



## La Rabida Patient is the Latest Addition to the Chicago Sky



Coach James Wade presenting Lamia, the Chicago Sky's Player of the Day, with her custom jersey during the pre-game press conference.

It's every young basketball player's dream to make it to the professional league. For Lamia, 14 year-old La Rabida diabetes patient, that dream became a reality thanks to the Chicago Sky. Lamia was selected to be the Chicago Sky's Player of the Day, and was presented with a one-day contract to join the WNBA team.

As Player of the Day, Lamia joined the team during their day leading up to the August 16th game against the LA Sparks. After being escorted to the Wintrust Arena via limo, Lamia was welcomed onto the court by the team and staff of coaches. She had the opportunity to join their morning

practice, shooting hoops and rebounding balls for the players. Lamia also had some one-on-one time practicing with Coach James Wade and played a few rounds of HORSE.

Once practice concluded, Lamia was the star of the pregame press conference where she signed her one-day contract with the Sky. Coach Wade also presented Lamia with a custom Chicago Sky jersey with her name printed on the back – just like the pros. Prior to the game, Lamia toured the locker rooms and warmed up with the team on the court.

During the nail biting game against the LA Sparks, Lamia sat on the bench with the team, joining in on the time-out huddles and courtside celebrations.

Lamia, an incoming freshman, will play on her high school's basketball team during the 2019-2020 school year. She shares that she hopes to make it to the professional league one day. With an impressive skill set of her own, it seems as though she is already on her way.

Thank you to the Chicago Sky and our friends at Magellan Corporation for making Lamia's dreams a reality!

This story was featured on ABC 7, CBS 2, FOX 32, NBC 5, and Telemundo.



Lamia joining in on a team huddle during the Chicago Sky's morning practice.



## Meet Harley

Like many other three year olds, Harley is full of spunk and can make just about anyone around her laugh. Despite living with a condition called Trisomy 18, Harley's kind nature and loving personality is inspiring to all who meet her.

Also known as Edwards' syndrome, Trisomy 18 is a genetic condition that is a result of an extra chromosome 18. Chromosomes typically come in sets of two. The term trisomy means that there are three chromosomes. In the case of Trisomy 18, there is a set of three chromosome 18.

Trisomy 18 effects many different aspects of Harley's life. From delayed motor skills to airway and heart complications, Harley has had to undergo a variety of tests, treatments, and therapies. "She does have to do physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy," shares Harley's mom, Jill. "Whether it's with a therapist or with mom or dad, we try to make it as fun as possible so it doesn't seem like work to her."



*Dr. Edith Chernoff with Harley during a recent appointment.*

Having been a patient at La Rabida since she was just three months old, our staff has had the opportunity to get to know Harley well. Harley is seen by a wonderful, dedicated team at

La Rabida that is led by Dr. Edith Chernoff. "We have been very happy with the care Harley has received," shares Jill. "Dr. Chernoff is full of knowledge and compassion towards her. She is always willing to listen to us and learn from Harley."

Thanks to the thoughtful, comprehensive care provided by Dr. Chernoff, Harley's family has gained some peace of mind. "When Dr. Chernoff came to the realization, along with ourselves, that we can look at Harley's life in the long term, not just month to month, that was huge for us," shares Jill. "We are not sure a pediatrician at another hospital would have given us as much hope."

Harley has endured a lot, and because of her support system, can continue moving forward. "Harley will have surgery in September to help her sleep apnea and airways," says Jill. "We are hopeful she will be able to breathe easier and more comfortably, and possibly not have the need to be on oxygen continuously."

## La Rabida Patients Dance into the School Year with Mickey Mouse



*Highlights from the 4th Annual Back-to-School Dance.*

The back-to-school season is officially upon us! In order to kick off the new school year on the right foot, La Rabida was transformed into the happiest place on Earth for the 4th Annual Back-to-School Dance. This year's back-to-school bash was hosted in collaboration with Disney and their philanthropic initiative, Disney Team of Heroes, along with ABC's Summer of Service.

Our patients took part in an evening of fun, full of dancing, singing and even a few rounds of limbo. Families were also treated to a surprise visit from Mickey Mouse. While taking a break from working up a sweat on the dance floor, kids were able to enjoy a photo booth filled with props, get their faces painted, and indulge in a variety of Disney themed treats. At the end of the night, patients and their families were gifted Disney toys courtesy of ABC 7 Chicago.

