



SHRINERS
INTERNATIONAL

Alee Shriners
2024

ALEE SHRINERS

WELCOME TO THE

CRUSADE



FOCUS ON WHAT MATTERS WHILE DOING MORE IN 24!

**Shriners Hospitals for Children:
Our Patients Inspire Us to Provide the Most Amazing Care Anywhere
LOVE to the Rescue!**

**The donations from this paper crusade go directly to
Shriners Children's /Shriners Hospital for Children.**

ORTHOPEDIC CARE

Scoliosis treatment helps teen breathe easy



By the time Michael was 15 years old, he had a scoliosis so severe that breathing was very difficult and he became malnourished from the effort.

But Shriners Children's Lexington and pediatric orthopedist Vincent Prusick, M.D., were there for him.

Michael was being adopted. His severe scoliosis had been left untreated for roughly three years and he had a

spine with a curvature of 115 degrees when he was first examined at the hospital, according to his new mother, Laura.

"They told me at my first appointment that if I didn't treat my scoliosis right away, I might not make it to 16," Michael said. But he did make it to 16 years and now beyond. His providers at Shriners Children's knew exactly what to do.

Very quickly, Michael was put in the hospital and in halo traction, to gradually stretch his spine and lessen the chance of nerve damage. He was also given a feeding tube to help him gain weight and ensure adequate nutrition.

After the traction, Dr. Prusick performed a spinal fusion procedure to stabilize his spine.

Michael was up and walking a day after his surgery. He is now 18 years old and a junior in high school who thinks he would like to become a correctional officer in the future. The curvature in his spine has been reduced to just 34 degrees — allowing him to breathe easily.

"Michael was so brave through everything," Laura said. "We are so proud of him, and we are so thankful for Shriners Children's."

She adds: "It is hard to put into words. Shriners Children's has given us a lot of peace. We felt it as soon as we walked in the doors. We knew we were cared for."

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Care is Great from West to East Coast at Shriners

I'm a mother of three kids. My youngest are twins and one was born with a cleft palette. I did everything the doctors told me to do. But the one and only doctor that did surgeries on little ones with cleft palettes was very mean. When my daughter did not take the bottle, he wanted her to use a sip cup. According to him, It was my fault. I even asked the other doctors what to do. They all told me to contact Shriners Children's Hospital. So I did. The first time they looked at my daughter they saw a little girl not a number and assured me I was doing everything right for her. Shriners Children's Hospital in Portland, Oregon did a lot of her care. When we moved to Georgia my biggest fear was would her care continue with Shriners Hospital. Once again Shriners stepped up and assured me that her care will not be interrupted. We now go to Houston, Texas for her care where the same loving care is still available there and she feels safe and comfortable with them. Thank you Shriners for all that you do for so many.

Samantha, Steve and Chloe



A Message from the Potentate...

As Potentate of over 1,200-plus members at Alee Shriners, it is my privilege to serve our community and I would like to thank you for your generous donation to Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Shriners Children's/Shriners Hospital for Children celebrated a hundred year milestone in 2022. Donations from individuals like you have supported our locations in the United States, Canada, and Mexico and thus, have helped more than 1.5 million children have a better quality of life. Through the quality service provided by our doctors, nurses, research teams and administrators and through the support of the public, "Shriner Kids" benefit from the most amazing care anywhere in the areas of burns, orthopaedic conditions, cleft lip and palate and spinal cord injuries. In 2023, Alee Shriners collected over \$500,000 for our Shriners Hospitals through generous donations from our community, people like YOU! Thank you so much.

We assure you that your donation directly supports research and the care of children. If you know of a child who would benefit from our services, please have their parent or guardian contact a Shriner in your area or call 1-800-237-5055 in the United States and 1-800-361-7256 in Canada. As a nurse at Shriners Hospital once said, "We members of the staff work for the kids. Without your support and that of the community, such work would not be possible." As you read these inspiring stories, remember you helped make the quality of life for "our kids" better. Once again, we thank you for your support and generosity.

