

Adopting A Toy Closet

Helping Children Heal



Toys have an amazing way of making kids smile, distracting them during unpleasant times and helping them look past their pain. At Cardon Children's Medical Center in Mesa and Banner Thunderbird Medical Center in Glendale, we have created closets stocked with hundreds of new, unused toys to help pediatric patients of all ages find joy in their hospital experience.

"It's amazing what that small choice of picking a toy can do for the attitude of a hospitalized child who doesn't generally have many choices."

The hospital environment is one in which children have few choices, so we created a comprehensive Toy Closet program to ensure they can have a voice and a choice when it matters most. These toy-filled havens are located adjacent to patient treatment rooms. Following any treatment or procedure, children take a trip to the closet so they can choose a toy as a reward for their bravery.

The Toy Closets are managed by Child Life specialists trained to help children understand and participate in their medical experience through therapeutic and recreational play opportunities using age-appropriate toys and activities.

Help improve the hospital experience by "adopting" a Toy Closet

By making a \$10,000 donation, you can help keep our Toy Closets stocked with toys, games and activities for children of all ages—infants to teens. In addition to putting smiles on the faces of ill and injured children, you will receive name recognition on the Toy Closet for a period of 12 months. And, as an added bonus, you'll be recognized with a photo announcing your commitment in FRIENDS Magazine, Banner Health Foundation's signature donor publication.

"Adopting" a Toy Closet also provides an opportunity for you to rally support for children in our community by organizing toy drives to keep your closet stocked.

"A toy may be small thing, but it can go a long way in helping a child face a frightening situation through distraction and comfort," said Sue Eaton, director of Child Life at Cardon Children's Medical Center.

For more information about "adopting" a Toy Closet or permanent naming opportunities, please contact Banner Health Foundation at (602) 747-GIVE (4483) or via e-mail at foundationinfo@bannerhealth.com.