



SPRING 2013

small wonders

A publication for the donors of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

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One for the team

As a Georgia Tech graduate, I have rarely had reason to cheer for our longtime in-state rival, the University of Georgia. But this issue of Small Wonders might just inspire me to call a timeout.

We are pleased to share the story of Kasyn Olivadotti, daughter of UGA Linebacker Coach Kirk Olivadotti, who was diagnosed with leukemia in 2011. The UGA football coaches’ wives wanted to do something to honor this brave little girl, so they established the Kasyn Cares Fund to benefit pediatric cancer research at the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center. With the help of friends and volunteers, the UGA football coaches’ wives are working to raise important donations for this fund.

Although longtime rivals on the playing field, UGA and Tech are strongly united in their support of Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, dating back to the inaugural Governor’s Cup football game in 1933. At that time, Scottish Rite was on the verge of shutting down. The two athletic programs decided to play a freshman football game on Thanksgiving Day benefiting the hospital. This tradition continued for more than 60 years. Today, although the annual matchup is no longer a fundraising event, Children’s continues to present the winner with the Governor’s Cup trophy.

Nearly 10 years ago, the schools’ varsity baseball teams stepped up to the plate when the UGA-GT Challenge for the Spring Classic was formed. Thanks to the volunteers in this program, more than \$1 million has been raised to support our Neurosciences Program and treatment for children with brain tumors.

Outside of athletics, Children’s collaborates closely with the two flagship schools, particularly on pediatric research initiatives. Just last year, Children’s and Georgia Tech made a \$20 million joint investment in developing technological solutions for improving children’s health.

So no matter what school colors you choose to wear on game day, we can all be proud of the many ways Georgia and Georgia Tech help Children’s care for Georgia’s kids. And as always, we remain thankful for you, our generous donors and biggest fans.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Holder
Chairman, Board of Trustees
Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Foundation

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Strong beyond her years
The loving care that Kasyn Olivadotti received at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta while undergoing cancer treatment made all the difference to her and her family.



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Coming together for Kasyn
The University of Georgia’s coaches’ wives have established a fund in honor of Kasyn that will help advance research at the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center.



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As a not-for-profit organization, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta pledges to direct the greatest portion of community gifts to serving patients and their families. To that end, we produced this report in-house, using the most cost-efficient paper and printing techniques.

This book is printed on paper containing a minimum of 10 percent post-consumer waste and is manufactured in an environmentally friendly manner. We encourage you to recycle this magazine or pass it along to friends so they can learn about Children’s.

Help save us money
 Visit choa.org/smallwonders to sign up to receive this publication electronically and save us related printing and postage costs.



Strong beyond her years

Kasyn Olivadotti's irrepressible spirit propelled her through cancer treatment. Now, with her family's support, the brave 5-year-old is getting back to being a kid.

To watch Kasyn Olivadotti run across the yard with a big smile on her face, you would never know about the battle she has been fighting.

The energetic little girl with the contagious laugh has a lot in common with other kids her age: she adores her parents, Kirk and Keely, and her baby brother, Kruz; she loves playing outside and riding her bike; and she's excited to go to kindergarten with her friends. But after being diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia at age 4, Kasyn doesn't take any of that love or excitement for granted.

"She blows me away," Keely said. "I've always told her, 'Any time you have a day you're feeling well, make the most of it.'"

And Kasyn has. The little athlete, who hopes to get involved in gymnastics, is loving school and feels empowered by learning to read. While she has her bad days, not much can keep Kasyn down for long.

"Right now, she has to learn how not to overdo it. But that's a good challenge," Keely said. "We'll accept that stress over the stress of where we were a year ago."

The family moved from Washington, D.C., to Athens, Ga., for Kirk's new job as linebacker coach for the Georgia Bulldogs in May 2011. For the first time, Kasyn and Kruz had a big yard in which to run and play. Kasyn loved riding her bike, but within a month, her mom noticed bruising that wasn't consistent with a minor bicycle injury. The fact that Kasyn couldn't articulate where the bruises came from worried Keely.

The bruises weren't the only issue. Since starting antibiotics to combat a staph infection, Kasyn had been in "slow motion," which Keely said was unusual for her athletic daughter.

