aven Bjerke
Mr. and Mrs. Bradford K. Duda

Julie Buckley
Ms. Courtney C. McLain

Clients and Friends
Janet Allen & Ann Engel-Coldwell Banker
Pacesetter Steel

Susan T. Fields
Mrs. Barbara E. Dodson

George W. Flood
Dr. and Mrs. John E. Bishop

Rhianna and Bobby Flores
Ms. Maria Altepeter

Deborah and Richard Flynn
Mrs. Cecile Pesek

Diane and Farley Frazier
Mrs. Cecile Pesek

Elizabeth Gentry
Mr. and Mrs. Casper Wenzel

Leah D. Groves
Mrs. Barbara E. Dodson

Levi Haas
Ms. Lara Haas

Finnley Haggerty
Mr. and Mrs. Bradford K. Duda

Josh Jarvis
Mr. and Mrs. Gary D. Jarvis

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Esperanza Garden Club

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Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Ross

Brittany and Randall Leggett
Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Ross

Deni and Steven Leggett
Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Ross

Patti and Joe Loya
Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Ross

Lisa and Steven Mangus
Ms. Beverly Dirks

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Ms. Melinda S. Minks

Janie M. Minten
Mrs. Martha Avery
Mrs. Delpha M. Barrera
Ms. Carol Crawford
Mr. and Mrs. Billy W. Davis
Ms. Celia G. Galindo
Mr. and Mrs. Doug Harvey
Ms. Elena Herrera
Ms. Maria Luisa Herrera
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald A. Hill
Ms. Betty A. Jeffus
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Landrum
Ms. Melinda S. Minks
Mrs. Evelyn Solomon
Mrs. Patti Ann Solomon
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wollmann
Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred A. Wostal, Jr.

Cayden Montonthez
Mr. Leroy Darrow

Kristy W. Morales
Mrs. Barbara E. Dodson

Sofi and Dan Moss
Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Ross

My Grandchild / Grandchildren
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Elizabeth O’Connell
Mrs. Cecile Pesek

Jacob Palermo
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Mazzola

Mary D. Peterson and Rafael F. Coutin
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Maxwell, Jr.

Preston Phelps
Ms. Danielle Gunter

R. Hays Enterprises, LLC
Mrs. Cecile Pesek

Courtney Reopelle
Mr. Todd Reopelle

Carolina S. Reyna
Mr. Roberto Reyna

Jessica Rodriguez
Ms. Pauline Cruz

Zayla Lynn Rodriguez
Mr. Mario Rodriguez

Chap Ross
Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Ross

Sally Ross
Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Ross

Anna Rossetti
Mrs. Barbara E. Dodson

Yuliana Zaikman and Collin Scarince
Mrs. Cecile Pesek

Brenda and Lloyd Schultz
Mrs. Cecile Pesek

Mayte G. Serna
Ms. Reyna Villarreal

Stephanie Curl and Jason Shoumaker
Mrs. Cecile Pesek

Catherine and Sam Susser
Mrs. Susan Bonner

Courtney and Brent Thorud
Mrs. Cecile Pesek

Robert A. Vesely
Ms. Elizabeth K. Vesely

Emily Weil
Mrs. Linda H. Weil

Kaley Work
Ms. Vicky Work
Memorial giving
December 20, 2018 to April 30, 2019

Irene Alvarado
Mr. and Mrs. Romulo H. Alvarado

Aaron N. Andrade
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Pacheco

Evelyn Bujnoch
Ms. Delores M. Hagan

Coleman H. Burris
Mr. and Mrs. Teddy Basseri

Mr. and Mrs. Byron Darby

Mr. and Mrs. Durward R. Anderson

Mr. Jim O. Atkins

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Pacheco

Mr. and Mrs. Annette Cottingham

Dr. and Mrs. Charles H. DeCou

Mr. and Mrs. W. Holmes Darby

Mr. and Mrs. Caroline DeLaune

Mr. Lee A. DeLaune

Robert Busselman
Mr. and Mrs. Corey Albert

Margaret Cain
Mr. and Mrs. Rusty Lewis

John A. Canales
Ms. Rosalinda Canales

Emma Cantrell
Mr. Lee A. DeLaune

Arturo DeLaCruz
Mr. and Mrs. Matias Lopez, Jr.

Gerald W. Eckel
Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Arnold

Rose and Albert Edelman
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Edelman

Paul Elizondo
Mr. John DeLeon

George W. Flood
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick J. Biggins

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Mr. and Mrs. Garnett T. Brooks, Jr.

