

LEADERS IN Care

STORIES OF THE MOST AMAZING CARE ANYWHERE

WINTER 2022



How our Shriners
Children's community
spreads holiday cheer

Joy to the World



Celebrating
100
YEARS

Shriners
Children's





OUR MISSION

At Shriners Children's™, our three-part mission has one goal: to change and improve lives. We do this by caring for our patients, conducting research to gain knowledge and develop new treatments, and providing educational opportunities for physicians and other healthcare professionals.



WHO DO WE TREAT?

Children under age 18 may receive care and treatment when there is a reasonable possibility they could benefit from the specialized services we offer. All services are provided regardless of a family's ability to pay or insurance status.



WHAT ARE OUR PEDIATRIC SPECIALTIES?

- + Treatment for orthopedic conditions
- + Burn care
- + Spinal cord injury rehabilitation and management
- + Cleft lip and palate care



GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH

We strive to discover answers that will one day improve lives. Our innovative researchers have made significant breakthroughs in all four of our service lines, improving patient care and adding to the global body of medical knowledge.



CONTINUING EDUCATION

One way we help improve the lives of children worldwide is by offering educational opportunities to medical professionals. We maintain relationships with several medical teaching facilities, and our clinicians are known for sharing their experience and knowledge with other medical communities.



THE SHRINERS FRATERNITY

Shriners International, a fraternity based on fun, fellowship and the Masonic principles of brotherly love, relief and truth, founded Shriners Children's as its official philanthropy in 1922. What began as one hospital is now a world-renowned healthcare system with locations in three countries. The fraternity, which has approximately 200 chapters in several countries and thousands of clubs around the world, continues to support this unique healthcare system. To learn more, please visit shrinersinternational.org.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Dear Readers,



It's the holiday season – that special time of year when the world seems to slow down just a bit, the noise of modern life lessens, and people seem to

notice one another, perhaps even in a more considerate, compassionate and gentle way.

It is the season of hope.

We have often said Shriners Children's locations are places of hope. As we've celebrated our 100th anniversary this year, we have referred to our history as one of compassion and innovation. It is also a history and legacy of hope. For a century, Shriners Children's has provided excellent care regardless of a family's ability to pay; has listened and developed treatment plans for children whose families have been told "nothing can be done to help" at other healthcare facilities; and has helped patients discover their potential and go on to believe

in and achieve their dreams. Over time, we have made a difference in the lives of more than 1.5 million children.

As we look toward our next hundred years, we want to expand our reach and share our unique brand of expertise, compassion and care with as many children as we can, wherever they may live. We hope to increase our presence in many ways, including through telehealth, community affiliations, and outreach efforts and clinics.

In this issue, we share stories of hope through patient stories, research initiatives, a new clinic and donor opportunities.

We thank you for being part of our Shriners family and wish you every joy during this special time of year.

Sincerely,
Mel Bower
Chief Marketing and Communications Officer
Shriners Children's

PATIENT PERSPECTIVES

9-YEAR-OLD DIESEL spent more than 60 days at Shriners Children's Ohio recovering from burns to more than 40% of his body after an accident on the family farm. Below is a thank you note from his mom, Ginger.

Dear Shriners,
I don't know where to begin. We can't thank you enough for the care you gave to our son, Diesel. He was severely burned in August 2021 in a farming accident. We were scared to death when the local hospital said they were transporting him to Dayton – three hours away from home. We were in straight panic mode. We knew nothing about Shriners and nothing about severe burns. We spent two months in that hospital with our son. We are now so thankful that God sent us there. The hospital has the best doctors, nurses



and staff. They are top notch! Today, Diesel is back to doing what he loves, like swimming, fishing, camping and riding his dirt bike. We love Shriners! Thank you for the great care that got our boy back to being the boy we know.

Ginger

LEADERS IN CARE AWARDS 2020-22



WINTER 2022

Contents

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 4 Simply the Best; Reaching More Kids



PIONEERS IN PEDIATRICS

- 5 Amazing Care, Resilient Patients
- 8 Out of Tragedy Comes Innovation
- 9 Always Learning



CHAMPIONS IN HEALING

- 11 The Ultimate Goal
- 14 Joy to the World
- 16 The Buddy System



PARTNERS IN SERVICE

- 17 Connections of a Lifetime
- 19 Tackling Some Teamwork

OUR COMMUNITY

- 23 Artful Hands

 **VISIT US ONLINE** to find these stories and more at myleadersincare.com.

ON THE COVER: Lexie (far right) is grateful for the care she received for scoliosis at Shriners Children's Hawai'i. Along with spreading holiday cheer with her family, Lexie helps others by spreading the word about her journey.



Simply the Best

Shriners Children's recognized for orthopedics by U.S. News & World Report

Shriners Children's has once again been ranked nationally for orthopedics in the 2022-2023 Best Children's Hospitals rankings published by *U.S. News & World Report*. Now in their 16th year, the rankings include new measures for diversity, equity and inclusion.



The following Shriners Children's locations ranked in pediatric orthopedics:

- #10** Shriners Children's St. Louis (together with St. Louis Children's Hospital – Washington University)
- #19** Shriners Children's Northern California (together with UC Davis Children's Hospital)
- #27** Shriners Children's Erie (together with UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh)
- #31** Shriners Children's Salt Lake City (together with Intermountain Primary Children's Hospital – University of Utah)
- #45** Shriners Children's Lexington (together with Kentucky Children's Hospital)

“We are extremely excited by the 2022 *U.S. News & World Report* rankings,” said Frances A. Farley, M.D., chief medical officer of Shriners Children's. “We would like to thank all who participated in the process and congratulate our ranked pediatric orthopedic programs, along with their affiliates.”

Reaching More Kids

A new clinic brings care closer to home for patients in Mexico

On Aug. 29, 2022, we celebrated the official opening of the Shriners Children's clinic in Monterrey, Mexico, as part of our ongoing commitment to expand care to more kids in more places. The clinic, located adjacent to and affiliated with Christus Mugerza Hospital, will provide care for orthopedic conditions and certain types of healed burn injuries.

“We look forward to seeing the power of hope and healing transform lives here at our newest location,” said Jerry G. Gantt, chairman of the Board of Trustees of Shriners Children's.

