

Volunteers in the Spotlight: Little Things Mean a Lot



Jordan Harrison

Jordan Harrison is a student at Liberty University in Virginia, where he's majoring in psychology with an emphasis on child and adolescent development. But he's getting another kind of education as a volunteer at Cincinnati Children's,

working closely with Child Life specialists when he's home for the summer or during winter and spring breaks.

On Mondays you'll find him in the colorectal unit in the morning and the bone marrow transplant unit in the afternoon entertaining patients on bed rest. On Tuesday mornings, he's at work in the Emergency Department, then heads up to the Cardiology clinic and Dentistry in the afternoon. Different settings but similar situations – kids who are scared, bored or in pain, needing distraction and help coping with their illness. And don't forget the parents who are generally worried, stressed and sometimes, completely exhausted.

Any one of us would love to pull off some kind of heroic rescue for these families to make everything alright. But Harrison finds it's often the little things that make the biggest difference. "I have played a lot of games and colored a lot of pictures with tons of patients. And I always look forward to brightening a child's day," he explains.

"One afternoon," he recalls, "I sat with a child for three hours in the Emergency Department. He had been injured in a car accident. Other than the doctors and nurses, I was the only other person who was there with this child until the family could arrive. A

hospital can be such an intimidating place, and the young boy was so nervous and scared about all the people coming in and out of the room. I will never forget sitting with him that afternoon, comforting him, distracting him from the pain and then watching him relax and finally fall asleep. Life is so precious, and that day I learned to appreciate my own life a little more."

Harrison credits his brother Luke with giving him important insights into helping the children he sees at the medical center. "Luke has Down syndrome," he says, "and because of all the adventures we've gone through together, I would say I bring patience to the patients and families at the hospital. Whether you're dealing with a crying child in the Emergency Department or a kid throwing up all over your pants the afternoon you have a job interview, patience goes a long way in reducing stress, which can be contagious."

But Harrison knows volunteering is a two-way street, and he receives as much, if not more, than he gives. "The gratitude from the families is often amazing and so rewarding. And when you see a child's face light up when you walk into a room with a game or a craft, you know that what you're doing in that exact moment is making someone else's life better. It's that incredible smile that makes me want to come back every week."

He adds, "Volunteering at Cincinnati Children's is not simply coming in and performing a duty, then punching out when you're done. It's an emotional experience that, if you let it, has the potential to make you a better person, while you make a difference in the lives of patients and their families."

Cincinnati Children's Takes Big Leap in U.S. News Ranking

(Cont. from p. 1)

Outcome focused on measures of inpatient death rate (for heart and heart surgery and neurology and neurosurgery). It wasn't applicable in specialties that deal with outpatients. Outcome weighed in as 10 percent of the total score.

Care-related measures include nurse staffing, the availability of advanced technology and patient volume. They counted for 40 percent of the total score.

Ranking-eligible facilities were largely drawn from members of the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions (NACHRI) in either of two categories—a freestanding children's hospital or a children's "hospital within a hospital" (a large, multidisciplinary pediatric service within a medical center). In addition, several non-NACHRI members were added because of known expertise or at the recommendation of experts.

Of the 143 children's hospitals invited to complete a survey asking for information as detailed as whether a center offers postgraduate fellowships in pediatric cardiology, 113 responded. The survey was constructed by RTI International, which collects the data and oversees the methodology behind the adult Best Hospitals rankings.

In addition to being published online, the rankings were published in the magazine's June 9 issue.

