



Care in Action

An E-Newsletter for Employees, Staff and Friends of Shriners Hospitals for Children—Spokane

August 2008

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Patient from Albania is Defying the Odds!



Merita Ulaj is a healthy young teen from a remote village in Albania, located in southeastern Europe. Her parents, who herd goats for a living, work long days to provide for their family. Merita, who suffered an injury to her left arm as a child, was unable to help with some of the work due to the deformity of her elbow. Working is



a vital part of life in Albania and for this family.

Merita was brought to Spokane through a family acquaintance, Marvel Nichols. Marvel brought Merita and a translator to Spokane where Merita attended school last fall while receiving medical care. During a recent visit to Albania, Marvel took these photos that show Merita happily at work following successful care at our hospital. Shriners Hospitals for Children in Spokane works every day to help children, just like Merita, to defy the odds and live healthy and productive lives. Thank you to Marvel for helping us find Merita!

If you know a child we can help, please call our applications line at 888.895.5951 or visit us online at www.shrinershospitals.org to download an application in English or Spanish.

Temple of the Month - Algeria, Helena, Montana

In August, we are celebrating the contributions and support of the Algeria Shriners from Helena, Montana. With over 1100 members and 13 clubs and units, the Algeria Shriners stay busy finding kids to send to our hospital. They have had nearly 200 new patients in Spokane in the past year and a half.

Algeria was chartered in June of 1888 and was the first temple in the Pacific Northwest Shrine Association and the 41st temple in North America.

Recently, a young family from Helena, whose daughter had surgery in Spokane, sent us a letter full of gratefulness to our staff and the Shriners in Algeria for the difference they have made in the lives of their family.

"I have spoken about the excellent care our daughter received, along with all the wonderful people we have come into contact with at the

What was the best part of your experience?
"Everything! The people, the care, physicians, the care and concern from the Algeria Shrine Temple..."

-Patient Family from Helena

Contact Us

Care in Action is a monthly e-newsletter from Shriners Hospitals for Children in Spokane. If you wish to be added or be from this or any future mailings, please contact us at spokaneneeds@shrinenet.org or by calling 509.744.1240 and leave a message. Thank you.

For more information on our hospital, its services and our mission, please visit our website www.shrinershospitals.org.

Website is New

If you haven't visited in a while, be sure to check out the Shriners Hospitals website for the new branded look and updates!

You will find helpful information about our medical staff, our service, easily downloadable applications and news and events. There is also a new Map and directions page, as well as a list of the main phone numbers for the hospital. Check it out at:

www.shrinershospitals.org

and select Spokane in the pull down hospital list!

hospital and the care and concern we have received from the Algerian Shrine Temple in Helena. We could never repay what has been done for our daughter. It has been an amazing experience so far. My family appreciates everything so much. We will do what we can to show our absolute support for the Shriners hospital," the family shares.

Thank you Algeria and all of your members for helping us reach the kids of Montana and make a difference in the lives of children and their families.

Save the Dates - 85th Celebration in 2009 with a Patient Reunion!



Shriners Hospitals for Children—Spokane will be celebrating its 85th anniversary in 2009!

Be sure to save the dates September 25-27, 2009 to join us in Spokane for very special celebrations, recognitions and a patient reunion!

The **tentative** schedule includes:

Friday, September 25, 2009 - join us as we celebrate current and past staff & volunteers who make our mission happen every day!

Saturday, September 26, 2009 - join us as we celebrate our Shriners, Ladies, donors and partners to the hospital.

Sunday, September 27, 2009 - join with us for a Patient Reunion with our former and current patients to celebrate the thousands of children and families we have helped defy the odds! All patients are welcome.

Stay tuned for more details! Please contact the public relations office if you have questions or need more information at: spokanenews@shrinenet.org

Pilot for a Day

The 141st Air Refueling Wing of the Washington Air National Guard gave Shriners Hospital patient, Tyler Angstrom a memory to last a lifetime! Tyler, who spent a day at the Air Force base in Spokane, got to learn life support, survival, tour a KC-135 and fly a plane in the flight simulator. During an official ceremony after a day of training, Colonel Greg Bulkley presented Tyler with his wings.



Col. Greg Bulkley of Air National Guard presents Tyler with his wings.

Tyler, who is 17 years old, said it was the "best day of his life." Tyler's father, who is a former military member himself, thought it was a pretty special day too!

This unit of the Air National Guard provides ongoing support and volunteers for many hospital functions.

Birthday Gift for the Hospital

Mia, a 10-year old Spokane resident, decided to do things differently at her birthday this year. Instead of presents, the lively young lady asked her guests to bring a donation for the Shriners Hospital in Spokane. Mia and her mother toured the hospital and presented us with \$150 to use toward the care of children.



Mia is shown here with Kristin Monasmith of public relations

Thank you Mia for your generous gift and sharing your birthday with all of us!

American Idol Visit to Hospital

Season 6 American Idol finalist Phil Stacey, visited Spokane and shared several of his songs from his new album. The visit was part of the NW Navy Recruiting District's Navy Week, celebrating SkyFest and the Blue Angel's appearance in Spokane.



Patients, staff and families received bears, footballs and autographs or photos with Mr. Stacey.