

CHILDREN'S  
HOSPITAL

# SmallWorld

Healing, Teaching, Discovering

Spring 2015

## The Classics

Sugarplum Ball celebrates  
hospital's 60th year

## Unit Upgrades

Patient tower undergoes makeover

## Telethon Time

WDSU broadcast will  
air May 30 and 31

# *A Girl With Drive*

*Abbey Daniel turns a near loss into an inspiring victory*





# CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL TELETHON

LIVE ON  
**6** WDSU  
ON YOUR SIDE

**MAY  
30 & 31**

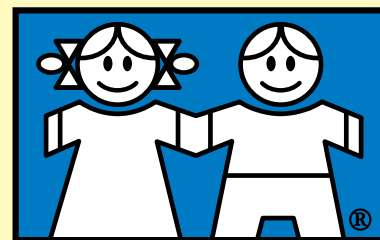
Watch the 2015  
Children's Hospital  
Telethon live on WDSU.

Hear heartwarming and  
inspiring stories of some  
of the miracles that happen  
at Children's Hospital every day.



Saturday, May 30, 2 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
Sunday, May 31, 6 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
2 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**DONATE NOW!** [www.chnola.org/telethon](http://www.chnola.org/telethon)



## CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Children's Hospital's mission is to provide comprehensive pediatric healthcare that 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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CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL  
IS A CHILDREN'S  
MIRACLE NETWORK  
HOSPITAL

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# 2015 Spring



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*On the Cover: Abbey Daniel recovers from a debilitating injury and becomes a champion golfer.*



Mary Perrin, President and CEO

### Knowledge Is Power

*Patient satisfaction survey will reveal strengths and weaknesses*

Children's Hospital is dedicated to not only providing excellent patient care, but also to delivering a positive experience for patients and their families. We have always measured patient satisfaction and received excellent results from our self-developed surveys, but were we asking the right questions? Were we gathering enough important details to enable us to improve? And how did we compare to other hospitals similar to ours?

Beginning October 2014, Children's Hospital has employed the National Research Corporation (NRC) and its survey tool, NRC Picker, to help answer these vital questions. Moving from an in-house patient satisfaction questionnaire to a national survey company allows us to benchmark ourselves not only against other hospitals but also against other children's hospitals and, refined even further, other freestanding children's hospitals like ours. This powerful information will tell us where we are doing a great job and, perhaps more importantly, guide us to focus areas where we need to improve.

Our first quarter results are in, and although the data represents only a small initial sampling, the feedback is still very relevant. While I would like for the results to have been higher, it shows that we need to work harder to ensure that every family's experience is a good one. Information that we didn't get from the previous survey is now available and helping us improve the patient and family experience. Now we are beginning to recognize where we need to communicate better, be more responsive, or deploy our resources differently so we can meet the needs of the family. We do a good job the majority of the time, but we want to do a good job all of the time.

We've realized that people have different experiences in different areas of the hospital and clinics. So by asking more questions than our previous in-house surveys, we can focus on specific floors, nursing units, clinics and services, such as emergency and critical care. We can acquire very discrete data about the satisfaction or experience within each area of the hospital.

Evaluating this information requires a dedicated, trained professional who understands our hospital and the patients we serve. I am pleased to announce that we have positioned Michele Borey, former director of Occupational Therapy, to take on this new task as the director of Patient Experience for Children's Hospital. She will look at how to cut data to help all managers identify where they need to focus and prioritize those things that will make the biggest impact for families first. Michele is a seasoned manager with 17 years of patient contact, and we are delighted to have someone who is familiar with the hospital, can focus on this effort, and help teach other managers how to use the tool in a way that produces improvement in performance and patient experiences. The combination of her experience, education and eagerness to tackle this new endeavor will be exciting for us to watch as real developments happen.

Everyone at Children's Hospital wants to provide the best for our families. We'd like for all of our patients and their families to be 100 percent satisfied every time. With this new patient satisfaction tool, we feel empowered to achieve continuous improvements in our performance, and ultimately, patient and family experiences. ■



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**This powerful information will tell us where we are doing a great job and, perhaps more importantly, guide us to focus areas where we need to improve.**

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### The Children's Hospital Solutions for Patient Safety Network (CHSPS): Together, Saving Lives and Reducing Harm

We recently passed the two year mark as “all in” participants in the CHSPS National Network. Just as the Network itself grew from eight children's hospitals in 2011, to a group of more than 80 hospitals in 2014, our Patient Safety and Quality division has undergone rapid growth and development as we strive toward a goal of reducing, and eventually eliminating, preventable patient harm. Since 2012, the national effort has led to an estimated savings of over \$60 million, and more importantly, is estimated to have saved 2,500 children from serious harm. The Network has seen reductions ranging from 11 percent to 81 percent in many hospital-acquired conditions. That said, until the number of total serious safety events is zero, our work is not done.

