



# Small World

Summer 2009

Children's Hospital • New Orleans

**\$1.45 million**

Telethon raises record

**Play Ball!**

Opening Day for The Miracle League of Greater New Orleans

**Baby Blues?**

The Parenting Center can help you sing a different tune

*President Obama hosts CMN Champion Rolonzo Gooden at the White House*

# WE JUST WANT TO PLAY BALL

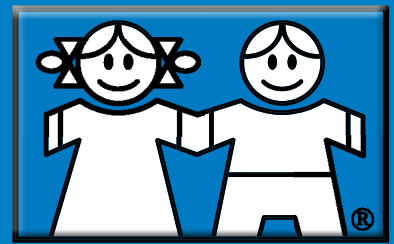


## OPENING DAY SEPT. 12

The Miracle League of Greater New Orleans provides children with mental and/or physical challenges an opportunity to get out in the sunshine and play baseball in an organized league complete with teams, uniforms and a field designed to accommodate special athletes. We're already signing up players age 6 to 12, and looking for volunteers to serve as coaches, umpires and player buddies, as well as community partners to help operate the league.



Log on to [www.gnomiracleleague.org](http://www.gnomiracleleague.org) or  
call (504) 894-5415 for more information



## CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Children's Hospital's mission is to provide comprehensive pediatric healthcare which recognizes the special needs of children through excellence and the continuous improvement of patient care, education, research, child advocacy and management.

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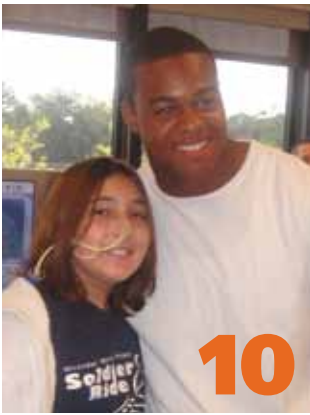
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# 2009 Summer



*On the Cover:* Steve Levine, MD, stands at the entrance of Children's Hospital's new Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. After 28 years as director of the unit, Dr. Levine will turn over leadership to his former student, Costa Dimitriadis, MD, in July.

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Steve Worley, President and CEO

### Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

Children's Hospital helps launch The Miracle League of Greater New Orleans

Children's Hospital is happy to be opening new units and renovating several more this year as we continue to grow to meet the pediatric healthcare needs of our community, and we're extremely excited to introduce The Miracle League of Greater New Orleans. A partnership with Audubon Nature Institute that was inspired by local businessman David Voelker, The Miracle League provides children with mental and/or physical challenges an opportunity to get out in the sunshine and play baseball in an organized league complete with teams, uniforms and a field designed to accommodate special athletes.

During Miracle League games each child gets a turn to bat, play in the field and cross home plate every inning. The point of the game is less about keeping score and more about fun! Players are paired with an able-bodied volunteer "buddy" who assists them in batting, catching, throwing and running. Buddies can be fellow schoolmates, parents, college students, business leaders or anyone who wishes to volunteer their time to give a child the gift of baseball. The children's self esteem grows, they make friends, become less isolated and just become regular kids – not a kid with a disability.

Because bumps and irregular surfaces in grass fields are very difficult for wheelchairs, walkers and braces to traverse, we're building a specially equipped field that will have cushioned synthetic turf that accommodates wheelchairs and other walking assistance devices. It also features handicapped accessible dugouts, restrooms and drinking fountains. The facility is located at the riverside park – often called The Fly – behind Audubon Zoo.

The league will be run by our reigning employee of the year, Gina Lorio, who agreed to manage the league after serving several successful years as the hospital's special events manager. I know she'll do a great job.

Our opening day is set for Sept. 12. We're already signing up players age 6 to 12, and looking for volunteers to serve as coaches, umpires and player buddies, as well as community partners to help operate the league. I'm looking forward to the first pitch.

Play ball!

Yours,



Steve Worley



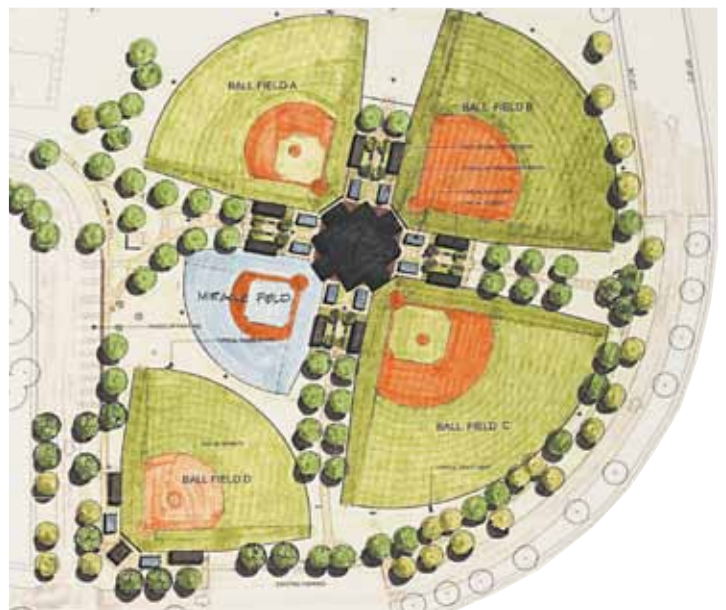
*The Miracle League field will be the centerpiece of a new sports complex at the Fly.*



