

## News Briefs

### Spring Pediatrics Poster Session

Staff are invited to view the latest research conducted by The Children's Hospital's physicians, fellows, residents and nurses at the 2008 Annual Spring Pediatrics Poster Session on Fri., May 16, noon - 2 p.m. in the Mt. Yale/Mt. Princeton conference rooms located on the second floor of the main hospital.

Fellows, faculty, residents, nurses and all Children's professional staff are encouraged to participate. (Fellows' posters will be judged and awards will be given.) Materials including poster panels, binder clips and pushpins will be provided. Contact Elle Lothlorien, professional research assistant, Pediatric Clinical Trials Research Center, at 720-777-6075 no later than Mon., May 12 to reserve space.

### DAISY Award Hosts Special Guests

DAISY Foundation founders, Mark and Bonnie Barnes, will visit The Children's Hospital during the May 29 recognition event scheduled for 11 a.m. – noon in Mt. Harvard.

The DAISY program, standing for Disease Attacking the Immune System, awards nurses who exemplify "superhuman efforts" every day. In addition, all nurses and staff in the honoree's department receive cinnamon rolls, acknowledging the fact that it takes a team to provide great patient care.

The not-for-profit foundation, based in Glen Ellen, Calif., was established by the Barnes family, whose son Patrick died of a little known, but not uncommon, autoimmune disease. The care Patrick received from nurses while he was in the hospital inspired the family to find a unique way of thanking these caregivers. For more information about the DAISY Foundation, visit [www.daisyfoundation.org](http://www.daisyfoundation.org)

## Grant Pinpoints Origins of Chronic Lung Disease in Premature Infants

The Children's Hospital received a \$3.5 million, five-year National Institutes of Health grant to research mechanisms in which premature babies develop bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD) or chronic lung disease.

"Based on laboratory studies at our Pediatric Heart Lung Center, we have developed the concept that disruption of normal growth of the lung's blood vessels, due to premature birth and injury to the lung, is a major cause of BPD and increases the risk for pulmonary hypertension in premature infants," explained principal investigator Steven Abman, MD, director, Pediatric Heart Lung Center.

The group also proposed that early changes in blood levels of vascular progenitor cells, proteins and molecules (biomarkers) that are involved in vascular development and genetic differences (polymorphisms) may identify premature infants who are at the highest risk for developing BPD and pulmonary hypertension.

"As survival of our tiniest premature babies has markedly improved, the number of infants who develop BPD has also increased," said Dr. Abman. "Mechanisms that lead to BPD and make some premature infants susceptible for BPD are poorly understood." In addition, Dr. Abman added, there is a growing number of infants with BPD who also develop severe pulmonary artery hypertension due to abnormalities of blood vessels and poor lung growth.

The study will measure early changes in biomarkers and polymorphisms in premature infants, and will determine the presence and severity BPD and pulmonary hypertension by serial echocardiograms (heart ultrasound studies) in premature newborns. The cardiac and respiratory course will be followed throughout infancy and early childhood to determine late outcomes.



Steven Abman, MD, director, Pediatric Heart Lung Center, pictured left, and Peter Mourani, MD, section of critical care at Children's and assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine, visit the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

"This is highly original research that extends our previous work in basic science studies and other clinical research regarding the impact of prematurity on the developing lung circulation and its role in causing BPD," Dr. Abman stated. "This work also follows our past studies that suggest that early treatment with inhaled nitric oxide can decrease BPD in some premature infants."

Dr. Abman hopes that at the study's end the clinical information gathered will help clinicians not only have a better understanding of how BPD develops and the reasons why, but will allow for earlier and novel therapies to prevent BPD.

### BPD Study Team Members

- Steve Abman, MD, principal investigator; director, Pediatric Heart Lung Center
- Peter Mourani, MD, major investigator, Critical Care
- Vivek Balasubramaniam, MD, pulmonary medicine
- John Kinsella, MD, neonatology
- John Kinsella, MD, neonatology
- Adel Younasai, MD, cardiology
- Members of the Pediatric Heart and Lung Center Laboratory and the Pediatric Clinical and Translational Research Center

And support from The Children's Hospital Research Institute in helping to provide pilot data for this grant.

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See "The Dot"

## MISSION

To improve the health of children through the provision of high-quality, coordinated programs of patient care, education, research and advocacy.

## Values

Quality Patient Care and Safety, Family-Centered Care, Employee Excellence, Customer Service and Innovation.

