

### Willie's Story



Difficult moments in our lives often leave lasting memories, especially when they happen to us as children. It's no surprise that Chicago resident Willie Cobb still remembers his stay at La Rabida when he was just 5 years old. Diagnosed with Rheumatic Fever in 1967, he spent 8 months on the inpatient unit. He was told just before his transfer from Michael Reese Hospital to La Rabida that he may never walk again. He credits the care, support and therapy from the team at La Rabida for his complete recovery.

Now 60, Willie recently reconnected with La Rabida, saying "I'm here today because of the care I received at La Rabida, and the amazing nurses and their care." He now serves as a Chaplain at Community First Medical Center on the northwest side, giving back and supporting others during their time of need.

Willie remembers the nursing staff helping him exercise his legs every day, regaining his strength and learning to walk once again. He says the nurses that held his hand during those first steps from his wheel chair to his bed made all the difference. He also remembers how the nurses had a tough side too. His Uncle Thomas would visit and sneak him candied orange slices, and how the care team would promptly confiscate them!

"My entire life is owed to La Rabida," Willie added. "Those nurses loved me, cared for me and treated me like family."

Thank you Willie, for sharing your story and those difficult but cherished memories of La Rabida Children's Hospital.

### Easter Bunny Hops by the S.S. La Rabida



Some bunny was hoppin' up and down the halls this Easter! La Rabida was excited to welcome the Easter Bunny back to visit our children in person after only being able to visit virtually the last couple of years.

The Easter Bunny wasted no time hopping from room to room, delivering Easter baskets and stuffed animals to our kids. La Rabida Board of Trustees Member Al Kutchins reprised his role as the Easter Bunny.

Special thanks to the Kutchins Family for their continued support and for donating toys for our patients and their siblings. Our thanks also go out to the Order of the Eastern Stars - Armeeth Chapter #5 for the Easter baskets and items and Inland Bank for the Build-A-Bear toys. We appreciate your help making this Easter eggs-tra special for our kids.

### This Month on Social Mattea's Joy Snackbox Donation



Yum snacks! Caring for your child while they are staying in the hospital can be stressful and exhausting, and we are grateful to organizations like Mattea's Joy for making things a bit easier with some tasty treats! Mattea's Joy dropped off 48 snack boxes for our parents and families on the S.S. La Rabida inpatient unit. Gary and Jamie Freedlund founded Mattea's Joy and their mission is to bring joy to hospitalized children and their families, in honor of their son who spent several months in a local NICU. Thank you Gary and Jamie for your support of our families!

### Happy Patient Access Week



Happy Patient Access Week to our amazing team at La Rabida! Thank you for all your continued hard work and dedication to making positive experiences for our patients and their families. We appreciate all you do!

### A Virtual Visit from the White Sox



Go White Sox! In honor of Opening Day this past Tuesday, Chicago White Sox pitcher Liam Hendricks paid a virtual visit to share a special message with our kids aboard the S.S. La Rabida. Thank you to Liam, his wife Kristi, and the White Sox organization for delivering treats, memorabilia and toys to our patients, families, and staff.

## Help Us Help Our Patients

At La Rabida Children's Hospital, our mission is simple: we're dedicated to improving the quality of life for each of our patients who live with complex conditions, disabilities, and chronic illnesses. Children don't choose their circumstances, and we never let those circumstances impact the care children receive. We treat patients regardless of their family's financial circumstances. We are able to do this because of the support of individuals like you. Help support our mission today: by visiting <https://larabida.org/donate>

[DONATE TODAY](https://larabida.org/donate)

### National Volunteer Week



It's National Volunteer Week! After our program re-opened in June, our volunteers have worked hard to help carry out La Rabida's mission of providing excellence in care towards our patients. Their efforts embody the spirit of what it means to really be the change you wish to see in the world. Words cannot express how grateful our patients and families are for your willingness to volunteer. Thank you so much for your selfless and ongoing volunteer leadership. To learn more about our volunteer opportunities, please visit [larabida.org/volunteer](https://larabida.org/volunteer).

### The S.S. La Rabida Redesign Is Underway!

Over the next several months, we will be transforming our inpatient space to create an even more welcoming environment for our patients and their families. This construction project will create a new in-unit playroom for patients with unique and complex medical needs, rest and relaxation spaces for families, collaborative work environments for the care teams, and increase the number of private patient rooms. If you'd like to learn more about becoming a supporter of this important project, please reach out to Anne Wilson at (773)256-5718. Your support of this vital project means we will be able to provide our patients and their families the space and support they need to grow, thrive, and reach their fullest potential.



### Friend of La Rabida Hosts a Virtual Popcorn Fundraiser



Lansing resident Sharon Giles is no stranger to La Rabida; for over 10 years she's managed to find different, creative ways to help support La Rabida and the children we serve.

"I always wanted to help. So when I discovered La Rabida Hospital I was like, 'Oh yeah, that's where I'll put my focus,'" Sharon said.

This year, Sharon partnered with Double Good Popcorn to set up an online pop-up shop offering different varieties of popcorn. The fundraiser ran from April 1 to April 5, with 50% of each purchase going towards support of the hospital. With the help of the community, Sharon raised almost \$400 for La Rabida.

A big thank you to Sharon Giles and everyone who participated in support of La Rabida Children's Hospital.

### Support La Rabida through Amazon Smile

Looking for an easy way to support La Rabida?

Amazon Smile allows shoppers to support a charitable organization of their choice while shopping through Amazon at no additional cost to the shopper. By making a purchase through Amazon Smile and selecting to support La Rabida, Amazon will donate a portion of your total order amount to our hospital. To start shopping, visit [Amazon Smile here](https://www.amazon.com/amazonsmile).





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For more information, contact Lona Slaughter at 773.256.5955 or [lslaughter@larabida.org](mailto:lslaughter@larabida.org)