We have a few pertinent needs at Phoenix Children’s Hospital right now, so if you know any organizations or individuals that can help, we would greatly appreciate that. Feel free to pass along my contact information or I can reach out to them if they are okay with giving me their contact information. The needs are below:

1. N95 Masks and/or UV Lights

As you have heard in the media, N95 protective masks are very effective in stopping the transmission of COVID-19, but they are in short supply and normally have to be disposed of after a single use. These masks are capable of being used many times but there is no easy way to clean and sterilized them. Nebraska Medical center determined that large UV lights recently developed to clean an entire patient room with a flash of UV light are also able to clean hundreds of masks at a time and allow multiple uses over many weeks.

We are requesting the purchase of three UV lights (needed to do the mask cleaning procedure) to be able to sterilize a significant number of N95 masks each day and allow our caregivers to be certain of the continued protection these masks provide them even if our supply of new masks is disrupted or diverted.

These lights can also be used in the long term to help do regular deep room cleans for cancer patients who are in the hospital for many weeks and need their room deep cleaned at least once a week.

2. Family Support/Hardship Fund

Having a child with a serious medical problem is very stressful. The current environment compounds an already challenging situation. The Hardship Fund is available to help families offset the costs that you do not usually think of as related to a hospital stay. It helps with food, gas, lodging and transportation. Those incidental costs can place a tremendous financial burden on families, particularly when people have been laid off during this pandemic. With Ronald McDonald House closing to new referrals, we anticipate an influx of families in need of alternate lodging accommodations. During this crisis, safety protocols allow for only one family member at bedside, so the other parent will be in need of a place to stay. With children now home from school, it places even greater stress on families to share time between their children at home and their child who is ill in the hospital. This fund assists families with gas to travel home and back to the hospital. Some families do not have transportation at all, and this fund can assist in providing cab rides for families who do not have other options. Some families are now suffering food insecurity, or an overall inability to find food in the grocery stores. This fund provides meals at bedside for the caregiver. As parents are being laid off, concerns over paying their bills and keeping their insurance heighten. This fund relieves some of the stress associated with a hospital stay. There are many families who have asked or accepted help who a few weeks ago would have declined our help. We expect the demand for basic needs support to grow significantly over the coming weeks and months.

3. Telemedicine/Remote work
Like all healthcare organizations across the country, Phoenix Children’s Hospital is making efforts to stay ahead of protocols and guidelines for social distancing and other preventative measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 amid this unprecedented global pandemic. In an effort to keep interruption of care at a minimum, Phoenix Children’s responded swiftly, implementing technologies that would support telemedicine modalities and remote work capabilities for 1200 employees over the past 2 weeks. The quick execution of a remote work environment yielded an unforeseen monthly expense of $150,000 per month to maintain licensing for the Zoom platform. This is an immediate need as a result of the hospital-wide COVID-19 response to ensure Phoenix Children’s is doing its part to keep the health of children, families, employees and our community at the forefront while still offering the best possible care during this critical health emergency.

4. 70 Laptops to support telemedicine and remote work

I appreciate you! Let me know if I can help you and the team with anything. We are stronger together!

Michelle Major
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