

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2012

Careforce

CHRONICLE



Dedicated
to All Better

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Let Children's help you take it easy during the holidays.

Photo: Shown with cardiac patient, Lex Money, Hope and Will, along with therapy dog, Sally, represent the many ways Children's makes a difference for our young patients.

Celebrating You

This season invites so many celebrations. And we should make time to celebrate all of the amazing things we've accomplished at Children's this year.



Every day, we reach countless families and children in ways that are truly changing their lives. But we're still looking for ways to do even more. As the cover story of this issue explores, we're working toward transforming pediatric medicine.

While it's worth noting that transforming pediatric medicine isn't a job we'll be able to complete overnight, this year we've made many positive steps in the right direction.

We've reached hundreds of thousands of patients and families with our care, and we've been recognized for many of our research efforts, including the recent awarding of an ACE grant at Marcus Autism Center. Noteworthy publications also have recognized us locally and nationally for our outstanding work in medicine and our work as an employer.

We truly have had a great year. Every employee at Children's can share credit for each of the important achievements we realized, and while we should all be looking forward to accomplishing more in the future, we should take time at the close of this year to celebrate what we've already done.

As you are enjoying time with your families and perhaps even a little respite, I hope you make time to pat yourself on the back for all of the hard work you did this year.

Simply Put: As you enjoy this holiday season, take time to care for yourself by celebrating all you've done for the children of Georgia. There's more work to do, but there's a lot to be said for what you've already accomplished.



Support Merry and Bright, the Children's Holiday Trees Program

All proceeds for the Merry and Bright Children's Holiday Trees Program will go to support The Voice. Employees can honor patients, family members or caregivers by purchasing an ornament on the Grand Tree in their name. Names of honorees will be displayed on a large screen beside the tree. Additionally, employees and visitors can sponsor one of the decorations located throughout the atrium. Available items range from neon trees to giant toy soldiers. Visit choa.org/merryandbright for complete details.

► Image above: Ryan Seacrest and Children's patient Lilly Weldon join the celebration to launch the Merry and Bright fundraiser.

Upcoming Events

Nominate a Comeback Athlete of the Year • Through May 2013

A panel from Children's Sports Medicine Program is selecting an athlete each month to be the Comeback Athlete of the Month. The young athletes must have overcome an injury or illness through treatment at Children's to get back to the sports they love. Voting for the Children's Comeback Athlete of the Year will be open to the public in May 2013. Visit www.choa.org/comeback to nominate an athlete.



Marcus Autism Center Receives NIH ACE Grant

The National Institutes of Health gave an Atlanta-based coalition, including the Marcus Autism Center, an \$8.3 million Autism Center of Excellence (ACE) grant to create an Autism Research Center of Excellence—one of only three in the United States. The grant reinforces the work underway on autism research and treatment through the Marcus Autism Center, the Department of Pediatrics at Emory University's School of Medicine and the Yerkes National Primate Research Center at Emory. The research study will seek to diagnose autism in children at an age as early as just a few months old to allow early intervention by parents and professionals to minimize the impact the disability has on children and adults. The ACE grant also will create a new community-based system of healthcare delivery for infants and toddlers with autism spectrum disorders and their families.



► Ami Klin, Ph.D., Director, Marcus Autism Center; Gov. Nathan Deal; and Doug Hertz, Chairman, Children's Board of Trustees, attend the ACE grant announcement at the Georgia State Capitol.

Helping Each Other Shine

It's no secret that great things happen every day at Children's, and Careforce Chronicle wants to celebrate your efforts to inspire greatness by living our three Values: Care about People, Passionate about Kids and Dedicated to Better. By offering a listening ear, sharing your expertise and, ultimately, putting "we before me," you strengthen each other as co-workers. Take a look at some of the wonderful things you're saying about each other through our *Celebrations!* program.

Dedicated to Better

To: Nancy Richardson, Program Financial Specialist, Continuing Education and Medical Libraries, The Park

Thank you for your assistance with the Sedation Course. It is always a pleasure to work with you. Several of the participants asked for you by name to extend their appreciation for your assistance with registration, etc. **Your outstanding customer service is one factor that contributes to the quality of our conferences.** I appreciate your positive attitude and "whatever it takes" approach.

From: Jane Darrish, Senior Program Coordinator, Continuing Education and Medical Libraries, The Park

Passionate about Kids

To: Sakeena Nealy, Respiratory Care Professional, PICU, Egleston

Keena, you take such excellent care of our patients in the PICU. I love working with you. In addition to providing great respiratory therapy, you always make sure that each patient looks comfortable. You take the time, regardless of how busy you are, to help with X-rays and linen changes on critical, intubated patients. **I am lucky to work beside you.** Thank you for all that you do for our patients and for your co-workers.

From: Meg Duggan, Staff Nurse, PICU, Egleston

Care about People

To: Rosalie Townsend, Staff Nurse, Rehab-CIRU, Scottish Rite

Rosalie exemplifies teamwork excellence. She is always willing to go above and beyond to help out anyone—patient, family, visitor, peers, etc. **She has such a calming and sweet attitude that always makes for a pleasant day.** I enjoy working with Rosalie because she treats everyone with the highest respect!

From: Stephanie Daniels, Unit Secretary, Rehab-CIRU, Scottish Rite

Dedicated to Better

To: Dana Atwell, Behavior Data Analyst, Severe Behavior, Marcus Autism Center

You are such an amazing person. You have been very helpful to everyone and are the epitome of what being a team player is all about. **I've seen you go over and above daily with helping with research, new cases and just new employees.** Thank you for setting the example of what teamwork is all about.