## In the News

Here are a few highlights of The Children's Hospital's recent press mentions:

- Tony Edelblute, music therapist with The Ponzio Creative Arts Therapy Center, was on Voice of America's American Life: People, Places & Issues in the News Across America on April 2 to talk about his family music therapy sessions that use a 'personality as musical instrument' approach to help families understand what they sound like... and how they can harmonize better."
- The Children's Hospital kicked off Child Abuse Prevention Month on April 1 with a lighting ceremony of blue lights and ribbons along Children's Way to symbolize child abuse prevention. Jim Shmerling, president and chief executive officer; Andrew Sirotiak, MD, medical director of the Kempe Child Protection Team; and the McLaughlin family whose son fell victim to Shaken Baby Syndrome, spoke at the event. *Channels 7 and 9* and *The Aurora Sentinel* covered the event. *Channel 9* ran a follow-up story about the Child Protection Team on April 3.
- Nancy Krebs, MD, director of the GoodLIFE Clinic, an obesity clinic at Children's, was interviewed for a March 30 *Colorado Springs Gazette* article about childhood obesity. The 2003 National Survey of Children's Health found that 30.6 percent of the nation's children ages 10 to 17 were overweight or obese. Colorado earned the second-lowest ranking among states, with 21.9 percent of children weighing in as overweight or obese.

To view these stories and additional press mentions, visit PlanetTCH. From the PlanetTCH menu, select *Publications & News* and click *Children's in the News*.



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## Dear Colleagues,

The Children's Hospital's recent annual meeting provided inspiring reminders of a simple truth: Our amazing facility, coupled with our regional

preeminence and rich history, gives voice to extraordinary stories of resilience, hope and courage.

If you missed this important gathering of staff, volunteers and physicians, please take a moment to read page eight with the personal reflection of Lisa Basquez, the mother of one-year-old Gabriel, who was born in 2007 with hypoplastic left heart syndrome. Shortly after his birth, he was transferred to Children's where he received a new heart; and, thus, a new chance at life.

The family's powerful story is but one of the countless experiences that have occurred within Children's walls that derive from the partnership of our staff, physicians, volunteers, and our patients and their families. Together, Children's extraordinary team provides exceptional care to the children and the families who seek our nationally renowned services.



**Dr. Shmerling unveiled Children's centennial brand, symbolizing the hospital's 100 years of service excellence, during the annual meeting on April 10.**

Recently, we recognized the backbone of Children's, our exemplary support staff, during Administrative Professionals Week (April 20-26). These professionals — a remarkable team comprised of schedulers, call center reps, therapy aides, unit secretaries, staff assistants, program assistants, executive assistants, patient service coordinators, billing coders, billing representatives, service specialists, CIS assistants, HIM assistants and a host of other important roles — solidly support Children's and play a major role in moving the organization forward.

I would also like to acknowledge our 138 laboratory professionals. While these staff members often work behind the scenes, they are the vital force responsible for performing tests that provide crucial information from diagnosis to therapy. Every day they face new challenges and, serving on the frontline of healthcare delivery, they provide "today's results for a healthier tomorrow," as the National Medical Laboratory Professionals' Week (April 20-26) was fittingly themed. I commend their outstanding contributions to the cause of children's health.

Finally, to the entire Children's team, I am grateful that your professional journey has brought you here, and I thank all of you for your unwavering compassion and exemplary commitment. I am humbled by all that you do!

Sincerely,

Jim Shmerling  
DHA, FACHE  
President and CEO

## To our nurses,

*In recognition of National Nurses' Week, I would like to thank and recognize each of you for all you do in your everyday practice. You provide exceptional care to our kids and families with such compassion and caring. Each of you is special, and sometimes you forget the powerful impact you have had on many lives. It is my privilege to work with such extraordinary nurses!*

*Thank you for all you do, and Happy Nurses' Week!*

**Linda K. Powers, MS, MBA, RN, CNAA**  
Vice President, Nursing, and Interim Chief Nursing Officer



The Public Relations (PR) Office has guidelines for contacting The Children's Hospital to arrange interviews, videotape sessions or photo opportunities.

Media presence at the hospital must be authorized and coordinated by PR. If you receive a call or inquiry from a media outlet, please contact Natalie Goldstein, media relations manager, 720-777-3970.

# May Marks Better Hearing and Speech Month

## *A look at Children's ASL Clinic*

Snack time is a highly anticipated time for a group of four- and five-year-old children. It is equally anticipated for two speech-language pathologists who use this particular snack time as a lesson in sign language. These children are not enjoying their snacks on a playground or in class; they are in group therapy at the Audiology, Speech Pathology and Learning Services (ASL) clinic at The Children's Hospital.

Children's has one of the largest and most clinically diverse ASL centers in the country with 14 audiologists, including a board certified cochlear implant specialist, 65 regionally and nationally renowned speech-language pathologists, 11 learning disability specialists and 13 support staff. This cross-team collaborative approach is designed to meet the needs of patients and their families and to best utilize resources to provide better, more comprehensive care.

