

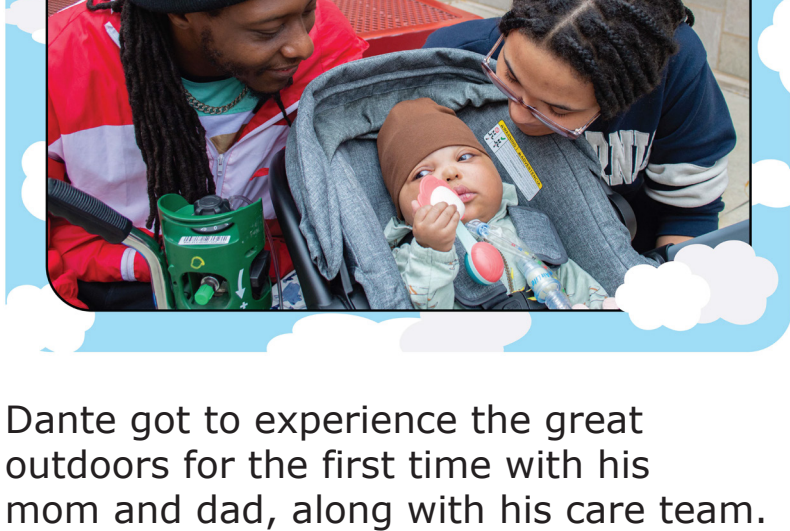
A Month of Celebrations, Roundtable on Clinical Trial Diversity, and More!

Patient Updates

A Month of Celebrations

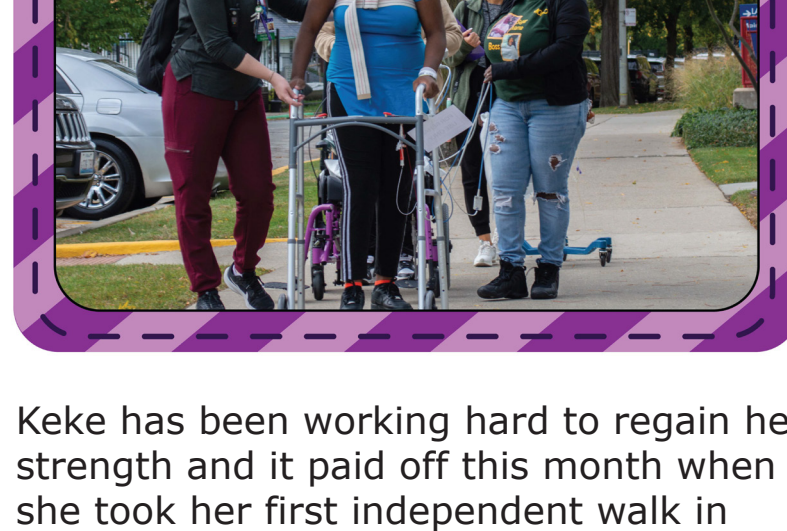
There was a lot going on in the halls of La Rabida this month. From patient achievements to ghosts and goblins, here are a few things we celebrated in October.

Enjoying the Great Outdoors



Dante got to experience the great outdoors for the first time with his mom and dad, along with his care team. Experiences like this are incredibly meaningful because Dante had never even felt the breeze across his skin before. Patients like Dante have to be strong enough to handle the outdoor elements while remaining stable. In addition to his physical strength, this experience would not be possible without the support of Dante's care team. In particular, his respiratory therapist has to stay with him to manage and support his breathing, monitoring settings and making adjustments along the way, if necessary.

Hard Work Pays Off



Keke has been working hard to regain her strength and it paid off this month when she took her first independent walk in front of La Rabida. She was able to stroll with the support of her walker from our main entrance all the way to our outpatient center! While Keke did need to take a few breaks along the way, with the support of her mom and her care team (and her own perseverance) she never gave up and achieved a major milestone in her journey.

Trick-or-Treat



Halloween is one of our favorite celebrations at La Rabida. This year was extra special because we were able to bring back our Halloween Parade for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic! From pumpkin decorating to dressing up in costumes our patients, families, and staff came together to enjoy a day of kids being kids – just the way it should be!

[Click the photo to see our Halloween photo album.](#)

