



Special Visits, Pinwheels for Prevention, and More!

Patient Updates

Beyond These Four Walls



So much of what makes La Rabida special are the small things that happen every day, often work that goes far beyond our four walls. Our staff work tirelessly to help patients with more than just their medical needs. These "wraparound" services can range from advocating for a child's IEP plan at school to helping a family navigate the Medicaid system and everything in between. There are a million of these stories, because each and every one of our employees goes above and beyond for our patients every day. There are a few recent stories we thought we'd share with you, including a family displaced by a home fire, a patient needing school transportation, and our La Rabida food pantry.

[Click here to read the full story about how we help our patients well beyond our four walls.](#)

[Stories from Beyond These Four Walls](#)

La Rabida News

Governor Pritzker Signs Executive Order at La Rabida



Governor Pritzker was back at La Rabida to sign an Executive Order to promote equity in gene and cell therapy treatment that will help increase access, and significantly improve health outcomes and the quality of life for patients across Illinois. Our very own Dr. Peddinti spoke about sickle cell disease and how the cost of management is substantial and can be overwhelming for our families. We're honored that Governor Pritzker chose to host his press conference at La Rabida, and that he is taking steps toward finding a sustainable solution to finance and ensure equitable access to sickle cell disease treatments and other high-cost drugs in Illinois.

We Love Special Visits!

Click on the photos below to see more pictures from each special visit!



Ghostbusters Frozen Empire premiered this month, and as part of the action, our friends from **Windy City Ghostbusters** stopped by with their Ectomobiles, P.K.E. Meters, and Proton Power Packs to fill our day with fun and laughter while making sure La Rabida is free of any and all paranormal activity. They even signed autographs!



Our friends from Dunkin' visited this month to celebrate the **Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation's "Dunkin' Joyful Spaces"** grant we received to create a child and family interactive area in our new inpatient playroom. With donut decorating, an appearance by Sprinkles Donut, and tours of our interactive patient spaces, it was wonderful day celebrating joy. We are so grateful for The Foundation's support, which also includes funding for our Child Life Program and therapy kitchen.



The **Chicago White Sox and its first baseman, Andrew Vaughn**, stopped by La Rabida to celebrate opening day with TONS of White Sox gear for our patients, and plenty of smiles too. We love when our friends get to see how special La Rabida is and meet our patients. The kids loved every minute, and our staff got in on some of the action too! Thank you so much Andrew and team!



Some-bunny came to visit! **The Easter Bunny** hopped around our inpatient unit this Easter delivering baskets of goodies and lots of smiles to our kids. Thank you to our Easter Bunny, La Rabida Board Member Allen Kutchins!

Support Our Mission

National Child Abuse Prevention Month



Pinwheels for Prevention



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Our Children's Advocacy Center works to reduce trauma to children and families involved in investigations of child abuse and violent crime with services like forensic interviews of child victims of abuse, victim advocacy services, and no-cost support services for children and families. Join us in our mission by supporting our Pinwheels for Prevention campaign. The pinwheels convey a message that every child deserves the chance to be raised in a healthy, safe, and nurturing environment. Sponsor a pinwheel today!

Toys and Tools for Pediatric Therapy



Delivering Joy to Children in Need

Play is how children socialize, learn, and thrive, and having access to play during a hospital stay can be life changing. We're excited to receive a Play Grant from The Toy Foundation to improve the care and wellbeing of our children with the power of play! This grant will fund therapeutic toys, crafts, and journals for patients served by our Behavioral Health programs. Pediatric therapy relies on many resources to engage in behavioral interventions, such as the use of fidget toys or coloring to cope with anxiety, or journaling and reading for depression. We also use a wide range of tools to develop coping skills like pinwheels, stress balls, jewelry making kits, and even guided imagery cards. However, our families often do not have resources to purchase these items to practice at home. Now we can provide patients the tools they need to practice at home, helping them be more engaged in therapy, thus achieving their therapy goals.



Save the Date!

Make plans to join our 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

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!



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