

# COMMUNITY HEALTH CHARITIES EXISTS TO EMPOWER PEOPLE TO TAKE ACTION TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELLBEING.



When we talk to people about Children's Flight of Hope, we often end up speaking about the logistics of our organization. How our strong alliances with major airlines and corporate partners have allowed us in recent years to grow our reach. How the generosity of our donors has turned us into one of the fastest growing non-profits in North Carolina. This is all true and it is amazing, but the heart of Children's Flight of Hope is in what little Demetris wrote to us this year:

"Thank you for helping me to get care to help fix me. Momma cries when she tells other families how much care you gave to us."

Those are the words that fuel us every day at Children's Flight of Hope. They drive us to work harder, to pursue our mission and to always, always put the children first. These words are also why we must continue to grow. Children's Flight of Hope is at a pivotal moment. What began 28 years ago as a compassionate spark of an idea has turned into a lifeline for families.



## Story of Hope

Mackenzie's family first came to CFOH in June 2013, after the then-3-year-old had been diagnosed with stage 3 hepatoblastoma, a malignant form of liver cancer. Mackenzie was being treated at Duke Medical Center, where she was given the option of having a complete liver transplant, or she could go to Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago to undergo resection surgery to remove only the damaged part of her liver. At her Duke physician's recommendation, Mackenzie's family opted for the latter, which would eliminate the need for Mackenzie to be on medication for the remainder of her life.

During the course of her initial chemotherapy at Duke, Mackenzie's mother Ebony took leave from her job to care for her child. This cut the family's income significantly and they struggled to determine how to pay for the flights needed to travel to Chicago, not to mention the cost of the one-month stay required for the surgery. Ebony contacted CFOH and within eight days we had made flight arrangements for the family to travel.

Mackenzie will celebrate her ninth birthday on July 31st! She is now cancer-free and, like many other kids her age, attends school, plays tennis, and takes dance lessons.

## Charity Impact

987 flights

308 children

123 diagnoses

65 medical facilities