

e-Currents

Inside this Issue:

- Meet Keith
- Getting Dressed during La Rabida's 13th Annual Dress Event
- Snack Attack
- Celebrating our Supporters during the 2019 Friends of La Rabida Awards Celebration
- Happy Halloween from La Rabida!



Donate Now



Meet Keith

Every eighth grader counts down the days until they can cross the stage and receive their middle school diploma. Keith, La Rabida patient living with cerebral palsy, was no different. Graduation is a sign of accomplishment, a symbol of hard work, and is the beginning of something new. For Keith, graduation also symbolized a physical achievement. Three weeks before graduation, Keith decided he wanted to walk across the graduation stage.

Having been a patient at La Rabida for over thirteen years, Keith has grown exponentially within the walls of the hospital. Working closely with La Rabida physical therapist, Lisa, Keith gets stronger and stronger every week. His dedication and strong will have helped him garner skills that make him more independent every day.

Three weeks before the big day, Keith told his mom and Lisa that he wanted to walk across the stage at graduation. While he depends on a wheelchair for mobility, Keith knew he had the strength it took to reach this goal and take those monumental steps. When Lisa heard about Keith's goal, she did everything she could to help get him there. "Lisa showed us how he needed to get out of the chair, how he should turn around, how he should receive the diploma, how to shake the hand. It was unbelievable," shared Javaze, Keith's mom.

This summer, Keith took to the stage to accept that coveted diploma in front of his family, friends, and teachers. "There wasn't a dry eye in the place," shared Javaze. "He wasn't afraid, and Lisa helped him build the confidence he needed to do it."

Keith, now a high-school freshman, already has his mind set to walk across the even bigger high school graduation stage in just four short years.



Getting Dressed during La Rabida's 13th Annual Dress Event



This month, La Rabida celebrated the 13th Annual Dress Event in partnership with local Chicago boutique, Frankie's on the Park. Each year, Frankie's on the Park donates beautiful new dresses to the girls at La Rabida to wear during their upcoming holiday celebrations.

Lisa Rolfe Burik, owner of the luxury tween boutique, and the Frankie's team spent time with each of our girls during individual styling sessions to help them pick out a beautiful dress. Once the girls found the perfect outfit, they were pampered with fresh manicures.

When the styling and pampering concluded, the girls participated in the annual Dress Event fashion show. Each patient made their way down the catwalk and modeled their new outfits for the cameras.

"This is my favorite day of the year!" shared Lisa. "We are always so happy to see the excitement that comes over the girls during this event year after year."

Nearly 30 girls participated in this year's event. Thank you, Frankie's on the Park, for pampering our girls and making this year's event one our families will remember forever!

Snack Attack

La Rabida's Tube Feeding Task Force (TFTF) is an interdisciplinary team that is dedicated to positively transforming the mealtime experience for patients. Created by La Rabida's Chief of Speech Language Pathology, Allison Lee, the TFTF is made up of staff from La Rabida's rehab, child life, nutrition, and respiratory departments who all share the same goal - to promote a positive feeding experience for patients who rely on enteral feeding.



One initiative that the TFTF has implemented is called "Snack Attack," a weekly group that transforms mealtimes for La Rabida's inpatient kids by creating opportunities for socialization and providing strategies to reduce discomfort. Snack Attack takes place in the therapy kitchen and provides patients with an opportunity to experience a positive feeding experience in a social setting with their peers and caretakers.

Many of our patients have spent the entirety of their lives within the walls of the hospital and have never experienced a typical mealtime because feedings are often done in their hospital rooms. Mealtimes can serve as an effective bonding experience between children and adults and should be a social routine during their day.

During the weekly sessions, food is prepared around the patients, allowing them to get involved in the process. Some patients are not yet accepting food by mouth but are brought to Snack Attack so that they can experience a mealtime out of their hospital room. Everyone in the group is positioned around a table so that they are able to see each person and learn from one another.

Snack Attack allows patients to experience the typical kitchen environment without feeling overwhelmed or overstimulated because their caregivers and therapists are there to provide the support they need.

