



Darrien Does It All, Compassionate Care and Comfort, and More!

Patient Updates

Darrien Does It All



"He's such a good and smart kid," says Andrea. "He comes off shy at first, but once you get him started talking about his interests... you get to really see Darrien's personality."

Darrien is 13 years old, adventurous, creative, and feels empowered to explore more hobbies, like drawing. Our pediatric expertise goes beyond our hospital walls. We provide wraparound services to our families to help where they may need support.

"When I feel like lost in the darkness, not knowing what to do next, I know all I have to do is go to La Rabida," says Ashiea. "I come with Darrien and all I have to do is just be mom, be a parent. That's the best thing about this place. Darrien gets to be a kid, too."

[Read more about Darrien's journey at La Rabida's newest program](#)

The Lioness Roars to New Heights



From a kneeling position to standing upright, Layoni is taller and stronger. She radiates confidence with an ear-to-ear smile while meeting yet another milestone. Our rehabilitation team has started incorporating the "Spider Cage" into our patients' personalized care plans. The three-sided device is equipped with belts, weights, and bungee cords to help patients develop balance, strength, and coordination.

Thank you to the **Philly Baer Foundation** for generously supporting the equipment needed to help our children develop!

La Rabida News

Compassionate Care and Comfort



Our patients are bundled up and geared up to stay warm this winter! Phyllis M., Chaplain and Extra-TLC Volunteer, was inspired by our mission to coordinate a coat drive with **Glory to Glory Family Christian Center**. More than 200 coats were collected and distributed to children at La Rabida. We are grateful to the community for the support this season and all year long.

Holidays at La Rabida



Patients channeled their passion for fashion during La Rabida's 2025 Dress Event. We kicked off the holiday season by turning our Child Life Pavilion into a showroom of dazzling dresses generously donated by **Frankie's on the Park**. Patients picked out their own special outfits, and volunteers provided them with mini manicures. Thank you, Frankie's on the Park, for bringing the boutique and an afternoon of fun to La Rabida!

The holiday spirit kept shining with an annual visit from **Governor J.B. Pritzker and First Lady MK Pritzker**, who visited patients and their families aboard the S.S. La Rabida! We are grateful for their kindness and generosity, brightening our halls every year, showing their commitment to our mission.

Support Our Mission

Supporting Our Patients with our Friends of La Rabida



Our patients and families can imagine the possibilities and watch them become reality, thanks to supporters like you. The 39th Annual Friends of La Rabida Gala raised **nearly \$630,000!** In just one night, your support of our mission made a life-changing difference.

Congratulations to our event honorees: **Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation, recipient of our Community Partner Award, and Fred Berglund, recipient of our Lifetime of Service Award.**

Life at La Rabida

We captured our mission in action during the 2025 Friends of La Rabida Gala! Check out some of the memorable moments by visiting our [Flickr album](#)!



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