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Meet Elias



Children with multiple complex medical conditions face unique challenges and require customized care plans to meet their needs. 12-year-old Elias lives with several diagnoses, including cerebral palsy and a seizure disorder. This combination means Elias is no longer able to stand on his own or sit upright independently. "Now he doesn't walk, and he doesn't talk," said Elias' mom, Bernadette. His condition also affects his ability to breathe on his own, and Elias and his family have worked hard to learn and adjust to life on a ventilator.

In September 2019, Elias received a tracheostomy tube which allows a ventilator to assist with breathing. "He is now on the ventilator 24 hours a day," shared Bernadette. When Elias arrived at La Rabida, his family received training on how to use this vital medical technology. La Rabida has a dedicated trach training class where patients and families learn everything from properly caring for and cleaning the trach site to learning how to connect the ventilator to the trach. "The classes explained everything to me and my husband. It helped us understand how to use the trach," said Bernadette. "In the beginning, I was so nervous about the trach, but now I feel comfortable. Because of the classes, I learned what to do."

When kids stay at La Rabida for extended periods of time, our staff develop strong bonds to the patient and their families. Our staff go above and beyond in celebrating every accomplishment and occasion, no matter how big or small. "When I came to the hospital on Mother's Day, Elias had a greeting card with our picture on it. That really impacted me. I know that Elias can't make that, but they helped him do it. It really made me so happy and I loved it so much. Especially coming from Elias. He is everything in my life," added Bernadette.

When the time came for Elias to go home, La Rabida's team of case managers and social workers provided the tools and resources Elias and his family needed to ensure a seamless transition home. "They put me on the right page and helped me with all of my options. They helped me prepare to bring Elias home, including finding the right supplies and equipment. It was exactly what we needed," explained Bernadette.

When families leave La Rabida, we hope to have touched their lives in a way leaves a lasting impact. "I am so glad that Elias was at La Rabida. The doctors, nurses, and therapists were so great. I was not worried when I couldn't be at the hospital because I knew he was in good hands," said Bernadette. "La Rabida helped me learn how to take care of Elias. For that, I am extremely grateful."

Conjuring Halloween Fun Aboard the S.S. La Rabida



While Halloween may look a little different this year, we still found ways to celebrate across the hospital! Patients, families, and staff all got in on the fun by dressing up in their best costumes and indulging in safe and spooky celebrations.

Each of our inpatient kids will be dressed to the nines this Halloween thanks to our friends at Spirit of Children! From Little Red Riding Hood, Pokémon, and Teenage Mutant Turtles, Spirit of Children donated over 50 costumes to the patients of La Rabida. They also helped make this Halloween extra special for our kids by sending Halloween themed care packages that included books, activities, and treats. Our team of child life specialists are taking part in "reverse trick-or-treating" by delivering the care packages directly to patients.

La Rabida's staff joined in the scary fun celebrations too! Every year, our staff celebrates Halloween by taking part in a costume parade to show off their creative costumes. While this year's celebration didn't include the annual parade, we still found a way to celebrate Halloween safely. Staff across departments dressed up in their best costumes including witches, pandas, and even baking soda.

Thank you to Spirit of Children and La Rabida staff for making this Halloween one to remember!

Sam's Toy Donation



As Sam was gearing up to ring in her 12th year, she decided she wanted to celebrate by helping other kids. Sam asked her friends and family to help her support La Rabida Children's Hospital in lieu of gifts at her Bat Mitzvah. "I researched children's hospitals in the area and I really liked La Rabida's story," shared Sam. Upon hearing about our mission, Sam instantly felt a connection to the hospital and decided she would use her momentous milestone as a way to give back.

Sam raised nearly \$1,400, which she used to purchase more than 75 toys for the kids at La Rabida. "I knew we would be able to do something big, but I didn't expect this much," explained Sam. From toys and games to books and puzzles, Sam's contribution has helped brighten the stay of many of our patients.