This rapid growth, nationally and here at home, has been fueled by unprecedented cooperation among member hospitals. Each member shares successes and failures transparently and agrees not to compete with each other on patient safety. This collaboration allows the formulation of evidence-based “bundles” of care processes developed to reduce hospital-acquired conditions. Instead of merely reporting results, we teach prevention and measure how effectively our team is carrying out

these processes. Our Patient Safety and Quality Department exemplifies the Network motto of “All Teach, All Learn”—and, in fact, will be demonstrating some of our own teaching methods at a National Learning session later this month.

One of the strong points of the CHSPS Network has been the numerous opportunities for cross-network teaching and learning. We recently hosted a National Learning session on adverse event cause analysis attended by teams from more than 20 other pediatric programs.

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**More than 60 of the 80 hospitals in the Network, including us, are striving to reduce preventable harm by applying proven safety-science strategies.**

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While this important “nuts and bolts” work of applying evidence-based bundles and teaching preventative measures is a mainstay of the CHSPS Network, it is not the only solution offered. Equally important is the change necessary to incorporate high-reliability principles into our daily workflow to promote a culture of safety. More than 60 of the 80 hospitals in the Network, including us, are striving to reduce preventable harm by applying proven safety-science strategies employed by high-reliability industries. This emphasis on creating a culture of safety within pediatric institutions is a unique aspect of CHSPS's approach.

The rapid pace at which these changes are taking place would not occur without the support and guidance of the leadership of the organization. The Children's Hospital Board of Trustees has fully embraced this initiative, making patient safety a focal point of each board meeting and going above and beyond to advance our endeavors. The chairman of our Board of Trustees, Bill Mimeles, along with outgoing chairman, Whit Huguley, and the chairman of our parent company LCMC's Board, Julie George, were accompanied by senior leaders from the hospital to an out-of-state “Board Onboard” training session. The chairman of our Board Quality Committee sits on our Medical Staff Patient Safety and Quality Committee, a significant donation of time and effort. This extraordinary level of Board engagement is perhaps the most telling sign of our commitment to make the care we deliver as safe as humanly possible. ■

### Welcome



**Mia Harris, MD, Pediatrics**

**Medical School:** Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans

**Residency:** Tulane/Ochsner Pediatric Residency, New Orleans

### Lighting of the cupola

Children's Hospital held a special ceremony on May 6 to light the cupola atop the main building on the State Street campus. The symbolic event celebrated the beginning of Children's Hospital's efforts to bring the campus that was first built as a United States Marine Hospital back to life. Children's is working with the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans, the Historic District Landmarks Commission, the Louisiana Landmarks Society, and local neighborhood associations to redevelop parts of the campus. A \$250 million Phase I project is proposed that is part of an overall Master Facility Plan to expand and renovate the hospital, creating a facility that is on par with other pediatric hospitals across the country. The cupola will continue to be lit every night as a sign of Children's commitment to this effort.



### Ambulatory Division reorganizing to improve access to specialists

Children's Hospital's Ambulatory Division is reorganizing under new leadership, consolidating services and adding new clinics and staff to improve patient and physician access to the hospital's 90+ specialists.

The reorganization is being guided by the new Ambulatory Physician's Operation Council, a multidisciplinary group of Children's Hospital physicians that includes: Drs. Tony Gonzales, Orthopaedics; Ricardo Gomez, Endocrinology; Ken Paris, Allergy/Immunology; Brent Keith, Gastroenterology; Dean Edell, Pulmonology; Christopher Roth, Urology; George Ellis, Ophthalmology; Pinki Prasad, Hematology/Oncology; and Jessica Gautreaux, Neurology. The Ambulatory Division is being led by Senior Vice President Tammy Reites and Assistant Vice President Emily Harris, who are aligning the division into one unified team to better support patients and physicians.

Gretchen Dondis, RN, will serve as the director of the division's Call Center. The Call Center incorporates the Scheduling Center, the Authorization Department and the Physician Referral Service into one centralized service to improve and simplify scheduling. The new Physician Referral Service will make it easier for outside pediatricians and referring physicians to schedule patients to see Children's Hospital specialists by handling all referrals and obtaining patient records.

The Ambulatory Division has also introduced new clinics, including concussion and spina bifida, to expand the specialty clinics offered at Children's Hospital. For the first time, the Ambulatory Division also began seeing patients at the uptown campus on Saturdays with the start of a twice monthly pulmonary clinic.