The top-10 list of pediatric hospitals in the category of general pediatrics includes:

1. Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia PA
2. Children's Hospital Boston, Boston MA
3. Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
4. Johns Hopkins Children's Center, Baltimore MD
5. Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, Cleveland OH
6. Texas Children's Hospital, Houston TX
7. Children's Hospital Denver, Denver CO
8. Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center, Seattle WA
9. Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Los Angeles CA
10. Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, Pittsburgh PA

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Congratulations to the following employees who celebrate service anniversaries in July:

40 YEARS

Kevin Bove, MD, Pathology
James Johnson, RRT, Respiratory Care

35 YEARS

Lynn Roberts, Information Systems
Donna Sheppard, RN, Children's Outpatient Northern KY
Charlotte Wiley, Microbiology

30 YEARS

Diane Babcock, MD, Radiology
Diana Bailey, RN, Clinical and Business Integration
William Balistreri, MD, Gastroenterology
Cynthia Fitton, RN, CNP, Advance Practice Nurses
Carol Frese, RN, Clinical Effectiveness
Jo Ann King, Gastroenterology
Wayne Mays, Stress Testing
Robin Mueller, RN, A5 Central
Marti Yacchari, Veterinary Services

25 YEARS

Paul Bellet, MD, General and Community Pediatrics
Mitchell Cohen, MD, Gastroenterology
Beverly Connelly, MD, Infectious Diseases
Iris Fink-Baldauf, Neonatology and Pulmonary Biology
Patti Jack, RN, Mason Campus Surgery
Jo Santen, Volunteer Services

20 YEARS

Mary Anderson, Cash Application
Nancy Bassarab, Hematology Clinical Laboratory
John Bissler, MD, Nephrology
Michele DiLorenzo, Information Systems
Nancy Doughman, Chemistry
Edith Shumate, Dentistry
Susan Wert, PhD, Neonatology and Pulmonary Biology

15 YEARS

Amy Bailes, Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy
Javier Gonzalez-Del-Ray, MD, Emergency Medicine
Molly O'Shaughnessy, RN, Operating Room
Kimberly Shepard, RN, Cincinnati Children's West Chester
Dianne Stratton, RRT, Home Medical Equipment

10 YEARS

Emily Addison, RN, A6 Central
Sheryl Allen Bracey, MD, MS, Emergency Medicine
Christopher Anton, MD, Radiology
Karyn Baioni, RN, Pulmonary Bronchoscopy
Kelly Baroch, Audiology
Billie Bohn, Dentistry
Catherine Bressert, Cincinnati Children's Anderson
Leigh Chamberlin, Behavioral Medicine/Clinical Psychology
Darci Clark, RN, B4/Regional Center for Newborn Intensive Care
Barbara Deburger, Virology
Laura Dickman, RN, Outpatient Administration
Tammy DiMuzio, RN, A3 South/Diabetes/Endocrinology/Clinical Research Center
Amy Engler, Marketing and Communications
Jennifer Fletcher, RN, B5 East
Amy Fortkamp, RN, A3 South/Clinical Research Center
Roleena Frambes, Dentistry
William Fye, DDS, Dentistry
Donald Gilbert, MD, Neurology
Sarah Hanna, Microbiology
Judith Johnson, Human Genetics
Sheila Kluesener, RN, A3 North/Surgical Short Stay

Lynnette Knott, Access Services
Lesa Laymon, Dentistry
Linda Lewis, Legal
Mia Mallory, MD, Emergency Medicine
Carolyn McCallister, Dentistry
Kristin Melton, MD, Neonatology and Pulmonary Biology
Nicola Moorcroft, Children's Hospital Research Foundation
Lori Pittman, RN, B6 West/Pediatric Intensive Care Unit
Paul Schmitt, Hematology Clinical Laboratory
Brandy Seger, RN, B6 West/Pediatric Intensive Care Unit
Cynthia Spikes, Bariatric Surgery
Stacy Stetter, RRT, Respiratory Care
Cindy Towles, Dentistry
Ellen Witsken, Health Information Management

Victor Garcia Receives National Jefferson Award



Victor Garcia

Victor Garcia, MD, PhD, director, Trauma Services, was honored with the National Jefferson Award for Outstanding Service by an Employee at the national ceremonies on June 17 in Washington, DC. This award honoring the best of all the Corporate

Champion recipients was given out for the first time this year. The black-tie gala was attended by 450 people, who came to honor the national award winners, the "Unsung Heroes" recipients, and the Corporate Champion award recipients. Cincinnati Children's is a participant in the Corporate Champions program.