From: Faith Cawthon, Behavior Data Analyst, Severe Behavior, Marcus Autism Center

Care about People

To: Veronica Watts, Respiratory Care Professional, Respiratory Care, Hughes Spalding

Thanks very much Veronica for your awesome help and teamwork last Wednesday night in the PECC, when we had that challenging patient. **Teamwork was definitely necessary to keep the patient stable until transport arrived.** Thanks again for your help. You are an awesome co-worker to work with!

From: Marcus Washington, Respiratory Care Professional, Respiratory Care, Hughes Spalding



Meet Will

Will Utsey's life is sports—football, basketball, baseball, depending on the season. He can be found most days at Wheeler High School in Marietta, Ga., where he's a Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) in the Sports Medicine Program at Children's. As an athletic trainer, he works with student athletes at the high school, and although he has no children of his own, he considers all 350 teens he works with his kids in some way.

When Will started at Children's, he was one of three ATCs. Today, the Sports Medicine Program has grown to 27, many of whom work with a designated school to support their athletic departments. Their role is to help prevent athletic injuries, rehabilitate athletes who are injured and to work with players both on and off the field. Every workday is different, but it's late fall in Georgia, which means it's football season. On this particular day, Will is preparing for his own Friday night lights.

A Day in the Life ...of a Certified Athletic Trainer

Will Utsey, Certified Athletic Trainer, Sports Medicine

⌚ **8:10 a.m.** – It's game day, and because Will worked late at the junior varsity football game last night, he sleeps in a little. He starts his day with a P90X workout before going online to check his email.

12:45 p.m. – Grabbing a quick tuna sandwich at Subway, he catches up on current events with a local paper. Will's work hours change daily, so he grabs a healthy meal when he can.

2:30 p.m. – Will arrives at Wheeler High School to meet with the head football coach. Together, they review injuries from Thursday night's game and discuss the plan for injured players. Will logs information about Derek, a player who sprained his ankle last night, and then he calls Derek's father to discuss the injury and how to care for it over the next few days.

3:30 p.m. – As school gets out, the treatment room fills up with students. Will examines a sprained ankle and calls the team physician to set up an appointment for the player. He starts to prepare the equipment for tonight's game, including coolers of ice, Gatorade, exam table, splint bag and crutches.

4:35 p.m. – A few hours before the game starts, Will begins taping the players up. The tape provides support to knees, ankles or other joints or limbs to prevent unnecessary sprains. Will loads the equipment onto the team's trailer and heads to Roswell High School for the start of tonight's away game.

6:28 p.m. – Will arrives and unloads his equipment onto the sidelines. As the players head out for warm-ups, Will meets with the other school's

athletic trainer. They discuss the location of the ambulance and what signal to use if there is an injury.

7:05 p.m. – As the players come off the field, Will notices that one player's knee sleeve is loose, so he makes a last-minute switch, putting a thicker sleeve with more compression on the player before heading out to the field to listen to the national anthem.

7:30 p.m. – It's kick-off time. Will plans to spend the entire game keeping his eyes peeled for any potential accident in the stadium that holds 4,000 people. "We don't get a lot of injuries in the crowds, but if we did, I have to be ready to assist," he explains.

8:30 p.m. – During the second quarter, a defensive back gets what the coaches call a "stinger." "It's actually a brachial plexus injury," Will says before talking with the player on the sidelines. Brachial plexus injuries are common among football players. Will and the team physician evaluate the player at halftime to test his strength, range of motion and level of neck pain.

10 p.m. – A successful field goal means that the Wheeler Wildcats win the game with a 17–14 victory. Post-game, Will heads to the locker room with the players to make sure there are no additional injuries and to talk with the father of the defensive back with the stinger injury. Will shares an information sheet on how to care for the injury at home over the weekend, and he makes plans to check in with the player and his family on Monday.

11:30 p.m. – After returning to Wheeler, Will gives his final injury report to the coach. "Although it's a win for the team tonight, I consider every game a victory when all of the players arrive home safely."





Dedicated to All Better

The difference Children's makes for every child

Lex Money knows the Cardiac Unit at Egleston better than most. For several months, he called a room in the corner of the unit his home. Born with five major heart defects, Lex had his first open-heart surgery when he was just days old. And a few months ago, at the age of 4, he received his second heart transplant. After a challenging and, at times, uncertain future, Lex and his family know one thing for sure: There's no place like Children's.

"We always knew this was the best place for Lex," said John Money, Lex's father. "The doctors and nurses have gone above and beyond to make sure he has everything he needs. During our stays, nurses would come by just to play with him and keep him happy. Everyone has been amazing."

Children's is a special place; people know it as soon as they walk through our doors. Patients coming to our hospitals shouldn't be surprised to find brightly colored walls, therapy dogs and clowns roaming the halls, mini-golf in The Zone

"For major and minor trauma, the ED physicians at Children's are supported by a spectrum of pediatric subspecialists. Every specialist at Children's is focused on the care of kids."

—Naghma S. Khan, M.D.

or even their favorite band stopping by The Voice. There are plenty of kid-friendly touches in our facilities, but it takes more than décor to provide the children of Georgia the best possible care.