#### Physician Referral Service at Children's Hospital

*A physician link to patient scheduling*

**Phone: (504) 896-2888**

**Fax: (504) 896-2889**

**referrals@chnola.org**

## Children's Hospital names new COO

Children's Hospital has added Justin Olsen as its new chief operating officer. Olsen comes from Children's Hospital of San Antonio, where he was the COO for the past five years. There Olsen was involved with a number of endeavors that included improving patient satisfaction and experience, a major hospital construction project and implementing some of the same Huron initiatives Children's Hospital is currently undertaking.

"He had experience doing some things that we are moving towards, which I thought was an important add for us in terms of our skill set," said Children's Hospital President and CEO Mary Perrin. "He brings us a whole new perspective that is very relevant to what we are doing."



## Patient tower undergoes makeover

When the second floor Short Stay Unit officially reopens in late June, it will be the first completed under a plan to eventually makeover all nurses stations and refurbish patient rooms in Children's Hospital's center tower.

"We are really excited to get at least one floor open so the staff can see what, for so long, has been just a vision," said Diane Michel, MN, RN, chief nursing officer and director of the renovation project. While additions and replacements have been made over the years, it has been more than 10 years since any of the nurses stations have been completely renovated. "We want to create a kid-friendly space that has a modern, peaceful look."

Refurbished patient rooms will have new floors, new paint and new head walls. All of the nurses stations will be repositioned to face the blue elevators to greet families, physicians and staff upon their arrival to the unit. Desks will be backlit with soothing colored lights, while wood flooring will be added at each station. The new design incorporated input from nurse managers to ensure the new stations would optimize space, give medical staff as much functional room as possible, and increase access to electronic medical records by adding additional computers.



# Clinical Trials Focus on Hemophilia

Improving healthcare for children through new medications and treatments is an important mission of Children's Hospital and its medical staff. The hospital's Clinical Trials Center coordinates a multispecialty research network that brings the latest advancements in medicine to hospital patients. The Center currently conducts nearly 100 studies for a wide range of health problems. Among these are a number of trials for children with hemophilia.

"The research component is very important," said Jaime Morales, MD, director of the Hemophilia Treatment Center (HTC) at Children's Hospital. "Working with the Clinical Trials Center, we are able to collaborate with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other government entities to pool data about hemophilia patients. We also collaborate with industry to bring to patients medications not yet available commercially."

The Children's Hospital HTC is among a select group of centers across the country designated as offering the highest standard of care. The center treats roughly half of all children in Louisiana diagnosed with the disease. In addition to offering quality care, Morales and his team of specialists partner with a number of organizations to provide patients with the newest treatments and access to resources otherwise unavailable to them.

The Clinical Trials Center currently coordinates 10 hemophilia studies, a majority being innovative treatments focused on long-acting factor medications. The goal of these investigative treatments is to reduce the number of injections patients must endure every week, thereby improving compliance.

"If the patients don't miss doses, they have fewer bleeds, can be more active, and have a better quality of life overall," said Dr. Morales.

Other hemophilia studies aim to gather important data in order to improve patient care. The Clinical Trials Center and Children's Hospital HTC team work with HTCs across the country, the CDC and the American Thrombosis and Hemostasis Network (ATHN) on advanced scientific research. Among the studies underway is My Life, Our Future, a genotyping project that offers free genetic testing to hemophilia patients.

"Clinical research is an adjunct to every specialty," said Stephanie Sonnier, director of The Clinical Trials Center. "We are actively researching to ensure improved treatments. The children in our studies are not only well-monitored, they have access to novel drug therapies that would otherwise be unavailable to them."

For more information, contact the Clinical Trials Center at Children's Hospital at (504) 894-5377. ■



## Living With Hemophilia

An excerpt from an essay by Benjamin Hicks

Having Hemophilia is challenging at times and sometimes it's hard to live with especially if you like to be active. My brother and I have Hemophilia A Severe. We both are really active we love playing basketball, it's our favorite sport. When my brother and I were little all we ever wanted to do is play sports but our Hemophilia stopped us most of the time. It was hard growing up with Hemophilia because it holds you back from a lot of things, especially when you have bleeds.

When I was little I used to hide my bleeds from my mom because I didn't want to have to take my medicine. I would hide the bleed until I couldn't take the pain anymore then I would tell my mom but by then the bleed would be so bad that I would have to miss a day of school. As I got a little older, I learned to tell my mom I had a bleed as soon as I noticed it.

