

A Special Invitation, New Executive Leadership, and More!

A Special Invitation

Children's Advocacy Center Sex Abuse Programs

This spring the La Rabida Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) piloted a program to provide a two-month sex abuse prevention curriculum in three elementary school grades in the West Harvey-Dixmoor School District, providing curriculum for about 230 students. At the beginning of this school year, the program was expanded to all grades, pre-k through eighth, in the district and two grades at the PEACE Center, an alternative high school in Thornton Township. **Currently, our team is working with nearly 450 students.**

This program has also allowed for us to provide numerous trainings to all teachers, school resource officers, and administrators in the district to help them understand the dynamics of sexual abuse and provide guidance on how to respond if abuse is suspected or if a child discloses abuse. **In our first set of official pre and post results, we saw an improvement of more than 10% for our 4th graders!**

The work we are doing at our Children's Advocacy Center, and throughout the hospital, is critical to keeping our children safe and healthy. One of these programs is currently supported by a federal grant that expires at the end of this month. We need your support to continue to provide these services to prevent and support victims of sex abuse and child trafficking.

Join us **TONIGHT** for a live tele-townhall with President and CEO Rolla Sweis, along with the Director of the La Rabida Children's Advocacy Center, Rachel McGinnis, and Temica Wofford, Child Sexual Exploitation Specialist, to learn more about this vital work and how you can support its continuation.



Patient Updates



We celebrated Keke's discharge last week after progressing from her first independent walk with her walker to walking independently in a little more than four weeks!



With help styling and accessorizing their outfits and manicures, our patients had a glamorous time at our dress event thanks to **Frankie's on the Park**.

La Rabida News

La Rabida Stronger Together Grant Work Begins



Our Stronger Together program has officially started in our Outpatient Clinic! The Stronger Together Grant was awarded to La Rabida from Cook County Health to address the gaps for our patients, residing in Cook County, in the special education process. As part of the grant, La Rabida partners with Chicago Public Schools to offer Child Find Screenings at La Rabida. Our first round of Child Find Screenings was a success with all but one child qualifying to have a full assessment by Chicago Public Schools. This assessment helps determine what special education services and resources a child qualifies for at the start of the IEP (individual education plan) process. The grant will also provide trauma-informed care training and education for school personnel.

New Executive Leadership



Dia Awadallah has joined the La Rabida team as our new Chief Information Officer (CIO) and Chief Operating Officer (COO). With more than 20 years of experience in strategic operational planning and a strong background in healthcare technology, Dia brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership to La Rabida. We look forward to the positive impact he will undoubtedly have on our continued growth and success.

Support Our Mission

Giving Tuesday is TODAY!



Thank You For Joining Us

Last month, La Rabida supporters gathered to celebrate all that makes La Rabida so special, and to raise funds to support the ongoing work we do every day. This support is vital to our mission and together **we raised more than \$600,000 in one evening.**

Congratulations to our honorees **Brian Gaspardo** and the **Polk Bros. Foundation**. Our long-time and continued dedication, service, and support have made a lasting impact on La Rabida and our patients and families.

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the Ritz-Carlton. We are forever grateful.



[Click here](#) to check out our welcome video, "The Magical Place by the Lake," and the others we created for the event, including one very special story about Layoni - "The Lion and the Lioness."



[Click here](#) to look through photos from our 2024 Friends of La Rabida Gala!

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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