

## e-Currents

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## Surprise Make-A-Wish Celebration for Jamontae

This year, La Rabida took celebrating World Sickle Cell Day to new heights. On June 19th, eight-year-old sickle cell patient, Jamontae, thought he was coming to the hospital for a routine appointment. Little did he know that he would be welcomed with a surprise send-off celebration hosted by the staff from La Rabida and Make-A-Wish Illinois to commemorate Jamontae's wish being granted. What was his wish, you ask? To go to Disney World.

Jamontae has been a patient at La Rabida since he was an infant. Because of his long history at the hospital, Jamontae and his family have formed a special bond with staff. Jamontae's sickle cell nurse practitioner, Tanisha Jones, nominated him to Make-A-Wish earlier this year in hopes of helping his dream come true. La Rabida worked in partnership with Make-A-Wish Illinois to host the celebration on World Sickle Cell Day to honor the fight children like Jamontae endure on a daily basis.

Jamontae and his family left for their week-long trip to Disney World on June 23rd. When asked what he was most excited about, Jamontae said he couldn't wait to ride all of the different rides and indulge in the unlimited, all you can eat ice cream.



## Meet La Rabida Passenger, Jacob



Jacob is a ten-month old patient who was aboard the S.S. La Rabida for nearly seven months, spending all of his life within the walls of a hospital. Because Jacob was diagnosed with congenital genetic abnormalities before birth and was born at nearly 34 weeks, doctors were concerned about his chances of survival. "Jacob was not well even when I was pregnant," shares Yessy, Jacob's mother. "The doctors told me that Jacob was not going to survive when delivered."

After birth, Jacob was placed on a trach and a ventilator as well as a G-tube to meet his nutritional needs. Even though he still relies on those pieces of technology, Jacob has made great progress since arriving at La Rabida. "He does not vomit anymore, he can move a lot more on his own and breathe much better," says Yessy. "He's also able to grab items, which he wasn't able to do before." Jacob worked closely with our speech, physical and occupational therapists while aboard our inpatient unit. Jacob's medical team worked day-in and day-out to help him grow stronger in every area of his life. The care he received while at La Rabida has helped him gain a new set of skills that will carry him through the rest of his life. "Jacob is growing a lot faster than when he first came to La Rabida. I've seen him sing and communicate with his physical therapist which has been amazing."

However, even with all the progress Jacob has made, there is still a long way to go. "Unfortunately, he is not able to crawl or walk like other children. I would like for Jacob to be able to do those things on his own in the long term," shares Yessy. With support from the medical team at La Rabida, Jacob is working towards those goals every day.

Spending extended periods of time at a hospital can be challenging, but with the support of our staff, we hope to make the experience as pleasant as possible. "Our experience at La Rabida has been excellent. From the nurses to the security driving outside to Mary in the cafeteria," shares Yessy. "Everyone has been absolutely amazing."

## Happy 123rd Birthday, La Rabida!

La Rabida has been an integral institution on Chicago's south side for over a century. This June, we celebrated La Rabida's birthday by diving into the history of the hospital and remembering the journey that has led us to where we are today.

The building that we all know as La Rabida was originally built by the Spanish government in 1896 as an exhibition hall during the World's Fair Colombian Exposition. Once the fair concluded, the Spanish gifted the building to the city of Chicago. It was then that La Rabida transitioned into a fresh air sanitarium for sick children. La Rabida has been dedicated to improving the lives of children in the community ever since.

The medical staff at La Rabida began treating children who were diagnosed with typhoid, diphtheria, and scarlet fever. However, as time went on and those conditions became less of a concern, La Rabida shifted its focus to those suffering from rheumatic fever. In the 1930's, La Rabida became the first and only sanitarium in the Midwest that could treat rheumatic fever in children. La Rabida became an institution for research on rheumatic fever and played a role in the eradication of the condition. Because of this, the hospital was recognized and praised internationally.

As the number of rheumatic fever cases declined, La Rabida made a commitment to treat a variety of chronic illnesses that impacted children. This still rings true today. We now serve children who are diagnosed with conditions like diabetes, cerebral palsy, sickle cell, Down syndrome, and many more.

With 123 years of experience, our staff works day-in and day-out to treat patients in an engaging, positive environment and help them reach their full potential. Every year, we serve over 9,000 children, providing each family with empathy, compassion and the highest quality of care.



## Invest in the Future of La Rabida

At La Rabida, we understand the needs of children who are living with a variety of complex medical conditions. With a team comprised of the best healthcare providers in Chicago, we provide ongoing, comprehensive care, education and support, and support to families as they face their challenging circumstances head on. By leaving a gift in your will, you can continue to support our mission and invest in the future of our families.

To learn more, contact the development office at 773-256-5718.

## Sailing Through Rehab During the 2019 Annual Board Meeting

This month, La Rabida's Executive Council hosted the annual board meeting for our Board of Trustees. Board members sailed through our rehab department on a tour that provided them with the opportunity to see the types of treatment that are done across the various facilities throughout our hospital. Each board member was provided with a passport that explained the different types of equipment utilized by our rehab department and the benefits of specific types of treatment.



Our rehab gym was setup to showcase equipment like the Gait Sens and Galileo and demonstrate how they are used during therapy sessions. In our Child Life pavilion, occupational therapists shared how the therapy kitchen can help patients develop and enhance skills needed for everyday life while also explaining the tools used to treat cortical visual impairment such as light boxes and a CVI range. Board members also toured the facility that houses our indoor pool, which is used for aquatic therapy. Our Adaptive Seating Clinic showcased the variety of wheelchairs that our patients often depend on, and explained the importance of adaptive mobility.

We thank all of our board members who attended this year's annual meeting and for continuously supporting La Rabida and our mission!

## Summer Brunchin' with La Rabida's Corporate Advisory Board



On June 23rd, La Rabida's Corporate Advisory Board (CAB) hosted a summer brunch for young professionals in the community and provided them with the opportunity to learn more about La Rabida's mission while supporting the children we serve. The event was held at the home of Emily and Jeremy Adler, both dedicated CAB members, in Evanston, Illinois. As a chef and sommelier, Emily and Jeremy wined and dined nearly 60 guests throughout the day. Those in attendance enjoyed everything from breakfast tacos and pineapple crumble to signature cocktails curated for the event.

In total, the CAB summer brunch raised over \$5,000 for La Rabida. A big thank you to everyone who came out to show their support.

## Registration is Now Open for the 30th Annual Golf Classic

Registration is now open for La Rabida's 30th Annual Golf Classic! Join us Monday, August 5th at Harborside International Golf Center for 18 holes of golf on a championship style links course, a helicopter ball drop, auctions, contests, raffle and golfer prizes, lunch, cocktails, dinner, and more.

This event raises funds to support La Rabida's mission to provide extraordinary care to over 9,000 children annually who are facing challenging, lifelong medical conditions. Because of our generous supporters, we are able to serve children regardless of their families' ability to pay.

Visit [larabida.org/golf-classic](http://larabida.org/golf-classic) to reserve your spot today.



## Welcoming Kelly Guglielmi to La Rabida's Board of Trustees



La Rabida welcomes Kelly Guglielmi, Chief Medical Officer of Advocate Christ Medical Center, to our Board of Trustees. Guglielmi has been with Advocate Christ Medical Center for over fifteen years, serving as the Medical Staff President, Medical Director of Hemodialysis, and now as Chief Medical Officer. Her medical background will be beneficial to the development of our board's initiatives and we are thankful to have her join us.