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**“Every Child  
Deserves the Chance to  
Play Baseball”**

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## Gov. Jindal appoints Dr. Courtney to state board



Governor Bobby Jindal announced the appointment of Dr. John Courtney, director of the Department of Psychology at Children's Hospital, to the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. The board serves to regulate the issuance of licenses and conduct hearings on complaints concerning discipline within the field. The board is comprised of five gubernatorial appointments, subject to senate confirmation. Members are selected from nominations submitted by the Louisiana Psychological Association.

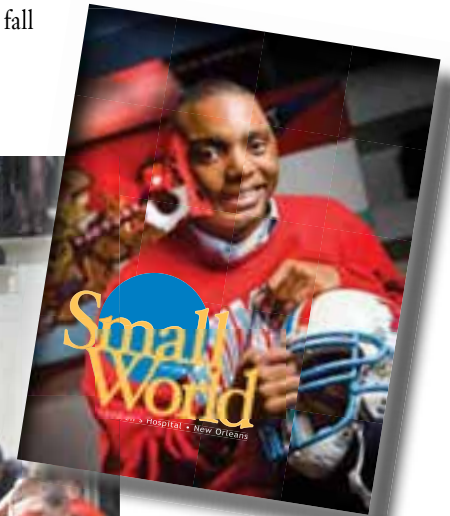
## Best Emergency Care

NOLA Baby & Family magazine named Children's Hospital the best provider of emergency care for children in the city. Stephen Hales, MD, and Hales Pediatrics were selected top pediatrician and pediatric group.



## President Obama hosts Rolonzo Gooden at the White House

President Barack Obama hosted Children's Hospital patient Rolonzo Gooden at the White House during Children's Miracle Network's Champions Across America visit. CMN designates a Champion in every state who has bravely battled and triumphed despite a serious injury or illness. Rolonzo, 17, suffered a series of massive strokes in 2006 and was given a 40 percent chance of survival. He was featured in Small World's fall 2008 issue.



## Children's Hospital physicians for \$1,000, Alex

This Children's Hospital physician once played in the Jeopardy! Teen Tournament.

You're correct if you answered "Who is Pooja Dhume?"

During her junior year at Benjamin Franklin High School in New Orleans, Dr. Dhume, an emergency transport doctor, played in the popular quiz show's 1997 Teen Tournament. After entering a pool of 1,200 teens, she passed the Jeopardy! qualification test and was flown to Los Angeles to tape the show over two days at the Sony Pictures Studios in Culver City, Calif. She finished as a wildcard semifinalist and won \$5,000.

"It was a great deal of fun, and everyone was excited about me being on TV. But one of my episodes ran on Mardi Gras so nobody saw it," she said.



Alan Robson, MD, Medical Director

### Child abuse medicine at Children's Hospital

Child abuse is a topic that most people do not like to talk about and many want to believe that it does not happen. It is a fact of life, however, and the victims require state-of-the-art help. Just over a year ago, Children's Hospital upgraded a cottage on our Calhoun Campus to house both our Audrey Hepburn Children at Risk Evaluation (CARE) Center and the New Orleans Children's Advocacy Center (NOCAC). Surrounded by magnificent trees, the cottage provides a friendly office in a home-like setting in which any child who may have potentially been abused or maltreated can receive medical evaluation and appropriate care.

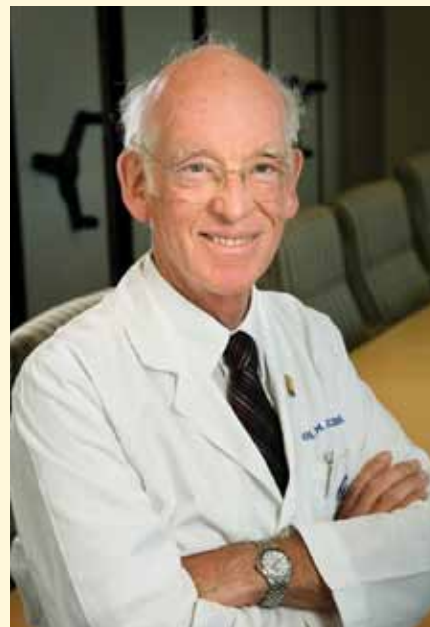
The CARE Center, which began in 1985, has been honored by the Audrey Hepburn Foundation which has adopted it as one of the centers that they help to support. The two physicians who work at the center, Dr. Adrienne Atzemis and Dr. Yameika Head, have undergone extensive specialty training in child abuse. The center's attorney, Stacie LeBlanc, has also specialized in this field. They are assisted by a wide array of clinical specialists who are sensitive to the psychosocial needs of these children and their families and who can assist with integration of community resources. The center also provides information to parents and is a resource for the community on child abuse and injury prevention.