When several more bruises appeared, Keely decided it was time for a visit to the pediatrician. After Kasyn's examination, the pediatrician sent them to an Athens hospital where they would go straight to their own room; sitting in the waiting room would expose Kasyn to too many germs. Several tests confirmed what the pediatrician suspected: Kasyn had leukemia, which had caused the staph infection and bruising. The pair was soon transported by ambulance to our Eggleston hospital.

Although her heart was "broken into a million pieces" after the diagnosis, Keely was determined to help Kasyn through every minute of the ordeal, and that meant being honest and upfront. "She's bright enough that I can talk to her like an adult. I told her, 'Every day's not going to be fun, but I'm going to be honest with you.'"

That is exactly what Kasyn wanted. The nurses and doctors quickly realized she was "4 going on 22" after an effort to distract her from shots with princess books failed. "I know what you're doing!" she told the nurses. It's that sass and independence that helped her get through treatment, Keely said. The maturity her daughter and other patients exhibited was astounding. "These kids have grown up faster."

A bond quickly developed between the family and the staff of the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, particularly Todd Cooper, D.O., director of the Leukemia/Lymphoma Innovative Therapy Program. "Those people are amazing up there," Keely said. "They have made it so she could get through. She knows they sincerely care."

Regardless of the pain she was going through, Kasyn—whom Keely describes as a "mother hen"—never forgot about those around her. "She was very concerned about the other kids in the hospital, especially if they were crying or didn't feel good enough to come play," Keely said.

Kasyn was particularly concerned about one girl whose parents couldn't be at the hospital as often as her own. She asked Keely to buy her hallmate a stuffed animal from the gift shop so she wouldn't be alone. When it was time to open the gift, the girls couldn't



be together because they were both quarantined during their treatments. Instead, the two girls peered at each other through the doors to their rooms as Kasyn's hallmate opened the present.

"I don't want other kids to have to go through this," Kasyn told her mom. After being treated in the Aflac Cancer Center for three months, Kasyn received good news from her doctors in October: She was in remission. "When we found out she was in remission, it was like *The Lion King*," Keely said, the feeling of relief still apparent. "I just held her up and twirled her around."

Kasyn is once again feeling up to playing with her little brother and making use of their play set. But her time at Children's isn't over yet. She has two years of maintenance therapy ahead of her, with monthly trips to Atlanta for treatment.

"She complains about going to treatment, but the minute she walks through those Aflac doors, there's a comfort level, and she goes right up to the desk," Keely said. "The Aflac Cancer Center is always going to be near and dear to our hearts."



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A doctor's story



Early in his career, Todd Cooper, D.O., made the decision to work with children. During his fellowship at the University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Dr. Cooper developed an interest in delivering new therapies for childhood leukemia.

Dr. Cooper is now the Director of the Leukemia/Lymphoma Innovative Therapy Program at the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. As a leader at the center, he has set a goal that no child should have to leave the state to receive the latest treatment.

"My mission as a physician is to help children and their families deal with the devastating diagnosis of leukemia," he said. "Although we are making great strides in curing childhood cancer, there are still a great deal of children whose leukemia returns and is difficult to treat."

Dr. Cooper is helping run clinical trials for children with relapsed leukemia.

"I want to help those kids by providing them with the latest therapies, so that they may have a chance to lead a long, wonderful life," he said. His connection with the children he treats is clear.

One patient with whom Dr. Cooper connected is Kasyn Olivadotti. The pair bonded during Kasyn's treatment for acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL).

"She may seem like a typical little girl on the outside, but she isn't," he said. "She is more strong and brave than any of us."

Dr. Cooper was struck by the entire family's strength as well.

"From day one, they have supported each other under the most difficult circumstances. They have turned their nightmare into a positive for themselves and for the entire community. As far as I'm concerned," Dr. Cooper said, "the courage, warmth and generosity they have shown is nothing short of heroic."

Coming together for Kasyn

The wives of the University of Georgia football coaches have rallied around one of their own. Together with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, the women have started the **Kasyn Cares Fund** in honor of linebacker coach Kirk Olivadotti's daughter. They have helped raise more than \$100,000 for research at the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center.



The coaches' wives have rallied for Kasyn. They include, from left, Katharyn Richt, Carrie Friend, Lainie Bobo, Paige Grantham, Amanda Lakatos, Keely Olivadotti and Avita Settles.



