



**Banner**

Health Foundation &  
Alzheimer's Foundation

# 2020 Charitable Impact Report

**How your philanthropic investment  
makes a difference at Banner Health  
and in our communities**

# Health care made easier. Life made better.

At Banner Health, we believe in a shared responsibility to improve the health and well-being of our communities. Our nonprofit mission is made possible by the unwavering support and commitment of our dedicated team members, physician partners, thousands of volunteers, and many cherished donors who so generously give of their time, talent and treasure.

## Two foundations support the work of Banner Health:

Established in 2001, the <b>Banner Health Foundation</b> secures and stewards charitable contributions to advance Banner Health's mission, investing in facilities and programs that support advancements in care, research, medical education, patient services, and a variety of community programs.	Established in 2006, the <b>Banner Alzheimer's Foundation</b> secures and stewards charitable gifts to advance the mission of the Banner Alzheimer's Institute, including groundbreaking research initiatives and pioneering prevention studies, family outreach, counseling, and support services.
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Contributions are invested locally to support patient care programs and services operated by Banner's many hospitals and health care facilities across Arizona.

Each year, Banner Health provides more than \$800 million in community benefits, including some \$80 million in charity care. Philanthropic support makes it possible for Banner Health to care for patients from all walks of life—regardless of their ability to pay—and to offer many special services and programs to our communities.

Thank you for your generous philanthropic support in 2020.

*Banner Health Foundation and Banner Alzheimer's Foundation are tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. Donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law, subject to individual limitations.*

## Dear Friends,

Our lives have been profoundly altered by the global pandemic, forcing us to shift the way we live, work, learn, celebrate, and care for ourselves and others.

Amid the challenges, our eyes have also been opened to certain truths—chief among them is the understanding of and appreciation for the importance of high-quality, accessible health care close to home.

Across Banner Health, we remain steadfastly focused on caring for our diverse communities. Whether safely testing hundreds of thousands of people for COVID-19, vaccinating residents, educating the community about how to slow the spread and protect ourselves and one another, or caring for extremely sick patients in our hospitals. Banner Health leads the way in Arizona.

While many aspects of our normal lives were paused in 2020 due to the pandemic, the other health needs of our communities did not slow. Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center continued treating cancer patients and conducting research into the most promising and effective therapies. Banner Alzheimer's Institute continued to be a global leader in prevention research and patient care, finding even more innovative ways to support caregivers isolated at home. Banner Children's medical centers continued to care for more Arizona children than any other pediatric health care provider, whether for chronic illnesses, injuries or acute conditions. Mental health remained a top priority and we made great strides with telemedicine to deliver care to more people as quickly and safely as possible. Banner – University Medicine continued its breakthrough innovations in cardiology, stroke, trauma care, orthopedics, women's health, obesity medicine, and more. Banner Health opened a new hospital in Chandler, Banner Ocotillo Medical Center, announced plans for a new Sports Medicine Center in Scottsdale, and launched a Concierge Medicine program called Banner Health Premier.

Much of this work happened thanks to you and your continued support.

The stories on the following pages offer a glimpse of the many Banner Health programs and initiatives supported by your philanthropic investments in 2020. While we aimed to showcase special efforts across our vast health care system, there are more than 500 programs and areas of care that are sustained and strengthened by your charitable gifts each and every year.

Whatever you chose to support in 2020 and in the future, you can rest assured that every dollar donated is being put to good use for the benefit of our patients and communities. We thank you, most sincerely, for your generosity, trust and continued partnership. We look forward to a healthier and happier 2021 and wish you and your loved ones the very best.

With gratitude,

*Andy Kramer Petersen*

Andy Kramer Petersen  
President & CEO  
Banner Health Foundation  
Banner Alzheimer's Foundation



*Steven C. Moak*

Steven C. Moak  
Foundation Board Chairman  
2018-2020



*Steven J. Hilton*

Steven J. Hilton  
Foundation Board Chairman  
2021-2023







# Battling a Global Pandemic

Community comes together to support Banner Health's COVID-19 response

As the largest health care system in Arizona and one of the largest in the western United States, Banner Health focuses on emergency preparedness year-round in order to be able to respond to a public health crisis. The arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic to the U.S. in early 2020 put those plans into immediate action.

Banner Health has cared for more than half of Arizona's hospitalized patients battling COVID-19. Early on, a global shortage of Personal Protective Equipment, medical supplies and face masks brought unprecedented challenges as we worked to keep our 52,000 team members and all of our patients safe. Later, a nationwide shortage of appropriately credentialed health care professionals to care for the surging number of patients across the country created exhaustion, fatigue and stress for our clinical teams and put an unprecedented strain on resources.