In addition to their clinical work, the team trains physicians who want to specialize in child abuse. Furthermore, the LSUHSC pediatric residents rotate through the program to obtain training in the recognition, diagnosis and treatment of child abuse.

The NOCAC investigates child abuse cases utilizing a multi-disciplinary approach. Their forensic investigators are trained to use a structured National Institute of Child Health and Human Development interview protocol which capitalizes on keeping the interview objective and eliminates leading or suggestive questioning. Other members of the team include detectives from the sex crimes department of the New Orleans Police Department, child protection investigators, assistant district attorneys and mental health therapists. Having the NOCAC and the CARE Center located in the same building results in the seamless transfer of information so that each victim can receive a specialized and individual care approach. This can include on-site and off-site counseling, housing aid, victim reparation and financial assistance, as well as links to several other agencies that may help each individual case. Last year the program evaluated 1,142 children from across Louisiana and the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

When I interviewed Dr. Atzemis and Ms. LeBlanc individually before writing this column, they both said that what gave them the most satisfaction was to be able to say to a family at the end of an evaluation that they could find no evidence that their child was

abused or molested. Our community is most fortunate to have such a facility staffed by so many experts devoted to this specialized subject and Children's Hospital is pleased to sponsor it. If you ever need help in this field of medicine, you can rest assured that the CARE Center and NOCAC and their staffs represent a state-of-the-art facility.



Children's Hospital welcomes these new members of the medical staff:



**Pooja Dhume**, *Emergency Transport*  
**Medical School:** Washington University in St. Louis  
**Residency:** St. Louis Children's Hospital



**Christian Lilje**, *Cardiology*  
**Medical School:** University of Freiburg, Germany  
**Residency:** University of Freiburg, Germany  
**Fellowship:** University of Hamburg, Germany;  
Tulane University



**Humberto Quintana**, *Psychiatry*  
**Medical School:** SUNY, Downstate Medical Center, New York City  
**Residency:** Kings County, University Hospital, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
**Fellowship:** Columbia University, New York State Psychiatric Institute, New York City



**Mayling Walker**, *Psychology*  
**Professional School:** St. John's University, Jamaica, N.Y.  
**Internship:** Elmhurst Hospital Center, Elmhurst, N.Y.

### RIC studying fungi in hopes of treating life-threatening diseases

Spectacular medical advances over the past 30 years are enabling physicians to save lives of children with life-threatening conditions at an unprecedented rate. The various procedures and preventive and therapeutic drugs used also leave the patient with transient to even life long immune compromising effects. The immunosuppressive effects leave the patient at risk of developing invasive, and life-threatening, fungal diseases.

In the past, fungal diseases of children were mostly transient dermatologic in nature, such as so-called athlete's foot or ringworm. Today, however, the growing population of immunocompromised children is susceptible to a variety of fungal organisms capable of invading virtually any organ system. These diseases are difficult to diagnose and treat, often resulting in death.

The Research Institute for Children has made a strong commitment to investigate fungi and the diseases they cause in the immunocompromised patient. Three full-time pediatric faculty are dedicated to studying *Cryptococcus neoformans* and *Candida albicans*. In addition, a member of the University of New Orleans studies *Candida albicans* in office and research space adjacent to the three mycologists at the RIC. The investigators are studying the fungi's ability to cause disease.

*C. neoformans* is found naturally throughout the world. Thus, humans are regularly in contact with the fungus and most likely acquire it through inhalation. The fungus can spread from the lungs to the bloodstream and then into the central nervous system (CNS), causing cryptococcosis, a disease with potentially fatal consequences. Researchers are interested in mechanisms by which the fungus is able to cross the blood/brain barrier on its way to the CNS, and hope to discover vaccines that prevent CNS disease.

*Candida albicans* is a well-known agent of "yeast infections." In the immunocompromised patient, disease caused by this species and several additional *Candida* spp. are capable of invading internal organs and cause disseminated candidiasis often with a fatal outcome. RIC scientists are studying the basic biology of the fungus, its chemical and surface features, and how it interacts with the host. This information is leading to the development of vaccines that prevent disseminated candidiasis.



The RIC is sharing medical mycology investigations with researchers across New Orleans. Over the past several years, 18 to 25 investigators from LSUHSC, UNO, Tulane University and the USDA have met on a monthly basis to share research ideas, progress, seminar guest speakers, graduate students and to participate in the writing of multi-institutional grants in their attempts to obtain funding to extend and facilitate further research collaborations. The fungal-related medical problems have become immense and are growing each year, but the medical mycologists are determined to find solutions in order to significantly reduce the risk of fungal infections as a result of induced immunocompromised conditions. ■

### Did You Know...

Since 2005, the PICU has averaged more than 650 admits a year. The unit had 691 admits last year, with patients staying an average of 7.4 days.