Sincerely,

Carey Hodges
Potentate
Alee Shriners, 2024



Alee Road Runners working their Magic! BEEP BEEP

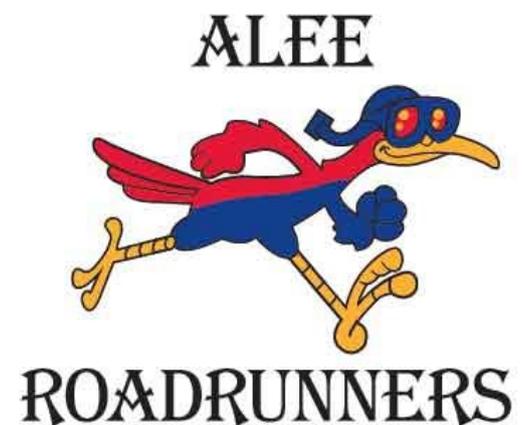
Each Shriners temple has a special unit of transporters called the Road Runners. Road Runners have driven millions of miles bringing children to Shriners Hospitals for Children. For each trip, they pick up a local child and their family, drive them to the hospital for treatment, and then return with them back home. The transportation is free of cost to the child's family, but the Road Runners say they are paid with smiles from the child. When asked why they volunteer so much of their time, Road Runners simply reply that when they look at what the families are going through with the children, they are happy to drive any distance to help them.

Alee has THE MOST dedicated Shriners. Thank you to the Road Runners! These drivers have been to Shriners Hospitals for Children in Greenville, Dayton, Shreveport, Chicago, and Philadelphia. We are living the Shriners Creed: "...As Shriners, we look beyond ourselves to serve the needs of others especially children who cannot help themselves. We believe Shriners Hospitals for Children to be the world's greatest philanthropy, and we covenant with each other to support its "temple of mercy" with spirit, time, talent and means."

GREAT JOB and Thank you!

President: Noble Ken King

Trip Coordinator: Noble Steve Premo



Greetings all.

My name is Ken Porter and I am the Alee Shriners representative to Shriners Children's—Florida. The staff has been providing hope and healing to children for almost 100 years. Our compassionate, prestigious doctors and care teams are committed to excellence in pediatric care.

Our nurses go far beyond their professional promise, building relationships and providing warmhearted, high-quality care. They're devoted to our patients' and their families' overall well-being.

Shriners Children's is committed to conducting research that will improve medical treatments and quality of life for children. Our efforts also increase the worldwide body of medical and scientific knowledge. All treatment is given regardless of the families' ability to pay.

If I can be of assistance, please contact me through the Shrine temple office. The number is (912)355-2422 or email me at grannyslance@yahoo.com or by cell phone at (912)492-8445.

Thanks for supporting the Shriners.

Alee Iron Knights ride for Bella!



Shriners Children's Chicago

Each Spring since 2013, Alee Shriners Potentates, Divan, Nobles and Ladies pray for safe travels, fair weather and a decent wind behind all of the riders as they commence to drive 1000 miles in 24 hours, better known as the Iron Knights Alee Butt Ride.

Fun Facts: The route is always different. A team drives the route a week or two before to map out rest spots, food and gas. This year, they left from the VFW on Ogeechee and arrived in St Augustine, FL the next day. This years ride proceeds benefit the Shriners Children's Hospital in Chicago as a THANK YOU for all the outstanding work they have done for Bella - one of our Shrine Patients. Thanking their team of Doctors, Nurses and hospital staff. Bella is now cleared for all activities after surgery 2 years ago and constant monitoring the curvature of her back. Bella is definitely a "Super Hero"!

This ride has been held annually beginning in 2013 and has raised over \$300,000 benefitting Shriners Children's. They have purchased vans for our Roadrunners to take our patients to and from the hospital for surgeries or office visits and made donations at Tampa, Greenville Hospitals and now Chicago.



Taken off of Facebook with permission



Thank you to Ms. Connie for her generous donation of cute stuffed animals - she has donated to Shriners Children's monthly for years!



TO ALL SUPPORTERS OF SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN

Clyde V. Bowie, Past Potentate of Alee Shriners 2018 and Noble Roger Hutchinson respectively, are proud to represent Alee Shriners on the Board of Directors for Shriners Hospitals for Children in Greenville, South Carolina. We want to take this opportunity to say **“THANK YOU”** to the supporters of our mission to treat children in our Shriners Hospitals throughout the United States, Mexico and Canada. We accept children from birth to age 18 for treatment if their needs are in the scope of our specialized service lines of pediatric orthopedic conditions, burn injuries, spinal cord injuries and cleft lip and palate.

We are in our 99th year of operating Shriners Hospitals in Greenville. We continue to develop new techniques through research to make it possible for children to “defy the odds” and have a typical childhood and on to adulthood which otherwise may not have been possible. We have the finest doctors, nurses and support staff dedicated to our mission of treating children in our Shriners Hospitals.

Our most recent campaign theme says it all - **“Love to the Rescue”**. Love is shown to each and every patient in our hospitals without regard to their ability to pay for services that are needed.

