

La Rabida Introduces a New Therapy Dog Program for the Outpatient Clinic



The dog-tors will see you now! Thanks to our partnership with the Cook County Sheriff's Office, La Rabida now has a new Therapy Dog program based in our outpatient clinic. Every Tuesday from 10am to 12pm, patients, families, and staff will have the opportunity to interact with a therapy K9 team in the outpatient lobby or garden area.

Zilly the Therapy K9 and his partner Officer Jerry helped kick things off last week, spending time with patients outside before moving down to the clinic lobby. Zilly was a hit with the patients as well as the staff, spreading excitement and getting plenty of head scratches in return. "One little boy was hugging Zilly with such happiness on his face, it was just pure joy," said Lucy Mayhugh, Executive Director of Clinical Operations. "Everyone who came into contact with Zilly that day was happy to see the dog-tor!"

Maria Cardenas, Inpatient Unit Administrative Assistant at La Rabida is the one who introduced the program and subsequent partnership to the hospital. "I had a similar program for 2 years with the hospital that I came from," shared Maria. "We saw miracles happen with Zilly and I thought that our kids here were also in need of his special brand of therapy. The program is a morale booster - if you're going through a hard time or having a bad day, then at least for that moment Zilly is here, you can forget about all that and add some positivity to your day." Ella the Therapy K9 and her partner Officer Renee are also scheduled to spend time in the outpatient clinic though they haven't made an appearance yet. "She's very gentle, calm, and will do great with the meet-and-greet."

George Hardin, La Rabida's Volunteer Manager, also played a part in connecting the therapy dogs to the outpatient clinic. Furthermore, as an extension of the volunteer program, the therapy K9 teams will work directly with George while they're inside the hospital.

For the hospital as a whole, the therapy dog program offers many benefits. "Dogs are so comforting and have a calming, therapeutic effect," said Lucy Mayhugh. "I embraced the opportunity to share this with our families because it's a chance to not only help bring a bit of happiness to a possibly scary event for a child, but to also engage in a happy, positive experience with law enforcement and let our staff get some feel-good moments during what is usually a busy and hectic day."

This Month on Social

Samantha Turns 1



Someone is one year old! La Rabida passenger Samantha celebrated her first birthday last week. Surrounded by her parents and family, Samantha got to enjoy some warm weather and even cut her own cake. Birthdays are milestones worth honoring and we're glad Samantha got to enjoy her special day. Happy Birthday Samantha!

National Hospital Week



At La Rabida, our talented teams help make our mission of positively impacting the lives of our patients a reality in so many ways. It is because of their dedication and commitment that children like Eddie get the care that they need in a positive, uplifting environment. Thank you to everyone across La Rabida for all that you do!

Bricks of Hope



Time to play! Bricks of Hope delivered 60 LEGO sets for patients at La Rabida. That's over 17,000 bricks our patients will use to work on their fine motor skills, get creative, and play! The mission of Bricks of Hope is to create, play, and inspire imagination in hospitalized children by delivering LEGOs to them during their inpatient stay. Thank you to Bricks of Hope for helping our kids express themselves through play!

Get Moving for CAB's Fitness Challenge



La Rabida's Corporate Advisory Board Fitness Challenge is a fun way to support our patients and families while becoming more active as part of a friendly competition. Simply move, track your distance, and fundraise for children with complex medical conditions.

This is CAB's second annual challenge and we hope to make it a tradition, but need your help. Please join us June 1 - 30th in going the distance for our patients! Click here to learn more and register now!

Become a Sponsor Today



There is still time to partner with us for La Rabida's 33rd Annual Golf Classic on Monday, August 1 at Harborside!

Spend a day outside on the links with us and enjoy a fundraising event that includes 18 holes of golf, giveaways, auctions, contests, raffle and golfer prizes, lunch, cocktail hour, and more.

Confirm your sponsorship by May 31 to have your name or company logo included on the upcoming Golf Classic evite. Visit larabida.org/golf-classic to learn more about the opportunities and many other sponsor benefits!

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