If you're a new mom who is feeling so lonesome you could cry, The Parenting Center at Children's Hospital is here to help you bring back that lovin' feeling.

It's 4 o'clock in the morning. Your newborn is screaming like Axl Rose on *Appetite for Destruction* and showing no signs of stopping. Meanwhile, your spouse is comatose, oblivious to the riot next door in the baby's room. You're working on an hour and a half of sleep, as well as your last nerve, as you trudge down the hall trying to convince yourself that you're a good parent. It's surely not the scene you imagined for those beautiful last nine months of silence before "it" came. Unable to get your baby calm, comforted and asleep, you begin to question your parental instincts and abilities. But don't freak out; it's natural. Women experience a roller-coaster ride of hormones as estrogen and progesterone drop dramatically after childbirth. But for 13 percent of new moms their anxiety leads from simple baby blues to postpartum depression, which can interfere with their ability to bond with and care for their child.

Baby blues are marked by anxiety, mood swings, sadness and crying, troubled sleeping and irritability that lasts a few days or a few weeks. Postpartum depression includes the same symptoms, but they are more intense, lasting for weeks – even months – and prevent you from completing your normal schedule and routine, not to mention your new responsibilities as a mom. Signs of postpartum depression include loss of appetite, insomnia, lack of joy in life, decreased libido, lack of bonding with your baby and thoughts of harming yourself or your baby. Debbie Regan, assistant director of The Parenting Center at Children's Hospital, said physical, emotional and lifestyle changes all play a role in whether a new mom develops baby blues or postpartum depression, and that it is very important for new moms to discuss their feelings and not be ashamed that they will be perceived as a "bad" mom if they don't feel cheery.

"It's amazing how lively the conversation gets when I bring it up in our new parent support group, Snuggles & Struggles," Regan said.

"Each mom in the group is feeling some symptom of the baby blues, but they're afraid to bring it up. But it has a liberating effect when each woman hears that others in the group are experiencing the same feelings and emotions. Tears of frustration turn to smiles of joy as they exchange ideas and best practices. There's a sense of camaraderie and that they're not alone."

Almost every mom goes through the baby blues at some point. The danger is that if it persists for more than two weeks, moms may develop postpartum depression, which untreated can lead to children who have behavioral problems, such as sleeping and eating difficulties, temper tantrums and hyperactivity, as well as delays in language development.

Regan said sleep, light exercise and good nutrition are often the best deterrents for fighting the baby blues. Sleep when the baby sleeps and incorporate a short stroll into your day. Increased circulation and fresh air will boost endorphins, the body's natural mood enhancer. In addition, she said new moms don't have to feel like super heroes. "Accept help when it's offered and ask for it when it's not," she said. "Talk to your partner about sharing household responsibilities. New moms can't be expected to do it all."

If you're interested in learning more about The Parenting Center, its classes and support groups – including Snuggles & Struggles – log on to [www.theparentingcenter.net](http://www.theparentingcenter.net). ■



#### Flying high

While in town for the N'Awlins Air Show, members from the Air Force Raptors Demonstration Team went room-to-room to visit with patients. The team, stationed at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia, handed out stickers, coloring books and pictures of the F-22 jets they fly.



#### Champions for a Cause

University of Tennessee associate head coach Holly Warlick and UCLA Women's Basketball coach Nikki Caldwell arrived at the hospital in style on their motorcycles to meet and greet patients. Along with their motorcade, they handed out plastic bracelets, mini basketballs, pens and lanyards. The coaches were in town for New Orleans' first "Bike Week."

#### Send in the clowns

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus clowns performed in front of a packed lobby for an hour-long show that included magic tricks, balancing acts, hula hooping and laughs, before they gave away slippers resembling clown shoes to patients in the inpatient cancer unit.



#### Pierre Thomas visits the Teen Room

Pierre Thomas spent an afternoon with children in the hospital's Teen Room playing videogames and talking about expectations for the Black & Gold's upcoming season. Thomas, who is expected to be New Orleans' feature running back, took part in Phil's Grill's Burgerpalooza. His specially created cheeseburger was the top seller, raising more than \$4,000 for The Miracle League.



## Disney on Ice

Mickey and Minnie Mouse took off their skates long enough to make a stop at Children’s Hospital to visit with patients and their families at a special luau in the lobby. Children met the famous couple and posed for photos before Radio Disney gave each child coloring books and crayons to remember the event.



## Car of the future

While traveling through New Orleans, Marcelo da Luz stopped by Children’s with his solar-powered car. After asking questions and looking at the car’s mechanics, several employees posed for a picture next to the environmentally friendly vehicle with a top speed of 85 mph.