A few weeks after the Olivadotti family moved to Athens, Ga., they received the news that 4-year-old Kasyn had acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) and that she would be transported to the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. The family didn't have much of a support network in their new hometown—or so they thought.

The University of Georgia community rallied. Head Coach Mark Richt said the team would gather a support group in Athens with the hope that the Children's community would fill that role in Atlanta.

Heading up the effort in Athens was Paige Grantham, the wife of UGA Defensive Coordinator Todd Grantham. Paige and the other UGA coaches' wives stepped into the role of "Athens family," offering to cook meals or help in any way they could. "I felt compelled to help," Paige said. "As a coach's wife, I've moved six times myself. I felt we needed to do something."

Once Kasyn got out of the hospital, the

group of women decided they wanted to do more—not only for the family, but for as many children at the Aflac Cancer Center as possible. In the fall of 2011, they decided to host a series of events to benefit a fund for clinical research at the center. Because of Kasyn's big heart and unflappable spirit, the decision about what to name the fund was easy: They called it the Kasyn Cares Fund.

"It's not just for Kasyn, but for all the other children in the state of Georgia. If anyone here in Athens gets sick, we go to Children's for treatment," Paige said.

The first event for donors was a behind-the-scenes tour of the UGA athletic complex. The group also attended a question-and-answer session with UGA stars David Greene, Matt Stinchcomb, Ray Goff, D.J. Shockley, David Jacobs and Russ Tanner.

At the next fundraising event, in March 2012, Kasyn got a special treat: She threw out the first pitch at the Gwinnett

Baseball Classic at Cool Ray Field with a little coaching from her dad. The event featured the UGA and Kennesaw State University teams.

Last spring, the group hosted Lunch with the Legends Tailgate. The event, which took place in April before the annual G-Day Spring Game, was so successful that it now will be held each year. Anyone who purchased an autographed football received an invitation for two to the special tailgate.

Because Kasyn loves butterflies, Katharyn Richt decided to incorporate them into the fund's logo along with Uga, the beloved UGA mascot. Katharyn contacted Georgia artist Steve Penley, who painted a butterfly landing on Uga's nose. The coaches' wives had T-shirts made with the image, and after displaying the shirts at Coach Richt's Football 101 Camp for Ladies, the wives had orders for more than 500 shirts in less than 30 minutes. The group went on to sell 2,500 shirts before the first UGA home game. Because of its overwhelming success, this, too, will be an annual event.

To date, the Olivadottis' "Athens family" has raised more than \$100,000 for the Kasyn Cares Fund since they started just over a year ago, and they have even bigger plans for 2013.

Visit choa.org/ugashirt to purchase a shirt.



Highlights & happenings



Bret Hundredmark, Amy Hundredmark, Adam Bruckman, Jai Rogers and John Short received the check at the race.

Digital Insurance employees go the extra mile

Employee benefits agency Digital Insurance led several efforts to support Children's last year. Their biggest event, the fourth annual DI Dash in August, raised \$40,000 for Children's this summer. The amount is a record for the 5K event. Chief Executive Officer Adam Bruckman requested a portion of the donation go to our Egleston hospital, where his son's lacrosse teammate Bret Hundredmark had been treated after sustaining a head injury. Bret, a former patient of Egleston's intensive care unit and Neurology Program, attended the Dash with his mother, Amy, to highlight the great work Children's performs. The remaining proceeds benefited SafeKids Georgia, our injury prevention program. The SafeKids vision is for Georgia's children to be able to grow and play safely.

In addition, participating in hospital programs allowed employees to see firsthand how their contributions are making a difference in the lives of patients and their families. Digital Insurance sponsored three Fun Factory events over the past year. Formerly Camp Children's, the Fun Factory provides a great way for corporate partners to volunteer at the hospitals. In November, employees visited our Scottish Rite hospital and hosted a "Thankful It's Fall" event for the patients. The children decorated wreaths with the agency's employees.

Email Lucy Klausner at lucy.klausner@choa.org to get your company involved with the Fun Factory.