Our strategy for increasing services in Mexico also includes:

- Restarting international outreach clinics
- Expanding telehealth relationships
- Establishing additional formal collaborations with high-quality hospitals (like Christus Mugerza) with a clinic model similar to our Monterrey and Tijuana locations
- Expanding research efforts with our Mexico City location
- Expanding education/training activities for local medical professionals



Shriners and a patient cut the ribbon at the new clinic in Monterrey, Mexico.

pioneers IN PEDIATRICS

EVERYDAY EXCELLENCE IN SPECIALTY TREATMENTS AND RESEARCH

With the expertise of Shriners Children's burn care teams and their dedication to helping each patient reach for their dreams, children take inspiring steps and make incredible recoveries. That's why families come to our burn care centers from hometowns near our locations as well as from around the world.

Meet patients Samantha and Kohen, who each experienced accidents at their homes that caused severe burn injuries. But through the quick action of their families and the skilled providers at Shriners Children's, they are smiling and back to doing what they do best: just being kids. >>

AMAZING CARE, RESILIENT PATIENTS

Stories across our system show the impact of our care for burn injuries

Samantha traveled from the Dominican Republic to Shriners Children's locations in the U.S. for burn care.



Kaitlyn (Kohen's mom) hopes that sharing her story inspires more parents of young children to create a safe kitchen environment in their homes.

Kohen had skin grafting as part of his treatment for burns on his abdomen and thighs.

Specialized attention

Last December, Kohen, an active 1½-year-old, was sitting in his high chair in the kitchen when he grabbed the cord of a nearby rice cooker. The contents fell into his lap, causing third- and fourth-degree burns to his abdomen and thighs.

“The doctors at the emergency room told us that, because Kohen is so young and the burns were so severe, we should take him to Shriners Children’s, as the burn team there specializes in both kids and burn care,” said his mother, Kaitlyn.

At Shriners Children’s Northern California, burn surgeon Kathleen Romanowski, M.D., performed an excision and skin grafting, and child life specialists provided physical and emotional support as they worked to give Kohen the best chance of healing and achieving the full functionality he had prior to the accident.

Kohen recovered at home and wore a personalized compression garment made by a seamstress with the occupational and physical therapy team to decrease pain during healing, protect his fragile skin and prevent scarring. He was monitored closely by the pediatric burn team and made a full recovery.

Like the other Shriners Children’s burn centers, the Northern California hospital is equipped to treat burn injuries of all degrees. From life-threatening burns to the smallest fingertip burn, the pediatric burn unit’s internationally recognized team of burn and plastic surgeons works alongside dedicated caregivers to provide the care and rehabilitation children need.

Kaitlyn will never look at her kitchen the same. She said she hopes that sharing her story inspires more parents of young children to create a safe kitchen environment in their homes.

Care that goes the distance

After a terrifying accident at her home in the Dominican Republic, Samantha received care at two Shriners Children's burn hospitals in the U.S.

"We were at home preparing to build a fire to toast marshmallows," explained Samantha's mother, Katheryne. "Samantha was sitting on her aunt's lap at a distance that should not have been dangerous. But we were not aware that close to the fire was a flammable liquid without the top on." The container exploded, injuring both Samantha and her aunt, who tried to protect the little girl.

Although she arrived at a local hospital within minutes, Samantha's treatment was difficult and painful. After two months without improvement, her family moved Samantha to a private clinic and then connected with the local Shriners club, who helped start the process for her to come to Shriners Children's.

Initially treated at our Galveston facility, Samantha transferred to our Boston hospital and the care of Chief of Staff Robert Sheridan, M.D., because it is easier to travel to Boston from the Dominican Republic.

"I have so many words to say about how well we were both cared for – Samantha as a patient and me as her mother," said Katheryne. "We now live in Georgia and are a large, close-knit family who gives a lot of love, joy and, most importantly, happiness to the youngest of the house, Samantha. We are her support, as it is difficult for her at this age to understand what happened to her. We try to teach her that the most valuable thing is family, who will always be with her." 🍷

"I have so many words to say about how well we were both cared for – Samantha as a patient and me as her mother."

– KATHERYNE, SAMANTHA'S MOM



In Honor of Burn Awareness Week Feb. 5–11, 2023

During this week in February, Shriners Children's launches its annual burn awareness and prevention campaign.

Visit beburnaware.org for helpful burn prevention tips and to order free educational materials designed for fire-fighters, teachers, parents and others concerned with the safety and well-being of children.



Samantha participates in Halloween fun during her care at Shriners Children's.

Out of Tragedy Comes Innovation

A look back at the incredible story of how our world-class burn program came to be



Shriners Children's Northern California launched a first-of-its-kind burn program in the aftermath of a plane crash.

In 1972, a vintage Korean War-era fighter jet attempted to head home after an airshow at Sacramento Executive Airport in Sacramento, California. The jet failed to get airborne and slammed into an ice cream parlor across the street, killing 23 people, including 10 children, and injuring 25. Sacramento City firefighter Gene LaVine and eight family members were among those lost in the fiery crash.

What was, at the time, the worst air-ground tragedy in U.S. history led to the launch of the pediatric burn program at Shriners Children's Northern California. It is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

Meeting the need of the tragedy

Recognizing the need for a significant response, Sacramento Fire Department Captain Cliff Haskell and firefighters with Local 522 began fundraising to establish a specialized burn unit for the Sacramento region. Haskell's initial fundraising campaigns formed the Firefighters Burn Institute (FFBI) in 1973.

"Shortly after the crash, FFBI had its own burn unit – a small burn unit at UC Davis," said Joe Pick, executive director of FFBI. "Now, it is a premier burn unit."

Since its founding, FFBI has expanded its mission to include burn research, public outreach and education, as well as burn prevention. It also hosts burn recovery programs for survivors and their families.

Inspiring Shriners Children's to collaborate

The leaders of Shriners Children's Northern California took note of the UC Davis and FFBI collaboration, and they approached leaders of UC Davis Health to explore the possibility of working together to offer a multidisciplinary specialty pediatric health-care facility that focused on burns.

In 1997, Shriners Children's Northern California, in affiliation with UC Davis Health, launched a first-of-its-kind pediatric burn program led by Chief of Burns, David Greenhalgh, M.D., who was recruited to lead the burn programs at both the Northern California Shriners Hospital and UC Davis Health. FFBI welcomed the opening of Shriners Children's Northern California and its focus on children. They immediately incorporated the pediatric burn program into their priorities.