When I was 13 I got to play on an actual city basketball team. I never thought I would be able to play on a basketball team because of my problem in the past with Hemophilia but I never gave up. The reason I am telling you this is because when you put your mind to it and you really want something don't let anything hold you back. My 8th grade year I made the Leesville Junior High Basketball team and the Cross-Country team. It made me proud to be able to represent my school. It was not giving up that got me where I am today.

*Benjamin Hicks and his brother, Brent, are students at Leesville Junior High. They participate in several research studies coordinated by the Clinical Trials Center and the Hemophilia Treatment Center at Children's Hospital.*





SUMMER

FUN

AT THE  
PARENTING  
CENTER

Looking for activities for your child this summer? Look no further than The Parenting Center.

Beat the heat with a membership to The Parenting Center and enjoy activities with other families with children under age 4. Play inside with age-appropriate toys, then move outside for more fun (and some shade) in the sand box, play houses and play structures, or with balls and toy cars. Daytime onsite parenting classes include childcare so parents have the opportunity to learn new skills and build relationships with one another.

A \$100 annual membership to the Center is a great value and includes the play room and play yard, as well as several regular weekly activities such as “messy” art. Little ones can paint, stamp, shake glitter, squeeze play dough and scribble, enjoying the process of making something uniquely their own. On music days children and their parents sing, dance and move to the music of Miss Trish. And one of the most popular ways in town to cool off is Friday

water play, with water tables, inflatable pools, sprinklers and puddles to splash in.

First visits to the Center are free, so parents are welcome to check it out before deciding to join. Visitors and members are invited to attend **The Parenting Center Open House and Family Picnic on Friday, May 29 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**, which features door prizes, live entertainment and, of course, lots of play and new friends.

For more information visit [www.theparentingcenter.net](http://www.theparentingcenter.net) or call 504-896-9591.

**The Parenting Center Uptown:** 938 Calhoun St., Open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and one Saturday each month from 9 a.m. to noon.

**The Metairie Parenting Center:** Goldring-Woldenberg Jewish Community Center, 3747 West Esplanade Ave., Open weekdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

### Summer 2015 Safe Sitter Dates

One-day sessions for tweens ages 11 to 13. Held Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., and Sundays, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Download registration forms at [www.theparentingcenter.net](http://www.theparentingcenter.net) or call 504-896-9591 for more information.

Choose one day from the following weekends:

June 6 and 7  
June 13 and 14  
June 27 and 28  
July 11 and 12  
July 18 and 19  
July 25 and 26  
August 1 and 2



## Become a Safe Sitter This Summer

For more than 20 years, The Parenting Center at Children's Hospital in partnership with the Junior League of New Orleans have brought Safe Sitter classes to thousands of children between ages 11 and 13, with the goal of protecting the health and welfare of children by providing potential babysitters with relevant and accurate safety information. Safe Sitter trains Junior League volunteers to instruct tweens in skills that will help them emerge as more self-assured, compassionate and dependable sitters.

Safe Sitter is a fun way to spend a summer day, as instructors work with students, often in small groups, using games, props, hands-on manikin practice and role-playing to help participants strengthen new skills and gain comfort with handling different situations. Students have time to practice first aid, CPR and choking rescue skills; learn about appropriate behavior management techniques; and discuss general safety precautions. To receive a completion card, students complete a written and a practical exam demonstrating mastery of key concepts. Evaluations completed by participants often express appreciation for how the class has benefitted them.

## Children's Hospital Telethon

The 32nd Annual Children's Hospital Telethon will air live on WDSU May 30 and 31. The broadcast will air Saturday from 2–10 p.m. and will resume on Sunday from 6–11 a.m. and again from 2–5:30 p.m.

The Gulf South region generously opened their hearts and wallets in support of last year's Telethon, raising a record amount of more than \$2.06 million. Since 1984, the annual event has brought in more than \$28 million to Children's Hospital.

Money raised is used to ensure the most advanced medical and surgical equipment is always available and that no child is turned away because of their family's inability to pay for services.



## Jazz Half Marathon

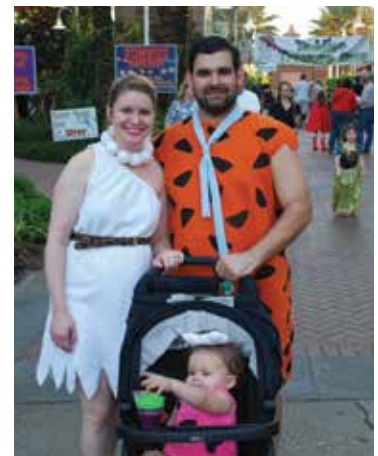
The Seventh Annual Jazz Half Marathon and 5K is set for Saturday, October 31, 2015. The race begins and ends in historic Lafayette Square and is followed by a post-race party featuring live music by local artists and delicious New Orleans fare. Medallions will be presented to all Half Marathon finishers and to the first 500 5K race finishers.