New fund to benefit children with brain injuries

In December, a generous donation from a grateful patient family established the Andrew Reisner, M.D. Traumatic Brain Injury Fund. A pediatric neurosurgeon at Children's, Dr. Reisner has saved the lives of many children with traumatic brain injuries. Dr. Reisner, the medical director for our Neuro-Trauma Program and our Concussion Program, is actively involved in the Neurocritical Care Program. The new fund will provide resources to enhance care and improve outcomes. To help support the initiative, contact Chuck Otto at 404-785-7302.



Race to benefit health program

This summer, a new 5K and one-mile fun run will benefit our Strong4Life movement, which seeks to reverse the childhood obesity epidemic and associated diseases in Georgia. Taking place at Piedmont Park Saturday, June 8, the Strong4Life Superhero Sprint will help raise money to expand Strong4Life's reach to even more families through school and provider training programs, community partnerships and policy change efforts.

Visit choa.org/strong for more information and to register.



Community shares messages of hope

During the holidays, patients and families at Children's received an outpouring of support through the Share the Hope campaign. Leveraging digital, social and traditional media to gather messages from well-wishers, Children's received thousands of messages of support for patients. Messages were shared via TVs throughout the hospitals.

Visit choa.org/share for more details on the Share the Hope campaign.



Foundation moves to new building

The Children's Foundation has moved to a new building. If you are visiting or sending correspondence, please make note of our new address:

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Foundation
Park North
1577 Northeast Expressway, Suite A
Atlanta, GA 30329

Around Children's



Therapy dogs comfort patients and families

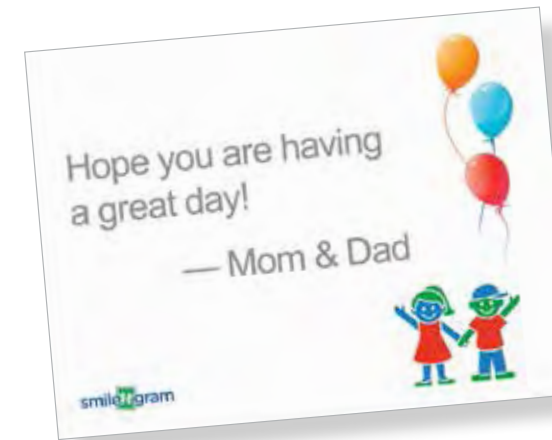
The five therapy dogs on staff at Children's cheer up thousands of kids at our hospitals every year. Trained by Canine Assistants, Bella, Casper, Izzy, Sally and Button are official members of the team, donning vests and badges to visit patients at hospitals and camps. The benefits of having patients interact with therapy dogs are greater than smiles and giggles; pet therapy programs help ease patients' anxiety and depression as well.

Casper, a Golden Retriever with a big personality, made an impression on one family in particular. Creed Campbell and his mom, Stephanie, met Casper during Creed's time at our Scottish Rite hospital. Casper introduced himself to Creed by jumping on the boy's bed.

The pair formed a bond over the course of two years. Utilizing his training, Casper comforted Creed during the many tests, procedures and other ordeals the child had to undergo. As Creed got sicker, Stephanie said, the bond between boy and dog grew stronger, with Casper frequently lying next to the boy in bed. The day Creed passed away, April 15, 2012, was the first time Casper did not jump right into the bed.

The afternoon of Creed's services, Lisa Kinsel, Casper's mom and manager of Volunteer Services, let Stephanie know the news: a litter of four Canine Assistants puppies entered the world just days after Creed's passing. They named the puppies Doc, Mercy, Faith and—in memory of Casper's friend—Creed.

Visit <http://bit.ly/creedandcasper> to read Stephanie Campbell's account of Creed and Casper's bond.



Send messages to loved ones

Our recently launched SmileGram program allows friends and family members of our patients to send a message of cheer to their loved one. Once received, messages will be delivered to each patient's room within 24 hours, seven days a week.

Visit choa.org/smilegram for more information.



