



The Vannie E. Cook Jr.
CHILDREN'S CANCER AND
HEMATOLOGY CLINIC



The clinic is a comprehensive pediatric cancer treatment center created through a joint effort of the Vannie E. Cook Jr. Cancer Foundation, Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Cancer and Hematology Centers.

Affiliated with

Baylor
College of
Medicine



At Texas Children's Cancer Center® and the Vannie Cook Clinic, we are proud to say we help children fight and defeat cancer every single day. With powerful new weapons in our arsenal and incredible breakthroughs in technology and genetics, more than 80 percent of children diagnosed in the United States will survive. Since the 1950s, Texas Children's has waged war on childhood cancer. Our team's contributions have helped push the science – and the survival rates – of pediatric oncology to new heights.

Extending our mission to the Rio Grande Valley

At Texas Children's, we believe our responsibility to care for children doesn't begin and end with those who are able to come to us for help. We have an obligation to identify and address critical gaps in coverage, whether they are near or far.

Through a partnership between the Vannie E. Cook Jr. Cancer Foundation, Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital, the Vannie Cook Clinic has provided comprehensive, high-quality diagnostic and treatment services for pediatric cancer and hematology patients of South Texas since 2001.

The Vannie Cook Clinic is one of four Texas Children's Cancer Center regional sites, in addition to three locations in Houston.

Receiving a diagnosis of cancer for a child is one of the worst moments in any parent's life. Families want to know that their child is being cared for by the best experts in the field and receiving the most advanced therapies available. As the largest pediatric cancer and hematology center in the U.S., we have access to the latest and most innovative treatments, research and clinical trial networks in the world. If there's anything out there that can help, we will get it. It's all part of our promise to be there, fighting this battle with our patients and their families as if it were our own.

Offering care where it's needed most

Prior to the creation of the Vannie Cook Clinic families in the Rio Grande Valley were forced to drive hundreds of miles away to receive the necessary cancer treatments for their child. Since treatments can be one or more times a week, the commute was a considerable burden, often with dire consequences for the family or the child's care.

As the region's first and only fully comprehensive pediatric oncology and hematology clinic with local physicians, our mission is to provide all patients with the highest level of care regardless of their families' ability to pay.

To date, more than 9,500 families in the region have found the care they need right where they need it the most, in their own backyard.

Ninety-five percent of Vannie Cook Clinic patients will not have to travel beyond the Rio Grande Valley for their care. Less than five percent will travel to Texas Children's Hospital in Houston and only to receive specialized high-acuity care not available in their community.

Texas Children's Hospital is consistently ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the best children's hospitals in the nation with expertise in every type of pediatric cancer.



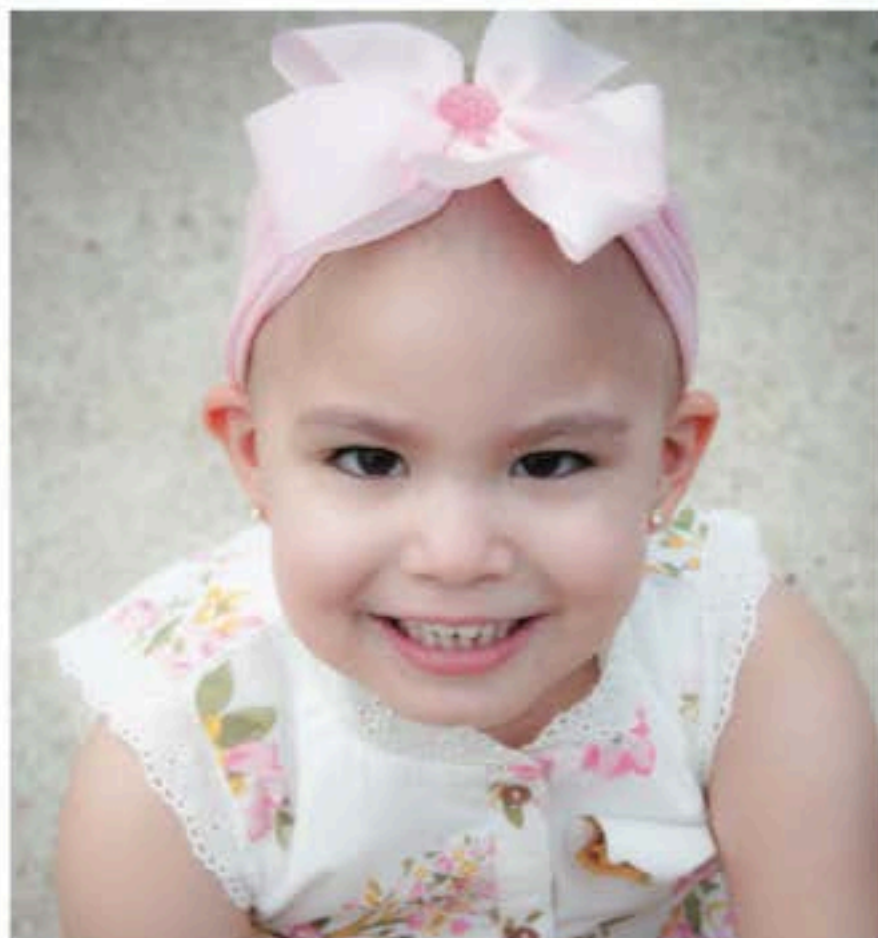
Children who are battling cancer need every bit of strength and support their families can provide. But parents and family members are also under enormous stress and strain. In addition to state-of-the-art diagnostic services and the most up-to-date therapies for pediatric cancer, Vannie Cook Clinic provides programs vital to positive outcomes for children and their families, including a psychosocial support program, a long-term survivor program, in-house laboratory services and a childhood cancer research program that offers participation in clinical trials and epidemiology studies.

