THE POSTABILITY CAMPAIGN

Giving Support for a new Polinsky Medical Rehabilitation Center of Excellence

Miller-Dwan Foundation

Imagine
RAISING $2 MILLION FOR OUR REGION’S REHABILITATIVE CARE

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE IT POSITIVELY POSSIBLE

+ for a new Polinsky Medical Rehabilitation Center of Excellence
+ for children, adults and families
+ for the care we all wish for in our time of greatest need
facing an injury, illness or birth condition that requires more help than you think anyone could offer. Thousands of people across our region are challenged every day to adapt and nurture ability in themselves, so they can realize their own positive possibilities. Children with cerebral palsy, concussions, language delays and autism spectrum disorders. Adults with brain injuries, stroke and vertigo. For these and other complex health care issues, there’s one source of care in our region that brings together the compassionate expertise needed to make the smallest steps and biggest miracles come true. Whether that takes days, months or years, that care is right here. Because most people cannot travel hundreds of miles away for the regular and intensive care these conditions require.

We are gifted with ability. And now, we ask you to consider possibility.

**Imagine creating**

+ A new rehabilitation center for our region that accommodates more people in better ways
+ An environment where families feel safer to learn and heal
+ Treatments best suited for patient success—for school, work, home and everywhere in between
+ Technologies that nurture the ability to stand, walk, swallow, talk, hear and feel more fully able—in ways you never imagined possible
Positively Polinsky

**WHEN DON LOST HIS VOICE AND NEARLY LOST ALL HOPE**, the Polinsky Medical Rehabilitation staff handled it all. They diagnosed his illness and set up a care plan that helped him once again read to his grandchildren.

**WHEN JANET LOST HER ARM IN A FARMING ACCIDENT**, her rehabilitation team led her from bedridden to tending her cattle again.

**BORN WITH SPINA BIFIDA, RENAÉ WAS CARRIED TO POLINSKY BY HER MOM**, Sandra, three days each week to grow her ability, little by little. Today, in her tiny wheelchair, Renae owns the world and our hearts.
THE RIGHT HELP

These are just a few examples of the miracles that happen every day at Polinsky Medical Rehabilitation Center in Duluth, Minnesota. When the right care is matched with encouragement, guidance and the passion of specially trained staff, patients’ lives are renewed. They learn to use their arms or walk again. They gain the ability to communicate visually or verbally. Swallow food and liquids. Read. Work. Play. And enjoy simple pleasures that are so often taken for granted when you are able-bodied.

RIGHT HERE

Now, for the first time since the 1960s, the Miller-Dwan Foundation has the chance to make Polinsky even better. For more children and families. In more ways. The vision is to create a true center of excellence—a flagship source for outpatient physical rehabilitation—right here in our own backyards.

RIGHT NOW

Helping people get the very best care—at the right time, close to home—is a Miller-Dwan Foundation priority. If your spouse has had a stroke or has suffered a spinal cord injury, the chance to receive care nearby can mean the difference between recovery or a continuing lifelong struggle. If your child has a neuro-muscular disorder, you don’t want to wait. You need help now.

+ You never want to need this level of care. But when you do, Polinsky is where you want to be.

“I STARTED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY WITH POLINSKY AFTER A CAR ACCIDENT. I AM SO GRATEFUL TO THEM. YOU CAN FEEL THE COMPASSION IN EVERYTHING THEY DO.”

–TAMMY JENSEN, PATIENT

THE POSSIBILITY CAMPAIGN
That’s why the Miller-Dwan Foundation has initiated a new $2 million campaign designed to expand and enhance the Polinsky Medical Rehabilitation Center by creating a highly-specialized, advanced-care healing space that reflects the Center’s national recognition—and nurtures its ability to continue impacting lives in vitally needed ways. The new center will include:

- The latest technology and equipment
- Space for additional specialized care clinicians
- Reduced wait times
- Convenient parking options

For many people, Polinsky is a best kept secret—until they need it.

To give the kind of care that offers the possibility of recovery—including the seemingly miraculous—Polinsky brings together specialized care teams of highly-skilled, compassionate providers with a calling to care for our region’s most medically compromised patients. They’re physiatrists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech language pathologists, psychologists, social workers, canine therapists and beyond. And their diverse set of medical and therapeutic abilities combine to bring out the best in each person the team treats.

To do that, the team needs a safe, healing environment; specialized tools and technologies; and ongoing training.

Sometimes it takes a tried and true technique. Other times, it takes a dramatically innovative approach—or combination of approaches—to make the needed difference for patients like Don, Janet and Renae.

“A CHILD’S JOB IS TO PLAY. THROUGH PROPER PLAY THERAPY, WE FIND THE TECHNIQUES THAT OPEN UP THEIR WORLD.”