Garcia was first recognized earlier this year as the January Corporate Champion Award recipient at Cincinnati Children's. He was subsequently selected as one of 25 national Corporate Champion recipients by the Jefferson

Award Board of Selectors and was invited to Washington, DC, to be honored at the national ceremonies.

Lynn Hall, a Human Resources specialist who oversees the Jefferson Award program at Cincinnati Children's, was thrilled to get word that Garcia had been chosen for an additional honor and worked behind the scenes with the Jefferson Award national office to pull off the surprise.

Says Patricia Dill, national director for the Jefferson Awards for Public Service, "Dr. Garcia was selected for this additional recognition based on several factors: He embodies the spirit of an outstanding volunteer; his commitment and dedication to the Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV) was impressive; and his service had a significant, measurable and positive impact on the community."

In addition to the \$500 American Express gift card he received as a national Corporate Champion recipient, Garcia also was presented with a personalized Peter Max print of Thomas Jefferson.



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'Round the Center

For the employees of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

July 2008

change the outcome®

Heart Institute Provides Integrated Structure to Speed Research to the Bedside

Imagine your child is born with a heart condition for which there is no cure. Imagine that existing treatments may manage symptoms for a while, but the best you can hope for is that your child will live 10 to 12 years and the quality of his life will be severely compromised. Somebody is doing research somewhere, but it's unlikely that anything will happen soon enough to make a difference.

Now imagine you can take your child to a place where he's not only seen by a cardiologist, but where an entire team of researchers and clinicians are studying his condition and working hard to develop more innovative treatments that could change his outcome significantly for the better, supported by the full resources of the hospital.

That's the idea behind the newly established Heart Institute, the first in a series of interdisciplinary organizational units that aim to move research more rapidly from bench to bedside and to provide more direct access to the broader resources of the hospital. The Heart Institute brings together clinical care, basic and clinical research and education programs, supported by substantial organizational resources, to advance comprehensive care for children with heart disease and develop novel therapeutic avenues for treatment.

Jeff Robbins, PhD, who has been named executive director of the Heart Institute,

explains, "In the past, we've had different groups of basic and translational researchers, as well as clinicians, all working separately. Each had their own imperatives. With this new integrated structure, the Heart Institute can develop priorities for the entire group so we're all focusing on the same goals and, ideally, reaching them sooner."

This integrated approach will also make Cincinnati Children's more competitive when seeking funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Says Robbins, "The NIH is interested in funding translational grants, and the Heart Institute should be a nexus for putting together appropriate groups of people who will be competitive for these grants. Moving research findings into clinical practice has always been a difficult problem. We're hoping that this collaborative approach will help."

The Heart Institute replaces the Heart Center as the next step in the evolution of what was already a center of excellence. Staff of the Heart Institute will have two reporting relationships – directly to the Institute for



Jeff Robbins, PhD, is the executive director of the new Heart Institute. He says integrating research and clinical care will make Cincinnati Children's more competitive in going after NIH funding.

daily operations and directly to their division for professional responsibilities, such as skill development and credentials.

Meanwhile, Robbins is actively seeking clinical partners and searching for a new chief of pediatric cardiology. He says, "Formation of the Heart Institute will help Cincinnati Children's become the leader by setting up the structure required for new, rapid and innovative ways of treating pediatric heart disease. It goes well beyond what we currently have in place and what other medical centers are doing, as well. It's a cutting-edge approach that we hope will transform the care we deliver and make a real difference in the lives of our patients and families."

Cincinnati Children's Takes Big Leap in U.S. News Ranking

U.S. News & World Report has ranked Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center the third best children's hospital in the United States in General Pediatrics in its annual "America's Best Children's Hospitals" ranking. The ranking is the highest Cincinnati Children's has ever received from U.S. News.