If you know of a child that might need our services, please have his/her parent or guardian call the Alee Shrine temple office at **912-355-2422 ext 4**. If you know of an opportunity for us to present a program or speak to a group about our hospitals, please contact any Shriner or contact Clyde Bowie at 706-945-7377 or Roger Hutchinson at 912-312-1135.

Thanks again for your support of the world’s greatest philanthropy, Shriners Children’s—Greenville.

Clyde V. Bowie

Board of Directors
Shriners Children’s—Greenville

Roger Hutchinson

Associate Board of Directors
Shriners Children’s—Greenville



Morris Slotin Fund

This fund is named in honor of one of our Past Potentates, Morris Slotin. All donations are used exclusively to transport children to and from our Shriners Hospitals.

This fund is supported by contributions from our Shriners, friends, and others in memory or in honor of a friend, relative, or loved one.

**To Make a
Donation to
Alee Shriners...**

Alee Shriners
Morris Slotin Fund
P.O. Box 14147
Savannah, GA
31416

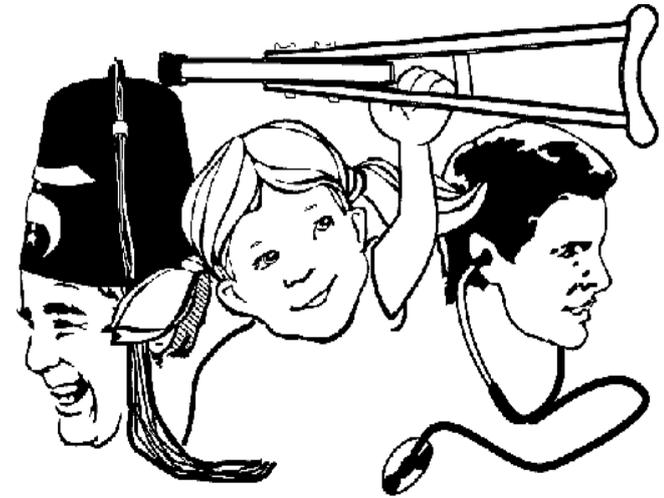
OR

aleeshriners.org

Helping a Child is Just a Phone Call Away

Determining whether a child is eligible for care at Shriners Hospitals for Children is as simple as calling **800-237-5055** (toll free in the U.S.), or **800-361-7256** (in Canada) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time Monday through Friday.

During the initial phone call, you will discuss the nature of the child's condition, age and location of residency with a patient referral coordinator. Based upon the information provided, you will be referred to a specific Shriners Hospitals for Children location that can best care for the child. Additional information is available on **shrinerschildrens.org**. Shriners Hospitals for Children specializes in treating orthopedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate.



SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN ARE DULY REGISTERED WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA AS REQUIRED BY ITS SOLICITATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS ACT. THEIR REGISTRATION NUMBER IS CH433. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 800-435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE, OR VISITING THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE AT WWW.FLORIDACONSUMERHELP.COM. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

A COMMITMENT TO HOPE AND HEALING



MORE THAN 1.5 MILLION CHILDREN AND COUNTING

Shriners Children's is a renowned healthcare system whose staff is dedicated to improving the quality of life for children around the world. Patients with orthopedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate are eligible for care regardless of the families' ability to pay or insurance status.

What began as one hospital in 1922 is now a healthcare system that has locations in the United States, Canada and Mexico, holds international outreach clinics and is a leader in medical education and research. For more than 100 years now, members of the Shriners fraternity have supported Shriners Children's, which has improved the lives of more than 1.5 million children.

THE MOST AMAZING SPECIALTY CARE ANYWHERE

The first Shriners Children's locations were created to fill a need — primarily, to help children who had contracted polio. Over the years, Shriners Children's continued to identify and fulfill needs in pediatric specialty care. Today, our patients receive quality care for orthopedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate. Shriners Children's goal is to continue to bring our compassionate specialized care to more children, more conveniently and closer to where they live.

LEADING THE WAY IN ORTHOPEDICS

Most of our locations provide care for essentially any orthopedic condition, from common conditions and routine sports or play injuries, to the most complex cases and rare diseases, disorders and syndromes. Commonly treated conditions include clubfoot, limb deficiencies and discrepancies, scoliosis and spinal conditions, and osteogenesis imperfecta (OI, also known as Brittle bone disease), as well as the orthopedic difficulties associated with neuromuscular conditions, such as cerebral palsy. We are dedicated to providing a complete program of medical and rehabilitative care to help each child become as healthy and independent as possible, including surgeries; physical, occupational and recreational therapies; and orthotic and prosthetic services.

