On October 4th, University of Chicago Medicine held the 2015 Comer Children's Hospital RBC Run for the Kids. Over 1,800 people participated in the event, which raised more than $300,000 through sponsors, participants, donors, and volunteers. Comer Food Pantry team members joined in the race, and collectively raised over $500.

Participants ran and walked the 5K route that started and ended on the University of Chicago campus, taking them through Hyde Park and past the Museum of Science and Industry.

About Comer Food Pantry
The Comer Food Pantry was founded in 2010 by a group of Pritzker medical students, Comer Children's Hospital staff, and University of Chicago faculty. We partner with the Greater Chicago Food Depository to supply food to families of Comer Children's Hospital.

The Comer Food Pantry operates in the 2nd (NICU), 4th (PICU), 5th and 6th floor family lounges in Comer Children's Hospital. Food is free and available to all families of Comer patients, any time during the day or night. There are no requirements to receive food, nor limits on how much families may take, making the Food Pantry welcoming and accessible to anyone in need.

Why is there a food pantry inside of a hospital?
Although the hospital attracts patients from throughout the Midwest, its primary patient population is from the South Side of Chicago. Our communities experience some of the highest rates of food insecurity in the city—in some neighborhoods, more than half of residents don’t know where their next meal will come from.

Food insecurity has been linked to negative health outcomes in both children and adults. We started the Comer Food Pantry in response to anecdotal evidence from hospital staff suggesting that parents were going hungry at their children’s bedside. The Food Pantry aims to address the issue of food insecurity experienced by family members during a child’s hospitalization.

The Comer Food Pantry is led by researchers from the South Side Health & Vitality Studies at the Lindau Lab. This work is supported by the University of Chicago Medicine Urban Health Initiative and generous donations from individuals.

Donate to the Comer Food Pantry! We couldn’t do this without you.
If you’d like to make a donation, please contact Isabella Joslin at (773) 834-5890 or ijoslin@bsd.uchicago.edu

The youngest participants were invited to run in the Kids’ Dash, a two-hundred yard race for those six years and younger. Older children participated in the Kids’ Mile, a one-mile course that took them on a loop from the University campus to 57th St.

The money raised from this run will enable University of Chicago Medicine to support and bolster the cutting-edge scientific research at Comer Children's Hospital, and to provide the best possible care for patients.

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Welcome!
This is the fifth edition of our quarterly newsletter for those interested in supporting the Comer Food Pantry.

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