

CHILDREN'S  
HOSPITAL

# SmallWorld

Healing, Teaching, Discovering

Spring 2016

## Play Ball!

Meet Miracle  
League winners

## All That Jazz

Sugarplum Ball hits  
the high notes

## Grandparenting 101

Primer on childrearing  
changes

## Ahead of the Curve

Advances in scoliosis treatment  
benefit Children's Hospital patients





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Telethon live on WDSU.

Hear heartwarming and inspiring stories  
of some of the miracles that happen  
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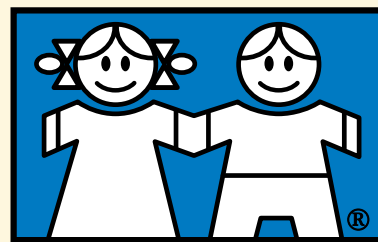
Sunday, June 5  
**1 p.m. - 5 p.m.**



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

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# 2016 Spring



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***On the Cover:** Salem Creighton is one of the first patients with scoliosis to wear a waterproof cast. This new technique allows her the freedom to enjoy playing in the sprinkler, her favorite summertime activity.*

Mary Perrin, President and CEO

### Making Patient Safety and Quality a Top Priority

Children's Hospital is on a journey to transform how we report, review and respond to safety issues. It centers on how we will improve quality and safety for patients and families. As a hospital, we have experienced much change in the last several years. This focus is our most important endeavor yet.

With quality and patient safety as our main objectives, we will work towards a "Just Culture." We are training leadership, management, physicians and staff to develop accountability throughout the organization for safety events, issues that harm families and patients. Our goal is to create an environment open to focusing on desired outcomes over blame and guilt—to honestly report our mistakes and teach everyone from what we learn.

Children's Hospital recently held our inaugural leadership retreat with representation from our Board of Trustees and the medical staff, as well as all of our executive leadership and management. Our topic was Culture of Safety and Service at Children's Hospital. This was the first in a series of training programs that will ultimately reach all employees and medical staff, residents and fellows—everyone who has a role in ensuring we make quality and patient safety our top priority.

In order to realize the changes taught in "Just Culture," we must change the way we work and what we do. This is done by exposing people to new concepts and ideas, a new way to look at, and speak about, our actions. We will change how we examine and correct behaviors so that everyone feels comfortable bringing forward issues that can make us a better, safer place for patients. We will empower the organization, when faced with a choice, to always make the choice that is safest for the patient. And we will support, recognize and reward these behaviors.

Organizations that truly do a great job have a culture receptive to looking at their mistakes in a way that assigns no blame. These organizations examine the components of each misstep and determine how to prevent future occurrences. Only when we do this, will we truly give individuals all the tools they need to work with so that we can all perform better and, most importantly, provide safer care for our patients.

Our goal is zero harm. Achieving this is not a sprint, but a marathon. At Children's Hospital, we've laced up our shoes and started on the journey. The road ahead may be long, but the rewards are immeasurable, especially for our patients. ■



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**Our goal is to create an environment open to focusing on desired outcomes over blame and guilt—to honestly report our mistakes and teach everyone from what we learn.**

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Children's Hospital was chosen by Solutions for Patient Safety as the May 2016 Hospital of the Month. Chosen from over 90 children's hospitals across the country, the hospital was selected based on superior performance in patient safety and quality care.



## Metairie Center Hosts Healthy Lifestyles Clinic

A new Children's Hospital Healthy Lifestyles Clinic will help guide children and their families back to more healthful choices. John Firestone, MD; Maria Treme, MD; Karen Kern, MD, and their staff at the Metairie Center are devoted to helping children learn healthy eating and exercise habits at an early age.

The earlier children learn and adopt healthy habits, the better, for their growth and health as adults. Doctors at the Healthy Lifestyles Clinic evaluate children to identify already-existing conditions and offer families problem-solving suggestions to help set and meet short-term goals. For more information, call (504) 837-7760.

## Children's Hospital Launches PediaCheck App

A new app for parents needing instant medical tips and advice for their children has been launched by Children's Hospital.

PediaCheck was developed using clinical practices used by physicians and nurses on over 150 million symptom calls. The free application offers useful tools, including a symptom checker, care guides, medical dosage charts, parental advice and "when to call" features, so parents can stay on top of their child's health and wellness.

PediaCheck allows immediate connections to medical help, such as a child's pediatrician, nearby emergency departments and 911. The app also provides a medication and allergy list for tracking important information about a family's prescriptions and over-the-counter medications. All of these features and more can be found in one comprehensive app, available in the App Store and Google Play.



## Clinic Opens on Northshore

Children's Hospital recently opened its newest outpatient clinic, Northshore Center, in Covington. Now, Northshore patients and families can see their pediatric specialists close to home. Northshore Center offers advanced pediatric and adolescent care from the same world-class physicians at Children's Hospital's main campus.

The nurses, staff and physicians at Northshore Center are devoted to providing exceptional care to patients and families living in St. Tammany Parish and the surrounding regions. Specialties offered at the new facility include: Allergy/Immunology, Cardiology, ENT (Ears, Nose and Throat), General Surgery, Genetics, GI Nutrition, Medical Psychology, Nephrology, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Orthopedics, Pediatric Forensic Medicine, Pulmonology and Urology. Children's Hospital is excited to welcome Northshore Center to its growing family of satellite outpatient clinics.

## Construction Update

The community in and around Children's Hospital will begin to see traces of a \$225 million construction project several years in the making. The 17-acre State Street property, directly across from the main campus, was bought by Children's Hospital from the state in February of 2014. Since then, the hospital has worked with constituents such as the Historic District Landmark Commission, the New Orleans City Council and neighbors, to develop a plan for the site.

The new construction will provide the hospital with the changes it needs to better accommodate its patients and families. A few of the new features include an emergency department located all on one floor, a new cancer center of excellence that will encompass both inpatient and outpatient services, and a new critical care tower.

Deconstruction of six buildings on the State Street property has begun. A four-story, 400-space parking garage and green space will be constructed in their place. The projected timeline for the hospital construction and renovation is approximately four to five years.

