

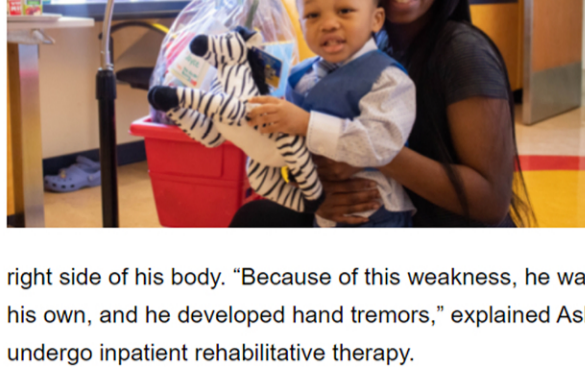


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Meet Jayce



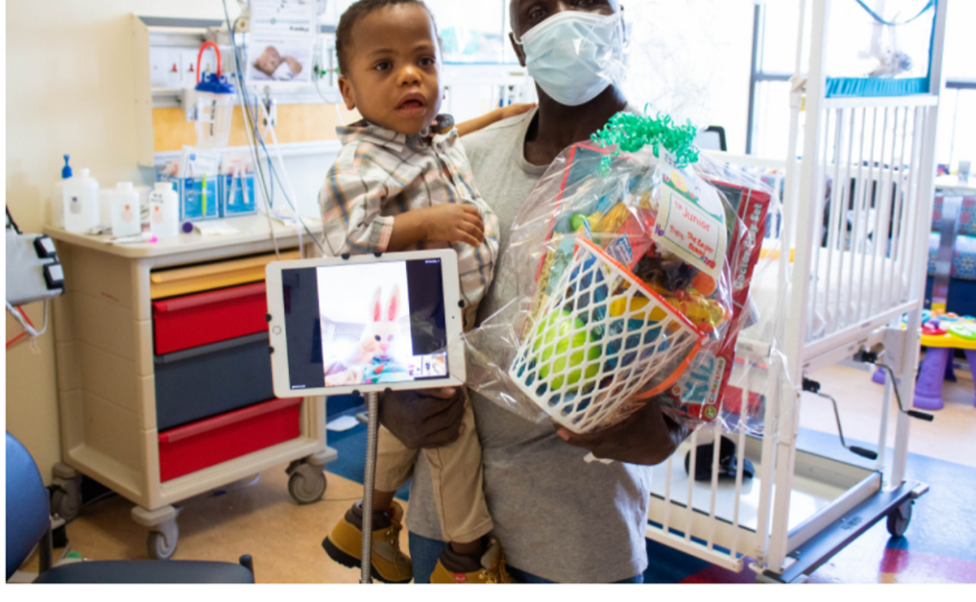
It was a scary moment for Jayce and his family when, earlier this year, Jayce fell off of his bed and was found unconscious. Jayce had a history of seizures and, upon arrival to the hospital, doctors discovered that he had a brain bleed. "We went to the hospital, did a CT scan and found that he had bleeding in the brain and bleeding in the eyes," shared Ashley, Jayce's mom. After being airlifted from Indiana to a hospital in Chicago and undergoing several more tests, doctors confirmed the bleeding in the left hemisphere of his brain, causing weakness on the right side of his body. "Because of this weakness, he wasn't able to stand on his own, he wasn't able to sit up on his own, and he developed hand tremors," explained Ashley. After Jayce was stabilized, he came to La Rabida to undergo inpatient rehabilitative therapy.

At just two and a half years old, Jayce was walking and talking like the average toddler. That development then came to a halt. Jayce's care team at La Rabida was tasked with helping him regain the skills he had lost while also putting him on a path to reach his future development goals. In the month and a half that Jayce was aboard the S.S. La Rabida, he made amazing progress. "After the incident, he really had no mobility at all. Now Jayce is walking again. He is now able to raise his arms. He has improved tremendously," said Ashley.

From staff to fellow patients, Jayce developed a number of relationships while at La Rabida. "Jayce made a friend named Junior. They were neighbors. We all called them the two Js. That was Jayce's first experience being around another kid that was his same age. It was really special," shared Ashley.

Jayce was discharged earlier this month and has progressed by leaps and bounds since he first arrived. "With the help of La Rabida, he's now able to do some of the things he was able to do before. We still have some work to do, but I am so proud of where he is. I can't thank La Rabida enough for their help. I appreciate all of the hard work and dedication that they put towards my child."

Virtual Bunny Made this Easter Egg-citing for Patients



It was a hoppy Easter aboard the S.S. La Rabida! Due to COVID-19, our annual Easter celebrations looked a little different, but with the help of the Friends of La Rabida, we were still able to make it eggs-tra special for our patients and their families.

In years past, our Easter Bunny (La Rabida Board Member Al Kutchins) hopped from room to room to celebrate with our kids. In order to keep our patients, families, staff, and friends safe against the spread of COVID-19, this year's Easter celebration was virtual. The Easter Bunny visited with our families via Zoom and each child was surprised with stuffed animals and personalized baskets filled with toys and games picked out just for them.

Thank you to the Kutchins Family, Monarch Awards Foundation, Inc., Chubb, the Salamanca Family, Gina Willis, Grace Chapter #2, and Armeetah Chapter #5 for helping us carry out our annual Easter traditions!

