

A photograph of the Children's Hospital of Georgia building at dusk. The building is a modern, multi-story structure with large glass windows and a curved facade. In the foreground, there is a large fountain with two dolphin sculptures leaping out of the water. The sky is a deep blue with some light clouds. The text "CENTER FOR Pediatric Development, Behavioral Health and Wellness" is overlaid in the upper right corner.

CENTER FOR
**Pediatric Development,
Behavioral Health
and Wellness**

Children's
HOSPITAL OF GEORGIA



Children in Need

Any parent who has sought help for a child with a mental, behavioral or developmental problem can readily attest to the heartbreak and challenges involved in finding help. The need for pediatric behavioral health care and the barriers to access are all too real.

A recent health analysis revealed that as many as 1 in 6 children in the U.S. has a treatable developmental disability.

The analysis also found almost half of children with at least one of these disorders did not receive treatment or counseling from a mental health professional.

Unfortunately, the prevalence of childhood behavioral and mental health concerns in Georgia is ranked 29th out of 50 states and, when it comes to health care access, Georgia is ranked last.

While mental and behavioral health conditions can and do occur at any age, children and youth are uniquely vulnerable. Children who are not developing, learning or behaving at the same level as their peers are at high risk for delays in essential areas of development.

1 in 6 children have a developmental disability such as:

- ADHD
- Learning disability
- Autism spectrum disorder
- Stuttering or stammering
- Intellectual disability
- Hearing loss or impairment
- Vision loss or impairment
- Behavioral issues
- Anxiety, depression

Time is critical

Expedient screening and comprehensive care are vital because early intervention is crucial in ensuring that vulnerable children develop into healthy, highly functioning adults. By investing in prevention, surveillance and treatment, children will grow up healthier and develop the skills they need to move toward successful and fulfilling lives.





Children in Crisis

We need to fight for the lives of America's children.

Pediatric specialists at Children's Hospital of Georgia and at hospitals across the nation are caring for young people with soaring rates of depression, anxiety, trauma, loneliness and suicidal tendencies that will have lasting impacts on them, their families and their communities.

Before the pandemic, suicide was the second leading cause of death for youth ages 10-24.

The numbers are staggering – so much so that the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Children's Hospital Association declared a **STATE OF EMERGENCY** for children's mental health in 2021.



In 2021, **1 in 4 teens** reported feeling sad or hopeless and **1 in 5** contemplated suicide.

Compared to 2016, numbers reported by children's hospitals across the U.S. in 2021 show a:



> **153% increase** in emergency room visits for suicide attempts and self-injury for kids ages 5-18.



> **31% increase** in mental health inpatient visits for children and teens ages 3-18.



> **Nearly 100% increase** in eating disorder patient stays for youth ages 10-18.





Children Have Hope

Thanks to the Kevin and Brittany Kisner Foundation

The Children's Hospital of Georgia is honored to partner with the Kevin and Brittany Kisner Foundation to establish a Center for Pediatric Development, Behavioral Health and Wellness.

The Kisner Foundation has made a **\$5.3 million commitment** to endow and sustain the patient care services for this new center. Children's health is a major focus for the Kisner Foundation, a non-profit started by Aiken native and PGA golfer Kevin Kisner and his wife Brittany, who worked at Children's Hospital of Georgia from 2009-2012 as a speech pathologist.

This new Center will provide and grow vital services at Children's Hospital of Georgia, including testing and treatment for mild behavioral issues as well as more complex diagnoses.

Early funding from the Kisner Foundation has enabled the Children's Hospital to:

- **Provide** families with access to evaluations and testing.
- **Refer** families for counseling and other mental and behavioral health services when children need help for more challenging issues.
- **Target** recruitment efforts to attract the pediatric specialists – including a developmental pediatrician – needed for everyday evaluation and treatment plans.

The goal is to build a multidisciplinary center within the Children's Hospital to include the services these children need in one convenient location.

“By supporting pediatric behavioral health and wellness at Children's Hospital of Georgia, we can help ensure that families have access to vital resources their children need to grow and develop into successful adults.”

Brittany Kisner



“If we don't effect change at a young age, then what are we even doing here? But if we can all pool our assets together and everybody get behind a program that will affect the biggest part of our society, then it's a win for everyone.”

Kevin Kisner



Scan the QR code for a video with Kevin and Brittany Kisner





Children-Centered Care

A **\$4 million** space renovation on the second floor of the Children’s Hospital of Georgia is needed to construct a new space to co-locate the multidisciplinary services that comprise the Center for Pediatric Development, Behavioral Health and Wellness.

Children’s Hospital leaders have identified space on the second floor immediately outside the public elevators that can be renovated and repurposed for patient care. Families will be able to literally open the door to a new center built around the interconnected care needs of their children.

Help us take the next big step. Co-locating essential services into one multidisciplinary center will:

- **Enhance** collaboration among pediatric neurology and pediatric rehabilitation services, including speech, occupational and physical therapy.

- **Allow** for expanded developmental-behavioral health services.
- **Increase** psychiatry consultation services, including an intensive outpatient program.
- **Promote** comprehensive and timely care.

In addition, centering this care around the unique needs of patients and families is essential to fulfilling the Children’s Hospital’s longtime commitment to Patient- and Family-Centered Care.



\$4 Million space renovation on the second floor of the Children’s Hospital





**Center for Pediatric
Development, Behavioral
Health and Wellness**



The center will:

- > Serve as a preeminent destination for evaluation and treatment for pediatric mental and behavioral health challenges
- > Become a national leader in training tomorrow's experts in best practices for advancing prevention, evaluation, intervention and treatment



✓ Made possible by the generous support of the Kisner Foundation





Children Need You Now

As a not-for-profit hospital, the mission of the Children's Hospital of Georgia is to provide the best health care available for babies, children and adolescents regardless of a family's ability to pay. Through the comprehensive new Center, Children's aims to help thousands of disadvantaged children better cope with challenging circumstances and reach for greatness. But we cannot do it without you.

We need you. Your financial contributions will help ensure that Children's Hospital of Georgia is equipped to care for the children and adolescents who desperately need these services.

An investment in children is an investment in the future. Children's Hospital aims to make the Center for Pediatric Development, Behavioral Health and Wellness a leading solution for a brighter tomorrow.



As many as **16,000 boys and girls** in Georgia will need the help of a pediatric developmental and/or behavioral health care specialist this year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

By giving to fund renovations for this center, you will help equip Children's Hospital to provide:

- Improved access for thousands of patients and families waiting for help.
- Better health and wellness outcomes for children and youth.
- More efficient and coordinated behavioral, mental, and developmental care.
- Higher rates of treatment.
- Better compliance with treatment plans.
- Reduced parental stress and frustration.
- Improved patient and family satisfaction.



Scan the QR code or visit our website at <https://www.augusta.edu/giving/gift.php?fund=216030> to help fund the renovations to create the full center.



A photograph of a woman with her hair in braids, wearing a light blue short-sleeved shirt, hugging a young girl from behind. The girl has long, dark braids and is wearing a white t-shirt. They are both smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a bright, slightly blurred indoor setting with green and white architectural elements.

For more information:

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