Investigator joins autism center's program

Our Marcus Autism Center recruited a top investigator to direct studies that are both new to the center and essential to the study of autism. Lawrence Scahill, M.S.N., Ph.D., a former professor at the Yale School of Medicine, is one of the leading members of the National Institutes of Health Research Units on Pediatric Psychopharmacology (RUPP). He directed psychopharmacological and behavioral trials in autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and associated conditions at Yale. He will be a Professor at Emory University School of Medicine and the Director of the Clinical Trials Program at Marcus. Dr. Scahill has an impressive body of work that consists of more than 130 published papers, including one about the first FDA-approved compound for treatment of autism that was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Parents magazine conducted a survey on more than 100 pediatric hospitals, reviewing volumes and outcomes data for six specialties: cardiac, cancer, emergency medicine, neonatology, orthopaedics and pulmonology. They released the rankings for Children's:

 **Children's ranked No.12 among the country's top pediatric hospitals.**

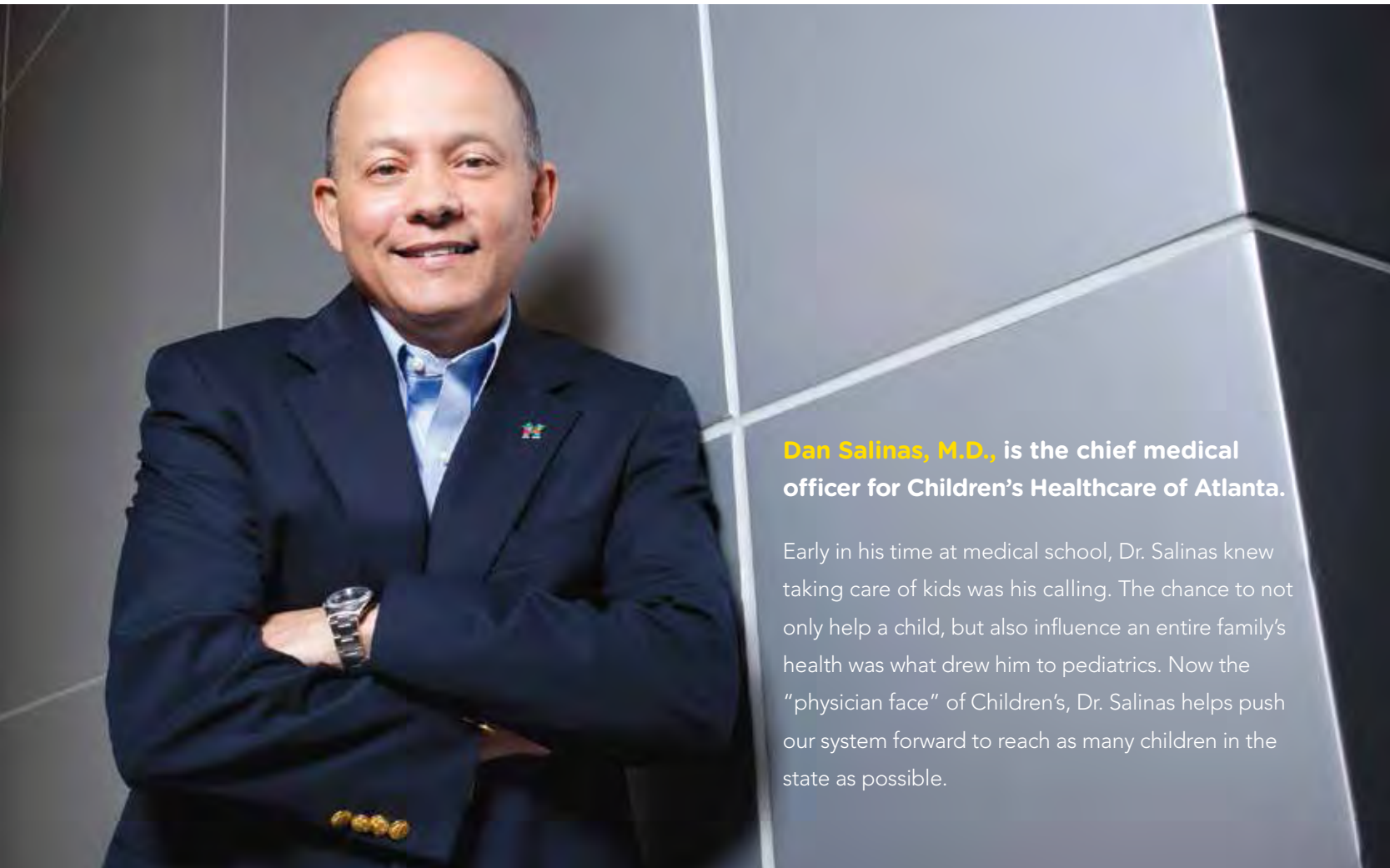
 **Our Sibley Heart Center ranked No.5 among pediatric cardiac programs.**