"Our program is unique in also having related professionals within our department, such as a social worker, deaf educator and family consultant who help us meet the needs of the whole family related to their child's hearing, speech, language, feeding/swallowing or learning disability," said Kathy Boada, director, ASL, speech-language pathologist, MA, CCC-SLP.

The program is in high demand and continues to grow its services. ASL championed the concept of Children's in the community two decades ago when it became one of the first programs to deliver services outside the main campus. In 2007 the Aurora satellite closed and was relocated to an expanded facility in Parker to further accommodate its growing patient population. ASL also added Saturday treatment hours, instituting flexible scheduling and expanded its specialty program scheduling options to all metro-area locations.

"We believe children and families are best served when care is convenient, close to home and delivered by Children's experts," said Boada.

Family-centered care, a Children's philosophy that recognizes families as partners in care, is an integral component

of the program; families are encouraged to be involved with their child's treatment and therapy.

"Parents can watch through mirrored glass and listen with ear phones in an observation room to their child's progress and treatment plan," said Kim Lich, manager, ASL, MA, CCC-SLP. "This gives the parents an opportunity to understand their child's new skills and reinforce them at home."

The department is fortunate to have significant funding support for its programs and families through generous grants and scholarships to foster future community growth. The Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado (SRF) has been a partner with ASL and Children's since the 1950s, providing scholarship assistance to families in need of speech, language and learning therapy. The SRF also funded the first \$2 million endowed chair at the hospital. The funding support from

the endowed chair allows Children's ASL staff to share their expertise with SRF partner programs in communities throughout the state.

In 2005 the Daniels Fund committed \$3 million over the next 10 years to fund the Bill Daniels Center for Children's Hearing. The ASL and pediatric otolaryngology departments collaborate to provide comprehensive diagnostic, consultative and management services to children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

"Our program is unique in also having related professionals within our department, such as a social worker, deaf educator and family consultant who help us meet the needs of the whole family related to their child's hearing, speech, language, feeding/swallowing or learning disability,"

*said Kathy Boada, director, Audiology, Speech Pathology and Learning Services, Speech-Language Pathologist, M.A., CCC-SLP.*



**Top: Michele Martinez-Chadrom, bilingual speech and language pathologist, MA, CCC-SLP, uses Mr. Potato Head to teach Fernando the names of facial parts.**

**Bottom: Carolyn Dutton, learning specialist, MA, CA-LT, and Sydney look for diagraphs, a term Sydney recently learned, in a book together.**

Aside from providing quality care, ASL offers continuing education to its staff and community providers to improve access to quality pediatric care in its field of expertise.

"It is gratifying for our staff to mentor others, to improve our services and the care our kids receive," said Lich. "Ultimately, we learn from [mentoring] and the staff is seen as leaders and experts."

"For me, it's about providing quality care for our pediatric population," added Boada. "It's our obligation to share our knowledge and be forthcoming to accommodate the best we can. We strive to fulfill high expectations."

*If you would like more information about the department and its scope of services, or to make an appointment, call 720-777-6800.*

**Q: What year did the Agnes Reid Tammen Wing and Tammen Hall open?**

*Turn to page seven for the answer to this month's history question.*

# Ambulatory Services Goes Green One Cup at a Time

Early this year the Outpatient Pavilion and dentistry distributed approximately 700 ceramic mugs branded with The Children's Hospital's iconic Balloon Boy logo. Ambulatory Services provided its team with the mugs to help reduce reliance on disposable cups.

"With the addition of Flavia coffee machines, staff used more than 5,000 disposable cups in the three months after we relocated to the new hospital," explained Chris Martin, FACHE, director, Ambulatory Services. Staff loved the idea and the expense is expected to be recouped in four months.

John Hudgens, sustainability manager, is thrilled with the group's eco-friendly efforts. "It is yet another example of the strong environmental consciousness of our employees," he praised. "In addition, the short pay-back period demonstrates that being green can actually make good business sense as well."

Hudgens added that his team will evaluate the project and consider ways to expand the initiative throughout the hospital.

*Contact your ambulatory practice director if you work in the Outpatient Pavilion or dentistry and have not yet received a mug.*



**Greg Allen, MD, a Children's pediatric otolaryngologist and Kris Light, RN, clinical coordinator, know they are doing their part to help Children's reduce waste when they use their eco-friendly mugs during coffee breaks.**

## Kids' Galleries Presents "The Dot"

"The Dot" by Peter H. Reynolds is a book about a little girl who thinks she's not an artist. Her art teacher encourages her to make a mark on a piece of paper; from this encouragement, she has an entire art show of dots she created.

Children participating in The Children's Hospital's psychiatric programs were read the book during art therapy group sessions. Then they had the exciting opportunity to create their own dot for this special exhibit. The exhibit and the story of "The Dot" are a great reminder for adults and children alike that artwork can express so much imagination, even in just one dot.