To this day, FFBI partners with the hospital to promote advances at professional meetings like the American Burn Association and the Phoenix Society, host summer camps for child burn survivors, sponsor education for pediatric nurse specialists and support the burn prevention program at the Shriners hospital.

Shriners Children's Northern California received a substantial gift this year of \$25 million and renamed the burn program the Neil Reitman Pediatric Burn Institute.

Shriners Children's also offers burn care at its facilities in Boston, Massachusetts; Dayton, Ohio; and Galveston, Texas. 📍



Left to right: Chief of Burns, David Greenhalgh, M.D.; Assistant Chief of Burns, Tina Palmieri, M.D.; and pediatric burn surgeon Soman Sen, M.D.

TO LEARN MORE about Shriners Children's pediatric burn care, visit shrinerschildrens.org.

Always Learning

A commitment to research helps Shriners Children's provide life-changing care



Our research leads to better treatments, so our patients, including Alec, can pursue their goals.

Conducting innovative research that will improve the quality of care and quality of life for children and families is part of Shriners Children's mission. What began more than 40 years ago as a small program with a budget of just \$12,000 has become a strong, respected research program with a multimillion-dollar annual budget. The work has made strides in areas spanning genetics, musculoskeletal conditions, severe burns and spinal cord injuries.

A history of discoveries that make a difference

Shriners Children's researchers have made landmark discoveries and advances that make a significant difference in treatment approaches and in the lives of our patients, including:

- Artificial skin and improved wound-healing techniques for severe burns
- Effective treatments for X-linked

hypophosphatemia and osteogenesis imperfecta (OI)

- Refining the use of functional electrical stimulation to help some children with spinal cord injuries, as well as those with cerebral palsy, to stand, walk and use their hands more effectively
- Discovery that a mutation in the gene for fibrillin is responsible for Marfan syndrome
- Improving the survival rate and quality of life of persons with severe burns
- Elaboration of a treatment for OI that involves infusion therapy and has become a standard of care
- Advancing in utero surgical techniques for fetal repair of spina bifida
- Discovery of a protein, biomarker CXM, which mirrors the child's rate of bone growth, giving physicians the ability to quickly predict growth rate and make more-informed treatment decisions >>

Grants and Projects

In 2022, the research team managed:

- 26** large-scale basic research grants
- 23** large-scale clinical research grants
- 13** developmental grants
- 4** request-for-proposal projects
- 7** seed grants with Georgia Institute of Technology
- 10** special shared facilities and six research fellowships, as well as multiple administrative awards
- 19** of these Shriners Children's-funded grants involve more than one of our healthcare locations as a participating site



Clinical research in areas like genomics can help inform treatment decisions.

An ongoing goal to grow

Building on the success of groundbreaking research, the Shriners Children’s strategic plan prioritizes the creation of tools and affiliations that will align with our clinical goals and raise the profile of our research program, including:

GENOMICS AND PRECISION MEDICINE: The Shriners Children’s Genomics Institute continues its mission to perform DNA sequencing of samples from our patients and their families. Our Mexico City hospital is now included in this effort, which enhances our data and possibilities.

The availability of advanced DNA sequencing to our medical and scientific staff is driving new areas of clinical research and inspiring collaborative efforts. Recently funded genomics-related projects include studies of genetics and cerebral palsy, genetic links to opioid efficacy in patients with burns, and genetic links to facial asymmetry.

MOTION ANALYSIS: In the Shriners Children’s motion analysis centers, care teams use high-speed cameras, reflective markers, force platforms and muscle sensors to record and measure how a child with a mobility impairment is moving, allowing clinicians to create more accurate, individualized treatment plans.

Our researchers and engineers collaborate with universities and other institutions on new technologies in motion analysis that provide similar information with significantly less staff time. In addition, these systems are portable, potentially allowing us to bring motion analysis to more kids in more places, a major goal of Shriners Children’s. We are also exploring wearable sensors that monitor joint motion and activity levels, providing a more accurate picture of the way a patient walks during the day.

Additionally, researchers are examining how patients can use virtual reality and games to help surgeons measure the outcomes of upper extremity surgeries.



Research in motion analysis helps surgeons measure outcomes.



Artificial intelligence is the latest frontier in scoliosis intervention.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI): AI is becoming increasingly important in pediatric medicine. At Shriners Children’s, we are applying AI to early intervention in idiopathic scoliosis. Working with engineers at the Georgia Institute of Technology, our research aims to help develop models that will automate the calculation of various spinal measurements used to diagnose scoliosis, ultimately improving clinical management. This machine-learning endeavor involves “training” computers with 1,000 spinal X-rays of patients with scoliosis. 🤖

What began more than 40 years ago as a small program with a budget of just \$12,000 has become a strong, respected research program.

champions IN HEALING

A FAMILY-CENTERED APPROACH TO COMPASSIONATE CARE

THE ULTIMATE GOAL

*Shriners Children's supports
kids in pursuing their passions*

Emma (pictured here as a high-school senior) was a patient at Shriners Children's Texas and is now a practicing attorney and an activist.

At Shriners Children's, our goal is to support patients in imagining a future full of possibility. No matter what a child's challenges may be, Shriners Children's is dedicated to fostering the well-being and resilience that kids need to reach for their goals. Here are some patients who are doing just that. >>

Emma received 19 scholarships and awards during her time in college and law school.

A voice for change

Emma is a tireless advocate for people who need help and for causes she believes in. A personal injury associate attorney in Houston, she fights for workers, consumers and injured people. Emma, 26, is passionate about civil rights, and since college, she has been involved in creating change surrounding issues of reproductive justice, public education, LGBTQ+ equality and voting rights.

Emma, who was born with a cleft lip and palate, was adopted from China just after her first birthday. After moving to the United States and getting settled with her new family, she became a patient of Shriners Children’s Texas, where she received treatments for more than 17 years. From the very beginning, the Shriners Children’s medical team made it clear to her parents that in addition to the hearing tests, speech therapy, surgeries and orthodontic work that Emma would receive, they would make supporting Emma’s self-esteem a priority. Emma grew up knowing she was brilliant, beautiful, strong and would change the world.

Emma attended Texas State University (where she was on the Dean’s List each semester and graduated magna cum laude) and the University of Houston Law Center. She received 19 scholarships and awards during her time in college and law school.

In high school, Emma created the “Cleft Community” Instagram account (@CleftCommunity). The Cleft Community network supports and empowers people who were born with a cleft lip and/or cleft palate and is a resource for families and friends of people with that condition.

