



No amount of planning can prepare you for the heartbreak of a seriously ill child — or the stress of uprooting your household.

OHSU is building a new five-story housing complex on Portland's South Waterfront to provide families in crisis with an oasis of healing and stability.

The Carrion family of Bend, Ore., is making the best of an impossible situation. Five-year-old Tristan (pictured right) is fighting rhabdomyosarcoma, an aggressive form of muscle cancer. The family is putting everything on hold so Tristan can receive the best cancer care in the region — an intensive, five-day-a-week regimen of radiation and chemotherapy at OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital.



Tristan, his father and three sisters stay at Ronald McDonald West House Waterfront during the week while Tristan's mother stays in Bend to work.

"I home-school all four kids to work around Tristan's clinic visits and then we return to Bend on weekends," said Chris.



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Tristan's family is one of hundreds who arrive in Portland from Alaska, Idaho, California, rural Oregon and elsewhere to help their loved one recover and thrive under the care of Doernbecher experts. Many of them will struggle to find a place to stay that can accommodate their family — and their budget.

Approximately 49 percent of Doernbecher patients reside in rural Oregon or neighboring states.

“Excellent medical care is only one aspect of healing a child — you have to consider the whole family. When a child is seriously ill for a long time, everything is put under strain — the marriage, the job, the other siblings. We do everything we can to ease that pressure, so the family can focus on healing. Family housing is the backbone of our ability to support the whole family,” said Dana Braner, M.D., interim chair of pediatrics.

In 2014, Doernbecher had to find alternative accommodations for 1,058 families, due to lack of space at West House.

Families travel to Doernbecher for specialized services that other regional hospitals don't offer:

- advanced cancer care
- access to Phase 1 clinical trials
- pediatric bone marrow transplants
- pediatric epilepsy surgery
- advanced fetal therapy
- pediatric brain tumor surgery

Not enough of a good thing

OHSU is able to offer housing to some families, but not all. In 2014, Doernbecher housed approximately 500 families for 5,039 nights at West House Waterfront. West House is a temporary facility located on the fifth floor of the Marriott Residence Inn, operated in partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Oregon and Southwest Washington. That same year the hospital had to find alternative accommodations for 1,058 families, due to lack of space at West House. Ronald McDonald House's staff and volunteers offer comfort and support in many forms, including hot meals, family activities, therapy dogs, movie nights and shuttle drivers.

“This is not only a place to stay — it is a supportive community,” said Jessica Miller, executive director of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Building a solution

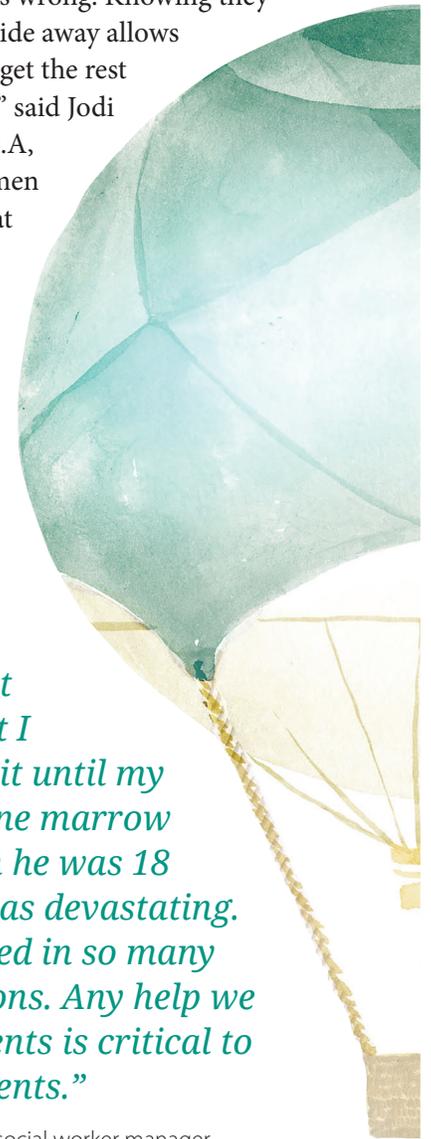
OHSU plans to build a five-story patient and family guest house on its South Waterfront campus designed to support and extend the exceptional level of care provided at Doernbecher. Scheduled to open in 2018, the guest house will provide comfortable, affordable housing and an array of support programs for families who must put their lives on hold while their child heals.

The house will significantly expand Doernbecher's capacity to accommodate families. Ronald McDonald House Charities will continue to deliver its excellent services in the new location, and also provide building management to the adult floors of the guest house.

“We often see parents who can't bear to leave their child's bedside, even though they are exhausted and uncomfortable. They can't stand the thought of not being there if something goes wrong. Knowing they are only a short tram ride away allows family members to go get the rest they need to stay sane,” said Jodi A. Coombs, R.N., M.B.A., vice president for Women & Children's Services at Doernbecher.