"Throughout this process, many children who didn't consider themselves artists created beautiful and original artwork," said Lyndsay Gaffey, art therapy intern, The Ponzio Creative Arts Therapy Program. "After creating a dot, one child said, 'I wanted to mix different colors like in the book; a lot of different dots and different colors. I liked making this art because it was my own dot and it didn't matter what formation my dot was.'"

Organized and curated by Gaffey, the exhibit is displayed April through May in the Kids' Gallery, located in the lower level of the East Pavilion. Then, in June, the show will transfer to the new Kids' Gallery in the main hospital just off the The Boettcher Atrium.

*For more information about the Kids' Galleries, contact Katherine Reed, art therapist and manager of The Ponzio Creative Arts Therapy Program, 720-777-4360.*



# PeopleNews

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Jan Bernhard RN, CLC, Sarah Boyd, Deb Ferguson RN, CLC, Emily Pytell CA, CLC, Diana Rosenthal RN, RNC, CLC, and Jenny Wiggers CA, CLC, who completed a comprehensive lactation training program and successfully completed a Lactation Counselor Certification Exam administered by the Academy of Lactation Policy and Practice. We appreciate their commitment to providing lactation support to families and their peers!

– Submitted by Lisbeth Gabrielski, lactation clinical manager, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

## Above the Call

Alice's 36 Hours for Kids would not be possible without the support and team work of many individuals...Thank you to Kathleen McBride, Sue Dagg and the entire Association of Volunteers for your kindness and support during radiothon! Leonard Sanchez, Cindy McCall and the entire telecommunications team were invaluable with their assistance on the installation and monitoring of our new phone system. Thank you to Ed Wills from the conference center for his support and assistance with set-up. Tia Brayman, Steve Kast and Angelina Fox from the photography and graphic design department were indispensable in ensuring that the magic of the event was captured. Thank you to Tory Colombo and his parking services team for assisting our 700 volunteers during radiothon. Thank you to the entire staff from facilities management, environmental services and security for ensuring that everything behind the scenes ran smoothly. Thank you to Patricia Frisoni, Amanda Loskowski and the entire food services staff for making sure that everything was in place and most importantly the coffee was ready at 5 a.m. each day! Special thanks to Natalie Goldstein and Elizabeth Whitehead for assistance with media and special guests. Thank you to the many doctors, nurses and hospital staff who stopped by to share experiences and show support! A special thank you to Jim Shmerling, president and chief executive officer; Joan Bothner, MD, chief medical officer; Jerrod Milton, Barb Toussaint, Kate Smith, Drs. Nick Foreman and Dennis Matthews, Maren Stewart and Dr. Mory Ziegler, MD, for visiting with the on-air dee-jays. Last but not least, thank you to all Foundation staff who helped both physically and emotionally to make radiothon a reality who helped both physically and emotionally to make radiothon a reality.

# Returning the Favor

## Moved by Personal Experiences, Volunteer Become Employees

At The Children's Hospital volunteers are exceptional individuals who take the extra steps that make a difference in a child's life. Volunteers are motivated by different reasons, but these extraordinary individuals share the common desire to help those in need and are dedicated to bringing joy to the lives of children and their families. Just as Children's leaves an impression on a child and a family long after their hospital experience, the hospital left an impression on three volunteers who made the decision to turn their passion for caring into a full-time job.

### Edward Jamell, Front Office of Volunteer and Patient Representatives



Edward Jamell

*Year started volunteering at Children's:* May 2007

*Why were you interested in volunteering at Children's?:* My youngest brother, "Stevo", was born with a heart condition. He was

treated at Children's, but he unfortunately passed away at age three. At that time when I was young, they didn't allow us to visit, and it was difficult to understand. I couldn't go near the hospital for years afterwards.

In 2005 I moved back to my hometown of Aurora and eventually decided to start volunteering at Children's. I saw the window where my Mom would hold Stevo up and recalled how we would write, "We love you, Stevo" on paper airplanes and tried to fly them upwards toward the window.

*When did you become an employee at Children's?:* August 2007

*What inspired you to become a Children's employee?:* To be honored by being among those who give children from all over the world, hope and a better chance for good health. (After working for large corporations and then volunteering), I found the more I volunteered, the more I wanted to help. It inspired me to see the children heal and get to go home. Working here isn't about financial rewards to me; it's simply rewarding and a constant reminder of humility.

