

HOPE



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Hypertherm Owners Philanthropic Endeavors



Pediatric Emergency Services Unit



“When you bring a child into an emergency department in general, it is one of the worst days of your life...[now that the Children’s Hospital at Dartmouth (CHaD) has opened a special emergency unit for children in the emergency department (ED),] the whole process is so much smoother and it has made the care of children in the ED better all the way around: better for the child, better for the parent, better for those taking care of them.” -Dr. Patricia Lanter, *DHMC Emergency Medicine*

When did CHaD open a Pediatric Emergency Services Unit and why is this significant?

CHaD celebrated the grand opening of the Pediatric Emergency Services Unit on Tuesday, August 18th, 2009. The development of this new unit marks a significant advance in the way that pediatric emergency cases will be treated in this region. DHMC is now the only health care facility in all of northern New England with the pediatric Level 1 Trauma Center designation and it is only the second hospital in New Hampshire to have a dedicated ED space for kids.

Why would children need their own ED and what is different about an emergency unit for kids?

Before the Pediatric Emergency Services Unit opened, kids with serious injuries were treated in the same emergency room as grown-ups. With almost 32,000 visits annually, DHMC found that nearly one in five patients seen in their ED are 18 years of age or younger. Since children are often smaller and weigh less than adults, they require special equipment and services in order to be treated properly.



Where is the Pediatric Emergency Services Unit located and what is it like?

This unit is located within the larger DHMC emergency department and it has its own entrance and treatment area. The space itself is designed to put children at ease during a very scary process and it is decorated to be a warm and friendly place for kids. There is a team of physicians, nurses, technicians and staff who are specially trained to care for pediatric patients and their families.

“Today, kids are kept separate from the general population. When they arrive, they are ushered into their own waiting room. Cheerful paint and characters decorate a comfortable space complete with books, toys and games. Inside the ER itself, there are several kid-friendly rooms. These rooms are also cheerfully painted, come equipped with TVs, kid-sized medical equipment, and the smallest potty I’ve ever seen.” -Michelle Avila, *HT PR Manager*

How has the H.O.P.E. Philanthropy Team contributed to this effort?

H.O.P.E.’s mission is to partner with organizations and engage in activities that strengthen and create sustainable, positive change in communities and the environment. Hypertherm has pledged a significant donation to the Pediatric Emergency Services Unit, which will be fulfilled over the next five years. Hypertherm was one of the project’s major donors and the company was recognized for this contribution during the opening celebration.

“What a wonderful place they’ve created just for children... I am so proud to know that Hypertherm helped make this possible.” -Kim Smith, *HT Sales Process and Operations Mgr.*

For more information about CHaD, visit http://www.dhmc.org/childrens_hospital_at_dartmouth.cfm