*Contact the Public Affairs Department at (504) 896-9373 for more information on Children’s Hospital events.*

## AUGUST

**11** **Blood Drive**  
8 a.m. – 7 p.m., Auditorium

## SEPTEMBER

**1** **Boo at the Zoo**  
Tickets go on sale

**3** **Bonnabel Football Team**  
10 a.m., room-to-room visit

## OCTOBER

**16** **Operation Pumpkin**  
2 p.m., Children’s Hospital

**17** **Operation Pumpkin**  
The Shops at Canal Place

**23-25** **Boo at the Zoo**  
5:30 & 7 p.m., Audubon Zoo

**30** **Schwander Golf Tournament**  
Stonebridge Country Club

**31** **Jazz Half Marathon**  
7:30 a.m., New Orleans

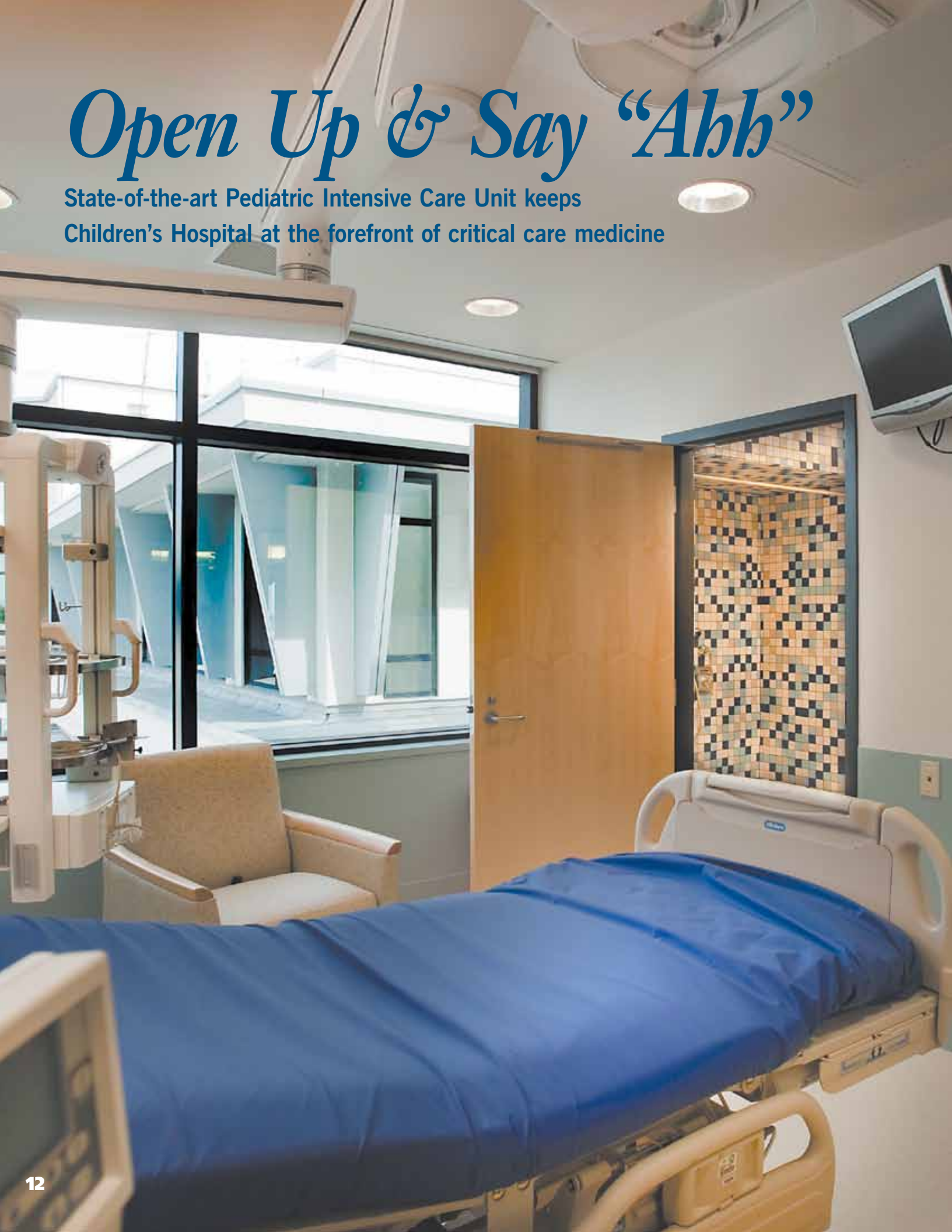
## NOVEMBER

**1** **Marriott Golf Pre-Party**  
5 p.m.-8 p.m., JW Marriott Hotel

**2** **Marriott Golf Tournament**  
9 a.m., English Turn

# *Open Up & Say “Abh”*

State-of-the-art Pediatric Intensive Care Unit keeps  
Children’s Hospital at the forefront of critical care medicine





# W

hen the children of Louisiana and the Gulf Coast face life-threatening injuries and illnesses, they can count on Children’s Hospital’s state-of-the-art Pediatric Intensive Care Unit to meet their critical care needs. Located on the top floor of the hospital’s west tower, the 9,456-square-foot PICU opened in May. The unit features 18 private patient rooms outfitted with cutting-edge technology that will assist the staff of four specialists and more than 30 nurses and residents in instantly providing the best available critical care for the children of the Gulf South and an avant-garde medical philosophy including stunning panoramic views of Greater New Orleans that will assist in each child’s healing.

