

Hear Her ROAR, A Season of Giving, and More!

Patient Updates

Hear Her ROAR!



When a family comes to La Rabida Children's Hospital, they are facing difficult, complex, lifelong health issues. These kids have been dealt a long and difficult road, and their parents are full of questions. It's scary for them. Take Layoni and her mom, for example.

Layoni was born early at just 26 weeks gestation, feet first into the world, no bigger than the palm of your hand. Before coming to La Rabida, her doctors had offered her a bleak outlook. But because of our comprehensive and collaborative approach to her care, that tiny baby that was not supposed to live for more than a few months is now three years old!

When she first came to us, Layoni had just left the NICU and was coming off long-term sedation because she was over-sensitive to light, sound, touch, everything. But, while she started out incredibly fragile, she has made so much progress with the help of her doctors, nurses, therapists, and family.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Layoni's journey, and how she has survived and THRIVED over the past three years.

La Rabida News

Board of Trustees Names New Chair of the Board

Fred Berglund has generously led our Board of Trustees since 2015, and we are immensely grateful for his many years of leadership, passion, and commitment. Fred stepped down from this role at the end of 2024, and the board has named Dr. Kelly Guglielmi as its new Chair of the Board. Kelly has been a member of our board since 2018, including serving as an active member of the Quality Committee. She also recently served as our interim CEO in early 2023. A board-certified nephrologist and internist, Kelly has served in various medical and hospital leadership roles for more than 20 years, most recently as the Chief Medical Officer at Advocate Christ Medical Center from 2017 through 2021. Congratulations to both fantastic leaders!



Governor Pritzker Delivers Joy for the Holidays



Governor Pritzker and First Lady MK made their annual holiday visit to La Rabida last month and oh what fun we had! The governor, who always introduces himself as JB to our patients, families, and staff, was all smiles as we welcomed him with a red-carpet reception like no other, which he loved and shared that nobody had done that for him before. The governor and first lady visited patient rooms and delivered gifts to each one in anticipation of the holidays. They are always so generous, and we are grateful for their commitment to our patients and mission. This year, they even had time to stop down in the outpatient clinic to say hello to patients and families and make a stop in the rehab gym. What a special treat!

La Rabida in the Community

During the holiday season some of staff members headed over to our local Ronald McDonald House to make and serve dinner to families staying there, including one of our current patient families, as part of its Meals from The Heart program. Thanks to our Community Engagement committee, six of our team members provided a little bit of warmth and comfort to families staying there with the gift of love and food. We're so thankful to have had this opportunity to give back to our community while supporting families like ours during whatever difficult journey they're on.



Support Our Mission

Cards for Kids is Back



Throwback 100.3 is helping to share a lot of love with our patients again this year through its Valentine's Day Cards for Kids program. Now through Friday, February 7 the station is collecting handmade Valentine's Day cards for our patients. Our kids really enjoy receiving so many heart-felt sentiments – it absolutely makes their day! If you'd like to spread some love, gather your friends, students, or colleagues to make some cards and mail them to:

Throwback 100.3 Cards for Kids
WTBC
130 East Randolph Street, 2700
Chicago, IL 60601

For more details and guidelines for the cards, visit the [Cards for Kids](#) webpage.

A Season of Giving: Thank You for Your Support



As we reflect on this past holiday season, our hearts are filled with immense gratitude for the incredible generosity and kindness shown by our supporters. Your contributions bring so much joy and comfort to our patients and their families.

From organizing toy drives to sorting and wrapping gifts, your efforts ensured that every child we serve felt the magic of the season. Thanks to the support of individuals, families, schools, businesses, and community organizations, our halls were filled with the warmth of giving and the sparkle of hope.

Your visits to our patients brought smiles, laughter, and cherished moments during what can be a challenging time for many families. Every thoughtful donation, every moment you spent volunteering, and every gesture of kindness made a meaningful impact on the lives of the children we care for.

On behalf of everyone at La Rabida, thank you for helping us turn the holiday season into a time of joy, connection, and compassion. We are truly grateful to have such an extraordinary community of supporters.

Wishing you and your loved ones a bright and wonderful new year!

[Click here to look through our holiday photo album!](#)

Volunteer with Us



Want to make an impact in 2025? Volunteer at La Rabida!

Volunteers are needed for everything from after-school tutoring to working in our inpatient and outpatient programs, staffing special events, and so much more!

[Click here](#) to learn more or email George Hardin, Volunteer Manager at ghardin@larabida.org.

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

