



Andy Pilgrim

The Automotive Safety Project

The statistics on injuries and fatalities resulting from car crashes are astounding. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, there were over 5.8 million motor vehicle crashes in 2008. As a provider of rehabilitation services to children, including children injured in automobile accidents, the staff of Shriners Hospitals for Children – Chicago confronts the real-life manifestations of those statistics. As a response, hospital staff began a program to promote safe driving and reduce serious and fatal motor vehicle accidents among infants, children, adolescents and young adults: *The Automotive Safety Project*.

Education on adapted driving equipment, providing adapted car seats and restraint devices to youth with medical conditions, and teen driver education at schools and events are all parts of the project.

Many have jumped on board to support the cause. One of those supporters is Andy Pilgrim, a winner of five professional sports car racing championships. His resume includes racing with Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Sr. in the 24 Hours of Daytona, racing in NASCAR, and test driving for General Motors.

But Pilgrim has a passion off the track: promoting auto safety to new drivers. He was a perfect fit to partner with the Shriners Hospital in Chicago.

An expert in the field of automotive safety, Andy has been speaking to high school students about safe driving for over fifteen years.

In 2005 he produced an educational DVD promoting safe driving techniques called "The Driving Zone: Essential Techniques for New Drivers."

Recently, Pilgrim agreed to fly from his hometown of Boca Raton, Fla., to present to driver education students at Hinsdale Central, Wheaton North, and Oak Park and River Forest High School: all in Chicago's western suburbs.

"Safe driving is an extremely important message," says Pilgrim. "At a recent presentation, one student came up to me in tears because her father constantly text messages while driving, and she's worried about his safety. These kids are really thinking through the potential consequences." ■



Taylor Mills

Meet Taylor

"Do you want to hear a joke?" asks Taylor Mills, a patient talking to a nurse during a recent visit to Shriners Hospitals for Children – Chicago. "What did the number zero say to the number eight? ... Nice belt!"

Everyone learns a thing or two after an encounter with Taylor. "She's ten going on thirty!" says mom Jacki. Taylor's independent, smart and confident nature adds to her winning personality — one that has captured the hearts of staff.

Taylor began her journey at Shriners Hospitals for Children when she was just a baby. Born with scoliosis and Vaters syndrome, a condition that can affect the spine, limbs, and growth patterns, the right side of her body did not fully develop. Taylor's first surgeries at the Chicago Shriners Hospital involved the amputation of her right leg — she now wears a prosthesis; as well as a hand operation to centralize her right wrist and create a web space between the thumb and forefinger on her left hand.

Later, Taylor received a VEPT (Vertical Expandable Prosthetic Titanium Rib) surgical

implant. One rod implant connects to the rib cage and keeps her ribs open so the lungs can expand. A second rod straightens out her spine. For the past three years Taylor has returned every six months for an expansion of her rib cage. The surgeries and treatment she has received have helped improve her gait, or walking pattern.

Taylor's hometown of Fort Wayne, Ind., is a four-hour drive from the hospital. Mizpah Shriners volunteer drivers transport Taylor and Jacki to appointments: a service that allows mom to avoid the stress of Chicago traffic. "When we see the Sears Tower, we know we're close!" says Taylor.

Because of the treatment Taylor has received, she is able to be quite active, playing soccer on a community league team from spring through summer. As she heads into fifth grade in the fall, Taylor is ready to meet new friends and continue learning and growing. ■



Address Service Requested

SHC Chicago Connection

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Steps in the Right Direction: The Pediatric Lokomat

Rehabilitative Treadmill Has Promising Potential



Robert Cotner
Director of Development

Patient Dakota "Cody" Woolums was 14 when he sustained a T-4 spinal cord injury (SCI) through an accident with a falling brick wall. On August 25, 2008, he came through the doors of Shriners Hospitals for Children – Chicago. Within a few months it was determined that Cody, who lives in Lancaster, Ky., was a candidate to use the

hospital's newest rehabilitation machine.

The Lokomat assists patients through automated locomotion therapy. A non-ambulatory patient, positioned on the Lokomat, is able to walk following a pre-programmed computerized pattern which resembles a natural gait. This is the first gait-driven orthosis to assist patients with movement disorders resulting from stroke, spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, multiple sclerosis and cerebral palsy. Through a series of generous donations, the Chicago Shriners Hospital became one of only a few facilities in the U.S. to obtain this device.

