



Hampton University Proton Cancer Institute's Pediatric Program Receives Generous Donation from the Chartway Promise Foundation

HAMPTON, Va. (January 17, 2025) – The Hampton University Proton Cancer Institute's (Hampton Proton) pediatric gift-giving program, HUPTI Smiles, has received a generous donation from the Chartway Promise Foundation to provide gifts for the pediatric patients the center treats in 2025.

In 2024, Hampton Proton treated five pediatric patients, with HUPTI Smiles providing gifts to these recipients and all eligible pediatric patients since the program's inception in 2020, thanks in part to a generous partnership with Build-A-Bear. Each patient in 2024 also had a personalized graduation party to celebrate the end of their treatment.

HUPTI Smiles, founded in 2020, is a specially designed, ongoing charitable program that addresses the emotional needs of pediatric cancer patients and their families. Through this initiative, children and young adults receiving treatment at Hampton Proton receive a new, wrapped toy or gift card during their treatments. The facility has collaborated with leading medical centers, including the Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters (CHKD), Portsmouth Naval, Virginia Commonwealth University, and The University of Virginia, to ensure young patients receive gifts during their treatment, which can extend over up to 44 consecutive visits.

“We are so thankful to the Chartway Promise Foundation for their continued partnership and generosity in providing opportunities to bring smiles to the faces of young patients



battling cancer," said Tiffany Velez Rodgers, Director of Marketing at Hampton Proton and founder of HUPTI Smiles. "As we celebrate the third year of their incredible support, we're reminded of the profound difference small acts of kindness can make. We're grateful to Chartway for helping us bring smiles to these children and their families."

"As we celebrate 15 years of service in 2025 and approach the milestone of delivering nearly 5,000 life-saving cancer treatments, we are proud to continue making a meaningful impact on the lives of our patients," said Scott Berry, Executive Director of Hampton Proton. "Programs like HUPTI Smiles remind us that cancer care goes beyond medical treatments—it's about uplifting the spirits of our patients and their families. We are deeply grateful to the Chartway Promise Foundation for their ongoing generosity and commitment to this mission of hope and healing."

The Chartway Promise Foundation's donations to organizations like HUPTI Smiles are made possible through a combination of corporate and individual donations, as well as successful fundraising events. In 2025, Chartway continues to prioritize programs that improve the lives of children facing medical challenges, such as HUPTI Smiles.

"Chartway Promise Foundation strengthens the communities we serve by partnering with companion charities like HUPTI Smiles to provide the financial support needed to make wishes come to life for medically fragile children," stated Chartway Promise Foundation president, Christine Wilson. "That's why we're honored to make a difference right here in one



of the communities we serve – bringing joy, hope, and smiles to courageous children through this partnership.”

ABOUT HAMPTON UNIVERSITY PROTON CANCER INSTITUTE

The Hampton University Proton Cancer Institute, Cancer and Research Center (Hampton Proton) is a leading cancer treatment and research facility dedicated to advancing the fight against cancer. As pioneers in proton therapy and cutting-edge research, Hampton Proton provides compassionate care and precise treatments to patients while driving scientific discovery in the field of oncology. Headquartered in Hampton, Va., Hampton Proton, the eighth such center established in the country, is the only proton center owned and operated by a historically Black college and university (HBCU) and is committed to excellence in patient care guided by innovative research, advocacy, access to care and better outcomes. The institute treats several different types of cancer, including breast, prostate, pediatric, lung, head & neck, ocular, brain & spine and gastrointestinal.

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About Chartway & Chartway Promise Foundation

Since 1959, Chartway has been unlocking the potential of individuals and families so they can thrive. Member-owned and values-driven, our \$3B credit union proudly serves more than 250,000 members with branches in Utah, Texas, and Virginia. We've been recognized by Forbes as one of America's Best-In-State Credit Unions, included on American Banker's Top Credit Union to Work For list, and received numerous other top workplace and best credit union accolades. Reflecting a bright way forward, our charitable arm – the Chartway Promise Foundation – has granted \$16M to provide medically fragile children and their families memorable experiences that bring joy, hope, and smiles. For information on our vibrant organization, please visit www.Chartway.com and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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