

Routine slowly leads to failure. Change is required for continued success.

Wind, water, rain and other forces of nature, over many years, slowly reveal hidden features or create formations leading to new discoveries or allowing visualization from a new angle. These forces created the Grand Canyon, the Hoodoos in Bryce Canyon National Park, caves, arches, and countless other natural wonders we enjoy. Scientific discovery takes a similar path, carefully stripping away the outer layers of truth to reveal the unknown beneath. As each layer is removed, new layers of opportunity are discovered and new research directions are revealed.

A grant to the American Academy of Pediatrics will provide for the development of the second version of the National Survey on Early Childhood Health. The initial survey provided valuable information on parent perceptions of well child visits, their expectations for well child visits and if their expectations were being met. This second survey will provide insight into whether the Pediatric community has met those expectations over the past few years. It also explores into new areas and topics that parents believe should be covered during well child visits.

Necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) can be a devastating disease for premature infants. NEC is a disease of the gastrointestinal tract that affects primarily premature infants. Building on past research efforts, a grant to the Elizabeth Glazer Pediatric Research Network will evaluate an additional aspect of necrotizing enterocolitis. This project will evaluate specific clinical factors that may lead to the requirement for surgical intervention in these infants. By identifying patterns of clinical indicators, those infants more likely to progress to a more severe form of necrotizing enterocolitis might be identified earlier and treated more aggressively, thus reducing the need for surgical intervention.

The cause of many congenital defects is often unknown. A grant to the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories will search for potential gene abnormalities in individuals born with congenital cardiac defects as compared to healthy individuals. If identified, genetic abnormalities may provide insight into the cause of congenital cardiac defects and bring us closer to identifying preventive measures that can be taken.

Duke University is testing a novel approach using an oral therapy to desensitize children against peanut allergies. Peanut allergy among children nearly doubled within a 5-year period from 1997 to 2002. An oral therapy that is well accepted by patients could reduce the risk of allergic reactions in these children, allowing them to lead a more normal life.

In contrast to the slow moving forces of nature in our metaphor on science research, nature can also move swiftly and violently, changing lives in a dramatic fashion. Such acts of nature call for an equally swift response. The year 2005 had its share of disasters, from the tsunami in Southeast Asia to the hurricanes that hit the Gulf Coast Region of the United States. The Gerber Foundation made several special gifts to support recovery efforts in these regions. Two gifts were made to Mercy Corps and to Save the Children to support activities in Southeast Asia to protect children and provide them with a sense of normalcy through planned activities. Two gifts were made to the Baton Rouge Area Foundation and Ochsner Clinic Foundation to support the care of children and development of children's programs shortly after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast. Additional gifts were provided to Baton Rouge General Hospital for purchase of needed Neonatal Intensive Care Unit equipment and to Jumpstart to support movement of the Jumpstart program from New Orleans to LaFayette, Louisiana for one year.

You must be the change you wish to see in the world. Gandhi

Heritage Giving

West Michigan grant making resulted in \$257,153 in grants to 43 organizations. These grants focused on expanding opportunities and supporting youth programs within the community. Included in this was a \$50,000 grant to Family Health Care to expand dental services for low-income children in the area and a

\$14,030 grant to support the creation of a Science Olympiad for grade schools to spur interest in the sciences and science education.

Additional grants of \$60,000 were made on behalf of Gerber Products Company facilities in Reedsburg, WI; Fort Smith, AR; and White Plains, NY. Matching gifts for educational or health and human service organizations totaled \$149,075. Of this amount, over \$25,000 went to organizations providing humanitarian relief after the hurricanes struck the Gulf Coast Region. Scholarship awards totaling \$210,933 were provided to 146 students.

GRANTS AWARDED 2005

National Grants

American Academy of Pediatrics Chicago, IL Development of parent/physician survey regarding early childhood health care	\$236,396
Baton Rouge Area Foundation Baton Rouge, LA Support for children's programs following Hurricane Katrina	\$100,000
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh, PA Evaluation of the nutritional status of infants exposed to methadone	\$156,493
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Cold Spring Harbor, NY Evaluation of gene abnormalities in congenital heart disease	\$167,096
Duke University Durham, NC Evaluation of an oral therapy to reduce peanut allergy in children	\$195,310
Elizabeth Glazer Pediatric Research Network Palo Alto, CA Evaluation of factors that increase the risk of necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) progressing to the requirement for surgical intervention	\$936,246
Jumpstart Boston, MA Support for student stipends to continue program in the wake of Hurricane Katrina	\$30,000
Lucille Packard Foundation Palo Alto, CA Evaluation of targeted fortification of breast milk to improve growth and energy intake of premature infants	\$438,500
Mercy Corps Seattle, WA General support for comfort supplies for children affected by the tsunami in Southeast Asia	\$50,000
Ochsner Clinic Foundation Houston, TX Support for care of children following Hurricane Katrina	\$100,000