Thank you to Disney, ABC 7 Chicago, La Rabida's Corporate Advisory Board, Shannon Gail Weddings and Events, Jewell Events Catering, Ben Mahoney Productions, Jill Carey, Claro Healthcare, FIG Media, Gerber + Scarpelli, Pat McLaughlin, Medix, Grant Sanders, Shutterbooth Chicago, The Chicago Leadership Alliance, and all of our donors for making this back-to-school season a little more magical!

# Celebrating the 30th Annual Golf Classic



Board member, Bruce MacRae, and his foursome from CVS Health out on the course celebrating the 30th Annual Golf Classic.

On August 5th, friends and supporters of La Rabida came together to celebrate the 30th Annual Golf Classic at Harborside International Golf Center. With nearly 225 golfers in attendance, the event raised over \$200,000 for the children and families of La Rabida.

Along with 18 holes of golf on a championship style links course, golfers were treated to a few surprises. Golfers had the opportunity to test out a new addition to the classic, the golf ball launcher, and found themselves participating in contest holes, auctions, and raffles.

During the evening's cocktail hour, attendees watched the signature helicopter ball drop, sponsored by Berglund Construction. At the start of the day, golfers had the opportunity to purchase a numbered golf ball. The numbered golf balls

were then taken up into the helicopter by La Rabida's Corporate Advisory Board member, Grant Sanders, who dropped the balls onto the course. The golfer whose ball got closest to the hole won.



Dan Schuman, father of a former patient, and Brenda Wolf.

The evening was emceed by magician, Bill Cook, who left guests in awe after his performance filled with magic tricks. During the dinner program, guests were also able to hear from someone directly impacted by La Rabida. Dan Schuman is the father of a former La Rabida patient, and was able to share with attendees his experience at La Rabida and how the staff has made such an impact on his family.

This year's Golf Classic would not have been possible without the support of our generous sponsors and donors: Chicago Equity Partners, Berglund Construction, ComEd, Dan and Susan Real, O'Neill and Gaspardo, Exelon, CVS Health, and our Contest Hole, Birdie, and Hole sponsors.

Thank you for supporting La Rabida and making this year's event such a success!

## Marren Culberson Presented with the 2019 Heart of the Year Award



Marren Culberson and Brenda Wolf.

Congratulations to this year's Heart of the Year recipient, Marren Culberson. Marren is a lead respiratory therapist here at La Rabida, and is known for his friendly demeanor and impressive work ethic. Around the hospital, he is known to make everyone laugh and feel comfortable, including our patients. It is because of individuals like Marren that La Rabida is able to provide a positive, uplifting environment to our children, families, and staff.

La Rabida's Heart of the Year award is presented to a staff member who goes above and beyond in providing quality patient care, showcasing a positive attitude, and acts as a role model to those within the hospital.

## A Battle of the Decades during the Annual Employee Picnic



Whitney Houston performing for the La Rabida staff.

La Rabida wouldn't be the amazing place that it is without our dedicated, hardworking staff. It is because of their passion for what they do that we are able to transform the lives of children on a daily basis. This month, we celebrated that commitment during the annual employee picnic.

The "Battle of the Decade" themed celebration brought out the boogie in everyone and even included performances from Whitney Houston and Elvis Presley impersonators. The afternoon was filled with food, tunes from the 60's, 70's and 80's, and good company.

Thank you to the La Rabida staff for your hard work day-in and day-out!





**LA RABIDA**  
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

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### Leave a Lasting Legacy



Leaving a gift to La Rabida Children's Hospital in your will or by beneficiary designation is a great way to invest

in the future and make a lasting difference for our patients and families of tomorrow.

#### HOW YOU BENEFIT:

- You decide how much to give—no gift is too small.
- Your gift costs you nothing now.
- You retain control of your assets during your lifetime and, if your circumstances change, you can modify the gift.
- You may choose to keep your gift anonymous.
- You can leave a gift in honor or memory of someone who inspired your commitment to healthcare.

You will be remembered as someone who made the lives of patients and their families better today and for future generations.

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

## Save the Date! Friends of La Rabida Awards

Mark your calendars! This year's Friends of La Rabida Awards Celebration will be held on November 21st at the Ritz-Carlton, Chicago. This annual gala allows us to honor and celebrate the individuals who have left their mark and made an impact at La Rabida.

Proceeds from the evening will support La Rabida's mission to provide quality, specialized care to over 9,000 children who live with lifelong, medically complex conditions. Because of our generous supporters, we are able to provide the highest quality of care children regardless of their families' ability to pay.

Registration and sponsorship information coming soon!



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