 **The Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center ranked No.10 among pediatric cancer programs nationwide.**

Fund to benefit new cancer program

Press On, a fund of CURE Childhood Cancer, has donated \$200,000 to our Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center to fund a new radiation therapy program. The funding supported the construction of a radiation room named in honor of Patrick Chance, who passed away in January 2012 after fighting neuroblastoma. The donation will also fund other aspects of Meta-Iodo-Benzyl-Guanidine (MIBG) treatment, which targets certain tumors, including neuroblastoma, and delivers a much higher dose of radiation directly to the tumor. During therapy, patients must be treated in a special lead-lined room to prevent others from being exposed to radiation. The radiation program is one of only a few in the country. Providing such a service will allow children in Georgia to be treated closer to home.

Questions & answers



Dan Salinas, M.D., is the chief medical officer for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

Early in his time at medical school, Dr. Salinas knew taking care of kids was his calling. The chance to not only help a child, but also influence an entire family's health was what drew him to pediatrics. Now the "physician face" of Children's, Dr. Salinas helps push our system forward to reach as many children in the state as possible.

What does a chief medical officer do?

The chief medical officer role oversees the delivery of care to all the kids that we take care of at Children's. My role as chief medical officer is to make sure, above all, that we have a high-quality, safe and efficient environment of care. I serve as the liaison between the physicians on our medical staff—more than 1,750 of them—and Children's. Another role I have is to be the subject-matter expert at Children's in any realm in which we need physician input into our processes. Fortunately, I have physicians that I can go to and ask for subject-matter expertise.

What led you to become a pediatrician?

What I learned early on in medical school, as I took care of some of the unhealthiest adults, was that there had to be something that could be done to keep people from becoming that sick to begin with. Specializing in pediatrics enabled me to foster good preventive care with kids and their families. I felt I could have an impact not only on a child's life and how it evolved from their health, but also on the family unit as a whole. I could help parents raise their children in a way that would lead to better health and better performance in school, and, ultimately, those kids would live better lives as adults.

What attracted you to Children's?

When I looked at the job at Children's, I came full circle from an interaction I had with my Latina grandmother when I was about 4 years old. She couldn't pronounce "Danny," so she called me "Denny." She said, "My little Denny, one day, you're going to be in a position where you're going to help a lot of people. I just know it in my heart." That day, I believe I was pre-destined to work in a system like Children's. When I looked at this job, I felt that I had found what my grandmother predicted I would do someday. I knew in my heart that I had come to the place where I would be able to help kids, families and my colleagues on a scale of which I had never dreamed. To be a part of this system has meant the world to me.

What are the major challenges facing Children's?

We are, right now, in the middle of an evolution. We are moving from being an excellent hospital to an excellent system of care. We have to continue to take care of kids one at a time, but our responsibility is getting broader. We are moving toward playing a more significant role, together with our doctors, in managing the whole continuum of care, not just the care that we're responsible for within our walls. One of our biggest challenges is healthcare reform and staying ahead of the issues that healthcare reform brings to a system like ours, and doing so while receiving reduced reimbursement. We're having to take on more—manage populations, not just one child at a time—because this is what's going to be required for us to continue to deliver and improve access to high-quality, efficient care at a lower cost.



Are there any challenges facing pediatricians in particular?

Pediatricians really want to take care of kids, they want to take care of families, and they want to make a difference for this generation and those to come. As the reimbursement for general pediatricians has started to change, they've had to comply with more regulations and deal with more processes in their offices, all in the face of reduced reimbursement. As a result, we have general pediatricians in our state who are really suffering.

In any given specialty, if there is an adult counterpart subspecialty, what we're seeing with medical students, residents and fellows is that some pick the adult specialty because, practically speaking, they get reimbursed more. We have some pediatric subspecialties where we don't have the sufficient numbers that we need for the future. Several of us, including our CEO Donna Hyland, have been working with doctors and administrators from around the state to help make Medicaid better for the kids and for the doctors who participate in it by improving quality, access and costs. There comes a point where doctors, regardless of how well-intentioned they are, can no longer afford to shoulder so much of the big bureaucracy, and they're leaving Medicaid, leading to reduced access for kids.

