



A Word From Our President

Margaret Perryman

Why Give

In Memory of Wren

Why Gillette?

This time of year, my mailbox is often flooded with requests to make tax-deductible gifts to my favorite charities. I suspect that yours is, too. For me, this is a time for thanksgiving and reflection—a time to ask myself why I give.

This year, as you reflect on your gifts to others, I hope you'll keep Gillette at the top of your list. When you ask yourself, "Why Gillette?," you can answer that giving to Gillette provides:

- Hope for kids like Amir (Page 1) who need help rebuilding their lives after a traumatic injury
- Peace to families like the Spragues (this page) by allowing Gillette to fund chaplains, social workers and other caregivers not covered by insurance
- Comfort to children like Elliot (Page 4) who spend days and sometimes weeks in the hospital

You can also say that you support one of the nation's best children's hospitals in pediatric orthopedics and neurology/neurosurgery. Gillette is nationally ranked for these programs by U.S. News Media Group.

Whether you make a one-time donation, send supplies for our play therapy room (Page 3), or become a sustaining donor, know that your gifts help us continue providing the highly specialized care that children who have disabilities and complex medical conditions need. And you're giving hope, peace and comfort to the thousands of families who need Gillette every year.

During this season of giving, and always, I thank you for your support.

Wren Sprague was 2 years old when she sustained a severe head injury at a day care near her home in western Wisconsin. By the time her parents, Erica and Matt Sprague, got to the hospital, Wren was being airlifted to the nearest Level I Pediatric Trauma Center—an hour and a half away in St. Paul, Minn.

Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare, in partnership with Regions Hospital, operates Minnesota's first Level I Pediatric Trauma Center. Following surgery, Wren was admitted to Gillette's Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.

The family kept vigil at Wren's bedside while she breathed with a ventilator and struggled to survive. "You can't imagine how horrible it is to have your child fighting for her life," says Erica Sprague, "but everyone at Gillette was very kind."



"Wren was a playful, loving, happy little girl," remembers her mother, Erica Sprague. "She loved to be outside and go for walks. That's one of the reasons we hold this walk in her memory."

Four days later, Wren's doctors told the family that she wouldn't survive her injuries. "Nobody rushed us to make a decision to take her off the life support," says Matt Sprague. "Out of everything surrounding Wren's accident, the only good thing was how we were treated at Gillette."

"When your child has a serious injury, Gillette is the best 'local' hospital."

Wren passed away a few days later with her family by her side. "The doctors and nurses at Gillette have hearts of gold," says Wren's mom. "We're so thankful for their kindness."

To show their appreciation, the Sprague family hosts an annual 5K walk/run in Wren's memory. They donate part of the proceeds to Gillette's Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and use some of the funds for a scholarship for a high school student going into the medical field. This summer, the family raised \$7,500 for Gillette.

"People always ask us why we don't give the money to a 'local' hospital," says Matt Sprague. "When your child has a serious injury, Gillette is the best 'local' hospital. Gillette doesn't just serve St. Paul, it serves our entire region."



The Sprague family (from left, Payton, Erica, Matt and Owen) donated \$7,500 to Gillette in August in memory of their sister and daughter, Wren.