For example, our Cardiac Service Line has one of the highest volumes of pediatric heart surgeries in the country—nearly 850 a year, including some of

the most complex (Society of Thoracic Surgeons Heart Surgery Database). We treat more pediatric inpatient cardiac surgery cases than any other hospital in Georgia. High volumes mean the well-trained pediatric specialists at Children's are afforded ample opportunity to maintain their skills, and the numbers speak for themselves: Our survival rates exceed the national average. Children's is one of the nine main sites across the U.S. and Canada in the Pediatric Heart Network, which is funded through the National Institutes of Health. This network conducts research to improve treatment for congenital heart defects, which are relatively common—affecting almost one in every 100 newborns in the U.S.

Thanks to skilled medical practitioners and the extra care offered by compassionate staff members, kid-friendly surroundings and programs, Children's is the perfect place for treating Lex's healthcare needs, but he's not alone.

From the complex to the simple

When people think of Children's, they often think of our nationally recognized work in complex care, but we're here for families regardless of the severity of their concern. According to the Child Health Corporation of America, we have the busiest Emergency Departments in the country, and we often see children who have been over-tested at non-Children's facilities.

"We've noticed a trend of over-testing in many non-Children's emergency departments especially in children with fever," said Naghma S. Khan, M.D., Medical Director, Emergency. "Pre-verbal children with high-grade fever look sick and fussy; however, if we give them a fever-reducing medication, their behavior usually returns to baseline, and they become happy, smiling and playful. If the same child went to a non-Children's hospital, there's a good chance he or she would be subject to CT scans—which can be dangerous for a young

child if the radiation levels aren't adjusted for a pediatric scan—and other unnecessary tests."

Children's has evidence-based practice guidelines in place to ensure that we do not over-test or over-treat children with fever or other common symptoms. Community hospitals may over-prescribe antibiotics to patients with a fever or those who are wheezing. The community physicians often recommend unnecessary chest X-rays or blood work without a clear focus of a potential bacterial infection.

"Our goal is to be thoughtful in our approach to the care of children—no unnecessary procedures, labs or IV sticks. To ensure this, we have standardized evidence-based practice guidelines for common presenting complaints like fever, gastroenteritis, asthma, bronchiolitis, minor head injury, concussions and also more serious chronic illness like management of fever in patients with sickle cell disease or cancer," said Dr. Khan.

A "child-sized" approach

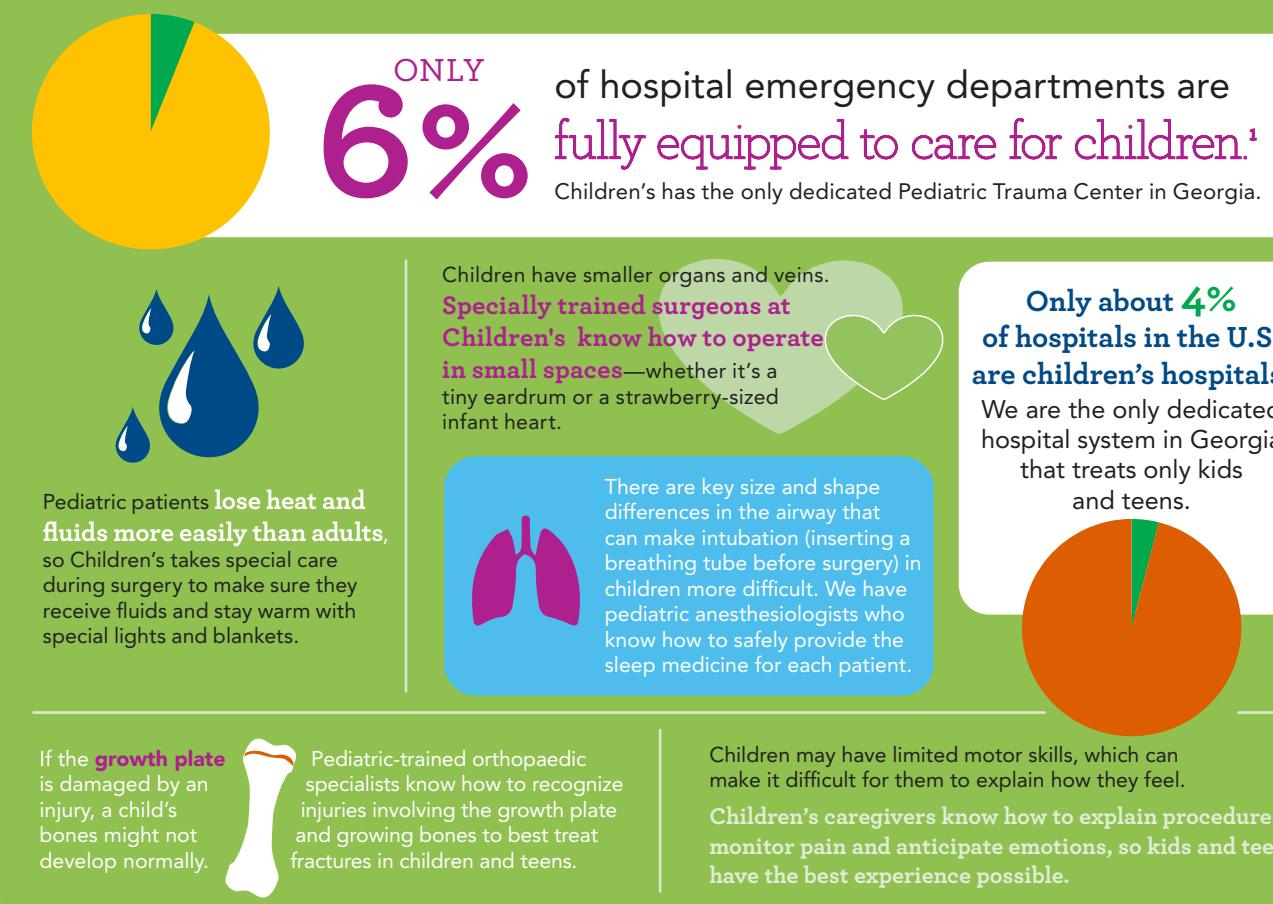
Children are not small adults. A routine procedure for an adult may have serious implications for a developing child. Our injured student athletes, like Leighton Jordan who studied to be a professional ballerina need to be treated carefully for injuries because their bones are still growing. For Leighton, our physicians and physical therapists studied the impact of dance on her body to provide her customized care that was able to get her dancing again.

