



## A Long Road Home, National Hospital Week, and More!

### Patient Updates

#### A Long Road Home



When a child is born, parents dream of bringing the baby home, introducing him to friends and family, and siblings bonding with one another. But, if things don't go according to plan, those dreams can quickly change. Such is the case for Stanley and his family.

Stanley was born a twin with his sister at just 24 weeks gestation. When Stanley first arrived at La Rabida, he had several shunts in his brain to relieve pressure, a gastrostomy-jejunostomy tube (G-J tube), which is a feeding tube that was placed into his stomach and small intestine, a tracheostomy, a ventilator, and cerebral vision impairment, among other things. That's a lot to handle for Mom and Dad, especially with three older siblings, his twin sister, and a newborn baby sister at home, too. But Stanley's La Rabida care team was ready to support and guide his parents as they navigated a long and difficult road of learning how to care for Stanley's complex medical needs.

Now almost two years old, Stanley and his family are taking the next step to going home. He'll continue to receive care at La Rabida in our Technology-Dependent Clinic.

[Read more about Stanley's story here!](#)

#### Tutoring Pizza Party



Keeping up with schoolwork can be difficult enough as is, but when facing the extra challenges that come with complex medical diagnoses, it's even more challenging. As the school year came to an end, we honored our tutoring students' hard work and dedication to their education with an end-of-year pizza party. Along with our volunteers and their parents and caregivers, we ate pizza, talked about achievements, discussed books for summer reading, and every kid got to take home a new toy just in time for summer break!

La Rabida offers one-on-one tutoring to our patients and their sibling throughout the school year, helping them stay on track no matter what comes their way. Our volunteers are paired with a student for the full school year and they make so much progress together – improving classroom engagement, helping kids focus on homework assignments, even making it onto their school's honor roll!

### La Rabida News

#### Behavioral Health Milestone Achievements



We are proud of our commitment to the emotional well-being of our patients, families, and staff and advocacy for early intervention, access to mental health services, and destigmatization of seeking help. And, we're not the only ones who think our Behavioral Health team is fantastic.

Beyond Pediatric Psychology, our Behavioral Health and Community Program team includes the Chicago Child Trauma Center, Children's Advocacy Center, Children and Family Connections, and Integrated Assessment. This team has made some incredible achievements recently, including:

- **Carol Muhammad** from Child and Family Connections joined the *Governor-appointed Illinois Interagency Council on Early Intervention*, which leads the coordinated EI services system in establishing and implementing the coordinated, comprehensive, interagency, and interdisciplinary system of EI services.
- **Minnetta Gills-Walker**, Lead Service Coordinator, won an award at the 2024 Child and Family Connections Conference for her organization, time management, and initiative to help the CFC improve efficiency through anticipation and prevention of operational glitches in the office. **Isis Zollicoffer**, Service Coordinator, was also nominated for an award.
- The team from our Children's Advocacy Center provides **human trafficking trainings** for law enforcement in partnership with the ISP Central Illinois Human Trafficking's Task Force, Cook County State's Attorney's Office Human Trafficking Unit, FBI, and DCFS Human Trafficking Division. We recently hired **Temica Wofford**, in part, to expand these trainings to Chicago schools.
- The CCTC offers free **trauma-informed care training** to eligible organizations, empowering them to create safe and positive interactions, aiming to reduce chances for re-traumatization. The team also provides **training for all La Rabida employees** and hosts monthly reflective groups to support staff well-being especially as it relates to working with a highly traumatized population.

#### La Rabida Celebrates National Hospital Week

We were delighted to celebrate National Hospital Week last month at La Rabida. Hospitals and health care workers stand strong for their communities and play a vital role in our society to keep communities healthy. Our patients and community rely on our services every single day no matter what. And we work with our community partners to develop programs that advance health and wellness for all.

**39 inpatient beds and more than 4,000 unique patients throughout the year**

**Recognized by the National Committee on Quality Assurance as a Patient Centered Medical Home**

**Integrated healthcare that is comprehensive, team-driven, coordinated, and holistic**

**Equitable Access Advocacy**

**Most Medicaid-reliant hospital in Illinois**

**Extensive wraparound services**

#### LinkedIn Event



La Rabida was invited to share more about our mission with LinkedIn employees last month at one of the company's weekly networking events. Special thanks to Corporate Advisory Board member Sibley Weiland for nominating us so we could network with LinkedIn's professionals and raise funds at the same time!

Want to learn more about our Corporate Advisory Board? [Click here!](#)

### Support Our Mission

#### Wellness Walks with the Chicago Parks Foundation

We have kicked-off our partnership with the Chicago Parks Foundation to host our first Wellness Walks series. Once a month this spring/summer our patient families, staff, and community members can walk and talk with one of our pediatric providers through Jackson Park while discussing health and wellness topics. Our first family- and pet-friendly walk was all about summer safety. There are still four more walks this season, including Nutrition and Physical Activity, Pediatric Development and Milestones, Sleep Facts, and School Readiness.

[Click below to learn more and register for any of this season's walks.](#)

**Wellness Walks**

PRESENTED BY CHICAGO PARKS FOUNDATION

**La Rabida Wellness Walks in Jackson Park 10:00 a.m.**

**May 11: Summer Safety**  
**June 8: Nutrition and Physical Activity**  
**July 13: Pediatric Development and Milestones**  
**August 10: Sleep Facts**  
**September 14: School Readiness**

*Walks are approximately 45 minutes long, and strollers and leashed pets are welcome, too!*

LA RABIDA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL Chicago Parks Foundation

**35th Annual Golf Classic**  
**August 5, 2024**

Harborside International  
 11001 South Doty Avenue East · Chicago, IL 60628

**Summer is here and La Rabida Golf Classic sponsorships are selling fast!**

The La Rabida Golf Classic is a month's worth of sponsorship slots! Don't miss your opportunity to join us for this signature fundraising event of the season.

Want to join in on the fun, but need to brush up on your game?  
 Introducing the **Clinic at the La Rabida Golf Classic!**  
 Join us for three 30-minute lessons on driving, short game, and putting with Harborside pros. There are only 30 spots available, so sign up today!

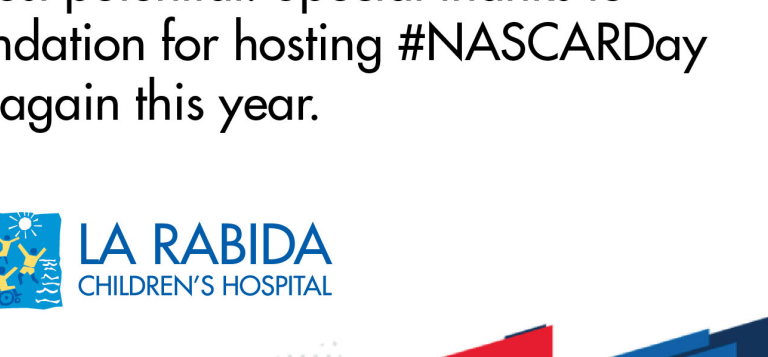
#### NASCAR Giveathon Thank You



**We did it!!**

Thank you to everyone who participated in our NASCAR Giveathon on May 14 and 15.

We were able to raise **more than \$3,000** to support our mission to help children facing medically complex conditions, disabilities, chronic illness, and trauma reach their fullest potential. Special thanks to The NASCAR Foundation for hosting #NASCARDay again this year.



### 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