From the earliest days of the pandemic, our community stepped up to support Banner Health hospitals and teams. From local companies donating face masks, medical supplies and PPE as their own operations were shuttered, to individuals donating cash for our COVID-19 Response Fund and Supporting Our Staff (SOS) Fund, bringing meals for the frontlines, sending messages of gratitude, and drawing chalk art on the sidewalks outside our hospitals, the term "Banner Strong" took on new meaning. Inside our hospitals, teams felt the love and appreciation of their community. Outside our hospitals, healthcare workers were continually heralded as heroes.

These are just a few of the ways that our generous communities supported Banner Health during the pandemic:



**\$1,507,882**

Gifts to the Supporting Our Staff (SOS) Crisis Assistance Fund



**1,475,277**

Items of PPE and medical supplies donated to Banner Health, with estimated value of \$540,790

**\$413,300**

Gifts to the COVID-19 Response Fund

**267,993**

Cloth face masks made and donated to Banner Health for employees and patients



**\$150,950**

Donated to create Respite Rooms for staff at each Arizona hospital to rest and recharge

**280,999**

Skin care and comfort products, snacks, and beverages donated to support our hospital workers



**45,237**

Meals donated for Banner Health team members across 18 care sites



The Love Up Foundation, run by John Jay Van Es of the "John Jay and Rich Show," and his wife, Blake Van Es, raised \$56,000 and held a seven-day food truck tour at seven Banner Health medical centers, providing more than 4,500 meals to hospital teams.



Arizona Cardinals player Larry Fitzgerald partnered with Steak 44 to deliver meals to the Arizona Poison Control and Drug Information Center team at Banner – University Medical Center Phoenix, and to the homes of three hardworking nurses.



Mending Souls, a volunteer sewing group, made and donated more than 1,800 face masks for our Tucson hospitals.



Companies across Arizona, like Surgical Instrument Services, donated meals and snacks for our hospital teams.



# Oncology

## Cancer Care that Comes to You

### Mobile clinic cares for high-risk breast cancer patients at home

Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center recently launched a new Mobile Clinic for Metastatic Breast Cancer to help some of our most vulnerable cancer patients receive treatment safely at home. Seeded by a philanthropic investment, the Mobile Clinic was developed in partnership with Banner Home Health under the leadership of breast cancer medical oncologist Dr. Lida Mina, who serves as Associate Director of the Comprehensive Breast Program.

Metastatic breast cancer accounts for 10 percent of all breast cancer cases and is mostly incurable. Many approved medications are given orally to slow disease progression while minimizing symptoms and side effects. However, patients come to the Cancer Center every few weeks

for blood work and toxicity monitoring—putting these immunocompromised individuals at greater risk of contracting COVID-19 or other contagious diseases.

“The Mobile Clinic allows licensed nurses to visit these vulnerable patients in the safety and comfort of their own homes for physical assessment, blood draws as well as a medication toxicity review and check,” says Dr. Mina. “The nurses report back directly to the physician, who follows up with a scheduled phone or video call with the patient.”

With continued philanthropic support, the Mobile Clinic can continue operating without interruption and see more patients each week.



For the past eight years, Arizona Bank & Trust has generously supported the Boutique of Hope at Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center, a specialty shop offering an array of products designed to enhance appearance, boost self-confidence, and help make the recovery process more comfortable for cancer patients. In 2020 alone, funds from Arizona Bank & Trust supported 233 “welcome bags” provided to patients scheduled to undergo a mastectomy or lumpectomy to help them with the difficult transition to post-operative recovery.

“Most often, women come to see us in the Boutique just after having learned they have cancer and need surgery,” says Joyce Ryan, Boutique Manager. “They have the chance to sit down and receive a little comfort in an area that isn’t quite like a doctor’s office. The items in the welcome bag are very special because they are useful and inspirational, helping patients in their journey to recovery, not only physically, but emotionally.”

## Groundbreaking Discoveries

### Immunotherapy gives new hope to Melanoma patients

Thanks to immunotherapy drugs discovered in clinical trials in recent years, patients with Melanoma that has spread to other parts of their body now have new hope for a disease that just 10 years ago, claimed the lives of 95 percent of those diagnosed.