Because children are particularly susceptible to the long-term risks of radiation exposure, Children's medical staff order radiology studies, especially CT scans, cautiously. Pediatric-trained radiologists at Children's strictly follow the radiation safety principles of ALARA (as low as reasonably possible)—choosing the lowest possible radiation necessary to get high-quality images without undue exposure to radiation.



► Our pediatric rehabilitation staff have the specialized skills and knowledge to help patients like Santianna McFarlan get back on their feet.

The Children's Difference at a Glance



An 18-month-old and a 37-year-old can have the same symptoms, but they can mean something completely different. An adult who needs resuscitation probably has cardiac disease, while the majority of resuscitative events in children are respiratory. The pediatric ED providers at Children's are able to recognize impending respiratory failure immediately and are well-versed in a wide variety of treatment options.

Managing pain is also a top priority. Because kids don't have fully developed verbal skills, they often can't express what's wrong and may confuse fear with pain. Children's also is part of the Atlanta Pediatric Devices Consortium that brings together medicine and science to create new devices benefiting child health. The consortium is developing better quality heart valves that may not have to be replaced as often as the child grows and working on a new approach to hemodialysis (a treatment for kidney failure) in kids.

dogs also provide a welcome distraction to a child's discomfort.

Invested in the future of pediatrics

As the pediatric population in Georgia grows, Children's also must evolve. Children's invests heavily in research to create new forms of treatment specifically for kids. The physicians providing care in our Emergency Departments have been at the forefront of research to make improvements in the areas of wound management, trauma care, sedation and injury prevention.

"Children's has recruited a number of basic scientists to work alongside clinicians to perform research that ultimately leads to better care for our patients," said Paul Spearman, Chief Research Officer. "Research, education and patient care all fit together at Children's. This collaboration elevates the quality of care we provide to patients and ranks us among the top in the nation."

It's not the brightly colored walls and special guests a patient may encounter in the halls that sets Children's apart from adult hospitals. It's the attention to detail of our young patients' special needs and the ability to meet them through care at bedside, classroom training and lab research, that ranks Children's among the nation's leaders in pediatric care today—and motivates us to keep doing better. ☐

1. Institute of Medicine Committee on the Future of Emergency Care in the United States Health System

The Princess & the PRC

Since opening its doors in 2009, the Children's Pediatric Research Center (PRC) has been thriving. Their research study participation has risen significantly, and PRC Staff Nurse Michelle Popler points out that traffic is up "more than 100 percent from our first year." In fact, Children's bedside research center has grown exponentially in just three years. In 2009, the PRC saw about 100 patients. This year, they expect to see more than 500.

The PRC is the pediatric clinical interaction research site of the Atlanta Clinical and Translational Science Institute. The center, under the direction of Howard Katzenstein, M.D., Medical Director, provides the necessary infrastructure for investigators conducting pediatric clinical research while giving patients and their families improved access to leading-edge clinical trials.

The PRC's mission statement is simple: Provide a safe, caring research environment for new technology and cutting edge treatments. Execution is a bit more complex, especially when it means creating a space that can handle the needs of both pediatric research

participants and pediatric specialists. Study visits of one to six hours are the norm for participants, such as infants and children with asthma, Type 1 diabetes in teens and young adults, and children of all ages with sickle cell, liver, kidney and other diseases. In a team work environment supported by clinical coordinators, a dedicated lab, pharmacy and bionutrition services, protocol procedures are executed by a three-person staff—Nurses Michelle Popler and Emily Morrison and Nancy Ferzola, Manager, Clinical Research.

Located at Egleston, the facilities and services include a four-bed outpatient research unit, a four-bed inpatient research unit and access to amenities like exercise and laundry rooms, a library and private showers. The flexibility and comfort the space provides can support a variety of studies—at the moment there are 52 approved studies with 21 actively enrolling.

The PRC is also making a difference in the lives of our patients. For example, in the summer of 2009, a 17-year-old girl arrived at Children's with complaints of vomiting and body aches. She was found to be in

acute renal failure with anemia and thrombocytopenia. A Children's physician diagnosed her with atypical hemolytic uremic syndrome (aHUS), a rare and serious clotting disorder with a 50 percent mortality rate within the first year of diagnosis. She underwent treatment, which required multiple admissions from June until December 2009, to receive plasmapheresis. Unfortunately, her body was not responding well to this treatment.

After researching her case, Larry Greenbaum, M.D., Chief of Pediatric Nephrology, had another suggestion. Dr. Greenbaum approached the patient's family to discuss a new drug that was being studied and could help—eculizumab. After careful consideration, the patient and her family consented to be a part of the eculizumab study.

