

The **Primary Promise** Campaign

Building the Nation's Model Health System for Children

Utah Fetal Center

PROJECT OBJECTIVE: Strengthen Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City

What if...you could ensure that unborn babies with birth defects receive lifesaving surgery in utero?

THE SITUATION

Through fetal surgery, surgeons are now able to remove tumors or other dangerous growths and repair structural defects in a baby's heart, lungs, or nervous system — defects that formerly led to impaired heart function, spina bifida, and even death. Until now, parents in Primary Children's Hospital's six-state, 400,000-square-mile service area have had to look outside of the Intermountain West for this kind of intervention. The new Utah Fetal Center will offer lifesaving treatments to expectant mothers and their unborn babies, right in their backyard. Consider that:

- Utah is booming, with one of the fastest-growing populations in the United States over the last decade.
- The region projects a staggering 50% increase in the pediatric service population by 2040, making fetal surgery services ever more imperative.

- The ability to detect and repair birth defects in utero was previously available in the Intermountain West only in Denver and California.
- In the U.S., 120,000 families each year receive the terrifying news that their unborn child has a birth defect.

THE CRITICAL NEED

Every 4½ minutes, a baby is born with a birth defect in the United States. For severe birth defects, the health and lifespan of the child can be severely impacted.

In years past, there would have been no solution for these families except to wait until the baby was born, which often resulted in less-than-ideal outcomes for the child. Today, advances in fetal surgery allow skilled surgeons to perform corrective surgery in utero, significantly reducing the risk of debilitating pain and physical limitations for the child.

THE PROMISE: Bringing Fetal Surgery to Utah

Through a collaboration between Primary Children's Hospital and the University of Utah, the new

Utah Fetal Center will provide lifesaving fetal surgery. Equipped with advanced fetal imaging and antenatal monitoring equipment, the Center will provide a calm, supportive environment for expectant mothers and families. Private "nesting rooms" will accommodate families during long appointment days. Dedicated conference spaces will provide comfortable, confidential places where families and clinicians can confer on care plans.

In addition to allowing Primary Children's Hospital to recruit leading national researchers to

advance innovative fetal research, the new Utah Fetal Center will:

- Establish a best-in-class fetal intervention team and facility.
- Offer family support groups, childbirth classes, and psychological services.
- Extend the Center's reach to distant communities through telemedicine.
- Help develop a fetal database needed to pinpoint best practices.
- Facilitate training for the next generation of caregivers.
- Provide funding for travel, room and board, and daily needs for families with limited means.
- Offer vital education materials .

HELP US KEEP THE PROMISE

The Primary Promise Campaign is seeking philanthropic support to create the Utah Fetal Center, which will offer advanced surgical techniques and other life-changing fetal health resources for mothers experiencing at-risk pregnancies.

Donors to *The Primary Promise Campaign* have an opportunity to rewrite the life stories of untold

numbers of children and families across our community. Because of their generosity, fetal surgery will correct congenital abnormalities for thousands of unborn infants, enabling those children to grow into healthy adults, living life to the fullest and making countless contributions to the community.