Last year's race helped raise more than \$350,000 for the Cancer Program at Children's Hospital, including \$35,347 raised during WDSU's four-hour broadcast of the event. Since 2009, the annual race to beat childhood cancer has brought in more than \$1.5 million to help the hundreds of children who turn to Children's Hospital for the best available cancer care.

For more information or to register for the Jazz Half Marathon or 5K, please visit [www.jazzhalf.com](http://www.jazzhalf.com).

## Boo at the Zoo

A hit with locals year after year, Boo at the Zoo will return for two weekends this fall to keep youngsters' spirits high and cackling. Children's Hospital and Audubon Zoo will host the annual event October 16 and 17 and October 23 and 24 from 5 to 9 p.m. Highlights of the event include a ghost train ride, trick or treat lane, kids games, live entertainment and much more. Tickets will go on sale August 1 at [auduboninstitute.org](http://auduboninstitute.org).





*John C. Reilly visits with patient, Emily Romsky, and her mother, Janelle Melancon*

### Bacchus Visits Children's Hospital

For more than 30 years, the reigning king of Bacchus has visited Children's Hospital, creating lasting memories for patients, their families and hospital staff. This year, the opportunity fell to actor, singer, producer and screenwriter John C. Reilly. He and crew leaders spread carnival cheer when they came to campus February 13, two days before the parade hit the streets. Reilly threw doubloons and mingled with patients and their families, helping to lift spirits through the spirit of the Mardi Gras season.

### Mardi Gras Mambo Bingo

Children's Hospital Guild members and friends celebrated the Carnival season with their annual fundraiser, Mardi Gras Mambo Bingo, February 10 at The Pontchartrain Center in Kenner, La. With 375 in attendance, the spirited Bingo party featured 21 rounds called by Saints offensive tackle Zach Strief and Fox 8 meteorologist Bob Breck. The \$7,000 raised through the Bingo will help fund a neurosurgery microscope that will provide a better view of the surgical area for Children's Hospital neurosurgeons.

The Guild is among the hospital's most treasured friends and supporters, with a membership of more than 300 men and women. Members participate in a variety of volunteer activities that contribute to helping the hospital continue to provide exemplary healthcare to its young patients. To become a member of The Guild, please contact the Public Affairs Department at (504) 896-9373.



## MAY

29

**The Parenting Center Open House & Family Picnic**

5:30–7:30 p.m.

938 Calhoun St., New Orleans

30

**Chevron Volleyball Classic**

Coconut Beach, Kenner

30-31

**Children's Hospital Telethon**

WDSU Channel 6

## JUNE

5

**Walmart Gulfport Golf Tournament**

Windance Country Club, Gulfport, La.

6

**Corvette Club of New Orleans' Annual Car Show**

Boomtown Casino, Harvey, La.

## AUGUST

6

**Dr. Breen Memorial Event**

Coquille Park, Madisonville, La.

## OCTOBER

9

**Marriott Silent Auction**

New Orleans Marriott

16-17

**Boo at the Zoo**

23-24

Audubon Zoo, New Orleans

31

**Jazz Half Marathon & 5K**

Lafayette Square, New Orleans

*Contact the Public Affairs*

*Department at (504) 896-9373*

*for more information on*

*Children's Hospital events.*





## A Girl With Drive

When doctors told Abbey she may never play sports again, she became determined to beat her injury.





*The Daniel family (from left): Kay, Nick, Chuck and Abbey*

**Y**ou could hear a pin drop in the operating room on the day Abbey Daniel's fate lay in the hands of the Children's Hospital surgical team. Her family anxiously waited in near silence down the hall after a traumatic day of emergency visits and transports. A natural-born athlete, Abbey's future in her beloved sport of golf hung in the balance.

It was February 15, 2014 when 13-year-old Abbey experienced the worst injury in her lifetime. She had traveled from her home in Covington to Lafayette, La., to compete in a club-level volleyball tournament. While waiting for her game, she and her teammates hung around the coaching platform on a high school football field. Abbey, a smart, mindful and responsible teenager, was not used to taking chances. But when dared to jump off the platform 10 feet above ground, she made the unfortunate choice to do so. It didn't seem like much of a risk at the time.