The patient started receiving infusions of eculizumab every two weeks at the PRC. She responded quickly and began living on her own, attending college and traveling—all of the things she was unable to do while on dialysis—returning to the PRC every two weeks, where she earned the nickname "Princess of the PRC."

In 2009, the PRC saw about 100 patients. This year, they expect to see more than 500.

In 2011, the Food and Drug Administration approved the use of eculizumab in adults.

Eculizumab can now be used to enhance the lives of patients who are living with aHUS, allowing them unprecedented freedom.

Thanks to continued trialing by Dr. Greenbaum and the PRC, eculizumab was recently approved for use in the pediatric population. Patients now have the freedom to go to any infusion facility in the United States.

This story is just one of a number of examples where the PRC has fulfilled its mission statement, providing a space for the research, as well as the participants, caring for quality of life while forwarding life-changing research.

"I've seen the good the center can do for the lives of children and their families," said Popler. "It's all so new and exciting." New, exciting and in high demand; Popler and her colleagues will certainly be busy. ☐



► Children's PRC staff members Michelle Popler, Emily Morrison and Nancy Ferzola check the vitals of one of our diabetes study participants.



Little Boy, Big Heart

Children's advocate Aidan Hornaday is teaching children around the world that they are never too young to start giving to others. He spreads his charitable message through music and public speaking.



They say necessity is the mother of invention, but for 7-year-old Aidan Hornaday, it might have been boredom. One night while out to dinner with his family, Aidan got a little restless, so he took off his fedora and began playing his harmonica. Restaurant patrons began throwing money in his upturned hat, and Aidan amassed eighty dollars. It's a lot of money for a 7-year old, and Aidan's brother advised him to keep the money (while he was little and cute). But Aidan had bigger plans.

Aidan donated the money to a charity that buys anti-parasite medication for children in Africa. "I have everything I need. But there are a lot of kids that really need help," Aidan explained.

Four years later, 11-year-old Aidan's pledge to help others has grown into a passion for giving that is unparalleled in children his age. "Children don't have to wait until they are 18 to do something big. They can start now. They can start young," Aidan said.

Aidan started by playing his harmonica for local venues and donating his performance earnings. Within a month he was playing at a convention in front of a thousand people. Today, Aidan's organization AidanCares, keeps Aidan busy with speaking and performing engagements all over the country. With the tagline, "teaching my generation to give," AidanCares has raised more than \$50,000 on behalf of various people and organizations, including Children's.

Aidan's family is very familiar with Children's. Aidan was born prematurely and contracted RSV. He also suffered from asthma and was hospitalized at the start of the 2010 Care-a-thon. He begged the staff to let him out, so he could play his harmonica to help the children.

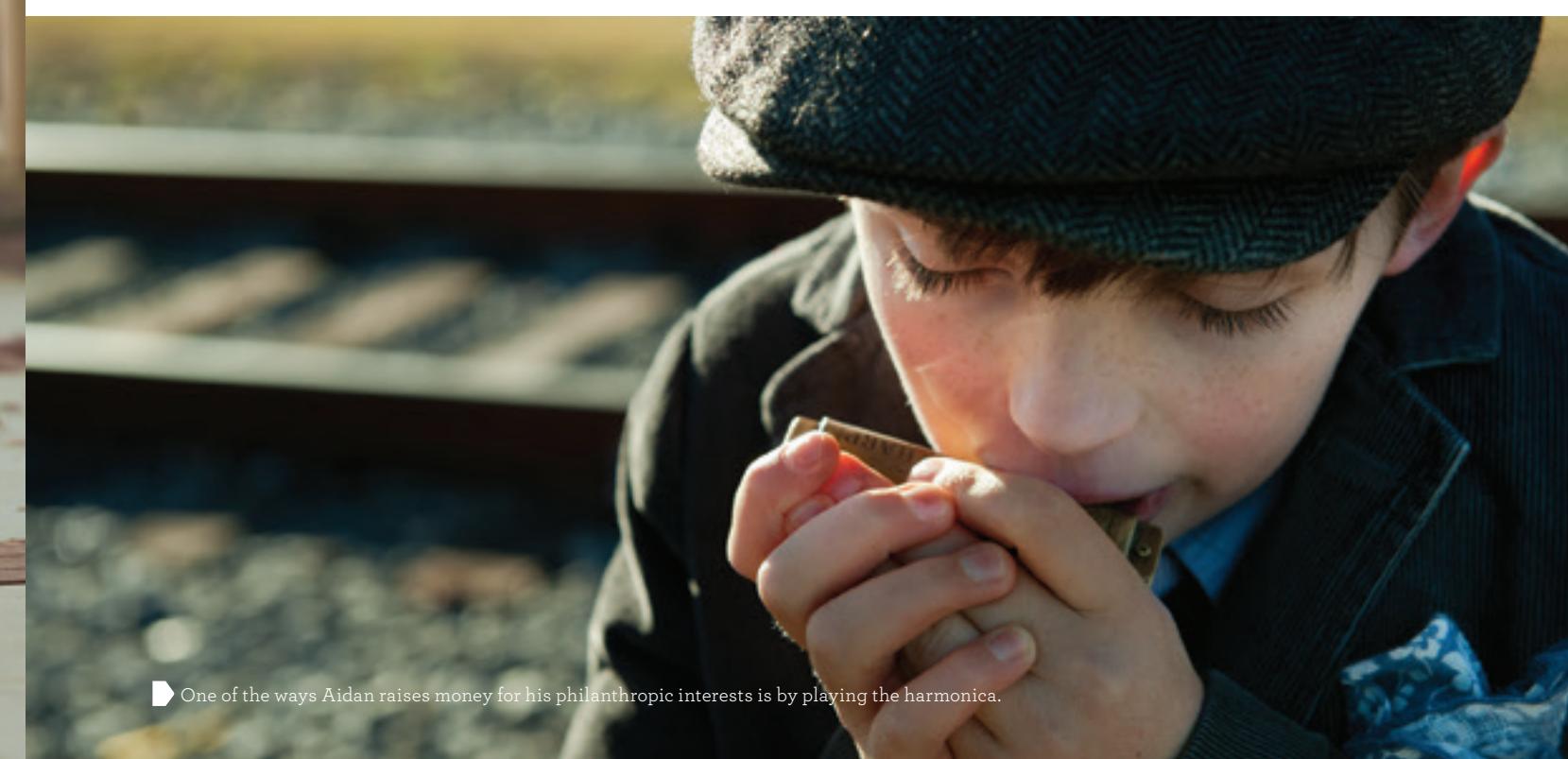
Aidan's mother, Toren, speaks highly of the staff at Children's. "There is a love and validation they have given him that has exceeded everywhere we've been. We have a reverence for the people that