### Gayle Deane, Executive Staff Assistant

*Year started volunteering at Children's:* Summer 1994

*Why were you interested in volunteering at Children's?:* I have three children. My middle daughter was born with multiple orthopedic problems. She was cared for in the orthopedic department at Children's since she was very

young. Her doctors told us that she would be facing several corrective surgeries as she grew and that some would be major surgeries. The most difficult surgeries began when she was 16, and the final surgery took place when she was 19. As we prepared ourselves for the first



Gayle Deane

surgery, I saw how comfortable she was knowing that she would be treated at Children's; even as a teenager it meant a lot to her to stay, at "her hospital." It was a great comfort to my daughter and I that we were in a familiar, caring pediatric environment for these surgeries. Becoming a Children's volunteer was my way of saying "thank you," "thank you" and "thank you" again for all the caring, kind and loving support Children's has given to us. I am grateful.

*When did you become an employee at Children's?* May 1997

*What inspired you to become a Children's employee?* Throughout the many years of healthcare that my children have received at Children's, I was always impressed with the dedication of the amazing doctors, nurses and staff who work here. I knew if I had the opportunity I wanted to be a part of this team. Now I am, and I am always proud to be able to say, "I work at The Children's Hospital."

### Stacy Bellendir, RN, Surgical Multidisciplinary Specialties Care



Stacy Bellendir

*Year started volunteering at TCH:* 1991

*Why were you interested in volunteering at TCH?:* "My dad works at Children's, so I would go to work with my dad. I had so much fun here that I started

volunteering as soon as I reached the age to become a junior volunteer."

*When did you become an employee at TCH?* April 2002

*What inspired you to become a TCH employee?* "Volunteering made me realize how fortunate I am. It gave me a new perspective on life. It also made me realize I wanted to work in healthcare. I started at Children's as a clinical assistant and in Nov. 2007, I became a registered nurse and was hired as a nurse. Children's is a place where you can walk in and see miracles every day! Kids brighten up your day no matter what."

SAVE THE DATE

Employee BBQ

Wed., June 25

Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks!

# Oldest Patient Tours Hospital, Shares Memories



**Seymour Wheelock, 90,  
former Children's patient  
and doctor.**

*By Rebecca Neelis, Public Relations*

Seymour Wheelock, MD, at the age of nine months, was admitted to The Children's Hospital for a digestive disorder. Now 90, the physician returned to Children's to share some insight from his time as a patient and doctor at the hospital.

*What year were you born?* “[I was born in] 1918 at Mercy Hospital in Denver.”

*What is a memory that stands out from your time as a patient at Children's?* “When I got my tonsils out at five, I remember the nurse asking, ‘are we getting our tonsils out today?’ I remember thinking she may be getting her tonsils out, but I’m going home.”

*When did you begin working at The Children's Hospital?* “I came to Children's in 1946 following a residency in Cincinnati and a fellowship in New Hampshire. I was the chief resident of pediatric service. At the time there were only three full-time staff in the medical school and three full-time physicians at Children's including me. I ended up leaving for a couple years to work in the Army Medical Corp., but I returned to the hospital when I retired in 1983.”

*Explain your experience creating Children's adolescent ward:* “At the time, we were getting more and more information that adolescents needed to be treated differently. So I went for a couple months training at Boston's Children's Hospital, where they had an adolescent ward, and came back to Denver to institute one at Children's. We realized there needed to be a presence, but teens don't need babysitting.”