## Chief Medical Officer's Message

*John Heaton, MD, Chief Medical Officer*

### Heroes Among Us

Last May, I attended the funeral of the father of a friend, who had also been the Scoutmaster of our Boy Scout troop many years ago. Mr. Calvin Kaul lived a long and eventful life and left behind a large and loving family. A decorated Army veteran of World War II and a woodworker of unusual skill among other accomplishments, Mr. Kaul was anything but typical. However, it was his tireless and kindhearted dedication to mentoring young men who were not his offspring that was extraordinary. I've often thought about the effort he put forth to start and lead a Scout troop from scratch. I'm not sure I ever adequately thanked him for the tremendous positive influence he was on me and the rest of the motley crew of recalcitrant teenagers that made up our troop. I also know that was not an isolated instance. I'm told that when a couple of friends of his oldest son dropped out of high school, he led them through GED classes by enrolling with them.

Although Mr. Kaul's good deeds deserve a more extensive telling, that is not the point of this column. In the months since he passed, I've given much thought to how much he influenced so many. I've also given much thought as to how, in this age of helicopter parents, longer workweeks, and single-parent homes, it is very hard to give the expected time and attention to our own children, much less others. Yet somehow, wherever we look, there are selfless people who make extraordinary efforts to enrich all of the youth of our community.

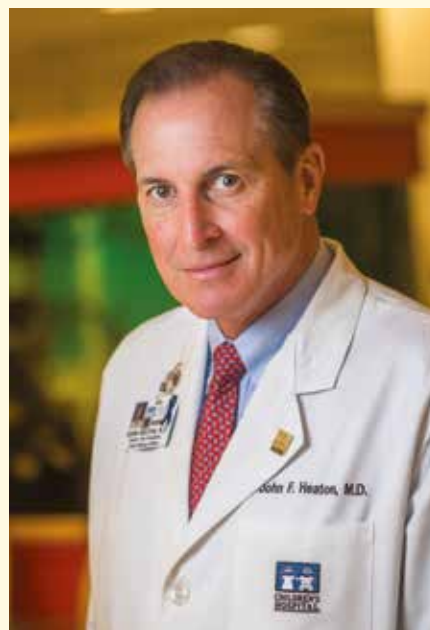
Whether it's the Cub Scout den mother, the band parent at a parade, the assistant baseball coach or the volunteer school tutor, there are dozens of these quiet heroes who go about enriching the lives of all of the kids they come in contact with.

Even when a child comes from a home environment that is supportive and nurturing, these heroes can have a positive impact on their upbringing. As a parent, it is both validating and maddening when another adult is able to drive home a concept that you have been struggling to relate to your son or daughter.

In those instances where a child or adolescent's home life is less than ideal, the example set and attention unselfishly given by these volunteers can make all the difference in the world.

"Children are more likely to have trusting relationships with adults who are consistent and nurturing, which leads to a number of positive developmental outcomes," states one study that looked at brain development and resilience in foster children. It's not a stretch to believe that this positive effect crosses over even to children who aren't in such dire circumstances.

Not everyone has the ability or aptitude to be one of these heroes. Often without knowing it, these folks help many children and adolescents endure the trials and tribulations of growing up, and go farther than they would have otherwise. But all of us should take the time to identify the ones you cross paths with, and thank them for all that they do. And perhaps step up and help mentor, coach, advise or encourage a youth when the opportunity presents itself—because we can always use a few more heroes. ■



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the band parent at a parade, the assistant  
baseball coach or the volunteer school tutor,  
there are dozens of these quiet heroes  
who go about enriching the lives of all of the  
kids they come in contact with.**

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## Meet Our New Providers



**Bianca Castellanos, MD**  
*General Pediatrics/Emergency Medicine*  
 Medical School: University of Illinois  
 Residency: University of California,  
 Irvine  
 Fellowship: LSU Health New Orleans  
 School of Medicine



**Melissa Ferniz, PNP**  
*Pediatrics*  
 Postgraduate: Vanderbilt University  
 School of Nursing



**Lyndi Relle, FNP**  
*Pulmonary*  
 Postgraduate: Southeastern Louisiana  
 University



**Erin Reuther, PhD**  
*Psychology*  
 Graduate School: Louisiana State  
 University  
 Fellowship: LSU Health New Orleans  
 School of Medicine

### *Not pictured*

**Brent Combs, DO**  
*General Pediatrics/Emergency Medicine*  
 Medical School: University of North Texas  
 Health Sciences Center  
 Residency: Tulane University School of Medicine

**Emily Turner, NNP**  
*Neonatology*  
 Postgraduate: University of Texas Arlington

**Erin Maturin, DDS**  
*Pediatric Dentistry*  
 Dental School: LSU Health New Orleans School  
 of Dentistry  
 Residency: LSU Health New Orleans





## The Miracle League

[www.gnomiracleleague.org](http://www.gnomiracleleague.org)

**Vision:** To provide children with special needs, regardless of their level of disability, the opportunity to play league sports and enjoy the emotional and physical benefits of being part of a team sport.

**Programs:** Baseball, basketball and soccer

**Players:** Approximately 200 kids from New Orleans and surrounding areas

**History:** Began in 2009 as a baseball program, with support from Children's Hospital and corporate and community donors. The nonprofit league is now expanding to the Northshore to give more children with special needs the opportunity to play organized sports.

## A League of Their Own

There's something special happening at the Carrollton baseball fields near Children's Hospital. On any given spring Saturday, there are the familiar sounds of the ballpark, the unforgettable aroma of the concession stand and the earnest expressions of the young players. On Field C, however, something different is taking place. Some of the players are in wheelchairs, most are struggling to make contact with the ball, and many are challenged with making it to first base. But they all wear their team uniform, the announcer follows their plays, and the smiles on their faces are shining with victory. They are Miracle League players, members of an elite team where everyone is a winner.

When Erica and Beau Lambert's only two sons were born with a rare and debilitating genetic disorder, they thought they'd never experience what most families of growing kids do. They'd never teach them how to tie a shoelace, climb a tree or ride a bike. They thought they'd never watch them play ball. They had long settled with this reality before learning of a baseball league for children with special needs in and around New Orleans.