work there. Their encouragement for what Aidan is trying to do is off the charts. I wish I could bottle it."

Aidan now spends a lot of time at Children's playing and helping patients. He developed a relationship with Brayden, a 5-year-old patient at the Aflac Cancer Center. Aidan's most recent goal is "Wheels for Brayden" to raise \$10,000 to buy a wheelchair-capable van and to pay for auto insurance for a year for Brayden's family.

Aidan also finds time for normal activities, such as rock climbing and playing basketball, but he enjoys his charitable work. "It's time consuming to give back, but it's a great reward."

Showing no signs of slowing down, Aidan plans to publish a book about his story and continue to grow AidanCares. Aidan urges his peers to get involved and give. "Age doesn't matter. You can help in many ways and you can serve others. Give back, even if it's just a little." ☐



► One of the ways Aidan raises money for his philanthropic interests is by playing the harmonica.

I ❤ Hope & Will

Two of the most recognizable smiling faces at Children's are Hope and Will, Children's mascots and brand ambassadors. They often can be seen wandering the halls of our hospitals as they share their positive attitudes with patients and employees alike. Hope and Will have also been known to appear in YouTube videos, coloring pages for patients and Children's events. Wherever they go, they put a smile on the faces of everyone they meet.



About Hope & Will

Hope likes: Hugs & smiles

Will likes: High fives & giggles

Will loves a good laugh, but his jokester ways are all in good fun. He loves to make patients smile.

Hope shares comfort and kindness with everyone she meets. A hug from Hope has been known to brighten more than a few patients' and employees' days.



Technology is Music to Parents' Ears

Using iPhone technology, the Remotoscope has the potential to change the way ear infections—and other illnesses—are diagnosed forever.

When an infant is crying hysterically and can't explain why, it's difficult to know whether or not an ear infection is the culprit without visiting a physician. A new iPhone attachment could make life easier for every

magnification. The app stores images as video and data, which is then transmitted via email or text to a doctor's inbox or to the patient's electronic medical record. It is even possible that pediatricians

are bacterial and the tendency if you only see the child once is to play it safe and prescribe antibiotics, which can lead to antibiotic resistance," explained Dr. Lam, who is also a physician at Children's. "Being able to monitor the ear more frequently, it is easier to differentiate between the causes and limit over-prescription."

for preschoolers. They result in more than 15 million office visits per year in the United States and thousands of prescriptions for antibiotics.

Families who come into the emergency department at Children's hospitals for treatment of ear infection-type symptoms are being given the option to participate in the trial in a clinical assessment study of the Remotoscope. The next step is getting the device to healthcare providers, and the final goal is to get the Remotoscope where it is most needed, in the hands of parents. ☐

Ear infections affect 75 percent of children by age six, making it the most common diagnosis for preschoolers.

parent with a child who develops frequent ear infections. The Remotoscope, a clip-on attachment and software app being developed by Georgia Tech and Emory University, turns an iPhone into an otoscope, which would allow parents to send pictures or video of their child's eardrum to their pediatrician for diagnosis. For children with chronic ear infections, this would mean far fewer trips to the doctor. For Children's, it would mean faster treatment and relief for our patients and their families.

The Remotoscope uses the iPhone's camera and flash as the light source and an app to provide

will be able to view the Remotoscope's visuals and data streamed in real time.

Wilbur Lam, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech and Emory University, along with his colleagues at the University of California, Berkeley, is developing the device, with plans to commercialize it. One benefit Dr. Lam sees from being able to give doctors a look at their patients' eardrums remotely is limiting overdiagnosis.

"Ear infections that are viral look the same as ear infections that

► A medical student demonstrates how the remotoscope works with a patient.



meet our Share Campaign Kids

Last year, Children's partnered with the Verizon Foundation to launch the Share Campaign. The program offered the public a chance to send messages of encouragement to patients in the hospital during the holidays. Last year, more than 8,000 people from around the world shared messages of hope, support and cheer with our patients.

This year, we plan to introduce some of the special children in our care to generate an even greater response to the campaign. Meet some of our Share kids, submit a message and spread the word to friends and family through social media about the campaign.

