

“ I spent a long time in the mindset of ‘how do we fix Ellie?’. But the reality is that we may never be able to fix her. This is who Ellie is.

– Ellie’s mom, Megan



“ We are so proud of the amazing little person she has become. She is always smiling, even when she is feeling terrible. She brightens everyone’s day and doesn’t allow any of her limitations slow her down. She faces each challenge head on and dances and sings her way through them.

– Ellie’s mom, Megan

Join Team Ellie

Ellie and kids like her deserve the best possible care — care from her Mary Bridge team, care from her family and care from you.

Team Ellie includes thousands of community members who give generously to Mary Bridge by making personal gifts of all sizes, volunteering, participating in events like Festival of Trees and Mary Bridge Children’s Courage and supporting community fundraisers for Mary Bridge.

Get involved and learn more at marybridge.org 

The Mighty Ellie

“ Ellie was just born fighting. I initially went into labor at just 20 weeks into my pregnancy but she managed to hang in there a few more weeks so that she’d be considered viable. When she was born, they thought she was too small to be resuscitated but then she started kicking the neonatologist. She was brave right from that moment and has continued to be the bravest person I’ve ever known.”

Ellie’s mom, Megan



1 A fighter is born

Ellie came into this world at 24 weeks, weighing less than one pound. She spent the first four months of her life in a neonatal intensive care unit.

Ellie has been a patient at Mary Bridge since she was 6 months old. Now age 4, Ellie visits Mary Bridge 200 out of 365 days each year for treatment for several medical conditions.



Ellie's Special Things

- 2 **The Magical Suitcase:** Ellie carries a magical suitcase with her everywhere she goes. It has everything she needs to help her breathe, eat and explore the world around her. Sometimes her big brother, Spencer, carries it for her so she can participate in activities like the annual Mary Bridge Children's Hematology/Oncology water gun battle.

The Shermie Doll: Ellie keeps her Richard Sherman doll, "Shermie," close to help her face tough pokes and procedures. Ellie gets 4 pokes per day – 1,460 pokes every year. When Ellie lost her Shermie doll in October 2017, the real one came to visit her at the Mary Bridge Children's Hematology/Oncology Clinic.



3 Team Ellie

Team Ellie includes thousands of people who all work together to make sure she has the best possible quality of life and care.

“ We spend a lot of time with our patients, a lot of time getting to know their brothers and sisters and their parents and their grandparents. It's pretty amazing that we can care for the entire family.

- Kristen Bishop,
Ellie's Child Life Specialist

“ Mary Bridge is our #1 choice for our children. They listen – and all the doctors and staff work together.

- Ellie's dad, Andy

Ellie needs her
Mary Bridge team.
Ellie needs her family.
Ellie needs you.



Supporting Ellie's Greatest Needs

Philanthropy is defined as the love of mankind. Mary Bridge is defined by the love of children. There is a special fund at Mary Bridge – Where the Need Is Greatest – that supports some of Ellie's greatest needs. It is generously funded by donor contributions and stewarded by community volunteers. Ellie's greatest needs include:

Pediatric Complex Care Support Team: a team that coordinates all of Ellie's care and treatment and provides support to Ellie's family.

Child Life Services Team: specialists who care for Ellie's social and emotional welfare through play and fun distractions.

Mary Bridge Good Samaritan Children's Therapy Unit: a center for children with special needs where Ellie receives orthotics (special shoes) and therapies.

Family-Centered Intensive Care: when Ellie needs to stay overnight at Mary Bridge, her mom or dad can sleep by her side. Generous donors helped renovate the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, which includes beds and private showers for parents.

Financial Assistance: Mary Bridge provides care for all children, regardless of ability to pay. Donor contributions help eliminate the financial burden for Mary Bridge families, where nearly 70 percent of children served are on Medicaid.

