

e-Currents

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Hoppy Easter from La Rabida!

This Easter, La Rabida welcomed a special visitor, the Easter Bunny. As the Easter Bunny hopped from room to room, making his annual rounds, he delivered handcrafted Easter baskets to patients aboard the S.S. La Rabida inpatient unit. Each basket included a variety of toys, books, art supplies, and blankets that were donated by Dawn Gerhard and Chubb Insurance. Our Child Life department helped assemble and personalize the baskets for patients and their siblings. Our patients and their families were dressed in their Sunday best for the festivities.



Our resident Easter Bunny, Al Kutchins, also serves on La Rabida's Board of Trustees. For the last 9 years, the Kutchins family has made their way down to the gem on the lake to celebrate Easter Sunday with patients.

Thank you to Al and Genie Kutchins, our generous donors, Dawn Gerhard and Chubb Insurance, the Child Life team, and the La Rabida community for helping to create an unforgettable Easter Sunday.

Jamiya's Journal

When Jamiya was just 6 months old, she came aboard the S.S. La Rabida inpatient unit as one of the hospital's youngest rehab patients after a near drowning incident. Jamiya spent three hours a day in therapy, working to relearn skills like holding her head up and sitting upright. After being discharged, Jamiya continued to visit La Rabida for outpatient physical, occupational, speech, and developmental therapies. Here, Jamiya worked closely with Molly, a La Rabida physical therapist. "I saw her for physical therapy from one year of age until she was close to 4," said Molly. "We worked to regain the gross motor skills she had lost in her accident, then surpass them to stand and walk on her own."



Jamiya, now 7 years old, is still a patient at La Rabida. As she grew up and her skills improved, Jamiya's treatment changed and she and Molly no longer worked together. But, that didn't mean that the bond had been broken. This spring, Jamiya and her mom, Clovetta, created a journal filled with photos of Jamiya and Molly, showcasing her journey through therapy to where she is today. "The Journal we created for Molly was full of history and shows the bond we share," says Clovetta. "The pictures show the time Molly took to help Jamiya from 6 months old up." By working together for a long period of time, Molly's dedication to helping Jamiya get stronger made a lasting impact that Jamiya still carries with her today.

"When I saw the Journal sitting on my desk and began to leaf through it, tears poured from my eyes," says Molly. "The tears were a combination of being floored with the thoughtfulness that this family took time to make this beautiful book for me that documented the time Jamiya and I worked together as well as feelings of pride as to how far Jamiya has come."

La Rabida in the News: The Chicago Citizen



The Chicago Citizen published an article discussing La Rabida's new Sickle Cell Integrated Pain Program, also known as SCIPP. This program is the latest advancement in the treatment of sickle cell at La Rabida, serving as a one-stop shop of services for patients. Learn more about SCIPP [here](#).

Celebrating the Volunteers Who Help Hope Grow at La Rabida



In honor of National Volunteer Week, La Rabida hosted its 34th annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner to celebrate and recognize those who have dedicated their time to the hospital and our patients. Guests dined alongside their fellow volunteers while listening to remarks from Brenda Wolf, La Rabida's President and CEO, and Tonisha Daniel, Manager of Volunteer Services. Volunteers who have devoted 5, 10, and 15 years of service were presented with recognition pins to represent their milestone and contribution to La Rabida and our mission.

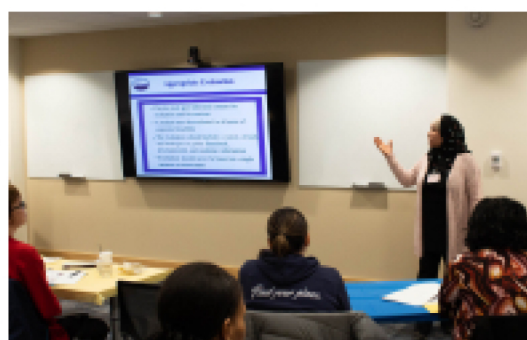
Volunteers help hope grow at La Rabida by creating a safe, nurturing environment for patients. Our volunteers improve the lives of our patients by helping them learn through our literacy and tutoring programs, create a fun and uplifting environment by assisting our Child Life department, provide comfort and support through our TLC and feeder-rocker programs, and much more.

We thank our volunteers for their time and commitment to improving the lives of our patients and their families.

The Hyde Park Herald highlighted La Rabida's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, recapping the ceremony and sharing stories from volunteers. Read more about the celebratory evening [here](#).

Working with Parents to Understand Special Education Rights

On April 10th, the Family Resource Center on Disabilities hosted a workshop at La Rabida for parents that discussed special education rights and how to help a child with disabilities succeed. Zoubida Pasha, Parent Advocate from the Family Resource Center on Disabilities, spoke to the parents of La Rabida patients about the Individualized Education Program (IEP). An IEP is a roadmap that helps students in the special education program make academic progress by meeting each child's individual needs.



Pasha walked parents and advocates through the special education laws, what they mean, and how they impact their children. The workshop provided La Rabida families with information about how to become an advocate for children in the special education system by giving them the tools they need to understand the resources and plans available to them. Parents shared that they learned how to make sure their children are in an educational program that best meets their needs, and expressed that having the opportunity to interact with fellow parents and freely ask questions of the speaker provided great insight for everyone. Understanding how the special education system works will help ensure that patients succeed academically.

Welcoming La Rabida's Newest Board Members



Adam Ortega, principal at Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, recently joined La Rabida's Board of Trustees. Baker Tilly is one of the nation's lead accounting firms. With over fourteen years of experience in valuation services, Ortega's background has helped him serve clients across various industries including financial services, telecommunications, industrial products, and more.



La Rabida welcomes Josh Chapman, COO and Treasurer of Matter, to our Board of Trustees. Matter is a healthcare startup incubator with a mission to develop next-generation technologies. Chapman served as the CEO of GiveForward, a medical care crowdfunding service, before joining Matter in 2017.

Thank you, GEMS Academy!



Thank you to GEMS World Academy-Chicago for helping support La Rabida! Every year for their annual gala, GEMS Academy asks each grade level to choose a local non-profit to support. This year the preschool class chose to raise funds for La Rabida. With the help of the GEMS Academy staff, donors, and students, GEMS was able to raise over four thousand dollars for La Rabida.

Thank you for choosing to support La Rabida and our mission to transform the lives of our patients!

Make Your Gift Go Farther

Make a gift today and for the future. Are you already making annual gifts to support the work of La Rabida? Consider adding a planned gift this year. Increase the impact of your giving, provide greater tax savings, preserve wealth for you and your family and help continue our work in the future.

To learn more, contact our development team at 773-753-9606.

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Phone: 773.363.6700 | Email: info@larabida.org

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La Rabida Children's Hospital

6501 South Promontory Drive, Chicago, IL 60649