



Resilience through Diabetes, AAC Clinic, and More!

Patient Updates

Resilience through Diabetes

November 2025. Daaronal spent months going in and out of doctors' offices, but he still couldn't get the answers he needed until he arrived at La Rabida's Chicago Children's Diabetes Clinic (CCDC) with dangerously high blood sugar levels.

"I almost was in a diabetic coma because my sugar was so high," said Daaronal. "It's been seven years since then, and I've learned a lot."

The education process started with a Type 1 Diabetes diagnosis. Dr. Anita Swamy, La Rabida CCDC Medical Director explains the complexities of diabetes requires the right tools, support, and guidance. **"When our patients and families have a deep understanding of the condition, we overcome barriers together."**

Patients meet with their care team every three months. These consistent visits allow our clinicians to check in, monitor progress and keep patients on track with their medical needs.

"La Rabida and my doctors have been a great second family. They're always looking out for the best options to help me," said Daaronal.

Managing diabetes requires a lot of strength and support. La Rabida's holistic approach to medical care allows our teams to have meaningful conversations focused on the patient and family's emotional and psychological wellness. Patient care teams are comprised of endocrinologists and a behavioral health team made up of psychologists and social workers.

"I remember coming to the clinic, and instead of spending time in the doctor's office, we went outside to play basketball," said Daaronal. "I can still do the things I enjoy with diabetes, but now, I know my body, my health, and who I am."



Diabetes Types & Differences

- Type 1: Involves autoimmune destruction of the pancreas, preventing the organ from making insulin
- Type 2: Pancreas produces insulin, but the body is unable to properly process it

Daaronal's diabetes journey demanded lifestyle changes, read more here!

AAC Clinic



Michael, 4, has learned how to share his thoughts and feelings with his family! After months of practice, he's able to express himself through an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) device. Our AAC clinic team have gone through extensive training to make sure patients, who are on the autism spectrum or have complex physical needs, are taking steps toward connection, independence and empowerment. At La Rabida, a lifetime of possibilities begins with giving our children a voice.

La Rabida News

Recognizing a Brighter, Lighter, and Playful Spirit



Megan C., Child Life Specialist, has been named the **2025 Billy Award Winner** by the Bricks of Hope organization. The award bears the name of a childhood cancer patient who embodied unwavering joy, compassion, and energy.

This recognition is awarded to those who are the heart behind healing and build brighter days with every moment of care. Congratulations, Megan! Thank you for being an uplifting presence for our patients and families.

Picture Perfect



La Rabida is a gem on the lake, and thanks to our partnership with Disney, we added more magic to all our inpatient unit cabins with ceiling tiles! Each cabin has three to five tiles featuring characters from Disney, Pixar, Marvel and Star Wars movies! Child Life Specialist Xavier S. spoke with ABC7 Chicago about how these small touches help ease anxiety and lift spirits.

[Watch the story and reaction from one of our patients here!](#)

Support Our Mission

Gala Tickets Available Now



"If it weren't for La Rabida's care and support, my son wouldn't be where he is today."

--Javiel, Kairo's mom

Providing hope and healing are the building blocks of our mission. It's our patients, like Kairo, who rise up against all odds to show the world the possibilities with patient-centered care.

Join us on Thursday, November 20th at the Ritz Carlton Chicago for the **2025 Friends of La Rabida Gala** as we celebrate Kairo's remarkable journey and recognize our honorees **Fred Berglund of Berglund Construction**, and the **Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation**.

Tickets are available now: larabida.org/gala

Friends of La Rabida Gala
Thursday November 20 - The Ritz Carlton Chicago

LA RABIDA
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Life at La Rabida

Check out the *gourd* times our patients and staff had while celebrating Halloween! While you're there, check out other special moments we've captured at La Rabida this month in our [Flickr album](#)!



Connect With Us

