



## Golf, Mickey Mouse, and More!

### Patient Updates

#### Walk with Eli



Recently, seven-year-old Eli completed serial casting treatment at La Rabida, **working his way through 13 casts over the course of just 14 weeks.** An incredibly smart, caring boy, Eli has Diplegic Cerebral Palsy that affects both of his legs. The muscles in the back of his ankles are most affected, making his ankles very tight – like he was always pointing his toes. During serial casting, Eli's physical therapist applied a series of casts to increase his range of motion by progressively lengthening the shortened muscles in his legs.



During the course of his treatment, Eli and his mom never missed an appointment, even on the coldest day of the year! The pair were committed to the process, followed all directions, and worked extremely hard on his home exercise program every week. All this hard work paid off; Eli thrived with serial casting. Week after week, he made visible improvements in his gait pattern until he was standing and walking with his feet flat to the ground. **GO ELI!**

Read more about Eli's treatment and how he's doing today on our website.

[Eli's Story](#)

#### A Family Affair

Our patients work hard at the hospital and at home, so it's no wonder everyone gets involved in therapy and care. This month, Emily's sister Ruth came to La Rabida to help out with Emily's therapy. These two have such a special sisterly bond and workwell together. Ruth loves to help, and Emily loves the support!



### La Rabida News

#### Mickey Mouse Visits La Rabida



This month we celebrated with our friends from Disney and Starlight Children's Foundation with a special visit from MICKEY MOUSE!

Mickey was here to "officially" celebrate the launch of a collaboration that brings beloved Disney stories to life through interactive installations, along with toy deliveries, special movie screenings, and more for patients and families staying at the hospital and visiting our outpatient center.

This is all part of a \$750,000 grant we received from Disney to help reimagine the pediatric patient journey. La Rabida is among the select hospitals where Disney is offering these experiences to bring comfort and distraction to our patients.

There was so much joy and excitement throughout the entire hospital. It was truly a magical celebration.

See more of Mickey's visit below.

[La Rabida on ABC](#)

[Mickey Pics](#)

#### Spreading the Love

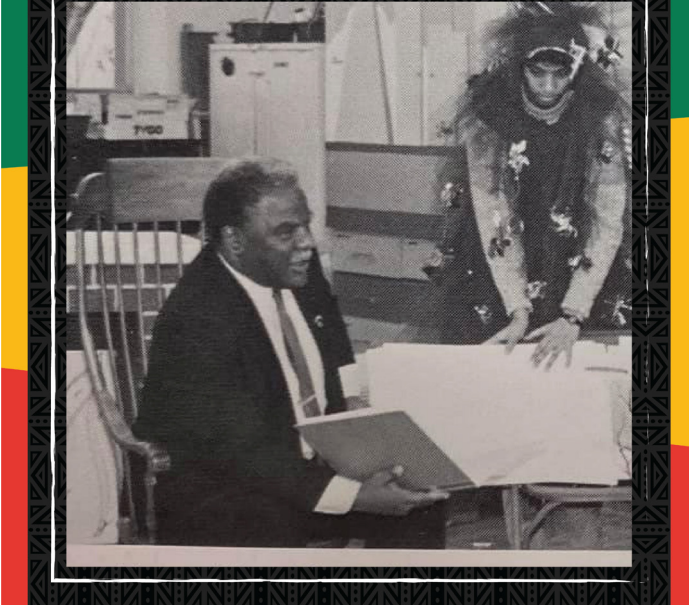


Happy Valentine's Day from our heart to yours. We spread lots of love and compassion throughout the hospital on Valentine's Day this year with a little extra help from our friends at WSHE Chicago. Once again, the station hosted its Cards for Kids campaign, collecting hundreds of Valentine's Day cards for our patients. We're so grateful for the folks at SHE 100.3 and its listeners for the delightful, heart-felt wishes we were able to share with our patients on Valentine's Day. Sometimes the littles thing can add the biggest smile to their face and the most joy in their heart.

#### Celebrating Black History

During Black History Month, we celebrated the rich history our city, neighborhood, and hallways have. We shared stories internally and externally about the important role African Americans have played in shaping La Rabida.

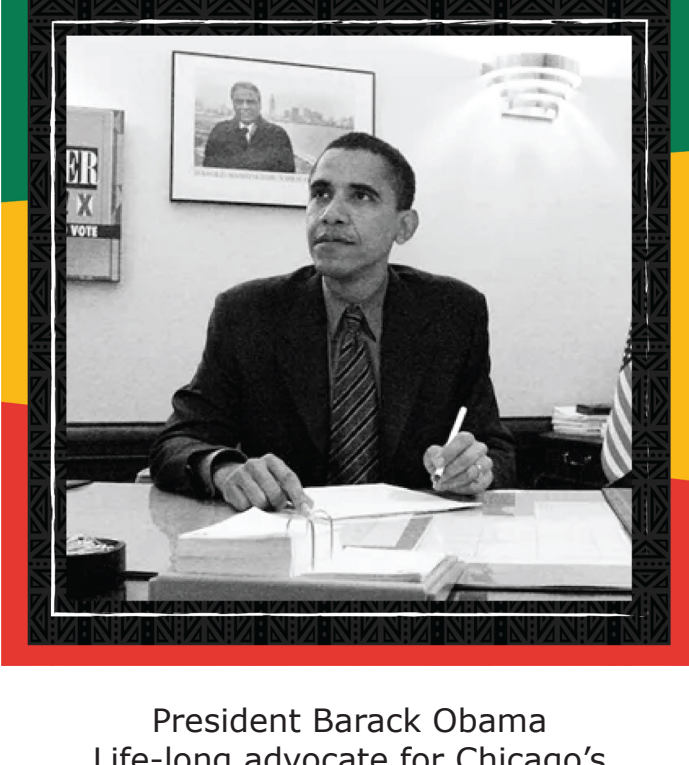
Click on the images below to learn more about how these icons have been so important to La Rabida's mission.



Harold Washington  
First African American Mayor of Chicago



Dr. Angella Dorothea Ferguson  
Sickle Cell Disease pioneer



President Barack Obama  
Life-long advocate for Chicago's underserved communities



Thelma Brown Pendleton  
First African American physical therapist at La Rabida

### Support Our Mission



#### Save the Date!

Make time for us FORE a great day of golf to support our amazing patients and families.

More details and sponsorship opportunities to come.

Questions? Email Rachael Kemnic, Special Events Manager



#### Want to join us in our mission?

**We're currently looking for case managers, clinical dietitians, security officers, and more!**

#### FY23 Annual Report: A Special Place To Be

We're proud of our 2023 accomplishments and are excited about the future. Thank you to all who have supported our mission!



Dear Friends,  
There are so many highlights to the days, weeks, and months that pass at La Rabida. Our patients always receive care that is family-centered, team-driven, and holistic. From our multidisciplinary and compassionate care to our innovation and valuable partnerships with other organizations, we are always evolving to provide the best possible care for our patients and their families.

### Life at La Rabida

Love seeing photos from La Rabida? We've created a new Flickr album so we can share even more special moments with you. Take a look at what's been happening so far in 2024, and come back regularly for new photos, too!



#### Connect With Us