Save The Children New York City, NY General support for family reunification efforts for children affected by the tsunami in Southeast Asia	\$50,000
Upper Peninsula Health Education Corporation Marquette, MI Evaluation of the relationship between maternal depression and reports of infant reflux	\$49,215
Total National Grants Awarded	\$2,509,256

Heritage Grants (West Michigan)

Alpha Women's Center For purchases of cribs and car seats for lending program	\$2,700
Arts Council of White Lake For scholarships for low-income children	\$500
Baldwin Family Health Care Support for equipment purchase for pediatric dental exam rooms	\$50,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lakeshore Support for expansion of after school program	\$4,000
Camp Henry Camp scholarships to attend Day or Mini Camp for local youth	\$4,500
Child Abuse Council of Muskegon County Support for children's personal safety prevention programs	\$10,000
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Connection Match support for general operations	\$2,500
DeVos Children's Hospital Foundation Support for event sponsorship to raise money for PORT team	\$3,000
DeVos Children's Hospital Foundation Support for Pediatric Nursing and the Pediatric Oncology team	\$10,000
Dogwood Center For Babar literacy program	\$4,000
Fremont Area District Library For purchase of children's books and parent workshop materials	\$4,350
Fremont Community Education Scholarships for participation in recreational programs for low-income children	\$2,500
Fremont Fire Department For Firepup fire prevention education program	\$380
Fremont Police Department	\$2,100

For equipment for youth programs	
Future Farmer's of America Scholarships for local youth to attend the Washington Leadership Conference	\$3,000
Gerber Memorial Health Services For scholarships for youth SHAPEDOWN program (Health Care Fund)	\$3,000
Grant Area District Library For purchase of children's materials and computers for children's area	\$7,000
Holton Public Schools Scholarships for youth to attend Close-Up in Washington DC	\$1,500
Hospice of Michigan Funding for Camp Good Grief! for children who have lost a significant other	\$4,000
Muskegon Area Intermediate School District General support for Girls Math/Science Conference and West Michigan Science Challenge	\$14,650
Muskegon Community Health Project/Lakeshore Lung For lung health classes in Newaygo County schools (Health Care Fund)	\$1,800
MSU Extension of Newaygo County Funding for the Eating Right is Basic in-school educational program	\$5,000
MSU Extension of Newaygo County Funding for the County breastfeeding initiative (Health Care Fund)	\$7,500
Muskegon Community College For Black Youth and Hispanic Youth Conferences	\$800
Muskegon Community Health Project Sponsorship of Big Fat Greek Festival fundraiser	\$500
Muskegon Family Care For pediatric dental kits and oral health education	\$4,500
Muskegon Museum of Art Sponsorship of exhibit to encourage childhood literacy	\$5,000
Newaygo County Agricultural Fair Purchase of hogs and steers for donation of meat to local food pantries and shelters and funding support for 4-H youth programs	\$8,000
Newaygo County Council for the Arts Art Works program for the developmentally disabled	\$1,200
Newaygo County Community Services (NCCS) Support for youth programs and camp scholarships	\$25,150
NCCS Center for Nonprofit Housing Support for Youth Financial Management program	\$8,000
Newaygo County Conservation District Support for classroom outreach and classroom visits to observatory	\$2,500

Newaygo County Regional Educational Service Agency Sponsorship of students to attend national competitions and purchase of books for leadership program	\$6,394
Newaygo County Regional Educational Service Agency Awards for student Technology Showcase	\$1,800
Newaygo County Regional Educational Service Agency Program support for Science Olympiad	\$14,030
Newaygo District Libraries Annual subscription to Tumblebooks Library literacy program	\$2,394
Newaygo Police Department For purchase of car seats for car seat check program	\$500
Newaygo County Prevention of Child Abuse For book purchase for Santa Storybook Saturday event	\$500
Ronald McDonald House of West Michigan For rejuvenation of a guest room	\$2,500
United Way of Muskegon County For after school programming	\$15,000
Volunteer Muskegon For summer program to engage youth in community projects	\$3,455
White Cloud Public Schools For Parenting with Love and Logic program	\$2,000
YMCA Camp Pinewood Scholarships for low-income youth	\$4,950
Total Heritage Grants Awarded	\$257,153