Providing Care Through Telehealth

As the COVID-19 virus made its way throughout the community, a long-time friend of La Rabida, Genie Kutchins, was looking for a way to help. After her original birthday celebrations were postponed, Genie turned her talents to an alternative: sewing masks for healthcare workers at La Rabida.

Sew at Home in Honor of La Rabida

In January, things took a dramatic turn for Tommy. "I started to hear wheezing coming from his lungs," said Veronica, Tommy's mother. "I knew something was seriously wrong." A quick trip to the hospital confirmed a diagnosis of a rare lung disease called PHA2 deficiency.

"Before, I used to have to work really hard to make him smile, and now he just sees my face and smiling," shared Veronica, "It was very, very scary. It felt like months, not just four weeks." Despite the challenges, the family remained optimistic and determined to help Tommy overcome his illness.

Working directly with our plant operations team, Allison had made a resistant window that allows patients to see the clinician's mouth. "With this mask, the patients can still see the therapist's face and hear them clearly," shared Allison. "This has made a huge difference in how our patients feel during therapy sessions."

The Kutchins family also help spread some joy on Easter morning by donating a number of stuffed animals to the hospital. "We want to make sure that all of our patients have something to love and cherish," said Genie.""We have been blown away by the outpouring of support we have received since the COVID-19 pandemic," said Allison. "Our volunteers have provided over 10,000 hours of service, helping to keep our hospital safe and our patients happy."

Meet Tommy

Tommy receives a variety of treatment while at La Rabida. "He gets everything here - respiratory care, physical therapy, occupational therapy," shared Veronica. "Tommy seems much more alert since being at La Rabida. He seems much happier," shared Veronica. "Before, I used to have to work really hard to make him smile, and now he just sees my face and smiling.""It was very, very scary. It felt like months, not just four weeks," shared Veronica.

Despite some new challenges, the COVID-19 crisis has allowed for creative solutions that allow us to overcome obstacles like these, said Allison. "We have successfully implemented telehealth video conferences, allowing us to minimize the disruption of care for our kids. This includes everything from appointments to schoolwork, and even wheelchair deliveries."

To learn more, contact our development team at 773-753-9650.