Visit www.sharewithchildrens.org for more information.



Aiyana Moore, 4, Short Gut Syndrome

Hometown: Lawrenceville, Ga.

Aiyana Moore was born premature with Gastrochisis and spent the first part of her life in the NICU at Children's. Her defect was repaired at Children's; however, as a result her small bowel was significantly shortened, causing Aiyana to live most of her life on IV nutrition (TPN) and a feeding tube. Aiyana is very intelligent and wants to be a nurse when she grows up. While she has constant supervision, she could probably give herself her own medicines, dial in her pumps, and change her dressings, if we allowed her. Aiyana is always found at the nurse's station "charting and giving reports on her patients." She knows everyone's name in the hospital and is quite possibly one of the most popular girls here.



Lex Money, 4, Heart Transplant

Hometown: Clarkesville, Ga.

Lex Money's battle for life began at birth when he was diagnosed with complex congenital heart disease and heart failure. Now at only 4 years old, Lex has already had three different hearts beating in his young chest. But despite his long road to healing, he is fun, loving and full of life and hope. By the time he was 2 and a half years old, the Clarkesville, Ga., native had already had three open heart surgeries. A few days short of his third birthday in June 2011, Lex was given the best gift of all: a new heart. But despite the successful transplant procedure, his body subsequently rejected the heart, causing Lex to return to Children's in March 2012 in complete heart failure. Lex and his family waited patiently for months at Children's, and on Sept. 21, 2012, he received his second heart transplant.



Trae Elliott, 2 Months, NICU

Hometown: Tallow, Ga.

On July 31, Carey Elliott was volunteering at a polling precinct when she went into labor 31 weeks and five days into her pregnancy. Carey thought it was false labor, but her obstetrician encouraged her to visit a local hospital "just in case." If she hadn't left when she did, Trae (Richard Allen Elliott, III) might have been born at the polling precinct. Carey arrived at the hospital just in time and gave birth in the observation room—meaning there was no time for an IV, and Trae had an unconventional delivery in a regular hospital bed with arm rests and raised edges. Though he weighed just 2 lbs. 5 oz. at birth, Trae is thriving and had grown to six pounds during his time in the NICU at Children's.



Kevin Fairchild, 6, Liver Transplant

Hometown: Newnan, Ga.

Kevin Fairchild was born with biliary atresia, a disease that causes bile to build up in his liver. When his parents learned the only way to save their baby's life was with a liver transplant, they made the difficult decision to move their three children from Maui, Hawaii, to Atlanta so Kevin could receive treatment at Children's. After a successful transplant at the Children's Carlos and Marguerite Mason Transplant Center when he was just nine months old, Kevin faced even more obstacles in his recovery, including bleeding episodes and respiratory issues. Kevin's parents almost lost him on four occasions, but the little fighter triumphed and was finally able to return home after spending 186 days at Children's.



Lake Bozman, 6, AML

Hometown: Kennesaw, Ga.

Lake Bozman is a 6-year-old from Kennesaw who was diagnosed with AML (Acute Myeloid Leukemia) two weeks before his birthday this May. He is on his fourth round of intensive chemotherapy and fortunately, this is his last round. Every time he receives his chemotherapy treatment he has to stay in the hospital for a whole month at a time. It has become his second home. As a first grader at Bells Ferry Elementary in Kennesaw, Ga., Lake's favorite subject is P.E. He loves sports, especially baseball and football. Besides sports, Lake loves to ride his four-wheeler—when he isn't wrestling with his little brother.

Save Time and Money This Holiday Season

The holiday season is a wonderful time of year, but it's also an extremely busy time. Because of the busyness of gift-buying, present-wrapping and party planning during the holidays, it can be challenging to get everything accomplished—and without stressful days and sleepless nights.

Here are a few ways Children's supports employees and their families, so they can make the most of this holiday season.

Delegate holiday duties

Although the holidays seem to start earlier and earlier each year, there doesn't seem to be enough time to squeeze in everything. The Children's concierge, At Your Service, is able to save employees a few minutes (or hours) of time by reserving tickets—usually at a discounted rate—to holiday shows and events for employees.

At Your Service has tickets for the following holiday events this year: Disney's Beauty and the Beast at The Fabulous Fox Theatre, Atlanta Ballet's The Nutcracker, Garden Lights Holiday Nights at Atlanta Botanical Gardens and Callaway Gardens Fantasy in Lights and more.

At Your Service is more than a ticket service. Their concierge staff can assist employees with party planning, tracking down that hard-to-find present, grocery shopping and other personal errands.

Find childcare

Because school holiday breaks don't always match with employee vacations, Children's back-up care option is a great solution for filling in childcare gaps. Bright Horizons offers childcare locations, as well as in-home care providers. Bright Horizons also can provide elder care services and assist with providing care for a sick child. Children's employees receive a heavily discounted rate for the back-up childcare services.

Sittercity.com is free to employees and is a great resource for finding full-time care providers, as well as the occasional sitter for a Friday night holiday party.

For more holiday discount and event information, employees should check out Careforce Connection throughout the season.

Give Up Wrapping Duties

Back by popular demand, Children's is offering free gift wrapping services to employees again this year. A professional wrapper will be onsite at designated locations to wrap up to four presents per employee.

Riley Palmer, Physician Recruiter, found the gift wrapping service to be a lifesaver last year. "I typically travel up to North Carolina to be with family during the holidays, and each year I find it tough to find the time to get all my shopping done, let alone find the time to try and wrap all of the presents before I leave," said Palmer. "Last year I used the gift wrapping service, and they did a fantastic job and made it look like I knew what I was doing when it came time to exchange presents."