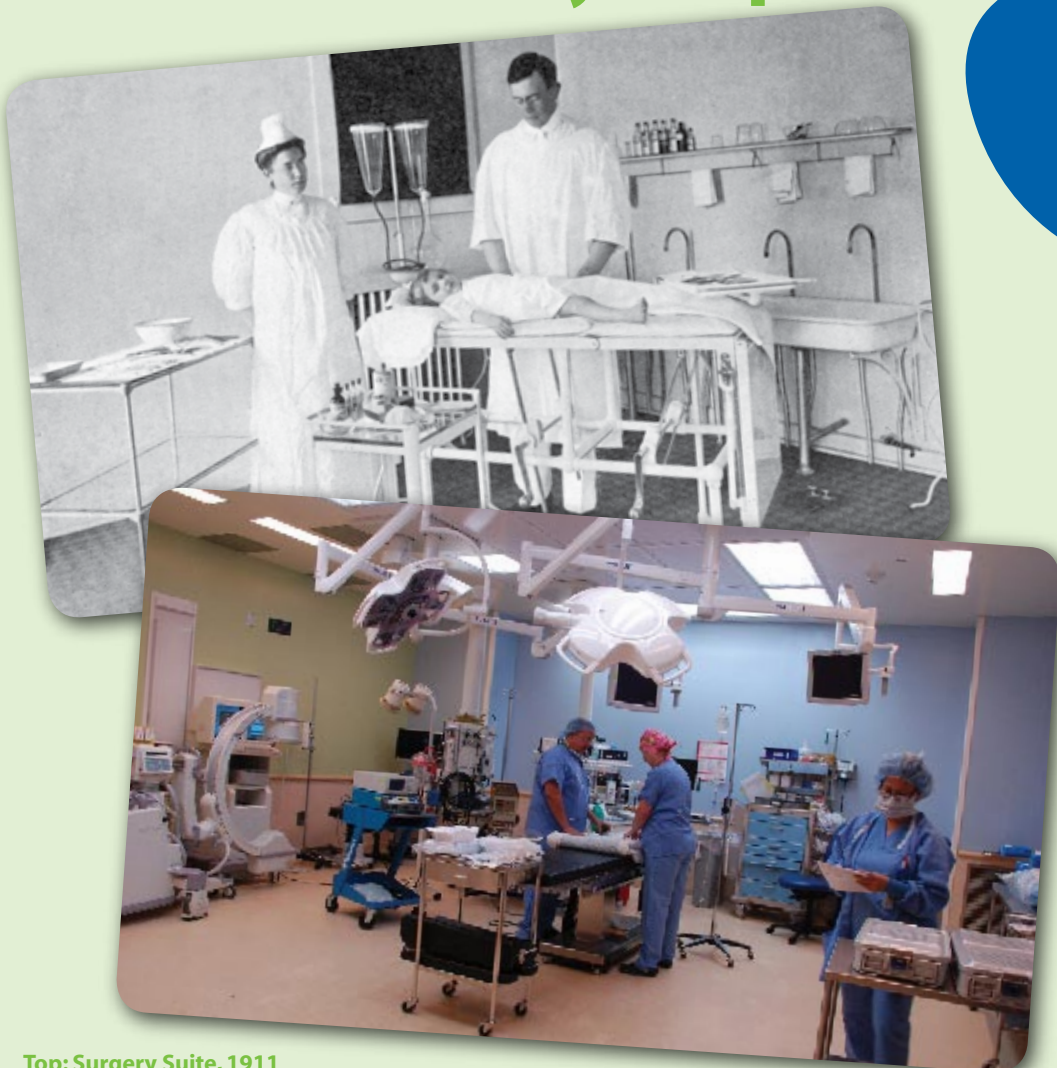
**Seymour Wheelock meets with Rocky Mountain News columnist Tom Noel to provide some insight into Children's history.**

*What is your impression of the new hospital?* “[The hospital is] very large and very lovely. I thought it was an airport when I drove up, but from the inside it looks more like a children's museum.”

*What are some changes between the hospital now and back then:* “It was a mom-and-pop business back then — the scale of medical treatment was strictly family medicine. Now, it's more about the hospitalist, a doctor that knows everything and is less specialized.”

*What is something you enjoyed from your years working at Children's?* “At the old hospital, there was a tunnel leading to the Boettcher School where long-term patients went for classes. One of the most gratifying experiences was to go over and watch those children get their high school diploma.”

## Children's History Snapshots



**Top: Surgery Suite, 1911  
Bottom: Surgery Suite, 2008**

## Children's Turns 100!

On May 9, 1908, the Colorado Secretary of State certified the Articles of Incorporation filed by The Children's Hospital Association officers and board of directors. In recognition of Children's 100-year anniversary, staff, physicians, volunteers, and patients and their families are invited to enjoy cake and punch in The Boettcher Atrium during the following celebrations:

**Thurs., May 8, 7 - 9 p.m.**

**Fri., May 9, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

**Sat., May 10, 6 - 8 p.m.**

Anniversary celebrations will also take place at the Network of Care locations. (Please speak with your site contact for event information.)

# Calendar

**Fri., May 16 and Sat., May 17**

**24-Hours of Hockey**  
Big Bear Ice Arena  
Jen Miller, 720-777-1707

**Thurs., May 29**

**Children's Classic**  
Sanctuary Golf Club  
Beth Petersen, 720-777-1763

**Sat., May 31**

**Night of Hope**  
JW Marriott  
Stacy Schafer, 720-777-1732

**Thurs., June 5**

**Cherry Creek Wine Crawl**  
2414 East 3rd Avenue, Denver, CO  
Wine Crawl 5:30 – 9 p.m.  
After Party 9 – 10 p.m.  
Festivities begin and end at Shaver-Ramsey

Tickets: \$50 per person  
(Children's employees receive a \$5 discount.)  
Log onto [www.redandwhite.org](http://www.redandwhite.org) for more information and to purchase tickets.