Emma enjoys spending time with her family, friends and her girlfriend, Valerie. Emma said that to her, living a full, productive and meaningful life means living with a purpose, by helping others and experiencing the best things in life. She believes she does this through her work as a plaintiff’s attorney and as an activist, but also as a daughter, friend and partner.

Emma, born with a cleft lip and palate, was adopted from China as a toddler.



Jan, who was treated for a rare congenital disorder as a child, is an accomplished professor and researcher.



A class act

Her students at the University of Nebraska Kearney know Jan as a tough professor, but a generous one. A former Shriners Children’s patient, Jan conducts research on hearing loss and speech production and teaches undergraduate and graduate classes. While she loves connecting with her students and even shares her homemade desserts with them, she maintains high expectations. It’s a mix that works, and Jan loves hearing from former students about how she changed their lives and cared deeply for them.

The 64-year-old has a long list of accomplishments – earning a doctorate, studying as a Fulbright scholar in Canada, becoming a wife and mother, teacher and researcher. It’s what her medical team at Shriners Children’s always wanted for her: to lead a full, productive life, pursuing her passions.

Jan was born with a rare congenital disorder called proximal femoral focal deficiency. A malformation of her femur and hip led to her right leg being shorter than her left. Over a 14-year period, Jan had a series of surgeries, starting at the Shriners Children’s in Shreveport, Louisiana, and continuing at the Shriners Children’s

“When you have a disability and you get such great care, you want to give back because you are more empathetic.”

– JAN



Jan had months-long stays at Shriners Children's Hawai'i.

Hawai'i location when her family moved to Honolulu. Surgeries were followed by months-long stays in the hospital and intense physical therapy.

"As challenging as it was to have the surgeries, spend a lot of time on my stomach because

of the full-body casts or walk to school in braces, I have a lot of fond memories during my time in Hawai'i," Jan said. "The Shriners provided me with really great care ... and hope," she said.

Jan credits her childhood experiences with defining her career and lifestyle. "When you have a disability and you get such great care, you want to give back because you are more empathetic," she said.

For Jan, living a meaningful life means being able to give of herself and motivate others, to change people's lives and help them succeed.

A tenacious researcher

Our healthcare system's multidisciplinary teams are dedicated to providing the best medical treatment possible and helping patients reach for their dreams. For Jennifer, a former patient at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Mexico, that means contributing to the world's store of medical knowledge through rare disease research.

Jennifer, 39, is studying for a doctorate in medical research in the field of molecular biology at the National Polytechnic Institute

(IPN), a top technical and engineering university in Mexico. She also collaborates on research projects at the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

Jennifer has arthrogyryposis multiplex congenita, a rare condition characterized by joint stiffness and muscle weakness throughout the body. She was also born with a congenital hip dislocation and clubfoot. Jennifer's mother said her baby spent her first days of life in a hospital undergoing painful treatments. Then a doctor suggested the family go to Shriners Hospitals.

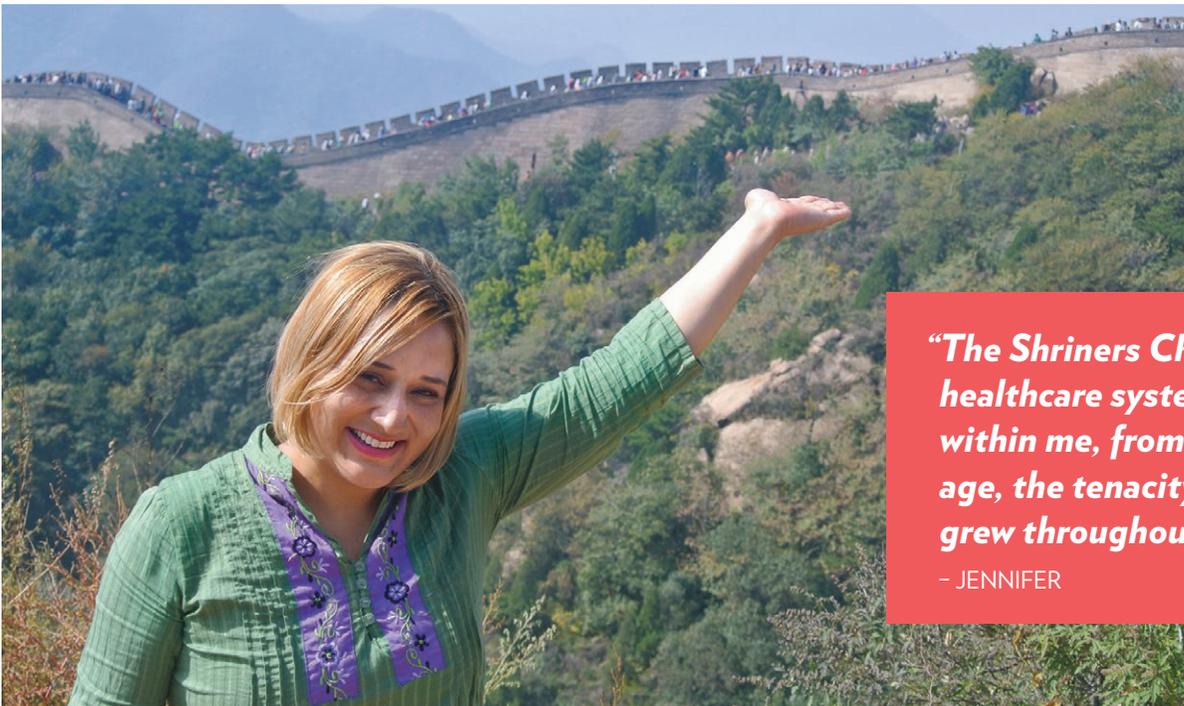
After that, Jennifer said, "My life changed forever."

The comprehensive treatment she received there, including psychological care, nutritional consultations and surgeries, instilled in Jennifer and her family that there are no limits in life. "The Shriners Children's healthcare system planted within me, from a very young age, the tenacity with which I grew throughout my life," Jennifer said.

Jennifer has been honored with incentives and recognition for her perseverance and tenacity. She received a scholarship to study in China, where she had the opportunity to climb the Great Wall.