Our Easter celebration was featured on FOX 32. Watch the story [here](#).



Chicago Child Trauma Center Build Therapy Kits for Telehealth Patients



Like many programs across La Rabida, the Chicago Child Trauma Center (CCTC) began offering telehealth care to patients and families last year. "Our therapists have been getting very creative with online resources throughout the pandemic, but we have been greatly missing some of the therapeutic supplies we typically use in interventions with our clients in the office," explained Theresa Valach, Clinical Director of the CCTC. With the help of a generous donor who heard about this need, our team at the CCTC was able to purchase and put together therapy care kits that give patients and families the tools they are accustomed to using with their therapist during in-person visits.

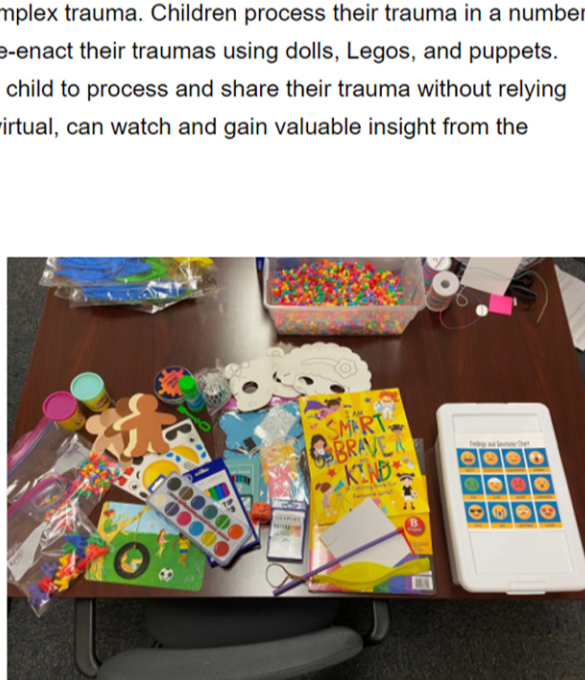
The CCTC's mission is to provide care to children who have been exposed to traumatic events including physical and sexual abuse, witnessing violence, and complex trauma. Children process their trauma in a number of ways, including during play. It is common for kids to re-enact their traumas using dolls, Legos, and puppets. These items are included in the therapy kits to allow the child to process and share their trauma without relying on verbal communication. The child's care team, while virtual, can watch and gain valuable insight from the child's play.

Also included in the therapy kits are calm-down tools including stress balls, stress putty, and fidget toys. "When children become triggered by an upsetting reminder of what happened or experience overwhelming feelings, we often work with the caregiver to help the child use relaxation or regulation techniques," shared Theresa. Strategies like blowing bubbles or spinning pinwheels can also help children learn how to control their breathing.

Arts and crafts play a big role in the treatment our team provides. "We often color with children in sessions. Coloring is not only relaxing and good stress management, but is something for children to do while they are talking to the therapist about things that might be stressful or uncomfortable," said Theresa. In trauma therapy, therapists work with the child on completing a trauma narrative. "We work with children to be able to tell their story, not only the story of the trauma itself, but also recall other positive happy moments as well as other upsetting moments in their life," explained Theresa. Together the child and their therapist build a book to do just that. The therapy bags include a blank book and art supplies that allow children to write and illustrate these stories.

Each therapy kit also includes a new journal, a tool regularly used in therapy as a way for a child to write about what they are thinking and feeling. "Connecting your thoughts and feelings to certain actions and behaviors helps children come up with ways to improve and manage actions and behaviors by working on improving thoughts and feelings," shared Theresa.

These are all tools, among many others, that therapists use with patients while working in person. Thanks to these new therapy kits, patients now have access to these supplies at home and around the clock.



White Sox Pitcher, Liam Hendriks, Brought the Ball Park to the Gem on the Lake!



The MLB regular season has officially begun, and the Chicago White Sox kicked things off here at the Gem on the Lake! White Sox pitcher, Liam Hendriks, paid a virtual visit to the kids aboard the S.S. La Rabida. In a special video message, Hendriks wished our patients a happy Opening Day and shared that, since we couldn't celebrate in person, he'd brought the ballpark to the hospital.

Liam, his wife Kristi, and the White Sox Organization delivered sweet treats, popcorn, memorabilia, and toys that were distributed by our staff to both our inpatient and outpatient families. Our kids were thrilled to celebrate the start of a great 2021 season with their new White Sox gear!

Thank you to the Hendriks Family and the Chicago White Sox for making this home opener one to remember. Let's Go, Go-Go White Sox!

Mark Your Calendars: 2021 Friends of La Rabida Awards Celebration

★ FRIENDS OF LA RABIDA ★ NOVEMBER 11

AWARDS CELEBRATION

HONORING
ABC7 Chicago and Disney
★ ★ ★
Andrea Zopp, Cleveland Avenue

For more information, contact Lona Slaughter
at lslaughter@larabida.org or 773.256.5955.

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Supporting Future Generations

With a legacy gift to La Rabida, you can help us do what we do today, even better, for generations to come.

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This is not intended to provide financial advice. Please consult your financial planner on the best option for you.