Rather than jumping, Abbey hung from the side of the platform. Her legs were dangling only a few feet from the ground. She lost her grip, fell backwards, and stretched out her right arm to help break the fall. Despite her strength and athletic build, her arm could not withstand the force.

"I was sitting on the ground and felt weird," said Abbey. "I knew something was wrong when my friends shouted, 'Oh my God!' My arm was bent the wrong way."

Abbey's teammates rushed to find her mother, Kay, whose immediate thought was that her arm was dislocated. But in the back seat holding Abbey as she was driven to the emergency room, it was evident that the injury was far worse than originally expected.

"I was in so much shock, I didn't feel it at first," said Abbey. But in the car, each jolt became more excruciating. "It was the worst pain I've had in my life."

Every bone in Abbey's arm was broken, and her brachial artery was severed. Doctors in Lafayette could not find a pulse in her arm and knew right away that her injuries were too specialized to treat there. So Abbey, with Kay by her side, was immediately flown by helicopter to Children's Hospital.

Abbey is a straight A eighth-grader at Archbishop Hannan High School and a typical teenager who likes to go to movies, hang out with friends and cook with her family. But what's not typical about Abbey is her proficiency in sports, especially golf, a skill developed while growing up in a family of golfers. Her mother, Kay, played golf for Mississippi State and won several amateur and mid-amateur state championships over the years. Her father, Chuck, also an avid golfer, was a former college and professional baseball player. And brother Nick, a Hannan High sophomore, is winning titles as a junior amateur golfer.

The Daniels spent many days, evenings and weekends on the golf course. As infants, Nick and Abbey's car seats were strapped into the golf cart. As children, they played alongside their parents. And now, as teenagers, they are making names for themselves within the junior golf circuit.

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## “The tension in the operating room was high as the surgical team listened... waiting...for her pulse to return.”

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So when Lafayette doctors told Abbey she may never play sports again, she quickly understood the gravity of her situation.

“The thought of never playing golf again was devastating,” said Abbey. “It’s what I want to do more than anything, and I was hoping for a scholarship.”

When the helicopter arrived at Children’s Hospital, Chuck and Nick were anxiously waiting and watched as Abbey was lowered onto the helipad. She was rushed into surgery where orthopaedic surgeons stood ready to meet the challenge of reconstructing her arm. It had been hours since the blood flow to Abbey’s arm had been cut off. Time was critical. A number of screws and pins were placed to hold her arm together, but after five hours in the operating room, her pulse did not return.

“Sometimes when you realign bones, it will cause the return of the pulse. But in Abbey’s case, it didn’t,” said Jodi Gerdes, MD, vascular surgeon. “I identified that the injury occurred right at her elbow crease, probably from the bone cutting her artery where it was fractured. Only a small part of her artery was intact, but the injury caused it to clot off.”

Dr. Gerdes used a vein from the incision in Abbey’s elbow crease to patch the artery. The tension in the operating room was high as the surgical team listened....waiting...for her pulse to return. Moments later, cheers broke out as the brisk swishing sound of pulsing blood was heard on the Doppler device.

“I didn’t fully appreciate how serious her injury was,” said Kay, an orthodontist. “The doctors explained to us how critical the next 24 hours would be.”





For seven hours, blood did not flow adequately through Abbey's right arm. And although her pulse was restored in surgery, she was not out of the woods.

"The longer muscle and other tissue go without blood flow, the higher the risk of permanent damage, especially nerve damage," said Dr. Gerdes.

The swelling in her arm and vascular repair could lead to clotting, causing the repair to fail and her arm to eventually die. Abbey spent the rest of the night in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit where she was closely monitored. Her arm was splinted in a way that allowed her bones to be stabilized and Dr. Gerdes and the intensive care staff to periodically check her pulse.

"The situation was dicey. They told us the swelling could cause an occlusion," said Kay. "It was a worst-case scenario, but it was all we could think about for the next 24 hours. The nurses were wonderful, and the staff was really pulling for Abbey."

The family felt much relief when it was apparent that Abbey had escaped that worst-case scenario. She was transferred to the third floor and spent several days with her three new teddy bears, aptly named Morphine, Aspirin and Percocet, and a freezer full of popsicles. Abbey was released from the hospital February 18 and began a remarkable recovery that is earning her much recognition.

"Doctors in Lafayette told me I may never play golf again," said Abbey. "This experience has made me want it more. I'm more dedicated, practice more, and have actually improved my golf game. I am much better now than before I broke my arm."

