

Let's Get Excited!

Volunteering Runs in the Family



Uche and Blessing are sisters and La Rabida Volunteers – both with a passion for children and medicine, and both hoping to become doctors!

Uche, the older of the two siblings is a recent graduate of Purdue University with a degree in Behavioral Sciences. During her post-grad gap year, she has been volunteering at La Rabida and working at Lurie Children's Hospital as a behavioral research coordinator. She's hoping to go to medical school and study psychiatry.

She was inspired to volunteer by her little sister, Blessing, who told her about how much she loved working with the children at La Rabida.

Blessing is a third-year pre-med student at the University of Chicago studying biology. She's considering a specialty in surgery or emergency medicine. When looking for volunteer opportunities, she was drawn to La Rabida by her dual love of both kids and medicine.

They both grew up with parents in the medical field and working with kids in church daycare and as camp counselors.

When asked about one of their best experiences volunteering at the hospital, Uche said "I loved spending time playing blocks with a non-verbal four-year-old. He had such an amazing, big personality, and a specific vision for how he wanted things done."

Blessing said "I just really loved getting to know and spend time with so many different kids. They're all so sweet and cute and it's so rewarding when I finally get to see their personalities come out."

May is Mental Health Awareness Month



At La Rabida, we are all working to reduce the stigma surrounding behavioral health issues, as well as shining a light on the fact that mental health matters can affect all of us – patients, providers, families, and our society at large.

Hospitals and health systems can play an important role in ensuring children and adolescents receive the behavioral health care they need to thrive.

The Pediatric Psychology team at La Rabida provides long-term and short-term outpatient therapy, consultation in our primary and specialty clinics, and consultation for our inpatient population.

Child and adolescent psychiatrists play a crucial role in society, tending to the mental health of youth, supporting communities in times of grief and disaster, responding to traumatic events, and so much more. Thank you to everyone who puts the mental health needs of children and adolescents front and center. You are making a huge difference in supporting healthy, safe and happy communities.

Join Us for La Rabida's 34th Annual Golf Classic



On Monday, August 7, 2023, La Rabida Children's Hospital will tee up its **34th Annual Golf Classic** at the beautiful Harborside International Golf Center. The Golf Classic is a fundraising event that invites golfers to come together for a great cause. Join us for a day outside on the links that includes 18 holes of golf, giveaways, auctions, contests, raffles, golfing prizes, lunch, helicopter ball drop, cocktail hour, and more.

Please consider partnering with us to help continue our annual tradition! You can become a sponsor for as little as \$300. If you confirm or register your sponsorship on or before May 31st, your company's logo will be included on the Golf Classic invite (and in future emails). This is a wonderful opportunity for branding visibility and recognition throughout the event.

Proceeds benefit the children and families of La Rabida, as we work to improve the lives of our patients who live with complex conditions, disabilities, or chronic illnesses.

To become a sponsor or to register, visit larabida.org/golf-classic

Employee Spotlight: Dr. Rosemary Briars



Dr. Rosemary Briars, nurse practitioner, has worked with diabetes patients at La Rabida since 1991 and has never been bored. Over the years, Dr. Briars has seen rapid advances in technology and medicine that have improved treatments and the quality of life for patients.

"One of the greatest pleasures of my career has been witnessing how well kids can do today compared to when I first started working with diabetes patients," said Dr. Briars.

La Rabida is certified by the American Diabetes Association and upholds its certification each year by maintaining an excellent quality of care for our patients.

Children in the diabetes program meet with staff once every three months until they graduate college. Many pediatric programs would typically end once a child becomes an adult but at La Rabida, we understand the challenges of young adults transitioning away from their parents and learning to manage their condition on their own. By remaining in the program for longer, these patients have a consistency of care and the peace of mind of working with those with whom they formed strong connections throughout their disease management.

Dr. Briars started working with Viktor when he was just two years old. His family emigrated from China and even before they had an interpreter, Dr. Briars and the family formed a strong connection that has remained throughout the years. Today, Viktor is 21 years old and going to medical school. He says that the impact of Dr. Briars and the La Rabida staff led him to that path.

Viktor isn't the only patient to be inspired by his experiences. Another former patient of Dr. Briars named Katherine became a nurse. Her mother arranged for Dr. Briars to surprise her and her new baby with a visit.

The emotional connection between Dr. Briars and her patients is a key part of the experience. "Dealing with a young child with diabetes can be hard. Well beyond disease management, it's important to also provide emotional support to their families to help boost up the morale and courage that they need to remain healthy and positive."

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

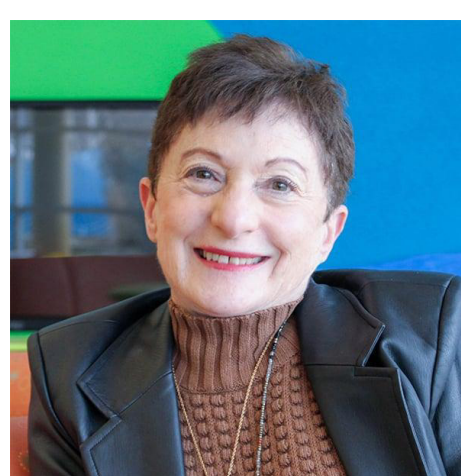
2023 Service Awards



La Rabida recently hosted its 45th Annual Service Awards to recognize the hard work and dedication of our team. Overall, 50 awards were distributed reflecting 610 total years of service. The highest award was given to Carmen Lopez (Patient Financial Services), Carol Usher (Central Supply), and Rafaela Guerrero (EVS), each with 30 years of service.

We are so grateful for the compassion, advocacy and expertise of all those celebrated this year. The Gem on the Lake wouldn't be the same without their efforts.

Crain's Health Care Leader + Booth Notable Alumni



Congratulations to our President & CEO, Brenda Wolf, who recently received two outstanding recognitions for her hard work and service.

Brenda received the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award in Public Service from The University of Chicago Booth School of Business for 35 years of leadership at La Rabida.

Brenda was also selected as one of Crain's Chicago Business 2023 Notable Leaders in Healthcare for her leadership within the health care community and her dedication to providing quality care to children and families.

Congratulations Brenda and thank you for all that you do for La Rabida.

La Rabida's Amazon Wishlist

Looking for an easy way to support La Rabida?

Consider shopping our Amazon Wishlist! You can help our patients receive the toys, learning tools that they can use and thrive. To start shopping, visit our Amazon Wishlist here.