"When you have a son, you want them to follow in your footsteps," said Erica Lambert. Beau was an avid baseball player. Joining the Miracle League was a dream come true for the Lamberts. "The Miracle League gives them this chance, a chance to do something different. We couldn't give them these experiences."

Erica and Beau watch as Carson, age 9, and Braylon, age 5, are helped up to bat. They follow them as they make their way, accompanied, around the bases. And they exchange cheers with other families of The Cubs team when they cross home plate.

The Miracle League field was built in 2009 to accommodate children with special needs. A special rubber surface covers the playing area, so the players can move easier without risking injury. Special dugouts accommodate wheelchairs and walkers. Every player has a buddy who helps them as needed. The children have varied levels of ability, but each one has their chance to shine, and everyone scores.

"We all walk the same journey," said Erica. "We all get to sit in the stands and let them do their thing. These games are what they look forward to the most." ■



The Miracle League has expanded to include basketball and soccer programs. A Northshore league was recently formed, with plans to build a Miracle League baseball field at Coquille Park. For more information, or to become a buddy or sponsor, contact Executive Director Gina Lorio at (504) 894-5415.





# A Primer for GRANDparents

1. Put the baby to sleep on his back? ?

2. No bumper pads in the baby bed?  
I can't use the baby bed in the attic? ?

3. What in the world is tummy time?

4. No TV? ?

**Babies aren't paying attention!**

Taking care of newborns has changed since new grandparents were first parents. The rules are different for today's babies. New and expecting grandparents can get answers to these and other questions at Grandparenting 101, a class hosted quarterly by The Parenting Center and Touro Family Birthing Center.

Families are a product of current times and trends. There is much more research available to parents that often contradicts the conventional wisdom about child rearing from past generations. Grandparents can best help and support their children by respecting the process as they take on this new parental role.

The new parents attending the Snuggles and Struggles new parent support group (The Parenting Center's longest continuously running class – 34 years!) have provided real-time tips on what they found helpful from their families in the early months. The relationships and clarity of communication with their parents and in-laws were the deciding factors in whether someone's presence was helpful or not. The families who were most helpful were able to respect and support the new parents' decisions by following their leads.

Today's parents are more child-centered than any other generation. This can manifest in good ways and irritating ways. Parenting instruction and advice books number in the thousands, and



## Grandparenting 101

If you are an expecting or new grandparent, join The Parenting Center and Touro Family Birthing Center at the Grandparenting 101 Class to learn about all the changes in newborn care.

July 27 and October 26. 6-8 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Register online at Touro Family Birthing Center, [www.touro.com/FBC-classdetails](http://www.touro.com/FBC-classdetails).

bloggers share their stories offering both good and poor examples. The upshot is that parents are inundated with contradictory information. It's difficult for young parents to sort through the amount of advice and recommendations available today. Grandparents can help by supporting their children in the process of weeding out what's not important and what is.

Researchers have scanned the brains of normal children beginning at birth, and science now supports what grandparents and educators have always known: experiences and relationships provide the most important ingredients for healthy development. Whatever the family dynamics, grandparents are ideally suited to nurture the emotional connections in the family, keeping their grandchildren grounded in family culture and relationships. ■

### Answers to the questions above:

1. The Back to Sleep Campaign has reduced the incidence of SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) by 50 percent. A safe sleep environment means baby is always put to sleep on his back without bumper pads, blankets, pillows, stuffed animals or extra bedding. <https://www.nichd.nih.gov/sts/Pages/default.aspx>.

2. Baby beds today do not have sides that lower; they are fixed in place. There are also new guidelines for how the mattress fits and the width between the slats. For the latest information, see <http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Safety-Education/Safety-Guides/Kids-and-Babies/Cribs/>.

3. Back to Sleep has been so successful, that babies today spend most of their time on their back. Tummy Time has become the purposeful positioning of babies on their tummies to encourage development of head, neck and shoulder control. For tips on Tummy Time: <https://pathways.org/growth-development/tummy-time/>.

4. For the latest research on why young children should not be watching TV: <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/385-screen-sense-key-findings>.



## Hogs for the Cause Brings Home the Bacon

Hogs for the Cause 2016 was a festival fit for pigs. Over 15,000 people packed the flooded City Park Festival Grounds April 2. In the days before the famous cook-off, heavy rains saturated the event location, forcing Hogs for the Cause to cancel its scheduled Friday night festivities, but the barbecue teams and festival-goers embraced the muddy grounds on Saturday. Children's Hospital presented the 8th annual Ben Sarrat, Jr. Pork Cook-Off and hosted a special family-friendly area within the festival, the Children's Hospital Pig Pen.

Hogs for the Cause is a two-day music and food festival that raises money to assist families of children with pediatric brain cancer. The event was founded in honor of Ben Sarrat, Jr., a Children's Hospital patient who lost his battle with cancer in 2010. Each year, the festival raises money for year-long contributions to Children's Hospital and its patients' families, while also honoring Ben.

The Children's Hospital Pig Pen had kids and their parents squealing with delight as they played games, made crafts, enjoyed face painting and listened to music. Despite the weather, Hogs for the Cause 2016 was a booming success, with a packed event and more than 97 teams competing in the cook-off.

A week before the event, Hogs for the Cause Executive Director and Co-Founder Becker Hall presented Children's Hospital with \$75,000 for the Cancer Program. In addition to the funds donated to the hospital, the Hogs crew has given \$10,000 (and counting) in grants to Children's Hospital patient families in 2016. Last year, Hogs for the Cause direct grants, totaling \$24,700, assisted 11 families.



## New Orleans Moms Blog Easter Egg Hunt

The New Orleans Moms Blog hosted their 4th annual Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn of the State Street campus March 12. The 1,000 tickets that went on sale for the event sold within five minutes. Guests at the egg hunt made three carloads of donations to Children's Hospital's Art Cart. The kid- and parent-friendly event featured food, drinks and prizes from vendors including Kendra Scott, Mizado Cocina and more. The day was wet and rainy; but despite the weather, the egg hunt was a joyous and entertaining event for children and families alike.