Using a new methodology this year, U.S. News discontinued its ranking of the "top 30 pediatric hospitals" overall and added the category of "top 30 in general pediatrics" – a category in which hospitals are ranked by measures that are appropriate to pediatric care in general. (This term refers to the hospital in general, not just the Division of General and Community Pediatrics.) In addition, U.S. News ranked for the first time the best children's hospitals for specialty care, such as cancer, digestive disorders, heart and heart surgery, neonatal, neurology and neurosurgery, and respiratory disorders. Cincinnati Children's ranked in the top 10 in all but one of these specialties:

Cancer	4
Digestive Disorders	3
Heart and Heart Surgery	8
Neonatal Care	6
Neurology and Neurosurgery	17
Respiratory Disorders	3

"Very sick kids need very special care," said senior writer Avery Comarow, who has been editor of the America's Best Hospitals and America's Best Children's Hospitals annual rankings since their inception. "The best places for them are pediatric facilities with a deep pool of expertise in their particular illness. Breaking out key specialties is crucial to help parents and other caregivers find these facilities."

Said **Jim Anderson**, president and CEO, "This is a big move for which we owe a debt of thanks to all employees who have worked so hard to improve the quality of care and collect the data to measure our progress. This is an outstanding achievement of which we can and should be very proud."

Changes in Methodology

Until last year, U.S. News based its ranking solely on reputation. But in 2007, they used a new methodology to rank children's hospitals, adding care-related factors and recognition by outside organizations. Last year Cincinnati Children's ranked as the 7th best children's hospital in the nation. In each of the previous two years, Cincinnati Children's was ranked as the 8th best children's hospital in the United States.

This year, the specialty rankings of America's Best Children's Hospitals were based on a new and improved methodology that weighed a three-part blend of reputation, outcome and care-related measures.

The reputation scores were determined by 1,100 pediatricians, chosen from a random database of the American Board of Medical Specialties. Each was asked to name up to five hospitals they believed to be the best at treating difficult cases in their specialty. Of those 1,100, 200 were general pediatricians. The rest were divided among the six specialty areas (150 each). Reputation was calculated as 50-60 percent of the total score, depending on specialty.

(Cont. on page 4)

A Big Step for Staff Means a Giant Leap for Cincinnati Children's

After months of preparations, planning and design sessions with people from all across the medical center, the Phase 1 "big bang" Epic go-live is now a reality.

As of July 1, the Resolute Hospital and Professional Billing, HIM Chart Tracking/Coding and Abstracting, Prelude Registration/ADT, and OpTime OR Scheduling pieces of our new integrated Epic system are now up and running, as is Cadence Scheduling (for areas that were already using Tempus).

This is a huge change for the thousands of employees across the medical center who are learning to do their jobs in an entirely new way using a brand new system. Training is a critical piece of the puzzle; it began in late May for credentialed trainers, super users and end users and is continuing through mid-July. As new employees are hired, they too will attend Epic training.

A New Ball Game

Though Cincinnati Children's has been through system implementations before, Epic is like nothing else we've ever done. Epic is vastly more complex than any other system we've ever implemented, not only because so many pieces of the system are going live at once, but because they are so interconnected to one another and to our existing "legacy" systems. More than 100 interfaces (bridges that allow different systems to communicate and share information) are at play in our Epic implementation.

Challenged by Change

Yet the biggest challenge in our transition to Epic isn't size or complexity—it's coping with

change. Many of the systems Epic replaced on July 1 have been with us day in and day out for more than 20 years, and many employees have never done their job another way. After 28 years with Unity and nearly as many with Signature, it's only natural that those systems have become one and the same with hospital and professional billing. KIDS' first incarnation went live in May, 1985; while it's been upgraded many times since, KIDS has been a constant in patient registration.

Then and Now

Life has changed since these systems first went live, though we sometimes forget how much. When KIDS first went live in 1985, the world was a different place. A first-class stamp cost just 22 cents, and a gallon of gas a mere \$1.20. The FDA approved the first blood test for AIDS, and the Soviet Union and Berlin Wall were both still intact.