"Even though I have a disability, and even though I had a total hip replacement nine years ago, I am a happy person," Jennifer said. "I owe it all to Shriners Hospitals." 🧠

DO YOU KNOW a child who could use our help in pursuing their goals? Have their parent or guardian call Shriners Children's at: **800-237-5055 (U.S.)** **800-361-7256 (Canada)**



Jennifer spent much of her childhood going through treatments for a rare disorder. She is now studying for her doctorate in medical research.

"The Shriners Children's healthcare system planted within me, from a very young age, the tenacity with which I grew throughout my life."

- JENNIFER

Joy to the World

How our patients, staff and communities spread holiday cheer

The holiday season, a time for joy and goodwill, brings out the best at Shriners Children's. Our staff, patients, families and communities come together to spread happiness, give back and support each other. Here are a few highlights of the ways we celebrate this special time of year.

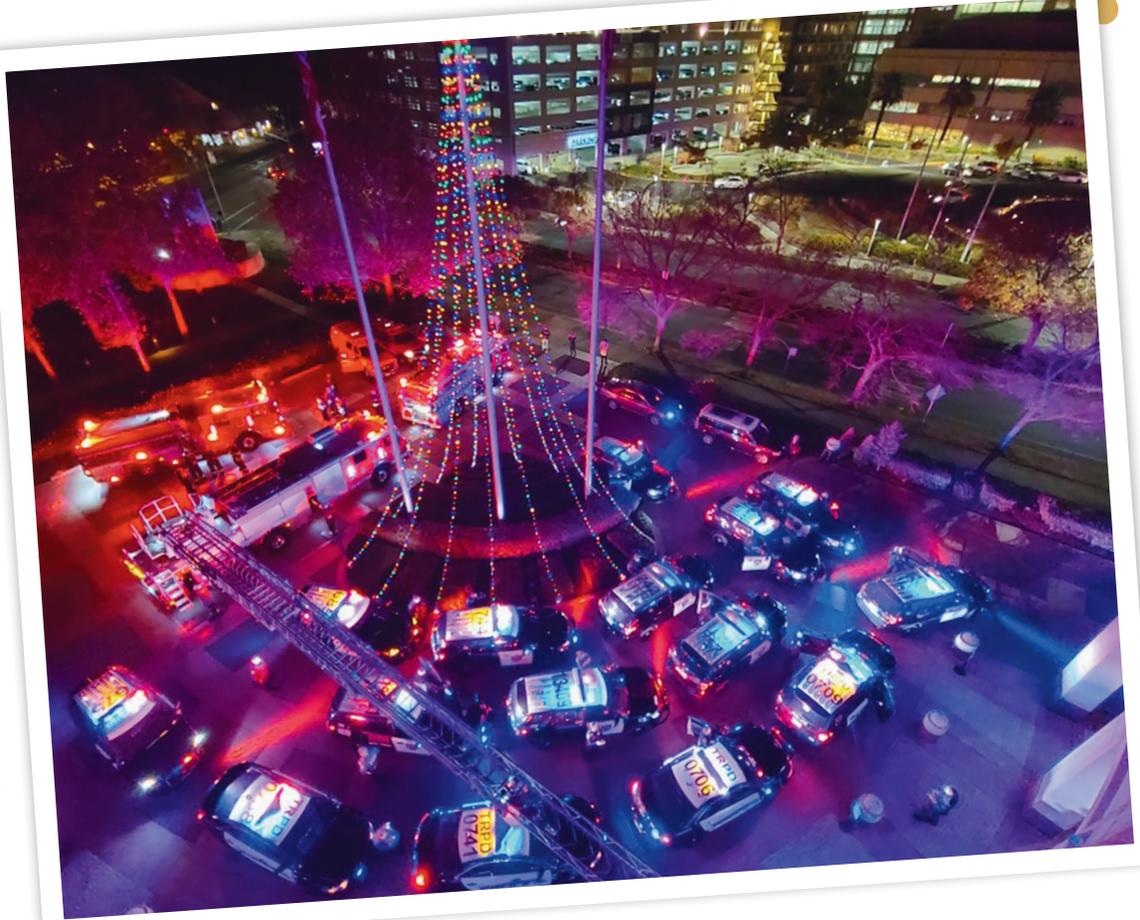
Lighting the night

For the past 23 years, the Halliwell family of Fairfield, Connecticut, has turned a beloved holiday tradition into an opportunity to give back to their community, and to Shriners Children's New England in Springfield, Massachusetts. Gene, a member of Pyramid Shriners in Stratford, Connecticut, and his wife, Mary, personally welcome the thousands of people who travel to their home on Roseville Terrace to celebrate the season by viewing a stunning outdoor light display, typically attracting more than 25,000 guests every year.

Visitors to Wonderland at Roseville are offered cookies and hot cocoa as they stroll through the Halliwell's property, all free of charge. Guests can make donations to Shriners Children's New England, and to date, the Halliwells have collected \$185,000 for the hospital.

In California, the Sacramento Police and Fire Departments team up every year to bring some holiday magic to patients at Shriners Children's Northern California by rolling into the front parking circle and filling the night sky with flashing and strobing lights. Young patients and families watch and wave back

with flashlights of their own from the windows of hospital rooms above. The special night lights up the sky, but more importantly lifts the spirits of young children at the Northern California Shriners Hospital.



Squad cars and fire trucks light the night in the Shriners Children's Northern California parking lot.

The special night lights up the sky, but more importantly lifts the spirits of young children at the Northern California Shriners Hospital.

"This gift from the Sacramento Police, Sacramento Fire and Sacramento Regional Transit has become a special tradition that brings joy, excitement and a little light of hope to our patients and families throughout the holiday season," said Michelle O'Hara, Manager of Therapeutic Recreation and Child Life.

The light show is part of a national Good Night Lights program that brings a holiday light show to children every week of the holiday season. Every December, a collective effort is made by local police and fire departments to illuminate the lives of children who are currently hospitalized.



Donated Legos bring holiday joy to patients.

Lights of Love brightens the Chicago hospital (top), and a patient gets a visit from Santa in Lexington (above).

Building joy

Since 2019, Bill Collins of East Longmeadow, Massachusetts, has donated tens of thousands of dollars' worth of Lego sets to the patients at Shriners Children's New England during the holiday season. His family's connection to the healthcare system has made the Lego project a personal mission.