“It’s a state-of-the-art unit,” said Steve Levine, MD, director of the PICU. “We can offer all (surgical) services except for heart and lung transplants, which are coming in the near future. It’s very exciting to see that Children’s Hospital’s ability to impact the community is growing.”

### Garnering National Attention

During construction, Dr. Levine and PICU nurse manager Dawn Schaffer led administrators from several children’s hospitals across the country on tours of the new unit.

“They were interested to see how we integrated the latest technological advances with the latest in critical care philosophy,” Dr. Levine said. “When building multi-million dollar facilities, they want to see what works and incorporate best practices. That’s what we’ve done. There are other ICUs,” he said, “but there are none better than us.”

Each patient room is designed to allow medical staff to perform almost any procedure bedside. Ceiling-mounted surgical lights and boom arms that provide patients oxygen and medical gas have been upgraded from the previously standard wall-mounted design, allowing medical professionals 360-degree access to the child.

“In an emergency, bedside surgeries and procedures must be done,” Schaffer said. “Some children are so fragile that even moving them to an operating room can upset the balance. If you can bring the operating room or the procedure people and equipment to the child in a protected environment, it will be safer.”



*Windowed work stations positioned between patient rooms allow Kristin Massicot, RN, to observe two children at a time.*



## A New Direction

### Dr. Levine to step down as PICU director, Dr. Dimitriades to take over

After 28 years as head of Children's Hospital's Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Steve Levine, MD, will step down in July. Costa Dimitriades, MD, will be promoted to PICU director.

"Dr. Levine has been instrumental in overseeing the growth of our PICU from a four-bed unit in 1981 to the amazing facility we have today," said Children's Hospital CEO Steve Worley. "He's an amazing physician who has literally saved thousands of children's lives. He's a great friend of the hospital, his staff loves him, and I'm glad he's staying on our medical staff."

Dr. Levine will focus on pulmonary care, including the hospital's cystic fibrosis, ventilator and pulmonary-hypertension programs and associated outpatient clinics to treat asthma, bronchitis and other respiratory problems.

"I don't have a moment's hesitation in leaving the unit – that's far from my mind. It couldn't be in any better hands," Dr. Levine said. (Dr. Dimitriades is) exceptionally well trained. He did a great fellowship at a major center that trains doctors to be directors of divisions. He's got a great affinity for critical care medicine. And aside from the medicine, he's a very caring person. The unit is going to grow under his leadership. That's sweet.

"The bitter part is just leaving," he said. "It's been a major part of my life for the last 28 years. It's been a great ride for me, and that makes it hard to give up. But after being on call for 28 years, I need to pull back a little and have more time for my wife and family."

Dr. Dimitriades said the PICU is in the process of moving to a national standard of systems-based critical care that began with the design of the new unit that opened this summer.

"We're thrilled to have this unit after waiting so long to get into it," he said. "It brings together the latest technology – monitors, computer systems, beds – to help us take care of the kids the best we can. Parents should expect that their child will get the same type of care here as they would as PICUs in Houston, Boston, Chicago and Baltimore. ICUs can have a lot of error, so we're trying to reduce the opportunities for errors to occur. But more important, the unit is set up to provide care for the patient with the family being there."

In addition to the latest medical advances, the unit includes design elements to lift the spirits of children and families in hopes that healing will be easier.

"This was built specifically for us," Dr. Levine said. "We've previously cannibalized other space. Not that we haven't been able to deliver critical care – our staff can do that in the parking lot if you give us a long enough extension cord – but aesthetically, this is much better for the patients and families than what we've had before. Everything is set up to make it easier to care for the patient ergonomically."

### Healing Environment

Hospital staff worked with architects to design a modern unit that features the latest medical advances in a soothing environment conducive to healing. The rectangular-shaped unit features glass walls which offer almost 270-degree, panoramic views overlooking Audubon Park to the west, Lake Ponchartrain and Uptown treetops to the north and downtown New Orleans and the Mississippi River to the east. Waiting and family consultation rooms are situated on the southwest corner of the unit, overlooking the river and Audubon Zoo. Soft colors were selected for the unit's walls, decorative glass, desks and cabinetry to create a light, tranquil setting that encourages healing.

