



Shilpa Abbitt pets Targa, a hospital therapy dog at The Children's Hospital at OU Medical Center.

Photo by Brandon Snider

Lending a Helping Paw

After the death of her son Austin in 2013, Shilpa Abbitt focused her philanthropy on helping kids remain kids – especially those who have chronic or life-threatening illnesses. To expand her charitable impact, she established the Big A Charitable Fund at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation.

“Hospitals can be frightening for young children,” said Shilpa. “The Big A Charitable Fund was created to help them be kids and better cope with their situation.”

In 2017, Shilpa’s philanthropy came with furry paws and a bushy tail as a gift from her fund helped Oklahoma City’s Children’s Hospital Volunteers obtain an additional therapy dog to provide loving comfort for its young patients.

