

## Cooper Helps Himself, CAC Community Block Party, and More!

### Patient Updates

#### Cooper Helps Himself



**April 2026** – When he first arrived at La Rabida Children’s Hospital, Cooper lacked confidence and motivation. He’d been shot in the head with an air rifle pellet gun on Valentine’s Day, which caused a serious brain injury. The bullet was lodged in his brain, and he was unable to move the left side of his body.

After spending time in the pediatric intensive care unit, doctors stabilized Cooper, and he began the long road of rehabilitation. His mother, Tyler, worried her son wouldn’t be able to move or walk again. After considering the available options for the next steps of his recovery, she decided Cooper’s needs would be best met at La Rabida.

“When he came here, it all changed,” says Tyler, who describes her son as helpful, considerate, and a young gentleman. “Cooper had the freedom and independence to be himself.”

**“Everyone here really cares, and they just have a truly different approach, which is why I think he’s doing so well,” says Tyler.**

Within two weeks of admission to our inpatient unit, Cooper shocked everyone in the room. He turned to his physical therapist, Sydney, and did something no one in the room was expecting.

**“He said, ‘Look!’ then spontaneously lifted his leg,” says Sydney. “In that same session, he went from saying, ‘I can’t, to I’ll try.’”**

At 10 years old, he’s learning how to walk again. But rebuilding his physical strength is only one component of the recovery journey, and with the help of La Rabida’s holistic, patient-centered approach to care, he’s making great strides.

**“The nature of his brain injury is complex; however, Cooper’s progress just reminds us to appreciate how resilient a child can be,” says La Rabida Hospitalist, Dr. Nicholas Woolf.**

[Read more about the continuity of care supporting Cooper’s quick progress](#)

### La Rabida News

#### M.E.A.N. Girls Empowerment Health Matters Summit



The “Glow and Grow” theme for the 2026 **M.E.A.N. Girls Empowerment Health Matters Summit** was a perfect fit for the work we do every day to nurture and support the growth and healthy futures of young people in our community.

Case Manager Carolina and Family Peer Advocate Achsah from La Rabida Chicago Child Trauma Center (CCTC), along with Madison, a La Rabida Volunteer, attended the summit at Englewood STEM High School to share mental health and self-care resources with hundreds of young girls and their families.

#### Board of Trustees: Welcome Josh Harris, Obama Foundation



We are pleased to welcome Josh Harris to our Board of Trustees!

Currently serving as the Vice President of Public Engagement for the Obama Foundation, Joshua has held senior positions in government and non-profit organizations, including AARP Illinois, Cook County Government, and the City of Chicago. We are confident that his experience and leadership in community relations, volunteer management, and public policy will be an excellent complement to our Board of Trustees as we continue to strengthen our relationship with and care for the community.

### Support Our Mission

**La Rabida’s Community Safety Block Party**  
 Creating safer communities for 40 years  
 Saturday, April 18, 2026  
 11:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.  
 CAC Parking Lot  
 200 Lakewood Blvd., Park Forest, IL 60466

• music • fun • bounce house • pinwheel garden & more •

Join us for La Rabida’s community block party to celebrate the Children’s Advocacy Center’s 40 years of service throughout the South Suburbs and help raise awareness for child abuse prevention!

This event brings together community partners and families for a fun, free neighborhood party in recognition of Child Abuse Awareness Month.

La Rabida Children’s Advocacy Center is a safe environment where trauma-informed experts support children who are victims of child abuse and violent crime and their families at no cost.

**La Rabida’s 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic**  
 August 3, 2026  
 Harborside International Golf Course

Sponsorships and registration are officially open! Secure your spot TODAY at [larabida.org/golf-classic](http://larabida.org/golf-classic).

For more information, contact Anne Mullen at (773)256-5955 or [amullen@larabida.org](mailto:amullen@larabida.org).

La Rabida Celebrating 130 Years

### Life at La Rabida

The Chicago White Sox celebrated opening day with a home-run visit to La Rabida, bringing patients’ smiles, snacks, and Southpaw, the team’s mascot.

Check out our [Flickr album](#) for highlights!



Be sure to follow us across our platforms!

