



LA RABIDA  
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

# A SPECIAL PLACE TO BE

2023 La Rabida Annual Report

**Dear Friends,**

There are so many highlights to the days, weeks, and months that pass at La Rabida. Our patients always receive care that is family-centered, team-driven, and holistic. From our multidisciplinary and compassionate care to our innovation and valuable partnerships with other organizations, we are always evolving to provide the best possible care for our patients and their families.



One of our biggest achievements this year was the completion of our newly expanded and improved inpatient unit, representing a significant milestone in our commitment to provide critical medical services to children with complex medical conditions, chronic illnesses, and rehabilitation needs. This project transformed our unique space in a number of ways, ensuring La Rabida can continue to provide developmentally- and family-focused, state of the art care well into the future.



We look forward to continued success in providing comprehensive care and specialized services to children facing complex conditions, disabilities, chronic illness, and trauma. None of it would be possible without you. Thank you for helping us help our patients live their lives to the fullest.

In our Outpatient Center, we saw our seventh consecutive year of growth, with the highest clinical volume in the past 16 years. From various rehabilitative and developmental therapies to behavioral health and even primary care, we continue to offer an array of services at locations across the Chicagoland area meeting the needs of our patients no matter where they are.



Experts from La Rabida's Chicago Child Trauma Center (CCTC) continue leading Trauma Informed Care trainings to advance health equity and reduce retraumatization. The training equips participants to recognize trauma symptoms, understand its impact, and incorporate trauma informed practices. Because of our leading expertise, La Rabida's trauma team has trained more than 1,000 individuals since 2021, including La Rabida staff, The University of Chicago Lab School, Erikson Institute, TCA Health Network, Bright Star Community Outreach, Gary Comer Youth Center, UIC Division of Specialized Care for Children, AETNA Clinical Health Services, and several Chicago police departments on the South Side.



## Stories From the Year - New Leadership

### Behavioral Health Executive Director - Austa Murray

In the fall of 2022, we welcomed Austa Murray, LCSW as our new Executive Director of Behavioral Health. For more than 17 years Austa has been the Director of Integrated Assessment at La Rabida, contracted by DCFS. She has more than 23 years of experience working with children, adults, and families struggling with trauma and mental health. She is notable for her work in training and practice, specifically within reflective supervision and trauma-informed systems of care.



### Director of Outreach and Business Development - Amy Lulich

Amy Lulich, MHA joined our administration at the beginning of 2023 as the Director of Outreach and Business Development. Amy leads government relations, manages relationships with referring providers, and engages external organizations around our mission. In this crucial role, Amy creates awareness of our expertise and specialty programs to elected officials, referring hospitals, Medicaid managed care plans, and disease-specific organizations. Amy has more than a decade of experience in healthcare policy, value-based care, strategic planning, and program management.



### Outpatient Center Medical Director - Kathleen Saoud

At the end of the fiscal year, Dr. Kathleen Saoud, DO was appointed as our new Outpatient Medical Director. With an impressive background in both inpatient and outpatient pediatric medicine, Dr. Saoud has a passion for caring for children with complex conditions with a variety of health care needs and socioeconomic disparities. As Outpatient Medical Director Dr. Saoud is responsible for overseeing and enhancing the hospital's outpatient services, which play a vital role in the health continuum for our patients. Recently her research, "Addressing Barriers to Accessing Head Start Programs via the Medical Home: A Qualitative Study," was published in Maternal and Child Health Journal.