Immunotherapy medications fight cancer by unleashing the body’s own immune system to “seek and destroy” cancerous tumors. Today, up to 40 percent of patients with metastasizing Melanoma can achieve long-term remission with immunotherapy, says Dr. Fade Mahmoud, an oncologist specializing in Melanoma and sarcoma at the T.W. Lewis Melanoma Center of Excellence at Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Chris Terry is one of Dr. Mahmoud’s patients who has benefited from immunotherapy. First diagnosed with

Melanoma and successfully treated in 2013, Chris learned in 2019 that the cancer had returned and by early 2020, had spread to her brain.

Dr. Mahmoud treated Chris with OPDIVO + YERVOY, two immunotherapy drugs that work in different but complementary ways to help the immune system fight cancer. They were developed in clinical trials and approved as a combination therapy for Melanoma in 2016. This therapy, combined with Pinpoint Accuracy Radiation, has given Chris reason to be optimistic about the future.

“I have complete trust in Dr. Mahmoud and know that I’m in good hands as we continue to fight this terrible disease,” says Chris. “I remain positive that with continued research and clinical trials, there will be more options and treatments available for Melanoma.”

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Chris Terry, Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center patient

Supported with a significant philanthropic gift from Tom and Jan Lewis and many other donors, the T.W. Lewis Melanoma Center of Excellence at Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center opened in 2017 and offers medical, radiation and surgical oncology, plastic surgery, a dermatology clinic, survivorship programs, community outreach and education, and a clinical trials program. The Clinical Trials program is supported by the Lewis’ gift and the philanthropic investments of many other donors.

## Home Away From Home

### Special endowment helps cover lodging expenses for cancer patients

Across all types of cancer, patients receiving daily radiation therapy, those recovering from surgery and those participating in clinical trials must stay within a specific geographic distance from Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center for lengthy periods of time—often at great personal expense.

To help ease this burden, the Home Away From Home campaign is building a Patient Housing Assistance Endowment to assist qualifying patients and their families. More than 350 individual donors and 20 companies have made gifts to help build the endowment. Thanks to a generous grant from Thunderbirds Charities, the program launched in 2020 to provide immediate support while the endowment builds. A total of \$107,000 in financial assistance was awarded to 47 qualifying patients in 2020.

One patient who received assistance is Joseph Klein, who in late 2019 was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of cancer known as Metastatic Salivary Duct Carcinoma. Following a successful surgery, he required a months-long regimen of chemotherapy and radiation to prevent the cancer from recurring. “Facing the enormous financial burden of paying for lodging while undergoing the treatments I needed, I was deeply concerned about how I would afford it all,” says Joseph.

He applied and was qualified for assistance through the Patient Housing Assistance fund, which covered his costs for an extended stay at a Marriott Residence Inn Hotel located just one block from the Cancer Center. Joseph is now cancer-free and his prognosis improves with each month.

“Words cannot express my appreciation to the amazing team at Banner for curing my cancer and giving me a new lease on life!” says Joseph. “And, thanks to the Patient Housing Assistance Fund, the financial burden of paying for a hotel for the many months I was receiving treatments was lifted, sparing me from what could have been an enormous ‘monetary malady.’”



Joseph Klein is extremely grateful to his surgeon, Dr. Chafeek Tomeh (pictured at left) and his hematologist/oncologist, Dr. Jaxin Niu, for saving his life







Pictured here with his wife, Debbie, Andy Seplow struggled with Lewy Body Dementia for more than 15 years before passing away in 2019

## New Hope for Lewy Body Dementia

Center of excellence will focus on common yet misunderstood brain disorder

When Debbie Seplow lost her husband Andy in 2019, it was the end of a journey that began some 15 years earlier when he first developed what she describes as odd behaviors, depression and hallucinations.

"My husband was a great man," Debbie recalls. "We were going to retire, live life, travel, visit grandchildren, and all that was robbed of us by a disease we didn't bring into our lives. It just attacked us unknowingly, and there was absolutely nothing we could do to stop it."

Andy suffered from Lewy Body Dementia, an aggressive and incurable brain disorder that is the second-leading cause of dementia but is not well understood—and is often misdiagnosed.

"It's a progressive, degenerative brain disease that's kind of partway between Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease," explains Dr. Pierre Tariot of the Banner Alzheimer's Institute, who has been

working to find a cure and treatment for Lewy Body Dementia for the last 40 years. He says diseases that attack your brain are so much more than physical, making caregiving extremely difficult and emotional for loved ones.

"You are watching your husband disappear, the man you love, the man that took care of you, who was your rock and best friend. He would physically be across the dining table from me, but I didn't know this person," Seplow says.

It was after the shocking 2014 death of actor Robin Williams that many people first heard of Lewy Body Dementia. Just two months before taking his own life, Williams was misdiagnosed with Parkinson's disease after nearly a year of debilitating problems with his thinking, memory, sleep, and digestion. An autopsy would later reveal that he actually had Lewy Body Dementia, which carries an associated risk of suicide.

