

Super Hero Dad Saving the Day for His Son



The lengths our La Rabida parents will go to in order to provide the best care for their children can be humbling. Just take Felix as an example. The father of five used to work in restaurants and hotels, washing dishes and bussing tables. But for the last 15 years he's been a stay-at-home dad, caring for his son Israel who has muscular dystrophy. You can find Felix by his child's bedside all day and all night, learning how to care for his son and listening intently to the nurses and doctors. "It's important for me to learn what the nurses teach about my son's care. I need to take care of him," Felix says.

Recently, his son Israel required a ventilator to help him breathe, and he found himself at La Rabida. He can't return home until his family can learn how to care for his trach tube. So his dad Felix bought a headlight, one you might use for camping or spelunking. It helps him see what he's doing, as the care team walks him through the process.

"For me, everything scares me. But I have to put my fear to the side."

He puts the light on his head like a super hero, and cares for his son just like a doctor or a nurse, rising to the occasion – which makes sense. He and his son love watching super hero movies, like the Marvel Collection and Star Wars. And Felix is definitely a hero.

"I try to be calm and have confidence in myself and my skills and do the best I can do for my son," he says.

For Parent's Day on July 25, La Rabida honored our super hero parents, guardians and caregivers by providing them with snack boxes provided by Mattea's Joy, and toiletry bundles donated by volunteers. It takes a village, and we couldn't do it without the commitment of the families who are working so hard to overcome some of life's most challenging obstacles.

Celebrating the Wins



The days are long. The years are short. And the moments in between are always worth celebrating at La Rabida. This month staff celebrated how far 3-year-old Carter has come in the six months he's been onboard as an inpatient. Not only is he now able to vocalize his wants and needs with a new "button," he's also celebrating big milestones like not needing a ventilator to breathe anymore.

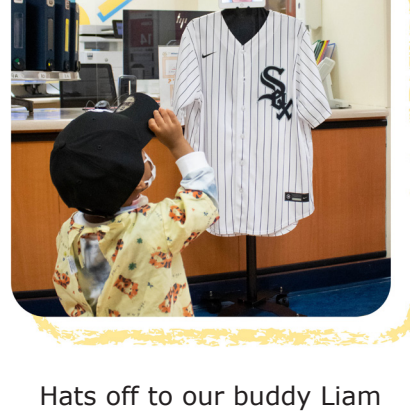
"It shows how much our kids can do," says speech therapist Jenny Winberg, who has been working closely with Carter since the beginning. She takes him for walks by the lake, and he can now use an AAC to tell her when he wants to make his stroller "go!" The AAC is an augmentative and alternative communication device.

48 hours after Carter got off the ventilator, our team planned a party to celebrate. Carter got to taste icing from a cupcake for the very first time, and couldn't stop licking his lips wanting more.



This Month on Social

Congratulations Liam



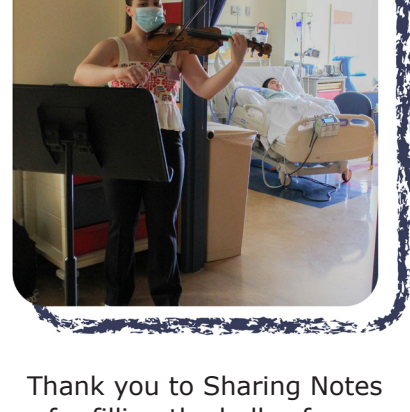
Hats off to our buddy Liam Hendricks for making the All-Star team for a 3rd time! He's brought so much joy to our kids over the years – he will always be "our" ALL STAR! We wished him the best of luck as he represented the Chicago White Sox!

Visit from a Chicago Bear Alum



We had a BEARY special day at La Ra! Chicago Bears alum Wendell Davis stopped by for a Bear Hugs visit earlier this month. Patients and families got the opportunity to meet and take pictures with Mr. Davis as he passed out teddy bears and hats to our kids. Thank you to Mr. Davis and the Chicago Bears organization for joining us here at La Rabida and creating a memorable experience for our patients!

Sharing Notes



Thank you to Sharing Notes for filling the halls of our hospital with beautiful music this month! Music therapy is such an important part of health care, from infant development to healing. Our kiddos and our families felt very special, having their own private concerts.

Join Us for La Rabida's 33rd Annual Golf Classic



Although time is running out to register, there are still some foursome group spots available! For those not attending in person, feel free to join us virtually by either donating or participating in our online auction. Visit larabida.org/golf-classic for more information and to register today. See you on the course August 1st at Harborside!

Vaccination Update



Mere days after the Centers for Disease Control recommended the COVID-19 vaccine for the youngest children, La Rabida staff were administering the shots to our smallest patients. By planning in advance, our vaccine coordinator made sure the hospital had plenty of doses of the Pfizer vaccine to meet demand. Clinicians are working hard to explain to patients why the vaccine is important, and reassuring families the shots are safe and effective. Child life is also working with our families, once they consent to the vaccine, to provide appropriate distractions during the process so patients aren't scared.

