

# Embarking on New Voyages

## 2024 LA RABIDA ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR: JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

### Dear Friends,

La Rabida is a health care destination for children unlike any other. Our specialized services help provide hope and opportunity to thousands of patients facing acute and complex conditions. We're a beacon of healing in our community.

In the last few years, we've seen the level of medical complexity among these patients increase along with the overall demand for comprehensive care for children living with medically complex conditions, disabilities, chronic illness, and trauma.



To better serve this growing demand, we have been focused on expanding access to our services, increasing our inpatient census by more than 10% year-over-year.

Over this past year, we have established clear and immediate priorities, defined our core values, and improved staff engagement, laying the groundwork to embark upon a comprehensive strategic plan. In fact, one of the first initiatives was to roll out our new Core Values. These Core Values serve as guiding principles to ensure our entire team is aligned with the same ethical and operational standards. They will directly impact La Rabida's brand identity and culture, influencing how we interact with our patients, families, partners, supporters, and each other.



The future is bright, and while we continue to be committed to our mission, La Rabida is ready to embark on new voyages. By supporting La Rabida, you are not just helping to treat a child today, you are investing in their future – providing the resources and care they need to overcome their challenges and succeed, not only in health, but in life.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership,

Rolla T. Sweis, Pharm.D., M.A.  
President and CEO



*Sweis was most recently Chief Operating Officer at Advocate Christ Medical Center. Prior to that, she was the VP of Operations for the South Chicagoland Hospitals which included Christ Medical Center, South Suburban Hospital, and Trinity Hospital. Sweis received a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Illinois and a master's in organizational leadership from Lewis University. She also holds an affiliate faculty appointment in the Department of Pharmacy Practice at the University of Illinois College of Pharmacy.*



# EMPOWERING PROGRESS: MANNY'S PATH TO MOBILITY AND INDEPENDENCE

At La Rabida, we understand the needs of families with children coping with the most serious and complicated conditions. With teams of the best healthcare providers in Chicago, we provide comprehensive, specialized care and support to patients like 12-year-old Emanuel (Manny), who was discharged from our inpatient unit after being admitted following bilateral adductor and hamstring release and a left-sided varus derotation osteotomy (VDRO).

Manny lives with spastic cerebral palsy which causes increased muscle tone impacting his overall muscular structure. This leads to contractures in which a muscle, tendon, or other soft tissue becomes permanently shortened, restricting movement. Because of this, Manny had extremely limited walking ability and primarily only walked within his home, using a wheelchair when venturing outside.

To gain the independence he deserves, Manny underwent two surgical procedures to help alleviate contractures and repair damage caused by them. His bravery and perseverance are inspiring, to say the least. After his recovery, Manny's surgeon referred him to La Rabida for inpatient rehabilitation for post-operative care because of our expertise and reputation for providing exceptional care for patients like Manny.

While at La Rabida, Manny received three hours of therapy five to six times per week, including daily occupational and physical therapy, as well as speech therapy one to three times per week. Speech therapy was added to his care plan upon completing a full assessment when Manny was admitted. This is a perfect example of why providing comprehensive, team-based care is so critical for our patients – it gives each patient the personalized care they need.

Manny started moving around with a gait trainer and knee braces during his second week here. Then he transitioned to a walker just two weeks later! After spending five weeks in our inpatient unit, Manny was able to stand and walk on his own with the support of his walker.



***"Manny has had medical issues all his life, and what I really like about La Rabida is that everyone there is genuine," said Manny's mom, Mary. "They're not just doing a job but really care about the kids."***

"Manny usually doesn't like when he has to get new equipment, but he was excited about his new walker this time because of the time he spent practicing with it at La Rabida with his therapists," said Mary, Manny's mom.

During therapy he loved going on Mickey Mouse scavenger hunts around our inpatient unit, the S.S. La Rabida. He also became quite skilled at riding an adaptive tricycle around the halls, working on his core strength, head control, and lower extremity strength.

In about a month and a half Manny progressed from having difficulty just getting to a sitting position at the edge of his bed all the way to walking with close supervision with his walker. He soon returned to La Rabida's Outpatient Clinic to pick up his very own brand-new walker. Now he can walk longer distances and move independently in his community, preserving his ability to be mobile well into the future.





# AWARDS

## JDRF ILLINOIS RECOGNITION

Our diabetes team was honored at JDRF Illinois' (now BreakthroughT1D Illinois) 2023 Annual Board Meeting. Among the work we do together, La Rabida offers educational programs to the public, trainings for caregivers, and national continuing education seminars for school nurses on caring for a child with diabetes in the school setting. In fact, Chicago Public Schools uses our program to train all its delegated care aids (DCAs).



