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Careforce Connection

Your Link to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

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Celebrating the Memory of the "Mayor" of Scottish Rite

Walk the halls of Children's at Scottish Rite on the 29th of each month and you'll notice many employees are decked out in red. Ask someone why and you're likely to get a story like the ones below regarding Brody Cole.

Dubbed the "mayor" of Children's at Scottish Rite, the former patient's favorite color was red, and employees are raising funds for a new playground at Children's at Scottish Rite in his memory.

"He would just laugh hysterically. That is the one thing I will never forget, the sound of him laughing. It really was unlike anything. It made you smile instantly. It made you wonder how you could ever be unhappy about something in your life if this amazing boy could laugh this purely and unconditionally!" – **Michelle Walker**, PICU Nurse, Children's at Scottish Rite.



"He was so cute when he would walk up to the front; he had the greatest personality. He would come down with his rain boots and loved to get up and sing. It didn't matter what song it was; he just loved to sing. He was so adorable." – **Laura Smith**, Volunteer Coordinator, Children's at Scottish Rite

"I recall the vibrant toddler bursting into my office wearing nothing but a diaper and rubber boots, carrying an accordion and singing 'You Are My Sunshine' at the top of his lungs." – **Denise Swords**, VP, Operations at Children's at Scottish Rite.

"One time, he was going into surgery and I'd always go with him. I was running late and I heard a kid say in the hall 'I'm not going, I'm not going!' He didn't want to leave until I got there. I wanted to let his mom and dad walk with him there in the front but he said 'You walk up front! I gotta keep an eye on you!'" – **Morris Allen**, Media Specialist, Children's at Scottish Rite

By all accounts, Brody was a charming little boy with an illness that he never let get in the way of life.

Brody was born with a genetic disorder known as mitochondrial disease which caused him to suffer from multiple organ system failure. Due to intestinal failure, Brody received all of his nutrition intravenously for more than six years, and he spent about 100 days per year in the hospital.

Everyone's hope was that Brody would receive a life-saving small bowel transplant. Sadly, Brody lost his battle with mitochondrial disease Sept. 29, 2009, after waiting almost four years for organs that never came.



However, during his years at Children's, he touched the heart of everyone he met. According to his mom, Kristi, "Brody didn't make acquaintances; he made friends."

Denise Swords, VP of Operations, was one of those friends, and Brody's memory affects her work each day. "For me, every interaction with Brody served as a reminder of why we work so hard to make a difference in the lives of children like Brody," she says. "He referred to Scottish Rite as 'his hospital' and without a doubt it was then, and still is."

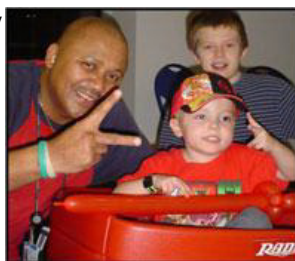
To honor Brody's memory and all his wonderful caregivers, his mom, Kristi, is raising funds to build Brody's Playground at Children's at Scottish Rite.

Anyone interested in participating may contribute to the \$75,000 fundraising goal in one of several ways:

1. **Buy a red shirt.** Visit www.brodysdream.org or contact [Morris Allen](#), ext. 52889. Everyone is encouraged to honor and remember Brody by wearing the shirt (or the color red) on the 29th of every month, the date he was born and the date he passed away.
2. **Direct friends, family and patient families to Brody's website.** If someone you know asks about Brody or how they can help with the new playground, ask them to check out www.brodysdream.org.
3. **Donate through Employee Giving.** If you are signed up for the Employee Giving Campaign, email [Terilyn Walton](#) to designate funds to the playground.
 1. Email your name, employee ID and the amount you would like to donate through the e-HR online Employee Giving payroll deduction form to Terilyn Walton.
 2. We will then take all the funds that you specify and transfer them to the Brody Cole Playground Fund (beginning in August 2011).
 - Note: You cannot select Brody's Playground in e-HR on the dropdown menu for designations. If you are already giving per pay period, you must email Terilyn your employee ID and it will be plugged in on the back-end so that all future deductions will go toward the playground.
 3. If you are not currently signed up to give, go to e-HR to enter the amount you would like to donate and complete the form. Then, email Terilyn your employee ID to make the designation for Brody's Playground.

Volunteer Coordinator Laura Smith believes that the playground will bring joy to current patients and preserve the memory of Brody. She remembers the little boy who would have so loved to have a playground like the one soon to be under construction at "his hospital."

"I think having this at our campus is going to be huge because Brody made such an impact on so many staff members and volunteers," she says. "Seeing his legacy continue through this playground is going to be so wonderful."



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