

UMMS receives record gift to support pediatric hospital expansion



UMMS received a \$50 million gift to expand its pediatric care.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND MEDICAL SYSTEM



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Story Highlights

- Tom Golisano donates \$50 million to University of Maryland Children's Hospital.
- The gift funds a transformation of the hospital's footprint and joins it to the Golisano Children's Alliance.
- The donation enables centralization of pediatric services downtown.

The University of Maryland Medical System has received a \$50 million gift, [the largest in its history](#), that will help its children's hospital add innovative gene therapies and join a national network of pediatric institutions.

[New York billionaire philanthropist Tom Golisano](#) announced the record gift to the University of Maryland Children's Hospital on Tuesday, adding the Baltimore institution to the newly formed Golisano Children's Alliance. The 10-member national network of hospitals, which includes the Penn State Health Children's Hospital and the University of Kentucky Children's Hospital, will exchange expertise and best practices with each other. The donation is more than twice that of the previous largest in UMMS history, which came earlier this year when an anonymous Eastern Shore resident [donated \\$25 million to](#) University of Maryland Shore Regional Health to help cover construction costs for a new \$540 million Easton hospital.

"Together we are building something that will last long beyond any of us," Golisano said at a press conference honoring the donation and the creation of the alliance.

The gift will transform the physical layout of the Baltimore hospital, now called the University of Maryland Golisano Children's Hospital, which is currently spread around downtown. UMMS plans to move many existing inpatient and outpatient pediatric services into a new unified space downtown within the \$219 million [Stoler Center for Advanced Medicine](#), and conduct major renovations of its current facilities at South Greene Street. The money will also modernize the hospital's existing space within the University of Maryland Medical Center.

"The families of Baltimore will know exactly where to go for any medical condition that may affect their children, from before birth to birth and throughout the lifetime of their children," said Dr. Steven Czinn, director of the University of Maryland Golisano Children's Hospital. "All they need to do is come downtown."

A portion of Golisano's donation will also be devoted to expanding access for innovative gene therapies that could transform care for chronic illness. Gene therapies for sickle cell anemia, for example, can be well out of reach for many families. One sickle cell therapy costs [around \\$2.2 million per patient](#), for example.

The money from Golisano can help the hospital add staff who are experts in these novel therapies and build the facilities necessary to produce gene therapies to help make these treatments more accessible, University of Maryland Medical Center President Bert O'Malley told the Baltimore Business Journal.

"These treatments are incredibly expensive, but also life-saving and transformational for the lives of our pediatric patients and their families," he said. "So these resources will help us recruit senior-level major faculty members who are experts in this area."

The renovations to the hospital's existing pediatric facilities will also be a major boon to the hospital, according to Monika Bauman, University of Maryland

Medical Center's director of nursing for women's and children's health. The institution's South Greene Street [building dates back to 1934](#), so the rooms are small without the support spaces and equipment necessary for modern health care, she said.

"These families and children need a lot of care and frequent check points, which would be wonderful to be able to achieve all in one place," Bauman said.

Golisano is one of the most prominent investors in the country and on Tuesday surpassed the \$1 billion donation mark through a combined \$253 million spread across six hospitals that will now join the Golisano Children's Alliance. Golisano made his fortune by founding payroll services company Paychex Inc. and is [one of the world's 500 richest people](#).