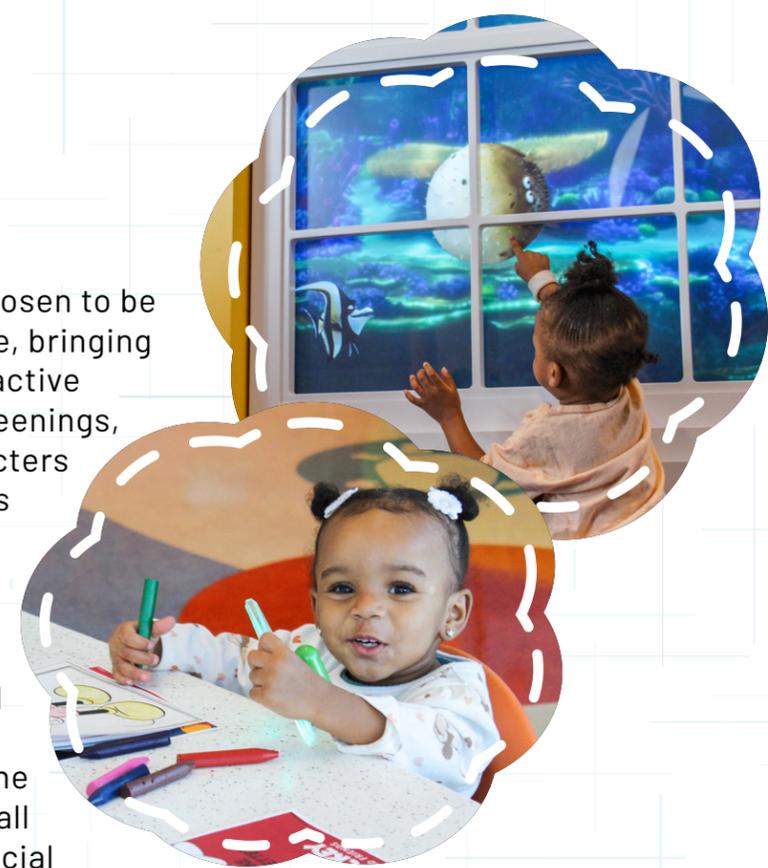


## Stories From the Year

### Disney's Children's Hospital Initiative

We are incredibly proud that La Rabida was chosen to be a part of Disney's Children's Hospitals Initiative, bringing the magic of Disney to our hallways with interactive installations, toy deliveries, special movie screenings, and more. Seeing their favorite familiar characters puts smiles on patient faces and gives families a sense of normalcy when they walk through our doors.

When at La Rabida, kids can explore colorful, visual storytelling through Magic Windows and interact with Disney stories through Magic Art displays. Plus, a Pixar-themed play center in the outpatient waiting space designed for kids of all ages and abilities encourages free play and social interaction. We also now have a mobile movie theater with access to special screenings of newly released Disney movies, as well as complimentary access to Disney+. We are so grateful for the support provided by Disney at La Rabida.



### Early Intervention Services Expansion

Because of a change in Illinois state law, many children who would have lost access to the state's Early Intervention therapy services became eligible to continue their services with La Rabida's Child and Family Connections (CFC) if they have summer birthdays - a big step toward increasing school readiness for kids who might need an Individualized Education Program, or IEP.

Aiming to shrink the gap when it comes to access to quality early childhood programming, the new state law enables children with developmental delays or disabilities who turn three over the summer to continue therapy until the end of August. Once they opt-in (families must choose to participate) the children are evaluated for continuing services. Nearly 20% of La Rabida patients (out of roughly 1,000 age-appropriate children) qualified for these extended services.



# Stories From the Year

## Mia's Journey

Sometimes, complex medical illnesses can come on very quickly and without warning, which can be incredibly frightening for patients and their families. This was the case for Mia, a 9-year-old who suddenly became extremely ill.

Mia was eight years old when she came home from school complaining of a stomachache. Her mother Emma says that Mia was "almost never" sick, so she gave her some soup and Pepto Bismol. Unfortunately, after spending most of the next day sleeping, by the following morning Mia was worse. She began vomiting and reported that she was having difficulty seeing clearly.

They made their way to a nearby emergency room where, over the next few days, Mia was diagnosed with myocarditis, inflammation in the heart that causes profound heart failure and multi organ system failure. A suspected viral infection started in her stomach and then infected her heart, lungs, GI track, and kidney. Mia then suffered a stroke, which caused paralysis and vision loss in her right eye.

In the pediatric intensive care unit, Mia was supported with ECMO, extra corporeal membrane oxygenation, which is like a heart-lung bypass machine. ECMO sustained her life for the next several weeks. Once stabilized, Mia was then transferred to La Rabida in January of 2023. She was very deconditioned when she arrived because she had been in bed for months and needed to build up strength and learn to walk again. She was also suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

While at La Rabida Mia received various forms of therapy, in addition to her medical care. She learned to walk and speak again, all while creating special bonds with her therapists. In addition, Mia benefited from our behavioral health services as she recovered from the trauma of getting so very sick so suddenly. Her entire care team provided a loving and nurturing environment for her and her family to recover.