Thanks to a recent \$10 million philanthropic investment from the family of the late J. Orin Edson, the Banner Alzheimer's Institute will open a new center of excellence in Tucson dedicated to Lewy Body Dementia. The J. Orin Edson Family Lewy Body Dementia Center will serve as a centralized care site to address a wide range of medical and non-medical needs, including exercise and wellness services, family support, and community education.

Dr. Tariot says the Center will be a game-changer, connecting families and caregivers so they know they're not alone.

The Edson family's generous gift will also fund a 24/7 Alzheimer's and dementia support line, a tele-mentoring program offering dementia expertise and case review to general practitioners in rural and underserved areas, and a dementia-capable health coach program designed to maximize quality of life for patients and family care partners.

## Simple Blood Test Shows Big Promise

New test can detect Alzheimer's 20 years before symptom onset

An international team of researchers, including scientists from the Banner Alzheimer's Institute and Banner Sun Health Research Institute in Arizona, Lund University in Sweden, the drugmaker Eli Lilly and others, have identified a new blood test showing remarkable promise in detecting Alzheimer's disease as early as two decades before symptoms appear.

The test can detect Alzheimer's as accurately as more expensive and invasive tests and can differentiate between Alzheimer's and other conditions that cause dementia. It does so by detecting early changes in two specific proteins—tau and amyloid—that cause the majority of the brain damage that leads to Alzheimer's symptoms, such as memory loss, thinking problems and behavior issues. These protein-rich plaques and neurofibrillary tangles—another hallmark characteristic of brain tissue associated with Alzheimer's disease—degrade the brain beyond repair.

Recently published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association* and presented at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference, their research found that levels of a specific protein called



"Blood tests like this have the potential to revolutionize Alzheimer's research, treatment and prevention trials, and clinical care," says Dr. Eric Reiman, Executive Director the Banner Alzheimer's Institute and CEO for Banner Research. "I am excited and energized for Banner to be part of this important research."

p-tau217 were about seven-fold higher in people with Alzheimer's. They also found that in people carrying a gene associated with the disease, p-tau217 levels began to increase 20 years before signs of cognitive impairment, as plaques and tangles begin to slowly build up within the brain.

Until recently, a diagnosis of Alzheimer's could only be confirmed via costly, invasive, and less available methods like PET brain imaging and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) biomarkers obtained through a lumbar puncture.

Researchers estimate the blood test could be available for clinical use in a few years and could prove to be an inexpensive and widely available way to distinguish Alzheimer's 98 percent of the time.

## Q & A with Dr. Robert Alexander

Dr. Alexander recently joined the Banner Alzheimer's Institute as its first Chief Scientific Officer for the Alzheimer's Prevention Initiative



### What do you hope to accomplish at API?

I want to share my more than 20 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry with API. I've developed a deep knowledge of clinical drug development and plan to use that to build on the clinical trial portfolio already in place at API. It's my hope we can speed up the development of treatments that are in the early phases of development.

### What is your vision for Alzheimer's disease prevention research?

The goal of prevention research is to find people at risk very early in the disease process in order to slow down or stop the disease. We have many tools already to identify people most at risk. Now our challenge is to discover the right treatments.

### What is the most promising research in Alzheimer's?

I think the development of biomarkers that Dr. Eric Reiman and others have been working on is revolutionary. The fact that we can now look into a living brain to see if someone has a neurodegenerative illness is amazing. Not long ago we could only diagnose Alzheimer's with an autopsy. Now brain imaging and soon blood tests can give us answers at the earliest signs of illness. This means we can treat people much sooner than ever before.

## Family and Community Services Goes Virtual

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Family and Community Services area of the Banner Alzheimer's Institute shifted operations quickly in 2020, making hundreds of phone calls to family caregivers to increase support and critical resources. Pandemic conditions elevated caregiver stress, increased dementia patients' agitation/anxiety levels and magnified family isolation.

The FCS team pivoted all education and support programs to virtual/phone platforms. They reached more than 1,300 family caregivers and community members through education, more than 500 through support groups, and almost 1,000 people through life enrichment in 2020.

The Passport to Music program and the Shine Your Light Choir for families moved to virtual platforms, reaching nearly 1,000 people with dementia and their care partners to bring joy, activity and structure to families during pandemic times.

The monthly *Beacon* newsletter began publishing twice monthly in response to caregiver requests to stay more connected, with content focused on helping caregivers cope more effectively during the pandemic.