Collins' son, William, became a Shriners Children's patient when he was diagnosed with idiopathic infantile scoliosis when he was a year old. Now 5, William's spinal curve has been reduced from 57 degrees to just 10 degrees and is monitored regularly at Shriners Children's New England. He still wears a back brace, but only while sleeping.

"It's amazing to watch William run around with his sister, play soccer and tennis and explore the world brace-free," said Bill. "There's no stopping him!"

The level of comfort and peace of mind Shriners Children's provided to Bill and his family as they navigated unknown territory with their baby boy is something that he will never forget.

"I know the joy my own kids experience from receiving Legos, so I wanted to pass along that same feeling to other children and their families," he said.

Santa comes to town

The holiday spirit comes alive throughout the Shriners Children's system when Santa comes to town.

Santa Claus, the children's favorite visitor, makes his way around our facilities, bringing joy and a welcome distraction from the worry that may come from being in a medical facility.

At our Lexington, Kentucky, location, Santa's visits are coordinated through the recreational therapy program, which aims to

provide distraction, play and enrichment opportunities for patients to ease their fears and build their confidence during what could otherwise be intimidating procedures.

"A visit from Santa brightens everyone's day, but for our patients, you can tell by the smile on their faces that it makes such a difference," said Frazann Milbern, a recreational therapist at Shriners Children's Lexington. "The patients and families are always so excited that their kids will get to see Santa. Each year, I hear stories that the family could not get to the mall or store to see Santa, so to have him here for a doctor's appointment is always exciting."

A visit to the "North Pole"

At our Chicago location, patients have a chance to see Santa's workshop. Last year, because of COVID, Shriners Children's Chicago moved Santa's workshop outdoors as part of the hospital's first outdoor Lights of Love festival, allowing patients and families, and bears of all kinds, to celebrate the season safely. The Chicago Bears provided a bear hug from Staley Da Bear and had Bears goodies as giveaways for patients. Community partner Little Elves of Love set up a tent of toys for families to walk through and pick out favorites, keeping the tradition intact. The event was complete with hot chocolate, music and, of course, our system's mascot, Fezzy.

From everyone at Shriners Children's, happy holidays! 🧡



The Buddy System

Getting medical treatment is easier with someone special by your side

When a major medical treatment is scheduled at Shriners Children’s Greenville, there’s one preliminary procedure the kids look forward to: a visit to the Build-A-Bear Foundation Buddy Room.

Upon entering, children’s eyes widen in delight as they take in the shelves lining the walls, where a rainbow of colorful stuffed toys look down. Racks of hangers hold tiny clothes of every color and style.

And it’s all for them, courtesy of the Build-A-Bear Foundation, which has joined forces with Shriners Children’s to create an opportunity for patients to select a complimentary toy and customize it with just the right accessories. The program has been in place at the Greenville Shriners Children’s location for several years, and now the organizations are uniting to bring Buddy Rooms to Shriners Children’s locations throughout North America.

Prioritizing emotional well-being

“Build-A-Bear serves as an emotional anchor for our patients in a couple of important ways,” said Melissa Owen, child life specialist at Shriners Children’s Greenville. “Not only does it provide them with a way to creatively express themselves through the choice of a bear or outfit, but the bears are often a patient’s comfort item during surgery day. Comfort items are important for children of all ages to soothe and provide a sense of safety.”

Sadie, 13, has experienced this sense of comfort. She has been a patient at the Greenville hospital since she was a month old. Diagnosed prenatally with arthrogryposis, she has come to see the hospital as a friendly, welcoming place. And her mom, Jessie, appreciates the priority that Shriners Children’s places on caring for patients’ emotional well-being.

“For them to do that, it’s not trivial,” Jessie said. “It’s monumental.”

Sadie received her first complimentary toy from Shriners Children’s Greenville’s



“Shriners Children’s makes such an effort. For her to not fear going to the hospital, to not dread her treatment, is a really big deal.”

– JESSIE, SADIE’S MOM



Sadie snuggles her Fezzy bear in the Buddy Room.

Build-A-Bear Foundation Buddy Room when she was about 6. Before a recent procedure, she got to choose a new one. “Shriners Children’s makes such an effort. For her to not fear going to the hospital, to not dread her treatment, is a really big deal,” Jessie said.

Jessie couldn’t be more pleased at the partnership’s expansion. “It will make getting care at Shriners Children’s just that much better,” she said.

Growing the partnership

The Foundation is giving a minimum of 5,000 stuffed toys to Shriners Children’s annually, along with an annual monetary donation to support the growth of the Buddy Rooms throughout the system.

The Build-A-Bear Foundation team is proud of its relationship with Shriners Children’s.

“We believe in the power of hugs and know a new furry friend can bring comfort and a smile during challenging times,” said Build-A-Bear Foundation President Voin Todorovic. “Our hope is that Build-A-Bear Foundation Buddy Rooms add a little more heart to the days of every patient by allowing them to get a special Build-A-Bear furry friend during their visit.”

YOU CAN HELP by donating furry friends, clothes and accessories toward the Build-A-Bear Foundation Buddy Room of your choice. Visit bit.ly/ShrinersBuildABear to learn more or donate now.

partners IN SERVICE

EVENTS, NEWS AND INSPIRATION FROM THE SHRINERS COMMUNITY

When Lily was “graduating” from care at Shriners Children’s, she wanted a way to remain involved with the place that had been part of her life for 20 years. As part of Shriners Children’s 100th Anniversary celebration, Lily’s dream was brought to life through the Patient Alumni Network (PAN), where past and present patients come together through mentoring, volunteering, fundraising and more. >>

Lily helped create the Patient Alumni Network, a way for former and current patients to connect.

CONNECTIONS OF A LIFETIME

Former patients celebrate success and pay it forward to the next generation

Care that inspired success

Lily was born without a fibula, the outer thin bone that runs from the knee to the ankle, in her right leg. She had surgery to amputate her right leg when she was 7 months old. She and her family made the four-hour trip to Shriners Children's Lexington, where she was a patient of pediatric orthopedic surgeon Vishwas Talwalkar, M.D., starting when she was a toddler. The Pediatric Orthotic and Prosthetic Services team fit her with prosthetic legs throughout her 20 years as a patient.

Lily understood she had something many other kids with limb differences did not. "Even when I was little, I knew there were kids similar to me who didn't have the same outcomes," Lily said. "My doctors were careful to give me what I specifically needed to do the things I wanted to do. I saw other kids that didn't get that and maybe weren't as mentally healthy and didn't feel as capable because of it."