The Lokomat facilitates the walking motion by teaching the patient's muscles, spinal cord and brain, the act of walking. The device is manufactured by Hocoma in Volketswil, Switzerland, which started business in 2000 as a spin-off of the Spinal Cord Injury Center of Balgrist University Hospital in Zurich. Founded by economist Peter Hostettler, and electrical and biomedical engineers Gery Colombo and Matthias Jörg, Hocoma has become the international leader in robotic rehabilitation therapy since entering the

market in 2001. In 2006, the Pediatric Lokomat was launched and provided intensive locomotion therapy for the treatment of children with neurological disorders.

Sara J. Klaas, director of spinal cord injury services, has been the driving force behind the acquisition of the Pediatric Lokomat now in place at the Chicago hospital. "This is an exciting time for us," Klaas says. "The Pediatric Lokomat will enhance our cutting-edge rehabilitation services for those with spinal cord injuries and other mobility impairments." The machine is already becoming a major factor in the hospital's rehabilitation services. The Lokomat, along with the newly renovated motion analysis laboratory, makes the facility one of the nation's leading pediatric orthopaedic rehabilitation centers.

The funding of the Pediatric Lokomat carries a story of interest. The first donor, the Rinker Family Foundation of Syracuse, Ind., proposed a \$150,000 grant to be matched by other funding agencies. Over the next year, additional donors pitched in. They included: Newman's Own Foundation, Lake County Orthopaedic Clinic, Chapter #992 Order of Eastern Star (Arlington Heights Ill.), Emily Greenfield, Hellenic Masonic Lodge #1084 (Glenview, Ill.), Central Society of Corinthians, Hepburn "Bootstrap" Foundation (Milwaukee, Wis.) and the Moslem Shrine Clown Unit. An anonymous Chicago foundation provided funds for the architectural changes for the Lokomat room in the hospital's rehabilitation center.

On May 19, 2009, donors were honored in a ribbon-cutting ceremony, with members of the Board of Governors, hospital staff and patients joining in the event. A permanent plaque was unveiled listing all the philanthropists who donated.

Cody is now one of many patients benefiting from the new technology. "I can do more with my legs than I thought I could," says Cody. The Pediatric



The Lokomat simulates the natural walking motion.

Lokomat will help facilitate the mission of Shriners Hospitals for Children to provide the highest quality care and rehabilitation services without cost to patients or their families. We offer thanks to the generous donors who sponsor the rehabilitation therapy that the Lokomat provides to the children at our hospital. ■

How You Can Help

In tough economic times, people become familiar with budget reductions, focusing their energy on the bare necessities. At Shriners Hospitals for Children – Chicago, we are doing the same.

We have created a list of essentials: things that we must fund to bring the splendid services to children for which Shriners Hospitals are known. The list on the right is divided into two categories: the top portion lists necessary medical services for children. The bottom portion lists less urgent, but necessary, endowment opportunities — *and naming opportunities* — you might wish to consider.

You often hear that pediatric medical services at Shriners Hospitals for Children are free. That is not accurate. The services cost a great deal. It takes \$118,000 a day to operate our hospital. We extend a call to our friends, who love children as much as we do, to help provide pediatric medical services given by our hospital. Please consider our list of essentials and partner with us to help children through a generous gift. ■

A Donation of...

\$300
\$500
\$750
\$1,100
\$2,000
\$4,000
\$8,000
\$12,000
\$15,000
\$20,000
\$26,000
\$40,000
\$50,000
\$118,000

Provides These Essential Services:

One hour session for a child on the Pediatric Lokomat.
Radiology services for four children to determine their surgical and care needs.
Rehabilitation session for 12 children to help them function as best as possible.
Motion Analysis for one patient, necessary to plan for surgical intervention.
One patient's stay in the Intensive Care Unit for post-surgical recovery.
Respiratory care for one week to patients needing assistance in breathing.
Two months of speech therapy for patients needing assistance.
All prosthetic devices and repairs for one week.
All hospital expenses for three hours.
Spinal implants for one child.
All orthotic devices and repairs for one month.
Cleft/Craniofacial Team evaluations and clinic services for one month.
All surgical services for one day.
All hospital expenses for one day.

