



The Soundtrack of La Rabida, Calling on Cards for Kids, and More!

Patient Updates

The Soundtrack of La Rabida



January 2026 - La Rabida's mission is based on a holistic and comprehensive approach to patient-centered care. Our specialized care goes beyond medical; we are experts in knowing our patients and building lifelong bonds.

"Jonathan is such a polite, kind young man, wise beyond his years," says Dr. Mitchell. "He has a level of depth you don't see in most teens his age."

At any given time, when you walk into Jonathan's cabin, you can find him watching his favorite movies of the scary and horror variety or queuing up the playlist of his beloved classic rock bands. Jonathan came to La Rabida several months ago, from the ICU, for our medical expertise in optimizing care for his muscular condition. Dr. Mitchell, director of our palliative care program, and the rest of Jonathan's care team have focused on his rehabilitation, wound, and pain management.

"Our philosophy of care is making our patients comfortable because that builds security and feeling safe in their bodies to heal," says Dr. Mitchell.

Dr. Mitchell says our mission sets the foundation for staff to make every day the best day possible for our patients. That's why she called in Dec My Room, an organization dedicated to customizing pediatric patients' hospital rooms.

"We can give them back parts of their childhood that illness takes away. When we decorated his room, we got to see he's still a youthful boy at heart," says Dr. Mitchell.

La Rabida's Palliative Care, an inpatient and outpatient program, is a dimension of our interdisciplinary approach to supporting and empowering our patients and families to have a say in choices along the healthcare journey. Dec My Room, Volunteer Coordinator, Kristen Vincent, says each time she comes to La Rabida to 'dec-out' a cabin, the warmth and hope of the hospital teams inspire her.

"We picked out his favorite things, like Blackhawks swag, a Harry Potter-themed banner, and more decorations creating an ambience just for Jonathan," says Kristen.

Energized by the iconic guitar riff, as "Immigrant Song" from the *Led Zeppelin III* album plays, the teen excitedly awaits the reveal of his newly decorated and personalized cabin.

[Click here to read and see more of the room reveal!](#)

La Rabida News

Holiday Wrap-Up



From ugly sweaters to door décor, hospital staff embodied the true essence of the holiday spirit for our patients and families. Our community and supporters showed the power of our mission, bringing smiles and excitement to thousands of children. With your generosity, our Holiday Helpers wrapped and handed out gifts to more than 2,000 patients and their siblings during La Rabida's Elf Room gift-giving program!

Support Our Mission

Calling on Cards for Kids!



We invite you to fill our patients' hearts with homemade cards! Local radio station, Throwback 100.3, is collecting Valentine's Day cards for kids at La Rabida until Thursday, February 5th. The handwritten notes bring a smile to our patients' and families' faces, lifting their spirits, recognizing they have our community's support. You can drop off the cards at any of the 27 participating Salvation Army thrift stores and donation centers in the Chicago area.

[Click here for more guidelines & information.](#)

Life at La Rabida

Thank you for supporting our mission this year. Because of you, we shared more milestones and moments of joy. You can see many of these moments in our Best of 2025 photo album on our [Flickr!](#)



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