How do our donors affect the system?

Our community of donors is extremely important to Children's, its physicians and the patients we serve. One of our strategic focus areas as a system is to transform pediatrics, and we have to do that with the right partners at the table. Those partners are Children's, our doctors and staff, as well as the local, state and national government. Our donors are critical stakeholders in this entire partnership. For us to truly transform pediatric care, we have to have our donors there with us. My wife, Cindy, and I are very proud to be donors at Children's. We want to be a part of making sure that Children's remains the precious civic asset that it is to our community for many generations to come.

Visit choa.org/smallwonders to read the full interview with Dr. Salinas.

Friends around town

10th Hope and Will Ball a success

About 650 guests celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Hope and Will Ball, one of the largest annual fundraising events for Children's. Nancy Grace served as emcee for the Feb. 9 event at the new 200 Peachtree venue in downtown Atlanta. Best known for her show on CNN and her role on *Dancing with the Stars*, Nancy shared her own emotional story of being a mom to twins who were treated at Children's.

As special guests of the event, the Markwalter family also shared the wonderful experiences they had at Children's and our Sibley Heart Center. With a family of five boys, they have been frequent visitors to Children's and said they were thrilled with the care they received. The fourth son, Patrick, was diagnosed with a congenital heart defect as a baby. After receiving a pacemaker at Sibley, he is now doing great.



Gene Hayes, President of the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Foundation, and Chief Executive Officer Donna Hyland pose with the ball's Honorary Chair Committee.

The heart center is a major Friends Funding Area for 2012-13, and it was also spotlighted during the ball. Past chair and beloved volunteer Elizabeth Richards joined Sibley patient Gabrielle Thomas onstage to help Children's raise \$100,000 to purchase a Berlin Heart, which supports the patient while he waits for a transplant. Within minutes, however, the guests had donated more than \$204,000 for Children's and Sibley. It was the most successful Fund-an-Item in the event's history.

During the ball, its past chairs were honored for their leadership and dedication to making the event what it is today. The Honorary Chair Committee was recognized: Kitty Correll, 2004; Sara Smith, 2005; Angie Chesin, 2006; Christy Roberts, 2007; Elizabeth Richards, 2008; Amanda Tucker and Mary Claire Blackshaw, 2009; Ashley Preisinger, 2010; Cathy Rhodes and Beth Park, 2011; and Tara Widener, 2012.



Belle Helton, the 2012 Face of the Parade, is surrounded by family. From left are Grayson Helton, mother Michelle Helton, Belle, Chandler Helton and father Kyle Helton.

Kidney patient the star of Children's Christmas Parade

Families lined Peachtree Street in December for the 32nd annual Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Christmas Parade. Hosted by WSB-TV, the event featured bands and dance groups, floats, and Santa and Mrs. Claus. The star of the show was Belle Helton, the 8-year-old Face of the Parade who underwent a lifesaving kidney transplant at Egleston hospital and saved her mother's life in the process.

Belle's mother, Michelle, needed to undergo a handful of tests before she could give Belle a kidney. After undergoing a mammogram, Michelle learned that she had two malignant tumors, and doctors began treating her right away. Fortunately, Belle's father, Kyle, was able to give Belle one of his kidneys while Michelle underwent treatment. Michelle admits that without Belle's need for a kidney, she would not have been tested and diagnosed with breast cancer soon enough.

Visit choa.org/belle to learn more about the Miracle Child and watch her video.

Cards for a Cause

The second annual Cards for a Cause in February raised \$10,000 for our Marcus Autism Center. During the afternoon event at Cherokee Town Club, about 100 participants enjoyed a day of social bridge, a luncheon and fun door prizes. Stephanie Nalley served as the event chair.



Teen volunteers gather for Boots & Bowties

Members of our girlFriends group gathered in February for dinner and dancing at Chastain Horse Park to benefit Children's. Girls donned dresses and cowboy boots, and boys sported bowties. The group is designed for girls in ninth through 12th grades who want to support Children's through volunteering and fundraising.

Visit choa.org/girlfriends to learn more about the group.



Celebrity poker event benefits Children's

Ninety players tested their luck at Kevin Rathbun's Celebrity Poker event last month at Rathbun Steak in Inman Park. Attendees got the chance to meet Kevin Rathbun himself as well as Atlanta Falcons cheerleaders. The event raised \$30,000 for Children's.