A Donation of...

\$250,000
\$1,000,000
\$2,000,000
\$4,000,000
\$5,000,000
\$10,000,000
\$25,000,000

Provides These Endowment and Naming Opportunities:

Naming of patient room or hallway.
Naming of Operating Room or Treatment Room.
Endowed Chair for Chief of Plastic Surgery.
Endowed Chair for Assistant Chief of Staff.
Endowed Chair for Chief of Staff.
Naming of a hospital wing.
Naming of a building.



Family-Centered Care Spans Two Generations

Stephanie Bowman entered the Shriners system in the spring of 1990. It was during this time that she was diagnosed with scoliosis, an abnormal curvature of the spine. She was to undergo spinal fusion surgery, one of the longest and most complicated orthopaedic surgical procedures performed on children. Under the care of Shriners Hospitals for Children – Chicago medical staff, Stephanie eventually emerged from the operating room with a straighter spine and a bright future ahead. Not only would the procedure improve her posture and alleviate her back pain, but it would also provide her with enhanced self-esteem.

Nearly twenty years later, Stephanie remembers her time at the Chicago Shriners Hospital as an enjoyable experience, thanks to the warm, family-like environment in which she was treated. She recalls a friendly, attentive hospital staff — particularly Linda Cree, a nurse and 28-year veteran of the Chicago hospital. Despite the longstanding relationship between these two women, Stephanie never anticipated that she would return fifteen years after treatment.

In 2005, Stephanie's 10-year-old daughter, Ashleigh, began complaining of back pain after a day spent riding roller coasters at an amusement park. Given her own history, Stephanie instantly understood that her daughter's symptoms were more than just coincidence.

"I knew it was scoliosis when I felt her back and I cried," admits Stephanie. Remembering the unparalleled quality of care that was once

afforded to her, not even the 300 mile drive could separate Stephanie and her daughter from Shriners Hospitals for Children – Chicago. A few months later, Ashleigh was seen by Dr. Peter Sturm and his RN Care Coordinator, Linda Cree. Although it had been almost two decades, Linda and Stephanie reunited and prepared for Ashleigh's surgery.

Approximately one month after her operation, Ashleigh returned to Chicago, standing tall and feeling great. Stephanie and Ashleigh were looking forward to seeing their nurse and friend Linda. "She is our go-to girl!" said Stephanie. When asked about her relationship with the two, Linda replied, "It is a privilege to have made a difference in Stephanie and Ashleigh's overall experience and to have enhanced their quality of life. They hold a special place in my heart."

Thanks to Linda and her loyal colleagues, Shriners Hospitals for Children has been able to provide quality patient care to generations of individuals. Stephanie, whose grandfather was a Shriner, is also committed to giving back in a positive way: using her testimony to speak to and encourage other patient families who are undergoing similar treatment. Stephanie and Ashleigh's stories are tangible manifestations of the Shriners Hospitals for Children mission statement at work, where the long-term success of the system depends on the dedication of each employee to a core set of values encompassing stewardship, innovation, integrity, commitment, excellence, and teamwork. ■

Former Patient Returns to the Chicago Hospital After 82 Years

Last December, Eleanor Phillips walked through the doors of Shriners Hospitals for Children – Chicago with a handful of homemade blankets, ornaments and holiday cards. Mary McCauley, donations coordinator, greeted Eleanor and graciously accepted the items, noticing there was something striking about Eleanor's enthusiastic generosity. Mary discovered Eleanor is one of the first Chicago Shriners Hospital patients; she was treated in 1926, shortly after the hospital opened!

Eleanor was born with a severe case of rickets, a condition which softens the bones and can lead to fractures or bone distortion. She was referred to the Chicago Shriners Hospital by her family doctor.

"My legs were so bad that my knees almost touched the ground, and my feet went out to the side," says Eleanor.