Building Hope One Brick at a Time

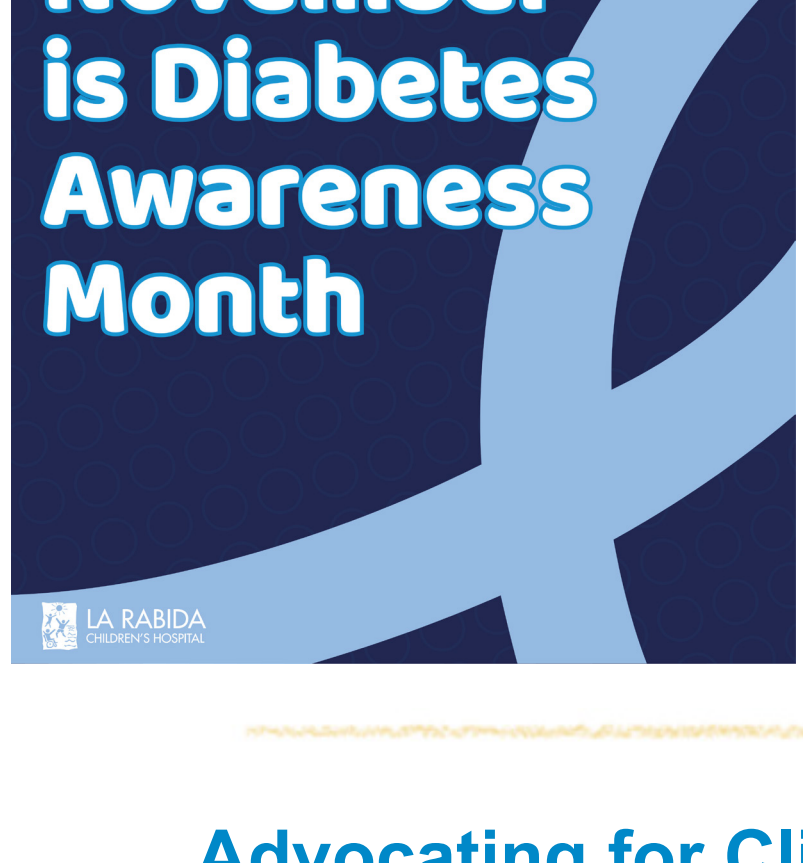


We love when Adam from Bricks of Hope visits La Rabida! As a long-time partner of ours, he's delivered hundreds of LEGO sets here for our patients, which we're always grateful to receive. We were especially honored to welcome Adam here to make his 100th LEGO delivery since starting Bricks of Hope in 2021. These deliveries have included more than 12,500 LEGO sets containing more than 2.5 million LEGO bricks!

Congratulations Adam, and thank you for making La Rabida a part of your mission.

La Rabida News

Screening for Type 1 Diabetes Risk for Family Members



In partnership with Breakthrough T1D (formerly JDRF), our Chicago Children's Diabetes Center has launched a new free screening program for first degree relatives (siblings, parents) of our patients with Type 1 Diabetes (T1D). If someone tests positive for likelihood of developing T1D, we can prescribe a new FDA approved medication that can postpone the onset of T1D for at least a few years. This new program is a big step toward improving access to testing and treatment for at risk individuals, regardless of race or ethnicity, which is integral to our mission.

Advocating for Clinical Trial Diversity



As a trusted leader in the pediatric healthcare, we were honored to host Congresswoman Robin Kelly's roundtable on diversifying clinical trials at La Rabida. Diverse clinical trials, with participants of diverse races, genders, sex, and ages, ensure medical discoveries lead to better outcomes and drive medical breakthroughs that truly serve everyone, positively impacting healthcare disparities.

At La Rabida, our patient population is made up of many people from communities of color. These groups are often underrepresented or excluded from research trials, even for diseases that disproportionately affect them.

Improving the application of new and upcoming medications and therapies across diverse backgrounds improves health outcomes for all. For example,

a medication may or may not present adverse side effects for people of color, even when it does the opposite for those that are white. So, if the clinical trial of that drug isn't diverse, we don't know how it will affect everyone when it is first available.

Dr. Peddinti, Director of La Rabida's sickle cell program, was invited to participate in the roundtable. Among other insightful contributions, she shared her thoughts on how "diverse clinical trials help us understand how treatments work across different populations, leading to more personalized and effective care to improve drug safety and efficacy, and build trust in the medical system among non-white populations."

"La Rabida is grateful for the awareness and advocacy that Congresswoman Kelly has brought to this important issue," said Peddinti. "As a specialty children's hospital on the south side of Chicago, our patients, the majority of whom have chronic or complex illnesses, directly benefit from the research of new and upcoming medications and therapies."

- Dr. Radhika Peddinti

Welcome to Our Newest Medical Team Members

Dr. Kyshari Butler recently joined our team and offers a unique set of skills and expertise to further support our patients and families. With a focus on natural and holistic therapies for children, Dr. Butler is also well-versed in using food as medicine, postpartum care, breastfeeding, and menstrual health. We look forward to her added leadership in our outpatient clinic.

Dr. Naiomi Gunaratne-Breaux joined our diabetes team last month, as well. With a wealth of knowledge and experience, she will be seeing patients in both our diabetes and endocrinology clinics. Originally from the western suburbs, Dr. Gunaratne-Breaux attended medical school at the University of Miami and completed her residency and fellowship at the University of Chicago Medicine. We're thrilled to have Dr. Gunaratne-Breaux on board as we continue to see increased need for patient support in these areas.



Support Our Mission

Your Table is Ready!

Secure your own table at our Friends of La Rabida Gala. You and nine friends can have a fun night out all while supporting a good cause. [Click here to purchase your table today!](#)
Table includes 10 seats

Register for Our Teletownhall

Join CEO Rolla Sweis as she talks with our experts about our advocacy work and what we're doing to tackle sex trafficking in our city. [LOOK FOR DETAILS SOON!](#)

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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