# Hearts and Minds Intersect in New Hope-Filled Home

Banner – University Medical Center Phoenix launches fully comprehensive Heart Failure Center

Adding heart transplantation to its full suite of services for patients with heart failure, Banner – University Medical Center Phoenix is now home to the only fully comprehensive heart failure treatment center in Arizona, providing state-of-the-art care—from prevention to transplant. Successfully launching in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Advanced Heart Failure Program completed its 20th heart transplant by the end of 2020, with two of those procedures being heart and kidney double transplants.

The first patient accepted into the program, Kristina Buckley, received her new heart on May 8, after a series of cardiology issues that began when she was just 4 years old and contracted the Spanish Flu and strep throat that went untreated, leading to double pneumonia and scarlet fever, and damaging her heart. “Because I thought I wouldn’t live long, I had a very active life,” Kristina explains. Becoming a licensed hunting and fishing guide, hiking, and having four children after being told she would likely have none are only a few examples of Kristina’s zest for life.

Since her transplant, Kristina says “I feel like I have a whole new life.” And she feels immense gratitude for the Advanced Heart Failure Program team. “They really care about you as a person. I felt like I was one of the family.”

The Advanced Heart Failure Program is supported by a collaborative team of experts. “Heart failure is not a death sentence, but it requires a specialized and coordinated health care team to provide the most comprehensive care,” said Radha Gopalan, MD, Medical Director for Advanced Heart Failure, Heart Transplant and Mechanical Circulatory Support at Banner – University Medicine Heart Institute, and Kristina’s physician.

Thankful for this new beginning, Kristina continues to seize the day. With a group of 20 women, she sews hundreds of masks and crochets ear savers to support those on COVID-19’s front lines and leads a heart transplant support group via Zoom for those just beginning the journey. “It’s not an easy road,” she says. “But how we look at life really helps. I think of things as temporary inconveniences. And, that everything I’ve gone through is for a purpose.”



Kristina Buckley underwent a heart transplant in May after a lifetime of heart problems that began with an untreated infection at age 4



## Better Beginnings Bring Brighter Futures

Donor’s generosity supports premature babies and their mothers

A generous gift from the Gila River Indian Community State Shared Revenue Program empowered Banner – University Medical Center Phoenix to launch an important new program, creating healthier starts for a most vulnerable population – premature infants. *Better Beginnings: A Neonatal Intensive Care Support Program for Mother and Child* supports vital medical care for women and their premature infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

With full-time Lactation Program Manager Angela Lober on board to coordinate lactation services between Women & Infant Services, the NICU and outpatients, she also has the unique responsibility of developing a comprehensive, innovative and sustainable program, beginning during pregnancy and expanding beyond hospital discharge. And, in alignment with the

academic medical center model, Angela will lead much-needed research in the areas of breastfeeding and human milk feeding.

“At Banner – University Medical Center, we aim to provide the highest level of care to breastfeeding families,” Angela explains. “Human donor milk, as an alternative to formula, offers optimal nutrition when babies need supplementation. Researchers have found that donor milk protects the breastfeeding relationship and supports infant healthy outcomes.”

In the program’s first two weeks, 15 babies in postpartum were provided with donor milk, which kept them exclusively breast milk fed in most cases. Says Angela, “We are so excited to offer donor milk to our breastfeeding families.”

“Human donor milk, as an alternative to formula, offers optimal nutrition when babies need supplementation.”

Angela Lober, Lactation Program Manager at Banner – University Medical Center Phoenix

## The Future is Now

Telerobotic technology offers safety and precision when treating heart rhythm disorders

Opening its doors in September 2020, the Stereotaxis Robotic Electrophysiology Lab at Banner – University Medicine Heart Institute in Phoenix is leading the way in treating heart rhythm disorders, specifically in the performance of advanced catheter ablation procedures.

“The capabilities of robotics are growing at a rapid rate, moving us toward a paradigm shift in our practice,” says Dr. J. Peter Weiss, Director of Ventricular Arrhythmia Management and Robotics at the Banner – University Medicine Heart Institute.

The lab is already busy, and, in December, hosted a live procedure broadcast worldwide



as part of a Master Class series sponsored by the Society for Cardiac Robotic Navigation. Using the system, the physician sits at a computer console in the control room with immediate access to all needed information and images. The catheter placed into the patient is flexible and steered within the heart by a magnetic field that the physician directs with a computer mouse. The flexibility of this catheter and

the use of magnetic navigation allows for high levels of precision and safety in both diagnosis and treatment of heart rhythm disorders managed with catheter ablation.

