



**AT MEYER**

The children's hospital in Florence

**AT MEYER**

**PRESENTATION**

**WITH NUMBERS**

**WITH A WARM WELCOME**

**WITH CARE**

**WITH RESEARCH**

**WITH TRAINING**





**WITH SUSTAINABILITY**

**WITH FRIENDSHIP**

**WITH HEALTH**

**WITH THE MEYER FOUNDATION**

**WITH MEYER WHICH IS GROWING UP**



AT MEYER / **PRESENTATION**

**At Meyer**, a university hospital of the Tuscan Regional Health Service, the entire organization is dedicated to ensuring the highest quality of healthcare for its young patients, as well as support for their families.

The hospital's team of professionals performs clinical, training and research activities in an integrated way, making new treatments that often make the difference, or are only offered here, available to patients.

An ability to transfer, when possible, innovations identified through research activities toward priority healthcare needs allows the construction of pathways that permit early diagnosis and prompt treatment using the best therapies – even when dealing with rare conditions.

The children's hospital is located in Florence and has maintained deep roots within the city. It has remained faithful to its generous history even when undergoing change, which is a testimonial and example for future choices during the current phase of expansion.

The hospital, built in 1884 by the Knight Commander Giovanni Meyer in memory of his late wife Anna, was one of the first in Italy to deal exclusively with children's healthcare, from birth to adolescence.

Transferred to a larger location in 2007, the new hospital, with the support of the Tuscany Region, has never stopped growing and welcoming children from all over the world.

Children and their families can rely on a network of parent and volunteer associations that are the hospital's special bedrock and asset, and that contribute to making Meyer a small and lively community.

This community can count on the active and affectionate support of the Meyer Foundation, which with the donations of many individuals, companies and associations is a fundamental partner in various projects and initiatives concerning the treatment and well-being of children and their families.

Meyer, which is immersed in the greenery of the Florentine hills and surrounded by a large park, has reconciled the presence of a pre-existing historical building with other architectural elements constructed with advanced sustainability criteria.

It is now ready to keep growing in terms of space and clinical and research activities, and to serve as a point of reference and coordination of the regional pediatric network entrusted to it by the Tuscany Region.

In order to do this, the entire hospital (staff, professionals, patients, relatives, associations and management) is making plans every day, looking forward and learning from the best whenever possible.

In some cases it is an example for others, with the objective of giving the best for the care and health of children, together.

**At Meyer** we are preparing to keep growing, with a clearly defined goal: to give a home to all of the potential for healthcare, training and research that over the years has made the children's hospital in Florence an international leader.

**The Meyer Children's Hospital**



**247** beds

**8,898** regular patients discharged

**24,515** day hospital patients discharged

**1.48** average DRG weight of discharged patients

**1,730,564** patients treated (outpatients and inpatients)

**611,409** health services provided (outpatients)

**44,841** emergency room patients

**4,220** regular surgical procedures

**3,090** day surgery procedures

**21.34%** percentage of regular and day hospital patients from outside Tuscany

**40.25%** percentage of high complexity DRG patients from outside Tuscany


AT MEYER / **WITH NUMBERS**





AT MEYER / **WITH A WARM WELCOME**





Pudding, Muffin, Meatball. Doctor Fresco the magician and Matilde the violinist, who seems like the Pied Piper. At Meyer you can meet them too: the dogs of pet therapy, clowns and musicians. They represent the other face of care, professional comfort-givers who help make waiting for an appointment or days spent hospitalized more bearable.

Thanks to the support of the Meyer Foundation, the hospital can count on this added value where even playing becomes part of the treatment, with a colorful playroom open seven days a week.

But that's not all. At Meyer we haven't forgotten that when a child is unwell, their whole family needs support: for this reason, for example, there is a strong commitment to helping them find accommodation during the hospital stay.

A Hospitality Service has been created thanks to agreements with charitable foundations and associations: a true hospitality network reserved for the relatives of hospitalized children that guarantees free accommodation for the families who need it most.

Children who have to spend long periods of time in the hospital can continue their studies with the support of elementary, middle and high school teachers.

This is all part of the 'warm welcome' and is intended to be a special medicine for children and their parents, so that they can feel closer to home even when sick.

AT MEYER / **WITH RESEARCH**





With its wide range of clinical specialties, Meyer, which is also a university hospital, is uniquely positioned to carry out research on the most complex and rare childhood diseases. Meyer always has many ongoing research projects, ranging from observational studies to clinical trials of drugs.

The production of translational research that is always oriented toward the young patients is combined with a commitment to promoting collaborations with academic and industrial partners.

With the support of experts in complementary fields, our researchers use advanced techniques and equipment to:

- **Understand** and **prevent** the onset and progression of childhood diseases
- **Develop** new and improved diagnostic approaches
- **Pave** the way for innovative treatments and therapies
- **Carry out** high quality clinical studies on medicines and therapies
- **Evaluate** disease progression and the impact of treatments



## AT MEYER / WITH CARE

Thanks to the quality of diagnosis, treatment and research, one child out of every four at Meyer comes from regions even quite far away from Tuscany.

The Florentine hospital is considered to be an important point of reference for many specialties such as neuroscience, neurosurgery, pediatric oncology, respiratory endoscopy and the entire spectrum of rare and metabolic disorders. The hospital's team of professionals associates a special personal commitment with expertise and a multi-disciplinary approach.