By bringing these toys to La Rabida, Sam hopes to encourage our patients to have fun and focus on the good. "I believe it is important for everyone to have fun and have happy moments in difficult times," said Sam.

UBS Hosts PJ Drive for La Rabida Patients



Hospital stays and procedures can be scary and overwhelming for kids, and we do everything we can to keep our patients comfortable. One of the many ways we do this is by giving our patients the opportunity to opt-out of wearing traditional hospital gowns and allow them to wear comfy pajamas instead. Our friends at UBS hosted a pajama drive on behalf of La Rabida, donating over 56 pairs and counting! Their donation will ensure that our inpatient kids will always have a cozy set of PJs!

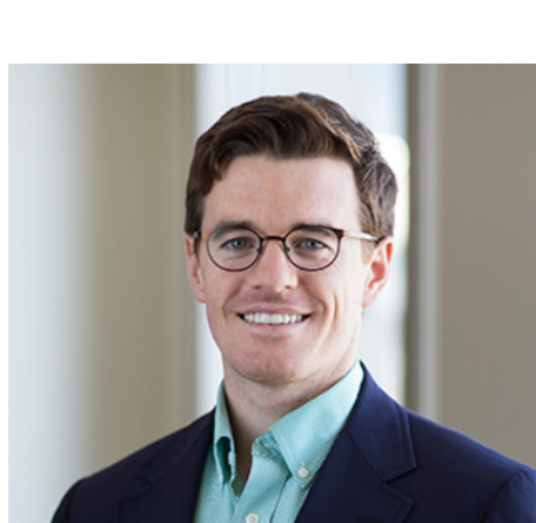
Thank you, UBS, for keeping our patients comfortable throughout their stay aboard the S.S. La Rabida!

La Rabida Children's Hospital Welcomes Dr. Elaine Chiu



La Rabida Children's Hospital is pleased to announce that Elaine Chiu, MD, has joined our team as a primary care physician in our pediatric Patient Centered Medical Home. Dr. Chiu received her medical degree from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles and completed her residency in Pediatrics at UCLA. Dr. Chiu is committed to treating children with complex medical conditions and understands the importance of supporting not only our patients, but their families as they help their children navigate lifelong chronic illnesses.

Welcoming Matthew Phipps to La Rabida's Board of Trustees



Join us in welcoming Matthew Phipps to La Rabida's Board of Trustees. Phipps is an Research Analyst covering the biotech sector at William Blair where his focus is on cancer immunotherapy, autoimmune diseases, neurology, and cardiovascular diseases. Phipps received his PhD from the University of Alabama in Birmingham in Cellular and Molecular Physiology. Prior to William Blair, he was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. Welcome to the La Rabida family, Matt!

LA RA IN THE NEWS



The Today Show

One of La Rabida's superkids, Mason, was featured on TODAY with Hoda and Jenna after he was pronounced an honorary Batman by the Dark Knight himself. Batman is a member of Superhero Calls, an organization made up of local comedians using their talents for good during COVID-19.

Click [here to view](#).

Leave a Lasting Legacy

La Rabida is a place unlike any other. We understand the needs of families with children battling the most serious and complicated conditions. With teams of the best healthcare providers in Chicago, we provide comprehensive care, education, and support to help children and families face their unique obstacles head-on.

An estate gift helps ensure we can continue to serve the children as we have done for over 100 years. To learn more about leaving a gift to La Rabida in your will, please contact Anne Wilson, Individual Giving Officer at awilson@larabida.org or (773) 256-5817.

2020 Friends of La Rabida Virtual Celebration

The Friends of La Rabida Celebration is going virtual! Join us on Thursday, November 12th from the comfort of your home as we celebrate La Rabida's mission of caring for children facing lifelong medical conditions. Tune in to hear from La Rabida's patients, families, frontline heroes and a few special guests!



It is because of the support of our friends that we are able to care for children living with complex medical conditions regardless of their ability to pay. Interested in helping support this year's gala? Become a sponsor today by visiting larabida.org/gala.