

Gamers Support Sacred Heart's Mission to Care for Local Children

In the game of life, the children of Northwest Florida have a better chance for a better life and even a second chance at life, thanks to a special partnership between video-game players and Sacred Heart Health System. Sacred Heart Foundation recently partnered with Pensacon, its video game provider SuperCon2K Series and popular Twitch streamers James Werk and GSXR Clyde to raise money in support of construction of the new Studer Family Children's Hospital at Sacred Heart.

During the three-day Pensacon 2018 event at Pensacola Bay Center, Pensacon Charity Stream helped raise more than \$12,500 through Extra Life. Extra Life is a grassroots experience that mobilizes passionate gamers of all types to support local Children's Miracle Network hospitals that treat sick and injured babies and children in their communities. Extra Lifers raise money throughout the year, culminating in a massive, international, 24-hour fundraising and gaming marathon.

Extra Lifers typically participate from the comfort of their own homes and have raised more than \$30 million since the program was founded by gamers in 2008. All proceeds from Extra Life directly benefit 170 Children's Miracle Network (CMN) hospitals across North America. The Studer Family Children's Hospital at Sacred Heart is a CMN member. CMN hospitals treat babies and children with all types of illnesses, conditions and injuries, regardless of their family's ability to pay.

"We are grateful for this incredible partnership with Pensacon and our twitch streamers, James Werk and GSXR Clyde, to support the children and the families we serve across the region," said Carol Carlan, president of Sacred Heart Foundation. "This partnership has introduced us to a new donor base that has an enormous passion for giving back. Extra Life is one of the fastest-growing Children's Miracle Network hospital programs and we are excited to grow and strengthen this relationship that will make a transformational impact on thousands of families in the care of The Studer Family Children's Hospital at Sacred Heart."

Construction on the new Studer Family Children's Hospital at Sacred Heart began in 2017 and is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2019, the same year the hospital will celebrate 50 years of service to the families of Northwest Florida.

Community members can sign up and dedicate a day of play for children in Northwest Florida by visiting Extra-Life.org, or call Adrienne Maygarden, director of Sacred Heart Foundation, at 850-416-4663.