The ability to transfer the results of scientific research into clinical practice in order to meet the needs that emerge at the bedsides of young patients allows us to create truly unique therapeutic pathways in various sectors such as immunology, infectious diseases, genetics, gastroenterology, nephrology, cardiology, rheumatology, ophthalmology, pediatric allergology, pediatric diabetes and cystic fibrosis, to name just a few. Minimally invasive approaches in pediatric and neonatal surgery and urology are also highly innovative.

Meyer is home to the Center for Primary Immunodeficiency Disorders, which has received international recognition from the Jeffrey Modell Foundation.



AT MEYER / **WITH TRAINING**





At Meyer education and training are a bit like a “gym” – a physical and virtual space in which knowledge is continuously acquired and ways to think, models, treatments and motivations are shared.

In order to ensure advanced therapies and continuity of care, the healthcare team works in a multi-disciplinary way, applying both skill and passion.

An investment in continuing education accompanies each improvement process and promotes the growth of the next generation of professionals.

At Meyer training and ways of learning are based on the fundamental lever of the transmission of knowledge, with an approach centered on the personalization of the therapeutic relationship and the centrality of the young patients, while welcoming and recognizing the input of parents.



AT MEYER / **WITH SUSTAINABILITY**



They're called "Pinocchio's Hats" because of their shape, which is reminiscent of the cap of Collodi's puppet. They emerge here and there on Meyer's terraces and roof, creating a magical atmosphere. They are the points of light that allow the collection of the sun's rays to bring it to areas that would otherwise be dark: corridors, offices and clinics. They are one of the solutions that the hospital has adopted so that natural light is everywhere.

This is one of many choices that Meyer has used to respect its natural surroundings, such as the wide use of wood and simple non-toxic materials.

An emblem of this green approach is the Hall Serra ("Greenhouse Hall"), which makes energy saving its message thanks to the solar panels inserted in the wide panes of glass. Even the architectural complex, at the base of the Florentine hills, has a "light touch", blending in with a context of absolute environmental value.

In this way Meyer, a place for care, has tried to be in equilibrium with the park that surrounds it, translating the concept of sustainability across the board and recognizing its therapeutic power.





AT MEYER / **WITH FRIENDSHIP**



Meyer has always, ever since it was founded, had special friends – friends on which it can count. These volunteer associations and parent associations and foundations are a point of reference for the hospital, and tirelessly work for the young patients and their families.

Each association interprets its role and supports families on the basis of different pathologies, drawing upon their own personal experiences in the hospital, which lend themselves to being returned with opportunities to show concrete support, solidarity and warmth to other children and families.

The exchange of information, personal support and resolution of practical problems mark, during illness and healing, some morsels of friendship that are often remembered with special gratitude by both those who offer and those who receive.



AT MEYER / **WITH HEALTH**




First of all heal, then stay healthy. A hospital stay can, in some cases, be an opportunity to reinforce the preventive and health-promoting skills of children and families. Meyer does this, for example, starting with the hospital's catering, with organic and locally sourced foods.

Lemons, oil, apples, pears, vegetables and medicinal herbs come from a farm close to the hospital and dieticians explain to the children why they should prefer some foods over others, especially in the presence of certain pathologies.

In short, maximum attention to the properties of foods and how they are provided is part of the treatment and creates health at Meyer.

AT MEYER / **WITH THE MEYER FOUNDATION**





Experimental and translational research activities can count on a special ally: the Meyer Foundation.

Thanks to the work of the Foundation and its targeted fundraising activity, scientific projects and projects to update the hospital from a technological point of view that are of strategic importance for its continuous scientific and clinical growth can be supported. Many hospitality projects dedicated to children and families constitute an added value that is integrated into the care pathway. All this allows the young patients to live in a comfortable environment, rich with colors and curiosities, to participate in the many activities of the playroom's educational workshops, to listen to music together with parents, and to share in the playfulness of clowns and the pet therapy experience.

Furthermore, the Foundation's Research Center has the main objective of promoting activities for the "protection of children's rights around the world" and studying how illness is experienced, not only in a reductively organicistic conception, but in a holistic definition that sees the child and the entire family live through an experience of great psychological, emotional and social strain. The Foundation pursues its objectives according to principles of equity, efficiency and transparency, and makes public reporting an indispensable moment of "accountability" and value-related identity on which to base its activities.

[www.fondazionemeyer.it](http://www.fondazionemeyer.it)



AT MEYER / **WHICH IS GROWING UP**





The quality and complexity of the pediatric care provided, together with its special structural characteristics, configure the role of Meyer as the pediatric point of reference in the region.

The scenario toward which the hospital will be moving over the next five years takes into account the needs for clinical, training and research growth, starting with the creation of the Meyer Health Campus.

The Meyer Health Campus (MHC), in cooperation with the University of Florence, will concentrate the pediatric residency programs and aspires to become a national point of reference for training in pediatrics.

It can also consolidate forms of collaboration for continuing education in medicine with primary care pediatricians. There will be space for medical simulation, for providing innovative training experiences to specialists, or for developing 'community education' dedicated to parents and children.

All of this by reuniting "education and training" in one location near the hospital, so as to create a large hub to attract young people into a stimulating and highly educational environment.

MHC will offer residential opportunities, clinical training and research training, as well as spaces dedicated to the wellness of hospital staff.





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