

FUNDRaiser

Talking Points

Overview of Blank Children's Hospital

Blank Children's Hospital was built by A.H. and Anna Blank and opened in 1944 in honor of their son, Raymond. Since that time, the hospital has grown and undergone several renovations to accommodate sick and injured children.

Today, Blank Children's Hospital is a 96-bed facility that is committed to family-centered healing, caring and teaching for children across Iowa. With more than 90 pediatric specialists and hundreds of nurses who care "just for kids," Blank Children's is a hospital unlike any other. The number of pediatric medical specialists, programs and services is constantly growing to improve care and meet the changing health needs of children.

Blank Children's Hospital is part of UnityPoint Health - Des Moines, which also includes Iowa Methodist Medical Center, Iowa Lutheran Hospital, Methodist West Hospital, John Stoddard Cancer Center, UnityPoint Clinic and UnityPoint at Home.



Talking Points and Fun Facts about Blank Children's!

- Each year, through inpatient treatment, clinic visits, transport and outreach, Blank Children's touches the lives of more than 80,000 children across our state. In 2014, Blank Children's served children and families in each of Iowa's 99 counties.
- Blank Children's is committed to providing family-centered care. Everything from equipment to decor is designed specifically for children and their families – including family lounges and play areas for patients and siblings on every floor!
- The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Blank Children's was renovated in 2001 and was one of the first in the world to offer private-room care. Since that time, many NICUs across the country have followed our model.
- Blank Children's is one of two places in Iowa to help care for children with cancer. The Cancer and Blood Disorders Center currently cares for up to 600 patients, with approximately 50 to 60 new diagnoses per year.
- Blank Children's is home to the Meredith Schoolroom, a program staffed by a teacher from the Des Moines Public Schools, to help children stay up-to-date on school work during inpatient and outpatient treatment.
- Child Life specialists are considered the "heart" of Blank Children's Hospital. The Child Life specialists, funded 100% through donations, are available in every part of our hospital. From helping children know what to expect during cancer treatment and playing games, to distracting from procedures and helping "kids be kids" by coordinating special events, entertainment and activities, Child Life is there!