*Photo courtesy of Little Tree Photography.*





## Come one, come all to Children's Hospital!

On April 28, the Children's Hospital Guild held their annual circus for patients in the hospital's auditorium. The festivities, sponsored by New Orleans Firemen's Federal Credit Union, were complete with carnival treats, face painting and games. The New Orleans Fire Department (NOFD) was on hand with their fire truck, so patients and their families could explore and take pictures with the NOFD firemen. The Guild members, dressed as clowns, made the event a rousing success for patients and families.



## All Hail Bacchus XLVIII

Carnival season began at Children's Hospital when Bacchus XLVIII Anthony Mackie made a special visit to patients. The New Orleans-born actor was greeted by fans eager to meet Bacchus' 2016 King. Mackie was presented with a crown made especially for him by Children's Hospital patients. Following in the footsteps of celebrity kings past, including John C. Reilly, Will Ferrell and Drew Brees, Mackie visited patients on the Hematology/Oncology floor. The reigning king handed out doubloons, played with patients, and waved to those too sick to visit. The hospital was jubilant to once again host Bacchus, a Mardi Gras icon.

## Calendar of Events

### JUNE

- 3** Walmart Gulfport Golf Tournament  
Windance Country Club, Gulfport
- 4** Smoothie King Volleyball Classic  
Coconut Beach, Kenner
- 5** Children's Hospital Telethon  
1 – 5 p.m., WDSU Channel 6
- 29 - Oct. 9** Walmart and Sam's Club  
CMN Campaign

### JULY

- 21** Guild Gift Giving  
Children's Hospital, New Orleans

### OCTOBER

- 7** Marriott Silent Auction  
New Orleans Marriott
- 8** Tulane University Dance Marathon  
5 – 10 p.m.  
Tulane University Lavin-Bernick  
Center for University Life (LBC),  
New Orleans
- 21-22** Boo at the Zoo  
**28-29** Audubon Zoo, New Orleans
- 29** Jazz Half Marathon & 5K  
Lafayette Square, New Orleans

*Contact the Public Affairs  
Department at (504) 896-9373 or  
visit [cbnola.org](http://cbnola.org) for more information  
on Children's Hospital events.*

# Ahead of the Curve

*Children's Hospital Orthopedic Surgeons Advance Scoliosis Treatments*



## Waterproof spinal casting

For Salem Creighton, summer fun means sunglasses, sunscreen and sprinklers. This 2 year old from Zachary, La., loves anything associated with water. It was during her favorite part of the day—bath time—that her mother, Jenny, noticed she was sitting awkwardly in the bathtub. She was 9 months old at the time. An X-ray at her pediatrician's office revealed that Salem's spine was curved 60 degrees. She was referred to Children's Hospital for further evaluation.

"I cried on the phone when I heard the news," said Jenny, who was pregnant for her son, Declan, at the time. "I didn't expect her curve to be so severe. It was scary."

Jenny and her husband, Brandon, brought Salem to William Accousti, MD, pediatric orthopedic surgeon at Children's Hospital. He diagnosed Salem with progressive infantile scoliosis and explained that often this diagnosis is associated with other underlying conditions. Salem went through multiple tests to rule those out. Fortunately, the results were negative. Her case was considered idiopathic; Dr. Accousti needed only to focus on correcting her spinal deformity.

The first step in Salem's treatment was to apply a specialized body cast to stop her curve from progressing and potentially correct and cure her deformity. However, because of the magnitude of her curve, she was at greater risk for continued curve progression and eventual surgical intervention. When discussing the casting process, Dr. Accousti told the Creightons about a new waterproof casting technique he was developing specifically for this condition.

"Based on a new cast material made for a person's arm or leg, we had the idea to adapt it for use around a child's torso," said Dr. Accousti. "This would allow a child, who is normally forced to remain out of water for up to a year, the ability to take a real bath or even swim! This would be a major quality of life improvement for these kids and their families."

"I was excited about the possibility of using waterproof material for her cast," said Jenny. "I didn't know anything about it and had no idea what to expect. It's hard to be one of the first, but we were very optimistic."



*Salem Creighton*





*Derrick Moore*

Jenny connected with other parents of children with infantile scoliosis and heard about the difficulty of managing a traditional cast and the issues associated with wearing them. “Babies spill food, spit up, have diaper blowouts, and there’s no way to clean these casts. Because the casts can’t get wet, these children can’t swim and need to take sponge baths instead of bathing.”

Dr. Accousti applied Salem’s first waterproof cast in April 2015; Salem had just celebrated her first birthday. Similar to a traditional cast, a new cast was applied every two to three months. Salem has had eight cast changes thus far. Remarkably, she has also showed great progress toward straightening her spine. Halfway through her casting treatment, her curve is now down to less than 30 degrees. The Creightons are pleased and hopeful that Salem will continue to respond favorably to the casting technique.

The Creightons are headed to the beach this summer for a vacation they are eagerly awaiting. They will be among many families watching their kids swim and play in the sand and surf. But their experience will be so much more meaningful. The Creightons appreciate that they can share these experiences

with Salem. And they thank Dr. Accousti and Children’s Hospital for the invaluable opportunity.

“Thank God for this method of treatment, for inventive doctors and technicians, and for other supportive people,” said Jenny.

## Patient-specific spinal rods

Derrick Moore was this year’s star quarterback for the Henry Ford Falcons in Avondale, La. At 13 years old, he is an active and athletic teenager. When he began to experience back pain, he powered through it, drawing strength from his father, a former star football player, and his favorite hero, Superman.

“Superman can do anything,” said Derrick. “And so can I.”

When a family friend, a nurse, noticed a curve in Derrick’s spine, she recommended that he see a doctor. His pediatrician sent him to Children’s Hospital, where Michael Heffernan, MD, pediatric orthopedic surgeon, diagnosed him with adolescent scoliosis and recommended surgery to correct his 62-degree curve.

“My first question was if I’d be able to play sports again,” said Moore. “I was scared of being paralyzed from the surgery.”

