

## “Fall” Into News from La Rabida

### All Aboard the Newly Expanded S.S. La Rabida!



This month we celebrated the ‘official’ unveiling of our newly expanded inpatient unit – the S.S. La Rabida.

This project represents a significant milestone in La Rabida’s commitment to providing critical medical services to children with complex medical conditions, chronic illnesses, and rehabilitation needs. The investment also underscores our dedication to ensuring that every child receives the highest quality of care in a compassionate and family-friendly environment, regardless of a family’s ability to pay.

In the last few years, we’ve seen the level of medical complexity among our patients increase along with the overall demand for comprehensive care for children living with complex and chronic conditions. This redesign allows us to meet the growing demands we’re seeing in the community – now and well into the future.

Known as the S.S. La Rabida for its nautical theme, the entire second floor has been redesigned into one connected inpatient space. Other details include:

- **Increased Bed Capacity:** Five new cabins (patient rooms) have been added to the unit, allowing us to accommodate more children and their families. And, as always, every cabin has a view of either Lake Michigan or Jackson Harbor.
- **Integrated Technology:** The expansion includes the integration of updated technology and equipment in all cabins to support the hospital’s staff in providing the highest standards of care.
- **Dedicated Inpatient Playroom:** One of the project’s guiding principles was to support ways for patients to be out of their rooms. To that end, the unit now has a dedicated playroom that was precisely designed to accommodate the healthcare and developmental needs of our patient population. This in-unit play space provides easy access to play and therapy space to all patients.
- **Family-Centered Care:** In an effort to enhance comfort for families, the updated unit offers a brighter, more welcoming environment and relaxing spaces for patients and families to ensure they feel comfortable and supported throughout their child’s stay.
- **Collaborative Care:** Staff workspaces have been reimagined to allow care teams to easily collaborate between clinical disciplines, including a new and improved staff lounge.

This has been a unique project, because we had to continue delivering patient care so close to construction. But the La Rabida team, along with the architects and construction and project management teams, made it happen. A labor of love for all involved, we are thrilled to be able to offer this space to our patients.

### Double Your Donation Today!

**Double the Donation!**



We’re delighted to announce that we’ve received a **\$50,000 ANONYMOUS CHALLENGE GRANT** in support of our inpatient unit redesign project. This means it is the perfect time to make a gift! Your donation will be matched dollar-for-dollar, thanks to the generosity of our donor.

Please help us reach this goal in support of this special project, allowing us to meet the growing needs of our patients with complex medical and technology needs. Every donation gets us closer to **DOUBLING \$50,000!**

### September is Sickle Cell Awareness Month



Sickle Cell Disease is an inherited blood disorder that affects approximately 100,000 Americans, more prevalently people of African and Latinx/Hispanic descent. Children who live with Sickle Cell Disease experience acute pain crises, dangerous infections, and other serious problems that can damage every organ in their bodies. We are proud to have one of the largest pediatric sickle cell programs in the Chicago area.

Sickle Cell Disease patients have special needs that require treatment and support from a range of specialists, which is why management typically involves a multidisciplinary approach, including regular medical check-ups, pain management, blood transfusions, medication, and sometimes bone marrow transplantation. That’s why La Rabida’s collaborative approach works so well. As a Patient-Centered Medical Home, we offer complete comprehensive care for children.

In addition to primary care and physician services, each child has a full team of therapists including physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, and infant developmental specialists to help them reach their fullest potential. We also provide patients with access to care coordination, support, and social services.

While there is not a universal cure right now, patients with Sickle Cell Disease can live happy, full lives with the proper management. Living with a complex medical condition like Sickle Cell Disease can be difficult, and our care teams work to ensure our patients and families don’t let the disease overtake their lives so they can live with Sickle Cell Disease and still reach their fullest potential.

Click here to learn more about our Sickle Cell program, or read about Malik and Syncere’s journey with Sickle Cell Disease at La Rabida.

We’re a proud sponsor of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of Illinois’ 49th Annual 5K/1K this Saturday, September 23. Come out and walk, jog or bike for a cure with us! Be sure to look for us when you’re there!

## Interested in becoming a volunteer tutor?

School’s back in session and we’re looking for tutors to provide our patients 1-on-1 help with schoolwork. As a tutor you’ll:

- Meet with the same child twice per week (Tuesday and Thursday, 5:30 - 7 p.m.)
- Serve as a role model and mentor to the children in the program

Tutoring runs from 10/3/23 through 5/7/24. Visit [larabida.org/volunteer](http://larabida.org/volunteer) for more info or to apply today!



### Welcome New Trustees

Congratulations and welcome to our newest Board of Trustees members!  
We’re thrilled to have you join the team.



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Managing Director, Akoya Capital Partners



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Partner, FGMK



**Ty Mayberry**  
Integrated Services Technology Team Lead, CDW



**Rick Hull**  
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### Get Your Tickets for Our 2023 Friends of La Rabida Gala Today!



## FRIENDS OF LA RABIDA GALA

November 16, 2023 • The Ritz-Carlton, Chicago

Honoring  
Ariel Investments  
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### Halloween is Next Month



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### Stay Connected All Month Long

Follow us on social for news, information, updates, and plenty of patient pictures. Invite your friends to join us, too!

