

Dreams Made Possible for Shriners Hospitals for Children Patients



Mollie Carlson and her mom pal around with Past Imperial Potentate Gary Dunwoody on stage after the premiere of "Dreams Made Possible."



2008-2009 Imperial PR Committee Chairman Jerry Gantt thanks Sage Warner for playing a song on his guitar at the Imperial Council Session.

Shriners Hospitals for Children patients Sage Warner, 10, of Amarillo, Texas, and Mollie Carlson, 18, of Scandia, Kan., made surprise appearances at the 135th Imperial Council Session – the Shriners’ annual international convention – in San Antonio on July 8.

Sage and Mollie are featured in the Shriners Hospitals for Children patient success video “Dreams Made Possible,” which premiered on July 8. Immediately following the video, Sage played on his guitar “Wildwood Flower,” a song he wrote, and Mollie gave a heartfelt speech of appreciation.

The program was an opportunity for the kids to thank Shriners for the pediatric specialty care they receive at Shriners Hospitals for Children, which continues to give them the strength and abilities needed to make their dreams possible.

Sage Warner

Sage was diagnosed with idiopathic infantile scoliosis, an extremely rare form of scoliosis, when he was 9 months old. By the time Sage was 3 years old, all efforts had failed to straighten his spine, and his pediatrician referred him to Shriners Hospitals for Children — Houston. Physicians at Shriners Hospitals for Children determined that surgical intervention would be necessary to prevent the condition

from causing Sage problems with his lung development and, possibly, his heart. Since then, Sage has undergone several surgeries to help his spine stay straight. His last surgery in February 2009 resulted in an almost instant growth of two inches, an improved spinal curvature of 35 degrees and he will no longer need to wear a brace.

Despite physical challenges, Sage has always been active. He began golfing with his dad when he was 3 years old and he has become an exceptional golfer. He is a Weeblo in the Cub Scouts and plays acoustic and electric guitar. Sage is a “straight-A” student at Sleepy Hollow Elementary School and enjoys riding horses and skateboarding.

Mollie Carlson

Mollie was born with a complete unilateral cleft lip and palate, a birth defect that causes the tissues of the mouth or lip not to form properly. Along with serious cosmetic issues, children with cleft lip and palate can also experience hearing loss, problems eating and difficulty in breathing and speaking.

A Shriner told Mollie’s family about the expert care available at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Chicago when Mollie was 1 year old. She has since undergone 19 reconstructive and cosmetic surgeries, from the closure of her palate to rhinoplasty to orthodontic

surgery. Mollie is now a confident and accomplished young lady who graduated from high school as one of four valedictorians in May. In her spare time, she speaks to groups about her experiences as a cleft lip and palate patient. As for future plans, Mollie has been inspired by her speech pathologist at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Chicago and will be studying communications disorders at Fort Hays State University. Upon completion of her master’s degree, she hopes to work as a traveling bilingual speech-language pathologist.

More Surprises

Sage’s and Mollie’s parents joined the kids onstage after the premiere of the video to personally thank the Shriners for the expert medical provided to their children. Then, 2008-2009 Imperial Public Relations Committee Chairman Jerry Gantt presented Sage and Mollie with gifts to thank them for sharing their stories.

Every day, thanks to Shriners Hospitals for Children, kids like Sage and Mollie are seeing their “Dreams Made Possible.”

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