Abbey credits the surgeons and staff at Children's Hospital for repairing her injury and her physical therapist, John Guido, for helping her improve her range of motion. With her right arm still casted, she began to putt, then chip. One week after she was authorized to hit a driver, she competed in qualifying rounds for the biggest tournament of her lifetime, the Drive, Chip and Putt Competition, a division of the Masters tournament in Augusta, Ga.

Abbey placed in the local and sub-regional qualifying rounds for her age group before going on to win the regionals near Atlanta. She had made it to the finals, and on Easter weekend, arrived on the biggest stage in golf alongside many of her idols.

"The reward was getting there," said Abbey. "It was the coolest experience being on the course the day before the Masters."

Only two years in existence, the Drive, Chip and Putt Skill Competition is helping to grow the game of golf through kids. Abbey is the first in Louisiana to make it to the national finals at Augusta National.

"We were probably more excited about it than Abbey," said Kay who dreamed of one day going to the Masters rather than watching it every year on TV. "We knew what a big deal this was. It was one of her greatest accomplishments."

Although Abbey did not win the competition, she was thrilled to have the opportunity, and the experience is driving her toward bigger dreams.

"My goals are high, and I expect things to get even better."

Given Abbey's determination and skill, she will likely go the distance she is swinging for. Between the two scars on either side of her arm lies the secret to her success. For Abbey, it's not just about healing what's been broken. It's about turning what could have been a great loss into an inspiring victory. ■







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1. Sugarplum Ball honoree Valero representative Ralph Phillip with wife, Connie 2. 1960s Kitchen 3. Chalon Dominick and Jessica Krinke, decoration chairs 4. 1960s Living Room 5. Children's Hospital President and CEO Marry Perrin with husband, CHMPC Vice-President and Executive Director Dr. Keith Perrin, and Board member Betty Lauricella 6. The Rumpus Room 7. Drs. Costa and Victoria Dimitriades and Mr. and Mrs. David Haydel Sr. 8. Ball Co-chairs Marianna Trepagnier, with husband David, and Lisa Happoldt, with husband Daniel 9. Pauline and Stark Winston of the Crescent River Port Pilots Foundation 10. The Rumpus Room





## *Sugarplum Ball Celebrates the Classics*

Children's Hospital's newly acquired State Street campus was the setting for the 2015 Sugarplum Ball, March 27. The gala celebrated the hospital's 60th year in the classic style of the era in which it was founded. From bebop to soda shops, some 1,000 guests enjoyed a step back in time.

Co-chairs Lisa Happoldt and Marianna Trepagnier, with more than 100 volunteers, transformed a tented State Street lot into a 1950s-style house surrounded by the property's beautiful oaks. A soda shop featured soda jerks serving root beer floats and hamburgers, and more than 30 local restaurants offered their best dishes. Entertainment by Sha'on and the Girls with Success featured songs from the 50s and 60s.

The hottest silent auction of the gala season featured prized items from local merchants. With a purchase of a hand-painted rock glass came a chance to win a number of prizes from the "On the Rocks Raffle." A highlight of the night was the drawing for a pearl, gem and diamond necklace designed and donated exclusively for the ball by Valobra and valued at \$20,000. Carleton Ellsworth was the lucky winner.

Sugarplum Ball raised nearly \$300,000 for the hospital's Clinical Outcomes Research Center. Haydel's Bakery, Crescent River Port Pilots Foundation and Bank of America Merrill Lynch were major sponsors. This year's honoree was the Valero St. Charles Refinery, represented at the ball by Plant Manager Ralph Phillip and his wife, Connie.



## Helping Hands

*Building a healthy future for kids*

### 2014 Kids Fund Campaign

The 2014 Kids Fund Campaign, headed by Joe Blanche, general manager of the New Orleans Marriott at the Convention Center, raised \$872,479. The Campaign was dedicated to raising funds for the Epilepsy Surgery Program, the only such program in Louisiana. Kelly Gajewski, MD, led the Physicians Campaign division of Kids Fund, which raised \$40,450. The Campaign, supported by the hospital's Medical Staff, culminated with the Physicians Reveillon Dinner held at La Petite Grocery December 18.

### 2015 Spring Kids Fund Campaign



Under the direction of Emily and Marques Colston, the 2015 Spring Kids Fund Campaign is off to a great start. To date, the Saints star wide receiver and Mrs. Colston have raised more than \$531,233 for the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), a program the Colstons have generously supported.

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November 1, 2014 - March 31, 2015

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## *Spirit of Halloween Supports Hospital's Child Life Program*

The Spirit of Halloween's annual fund-raising effort for the hospital's Child Life program reached new heights this year. Local Spirit of Halloween Superstores raised \$75,260 to help our Child Life therapists better serve the needs of our young patients. In the five years since this annual promotion began, Spirit of Halloween Superstores have raised a total of \$253,810.