“I am extremely excited to play a part in bringing this advanced technology to our community of patients and heart rhythm specialists throughout Phoenix and beyond,” Dr. Weiss shares.



In It to Win It

Southern Arizona joins the fight as Banner Alzheimer’s Institute opens in Tucson

An international leader in the fight against Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias, Banner Alzheimer’s Institute expanded its services to Southern Arizona with the opening of a brand new, 10,000-square-foot comprehensive care center in July 2020. The multidisciplinary memory and research center is in collaboration with the University of Arizona Department of Neurology physicians and researchers.

The Toole Family Memory Center, located at 2626 E. River Road in Tucson, offers the only comprehensive care model for Alzheimer’s and related dementias in Southern Arizona. The memory center is named for the Toole family of Tucson to honor their philanthropic gift to the Banner Alzheimer’s Foundation.

The number of Arizona residents facing Alzheimer’s disease is outpacing other states in the country. Through its research and care, Banner Alzheimer’s Institute is dedicated to the goal of ending Alzheimer’s disease without losing another generation.

“The Toole family is proud to support the Banner Alzheimer’s Institute and to help bring this holistic care model to the Tucson community. Life’s experiences are often the greatest form of education and, unfortunately, we learned first-hand how difficult this disease is for both the patient and family,” says Tom Toole. “Our father’s multi-year battle with Alzheimer’s is now over, but his legacy of supporting community and helping others continues with the establishment of this Center.”

The Toole Family Memory Center provides outpatient services related to the evaluation, diagnosis and medical management of both cognitive and non-cognitive behavior problems. The Center is also home to clinical trials, giving patients the opportunity to learn about and gain access to promising investigational treatments and prevention research. Other offerings include a family and community services program to help address commonly unmet non-medical needs of family care providers and a variety of community education programs.

“When it comes to Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia, there are actually two patients: the person with memory impairment and their family,” says Allan Anderson, MD, Banner Alzheimer’s Institute director. “We are proud to expertly care for both in our unique care model. We treat the patient medically, but also meet their nonmedical needs like free education and support as the disease progresses.”



Whimsy and Wonder for Healing

Tucson artist and big-hearted construction team unite for kids

As DPR Construction leads the renovation of the pediatric hematology and oncology clinic at Diamond Children’s Medical Center in Tucson, the firm also raised funds to create a whimsical and soothing mural for a wall that patients will see from their chemotherapy infusion bays.

Through a volunteer-led initiative, DPR team members raised \$33,400 from designers and trade partners to bring this mural to life. Serving as both a welcome distraction and an outlet for young imaginations, the mural will provide hope and inspiration and add color to an otherwise empty space.

DPR reached out to renowned Tucson artist Joe Pagac, who has painted many of the city’s most famous murals. Joe developed the image (pictured above) and as an added element of fun, created an augmented reality component; once finished, by viewing the mural through a smart device, the characters will come to life in 3D.

“This has been a very special project for all of us,” says DPR’s Matthew Thrower, project executive for the clinic’s renovation. “From the beginning, we knew we wanted to leave something behind for the young patients who will be receiving care in this new clinic. We hope that the children can catch a moment of joy and peace looking at the mural.”

Saving Savannah

Clinical trial saves 12-year-old in her third cancer battle

Every year, 16,000 children learn they have cancer. In Southern Arizona, about 60 children—or, nearly two classrooms full—begin their own cancer journeys. Not only was Savannah Perez among them, the Tucson resident has battled acute lymphoblastic leukemia three times since age 3, undergoing years of treatment and achieving remission only to relapse twice more.

After Savannah’s third battle, Dr. Emmanuel Katsanis, Division Chief of Banner Children’s/ University of Arizona statewide Pediatric Blood and Cancer Program, consulted with her mother, Vanessa, about a novel clinical trial involving a bone marrow transplant with a half-matched donor, which can be a parent or a sibling, with a new post-transplant regimen. Vanessa did not hesitate to be a 50 percent bone marrow match for her daughter.

Both Savannah and Vanessa came through the transplant with stunning success.



A year later, Savannah is free of disease and in remission. Today, both mother and daughter are eager to see to the remodeled Pediatric Cancer Clinic at Banner Children’s at Diamond Children’s Medical Center, which will update the current space that has wholly outgrown its functionality.

“Our young patients deserve the best and we hope to be able to offer them the finest care possible in this new, state of the art clinic,” says Dr. Katsanis.

2020 At a Glance

Banner – University Medical Center Tucson’s Comprehensive Stroke Center has been recognized by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association for its diagnosis and care of stroke patients. Banner – University Medical Center Tucson earned the association’s Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award.