Dr. Heffernan told Derrick and his mother, Brandi, about a new technique used at Children’s Hospital to correct spinal deformity. Derrick was a candidate for digital surgical planning. Using specialized software, surgeons digitally plan their surgical correction preoperatively, then order customized rods to fit the specific correction needed for each individual patient. This method allows surgeons to reach the best possible alignment using a rod already bent in the corrected position. Although the technique has been used for adults, Children’s Hospital is one of the first in the country to apply the technique to adolescents with idiopathic scoliosis.

“The customized rods we are using allow us to tailor the correction of the scoliosis specific to each patient,” said Dr. Heffernan. “We use computer software to design the rods as part of our preoperative planning. This is an innovative technique that maximizes correction of the scoliosis while decreasing surgical time.”

“Scoliosis surgery has gone from being an eyeballed correction by an experienced surgeon to a calculated correction according to actual numbers. This is just the start. Going forward, many of the corrections will be worked out beforehand by computer-assisted devices and incorporated into the surgery. This will lead us into robotics, which are on the horizon for scoliosis surgery.”

—Andrew King, MD



### Team Approach to Spinal Care

A specialized team of doctors, nurses, technicians and therapists is dedicated to treating patients with spinal deformities at Children’s Hospital. From the operating room to the spinal unit, the team delivers expert care leading to quicker mobilization, decreased recovery times and shorter hospital stays. Monthly spine conferences are held to discuss the operative plan for every spine patient. Often, spine surgeons from outside Children’s Hospital bring adult deformity cases to the conference to gain input and learn about new approaches.

Derrick underwent spinal surgery this past March and is making a tremendous comeback. Although he is still recovering from the surgery, he hopes to be back in the game soon.

“Derrick is doing great after his surgery, and I expect him to make a full recovery,” said Dr. Heffernan. “We were able to perform a selective thoracic fusion, which will allow enough flexibility for him to return to all of his activities, including football.”

With contact sports being a risky endeavor, he’ll have to decide whether to shift his goals from the NFL to the NBA. But he’ll do whatever it takes, just like Superman.

## Magnetized growing rods

Connor Casseri from Gretna, La., is not your average 9 year old. Like other boys, he likes to play video games, hang out with his friends, play basketball and swim. But unlike others, he’s had to overcome a lot in order to do those things he enjoys. He meets every challenge with strength and determination.

“He’s the toughest kid I know,” said Connor’s father, Adam. “With everything he has to go through, he remains cool and calm and has never shown an ounce of fear. He is amazing.”

Connor was born with neurofibromatosis type 1, a genetic disorder that causes abnormal growth of nerve tissue. Among other characteristics associated with the disorder, spinal deformity is the most common orthopedic manifestation. As the nerves enlarge, the spinal column weakens and begins to curve. Nerve tumors that can grow inside the chest present additional complications.

Since the age of 3, Connor wore a brace to slow the progression of his curve. But by age 8, it had progressed to 80 degrees.

“With Connor’s condition, regular MRIs were required for monitoring a tumor in his chest,” said Quana, Connor’s mother. “We knew he was going to have to have growing rods, and we were trying to determine the best rods for him.” Certain instrumentation can affect the ability to image parts of the body. The family sought the expertise of Children’s Hospital pediatric orthopedic surgeon Andrew King, MD, to help determine the best treatment for Connor.

Growing rods are used in young children whose spines are still growing and cannot be fused. Typical growing rods are fixed and held in place with screws. Surgery is required every four to six months to lengthen the rod as the child grows.



By the time Connor was ready for surgery, Children's Hospital surgeons were using a new growing rod, called the Magec Rod. This device can be elongated without bringing the patient back to surgery and reopening the patient's back. The rod lengthening is performed in the outpatient clinic using the External Remote Controller (ERC) to activate a small magnet inside each rod, allowing it to expand.

"With the Magec Rod, we don't have to keep operating on the back to elongate the rod," said Dr. King. "Even for the most well-balanced kid, there are measurable psychological problems associated with frequent exposure to general anesthetic. We would like to elongate the rods every three months, but we were only doing it every six months to minimize the number of operations. As a result, we weren't getting the full benefit of growth, the spine began to stiffen, and less and less lengthening occurred with each one. Now, we can lengthen the rods more frequently to maximize correction and growth."

Patients with the Magec Rods experience fewer surgeries, less risk of infection, better outcomes and reduced scarring. Because of these benefits, use of the rod has become an important component of the Children's Hospital orthopedic practice, among the first in the country and the only group in the state to use them.

"As a child in school, this process of lengthening is much better for Connor," said Quana. "Knowing he didn't have to go in every six months, get cut open, and have to recover from the lengthening was a huge benefit for us. The Magec Rod has made a big impact on him physically, mentally and socially."

Connor has undergone three lengthenings since the rod was implanted nearly one year ago. With very few physical limitations, he'll be spending much of the summer shooting hoops in his driveway and competing with the Crescent City Swim Club.

"The doctors at Children's Hospital have been instrumental in leading us on the right path," said Quana. "The surgery was a hard procedure for Connor, but he's doing extremely well." ■



### Experts In Scoliosis Treatment

At Children's Hospital each year, more than 150 patients undergo corrective surgery for spinal deformity by the largest board certified group of pediatric orthopedic surgeons in the Gulf South. A vast majority of complex scoliosis cases in the state are treated at Children's Hospital by orthopedic surgeons who specialize in all types of spinal deformities in children from birth to age 21.



### Active Teaching Center

Considered experts in the field, Children's Hospital surgeons have attracted surgeons from around the world who have come to observe the latest surgical techniques in pediatric spinal deformity. Residents from LSU Health New Orleans, Tulane Medical School, Ochsner Hospital, and Genesys Regional Medical Center and Garden City Hospital in Michigan, complete their pediatric rotation at Children's Hospital. In addition, the department hosts the LSU/Children's Hospital Pediatric Orthopedic Fellowship, a post-residency training program.