## *Hogs for the Cause*

The highly anticipated Hogs for the Cause drew a record-breaking crowd for their March 27-28 food and music festival. As a major sponsor, Children's Hospital helped support the fundraiser and received \$110,000 of the proceeds for its pediatric cancer program and Hogs for the Cause Fund, established to aid families of brain cancer patients with financial burdens unrelated to hospital bills.

LCMC President and CEO, Greg Feirn, and his team, Fleur De Que, raised more than \$130,000 and earned the "Top Fundraiser" award for the fifth year in a row.



*The Hogs for the Cause crew with LCMC Assistant Director of Marketing and Public Affairs, Nicole Marinello.*

## Deep Sea Vessels Present Gifts to Children's Hospital



In January, crew and friends of the Stena Forth, a drillship owned by Central Dispatch of Gretna, presented the hospital with a gift of \$20,436 raised during the Christmas season. In April, the crew of the Transocean Discoverer India (pictured above), led by Captain Christine Hasen, donated \$20,681 to the hospital. These funds were contributed by the ship's owner and crew members.

## Mazda Test Drive Donation

Mazda North American Operations, in a joint effort with local Mazda dealers, contributed \$20,000 to the hospital this past March. The funds were collected through an end-of-year promotion that pledged money for each person who test drove a new Mazda during December.

## Best Chefs of Louisiana

The American Culinary Foundation-New Orleans (ACF-NO) honored 25 of our state's Best Chefs of Louisiana at its annual event at the New Orleans Marriott at the Convention Center April 7. The event featured great food prepared by the chefs, music by Louisiana Spice and a successful silent auction. The event raised more than \$40,000 for the hospital and the ACF-NO's Culinary Scholarship Fund.

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## *Children's Hospital Bass Classic*



The 16th annual Children's Hospital Bass Classic, presented by Gerry Lane Enterprises of Baton Rouge, was held at Doiron's Landing in Stephenville, La., March 7. A total of 151 two-man teams competed, and the winners—Spencer Gremillion and Patrick Rachel (pictured above)—took home \$12,500 for their stringer of five bass weighing 16.33 pounds. Andre Cazelot brought in the largest bass of the day, a 6.12-pounder, and won \$1,250. After the fishing, participants feasted on jambalaya from Jambalaya Festival champion, Wally Taillon, and hotdogs grilled by Frank Maone of Jefferson Auto Service and his team of friends. Special thanks to tournament organizers, Karen and Gary Cross, and fishing director, Brad Rodrigue. The tournament raised \$55,750 for the hospital and has now surpassed \$250,000 in support over the years.

## *Delta Dental Insurance Company Supports the Tooth Bus*

Delta Dental Insurance Company made a gift of \$10,000 to fund an Air Techniques ScanX I/O X-ray system for one of the hospital's tooth buses. This equipment will allow the dentists who staff the bus to take X-rays of patients' teeth, allowing problems to be treated during the same visit.

## Uncle Joe's Bar & Blue Ghost Tavern Christmas Parties

Susan and Guy Baudier, the owners of Metairie's Uncle Joe's Bar and the Blue Ghost Tavern once again hosted their annual Christmas parties, which raised \$5,000 to benefit Children's Hospital. Children's Hospital nurse, Jennifer Fernandez, thrilled the crowd at the Blue Ghost Tavern with her singing. The Baudiers have hosted their Christmas parties to benefit the hospital for four years and have raised more than \$15,500 during that time.



*Habnville High School students (pictured above) raised \$2,579 for Children's Hospital through the sale of their special culinary creations prepared for various school events.*



*The Golden Oldies Motor Club of Louisiana (pictured above) presented \$10,000 to Children's Hospital at their annual car show at Hammond Square May 9. The group has donated more than \$30,000 to the hospital since 2011.*

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# SMALL WORLD GALLERY

patient inspirations



AUDUBON ZOO  
Marker on paper

Anna Accousti, Age 7



FULL BLOOM  
Ink on paper

Tamirra Pierre, Age 14



PRETTY IN PINK  
Mixed media

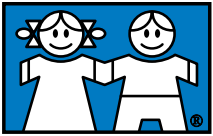
Kyla Wisler, Age 8



BLOWING BUBBLES  
Shawn Guillot, Age 16  
Acrylic on ceiling tiles



RAINBOW  
Danny Ortego, Age 18  
Acrylic on ceiling tiles



CHILDREN'S  
HOSPITAL

200 Henry Clay Ave.  
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