

# In memory of Jackson

## A mother's testimony of care at Children's

*Editor's note: Marie Crowe wrote the following about her son, Jackson David Crowe, and his experience at Children's as a newborn heart patient.*

A few years ago, I was preparing a lesson for our daughter Hannah's first-grade Sunday school class. The lesson focused on how God sends people to help us when we are in trouble. In the process, I was struck by the realization that for my husband David and me, the clearest example of God caring for us through others when we were in trouble and desperate was our experience at Children's Medical Center.

When our second child, Jackson David Crowe, was born, his defective heart valve was a total surprise. A few days after birth, we transferred our critically ill baby to Children's.

When we arrived, everything was in place to treat our son: facilities, equipment, supplies and expert staff. We realized that we were benefiting from the vision and generosity of all those who had come before us who had made sure that Children's was here when we needed it most.

We lost count of the consulting specialists and the resulting bills. We were fortunate to have very good medical insurance, but I know even if we hadn't, it would not have affected the care we received.

The team that treated Jackson got him strong enough and stable enough for open-heart surgery when he was not quite two weeks old. He made it through the surgery and put up a brave struggle, but died the following week.

In spite of – or perhaps because of – this enormous tragedy for our family, it became clear what a special place Children's is. The staff cared not only for our son; they cared for us as well. And when our son died, they offered their support.

We wish so much that our baby had lived. But, to be able to walk our journey of grief without the extra burden of guilt, doubt

or second-guessing, is the tremendous gift Children's continues to give us. We know our son was cared for in the best possible place – if he could have been saved, he would have been saved – by the competent, caring people at Children's. ■

### Crowes make donation to hospital in honor of son's care

After Jackson's death, David and Marie Crowe made a donation to the cardiac program at Children's to show their appreciation for the care they had received. The following year, the Crowes made an additional gift to create an endowment for the cardiac program, in memory of their son. Every year, they continue to fund that endowment, knowing it is a fitting tribute that an endowment bearing their son's name will help children with heart problems long into the future.

"We give to Children's for two simple reasons," Crowe said. "The need is great and we have witnessed firsthand the careful, thoughtful and responsible manner in which our gifts have been used. We want to do our part to ensure that when other families need urgent, expert care for one of their children, like we did, Children's will be there waiting for them."



In appreciation of all the Crowes have given to Children's, a colorful animal sculpture, "Jack Rabbit," near the hospital's 11th floor waiting room, is dedicated to the memory of their son, Jackson David Crowe. From left, the family is David, Hannah, Andrew and Marie.