*Connor Casseri*





1



3



4



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9



10



11

1. Brothers Dave and Ryan Haydel
2. Auction tables
3. Entrance to the Old U.S. Mint
4. Honoree Steve Worley with President and CEO Mary Perrin
5. Vice President Natasha Haynes flanked by nurse managers Lyn Winfield and Angel Hargis
6. Kendra and Board member Kyle France, Fran and CMO John Heaton, MD

7. Board Chairman Bill Mimeles, event co-chair Ann Heslin, event co-chair Chrissy and Ian Carmody
8. Children's Hospital lantern
9. The "Speakeasy"
10. 2017 Sugarplum co-chairs Jamie Cangelosi and Cherie Albro
11. Drs. Chip Roth, Joseph Ortenberg and Aaron Martin





## SUGARPLUM BALL HITS THE HIGH NOTES

**M**ore than 1,000 friends of Children's Hospital were dazzled at the 35th annual Sugarplum Ball March 5. Held at the Old U.S. Mint and themed All That Jazz, the hospital's largest fundraiser was a resounding success, raising \$298,000. Funds raised at the event will pay for a new Heart Catheterization Lab that will enhance the hospital's ability to perform complex intra-cardiac procedures for children with a variety of congenital heart diseases. Co-chairs Chrissy Carmody and Ann Heslin, and their team of 150 committee members, orchestrated the event, the hospital's most successful gala to date.

The 2016 Sugarplum Ball honored former Children's Hospital President and CEO, Steve Worley. Worley, currently serving as CEO Emeritus of Children's Hospital and Senior Advisor on the

LCMC Health Board of Trustees, came to Children's Hospital 34 years ago dedicated to advancing the quality of pediatric healthcare both locally and nationally. Under his leadership, the hospital grew to become a part of the second largest healthcare system in the region.

Sugarplum Ball top "Hum Dinger" sponsors were Bryan Subaru and Haydel's Bakery. Other major sponsors were IV Capital, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Crescent River Port Pilots Foundation, TLC Engineering For Architecture - McDonnell Construction Services and St. Tammany Cancer Fund. Entertainment was provided by Anais St. John, the James Martin Jazz Quartet and Wise Guys. While Dickie Brennan's and Company sponsored the pre-party, more than 30 local restaurants served their celebrated dishes. Among them were Antoine's

Restaurant, Arnaud's Restaurant, Drago's Seafood Restaurant, Napoleon House, NOLA Restaurant, Pascal's Manale, Trey Yuen Cuisine of China, Vincent's Italian Cuisine, Galatoire's and Haydel's Bakery.

The Sugarplum auctions and raffles are always a huge draw for attendees, and this year was no exception. The highlight of the evening was a \$20,000 pair of earrings created and donated by Valobra Jewelry and Antiques and raffled at the ball. Jewelry, vacations, artwork, antiques and local experiences were auctioned to the highest bidders. Other prizes were won as part of the ball's "On the Rocks" raffle throughout the evening.

Special thanks to the 2016 Sugarplum Ball committee, sponsors and donors for making All That Jazz a memorable and successful event. ■

## Helping Hands

### *Building a healthy future for kids*



### *Mardi Gras Mambo Bingo*

The Children's Hospital Guild hosted the Annual Mardi Gras Mambo Bingo February 2 at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner. Over 350 Guild members and friends gathered for lunch and Bingo with special guest callers Bob Breck and Zach Strief. Entertainment was provided by the Amelia EarHawts Cabin Krewe. The day was a huge success, raising more than \$24,000 for the hospital.

### *Loyola Dance Marathon*

On Saturday, February 20, members of Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society at Loyola



University, hosted a dance marathon to benefit the hospital. Other organizations from the university donated their time to ensure the event's success. The Swing Dance Club taught the participants dance steps, the Chemistry Club used liquid nitrogen to make ice cream for everyone, and the Birdz n' Beats Acapella Group gave a special performance. The event, along with a fundraiser held at Reginelli's Pizzeria, raised \$4,730 for the hospital.

## MEMORIALS

November 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016

**Joseph Samuel ("Joey") Adams**  
Dave & Jackie Didier

**Frank de la Houssaye ("Del") Agnew**  
Robert Brown

**Amanda Inbau Arthur**  
Jacob & Jennifer Amato  
Chevron Pascagoula Refinery  
Ronnie & Leslie Ciolino  
Richard & Pat Darr  
Janis Dorhauer  
Alan & Paulette Gregory  
Clemens Herbert  
Keri L. Horton  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Curtis Jacob  
Henry & Shirley Jacques  
Carol T. Lagasse  
Cornelius, Juliet & Jennie Langham  
Dennis R. Mayer  
Joseph H. Miller, Jr.  
Joel & Pearl Milliet  
Debra R. Mills  
Ted & Carol Neitzschman  
Phidippides  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold C. Putfark  
Dawn Rondey  
Marilyn Silbernagel  
Joey Strickland  
Michael Strickland  
Sandra Titus

**Leah Leinwar Austin**  
Betty S. Barnes

**Dustin Blake Baize**  
Claire Austin

**Ralph Ban, III**  
Gilbert & Bonnie Doubleday  
Joyce W. Post

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Baker Donelson - Mandeville  
Commercial Brokers Property  
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Father Larry Hecker  
Brian Hooper  
Bob & Jenny Kottler  
Jimmy & Tammi Miller & Jimmy  
Barbara Vigo, Conrad, Lynn,  
Marian & Marc

**Stanley Joseph Bourgeois, Sr.**  
Joyce M. Rhodes

**Rita M. Buettner**  
Linda Baudoin

**Joseph Alexis Casse, Jr.**  
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Eli & Ann Lucas

**Tyler Marechal Cerise**  
The Burke Family  
The Danna Family  
The Matessino Family  
The Obletz Family  
The Piacun Family  
The St. Germain Family

