

e-Currents

Inside this Issue:

- Meet Adi
- Mark & Zoie: The Tutor & the Tutee
- La Rabida's CCTC Helping to Bring Care to Children through the Comer Pediatric Mobile Medical Unit


[Donate Now](#)


Meet Adi

Up until she was eight months old, Adi was just like every other infant. That all changed after an accident where she fell off the bed and was found lying on her stomach. "When I found her, she was lying face down," shares Josefina, Adi's mom. "It's a bit of a mystery, but we assume that she hit her head and her chest."

Once Adi was brought to the emergency room, she was found to have a small bleed in her brain. Adi could not support her carbon dioxide levels without the use of a ventilator, so she had to have a tracheostomy tube placed.

Adi, now one year old, was aboard the S.S. La Rabida for roughly two months. While an inpatient, she received a number of therapies: occupational, physical and speech and swallow. "She was learning something new every day. Because of physical therapy, she's a lot more mobile now," shares Josefina. "She'll stand on her own now with minimal support."

The rehabilitative treatments that Adi has undergone have helped her regain some of the skills that she once had. "Adi was deconditioned to orally eat and that's why she has a G-Tube. Through speech and swallow therapy, we've been reintroducing her to foods that she ate before her accident – purees, little puffs, dissolving cookies," says Josefina. "After her accident, she didn't even want to put food in her mouth. She didn't want anything to do with that. Now she has a blast with food."

Working with the dedicated healthcare team at La Rabida, Adi is making great improvements. "She's definitely getting better at passing things and grabbing little items. She used to do that before, but since she was hospitalized, it took her awhile to get back to that point," says Josefina. "Also, socially, she is a lot more aware now. I think she is starting to reach the milestones appropriate for her age."

After all of her progress, Adi was able to go home this month. "Right now, our main focus will be building a routine at home," says Josefina. "We're also hoping that, within time, we can get Adi to a place where she doesn't need the trach or G-Tube."



Mark & Zoie: The Tutor & the Tutee



La Rabida's award-winning tutoring program gives our patients and their families the resources they need to thrive in the classroom. Our tutors range from current high school and college students to La Rabida's very own Chief Financial Officer, Mark Renfree. "I'll be starting my 11th year of tutoring this fall and all the kids I've had the opportunity to tutor have been great to work with," shares Mark. "Seeing them excited about an accomplishment - whether it's passing a test, making the honor roll or even graduating - and sharing their success is very rewarding." Mark and our staff of volunteer tutors help kids - kids like Zoie - garner the tools they need to prosper in the classroom.

Zoie has been enrolled in our tutoring program and has worked closely with Mark for the last four years. During her weekly session, Zoie has the opportunity to bring any schoolwork she may be struggling with and get the assistance she needs to excel academically. "Working with Mark has helped improve my grades and test scores," shares Zoie. "Sometimes I get confused, and working with him every week has really helped me."

While schoolwork isn't always the most exciting activity, our tutors work to make subjects like math and history engaging. "Mark always makes homework more fun than it actually is," says Zoie.

By working one-on-one together on weekly basis, the two have formulated a tight-knit relationship that goes beyond completing an algebra equation. "One of my favorite moments came last year when Zoie had her [inspiring story](#) featured at our annual gala," shares Mark. "My family and I spent the evening with Zoie and her family and everyone was so proud of her accomplishments."

Interested in learning more about our tutoring program? Please contact Tonisha Daniel at (773) 256-5985 or tdaniel@larabida.org for more information.

La Rabida's tutoring program runs October through May. Tutoring takes place Tuesday evenings from 4:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

La Rabida's CCTC Helping to Bring Care to Children through the Comer Pediatric Mobile Medical Unit

Working in collaboration with University of Chicago and Comer Children's Hospital, therapists from La Rabida's Chicago Child Trauma Center (CCTC) help provide trauma informed care to children through the Comer Pediatric Mobile Medical Unit. The mobile unit is a 38 foot RV that visits Chicago Public Schools, daycare centers, and community organizations on Chicago's South Side to provide medical services to underserved and uninsured children. The services offered include everything from physicals and immunizations to mental health services and trauma informed care.



La Rabida's CCTC has a staff of licensed therapists that are dedicated to providing thoughtful care to children and teenagers dealing with the effects of trauma and behavioral health concerns. Terae Tatum, a CCTC Trauma Therapist, works closely with the students on the Comer Pediatric Mobile Medical Unit. While the mobile unit provides services to all grade levels, Terae specializes in working with teenagers.

After students complete a teen life assessment, Terae works directly with students to pinpoint and work through any stressors or challenges they are experiencing. "When meeting with students, I equip and empower them to manage their situations. I work to help them manage their challenges by providing them with coping skills, helping them to gain insight and possibly different perspectives, normalizing their actions and helping them to find understanding in the functioning of their behaviors," shares Terae. Depending on the student's needs, sessions range between 15 minutes to an hour in length.

The goal of the mobile unit is to provide care to those who are underserved. By bringing these medical services out into the community, it is possible for children and teenagers to receive the comprehensive care they deserve.

La Rabida is proud to collaborate with of University of Chicago and Comer Children's Hospital.