PIONEERING BURN CARE

Shriners Children's has been a leader in pediatric burn care since the mid-1960s. At the Shriners Children's burn care locations in California, Texas, Ohio and Massachusetts, experienced teams provide critical, surgical and rehabilitative care for all degrees of burn injuries and scars, as well as other skin conditions. Some advances made through our research include increased survival rates, methods to minimize scarring and improved wound-healing techniques.

SPINAL CORD INJURY REHABILITATION

CLEFT LIP AND PALATE CARE

Sometimes a baby or child has a difference in their smile or the shape of their face, nose or chin, known as a craniofacial (head and face) difference. Conditions can range from mild to severe. A multidisciplinary team works together to solve the many issues associated with this complex condition, including the ability to breathe, speak, hear and eat. Each patient's customized treatment plan may include advanced treatments and services such as craniofacial surgery, 3D printing for jaw surgeries, facial and dental imaging, psychology, speech therapy, audiology, ear, nose and throat surgeries and dental- and orthodontic-related services.

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

Shriners Children's strives to discover answers that will one day improve lives by conducting high-quality, innovative research. Our researchers have made significant breakthroughs that are improving the care and quality of life for children worldwide, while adding to the global body of medical knowledge. By maintaining relationships with medical teaching facilities, Shriners Children's fosters an academic environment committed to providing superior education for medical professionals and quality care to all patients. Many of our care providers are dedicated to helping medical professionals in other countries, in order to help more children receive care closer to home.

Visit:
shrinerschildrens.org or shrinersinternational.org

Call:
800-237-5055 in the U.S. or 800-361-7256 in Canada | Donate: lovetotherescue.org

BURN FIRST AID

Shriners Children's research could reduce likelihood of hospitalization



Shriners Children's Northern California burn surgeons David Greenhalgh, M.D.; Tina Palmieri, M.D.; and Soman Sen, M.D.

While most Americans know running cool water over a burn as first aid, not many know the optimal time is at least 20 minutes.

Shriners Children's burn surgeon Tina Palmieri, M.D., recently provided evidence that this is the case in an emergency medicine journal article published together with Australian authors.

Dr. Palmieri, the newly named chief of burns at Shriners Children's Northern California, was the only American on the paper. According to the article, evidence shows cool running water not only appears to stop the progress of the damage occurring from a burn wound but also lessens the chance that the person burned will need surgery or skin grafting or be admitted to the hospital.

In addition, according to the article, you can use cool running water at any time for up to three hours after the burn and still get benefit.

Dr. Palmieri said that any water from a house faucet or a garden hose should be cool enough to provide the adequate amount of cooling, as the pipes come from underground. She also said that using cool running water as first aid for any burn less than or equal to five palm prints in size should be safe and is recommended. For bigger burns, however, she advises heading immediately to the hospital.

According to research, 20 minutes of cool running water decreases the likelihood of a full thickness burn by 63%, decreases the need for skin grafting by 46% and decreases the need for surgical treatment at all by 36%. Time to heal skin is improved by one day, which can be very important for scarring.

If you've ever tried it, you also know cool running water can ease the pain of a burn.

The challenge with this recommendation is, that when a person has been burned, 20 minutes is a very long time to stand still and keep the injury under the water.

"Twenty minutes can seem an eternity when you need to stay under the water and not move. Twenty minutes is hard to do," Dr. Palmieri said. "You almost have to actually time it."

Dr. Palmieri, who is a past president of the American Burn Association, noted that, while the "20 minutes" part of this advice is not especially well known here in the United States, it tends to be common knowledge in Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

The difference may be because physicians and public health officials in the U.S. tend to be more conservative than those in other countries, and they haven't felt the evidence was strong enough to warrant the recommendation. Until now, perhaps.

"The majority of burns are small burns, and they would benefit from this," she said.

Twenty minutes can seem an eternity when you need to stay under the water and not move. Twenty minutes is hard to do. You almost have to actually time it.

— Tina Palmieri, M.D.

BURN CARE

Shriners Children's makes significant contributions to pediatric burn care

In mid-1960s, the Shriners fraternity and the physicians at Shriners Children's hospitals observed a dire need. There were adult burn centers in the United States, and military burn centers, but no centers that specialized in children. So, the decision was made to open the very first pediatric burn center in the United States, on the campus of the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas.

According to recent figures, one quarter of all burn injuries occur in children.

