

# Careforce Connection

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## Staff Honors Patient's Dream of Becoming a Nurse

In February, Mallory Smith's dream of becoming a registered nurse came true. The time she spent at Children's as a patient, surrounded by caring nurses, doctors and staff, helped her decide nursing was the career for her—and she wanted to do it at Children's. She was 22.

Mallory first came to our hospital when she was 17. She had spent her summer as an active, healthy teenager—working part-time at Chick-fil-A, training with her cheerleading squads and preparing for her senior year at Kennesaw Mountain. During cheerleading camp one day, she experienced severe pain and eventually her parents brought her to Children's at Egleston. She was in total liver failure.

Our doctors diagnosed her with Wilson's disease, a disorder that prevents the liver from filtering copper into bile and the excess build-up of the mineral ultimately damages the liver and other organs. Within three days of being admitted to Children's, Mallory received a liver transplant.

Mallory did well after her surgery. She had her ups and downs, but returned to school and most of the activities she enjoyed before the transplant. She and her family were so grateful to Children's that they began speaking at events to raise money and encourage others to become organ donors. At one of those events, Donna Hyland told Mallory that when she graduated, she had a job waiting for her here.

Almost a year after her first surgery, Mallory's health deteriorated and she needed a second liver transplant. She spent more than 120 days at Children's after that surgery. Her biggest fans and supporters were the very people performing the lifesaving treatment she needed. Physicians and staff at Children's joined "Team Mal," a group Mallory's friends started to support her after the first transplant. They wore T-shirts and some—like Dr. Rene Romero—agreed to do the moonwalk for her when she was released.

Mallory was discharged on Nov. 30, 2007. She continued to have routine tests, appointments and check-ups—good days and bad. On Nov. 28, 2010, Mallory was again admitted to the hospital. After a two-month battle with infection (unrelated to her liver, which was functioning perfectly), she passed away on Jan. 15, 2011.

Just as they were there for Mallory and her family during her treatment and recovery, the team at Children's rushed to the Smith family's side for support. In February, Children's employees conducted a memorial service for Mallory. With many staff members unable to attend her funeral, several people—including leaders such as Dan Salinas, M.D., Mary Beth Bova, Amy Hauser and Susie Gentry, as well as many nurses and physicians from the Transplant and Critical Care teams—came together to say their goodbyes and talk with the Smith family. Mallory's parents, grandparents, brother, boyfriend, and aunt and uncle all came to be a part of the service.

Chaplain Valerie Hardy led the service, and it was extremely meaningful for all involved. At the end of the service, the staff presented Mallory's parents, Mike and Lisa, with a few items to honor their daughter—a plaque with the poem *When You Thought I Wasn't Looking*, recognizing the job that Mike and Lisa did raising a tremendous kid, and a certificate the entire staff signed making Mallory Smith an honorary Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Registered Nurse. They also gave Mike and Lisa an official Children's badge for Mallory.

**SharePoint Down Some Tonight, May 4**  
IS&T will perform maintenance on the Microsoft SharePoint environment from 5 p.m. to midnight tonight, Wednesday, May 4.  
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**Aflac Cancer Center Launches SurvivorLink for Patients**  
The Aflac Cancer Center recently launched the [SurvivorLink](#) information technology system—a crucial tool to help physicians, clinical staff and patient families ensure childhood cancer survivors have optimal health and quality of life.  
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**Clinical Staff: Take Our Vaccination Survey for a Chance to Win a \$25 Gift Card**  
Take this short quiz to be entered into a drawing to win one of three \$25 gift cards.  
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**Congratulations DAISY Award Winners**  
Congratulations to DAISY Award winners **Lauren Cunningham, Ann Railey and Natalie Tillman-Korcinsky**.  
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**Children's Celebrates Nurses Week May 6-12**  
Children's is celebrating National Nurses Week May 6-12. In appreciation of all you do to make a difference in the lives of children each and every day, Children's is hosting several activities in honor of our nurses.  
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**91 Children's Nurses Nominated for Nursing Excellence Awards**  
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and ajcjobs.com recognized National Nurses Week (May 6-12) with a "Celebrating Nurses" section and a special write-up of Nursing Excellence Awards winners in the May 1 edition.  
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**Vote for Stephanie Walsh, M.D., to be Featured on Cover of Best Self**

<http://careforce/cms/default.aspx?id=1387&typeann=news&releaseaction=view&releasei...> 05/04/2011

On the blog dedicated to Mallory, [www.teammal.org](http://www.teammal.org), the Smith's shared, "We are so honored that the staff put this together and they did an AWESOME job celebrating Mallory and her legacy. We were presented with a few items in memory of Mallory. A poem was read and we received a copy of this poem on a beautiful 8x10 piece of glass; we will treasure this forever..."

Site visitors commented on the service, too, referring to our doctors and nurses as "angels sent from God to take care of our sick children."

Mallory came to Children's as a patient, and while she won't be able to care for patients the way she intended, we were able to help make her dream come true—she left us as a Registered Nurse on the Transplant Inpatient Unit.

Find out how Mallory's story and the care she received at Children's touched Donna Hyland in the [March/April issue of Careforce Chronicle](#).



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Stephanie Walsh, M.D., Medical Director of Wellness, was chosen as one of *Best Self Magazine's Best 40 over 40*.  
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**Georgia Trend Selects Donna Hyland, CEO, as Most Respected Business Leader**  
Georgia Trend magazine recently named Donna Hyland, President and CEO of Children's, its Most Respected Business Leader for 2011.  
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**May is National Bike Month**  
Spring has arrived and families are gearing up to enjoy the outdoors on their bikes.  
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**Share Your Thoughts about Working at Children's—Complete the Fortune Survey**  
It's that time of year again! Children's is being considered for inclusion in *Fortune's 2012 "100 Best Companies to Work For"* list, compiled by the Great Place to Work Institute.  
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**Test Your Compliance Smarts by May 7 for a Chance to Win Movie Tickets**  
May 1-7 is national Corporate Compliance and Ethics Week and it serves as a great reminder of why we are so committed to demonstrating integrity and ethical standards in our every day work.  
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**Let Us Know What You Think: Take the Careforce Chronicle Survey**  
Children's wants to know what you think about your employee magazine, *Careforce Chronicle*. Take a [short survey](#) by May 13.  
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**Staff Honors Patient's Dream of Becoming a Nurse**  
During the service honoring patient Mallory Smith, staff named her an honorary Children's Registered Nurse.  
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**Today is Spirit Day—Sport Your Children's Shirt Proudly**  
As a way to celebrate you and all you do for Children's, all campuses are hosting campus popsicle parties May 2-8. Be sure to wear your favorite Children's T-shirt to show your spirit May 4.  
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**Mark Your Calendar to Attend the Next Weight Watchers at Work Open House**