Banner – University Medical Center Tucson and South are among five Banner hospitals to earn the “LGBTQ Health Care Equality Top Performer” designation from the Human Rights Campaign Foundation. The Healthcare Equality Index is the national LGBTQ benchmarking tool that evaluates healthcare facilities’ policies and practices related to the equity and inclusion of their LGBTQ patients, visitors and employees.

The Association of Community Cancer Centers has honored the University of Arizona Cancer Center with its 2020 Innovator Award. To help ensure patient safety in the time of COVID-19, the UA Cancer Center, clinically affiliated with Banner – University Medicine Tucson, created a multidisciplinary team that identified chemotherapy regimens administered in the inpatient setting that could be safely administered in the outpatient setting. The team implemented a transition plan that reduced medical resources and chemotherapy costs, decreased inpatient bed stay, lowered infection rates and improved quality of life. The effort decreased overall cost of care by about \$6 million.





Banner Health Foundation Board member Keith Galbut, standing at the far left, enjoys the first Celebration of Champions honoring Gabe Cerdhe in February 2020 along with members of the Cerdhe family and the team at Banner Children's at Desert. Gabe (pictured at left) was born with a complex congenital heart defect and has undergone two surgeries, with another planned before his 4th birthday.



The Heart of a Fighter

New fund celebrates brave young patients

Gabe Cerdhe has been a tiny champion since birth. At just 6 days old, he underwent his first open-heart surgery for a complex congenital heart defect. Since that time, Gabe has successfully recovered from an additional heart surgery, endured several cardiac catheterizations, and has overcome two extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) treatments. Gabe is expected to have an additional heart surgery before his 5th birthday.

Backing his fight is his twin sister and supportive parents, Israel and Kalia, and three older siblings who "rallied around Gabe the moment he was born," recalls Kaila. The family moved to Phoenix to be close to Gabe's medical team. "He's overcome every hurdle that we put in front of him," Israel says. "He struggled with oxygenation, feeding, and then just like that, he'll pick up and move on."

"He's taught me about resilience and encouragement and facing those daily struggles that he faces head-on and in stride."

Christy Riddle, Registered Nurse and Pediatric Program Manager

Gabe's courage has inspired the clinical staff at Banner Children's at Desert, too. "He's taught me about resilience and encouragement and facing those daily struggles that he faces head-on and in stride," says Christy Riddle, Registered Nurse and Pediatric Program Manager.

In February, Gabe was the first champion to be celebrated through the Galbut Family Celebration of Champions Fund. Established through the kindness and generosity of Banner Health Foundation Board Member Keith Galbut and his wife, Becky, the fund supports the triumphs of hospitalized children, like Gabe, who face exceedingly difficult, life-altering circumstances—from chronic illness to surviving trauma.

Becky and Keith are matching all gifts up to \$50,000 to celebrate pediatric champions at Banner Children's. Gabe's pre-pandemic celebration, complete with balloons, custom t-shirts, award presentation, and refreshments, was the first of many that will honor the resiliency and determination of the human spirit uniquely found in children. These celebrations not only reinforce courage in children, but honoring children's demonstration of successful coping strategies also creates a culture of healing among our caregivers and clinical teams.

Help for Families Managing Type 1 Diabetes

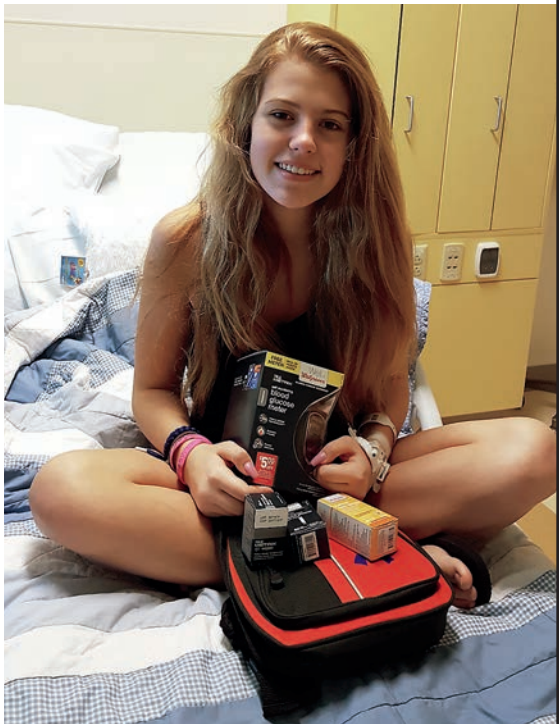
Charitable gift expands education and resources for children with Type 1 Diabetes

When a child is diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes, the Banner Children's Diabetes Education Program and its team of dedicated physicians, Nurse Practitioners, educators, and a dietician walk patients and their families through the sudden multi-faceted lifestyle changes the whole family will need to embrace with this lifelong diagnosis.