Lily graduated from nursing school in 2021 and now works in a trauma surgical intensive care unit for adults. Thanks to her time at Shriners Children's, Lily knows just how critical patient-centered care can be for positive outcomes. "I plan to carry forward the same holistic care that I got at Shriners to my patients," she said.

Giving back and forming bonds

Lily also wants to keep giving back to Shriners Children's.

"Because everyone at Shriners Children's Lexington was so encouraging to me to pursue what I wanted and gave me the tools I needed to do it, it gave me a lot of confidence," she said. "I played sports. I danced. I'm a nurse now. That's a very physical job. I might not have had the confidence to do those things without Shriners Children's."

In 2018, Lily was named a National Patient Ambassador for Shriners Children's and has participated in a variety of projects for the hospital system. The Patient Alumni Network, which officially launched this year, is her latest project, and she serves as president. It's a way for patients to bond over their shared experiences, feel as if they are still part of the Shriners Children's family and look for ways to help the next generation of Shriners Children's kids.

"Whether you were a patient of Shriners Children's yesterday or 75 years ago, we know you have a wealth of talents, knowledge,

"Whether you were a patient of Shriners Children's yesterday or 75 years ago, we know you have a wealth of talents, knowledge, passion and experience to give. This network was created so that we can give together." - LILY

passion and experience to give. This network was created so that we can give together," Lily shared. "We hope each alum will bring their big ideas to the group and together, we can make them happen!"

Meet the PAN leadership team

Lily is joined by a team of tireless advocates and former patients who lead the work of the PAN.

Allison and Jory, who were both treated at Shriners Children's Florida, are a husband-and-wife team who work with the Sudan Shriners in New Bern, North Carolina. They take great pride in fundraising and helping spread the word about the amazing care provided at Shriners Children's.

Amy is a former patient of Shriners Children's Chicago, where she started treatment for hip dysplasia when she was 1 1/2 years old. She had 20 years of casting, traction, surgery and monitoring. She and her husband (a Shriner), volunteer annually at the Shriners Children's Open golf tournament, held in Las Vegas, Nevada, and support their local hospital, Shriners Children's Greenville.

"Even though my leg length discrepancy was improved by age 16, being dismissed from care at that point was a very sad day." - JAN



Allison and Jory



Amy



Dennie



Jan



Seth

“Since my treatment at Shriners Children’s, I’ve resumed playing sports, most notably golf.” – SETH

Ronald “Dennie” was treated at Shriners Children’s locations in both Philadelphia and St. Louis for scoliosis, which was corrected through diligent brace-wearing. “Thanks to the work of Shriners Children’s, I was able to serve in the Army for over 27 years.” A proud Mason and Shriner, Dennie served as the Potentate (president) of Jamil Shriners in 2021.

Jan spent 15 years being treated for proximal focal femur deficiency (PFFD) of the right hip between Shriners Children’s Hawai’i and Shreveport locations, including surgeries and intensive physical therapy. She says, “Even though my leg length discrepancy was improved by age 16, being dismissed from care at that point was a very sad day.” Jan is a professor at the University of Nebraska Kearney in the department of Communication Disorders. (See page 12 for more about Jan.)

Seth was treated in 2017 at Shriners Children’s Philadelphia for scoliosis. His care included an innovative operation developed at Shriners Children’s called vertebral body tethering. “Since my treatment at Shriners Children’s, I’ve resumed playing sports, most notably golf.” Seth just started his freshman year of college and joined the golf team. He served as a National Patient Ambassador from 2021-2022, traveling all over the country representing all patients from Shriners Children’s.

“The Patient Alumni Network was created by the Shriners Children’s patients of yesterday because no one knows better than us how important holistic health, confidence and the ability to reach toward goals are,” said Lily. 🧡



NFL alumni members, with Shriners Children’s patient Brandon, attend the Queen City Classic.

Tackling Some Teamwork

Shriners Children’s and NFL Alumni work together to improve lives

For 100 years, Shriners Children’s has worked with patients, families, community leaders, members of fraternal organizations and donors to further its mission and provide preeminent specialized pediatric care to children. These dedicated individuals have helped make it possible for Shriners Children’s to expand services, invest in technology and keep its century-old promise to care for children regardless of the families’ ability to pay or insurance status.

A new opportunity

In keeping with this long-held spirit of collaboration, Shriners Children’s Greenville is proud to announce a new affiliation with the NFL Alumni Carolinas Chapter, which will include the Queen City Classic Golf Tournament held in Charlotte, North Carolina, a fundraiser for Shriners Children’s. The NFL Alumni is a national membership organization with 37 chapters throughout the United States that focuses on a mission of “Caring for Kids, Caring for their Own and Caring for their Communities.”

“Our two organizations are aligned in their individual missions,” said Adrian Murrell, president of the NFL Alumni Carolinas Chapter and former NFL running back. “We anticipate the Queen City Classic will bring our organizations together in ways that allow both organizations to have an even greater impact on the communities we serve.”

Raising awareness

The Queen City Classic, sponsored by Resort Development Partners, is a scramble format golf tournament that features corporate foursomes paired with former NFL players. A previous Classic included Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee and Super Bowl Champion Lawrence Taylor and Charlotte resident and Super Bowl XXXI Champion Eugene Robinson. An enticing and unique component of the Queen City Classic is the winning team’s automatic entry in the Super Bowl of Golf at Mission Hills Country Club in Palm Springs, California.

The highlight of the 2022 Queen City Classic hosted at Pine Island Country Club was a presentation by Brandon, a 12-year-old Shriners Children’s Patient Ambassador. Brandon shared his incredible story of hard work, resilience and triumph after a virus left him paralyzed on his left side. “Shriners Children’s is the reason I am walking and am standing in front of you today,” said Brandon.

Plans are already underway for the 2023 Queen City Classic in Charlotte, continuing the ability for Shriners Children’s and the NFL Alumni to affect the lives of the children in the communities each nonprofit serves. Shriners Children’s Greenville looks forward to this collaborative opportunity to raise awareness and support for the missions of both organizations next year. 🧡



ARE YOU A FORMER PATIENT
interested in joining? Visit bit.ly/ShrinersPAN
for more information.

TO LEARN how you can
support the work of Shriners Children’s,
please visit lovetotherescue.org.