FinFest guests get private tour

More than 400 attendees enjoyed a picnic dinner and kid-friendly activities in February during the third annual FinFest at the Georgia Aquarium. The event, chaired by Cam Reynolds and Landon Lanier, allowed guests a private view of all of the popular exhibits at the aquarium.



Friends around town

upcoming events



Big Splash: The Great Regatta

Join event chair Rebecca Flick and honorary chairs Karen and Tom Chapman for the eighth annual Big Splash at the Georgia Aquarium Saturday, April 13. This black-tie event raises critical funds for our Marcus Autism Center. Attendees will enjoy a night of live entertainment by artist Michael Israel, a live auction with unique items and the culinary expertise of Wolfgang Puck.

Visit marcus.org/bigsplash for tickets and sponsorship opportunities, or contact Jeanne Hastings Walters at jeanne.hastings@choa.org or 404-785-9402.



Last year, the event chairs and the Women of Style and Substance were photographed wearing Etro.

Fashion Show

The Women of Style and Substance Fashion Show will take place April 29 at the St. Regis. This beautiful luncheon is presented by Saks Fifth Avenue and St. Regis. More than 500 guests will get a sneak peek of the Michael Kors 2013 fall collection at the sold-out event. Each year, this luncheon honors eight stylish women based on their involvement in the community. This year's Women of Style and Substance are Barbarella Diaz, Brooke Jackson Edmond, Joanne Chesler Gross, Charlene Crusoe Ingram, Vicki Palefsky, Ashley Preisinger, Kristy Robison and Eileen Rosencrants.

Email Kate Myers at kate.myers@choa.org to be added to the invitation list for the 2014 Fashion Show.

Summer Sizzle

The third annual Summer Sizzle will take place Aug. 23 at Summerour Studio on Atlanta's Westside. This year's event will have a Mexican fiesta twist with a mariachi band. The Bradley Cole Smith Band will be back again so guests can dance the night away. Last year, the event sold out quickly, so don't miss this fun summer send-off party.

Visit choa.org/summersizzle to buy tickets.



Guests enjoyed the 2012 event to benefit Children's.

Mark your calendar



Kauffman Tire Spring Classic for Kids

The 11th annual college baseball event promises to be one of the largest fundraising events for Children's, featuring state rivals UGA and Georgia Tech. More than 20,000 tickets are sold each year. Proceeds from this year's event, which will take place Tuesday, April 23 at Turner Field, will benefit the Children's Neurosciences Program.

Visit choa.org/springclassic for more information.

Brookwood Hills Home Tour

March 23
choa.org/bwhinspiration

Big Splash

April 13
marcus.org/bigsplash

Roswell 10 mile/5K Run Classic

April 13
choa.org/events

Matt Ryan Celebrity-Am Classic

April 15
choa.org/mattryan

Greater Gwinnett Championship

April 15-21
choa.org/executives

North Buckhead and Brookhaven Backyard Bash

April 26
choa.org/backyardbash

Dare to Dash 5K and Family Fun Day

April 27
choa.org/daretodash

NCR Sprint for Cancer

April 27
choa.org/sprintforcancer

Chastain Nine at Night

April 27
choa.org/nineatnight

Northside Fun Fair and Flick

April 27
choa.org/events

Small Dreams Butterfly Release

April 28
choa.org/smalldreams

Women of Style & Substance Fashion Show

April 29
choa.org/fashionshow

Heart to Hearts Golf and Tennis Tournament

April 29
manheimhearttohearts.com

Johns Creek Derby Day

May 4
choa.org/derbyday

Swim Across America

May 5
choa.org/saa

Peachtree Battle Tour of Homes

May 7
choa.org/hometour

A Taste of the Highlands

May 18
tasteofthehighlands.com

Walk Now for Autism Speaks

May 19
walknowforautismspeaks.com/georgia

Hope and Will Challenge Tennis Tournament

May 23
choa.org/tennischallenge

Cheers for Children's

June 1
fjatlanta.org

Strong4Life Superhero Sprint

June 8
choa.org/Strong4Life5K



Visit choa.org/events for information about these and all events supporting Children's.



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small wonders

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Dedicated to All BetterSM