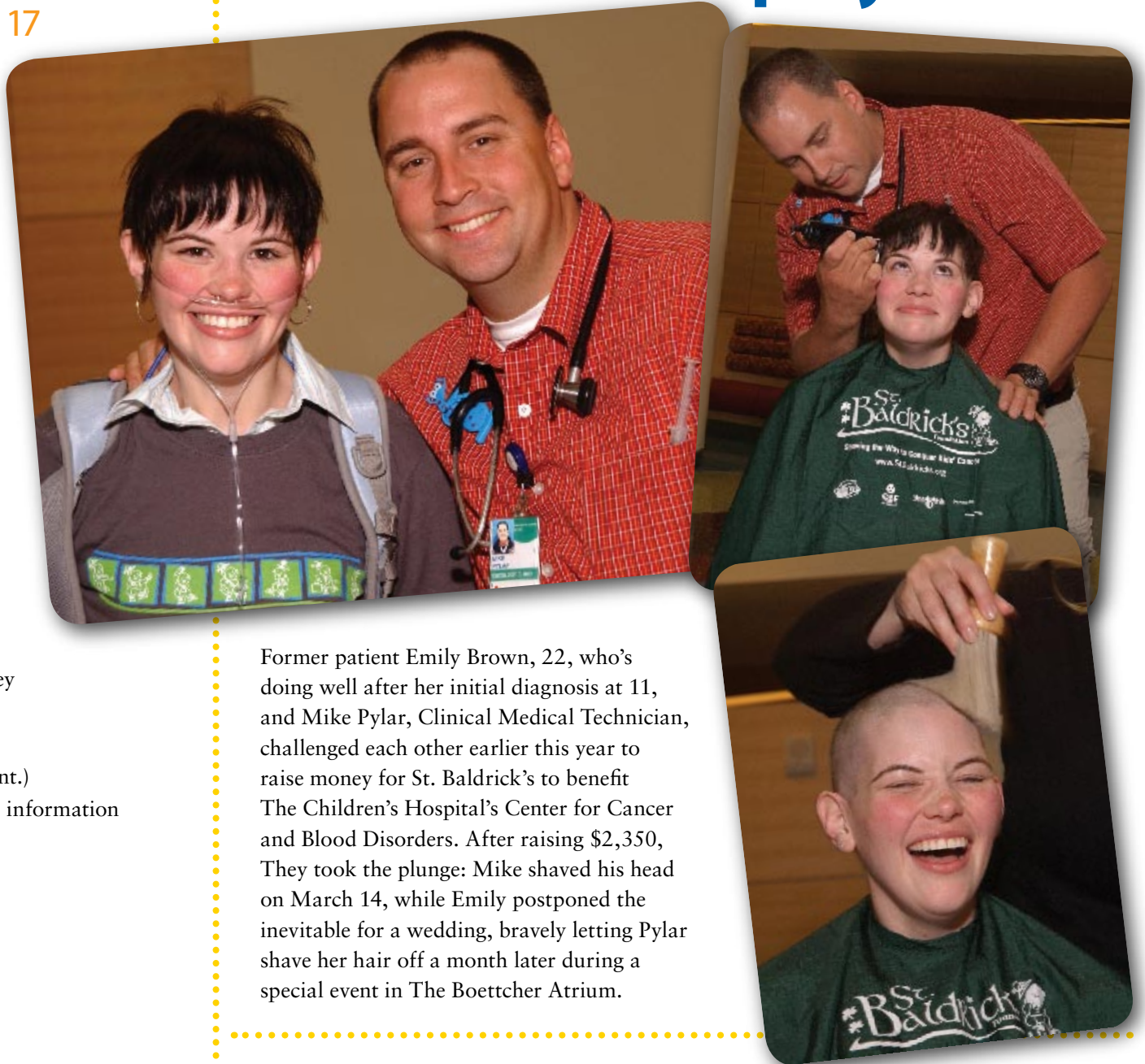
**Golden Corral** – Your local Golden Corral restaurant is a proud sponsor of Children's Miracle Network. Visit any location between now until May 31 to purchase a Miracle Balloon icon and help support The Children's Hospital.

**Auntie Anne's** – Your local Auntie Anne's Pretzels is a proud sponsor of Children's Miracle Network. Visit your local shopping center now until April 22 to purchase a Miracle Balloon icon for just \$1 and help support The Children's Hospital.

**Rite Aid** – Your local Rite Aid store is a proud sponsor of Children's Miracle Network. Visit any location now until May 10 to purchase a Miracle Balloon icon and help support The Children's Hospital.

**Costco** – Your local Costco Warehouse is a proud sponsor of Children's Miracle Network. Visit any location now until May 31 to purchase a Miracle Balloon icon and help support The Children's Hospital.

## Friendly Challenge Leaves Patient and Employee Bald



Former patient Emily Brown, 22, who's doing well after her initial diagnosis at 11, and Mike Pylar, Clinical Medical Technician, challenged each other earlier this year to raise money for St. Baldrick's to benefit The Children's Hospital's Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders. After raising \$2,350, They took the plunge: Mike shaved his head on March 14, while Emily postponed the inevitable for a wedding, bravely letting Pylar shave her hair off a month later during a special event in The Boettcher Atrium.