"The new PICU gives an amazing first impression," said critical care nurse Jeanie Graves. "Natural light permeates the whole unit, so it's bright and cheerful. The kids love having an area that feels bright and open. It helps them heal physically and psychologically. It's beautiful ... just amazing."



*Costa Dimitriades, MD, will become PICU director in July.*



### Stress & Solace

The unit's design gives recovering children and their families a less "helter-skelter" environment to get well in while medical staff performs their duties, Levine said. "We wanted to create an atmosphere that would be calming to help soothe them. When they come in, some families are frightened to death.

I mean, you've got a family in Lafayette, Monroe or Alexandria and they have to come to a strange town – maybe by ambulance or helicopter – and place their most precious gift in the hands of total strangers. Those parents are stressed out."

"We don't want families to have to wait outside of the unit scared to death leaving them to their imagination as to what's going on with their child," he said. "We think this is a big step forward and one we're quite happy with."

Shaffer said the PICU has adopted a policy of allowing one parent to stay in their child's room at all times except during twice daily rounds. Each room has an oversized club chair that converts into a twin bed so a parent can stay overnight to calm their child when needed. "That will help reduce anxiety and related stress for the kids and adults that will have a very positive impact on them and the staff," she said.

Dimitriades said there can be a very chaotic situation in one room and the rest of the unit can stay relatively calm. That is important for the rest of the families in the unit because it reduces stress and minimizes other traumatic experiences for other patients, families and visitors. "We can operate in one room with doors closed and curtains drawn and keep the unit open to other families to visit their child," he said. "In the past we were unable to do that."



*Top left: Views of Downtown New Orleans will help Kelly DeHarde's patient recover quicker. Top right: Karla Donner ensures she has the right equipment for a respiratory treatment. Below: Hospital administrators review the ambulance helicopter drop-off procedure after a patient was delivered to the PICU.*





*Top: The Research Institute for Children and Loyola University's towers rise above Uptown treetops on the PICU's north side. Bottom: Dr. Costa Dimitriadis confers with Raven Camp, RN, about patient care.*

### Unit Mitosis

With the PICU's move to the sixth floor, The Heart Center at Children's Hospital will open a new 8,193-square-foot Cardiac Intensive Care Unit in the first floor location it used to share with the PICU. The new CCU will feature 20 beds (10 in private rooms) for children recovering from heart surgery.

"Post-Katrina, we had such an influx of kids that we were forced to turn some away because we were full. That had never happened in the 26 years I had been here," Levine said. "It bothered us to turn people away. But now we don't have to worry about that. We're going to have enough beds for everybody."

Since 2005, the PICU has averaged more than 650 admits a year. The unit had 691 admits last year, with patients staying an average of 7.4 days. After shutting down for a month following Katrina, The Heart Center at Children's Hospital has grown into a nationally recognized leader in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with congenital cardiovascular disorders. Last year, the Cardiology Department, run by Robert Ascutto, MD, performed almost 10,000 procedures and treated more than 2,000 child and adult patients from throughout the world. Dr. Joseph Caspi, director of cardiothoracic surgery, and Dr. Tim Pettitt performed 417 heart surgeries, sometimes operating on as many as three children a day.

"Our Cardiac Program is one of the biggest in the country if you look at the numbers," Levine said. "They needed their own unit. They're getting a third surgeon, so they're going to have more cases and can take on more difficult cases.

"Having two units is going to be great for the hospital," he said. "It will help us deliver better quality care and more care to more kids, which is all we want to do. We're making the biggest difference in peoples lives when we can give a child back to their family and say, 'Go home. You can go home. You're all better now,'" he said. "It's unreal. ■

## Telethon raises record \$1.4 million



Thank you to everyone who tuned in and donated during the 26th annual Children's Hospital Telethon on WDSU NewsChannel 6. A record amount of \$1,458,237 was raised this year. Since 1984, the Telethon has brought in more than \$18.89 million to fund treatment and research right here in New Orleans.

### Telethon Ambassador

Sophia Liriano, 2, is our 2009 Telethon Ambassador. She has been featured in our Telethon promotions, commercials and advertisements. Sophia was born with a heart condition that required open-heart surgery when she was just two-months-old. The surgery was successful, allowing Sophia to go home 3 weeks later. She was joined on-air by her mother, Kelly Usery, and her physician, Dr. Timothy Pettitt.



Top: Telethon staff celebrate raising a record amount despite tough financial times. Middle: Telethon Ambassador Sophia Liriano with Telethon hosts Margaret Orr and Norman Robinson of WDSU NewsChannel 6. Bottom: Heath Allen interviews Gina Lorio about The Miracle League of Greater New Orleans.

## Telethon Events

Children's Hospital partners with several businesses and organizations throughout the year to raise money and awareness for the Children's Hospital Telethon. As spring warmed up the great outdoors, several fund-raising events were held to benefit the hospital and the outreach programs it provides for the community.



