

## Quick Facts about St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

- St. Jude Children's Research Hospital opened in 1962 and was founded by the late entertainer Danny Thomas. Its mission is to find cures for children with cancer and other catastrophic diseases through research and treatment. St. Jude has treated children from all 50 states and from around the world.
- On average, 5,400 active patients visit the hospital each year, most of whom are treated on an outpatient basis.
- St. Jude maintains 78 inpatient beds and treats upwards of 250 patients each day.
- St. Jude is the first and only pediatric cancer center to be designated as a Comprehensive Cancer Center by the National Cancer Institute.
- In 2009, *Parents* magazine named St. Jude the No. 1 pediatric cancer care hospital in the country, based on the magazine's survey of more than 75 children's hospitals nationwide.
- St. Jude is the first institution established for the sole purpose of conducting basic and clinical research and treatment into catastrophic childhood diseases, mainly cancer.
- The hospital's International Outreach Program transfers the progress achieved in the treatment of childhood cancer in developed countries to those with limited resources. As of January 2009, St. Jude has 21 partner sites in 15 countries, and more than 16,000 registered users from more than 164 countries have accessed Cure4Kids.org, an Internet-based distance learning initiative. In addition, St. Jude trains thousands of medical professionals around the world through consultations, faculty visits to St. Jude and Cure4Kids.
- The medical and scientific staff published more than 600 articles in academic journals in 2008, more than any other pediatric cancer research center in the United States. This is an average of a St. Jude paper being published every 17 hours.
- St. Jude is the only pediatric cancer research center where families never pay for treatment not covered by insurance. No child is ever denied treatment because of the family's inability to pay.
- St. Jude has developed protocols that have helped push overall survival rates for childhood cancers from less than 20 percent when the hospital opened in 1962 to more than 70 percent. The current St. Jude survival rates for selected childhood cancers now include:

<u>Diagnosis</u>	<u>Current St. Jude Survival Rate</u>
<i>Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL – cancer of the blood)</i>	94%
<i>Hodgkin lymphoma (cancer of the lymph system)</i>	90%
<i>Medulloblastoma (a type of brain tumor)</i>	85%
<i>Wilms tumor (kidney tumor)</i>	90%

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## **Quick Facts** *(continued)*

- In 1962, the survival rate for acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), the most common form of childhood cancer, was 4 percent. Today, the survival rate for this once deadly disease is 94 percent, thanks to research and treatment protocols developed at St. Jude.
- The daily operating cost for St. Jude is nearly \$1.4 million, which is primarily covered by public contributions.
- During the past three years, 84 cents of every dollar received has supported the research and treatment at St. Jude.
- St. Jude recently completed an extensive expansion program that bolstered the hospital's research and treatment efforts, while more than doubling the size of its original campus. The campus now has 2.5 million square feet of research, clinical and administrative space dedicated to finding cures and saving children.
- St. Jude pioneered a combination of chemotherapy, radiation and surgery to treat childhood cancers.
- Peter C. Doherty, PhD, of the St. Jude Immunology department, won the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1996. He shares the award with Rolf M. Zinkernagel, MD, of the University of Zurich. Their findings have led to breakthroughs in the understanding and treatment of viral infections and cancers, and in the development of organ transplant procedures and vaccines.
- St. Jude patients are referred by a physician, and generally have a disease currently under study and are eligible for a current research protocol on clinical research trials.
- St. Jude researchers and doctors are treating children with genetic immune defects and pediatric AIDS, as well as using new drugs and therapies to fight infections.
- St. Jude was the first institution to develop a cure for sickle cell disease with a bone marrow transplant and has one of the largest pediatric sickle cell programs in the country.
- St. Jude is a World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Studies on the Ecology of Influenza Viruses in Animals and Birds.
- The St. Jude faculty includes three National Academy of Sciences members: Peter C. Doherty, PhD, of Immunology; Charles Sherr, MD, PhD, of Tumor Cell Biology; and Robert Webster, PhD, of Infectious Diseases. Sherr and Brenda Schulman, PhD, Structural Biology, hold the coveted title of Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigators.
- The St. Jude faculty also includes four members of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences: William E. Evans, PharmD, St. Jude director and chief executive officer; Arthur Nienhuis, MD, of Hematology and former director and CEO; Charles Sherr, MD, PhD, of Tumor Cell Biology, and Peter C. Doherty, PhD, of Immunology.
- St. Jude is the national coordinating center for the National Cancer Institute-funded Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium, Children's Cancer Survivor Study and Pediatric Drug Discovery Consortium. St. Jude also is the coordinating center for a national study of sickle cell disease treatment funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.