But as the world has changed around us, life at Cincinnati Children's has changed too. In 1985, we had about 89,000 outpatient visits. Though KIDS helped us serve those patients well, the new Prelude Registration and Cadence Scheduling modules of Epic will provide us with better tools to handle the more than 779,000 outpatient visits we now schedule annually. In 1985, we performed 12,646 surgical procedures—but with more than 29,000 now



Candice Overly, RN, clinical manager, Operating Room (standing), and Chad Garrett, clinical information specialist, Information Services, review the finer points of the surgical case creation screen with Dora Haney, administrative assistant, Aerodigestive and Sleep Center, at an Epic Optime for Surgical Scheduling training session.

being performed each year, Epic's OpTime OR Scheduling module will meet our needs better. Likewise, Unity was a good solution when we were issuing 16,250 patient statements a month back in 1985, but Resolute Hospital and Professional Billing will serve us better now that we're handling 65,000 patient statements each month.

All in all, KIDS, Unity and our other legacy systems have helped our staff make amazing growth, progress and improvement a reality, transforming Cincinnati Children's from a local children's hospital to a top-ranked, globally recognized leader in improving child health. Epic's new features to enhance communication, access, research initiatives and much more will give us the tools we need to continue our remarkable journey of transformation.

Employees Share Expertise With Tanzanian Villagers



Emilee Kempf, RN, Emergency Medicine, takes a patient's blood pressure in a Tanzanian clinic. (Photo courtesy of Village Life Outreach Project)

Sarah Lamkin, RN, Drug and Poison Information Center; Jennifer Ernst, MD, Emergency Services; and John McMonigle, Orthopaedics; have exciting plans this summer. No, they won't be lounging on a tropical beach. Instead, for most of July, they will be demonstrating their commitment to international care in the remote villages of the Tarime District of Tanzania, east Africa.

These volunteers will be working with Village Life Outreach Project, a Cincinnati-based non-profit organization which aims to improve the health and education of villagers. Founded in 2004 by local physician Chris Lewis, MD, the organization seeks to unite communities by promoting social responsibility and empowering villagers to address the issues that most affect them, such as lack of quality water and nutrition.

In addition to the July trip, plans are underway for a larger, medical-focused trip this October, which will include about 30 volunteers. Emilee Kempf, RN, board member and Health Brigade

coordinator for this trip, says there are many professionals in the area who are passionate about the organization, but they are always seeking more volunteers, such as nutritionists, dental students and photographers.

Kempf, a member of the core trauma group in the Division of Emergency Medicine, has been working with Village Life since its second year of operation, when she was a nursing student. "I'm very passionate about Village Life," she says. "I was really drawn to their openness to new ideas."

Life

In the communities served by Village Life, lack of clean, reliable water is a major concern. The unsanitary water conditions prove to be a breeding ground for tropical disease. "I was shocked to find that most of the people get their water from what seemed like small mud puddles," says Lamkin. "According to the environmental engineers on the team, the water villagers are drinking is far dirtier than the

Ohio River."

Through the work of those like Dan Oerther, PhD, head of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Cincinnati, the Village Life Outreach Project's Life Committee has spent a lot of time developing and implementing appropriate and sustainable technologies to address the region's water issues. Already, the team has employed three different methods of water purification for villagers.

Education

Village Life recently received a National Science Foundation-sponsored Science and Technology Enhancement Program (STEP) grant from the University of Cincinnati. Usually, STEP grants only fund initiatives in the Cincinnati Public School (CPS) system, but the Education Committee took UC students and CPS teachers to Tanzania to develop and teach lessons in nutrition to children and their families. Afterwards, the team adapted those same lessons to be applied to local schools in Cincinnati. "Malnutrition is a huge problem in Tanzania, but it's also a huge problem in the US. There, it's about not getting enough of the right foods. Here, it's about getting too much of the wrong foods and the resulting obesity," says Lamkin, who spends most of her volunteer time with the Education Committee.

In these villages, children walk one-and-a-half hours each way to attend school, usually fueled by one meal each day after school. On a previous trip, the Education Committee performed a study analyzing students' scores on a math test administered when they arrived at school one morning. The next day, the students were given a banana to eat and were given the exact same test. The children scored significantly better on the second test.