## MEMORIALS

January 1, 2009 - May 31, 2009

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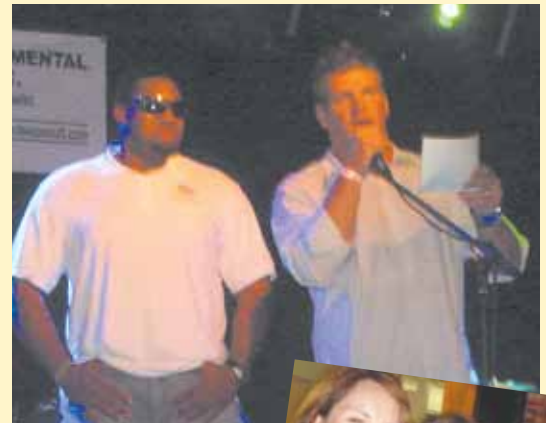
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## Allfax Specialties Golf Classic & Pre-Party



The 2009 Allfax Specialties Golf Classic at Beau Chene Country Club, hosted by Deuce McAllister, Jon Stinchcomb and Kevin Houser, was a huge success, raising more than \$149,000 for Children's Hospital. Special thanks to Allfax Specialties owner Brian Grosch who made an additional \$40,000 contribution after the event.



The fun began at the pre-party, which was held at Southport Hall and featured a great live and silent auction, delicious food, and live music. Several Saints players were in attendance to mingle with guests and to help out with the live auction, which included a fishing trip with Jon Stinchcomb and Zach Strief, a Hornets game with Kevin Houser, Scott Fujita, Troy Evans and Pierre Thomas and bowling with Pierre, Troy and Zach.

On the day of the tournament, 184 golfers filled both courses at Beau Chene Country Club and enjoyed cocktails compliments of Glazer's Companies of Louisiana, Miller Beer, soft drinks and water compliments of Coca Cola and food from over twenty restaurants. Several New Orleans Saints players were on-hand to golf and mingle with the participants, including host and former Saints fan-favorite DEUUUUUUUUUCE!

## Wendy's Corporate Volleyball Classic

Malibu Rum Coconut Beach was the setting for the Wendy's Corporate Volleyball Classic. Forty-nine teams competed in beginner, intermediate and advanced categories, including teams from our major sponsors, Lockheed Martin, Bank of New Orleans, Marathon Oil and Waldemar S. Nelson, as well as several teams from as far away as Lafayette. Participants enjoyed a day of food, fun and sun, as well as the chance to win great prizes all day. The tournament raised nearly \$33,000.



## Run Forrest Run 5k

More than 1,200 runners and walkers participated in the race, which starts and finishes in front of the Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. Restaurant and Market. Participants enjoyed Michelob Ultra, delicious Bubba Gump Shrimp Shack Pasta and Forrest's favorite, ice cold Dr. Pepper. The race raised \$22,500 for Children's Hospital.



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January 1, 2009 - May 31, 2009

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Southeastern Geophysical Society

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## 5 Minute Oil



5 Minute Oil had an amazing campaign this spring that raised an astounding \$40,000 - nearly \$12,500 more than last year! Employees stepped up in a major way this year by putting on an event at Audubon, hosting a car wash and by having money deducted from their paychecks. Over the last four years, 5 Minute Oil has been supporting Children's Hospital's telethon and has raised more than \$94,000. Pete Frey and his entire team genuinely care about Children's Hospital and work hard to help us continue our mission.

## Plaisance Poker Run Photo

The 7th Annual Plaisance Bar Poker Run to benefit Children's Hospital was held on Saturday, June 13, with more than 200 area motorcycle enthusiasts in attendance. The bikers brought Santa and a wonderful array of toys for our young patients before continuing on with their poker run. The event concluded with great food and drink with music provided by the Mason Dixon band at a party hosted by bar owners Priscilla and Mensy Plaisance. The event raised more than \$48,000 to help the hospital serve our young patients.

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Michael Bourg  
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Andrea V. Corne  
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and Suppliers, LLC

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Michael Wynn



## BOO at the ZOO

Three fun-filled nights await families at the annual Halloween fund-raiser benefiting Children's Hospital and Audubon Zoo.

On October 23, 24 and 25, children of all ages will enjoy trick-or-treating, a haunted house, a ghost train, games with prizes and live music. All games and treats are included with admission.

Tickets are \$16 for 5 p.m. admission and \$13 for 7 p.m. admission. The event ends at 9:30 p.m. nightly. Tickets will be available beginning September 1.

Call 1-866-ITS-A-ZOO for more information.

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patient inspirations



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GATOR  
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THANK YOU  
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Mia Waller, 4



JEWELRY BOX  
wood & acrylic  
Kiara Dorsey, XX



BLESSED HEART

acrylic on stretched canvas  
Jobrea Williams, 14



THANK YOU, MIRACLES HAPPEN HERE

acrylic on paper  
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***Saturday, October 31***  
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