

New Month, New Reasons to Celebrate

Meet Emmanuel



Emmanuel is a happy, outgoing three-year-old La Rabida patient with autism receiving occupational therapy and speech therapy at the hospital. Thanks to his family and the help of the supportive team around him, Emmanuel is learning to use an assistive communication device and is working on forming different short phrases to let the world know what he's thinking.

Emmanuel loves movies and characters from Cars and anything from Pixar. He also really enjoys dance, gymnastics, and any outdoor activities.

"One of my favorite things that Emmanuel's mom has said is that autism doesn't limit him in any way -- that is awesome and neurodiverse affirming," said Jenny Winberg, a Speech-Language Pathologist working with Emmanuel at La Rabida. "Emmanuel is learning to communicate in a variety of ways, and is able to share and engage more with his family and peers because of it. Using these combination of modalities is helping him to thrive, and be the happy guy he is!"

When Emmanuel first received his communication device, he went to a Zumba class where all of the kids were introducing themselves, and he got to participate by using his device to tell everyone his name. All who were there created an inclusive environment that allowed him to share about himself in a way that he hadn't before.

"Using the device has helped him develop his language," says Jesusita, Emmanuel's mom.

April is Autism Acceptance Month. Emmanuel is a shining example that autism is not limiting and he's doing a great job teaching others about acceptance and inclusion. Keep up the great work Emmanuel!

Former Patient Gives Back



Diana Kranz's stay at La Rabida as a child has stuck with her for a long time. In 1965 at just eight years old, she was treated at La Rabida for rheumatic fever. Her experience inspired her to give back to the hospital to celebrate a milestone birthday in a big way.

"The nurses and staff even back then knew that I was scared and helped to calm me down," said Kranz. "I remember being in isolation where I couldn't see anyone, or they had to wear medical gowns and masks to visit. Sometimes, I could only see family from the room window. But as bad as that memory is, I remember how caring the staff was and how they helped me adjust." Recently, Diana celebrated her 75th birthday. Instead of gifts, she asked a group of 80 of her friends and family that gathered for the celebration to make donations to La Rabida. Thanks to Diana, over \$400 was donated to the hospital.

"My Dad always told me how wonderful La Rabida was -- they didn't charge my parents the extra money that the insurance didn't pay out," said Kranz. "It was important for me to give back to the hospital that helped me be alive for my 75th birthday and to see my son and grandsons grow up. Like so many children back then, I might not be here if not for La Rabida."

Kranz grew up to work for a home builder in the suburbs of Chicago. She started out as a receptionist and worked her way up from Office Manager, to HR, and eventually facility manager. She retired ten years ago and now lives in Arizona. Thank you, Diana!

State Comptroller Susana Mendoza Visits La Rabida



Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza stopped by La Rabida and learned about the important role we play in serving kids with special healthcare needs. She received a tour of the hospital and got the opportunity to meet some of our patients. We appreciate her interest in our work and for the great visit!




A Special Visit makes for an Eggs-traordinary Easter




This Easter, things were really hoppin' at La Rabida! The Easter Bunny popped by for a special visit with our patients and their families. Thank you to our Easter Bunny (La Rabida Board member Allen Kutichins) and his family who come out and support this every year!

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. 

Here are some simple ways to make your mark on the future:

- Make a gift through your will or trust
- Give life insurance you no longer need
- Donate appreciated stock and savings on taxes
- Consider a gift of real estate
- Make a gift that gives you fixed payments for life
- Make a gift that protects your assets

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

This Month on Social

Layoni's Sweet Celebration



La Rabida passenger Layoni is truly one of a kind! She is nicknamed "cupcake" by her mom for her sweet personality. It's only fitting that she celebrated her second birthday in a sweet way, with a cupcake themed party! Layoni loves story time and lights up at sensory books, but nobody gets more smiles from her than her mom. Happy Birthday Layoni!

National Volunteer Week



April 16- 22 is National Volunteer Week. We're thankful for all of the amazing volunteers at La Rabida this week and every week!

Bringing the Ballpark to La Rabida



In honor of the opening game of the season, pitcher Liam Hendriks and the Chicago White Sox brought some ballpark fun directly to La Rabida. As Liam completed his last chemotherapy treatment for non-Hodgkin lymphoma, he and his wife, Kristi, still wanted to show their support for our kids.

Thank you to the Hendriks' and the White Sox organization for delivering special treats and memorabilia to our patients, families, and staff!

Save the Date

La Rabida's 34th Annual
Golf Classic
 August 7, 2023
 Harborside International
 11001 South Doty Avenue East
 Chicago, IL 60628


 For more information, please contact Lona Slaughter at 773.266.9955 or lslaughter@larabida.org.