## Up for the Courage Classic? Why Not Volunteer!

Volunteer for The Children's Hospital 2008 Courage Classic, which hits Copper Mountain July 26-28. Last year, the Courage Classic raised more than \$2.6 million for Children's, its patients and their families.

Volunteers are needed to fill a variety of roles during the popular event and will receive free room and board in Copper Mountain, two fabulous t-shirts, a fun-filled weekend and the satisfaction of supporting one of the hospital's largest events. Visit [www.couragetours.com](http://www.couragetours.com)/volunteers for more details and to register.



**A: 1924**

Be sure to check E-Dispatch every Wednesday for a history question. The first person to correctly answer via an e-mail to E-Dispatch will receive a prize.

# Gabriel's Second Chance at Life

Norman E. Shumway, MD, Stanford cardiac surgeon, performed the United States' first successful human heart transplant in 1968. Forty years later this operation is a standard procedure, giving children and adults a second chance at life.

Lisa Basquez, mother of a patient, spoke about the wonderful care she and her family received at The Children's Hospital. Below is an excerpt of her speech from Children's Annual Meeting.

*September 21, 2006 was the day that changed our lives forever.*

*You've all heard the stories about Pearl Harbor, 9/11 and Vietnam. While ours was not a literal war, or a bomb dropping, there was a fight that would have to take place. However, our battle was not fought, or won, on a battlefield. Ours was fought, and won, on the third floor of Children's.*

*Our baby had hypoplastic left heart syndrome. Our choices were to terminate the pregnancy, do compassionate care, have a series of three open-heart surgeries known as the Norwood procedure or to elect to have a heart transplant.*

*That night, I fell on my knees and cried out to God, "if you're going to take the baby, just take him now, please don't let it be born and then die." When I didn't have a miscarriage, I knew that wasn't God's plan for this child, so we began exploring our options. After about a week of research, we decided that the best odds for this baby was to have a heart transplant, and we began searching for the best transplant hospital in the nation. I spoke with Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and when she asked where we were from, I told her Denver and she let me know that one of the best transplant programs was located a mere 15 minutes from my home. I rejoiced.*

*We decided to find out the baby's gender and were thrilled to discover we were having a boy.*

*Gabriel Gideon entered the world on Wed., Jan. 24, 2007 at 11:17 a.m. at a whopping 8 lbs. 8.5*



**Gabriel's favorite nurse, Dee Dee Gilbert, transplant coordinator at Children's.**



*ounces. I held him for a brief moment before he was whisked off to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). My family, all 50 of them, arrived and awaited his birth hoping to catch just a glimpse of him as he was taken to the NICU as none of us knew when they would be able to see him again.*

*Gabriel was transferred to Children's via Flight for Life on Thurs., Jan. 25 at 8 p.m. When he arrived, the transplant team had orders for him to be evaluated throughout the night to be sure he was a candidate for transplant and that he would be strong enough to withstand the procedure. We left him there that night and I cried the whole way home.*

*When we returned the next morning, at about 10 a.m., Dr. Pietra, head of the transplant team, came in and spoke to my mother and informed her that he was working at getting Gabriel listed by Monday. That afternoon, he returned, right before 5 p.m. to let us know that, against all odds, Gabriel was listed and was at the very top. Again, we cried, but these were tears of gratitude.*

*The next two weeks went by in a near blur...*

*On Feb., 6, 2007, as I rocked Gabriel to sleep, we got the CALL. A heart might be available.... The team was flying out to see if it was viable... Gabriel would be prepped for the surgery throughout the day...tests, pokes, tears, fears, pain, joy, sadness. I can only describe this day as bittersweet as I knew now that my child would live, but someone else's child had died...*

*That night, some of the nursing staff who had worked with Gabriel waited with our family to hear the updates. One nurse went to our house*

**Clockwise: Mom, Dad and Gabriel moments after he was born. Mom, Dad and Gabriel enjoying a family day at the park. Lisa speaking at the Children's Annual Meeting while her husband, Mat, holds sleeping Gabriel.**

*to take our dog for a walk so we didn't have to worry about her.*

*After his surgery, Gabriel had a great recovery and began gaining weight within two weeks. His health has been good and his first heart cath revealed great functioning of his heart. Today, he is on one medication, walking, talking and keeping us all very, very busy.*

*Every now and then, when he is sleeping, I take a stethoscope and listen to his little heart beat. I can't even begin to thank Children's for giving my son the chance to live.*

*I don't think words can express the gratitude that comes from a parent who is given the chance to be a parent, but I hope simply a thank you will suffice.*

To view Lisa's speech in its entirety, visit PlanetTCH and click the Annual Meeting link.

**For more information about organ and tissue donation, or to register your decision to be a donor, visit [www.ColoradoDonorRegistry.org](http://www.ColoradoDonorRegistry.org). You have the power to Donate Life; be an organ, eye and tissue donor.**