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Dr. Ernest D. Buck and Mrs. Fran Wills

Dr. Carrie L. Byington

Mr. and Mrs. Pat Carroll

Dr. and Mrs. Lou A. Carter

Mrs. Louise G. Chapman

Mrs. Annette Cottingham

Dr. and Mrs. James W. Cottingham

Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. DeCou

Dr. Helen M. Dudley

Mr. Mark Francis

Mrs. and Mrs. Philip Hall

Mrs. Kathern Hooper

Dr. and Mrs. Paul R. Hummell

Mr. and Mrs. Allan P. Johnson, III

Mr. and Mrs. Craig Johnson

Ms. Barbara Kruse

Dr. and Mrs. Frank A. Luckay

Dr. and Mrs. Herbert E. Madalin

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. McCutchen

Ms. Courtney C. McLain

Mrs. Ann K. Moore

Ms. Carol Nugent

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Nuss, III

Dr. and Mrs. Blake B. O’Lavin

Ms. Cathy Rinehart

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Sallee

Ms. Jean Shivers

Mr. Alfred Sondern

Ms. Donna Tackitt

Ms. Mary Vassilakdis

Mr. and Mrs. Casper Wenzel

Mr. and Mrs. John T. Wright, III

Lawrence Ganem, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Steve A. Cox

Teresa S. Garcia
Mr. Roger S. Garcia

Hoyte Gentry
Mr. and Mrs. Casper Wenzel

Anthony J. Giralamo, Sr.
Mr. John DeLeon

Roberto C. Gonzalez
Mrs. Rosario R. Gonzalez

Demelza Gutierrez
Mr. Daniel Rodriguez

Jeannie and Willard Hammonds
Mr. and Mrs. Don W. Rucker, Jr.

Bruce M. Henderson
Stephen Almond, M.D.

Mr. and Mrs. Christopher McNamara

Dr. and Mrs. Roger W. Timperlake

Brooke Hester
Mr. and Mrs. Jim R. Covington

Adolph Kolinek
Mr. and Mrs. Corey Albert

Chester Lamberth
Mr. Bobby Clark

Johnny L. Mitchell, Jr.
Ms. Linda M. Mitchell

Ron Murray
Mr. and Mrs. Otis W. George

Rita D. Ramirez
Mr. Jimmy C. Ramirez

Iurma Sandoval
Mr. John DeLeon

Diana R. Schicker
Mr. Michael G. Schicker

Norma J. Schumacher
Mrs. Martha Avery

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bennett

Ms. Deborah Campbell

Mrs. Jan E. Cuellar

Ms. Julie Edelstein-Best

Mr. and Mrs. William D. Edwards

Mr. George F. Garst and Mrs. Carol A. Stahilstrom

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Leiser

Mr. and Mrs. Jim O’Brien

Ms. Loretta A. Seara

Mr. and Mrs. Louis H. Stumert, Jr.

Mrs. Fran Wills

Ms. Mary Wilson

Shelley A. Siemonsma
Mr. and Mrs. David Siemonsma

Ronald Svhovec
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Svhovec

Robert G. Trevino
Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Zachgo

Frances J. Villines
Ms. Linda M. Mitchell

Judy Wallace
Terry Lee Kennels, Inc

Debbie Williamson
Terry Lee Kennels, Inc

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these lists, errors sometimes occur.
If a mistake has been made, please accept our apology and notify the Development Foundation at 361-694-6401.
Like all moms, I’m always concerned about my children’s well-being. But sometimes they get sick. Sometimes they get hurt. That’s why I’m so grateful we have children’s hospitals. If any child needs a miracle, they’ll do everything in their power to make one happen. Please join me in giving sick and injured children every chance to get better. Put Your Money Where the Miracles Are. Give to your Children’s Miracle Network Hospital.

Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals® raises funds and awareness for 170 member hospitals that provide 32 million treatments each year to kids across the U.S. and Canada. Donations stay local, funding critical treatments, pediatric medical equipment and charitable care. Learn why children’s hospitals need community support and find your member hospital at CMNHospitals.org and facebook.com/CMNHospitals.

Give kids every chance to get better. PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE THE MIRACLES ARE.

JENNIFER LOPEZ
ACTRESS, MUSICIAN, TV PERSONALITY, MOM

Save the date:

Children’s Miracle Network Celebration
Sunday, June 9, 2019
Whataburger Field
Driscollchildrens.org/donate

2019 South Texas Cattlemen’s Roundup
Monday, June 17 – Three Rivers
Tuesday, June 18 – Hallettsville
Friday, June 28 – Beeville
Friday, July 19 – Rio Grande City
Tuesday, July 23 – Alice
Friday, July 26 – Cuero
Saturday, August 10 – Edinburg
Driscollchildrens.org/donate