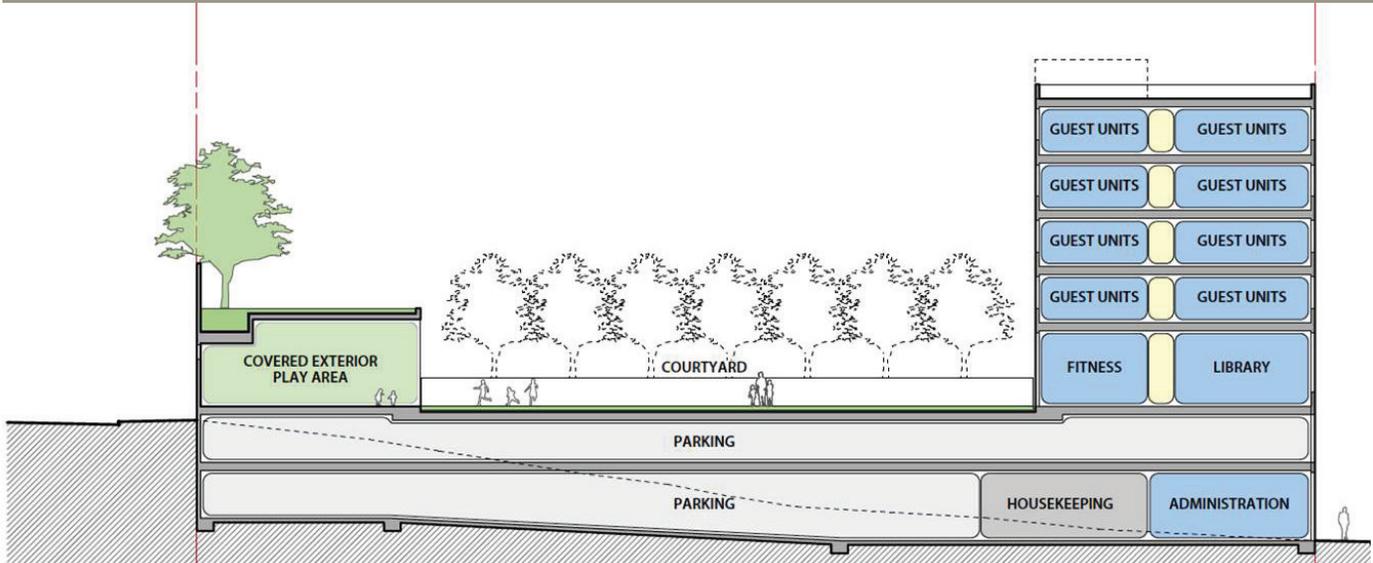
“I work here. I thought I understood what this was like, but I really didn't get it until my son needed a bone marrow transplant when he was 18 months old. It was devastating. Parents are pulled in so many different directions. Any help we can offer to parents is critical to healing our patients.”

— Sarah Power, L.C.S.W., social worker manager,
Doernbecher Children's Hospital



A new home away from home

OHSU has contracted with ZGF Architects and Edward Weinstein to start designing the facility. The plans are still evolving, but OHSU currently intends to offer 80 guest beds in 68 units. One of the house's five floors will be devoted to community gathering spaces. They are also designing a roof-top garden and play area. Two floors will be reserved for pediatric patients and the remaining two floors will be open to families or caregivers of adult OHSU patients.



OHSU's new Guest House will:

- Enable families to stay close while their child is in treatment.
- Promote healing — studies show family involvement helps children recover.
- Allow patients from out of town to participate in clinical trials of new drugs and treatments.
- Promote social interaction and support.
- Provide an affordable housing option for out-of-town patients and families by offering sliding-scale rates.

You can help

OHSU must raise **\$40 million** through philanthropy to support this ambitious project. With your help, we can create an oasis of peace and healing for patients and families facing the stress of a medical emergency.

For more information on how to contribute, please contact:

Jim Ervin
Executive Director
Doernbecher Children's Hospital
Foundation
503 552-0676

family portraits



▲ **Brylee Jeanne Gabby: 8**

Brylee is in treatment for acute myeloid leukemia. She and her parents Rob and Monica traveled to OHSU from Boise, Idaho. *"Monica and I take turns sleeping at the hospital and at West House. Brylee's four-year-old brother Zayden is staying with his aunt in Boise until day 100 of chemo. We're lucky: Monica was able to arrange a virtual workplace with her employer for the next six months while Brylee is in recovery,"* said Rob.



▲ **Reagan, Brantley and Marshall Koumentis: 2 months**

The Koumentis triplets weighed little more than 2 pounds each when they were born at OHSU Hospital. They spent 63 days in the neonatal intensive care unit. Because Marshall still has health problems, his parents Bre and Cameron Koumentis of Salem will continue to stay at West House while he goes in for surgery and ongoing care. *"Bre has been at the hospital every day we've been here, and it's really helped a lot staying so close by. The nurses said her closeness to the babies has helped them thrive,"* said Cameron.



▲ **Sylvia Rea Buzzard: 2 months**

Sylvia travelled to Portland with her mother Brittany shortly after being born in Anchorage. At Doernbecher they learned she has campomelic dysplasia, a severe disorder that affects development of the skeleton, reproductive system and other parts of the body. *"I had to quit my job and leave my other two children with family members in Anchorage. When we Skype, my oldest boy always asks when I'm going to come home,"* said Brittany.



◀ **Tristan Carrion: 5**

Tristan with his father Chris and sisters Ireland (9), Kaitlin (6) and Trinity (3). *"The social workers at Doernbecher are great about finding us places to stay and making it affordable, but it's stressful to not have a consistent place to call home. West House gets filled up quickly,"* said Chris.