

## Have We Got News for You

### So Much to Celebrate



Ezekiel has a lot to celebrate this summer. Not only is he a recent Whitney Young High School graduate, he also graduated from La Rabida to adult care after receiving services here for 16 years!

Ezekiel has right side hemiparesis, which means he is partially paralyzed, caused by a stroke during pregnancy. During his 16 years as a patient at La Rabida, Ezekiel received ongoing occupational and physical therapy, serial casting on his ankles, and bracing and splinting for his arm.

When he first came to La Rabida, he was a shy six-year-old boy, hesitant about his care. However, over the years Ezekiel formed trusting relationships with his therapists and doctors allowing him to maximize his potential. In fact, Ezekiel has created personal art for many therapists at La Rabida, three of whom have his beautiful paintings hanging in their homes.

Kim VanKlombenburgh, one of Ezekiel's physical therapists, has known and worked with Ezekiel since he started coming to La Rabida in 2011.

"Over the years, he struggled with the bracing and splinting, and the feelings of being different at school," says VanKlombenburgh. "But every time, with the help and support of his amazing family, Ezekiel always rose above."

According to his therapists, Ezekiel's family are generous, considerate and grateful for the services provided by La Rabida.

"At La Rabida, not only did the staff help Ezekiel with his disabilities, they also made him feel special," says Tina, Ezekiel's mom. "Everyone truly cared about him and his well-being. He wasn't just treated as a patient, but as a person."

Ezekiel is a kind, polite, mature and hard-working young man. An accomplished artist and track and cross country athlete, he is off to college in Florida this fall, where he will focus on training for the Paralympics.

Congratulations to Ezekiel, his family and his therapists!

## World Sickle Cell Day



In honor of World Sickle Cell Day, we celebrate patients like 3-year-old Audi – living with sickle cell, but not letting it interfere with her daily activities, like modeling for an impromptu photoshoot.

Sickle cell can cause pain crises and anemia so early diagnosis and prevention is key to improving the health of children with the disease. As home to the largest outpatient pediatric sickle cell program in the Chicago area, La Rabida provides patients and their families with the information and support they need to address treatment and pain management options.

To Audi and all of our patients with sickle cell, your well-being is and will continue to be an important part of our mission.

## Annual Board Meeting



Earlier this month, members of La Rabida's Board of Trustees and Corporate Advisory Board gathered on campus for the organization's Annual Meeting. The board welcomed new members Laura Goodman (FGMK, LLC), Richard Hull (KPMG), Ty Mayberry (CDW), and Carr Preston (Akoya Capital). They also celebrated the retirement of Dan Real, a long-time member of the board of trustees and friend to La Rabida. In recognition of his many years of service, Dan was gifted a watercolor painting of the hospital - painted and presented by former patient, Ezekiel.

After the meeting, members were invited upstairs for a special sneak peek at the newly renovated inpatient unit. Though some construction is still underway, board members were able to see by the in-unit playroom, new ship bow, welcome center, conference room, and family and staff break rooms.

We thank all of the board members who attended this year's annual meeting. We appreciate everything you do to help support our patients, families, and mission.

## Time to Register for La Rabida's 34th Annual Golf Classic



### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



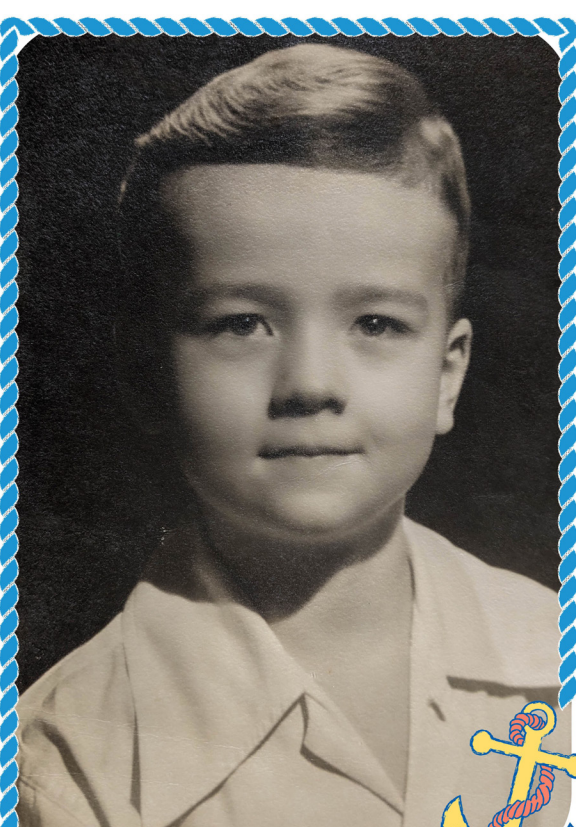
Visit [www.larabida.org/golf-classic](http://www.larabida.org/golf-classic) to register today.



Space is limited for **La Rabida's 34th Annual Golf Classic**. Please consider partnering with us and registering if you haven't already. Visit [larabida.org/golf-classic](http://larabida.org/golf-classic) to reserve your spot today!

The Golf Classic is a fundraising event that invites golfers to come together for a great cause. Come spend a day outside on the links with us and enjoy 18 holes of golf, silent auction items, prizes, lunch, cocktails and more. 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.

## Memories and Movie Trailers



We recently reconnected with former patient and lifelong Chicagoan Dennis Conway, Denny, now 79 and a retired Chicago Public School math teacher, was an inpatient at La Rabida for a period of 8 months in 1952 and 1953 when he was treated for rheumatic fever.

During Denny's eight month stay at La Rabida, he remembers movie nights, receiving four hormone shots, then two hours of activity after strict bed rest for weeks. Eventually, he graduated to no restrictions at all and could be out of bed whenever he wanted – something he appreciated a lot. "I've never been one to be good at sitting around. I'm always moving," shared Denny.

Denny continued his follow-up care at La Rabida until his teen years. His mother, Julia Conway, became dedicated to fundraising for La Rabida and did so with the Variety Club, which "adopted" La Rabida and highlighted patients in movie trailers, typically before double features. Denny remembers his mother traveling to "almost every movie theater in and around Chicago" to garner support for the children of La Rabida. She became so busy with the endeavor in the 1950's, the Conway's had to install a second home telephone for Julia to organize other volunteers in her fundraising efforts for the hospital.

On August 22, 1958, Denny and his mom attended the Bob Hope Testimonial Banquet which raised funds for La Rabida.

Denny has the program to this day with Mr. Hope and Jack Benny's autograph on the cover.

Denny and his wife Debbie are now retired and live in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood. They have 8 children and are expecting their 20th grandchild next month. Denny credits La Rabida for his healing at the time and says "I have had a blessed life and my mom was a real champion for La Rabida and its patients."

The Conway's have supported our mission for over three decades and we are grateful for their continued support for the "gem on the lake."

### 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 [larabida.org/donate](http://larabida.org/donate).

**DONATE TODAY**

## Save the Date: 2023 Friends of La Rabida Awards Celebration