Managing the program since 2007, Rachel Calendo, MS, RN, CPNP, CDCES, has watched her patients grow through their diabetes journey into adulthood. "Education is the core for success in Type 1 Diabetes management," says Rachel, who serves on the American Diabetes Association Community Leadership Board, is a community advocate, and educates school nurses on Type 1 Diabetes management. The learning curve is steep, she says, with patients required to learn new medical

devices, insulin injection amounts and timing, and how to manage a healthy lifestyle. To ensure Type 1 Diabetes patients continue receiving this vital education while minimizing their risk of exposure to COVID-19, Rachel and her team drove the use of telehealth technology in 2020 to keep them connected.

A new T1D diagnosis can cost families \$1,000 or more in medical device, supplies, and insulin expenses. Thanks to a generous charitable gift from The Thomas J. Beatson Jr. Foundation in 2020, Banner Children's Diabetes Education Program is expanding and improving its services, including Type 1 Diabetes Camp scholarships, hypoglycemia kits, immediate insulin for patients who cannot afford it, an emergency fund, and the purchase of two RentinaVue cameras to ensure optimal eye health for young patients.



T1D patient Briana Tarro with her new hypoglycemia kit

A Quiet Pandemic, A Generation at Risk

Virtual campaign raised funds and awareness for youth mental health

The mental health of America's youth has been called a looming crisis for at least the past five years. With the COVID-19 pandemic isolating families at home for nearly a year, young people with mental health disorders are facing an array of new circumstances that further threaten their well-being.

In 2019, Banner Health Foundation's annual Pulse of the City Soiree fundraising gala raised a record-breaking \$1.1 million to expand access to behavioral health care for Arizona children and teens. Building on this success, and in the absence of a fall 2020 gala due to COVID-19, our Host Committee redoubled their efforts to raise these important funds. They launched a fundraising campaign called "Lighting the Way" from August to October.

Community support for the campaign exceeded goals once again, raising over \$438,000. These funds, combined with proceeds from the 2019 Soiree, will significantly expand



Banner's behavioral health offerings for Arizona children under age 18, including new in-patient behavioral health beds, hiring additional adolescent psychiatrists and social workers, implementation of tele-behavioral health care in Emergency Departments, and on-demand behavioral health consultation and support for pediatricians in the primary care setting.

Thank you to our Points of Light partners for supporting the Lighting the Way campaign (shown at right):

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## Looking Ahead

As Banner Health continues caring for patients during the global pandemic, we also continue to care for people with wide-ranging medical needs across six states. Here is what's ahead:

### **Banner Health Premier Concierge Medicine**

Launching in early 2021, this fee-based program offers members 24/7 direct access to a personal concierge physician and care team via phone or text, comprehensive annual exams, telehealth and primary care office visits, in-office routine labs and tests, quick access to Banner's exemplary network of specialists and services, and coordination of care among specialists and primary care. Please be in touch with the Foundation team to learn more about membership.

### **Sports Medicine Center**

In late 2022, Banner Health will open a new sports medicine center near the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community area near Top Golf and Salt River Fields at Talking Stick. In partnership with the Arizona Diamondbacks, Phoenix Suns, Phoenix Mercury, and the University of Arizona, the Center will focus on providing sports-related medical care, athletic performance training and improvement, plus a surgery center, physical therapy, imaging, a concussion center, performance training, nutrition and sports psychology.

### **Enhancing Clinician Well-Being and Resiliency**

Banner Health aims to create a purposeful environment and workplace culture that supports all team members in a holistic manner. We know that when our clinicians are at their best, life is better for everyone: our patients, our employees and their families, and our communities. We improve quality of care and the patient experience, increase productivity, reduce staff turnover, and lower costs. Banner Health will continue building its multi-faceted program aimed at reducing burnout, enhancing well-being, and fortifying the emotional and psychological resiliency of our health care professionals.

Charitable gifts to the Banner Health Foundation and Banner Alzheimer's Foundation enhance the patient experience, supporting programs and services that would not otherwise exist and enhancing the care and comfort we can provide our patients and their families. If you are interested in learning more about these programs, call (602) 747-GIVE (4483) to speak to a Foundation team member.