This July, Lamkin and others will be working with villagers to incorporate a feeding program at the schools. Currently, there is

none. In addition, the committee gathers resources for the villages' school system, providing supplies and bicycles for those who otherwise can not attend school, as well as a program that sponsors children to receive a secondary education at a nearby boarding school.

Health

On previous trips, the committee has gathered villager medical data through a "Rapid Catch" survey, traveling hut-to-hut in order to better address their needs for future planning. Many children in these villages have never seen a physician or received any immunizations, and so in October 2008, this will continue to be a focus for the Health Committee, offering mobile health clinics and learning workshops. Patricia Klein, PharmD, MPH, Drug and Poison Information Center, will also be the first pharmacist on a Village Life trip, counseling patients on medications.

Malaria is by far the region's top health concern. Through Village Life's Mosquito Net Project, in collaboration with sister organization The Shirati Health, Education and Development Foundation, thousands of mosquito nets have been distributed to villagers, who have also been educated on their importance and proper use. Jennifer Ernst, MD, a Village Life board member, has been the leader of the Mosquito Net Project. "It's been a big success," she says. "Working with Village Life is so enriching because we are building sustainable partnerships with the villagers to promote life, health and education."

Lamkin agrees. "It's given me a global perspective on the world. But the biggest benefit of this project is the interdisciplinary collaboration," she says. "The people we meet in Tanzania are our friends. It's why I keep going back."

Molkentin Named Howard Hughes Investigator



Jeffery Molkentin, PhD, a researcher in the Division of Cardiovascular Biology and professor in the department of Pediatrics at the University of Cincinnati (UC) College of Medicine, has been named one of 56 new Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) investigators.

This will place Molkentin among an elite group of the nation's most promising scientists who are challenged to extend the boundaries of science by pursuing bold and creative research. Molkentin was among 1,070 scientists who applied for the appointment. In making its selections, HHMI sought outstanding scientists studying biomedical problems in a variety of disciplines.

"We look for scientists who have demonstrated originality and productivity in biomedical research and show exceptional potential for future contributions," says Jack Dixon, PhD, vice president and chief scientific officer at HHMI. "This infusion of fresh scientific talent allows us to refresh our commitment to original and creative biomedical research."

Molkentin's research has advanced the understanding of molecular events behind heart disease and muscular dystrophy. His team studies the signaling mechanisms that control cell growth, differentiation and death.

One study from Molkentin's laboratory,

published this spring in the science journal *Nature Medicine*, identified a possible new treatment for muscular dystrophy. The research showed an investigational antiviral drug undergoing human trials in Europe for hepatitis C infections may also have potential in reducing muscle cell damage in muscular dystrophy patients.

Molkentin says the HHMI award will allow him to expand his research in a more exploratory way. "HHMI encourages innovative research," he says. "This award is typically given to individuals from institutions that have strong and pioneering programs. This shows the success of both UC and Cincinnati Children's. It is an example of how the tie between these two institutions can strengthen the impact of our research on a local and national scale."

Molkentin is the fourth HHMI investigator ever appointed in Ohio, the third at UC and first to be named while at Cincinnati Children's.

The non-profit medical research organization—founded in 1953 by aviator-industrialist Howard Hughes—has invested more than \$8.3 billion in the last 20 years to support, train and educate the nation's most creative and promising scientists. The institute is based in Chevy Chase, Md., just outside Washington, D.C.

Molkentin currently serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology*, *Physiological Reviews* and the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*.

Bermos Wins Robert E. Davis Award

The Patient Escort Team basked in the spotlight June 2-6 when Cincinnati Children's celebrated the sixth annual Patient Escort Team Week. The week's activities culminated in the Robert E. Davis Award presentation on Friday, June 6, where Cheryl Hoying, PhD, RN, senior vice president, Patient Services, highlighted the team's accomplishments over the past year.