Help Us Expand Our Integrated Medical Home Program

Studies have demonstrated a steady and alarming increase in the number of children seen in emergency rooms for behavioral health emergencies. This has led to a greater interest in how to better serve children's emotional and behavioral needs. One area of focus is often referred to as the "integrated medical home," medical providers that have the resources and culture that comprehensively appreciate the role of children's emotional and behavioral well-being, and incorporate it into the medical care they provide.

La Rabida Children's Hospital has been awarded a \$75,000 matching grant by an anonymous foundation to expand and enhance our integrated medical home program to better serve our patients and their families. So, every dollar we raise will be matched 1 to 1 by this foundation, up to \$75,000. We hope you will consider contributing to this challenge by clicking on the "donate" button below.

[Donate](#)

Welcoming Theresa Martinez to La Rabida!

Join us in welcoming Theresa Martinez as La Rabida's new Vice President of Patient Care and Chief Nursing Officer.

Theresa comes to La Rabida from Chicago's Shriners Hospital for Children where she served as the Director of Patient Care and Nurse Executive. Prior to that, she was the Manager of Loyola's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. With over 20 years in pediatric care, her background will be a tremendous asset to the La Rabida community and will help to enhance the development of our hospital's mission. Welcome to La Rabida, Theresa!



Lands' End Treats La Rabida Staff to New Scrubs



To celebrate the launch of their new product line of scrubs, Lands' End hosted an appreciation event for the nurses and clinicians of La Rabida Children's Hospital. The event allowed our medical staff to try on and order a complimentary pair of Lands' End scrubs. Our staff was also treated to breakfast and lunch, complimentary chair massages with a view of Lake Michigan, and goodie bags that included face and body scrubs.

Our staff works diligently day-in and day-out to provide thoughtful, comprehensive care to patients, and we were glad to see them get pampered with new scrubs courtesy of Lands' End.

End. We are thankful for Land's End's generosity and are happy to have them as a partner as they take off on this new endeavor.

The Lands' End appreciation event was featured on [WGN's Around Town with Ana Belaval](#).

The Chicago Fire Visits the Gem on the Lake



The patients and families of La Rabida were recently treated to a surprise visit from the Chicago Fire Soccer Club! Coach Veljko Paunovic, Dax McCarty, Brandt Bronico, and Kenneth Kronholm kicked off their visit by joining patients in our rehab gym during physical and occupational therapy. A few of our kids were even able to view the pro-players how they work soccer into their therapy sessions.

The Chicago Fire spent time with patients and their families in our Child Life Pavilion. Our kids found themselves playing video games with Coach Paunovic and the team, trying on their new Chicago Fire gear, and showing the players their soccer skills. The team also made their way up to our inpatient unit, where they were able to deliver toys, scarves, and soccer balls to patients.

Thank you to our friends at the Chicago Fire and Magellan Corporation for a fun afternoon!

JOIN US: 2019 Friends of La Rabida Awards Celebration

Please join us in celebrating La Rabida's 2019 Friends of La Rabida Awards Celebration on Thursday, November 21st at the Ritz-Carlton, Chicago.

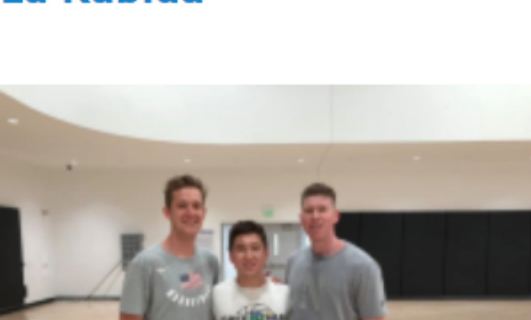
Our annual gala is an evening which honors and celebrates those who help carry out La Rabida's mission to provide quality, specialized care to children. Proceeds from the gala will benefit the children and families we serve.

At La Rabida Children's Hospital, we are dedicated to improving the lives of children who live with complex medical conditions, disabilities, chronic illnesses and those who have suffered abuse and trauma. With teams of the best healthcare providers in Chicago, we provide continuous, comprehensive care our patients and their families through hands-on education, advocacy and specialty care. Each year, we touch the lives of over 9,000 children - regardless of their ability to pay.

To RSVP, please [click here](#).



Proceeds from Northwestern University's Sigma Chi Derby Days Support La Rabida



Through their annual Derby Days fundraising event, Northwestern University's Sigma Chi Fraternity raised over \$14,000 for the children and families of La Rabida. The Derby Days fundraiser was a week-long initiative to bring awareness to the work we do at La Rabida and raised money to support the hospital's mission. The week was packed with series of events that included a basketball tournament, partnerships with local restaurants, puppies on the porch, and a cycling class where the proceeds from tickets and registrations fees benefited La Rabida.

Thank you, Sigma Chi, for your support!

Are you 70½ or Better?

If so, you may have started taking the required minimum distribution from your IRA. Did you know that you can rollover your distribution to a qualified charity, including La Rabida Children's Hospital, and not have that transfer count toward your taxable income?

Many people have discovered this to be a tax-wise way of making charitable contributions. Best of all, you'll feel great knowing that you are giving kids with complex conditions the care they need to face their challenges head on.

Instruct your plan administrator to make a charitable rollover of up to \$100,000 to La Rabida Children's Hospital. If you are interested in learning more, contact Beth Lye at (773) 256-5718.