Advancing the fight

Our commitment to the patient and family starts at diagnosis and continues throughout treatment and beyond, helping our patients and their families cope with the emotional, social and financial challenges along the way. Our treatment team is comprised of four full-time, board-certified pediatric hematologist/oncologists, chemotherapy-certified registered nurses, research staff and a master's level social worker. A multidisciplinary team approach ensures we deliver the best possible care with compassion for the patient and family.

The desire to prevent delays and expedite lifesaving care and treatment prompted the Vannie Cook Clinic to open the first and only flow cytometry laboratory in the Rio Grande Valley in 2012. With on-site access to this technology, patients receive a more rapid and accurate leukemia diagnosis. This is a crucial step as over 40% of our patients are fighting leukemia.

As an official Children's Oncology Group (COG) member since 2014, the Vannie Cook Clinic is able to enroll eligible pediatric patients in available COG clinical trials. We have enrolled over 200 patients in research studies, an important accomplishment, as the predominantly Hispanic population in this community is largely underrepresented in national trials. Not only does COG membership significantly improve care and research for children with cancer in the Rio Grande Valley, it also contributes to national knowledge about the special needs of Hispanic children and underserved communities.



By the numbers

Since opening in 2001:

83,000

total outpatient visits

9,500

patients served

Each year we have:

Over

580

new patients

80

new cancer diagnoses

6,900

outpatient visits

11,000

laboratory tests analyzed

4 physicians

15

staff members

Over

100

nurses trained in chemotherapy administration

Over

750

local nursing students trained

Over

50

research studies as a Children's Oncology Group member institution

10

active clinical trials

200

patients currently enrolled in clinical trials

2

accredited laboratories, including the region's only pediatric flow cytometry laboratory

200

long-term pediatric cancer survivors followed



How can you help?

To continue the fight against pediatric cancer in the South Texas, it truly takes a village. Our community has been incredibly generous in its support, and we couldn't do it without your commitment and kindness. Here are some ways you can personally help children in our area survive and thrive after a cancer diagnosis.

Donate

Help us continue our mission of offering hope, comfort and healing to the children of our community, right here at home. To make a donation, please visit texaschildrens.org/vanniecook and click on **Make a Gift to the Vannie Cook Clinic**. You can also simply mail your donation to the address listed below. Every donation supports local efforts of the clinic. Special events and fundraisers are also a fun way to make a thoughtful gift. If you are interested in hosting a fundraising event, please contact Victoria Guerra at **832-828-1705, 956-661-9840** or vamartin@txch.org.

Volunteer

Volunteers make a difference to children, their families and the clinic staff every day of the year. Volunteers can be individuals, groups or organizations who volunteer on-site or off-site. On-site volunteers must be at least 15 years old, attend volunteer orientation and commit to at least 12 hours of volunteer service each month. For more information on volunteering or to host a patient event, please contact Yadhira Huerta at **832-828-1702, 956-661-9840** or yyhuerta@txch.org.

Referrals and contact

Our physicians and staff work closely with referring physicians to maintain excellent and seamless continuity of care. Physicians may refer a patient by faxing referral information to **956-661-9841** or e-mailing vanniecookreferrals@texaschildrens.org. For more information or to speak to a physician regarding a referral, please call **956-661-9840**. Our physicians are available to discuss referrals at any time.



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