

CURRENTS

FOR SUPPORTERS OF LA RABIDA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



Team Maggie

Michelle Vazquez gets excited when she talks about the milestones her toddler has reached at La Rabida Children's Hospital. "Maggie is stronger, more confident, and more verbal. She can crawl. She can pull herself up to standing!" Vazquez recently shared with supporters at the summer Lawn Fete.

Perhaps the three-year-old's most exciting feat is her ability to safely sit in a tub. "I don't have to support her. I just watch as she washes her baby and plays in the water." Most parents may take such milestones for granted, but this mother of two girls is grateful.

Magdalena "Maggie" was born in 2008 to Vazquez and husband Albert. The couple worried when Maggie arrived



The Vazquez Family

eight weeks premature and spent weeks in the hospital before going home. Just after her first birthday, the family learned Maggie had cerebral palsy, a likely result of her early birth. A year later, the toddler underwent adduction surgery to reset her hip. The specialty cast she wore following the surgery held the joint in place as it healed.

Last winter, Maggie and mom moved into Cabin 25 on the S.S. La Rabida for rehabilitation. With the "muscle equivalency of a wet noodle," Maggie worked with an interdisciplinary team to rebuild strength to perform everyday activities.

"Team Maggie" included a physiatrist and nurses, along with physical therapists, occupational therapists, developmental therapists and speech-

language pathologists. Michelle Vazquez said the team reached all areas of the hospital to include high-level administrators, who doubled as the food service crew during the February blizzard.

"La Rabida provided a place for me to sleep and bathe, along with food vouchers. It was vital for Maggie's success that a close family member always be there. She needed emotional support to meet the physical demands," Michelle said after her speech.

Today, Maggie continues to amaze her own mother as she works with her team on an outpatient basis.

"Maggie still has cerebral palsy. But she has experienced so many tiny miracles. Because of La Rabida, walking is a real possibility for her," she said.



Trustee Bob Arthur and longtime supporter Frankie Alper

Gala Preview ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Friends of La Rabida Awards Dinner will be Friday, Nov. 18 at the Four Seasons. Honorees include James Wooten, Illinois Tool Works; Magellan Corporation and PNC's Grow Up Great school readiness program. For more information call 312.553.2000 or visit larabida.org

Lawn Fete

Lawn Fete welcomed more than 200 friends of the hospital on June 22



Joey Edwin Duo



CEO Brenda Wolf and Maggie



Michelle Vazquez

Women in Support of La Rabida

The Spirit of Chicago rocked with more than 440 guests to raise money for La Rabida



Joyce Johnson-Miller and guests

Golf

More than 200 golfers enjoyed the 22nd Annual Golf Classic at Harborside International. Dave Patzwald and Mark and Beth Jacobs served as co-chairs of the fundraiser, which featured contests, a raffle and prizes.

Save the date for the 2012 outing on August 6 at Harborside!



Board Co-Chairman Peggy Gann, husband Dow and guests



Brenda Wolf with golf outing Co-Chairs



Golfers enjoying the day



Pre-golf activities

Brenda Wolf Takes Helm as CEO



Brenda Wolf has served in leadership roles at La Rabida Children's Hospital for more than 20 years. From marketing director to vice president of marketing and government relations to executive vice president, Wolf has overseen many of the institution's vital areas.

On July 1, she took on a new title – president and chief executive officer.

As CEO, Wolf's challenge is to lead the most Medicaid-dependent hospital in the state through the current economic storm of health care that threatens funding and quality of care to underserved patients.

The skills she has used in recent accomplishments – the launch of an electronic medical record system, a patient monitoring system, and plans to enhance outpatient facilities – will be critical in leading the hospital. In addition, Wolf helped direct the hospital's successful effort to be recognized by the prestigious National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) for its medical home programs.

Wolf began as marketing director in 1988. In subsequent roles of increasing responsibility, Wolf established key functions such as government relations and as COO oversaw the hospital's day-to-day operations.

She also led major building projects including the design and construction of the award-winning nautical themed S.S. La Rabida inpatient unit.

Wolf said she looks forward to continuing the mission of the hospital, founded 115 years ago to serve the community's most vulnerable children regardless of their family's ability to pay. At that time, area children were victims of disease due, in part, to poor food storage systems. "Today, we serve patients with different conditions, but we're still here for those who need us most," she said.

Toy Donors

Whether you are donating a toy or organizing a drive, please visit larabida.org to view the wish list of our boys and girls.