The number of patient transports was up 40 percent, translating to 72,027 transports versus last year's 50,792. In spite of that increase, the team decreased transport time by 20 percent. The original goal was to reduce transport time from 38 minutes to 20 minutes; however, the team surpassed that goal, achieving an average of 17.5 minutes, a more-than-50 percent improvement which they've managed to maintain over the past 15 months.

Mauro Bermos was selected as the winner of the 2008 Robert E. Davis Award. The two other finalists were Jamil Money and Carol Davis.



Bermos celebrated his win with wife Mares and son Kit.

Bermos received a plaque, a cash award and a \$50 gift card to Longhorn Steakhouse.

"I am so deeply honored," said Bermos, who has worked at Cincinnati Children's for 16 years. "Remembering Robert E. Davis is very important to my life. I'm one of the lucky ones who got to work with him, as he shared his vision and mission. I love interacting with the children and their parents. For me, this is the best part of the job."

803-OUCH Is Number to Call for Needlesticks and Work-related Injuries

Effective July 1, there will be a new phone number for reporting work-related injuries and blood-borne pathogen exposures. The new number is 803-OUCH (6824), which replaces the two separate hotlines previously in place (3-6335 and 6-6789).

The new number will be answered seven days a week, 24 hours a day, by a professional in the Drug and Poison Information Center, who will instruct you on what to do. No more leaving a number and waiting for Employee Health to call back. Important note: Employees may not seek care without contacting the hotline for instructions.

Says Terri Thrasher, RN, director, Employee Health, "This is a huge improvement to our system, which will provide employees with immediate assistance when they incur a work-related injury or are exposed to a blood-borne pathogen. The professionals in the Drug and Poison Information Center are well-equipped to handle these calls."

Jamie Fellers Is One in 10 Million

In April, a simple cheek swab turned into a life-changing decision for **Jamie Fellers**, a customer service representative in Ophthalmology, and her anonymous match.

Last spring Fellers volunteered to be placed on the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) for bone marrow and blood cell donation during a donor drive held at Cincinnati Children's. When Lori Custer from the NMDP contacted Fellers for follow-up blood work, she began to sense the possible impact of her decision.

"I started shaking the first time we spoke," says Fellers. "And then when she called again and said I was a match for a 29-year-old woman with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL), I was excited." During that call Custer told Fellers that as a six out of six match with her recipient, she was "one in 10 million," a reflection of the rare gift Fellers offered.

Reality Check

In order to move ahead with her donation, Fellers underwent extensive health screening that included a physical, as well as education and counseling. It was during this process that it began to sink in that, "This is real...this is big time," says Fellers.

Fellers started daily injections of Filgrastim, a drug that stimulates blood cell production, five days before her procedure was to take place. "Afterwards my bones hurt—I can hardly imagine what it must feel like to have chronic pain like arthritis," says Fellers matter-of-factly.

Sore from the injections, Fellers "wobbled into Jewish Hospital" on Monday, April 21. A central line was inserted in her neck (although IVs are typically used) and for the next eight hours, blood was removed and passed through a machine that separated out the blood-forming cells for donation and reheated the blood before

returning it to Fellers through a separate needle. "The rest was pretty easy. I ate and dozed off. My sister was with me for company."

More Donors Needed

According to **Stella Davies**, MBBS, PhD, MRCP, director, Blood and Marrow Transplant Program and Jacob G. Schmidlapp Endowed Chair, the chances of matching with a stranger as Fellers did are "quite slim" which is why, even with 11 million people registered globally, more are needed. The majority of donors in the 80 transplants Davies oversees at Cincinnati Children's each year involve non-related donors.

While family members and friends are often moved to register when a loved one needs a transplant, it is more challenging to motivate donors anonymously. Davies describes Feller's act as a quintessential example of "the kindness of strangers." She cites a recent case of a father who, upon receiving the contact information for his 17-year-old son's donor, was so overcome by emotion that he burst into tears. He asked, "What can I say to the person who saved my son's life?"

