



WVU Medicine Children's Hospital receives \$100K Hyundai grant to support cancer research

October 14, 2025

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — WVU Medicine Children's Hospital on Tuesday was awarded a \$100,000 grant from Hyundai's "Hope on Wheels" campaign, a gift that hospital officials say will support pediatric cancer programs and research at the Morgantown facility.

A hand-print ceremony took place Tuesday outside the hospital. Current and former young cancer patients, accompanied by hospital leaders and Hyundai representatives, dipped their hands in paint and pressed them onto a Hyundai vehicle, symbolizing the joint effort to combat childhood cancer.

Officials said the grant is part of Hyundai Hope on Wheels' annual donations through local and national dealership fundraising efforts. Since its creation in 1998, the campaign has awarded more than \$277 million in grants to institutions across the country.



Dr. Patrick Tomboc, director of pediatric oncology at WVU Medicine Children's, takes part in a hand-print ceremony Tuesday celebrating a \$100,000 grant award from Hyundai's "Hope on Wheels" campaign.

Dr. Patrick Tomboc, director of pediatric oncology at WVU Medicine Children's, said the funding will be used for clinical care, support services for families and pilot research projects that might otherwise lack resources.

"What this money does for us is it helps our patients to be kids, it helps them get the therapy they need, it helps them get through this," Tomboc said. "That has given us the ability to really be able to care for people with their support systems and with their families around them, and I can't express how important that is."

Hospital leadership joined in unveiling the check and celebrating with patients who contributed to the handprint display.

Hyundai officials attending the event emphasized the visual power of the handprint ceremony: A tangible reminder of community, hope and solidarity. A representative noted that every handprint reflects both a personal journey and a collective mission.

“We’re here to solve pediatric cancer, but we’re also here to be a part of the community,” said Phan Tran, merchandising manager at Hyundai. “We’re here to share those stories with the community and to be a part of it.”

Tran noted that over the 27 years of the program, Hyundai Hope on Wheels has become the largest private funder of pediatric cancer research in the country, with \$277 million going toward the cause.

The vehicle bearing the handprints will be displayed at a local Hyundai dealership in Morgantown in the weeks ahead, organizers said, to raise awareness of the hospital’s cancer programs and the ongoing need for support.