Arriving when she was eighteen months old, Eleanor stayed at the hospital for three months. Both of her legs had to be broken and reset to help repair the condition, and she wore special shoes that covered her ankles until she was six years old. The surgery was a success: Eleanor went on to teach square dancing and skate in a roller derby league! She has four children and worked for Motorola for eighteen years. Today, Eleanor is the Crafts for Charity Chairperson of the Motorola retirees' club. Every item donated by the group is handmade.

Though there was an 82-year gap between Eleanor's first visit, and her most recent visit to the Chicago hospital, she has told the story of the hospital's mission to many, and is grateful for the care she received. Giving back is Eleanor's way of saying thanks and passing on the gift to others. ■



Eleanor Phillips

From the Chairman's Desk



Robert O. Kuehn
Medinah Shriners

The Board of Governors at Shriners Hospitals for Children – Chicago shares your concern for the future of our hospital and the Shriners hospital system. The hospital endowment suffered substantial loss in the recent economic downturn. The result was an urgent message from headquarters to reduce our spending. This required your leaders to make tough choices. The charge from the Board of Governors to your leadership team was to reduce expenses in a fair and consistent manner. This has been accomplished.

Among the legislative proposals being presented at the 2009 Imperial Session in

San Antonio in July is one that mandates closing five hospitals. As you might expect, this is a very sensitive subject. I am one of the over 1,400 representatives who will vote. Many of those reps come from Shriners temples that are affiliated with the named hospitals. Other alternative legislation will be presented and some believe that the best interest of the whole system cannot be determined without further study. However, I think that the only way for the system to reach a supportable budget and maintain the relevance we have worked so diligently to achieve in the health-care arena, is to take swift, purposeful action. Tough decisions need to be made in order to

support our mission in the future. Years from now we do not want to look back on this time and realize we lost our opportunity to keep our system relevant and viable. I'll share the decisions with you after July 9th.

At the Chicago hospital, we are blessed with a healthy level of activity that is poised for more growth. I ask you to look upon the current situation as a small step back and I encourage you to focus your energies on the high quality specialty care that we provide to children. Regardless of decisions made in San Antonio, our success as a hospital will always depend on your good work.

Robert O. Kuehn
Robert O. Kuehn

Hospital Ushers: The Men Behind the Mission

Shriners Hospitals for Children – Chicago sees visitors from places as far away as Uruguay to Hawaii and beyond. And ushers who know the hospital inside-out stand by to greet them. In navy blue jackets and familiar red fezzes, they introduce the Chicago hospital to its many visitors: patient families, schools, donors, civic organizations and Shriners from all over the country.

There are 76 ushers on the hospital ushers committee, all of whom are Shriners, from Orak Shriners in Michigan City, Ind., and Medinah Shriners in Addison, Ill. Tours are provided Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m.

Pat Moore of Medinah Shriners has been the director of the ushers committee for three years. Moore ushers on Tuesdays, driving 45 minutes to the hospital with a fellow usher in tow. In providing hundreds of tours over the years, he has collected many stories, as well as new friends.

On Wednesdays the “three Bobs” are on duty. They are: Bob Schalund, secretary of the committee; Bob Gillfillan, deputy director; and Bob Hanson, chaplain emeritus. Schalund followed in the footsteps of his father who served on the usher committee for 40 years.

“We were a father-son team,” says Schalund. “When I first started, tours were a lot shorter since we could only show a couple of hospital areas. Now they last nearly an hour!”

In his 47th year of ushering, Schalund recalls showing guests a different hospital in 1962: one without a motion analysis laboratory, activity mall, outdoor garden or playground. Tours have expanded significantly since those days.

In addition to giving tours, ushers operate a display case with pins, ties, and other hospital keepsakes. The ushers often double as hospital historians. “People ask about the history of the hospital, and about our current operations and specialties, as well as the shrine fraternity,” says Moore. In 2008, the ushers committee gave over 2,000 hours of ushering services. They consider it a privilege to tell guests about Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Gillfillan notes a common motivation among the ushers: “When a little guy in a wheelchair comes up to you, grabs your leg and says, ‘thank you, Shriners!’ it’s a reminder of why we do what we do.” ■



Hospital ushers maintain a display case in the lobby containing hospital and fraternal souvenirs.



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Bob Gillfillan, hospital usher



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Bob Schalund, hospital usher



Pat Moore, ushers committee director