Connected for Life

Fellers says she wouldn't hesitate to donate again, and she's happy to talk with anyone interested in learning more about becoming a donor. After 45 days Fellers can request information about the outcome of her donation and, if her recipient is interested, in two years, the two women will be able to communicate through the national registry. According to Davies, it's not unheard of for unrelated donors and recipients to form close bonds. As for Fellers, the bond already exists: "They always say you have a twin somewhere in the world, and I keep wondering, 'Is she my twin?'"



Jamie Fellers recommends becoming a bone marrow donor because of the profound effect it can have on another person's life.

Join the Registry

Every day over 6,000 men, women and children search the National Marrow Donor Program's registry for a bone marrow or blood cell donor to save their lives. New donors are always needed for the registry, and expectant parents are encouraged to donate cord blood.

Because tissue types are inherited, patients are more likely to match someone from their own race or ethnicity. Donors from minority groups are urgently needed, according to the NMDP.

Registering is simple and quick. There may be a cost of \$25 for tissue typing. Contact Barbara Nolan for information on free kits or for upcoming drive information:

1-888-862-7769 X105 or BNolan@nmdp.org

For more information about the National Marrow Donor Program, visit www.marrows.org.

Countdown to Liberty Begins

The opening of Liberty Campus is a mere month away. Be sure to mark your calendar to attend the community and employee open house event on Saturday, Aug. 2, from 10 am to 3 pm. There will be self-guided tours with experts at every stop to tell you all about the new facility and what it has to offer for families, as well as physicians and staff.

There will be refreshments, drawings for prizes and fun activities for kids, including a look inside a fire truck and an ambulance.

This 230,000 square-foot facility will open for patient care on Monday, Aug. 11, and feature:

- The first 24-hour pediatric-only emergency department in the area
- A comprehensive range of pediatric medical and surgical clinics, including allergy, ENT, gastroenterology and more
- The area's largest pediatric outpatient surgical center
- Diagnostic imaging, therapy and testing services



A view of the east side entry to the Liberty Campus shows off water-themed graphics overhead.

- The same Cincinnati Children's expertise, training, techniques and equipment

There will also be a breakfast for community physicians on Friday, Aug. 1, from 7 to 9:30 am, followed by a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10 am.

Liberty Campus is located in Liberty Township just off I-75 at State Route 129 (exit 24). The official address is 7777 Yankee Road. Complete directions are available online at cincinnatichildrens.org/liberty.

Needed: Healthy Infants and Toddlers 6 to 36 Months for Research Study

Bone Density Study

change the outcome*



No invasive procedures are used in this study.

What

This is a research study to learn more about bone growth and strength in healthy infants and toddlers. The information obtained will be used in the clinical evaluation of bone health in children with chronic diseases.

Who

Healthy infants and toddlers between the ages of 6 and 36 months may qualify for this study.

Compensation

Parents will receive a \$25 Target gift card for the 30-minute visit.

Details

For information call the Study Line: 513-636-9068.



CCHMC IRB # 06-04-04

Cincinnati Children's
Research Foundation



Cincinnati Children's Kicks Off Third Annual Cincinnati Walks for Kids

Mark your calendar for the Cincinnati Walks for Kids Kick-Off on Monday, July 28, from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm, in the prefunction area and the Fifth Third Bank Auditorium. Register yourself and your team for the walk and win some great giveaways.

Cincinnati Walks for Kids is on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 8 am to 2 pm, at Coney Island. The three-mile pledge walk (one-mile option available) will feature a new opening ceremony, music and activities for all to enjoy. Come celebrate, remember the patients and families we care for and salute the community's amazing dedication to Cincinnati Children's.

Registration at the Kick-Off will be quick and easy at one of 10 walker registration stations located in the auditorium. Walk Team

members will be on hand to answer questions. In addition, the prefunction area will host Bob Roncker's Running Spot, a raffle and other surprises.

Raise money for the program or division of your choice by starting a walk team of your own, joining an existing team or walking as an individual — the choice is yours. Registration is free. Each walker is simply asked to raise at least \$25 (the average walker raises over \$100). Once registered, you will be prompted to select the program or division of your choice to receive your donations.