*The La Rabida Chicago Children's Diabetes Center (CCDC) is the first pediatric program to receive recognition from the American Diabetes Association (ADA) for our holistic care approach. Our CCDC has also been recognized by Medtronic's Diabetes Division as a Center of Excellence and the National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators and Clinical Site for nurse mentoring. We have clinics in Chicago, Homer Glen, and St. John, IN.*

## CHICAGO MAGAZINE'S TOP DOCTORS

Congratulations to these La Rabida doctors for being named in *Chicago Magazine's* Top Doctors 2024!

- **Dr. Carol Macmillan** is a pediatric neurologist at La Rabida and serves on the board of the Child Neurology Foundation.
- **Dr. Radhika Peddinti** specializes in pediatric hematology and oncology, and oversees our Sickle Cell Disease program, which is one of the largest in the Chicago area.
- **Dr. Izhar Qamar** is a pediatric nephrologist and specializes in treating children with chronic conditions like asthma, kidney disease, and cerebral palsy.
- **Dr. Anita Swamy** is Director of La Rabida's Chicago Children's Diabetes Center, the first pediatric program to receive recognition from the American Diabetes Association for its comprehensive approach to pediatric diabetes care and management.



## PATIENT CENTERED MEDICAL HOME RECOGNITION

La Rabida continues to maintain its Patient-Centered Medical Home recognition from the National Committee on Quality Assurance. Maintaining this recognition reaffirms that La Rabida puts our patients at the forefront of care, continuing our commitment to a patient-centered approach to care and ongoing quality improvement.



As part of maintaining our PCMH recognition, La Rabida must undergo an annual review and provide data and documentation that covers the following PCMH concepts:

- Patient-Centered Access
- Team-Based Care
- Population Health Management
- Care Management
- Care Coordination and Care Transitions
- Performance Measurement and Quality Improvement
- Special one-time topics (for example, behavioral health)
- Quality Improvement

Since adopting the PCMH model, La Rabida has built better relationships with our patients, improved quality, and increased the patient experience and staff satisfaction, all while reducing health care costs.

*In August 2023, our PCMH won the Medical Home Network (MHN) Cup for the HIGHEST Transitions of Care completion rate! This means that La Rabida exceeded expectations regarding patient/family contact during and after inpatient admission, medication reconciliation, and follow-up appointments.*

*Overall, La Rabida had a 70.6% rate of successful completion of meeting the 4 Elements of a Transition of Care Bundle; the goal was 60%. Here's how we stacked up for each element of the Transitions of Care Bundle:*

Element	Goal	La Rabida's Score
Contact with patient/parent during hospital admission	70.5%	82.4%
Successful call completed with patient/parent within 2 business days of being discharged	62.5%	100%
Completed medication reconciliation within 7 days of discharge	72.9%	94.1%
Completed Follow-up appointment within 7 days of discharge	39.6%	88.2%



# PARTNERSHIPS & APPOINTMENTS

## GOVERNOR PRITZKER HOSTS PRESS CONFERENCE AT LA RABIDA

On March 18, 2024, Governor Pritzker hosted a press conference at La Rabida to sign an executive order to promote equity in gene and cell therapy treatment. This executive order will help to increase access and significantly improve health outcomes and quality of life for people across Illinois, a remarkable step forward in ensuring all patients have access to high-quality care.



As one of the largest sickle cell programs in Illinois, we know the cost of managing pediatric sickle cell disease is substantial and can be overwhelming for a family with limited resources. Our very own Dr. Radhika Peddinti, MD, who leads our sickle cell disease program, discussed sickle cell disease management and how its cost is substantial and can be overwhelming for our families during the press conference.



La Rabida is collaborating with many government and industry organization to find a sustainable solution to finance and ensure equitable access to sickle cell disease treatments and other high-cost drugs in Illinois. In fact, Dr. Peddinti was also appointed to the governor's **Advisory Council on Financing and Access to Sickle Cell Disease Treatment and Other High-Cost Drugs and Treatment**. The group advises the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services on the development of payment models and financing approaches for sickle cell disease treatment and other high-cost drugs and treatments that support equitable access and contribute to national efforts to formulate solutions.

Our sickle cell disease program is one of the largest programs in Illinois. Pediatric Sickle Cell Disease is typically diagnosed in children during newborn screenings. La Rabida actually receives a list of all children with abnormal screening test results from the Illinois Department of Public Health. We then reach out directly to all families facing a new diagnosis to ensure the child receives the necessary critical care they need, regardless of their ability to pay.