—JASON GOULET, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST
THE HUMAN BODY IS REMARKABLE— IN ITS STRENGTH AND IN ITS FRAGILITY.
THE NEED

Every year, thousands of children and adults require care offered at Polinsky Medical Rehabilitation Center—care not available anywhere else in our region. It’s high-touch, high-tech care for diseases and injuries that affect a person’s nerves and muscles, brains and movement. The type of care that helps people regain function, independence and live their best lives.

Children treated annually
approx 1,500 individual patients
aged birth to 18

Top diagnoses:
- Cerebral palsy
- Autism spectrum disorders
- Premature birth
- Speech or language delay
- Sensory processing disorders
- Feeding difficulties
- Chromosomal abnormalities

Adults treated annually
approx 1,000 individual patients
aged 18 and beyond

Top diagnoses:
- Stroke
- Paralysis or mobility challenges due to accidents
- Brain injury/concussion
- Amputations
- Vertigo/dizziness and balance
- Voice therapy

THE NEED IS GREAT. MORE CAN BE DONE.

In its current location, Polinsky is unable to reach its full potential—a potential that says “yes” to the people in need and a potential that can draw on technology and trends that help people heal.

“NOT EVERY TOOL WORKS FOR EVERY PATIENT, SO BEING ABLE TO HAVE THESE OPTIONS IS CRITICAL FOR THE BEST PATIENT OUTCOMES.”

-DR. SKIP SILVESTRINI, PHYSIATRIST AND REHABILITATION SERVICES MEDICAL DIRECTOR
You can help create the new Polinsky Medical Rehabilitation Center for Excellence. When you give to the Polinsky POS+Ability Campaign, you help patients who are your neighbors, family members, friends and loved ones to reach their highest level of ability and independence. And you express a belief that we all deserve this kind of care: the right kind, right now, right here.

YOUR GIFT WILL SUPPORT:

A dedicated psychology suite and increased psychological support for patients after a stroke or brain injury

Fully-equipped kitchens, laundry rooms and bathrooms to help patients relearn necessary life skills

A comprehensive concussion program for children and adults

Increased interventions for patients with behavior changes resulting from their injury or illness

Rooms for children’s play therapy—one of the most effective treatments

A speech and swallowing lab

Specialized rooms for the care of infants

Driving simulation and assessment

Treatment rooms that allow parents to participate in their children’s care and learn skills to use at home that will result in better, faster outcomes

A designated wheelchair assessment area

Increased gym space and rooms for sensory integration

More than anything else, your gift will support independence, healing and human success stories that are nothing short of miraculous—every day.
Why is community philanthropy necessary?
Pediatric and adult physical rehabilitation care, like many other specialties, requires philanthropic support for growth. The reality is that physical rehabilitation centers receive minimal insurance reimbursements which barely cover the cost of care—leaving little to no profit. To have enough resources to invest in meaningful program expansion, charitable support is necessary.

A foundation for success
Together, we’ve made so many lasting impacts. The Miller-Dwan Foundation is a community leader in improving and expanding healthcare. Since the Foundation’s inception in 1973, we have provided significant support to develop rehabilitative programs, purchase patient care equipment and educate patient care staff. SolvayHospice House and Amberwing—Center for Youth & Family Well-Being, created and owned by the Miller-Dwan Foundation, have received national attention for their design and care programs, which are managed by Essentia Health.

This life-changing care is made possible, and made better, by charitable donors. Because it takes people who believe, as we do, that our children and families deserve every opportunity to heal. To grow. To experience ability in ways they may have only dreamed of.

HELP US REPEAT HISTORY
In 1950, a group of citizens came together to establish a rehabilitation center to care for children and adults with physical disabilities. Over the years, many local individuals and organizations invested their resources and time to grow the services provided, resulting in three different sites, each larger than the last. A gift given from Viola Polinsky in 1967, in memory of her husband, Nat, renamed the center “Polinsky Medical Rehabilitation Center” and moved it to its current location. The time has come for history to repeat itself and to see Polinsky grow and prosper once again.

Join us
We’ve always lifted up the areas of health care in our region that serve great need and return greater impact. Now, we turn our attention to the children and adults who will use the new Polinsky Rehabilitation Center of Excellence. In doing so, we’ll show the world what’s possible when a community believes in its ability to nurture the best in each other.
“THERE’S NO DOUBT: THE WORK WE DO AT POLINSKY IS ALREADY EXEMPLARY. WE ARE ONE OF THE MOST HIGHLY-ACCREDITED PHYSICAL REHABILITATION CENTERS IN THE NATION. NOW IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES FOR OUR PATIENTS IF WE CAN GROW THE WAY WE’VE ALWAYS DREAMED WE COULD.”

–DR. ERIN GRIMSBY, PHYSIATRY AND REHABILITATION