Save money

Children's employees are eligible for a number of discounts with online retailers through our corporate perks program. Staff should visit the Children's Corporate Perks link first, and it will redirect to the retail site, with the employee discount included. Online retailers include Walmart, Dell.com, Lands' End, Macy's and Best Buy.

Login details: <https://choa.corporateperks.com/login>



2012 Gift Wrapping Dates

Scottish Rite

Monday, Dec. 10

Egleston

Wednesday, Dec. 12

Hughes Spalding

Thursday, Dec. 13

The Park

Friday, Dec. 14
Wednesday, Dec. 19

Marcus Autism Center

Tuesday, Dec. 18

Recipient of a Life-Saving Bone Marrow Transplant

Erin Blonshine, Customer Relations Assistant, Day Surgery, Scottish Rite



A car accident in December 2007 actually saved my life. I had been getting a lot of headaches after the accident, and when I went in for an MRI and bloodwork, the doctors discovered leukemia.

I **went through** five months of treatment and then went into remission for a year. To celebrate, I planned a trip to Europe. Three days before I was supposed to leave, I relapsed and began the journey toward a bone marrow transplant. I received the life-saving transplant in August 2009.

Johannes, my donor, is a German man in his early twenties who now works in Switzerland. He registered as a donor because

an 11-year-old girl at his school needed a transplant and was searching for a match. He said he felt that registering as a donor was the right thing to do. Johannes is simply an amazing guy with a kind and generous heart.

Because I had an international donor, I had to wait two years after the transplant before we could contact each other. I initially wrote him, and then we began exchanging letters.

I **planned another trip** to Europe this past summer with my parents and a friend. I asked Johannes if he would meet us in London, and he and his father were excited to spend a few days with us.

He had never been to London either, so we visited the touristy attractions, like the London Eye and the Tower of London, for the first time together. It was fun being able to explore the city and spend time together.

The best part was thanking Johannes in person. It was important for me to express the significance of what he



did for me. Being able to vocalize that gratitude made for a special experience.

Before my accident, I was a Language Arts teacher. I went back to teaching, but I had to stop because I needed more time to recover. After being in the hospital for so long, I felt like God was calling me to move into healthcare as a profession.

Now I work in Day Surgery at Scottish Rite. There are so many people who have helped me with my recovery that I feel like working at Children's is the best way I can give to others.

I recommend that if possible, everyone should register to be a bone marrow donor. You never know whose life you might save. I am living proof of that.

A Warm Welcome Home

By Calvin Calmes, Respiratory Therapist, Hughes Spalding

When I left for Afghanistan a year ago, I didn't know what to expect. My 25 years of training had prepared me for military service, but I was still heading to unknown territory. Although I wanted to serve my country, I didn't want to leave my family and job at Children's behind.

Children's didn't forget me though. Every week while I was gone, I received a package or letter from someone in the organization. I received so many care packages, that the other soldiers in my unit became excited to see what was in the next box. A few items made us laugh, like the Mr. Potato Head playing cards. Other items came in handy. Someone must have shared that we needed eye glass wipes due to the dusty conditions, because I received boxes and boxes of them. Everyone in my unit knew where to go when they had dusty lenses that needed to be cleaned.

A few times, I received stacks of letters from Children's employees. I would sit and read them all in one sitting. Then the next day, I'd read them again. What amazed me was how many people—from all over the organization—sent their support to me. It touched me deeply, and it kept me connected to my life back home, which is important when you are dealing with life and death situations every day. My job as a medical logistician meant I managed the distribution of all medical supplies. As a medical professional, I also treated and comforted the wounded. Reaching out to Children's through letters, email or phone calls kept me grounded.

When I was able to make a phone call, I often called the Emergency Department at Hughes Spalding because I knew someone would be there 24 hours a day. They passed the phone around, and it was nice to catch up and feel a part of things there.

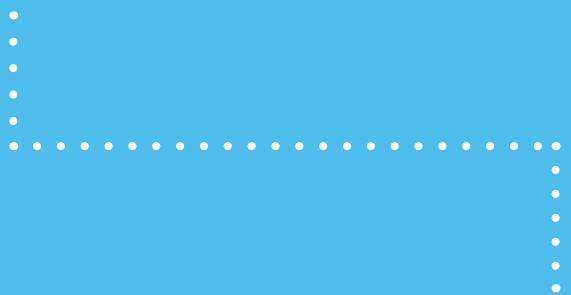


I should have known what a special organization Children's is. The week before I left, Children's threw me a going-away luncheon, and my department took me out to a special dinner. My fellow soldiers are worried about having a job when they return home. I was able to concentrate on my job there because I didn't have those same concerns.

After 11 months away, it's great to be home. I was ready to come back to my family, my colleagues and my patients. My friend gave me a ride to work on my first day back. I never suspected the red-carpet reception that welcomed me, but I should not have been surprised. It's just what we do at Children's.

I am extremely grateful to my fellow employees for keeping me in their thoughts and prayers during my deployment. I was humbled by the amount of support I received, and I continue to bring that warm feeling back with me as I come into work each day. ☽

Extra! *Extra!*



Careforce Chronicle is now being delivered to employees' homes.

Share feedback and story ideas at
Internal.Communications@choa.org



Comments? Suggestions?
Questions? Email Internal.Communications@choa.org

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