**Cookie Cosse**  
Lois McCulloch

**Marlene Carnahan Courville**  
Chalmette Amusement Company

**Gary P. Crochet**  
Toby & Jenny Lafont

**Sean Dunlap**  
Dale & Karen Dunlap

**Anne Catherine Roth Everard**  
Mabel C. Everard

**Marjorie Falcone**  
Philip & Roberta Gattuso

**Clarence P. Fauchaux**  
Claire Austin

**Frank Joseph Funck**  
John & Mary Gohres

**Walter F. Gandy**  
Friends at AT&T  
Judith W. Schulken

**Henrietta Gardner**  
Bob Brown

**Judge Richard Joseph Garvey**  
Fit Girls  
Pat M. Franz  
The Gabel Family  
Lighthouse for the Blind  
Rita S. Roberts

**Amelia Gloria Santos Gassen**  
Mariusz Dobek  
Jeff & Marjean Gohd  
Marvin & Cathy Hunt  
Ellen Piekalkiewicz  
Jerilyn P. Richoux  
Cornelia M. Whitlow

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Buddy & Ramsey Buras  
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Herman M. Fitzpatrick  
Wayne & Kay Fontana  
Hella M. Franklin  
Desiree Harrison  
Sydney Perez & Family  
Glen & Karen Pilie  
Michael & Lisa Zainey

**Salvatore ("Sal") Graziano**  
John & Mary Gohres

**John Paul Gustin, Sr.**  
Philip & Roberta Gattuso

**Gabriel Rhys Hinrichs**  
James & Betty Bacino  
Joycelyn T. Bagley  
Joel & Peggy Durkes  
Edna B. Gegenheimer  
Allen, Sharon & Jennifer Gressett  
Gay G. Korndorffer  
Toy Marie Paddock  
Henry & Andi Poirier  
Thelma L. Woodruff



**Cathy Fadler Hodnett**

Toby Lafont

**Scarlett Parro Hoffmann**

Philip &amp; Roberta Gattuso

**Louis V. Hufft, Jr.**

Gerri Abbott  
 M. Nan Alessandra  
 Mark & Debi Attwood  
 Brad Brashears & Family  
 Emile "Peppi" Bruneau  
 Bill & Suzanne Caver  
 Angela B. Degeyter  
 Tom & Sally Dowd  
 Michal C. Durel  
 Richard Holcomb  
 Investar Bank  
 Bryan Kilby  
 Tim & Tracy Kilby  
 Henry & Jane Locklar  
 Sejal Mehta  
 The Perschall Family  
 Gilbert & Joy Rieth  
 John & Melinda Schwegmann  
 Dick & Diane Urquhart  
 Dr. Lydia Voigt

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Jeff Gohd & Family  
 Julius Haydel  
 Rose Marie White

**Albin Cyril King**

Kenneth King

**Rowena Fusilier LaFleur**

Ken &amp; Marilyn Theriot

**Scott Henry Lawson**

Mr. &amp; Mrs. Robert I. Lawson

**Cleo Raye LeBlanc**

Philip &amp; Roberta Gattuso

**Virginia Lee**

Linda Gibbs

**Patricia Canal ("Patsy") Liberto**

Philip &amp; Roberta Gattuso

**Anne Pence Little**

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Danny &amp; Becky Chatelain

**Kristi Falgoust Marse**

Jimmy & Connie Granier  
 Kenneth, Eileen, Destiny &  
 Tiffany Hotard  
 Evan, Rose, Amanda, Lee &  
 Lauren Lasserre  
 Bobby & Linda Stringer

**Archie Lee Martin, Jr.**

Yvette F. Gonzales

**Norman James McCord, Sr.**

Betsy's Pancake House  
 Leon J. Legendre  
 Ernest E. Verges  
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 Greg & Carol Simpson Wilkinson

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Jamie Shultz

**Brandon Webb Miller**

Denise Lee

**J. Miller**

Metairie Kennel Club, Inc.

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Jeffrey &amp; Caron Woolsey

**George Willard Mitchell**

Mary Estess

**Deborah Jo Nice**

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 Frank Longobardi  
 Seth Morrison  
 Teresa A. Toulouse

**Angeline M. Otto**

Don &amp; Sandi Thomas

**Ake Persson**

Impala Terminals Burnside –  
 Accounting Department  
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 Keith & Bonnie Raines  
 Christer Rosenquist, Friends & Family

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 Chalmette Amusement Company

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Jackie Brainis Calcagno  
 Lorraine P. Kraus  
 Mancil & Toni Lemoine  
 Theresa Moore  
 Manuela Persson

**Agnes Casirhagi ("Gaga") Ramelli**

Richard, Paula &amp; Austin Adamcewicz

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 Lillian Burch  
 Stan & Rae Cohen  
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 Claudia Kelleher  
 Merritt & Nickie Lane  
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 Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Lund  
 Charles D. Marks  
 Patrick M. McCausland  
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 Sandra S. McIver  
 Rose McKinney  
 John & Kristen Nelson  
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 Gillian, Peter, Emma & Molly Roy  
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Lynn Viosca

**Perrin Patrick Rittiner**

Philip &amp; Roberta Gattuso

**Beverly Kay Robinson**

Lary Hesdorffer

**Daniel Philip Russo**

Chalmette Amusement Company



## *Children's Hospital Bass Classic*

Over 130 fishermen came out to Doiron's Landing in Stephenville, La., March 5 for the Children's Hospital Bass Classic presented by Gerry Lane Enterprises. Proceeds from the fishing tournament helped fund the hospital's helicopter, used to transport the most critically ill children to Children's for lifesaving medical care. All fish caught at the tournament are weighed and released back into the water. First place was awarded to Doug and Brandon Bergeron for catching the largest stringer of five fish. Wyatt Junot and Josh Crowder won the prize for largest bass. This year's tournament raised \$34,500.

## *The Glenn Otero Memorial Golf Tournament hosted by Turn Services*

The 6th annual tournament, benefiting The Cancer Program at Children's Hospital, was held Wednesday, March 23, at Lakewood Golf Club in New Orleans. The tournament welcomed nearly 200 golfers to hit the links for Children's Hospital. The winning team was gifted with the tournament's signature orange jacket. The tournament raised \$60,000, bringing their total contribution to The Cancer Program to \$124,000.