Today Mia is a happy, smiling kid who loves to prank her therapists, tell knock-knock jokes, and is enamored with puppies and solving math problems. She still comes to La Rabida weekly for physical therapy in our Outpatient Center, and recently took a family trip to Walt Disney World!



# LA RABIDA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

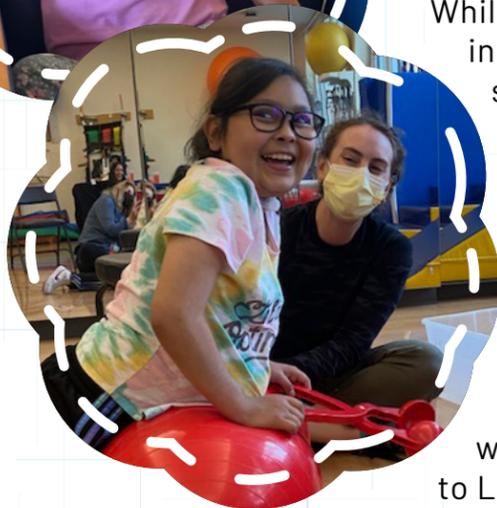
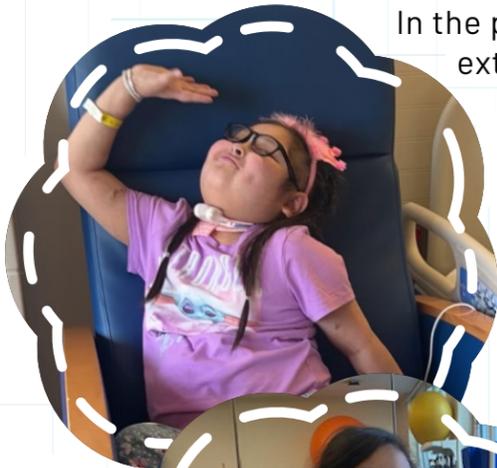
## Financial review - Annual Report

Fiscal Year: July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

	FY 2023	FY 2022
Unrestricted Revenues and Other Support	\$ 67,604,583	\$ 62,850,417
Expenses	70,049,254	64,111,102
<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>(2,444,671)</b>	<b>(1,260,685)</b>
Contributions, Investment Returns & Other	16,871,999	13,462,140
<b>Revenue in Excess of Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 14,427,328</b>	<b>\$ 12,201,455</b>

Current Assets	\$ 12,376,816	\$ 12,938,298
Foundation	-	-
Investments and Long-term Assets	217,322,917	199,233,283
Net Property and Equipment	33,112,633	27,763,285
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 262,812,366</b>	<b>\$ 239,934,866</b>

Current Liabilities	\$ 12,505,976	\$ 12,631,491
Long-term Liabilities	7,813,501	2,237,923
Net Assets	242,492,889	225,065,452
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 262,812,366</b>	<b>\$ 239,934,866</b>





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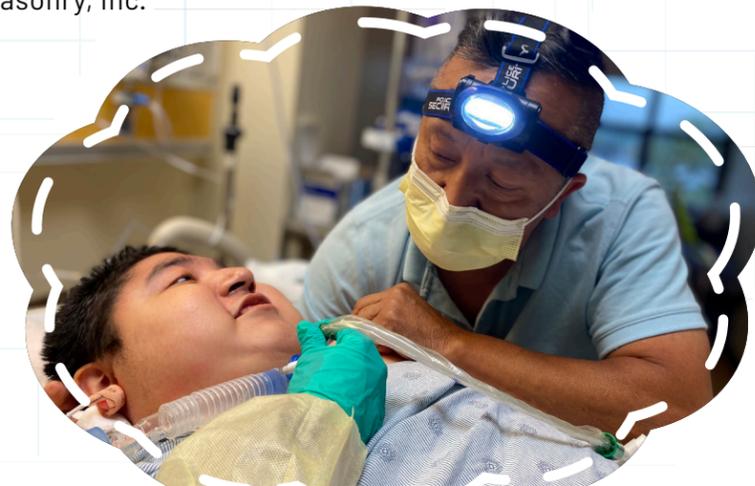
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\*\*Brenda retired at the end of 2023