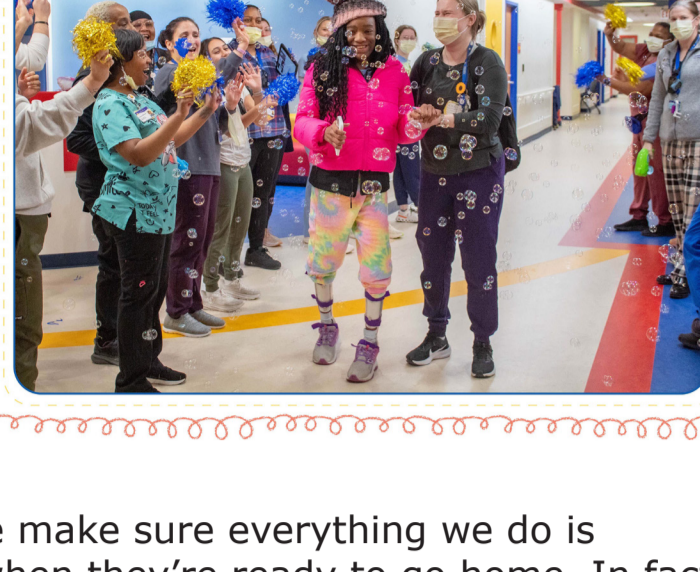


Comforting Children with Care Kits, New Leadership, and More!

Patient Updates

Parades Put the Wind in Patients' Sails



When a family comes aboard at La Rabida, we make sure everything we do is patient-centered and that doesn't stop even when they're ready to go home. In fact, it's just as important for our families to feel supported by our team when going through the discharge process. We are constantly working to ensure it's a seamless process, giving the caregivers the skills and tools they need to be confident and successful at home.

Discharge parades are our favorite part of the process though; some may be more silent and sensory-friendly, while others are truly a festive occasion, but both feature familiar faces and encouraging energy filling the air putting the wind in patient's sails.

We've been able to host these discharge parades for a record number of patients being discharged from our inpatient unit in February. This has been part of the overall improvement our team has been making to enhance the patient's journey and discharge process from the S.S. La Rabida. Our families are for part of their journey and know our outpatient team is ready to help them along the way.

La Rabida News

Comforting Children

Colorful books, crafts and toys do more for the kids when they need it most. Thanks to The Toy Foundation, our Child Advocacy Center (CAC) has Comfort Care Kits (pictured) and wobble chairs to help kids who may have experienced traumatic events.

When our trained staff at our CAC meet with the children the toys and chairs help ease the anxiety during the forensic interview. These toys help manage emotions when they are asked to recall and talk about traumatic events. Interviews are conducted in a safe and child-friendly environment where the child and families involved can get all supportive services.

"We have had some difficult interviews, and the children struggled to engage, but when we brought out tools like fidget toys or a wobble chair, the children were better able to regulate and engage in the process. Even the detective noted how much they seemed to help the children."

After the interview, the children can take the kits home to continue the emotional regulation and distress. Our Family Advocates have followed up with the clients who have said these kits have a positive effect on their child.

"The Breathing Buddha, which cues children to inhale, hold, and exhale to regulate their breathing has also been a big (success) with some of the children. A parent called us a few days after her daughter was seen at the CAC to tell us that her daughter was using the Breathing Buddha every night to help her fall asleep!"

The LRCAC helps about 650 kids yearly from ages 2 to 17 years old and serves the largest population of low income, marginalized youth in Illinois at our CAC, aside from the city of Chicago CAC.



Strapping In for Safe Travels!

Our families need a way to travel safely, and our unique Adaptive Seating Program is a resource just for that. The program hotline gets about 40 calls a month from inpatient families ready to go home, doctor's offices with referrals, and anyone else who needs to medical grade car seat.

Our Child Passenger Safety Program Coordinator talks with the families who need our support. Most of the time, families need medical grade car seats for one of two reasons: a patient is being discharged after surgery, or the child has special equipment and needs to be accommodated.

Within the last 8 months, through our program, 138 car seats have been installed for families throughout the state. The program is more than just putting a car seat in and strapping the child in, our team makes sure the family has completed the program training. The education component includes identifying safety risks, objects and resources.

On average, a child only uses the car seat for about three to four months before they grow out of it or no longer need it. Families return the equipment knowing they're prepared to take on any future bumps in the road, having the education and knowledge they need to safely travel with their child.



Leadership Announcement



We are pleased to announce Rosana Kwiatk, our Chief Nursing Officer (CNO).

Rosana has more than two decades of experience in nursing leadership and healthcare management, having made significant contributions to the success and growth of Advocate Children's Hospital in Oak Lawn, where she has held various leadership roles since 2002. In her most recent position as Director of Clinical Operations, she led a team of over 1,450 staff members and was responsible for clinical operations, patient satisfaction, staffing, and development of innovative programs directly improving patient care and organizational performance.

Rosana's extensive leadership background and commitment to nursing excellence make her uniquely qualified to lead our nursing team into the future. We look forward to having her join us in April!

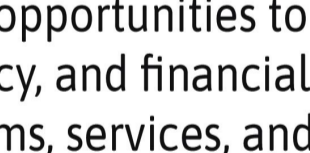
Support Our Mission

JOIN THE LA RABIDA CORPORATE ADVISORY BOARD!

Make new connections and change children's lives with us! Come join the La Rabida Children's Hospital Corporate Advisory Board (CAB)!

The La Rabida CAB is a group of young professionals committed to supporting La Rabida Children's Hospital and its mission to help all its patients reach their fullest potential. CAB is a vibrant group with unlimited opportunities to help families through volunteering, advocacy, and financial support of La Rabida programs, services, and events.

CAB meets quarterly and we are recruiting now! If interested or to learn more, please contact Anne Wilson, Individual Giving Officer at awilson@larabida.org.



SAVE THE DATES

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



36th Annual La Rabida Golf Classic

August 4, 2025
Harborside International

39th Annual Friends of La Rabida Gala

November 20, 2025
The Ritz-Carlton, Chicago

Honoring
Fred Berglund •
Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation



For more information, contact Michele Wysoglad at 773.753.9606 or mwysoglad@larabida.org.



Life at La Rabida

February filled out hearts and photo album! Check out the smiling faces feeling the love after getting Valentine's Day cards courtesy of 100.3 Throwback! We've been partnered with them for nearly a decade and they've brought 100,000 handmade cards from their listeners to spread the love!

Check out this album, and many others on our very own [FLICKR page!](#)



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