## Did you know our Children's Hospital is a CMN Hospital?

Children's Miracle Network Hospitals (CMNH) is a nonprofit organization that raises funds for children's hospitals across the country. The network distributes money directly to the local Children's Miracle Network hospital. Children's Hospital in New Orleans is one of 170 children's hospitals in the country designated as a CMN hospital.



## Recent and Current Campaigns



### Take 5 Oil Change

Take 5 Oil Change, along with their customers, have contributed over \$600,000 over the last 10 years to the hospital. This year's campaign raised more than \$100,000.



### Campus Federal

The credit union is donating \$10 to the hospital each time a member opens a new checking or savings account, a new or refinanced loan, or a new certificate of deposit of \$5,000 or more. The campaign runs through May 31.



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Chalmette Amusement Company

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Don & Sandi Thomas

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Debbie Albert

**Jett Carson Self**  
Virginia S. Varnado

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Michael & Joanne Woodard

**Leroy John Soudelier**  
Toby & Jenny Lafont

**Kendall Oliver Springman**  
Elizabeth Ball  
Steven & Ronlyn Fleury

**Matthew Anthony ("Tony") Thiel**  
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Richard Lemmler  
New Orleans Weavers Guild  
Preau

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Northshore USBC

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**Alison Stacy Walsh**  
Betty S. Barnes

**Nolan T. West**  
Gina Palermo & "The Girls"  
St. Margaret Mary School

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**Neil Euston Young**  
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March 31, 2016

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**Grace Ellen Franklin**  
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**Mr. & Mrs. Marc Friedman**  
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**Mrs. Gore Friedrichs**  
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**Moriah R. Kissinger**  
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**LA Beta Chapter of Alpha**  
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**Paul J. Leaman, Jr.**  
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**Kenneth J. Loar**  
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**June Veronica Lopez**  
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**Genevieve Loveall**  
Paul & Cathy Lewandowski

**LSUHSC Class of December 2018**  
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**Sinclair Martin**  
Campus Federal

**Frederick C. Masset**  
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**Michael L. Maulet**  
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**Luerether B. Mitchell**  
Campus Federal

**Bethany Marie Moncel**  
Campus Federal

## *Chico's FAS, Inc.*

The clothing store and their brands, White House Black Market and Soma Intimates, are selling Children's Miracle Network Hospitals paper balloons at the register. Purchase your balloon at checkout by making a donation to CMN Hospitals. As a member of CMNH, Children's Hospital receives all the proceeds collected in our area. The campaign runs through July 2.

## *COSTCO*

CMN Hospitals paper balloons will be available to purchase at the New Orleans COSTCO location. Ask for a balloon at checkout, and make a donation to CMN Hospitals. All proceeds collected at the New Orleans store will be donated to our Children's Hospital. The campaign runs during the month of May.

## *Dairy Queen*

Donate to CMN Hospitals by purchasing a paper balloon. Proceeds sold in our area benefit our Children's Hospital. You can also help by purchasing a Blizzard on Miracle Treat Day, July 28. A portion of all Blizzard sales on Miracle Treat Day will be donated to Children's Hospital. The campaign runs June 1 – July 28.

## **How can you help?**

Donating to Children's Hospital is easy! Go to [www.chnola.org/GivingCHNOLA](http://www.chnola.org/GivingCHNOLA) to find out how you can support the very important work of Children's Hospital.



## *Walking to Beat Childhood Cancer*

Family and friends gathered at New Orleans' Audubon Park Sunday, April 3, to celebrate the lives of young cancer patients. It also honored those who lost their battle with childhood cancer this year. Proceeds from the walk fund cancer care, support cancer research projects at Children's Hospital, and help provide assistance to the families of cancer patients. This year, the walk raised nearly \$14,000 for The Cancer Program.

## *F. Christiana Golf Tournament New Orleans*

The 18th Annual Chicken Leg Open was held Wednesday, April 6, at Audubon Park in New Orleans. The golfers completed their round of golf and feasted at the tournament's post party, while awards and prizes were distributed to the winners. Frank and Cindy Christiana, along with their children, hosted the outing, which raised \$8,000 for the hospital. Since 2004 the Christiana family has raised over \$117,000 for Children's Hospital through the Chicken Leg Open.

## *ALLFAX Specialties Golf Classic*

The ALLFAX Specialties, Inc. Golf Classic raised more than \$70,000 for Children's Hospital. The tournament, hosted by Zach Strief of the Black & Gold, was held April 18 at Chateau Country Club in Kenner. Nearly 100 golfers hit the course and enjoyed food from Acme Oyster House, Bayou Burger, Drago's, Jimmy John's, Mikimoto, Mo's Pizza and Reginelli's. Since 2004, the ALLFAX Specialties Golf Classic has raised nearly \$1.5 million for Children's Hospital.



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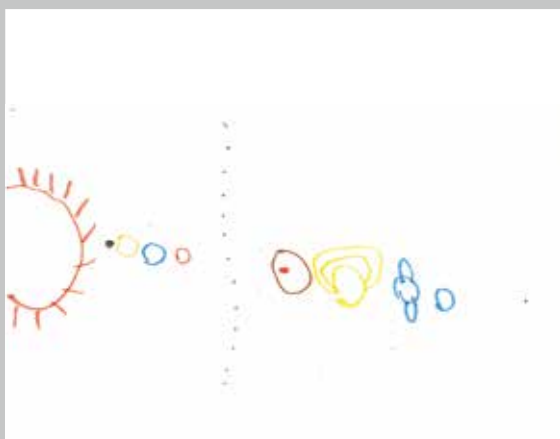


# SMALL WORLD GALLERY

patient inspirations



SEEDS AND APPLE Sidney Klein, Age 6  
Colored pencil and markers on paper



OUTER SPACE Owen Thurmond, Age 5  
Markers on paper



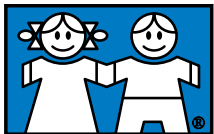
TWO CLOUDS AND A RAINBOW Mathilde Villere, Age 4  
Glitter and crayons on paper



ALL ABOUT JAY-JAY JaQuon Frazier, Age 11  
Mixed media



THE FLAME CAR Keith Smith, Age 10  
Markers on paper



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HOSPITAL

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