Dino-Mite Therapy

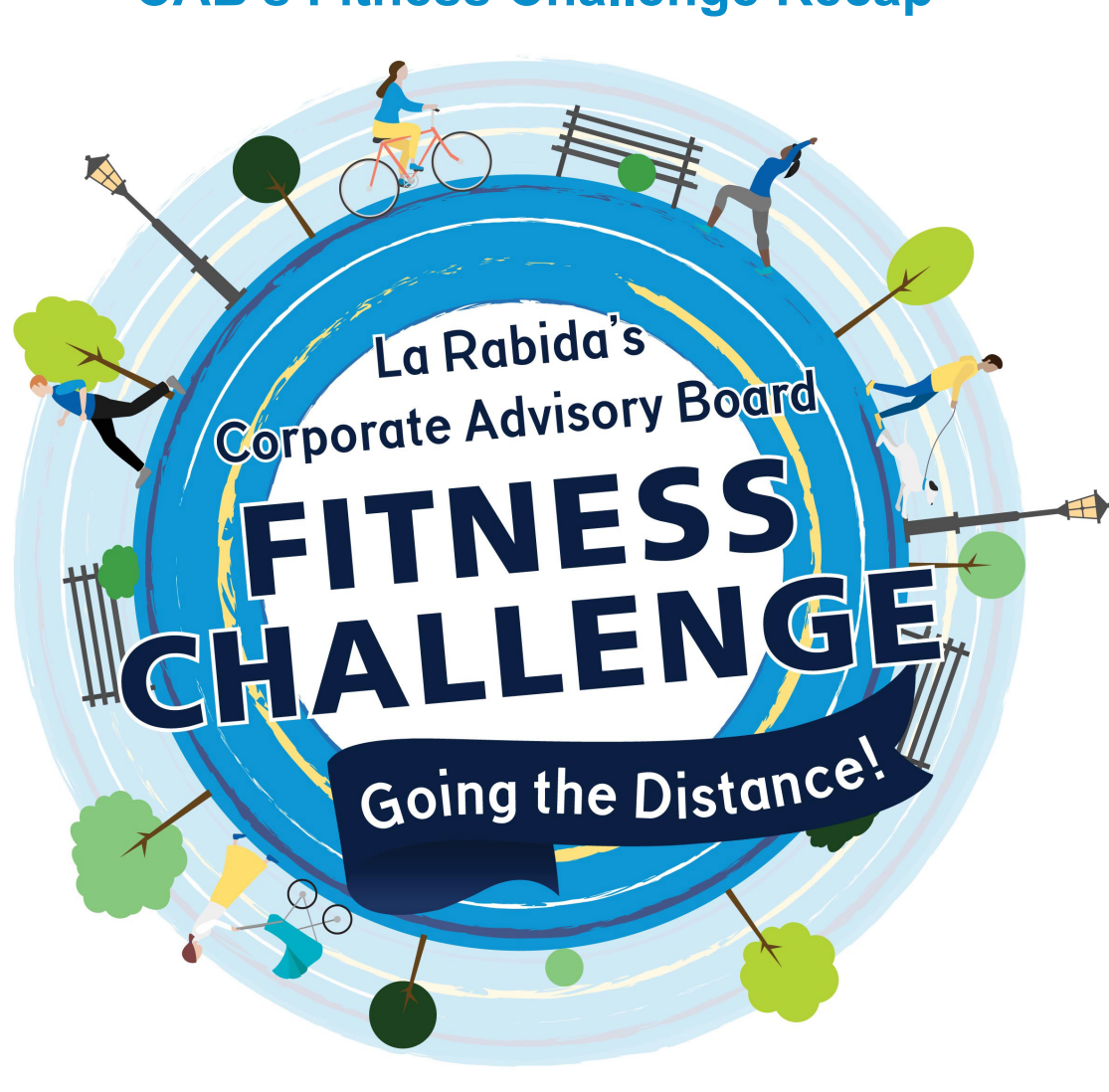


On July 21st, the hospital welcomed WGN Morning News to the Outpatient Healing Garden as patients and families interacted with life-size dinosaurs. The "dino therapy" gave patients an opportunity to have fun, while exercising their bodies and their brains and learning about the prehistoric giants.

"The love that radiates from this place is unbelievable," said Ana Belaval, WGN's Around Town Reporter who visited with the patients during her segment and signed autographs for families. "The kids loved dino therapy. I loved seeing those therapists take care of these children as their own."

When the dinosaurs left La Rabida, they strolled up DuSable Lake Shore Drive to entertain families at Navy Pier the following weekend as part of the Dino, Dragon and Stroll event.

CAB's Fitness Challenge Recap



Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2022 CAB Fitness Challenge! We appreciate you and your willingness to go the distance for the patients and families of La Rabida. Over the course of the challenge, our participants logged an impressive 1,740 total miles and 451 physical activities and raised over \$2,000! While everyone who participated is a winner, a special thanks goes out to our top performers from the 100-mile and up club: Jodi M, Carol H, and Karlie S.

Help Us Help Our Kids

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

Back to School Supply Drive

July 11 - August 5

La Rabida's Corporate Advisory Board (CAB) is hosting a **back to school supply drive** and we need your support! Help make sure our patients and their siblings have a great start to the school year with new supplies!

Click here to shop La Rabida's Amazon Wishlist or scan the QR code below.

Contact Lana Slaughter at 773.256.5955 or lslaughter@larabids.org for more information.