Make a Difference this Holiday Season

We hope you enjoy reading the heartwarming stories we bring to you each month from La Rabida Children's Hospital. It's only because of support from generous people like you that children are getting the help they need to overcome obstacles and reach their full potential. This holiday season, we hope you'll consider making a financial donation to support this important work. Your entire gift will go to covering the cost of care for kids who need it.



Donate Now

Celebrating our Supporters during the 2019 Friends of La Rabida Awards Celebration

On Thursday, November 21, the 2019 Friends of La Rabida Awards Celebration was held at the Ritz-Carlton, Chicago. With nearly 500 guests in attendance, La Rabida's annual gala serves as an opportunity to honor and celebrate the individuals who have made a lasting impact on the hospital. Ravi Balchwal of ABC 7 Chicago served as the evening's master of ceremonies.



This year's theme was centered around the friends who help make La Rabida's mission a reality. It is because of the commitment of La Rabida's friends that over 9,000 children receive the care they need. The evening honored two very dedicated friends during the celebration who have proven their dedication to La Rabida: Randy Markowitz and Lisa Rolfe Burik.

Randy Markowitz, Partner, FGMC, was recognized for his Lifetime of Service. Randy is a long time La Rabida Trustee who, in addition to his valuable work on the Board, spearheads his company's annual toy drive for the children of La Rabida.

Lisa Rolfe Burik, Owner, Frankie's on the Park was recognized for her Community Support. For the past 13 years, Lisa has organized the popular Dress Event where Frankie's on the Park donates dresses brightening the holidays of young girls at La Rabida. Lisa was joined on stage by some of the girls who attended this year's Dress Event while accepting her award.

Thanks to the generosity of the attendees and supporters, the event raised over \$750,000 to support the children and families of La Rabida. As the largest fundraising event for the hospital, the money raised will directly impact the care of our patients.

A big thank you to our Host Sponsors for making this year's gala possible: Berglund Construction; The Burik Family and Frankie's on the Park; Chicago Equity Partners; The Joseph & Bessie Feinberg Foundation; Allen and Genie Kutchins, Kutchins, Robbins & Diamond, Ltd., and The Rebecca Kutchins Fund; Magellan Corporation; Randy and Hadrian Markowitz and Lisa, and FGMC/Netrix; and Dan and Susan Real.

Happy Halloween from La Rabida!



Our kids aboard the S.S. La Rabida inpatient unit were unable to celebrate Halloween in the traditional way, so we made sure they celebrated the La Rabida way! Through the annual costume parade and Halloween party hosted by our friends at The Holiday Heroes, everyone at La Rabida had a Halloween to remember.

Each year, our staff brings their creativity to the table and dresses up for the spooky holiday. In the annual Halloween parade, staff make their way around the hospital sporting their best costumes and celebrate with our kids and their families. Costumes included everything from pirates and roller coaster riders to the Queen of Hearts and T-Rex himself.

The Holiday Heroes also joined in on the fun by hosting a Halloween party for our inpatient kids. Special guest, Captain America, joined our patients in making Halloween themed crafts while playing games and enjoying some yummy treats.

Thank you to the La Rabida staff and The Holiday Heroes for making this Halloween extra special for our patients and their families!

La Rabida in the News - ABC 7 Chicago



Sharing Notes, a non-profit organization comprised of volunteer musicians, brings their musical talent to the halls of La Rabida twice a month. ABC 7 Chicago visited La Rabida to see Sharing Notes in action and highlight the benefit of music to our patients.

Watch the ABC 7 Chicago story here.

Give Back to La Rabida this Black Friday through Amazon Smile



Support La Rabida while shopping on Amazon this Black Friday and Cyber Monday! Amazon Smile allows shoppers to support a charitable organization of their choice while shopping through Amazon with no additional cost to the shopper. By making a purchase through Amazon Smile and selecting to support La Rabida, Amazon will donate a portion of your total order amount to our hospital. To start shopping, visit Amazon Smile here.

Giving Tuesday is Around the Corner

Mark your calendars. Giving Tuesday, the global day dedicated to making a difference, is December 3! This year we're celebrating by sharing inspirational stories from kids and families of La Rabida whose lives have been changed thanks to generous people like you. Find and follow us on social media to be a part of the fun.