Hospital Earns National Recognition for Medical Home Programs

La Rabida Children's Hospital has earned recognition from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) for its medical home programs, which offer high-quality, patient-centered, primary care to children with special health care needs.

La Rabida is the only pediatric facility in Illinois to receive the NCQA "Physician Practice Connections-Patient-Centered Medical Home" (PCC-PCMH) designation.

To qualify, the hospital had to prove it met the standards of the PCMH, which reflect the goals of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and other prominent medical provider organizations.

The hospital offers patients and families medical home programs in the areas of prematurity, adolescent care, chronic disease including lung conditions, failure to thrive, and developmental delays.

Jennifer Edwards, DrPH, a principal at Health Management Associates (HMA), one of the nation's leading health care research and consulting organizations, is an expert on child health care quality. She said the national recognition reinforces that La Rabida is on the right track with patient care. "The NCQA has recognized La Rabida Children's Hospital's outstanding efforts to provide coordinated care to one of Chicago's most challenging populations - medically complex children," Edwards said.

The NCQA recognition is valid for three years. The agency is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to improving health care quality. NCQA accredits and certifies a wide range of health care organizations.



Trustees Bring Corporate and Legal Experience to Hospital

Sharon R. Barner and Rosemarie Donzanti recently joined the La Rabida Children's Hospital Board of Trustees.

Barner, a partner with Foley & Lardner, and chair of the firm's Intellectual Property Department, specializes in patents, copyright infringement and unfair competition disputes. She most recently served as deputy undersecretary of commerce for intellectual property and deputy director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

We are pleased to welcome Barner back as a member of the Board of Trustees. She served previously in 2008 before her national appointment.



Sharon R. Barner

She works with the Intellectual Property Law Association of Chicago (IPLAC).

Donzanti is senior vice president of Customer Care Service for CVS/Caremark, the nation's premier integrated pharmacy services provider. In addition to customer care, Donzanti

Barner earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Michigan and graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree from Syracuse University.



Rosemarie Donzanti

Donzanti has more than 20 years of experience, 10 of which were with health care-related organizations.

She earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Northwestern University and a bachelor's degree from Loyola University.

oversees the areas of resource planning and client Support Management.

She serves on the CVS Caremark Employee Relief Fund and the company's Women's Success Network.

John Cunningham, MD, Joins La Rabida Sickle Cell Staff



John Cunningham, MD, recently joined La Rabida as medical director of the Sickle Cell Program.

Cunningham is interna-

tionally recognized as an expert in the treatment and research of blood diseases, particularly in treating hemoglobinopathies, such as sickle cell

disease. He is also a leader in the field of pediatric stem cell transplantation, and has developed novel uses for the procedure.

The new appointment is in addition to his roles as chief of the section of pediatric hematology/oncology and director of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation at Comer Children's Hospital at the University of Chicago Medical Center. Cunningham is also a professor of pediatrics, physiology and stem cell research at the University of Chicago.

Cunningham joined longtime sickle cell physician, Uma Subramanian-Srinivasan, MD, as well as other new medical staff and Nurse Practitioner Yasmin Abdullah, RN, MSN, FNP-BC.

"The addition of Dr. Cunningham and the other new medical staff members was crucial in our mission to increase the number of children cared for, as well enhance the quality of care sickle cell disease patients receive," said La Rabida Children's Hospital Vice President of Medical Affairs Dilek Bishku, MD, MPH.

Cerebral Palsy Patients Welcome La Rabida Medical Home

CVS Caremark Charitable Trust donated \$25,000 to seed the Cerebral Palsy Medical Home Pilot Project, allowing La Rabida experts to coordinate and track primary and specialty care for up to 75 patients.

Ruby Roy, MD, and Lisa Thornton, MD, will co-direct the clinic, overseeing the coordination of care and an interdisciplinary staff comprised of nurse case managers, social workers, clinical dietitians and physical therapists. Roy will serve as the primary care physician and Thornton as the rehabilitative specialist.

The pediatric specialists will work as a team to offer family centered, patient-driven services in one place, eliminating the burden on caregivers of multiple appointments.



In addition, the grant allows the team to develop a system to track patient outcomes, monitor and evaluate the program's effectiveness and ensure ongoing team communication.

An advisory committee will provide parental and community feedback to the program.

The nationally recognized Premier Kids program at La Rabida provides the model for the Cerebral Palsy Medical Home Pilot Project.

That program, which serves children birth to age six who are at medical and developmental risk, was created in 2005 to comply with the goal of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to streamline the medical care of infants, children and adolescents.