The Feel-Good Way to Use Your IRA

Transform the Lives of Patients at Shriners Hospitals for Children

Your individual retirement account (IRA) is a smart way to ensure your dreams for retirement come true. But did you know your IRA can also provide for the dreams of patients at Shriners Hospitals for Children®?

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

- If you're 70½ or older, you can use the IRA charitable rollover (also known as a qualified charitable distribution) to make a tax-free gift to Shriners Hospitals for Children. Transfer any amount up to \$100,000 per year, and you'll provide kids with complex medical needs the care they deserve – regardless of the families' ability to pay.
- If you are required to take minimum distributions, you can use this transfer to satisfy your obligation. It's a win for you and for young patients.

HOW YOU BENEFIT:

- You'll feel good seeing your gift transform the lives of children.
- You'll pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer doesn't generate taxable income

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NOT 70½ YET?

When you reach the age of 59½, you may withdraw funds from your IRA without penalty. You'll pay income tax on the amount you withdraw, but if you itemize your tax deductions, you are eligible to take an income tax charitable deduction for the full value of the gift.

Make Your Gift Today

Contact us to learn the many ways your IRA can make a difference for kids.

Contact the Planned and Major Giving Office at plannedgiving@shrinenet.org or 866-954-1576 for more information.



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You have a generous spirit. We know you care deeply for the kids and families at Shriners Hospitals for Children® and want them to thrive for years to come.

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If you reside in New York, please contact us directly as your rates may vary slightly. Rates are subject to change.



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Patient Stories Pull on Shriner's Heartstrings

Donor secures his future and gives kids a chance to soar



When Dan Carter would adjust a component, tighten a screw or rewire a circuit during his 36 years as an electronic technician for the Federal Aviation Administration, he understood what his precision and attention to detail meant for each passenger flying on an airplane. His contributions ensured safety, enhanced security and engendered trust among those he served.



Today, Carter brings the same values to his support of Shriners Hospitals for Children®. It's why he's chosen to create a charitable gift annuity, which offers him reliable, fixed payments for life, while providing exceptional pediatric care to children everywhere.

"Kids are the best salespeople," jokes Carter, who especially enjoys reading patient stories. And he has seen firsthand how Shriners Hospitals for Children helps improve the lives of those with complex medical conditions.

"Growing up, I had a cousin who was a patient at Shriners," he recalls. A former colleague's daughter was also treated for a congenital hip condition and

was inspired to become a physical therapist because of the outstanding care she received.

"Both of them had nothing but good things to say about their experiences," Carter explains. "So, I thought it would be a good organization to give to." In fact, it was his appreciation of the hospitals that led him to be a Shriner for 25 years. And it's another reason why he's chosen to establish a charitable gift annuity – securing his future and giving more kids a chance to soar.

TO LEARN MORE, contact the Planned and Major Giving Office at 866-954-1576 or plannedgiving@shrinenet.org.



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Planned and Major Giving Office

2900 Rocky Point Drive
Tampa, FL 33607

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shrinershospitalsplannedgiving.org

ARTFUL HANDS

NAME: FELICITY FISHMAN, M.D.

EXPERTISE: SURGEON

LOCATION: CHICAGO



Keaton is all smiles after surgery with his shark cast.

“The idea for the cast art always comes from the patient or parent.”

Patients come to Shriners Children’s for a variety of hand conditions, including syndactyly (or webbed fingers), the most common limb difference. For surgeon Felicity Fishman, M.D., at Shriners Children’s Chicago, treatment for this condition is a true work of art.

“Pretty much every surgeon draws their proposed incision with a marker prior to actually incising (cutting) the skin,” Dr. Fishman said. But in Dr. Fishman’s operating room, the day also ends with art. After the patient’s tiny fingers are separated, incisions closed, and a protective cast applied, in a few brief minutes as the cast sets, the surgical nurse has artist’s markers at the ready.

“The idea for the cast art always comes from the patient or parent. I ask the kids (or their parent if they are too young to communicate) what they would like drawn on their cast, so it’s personalized for them,” Dr. Fishman said. She has created snowflakes for Frozen fans, dinosaurs and even snowmen.

Patient Keaton picked a T-Rex for the surgery on his left hand and a shark for his right. Glancing at a reference photo from the internet, Dr. Fishman created custom art, bringing in her orthopedic resident as co-artist. In a few short minutes, with the sterilized grey markers and some orange coloring, she created the scene for Keaton on his watery blue cast.

Dr. Fishman said custom cast art is about much more than making the cast look fun. “Just like choosing a cast color, the personalized drawing helps to give the patient a bit more control in a situation that is generally out of their control and can be scary or unpleasant,” she said.

LEADERS IN care

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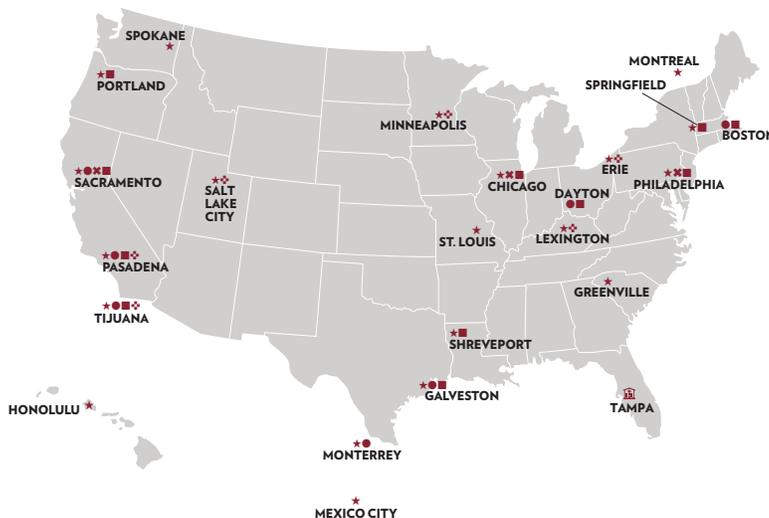
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MIRACLES MAGIC & MILESTONES

Join host *Kristen Bell*
as *Shriners Children's*
celebrates 100 years of
amazing care in this special
Disney/ABC TV event



LOCATIONS



- ★ Orthopedics
- Burns
- ✕ Spinal cord injury
- Cleft lip and palate
- ⊕ Outpatient care only; necessary inpatient care provided at an affiliated facility
- 🏠 Shriners Children's and Shriners International's Headquarters