# EARLY INTERVENTION ADVOCACY

Carol Muhammad, our Child and Family Connections (CFC) program administrator, joined the Governor-appointed Illinois Interagency Council on Early Intervention (EI). The council leads the coordinated EI services system in establishing and implementing the coordinated, comprehensive, interagency, and interdisciplinary system of EI services. La Rabida's CFC ensures families with children (birth to three) facing disabilities, developmental delays, or substantial risk of significant delays receive essential services and support for their development.

We serve children and families across nine zip codes on the south side of Chicago, including the largest number of children in foster care with DCFS of any Illinois CFC. In FY24 our CFC served 9,715 children and families (up 72% from previous fiscal year), most of whom are Medicaid eligible.

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING COLLABORATION

The team from our Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) located in Park Forest has developed and implemented human trafficking trainings for law enforcement in partnership with the Illinois State Police Central Illinois Human Trafficking Task Force, Cook County State's Attorney's Office Human Trafficking Unit, FBI, and DCFS Human Trafficking Division.

The La Rabida CAC is the second busiest CAC in Cook County, managing more than 2,700 cases in calendar year 2023. The CAC provides a child-centered, coordinated, and multidisciplinary response to children who have been victims of sexual and physical abuse, community violence, and sexual exploitation. Our team of psychologists, social workers, case managers, and other specialists conduct forensic interviews, provide follow-up care, and promote advocacy for victims at no cost to families.





# GRANT CELEBRATIONS

## REACH OUT AND READ

In October 2023 we launched our Reach Out and Read program and patients and families are loving the opportunity to read together at home. Reach Out and Read is a national program that champions the positive effects of reading daily and engaging in other language-rich activities with young children. Reach Out and Read Illinois introduced a mini grant program, and we are proud to have been offered support to implement it. Reading together promotes healthy brain development, furthers language acquisition, and helps families build meaningful bonds.



ILLINOIS



## COOK COUNTY HEALTH STRONGER TOGETHER INITIATIVE

La Rabida was awarded a grant as part of Cook County Health's Stronger Together Initiative in June 2024. The Stronger Together Initiative aims to address behavioral health inequities across the region. With this grant, we can increase our efforts and wrap-around services to reduce disparity in services for children with behavioral, educational, and medical needs. The grant also allows us to hire a dedicated integrated school liaison within our outpatient care clinic that works to empower families and help them self-advocate for their child's needs at school. La Rabida was one of just 53 grants awarded, among 320 applicants.



## TOYS AND TOOLS FOR PEDIATRIC THERAPY

Play is how children socialize, learn, and thrive, and having access to play during a hospital stay can be life changing. In March 2024 we received a Play Grant from The Toy Foundation to support the care and well-being of our children with the power of play. This grant funds therapeutic toys, crafts, and journals for patients served by our Behavioral Health programs. Pediatric therapy relies on many resources to engage in behavioral interventions, such as the use of fidget toys or coloring to cope with anxiety, or journaling and reading for depression. We also use a wide range of tools to develop coping skills like pinwheels, stress balls, jewelry-making kits, and even guided imagery cards. However, our families often do not have resources to purchase these items for practice at home. Now we are providing patients with the tools they need to practice at home, helping them be more engaged in therapy, thus achieving their therapy goals.



Delivering Joy to Children in Need



## DISNEY AND STARLIGHT CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

In January 2024 we celebrated with our friends from Disney and Starlight Children's Foundation with a special visit from MICKEY MOUSE! Mickey was here to "officially" celebrate the launch of a collaboration that brings beloved Disney stories to life through interactive installations, toy deliveries, special movie screenings, and more for our patients and families. This is all part of a \$750,000 grant we received from Disney to help reimagine the pediatric patient journey. La Rabida is among the select hospitals Disney offers these experiences to bring comfort and distraction to our patients.







# La Rabida Children's Hospital

## FINANCIAL REVIEW - ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

	FY 2024	FY 2023
Unrestricted Revenues and Other Support	\$ 73,666,092	\$ 67,604,583
Expenses	76,172,501	70,049,254
<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>(2,506,409)</b>	<b>(2,444,671)</b>
Contributions, Investment Returns & Other	22,024,740	16,871,999
<b>Revenue in Excess of Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 19,518,331</b>	<b>\$ 14,427,328</b>

Current Assets	\$ 17,895,450	\$ 12,376,816
Investments and Long-term Assets	228,773,187	217,322,917
Net Property and Equipment	31,993,056	33,112,633
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 278,661,693</b>	<b>\$ 262,812,366</b>

Current Liabilities	\$ 13,324,131	\$ 12,505,976
Long-term Liabilities	2,816,485	7,813,501
Net Assets	262,521,077	242,492,889
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 278,661,693</b>	<b>\$ 262,812,366</b>





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