Shriners Children's has been at the forefront of burn care, and advancing it, ever since. For instance:

- A critical staple of burn care is the pressure garment. These elastic sleeves, gloves and masks are worn during healing to prevent some of the heavy scarring that occurs after a severe burn. Customized, pressure garment therapy was pioneered at Shriners Children's Galveston location shortly after it opened.
- Research at Galveston also established the benefits of exercise after a burn injury.
- Large burns cause the body to go into a hypermetabolic state. This state will cause the body to consume its own muscle if the patient does not get proper nutrition and exercise. The loss can be debilitating, as the hypermetabolic state can last a year or more. Shriners Children's researchers in Galveston showed that deliberate exercise helps preserve muscle in burn patients.
- In 1988, Ronald Tompkins, M.D., of the Shriners Children's Boston hospital, showed definitively that surgically removing burnt tissue in large burns improved survival in children. That is now established practice worldwide.
- In 1981, John Burke, M.D., of Shriners Children's Boston, announced that his team had developed the first practical synthetic skin. It was a tremendous advance, because it holds in fluids and keeps out infections where previous wound grafts did not.

When Shriners Children's came to burns, only half of children admitted to a hospital with burns covering 64% of their body survived. These days, due to the advances made, Shriners Children's burn surgeons routinely save children burned over 90% of their bodies.



New International Patient Ambassador:

Paige

Paige, 19, is a college student from Louisiana studying business management. When she was 8, Paige experienced a terrifying allergic reaction to a newly prescribed seizure medication.

At first, doctors thought she had developed strep throat, and some even thought it was pinkeye, a common childhood ailment. When her symptoms drastically progressed, she was rushed to the hospital with a 104 degree fever and her skin slowly blistering off her body.

Her diagnosis was [Stevens-Johnson syndrome](#) (SJS), a painful and rare condition often described as burning from the inside out. With the worst form of SJS, toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), Paige had developed a life-threatening rash that eventually covered 80% of her body and mimicked the effects of a severe burn injury. Doctors knew her best chance of survival was to transfer her to [Shriners Children's Texas](#).

The burn care teams at Shriners Children's have the specialized expertise to treat conditions such as SJS using many of the same burn care standards and treatments for skin conditions that have characteristics similar to burns. I am very excited about the chance to give back and talk about the life-saving care I received at Shriners Children's. I want to inspire others and give hope that they too can endure.

Over the years, Paige has had over 20 surgeries, with much of her early teen years spent going in and out of the hospital for treatment. Today, she experiences the lingering effects of SJS, including issues with her vision. But this hasn't stopped her from accomplishing her goals and enjoying her life. Not only are her parents and two younger brothers a constant source of strength (and laughter!), but her care team has become like a second family to Paige.

Paige became a Patient Ambassador for Shriners Children's Texas, a role that helped her strengthen her determination to succeed and gives her a platform to spread awareness about SJS. She is dedicated to helping children facing similar battles, including the bullying from peers that often accompanies these types of conditions. Her experiences have honed her leadership skills.

"To me being a leader means that you have the will, the want, and the power to make a difference," said Paige. The hardest thing she has done in her life was accepting what happened to her and looking at it in a positive light: But she had the courage and perseverance to get through it and come out stronger on the other side.

Paige looks forward to sharing her story on an even bigger stage as an International Patient Ambassador. "Without Shriners Children's, I would definitely not be where I am today. In fact, I probably would not be alive," she said.

<https://www.shrinerschildrens.org/en/news-and-media/patient-stories/2024/07/international-patient-ambassador-paige>



New International Patient Ambassador: **Grayson**



Grayson, 20, was born in Kiev, Ukraine, without a femur, making his right leg significantly shorter than his left. He was also born missing two fingers on his left hand. At 15 months, he met his parents while living in an orphanage in Ukraine. His mom and dad were ready to adopt and aware that Grayson would need specialized medical care.

Grayson's mom, Ceci, knew who to call. She reached out to a contact at the [Pediatric Orthotic and Prosthetic Services](#) (POPS) department at [Shriners Children's Lexington](#) for help.

When Grayson arrived in the U.S. with his parents, they weighed their options for treatment with the medical team in Lexington. They decided on [surgery](#) to remove part of the foot and rework his ankle to suit a [prosthetic leg](#).

Today, thanks to some help from his care team and a lot of personal perseverance, Grayson never lets his physical differences hold him back. He has tried everything from swimming to football, soccer, basketball, baseball and cross-country running. He's been active in 4-H and enjoys shooting sports. Grayson is an Eagle Scout and enjoys rock climbing, hiking, bicycling and skiing. I have the opportunity to use this platform to provide hope to others and share the message of the incredible care Shriners Children's gives.

"Shriners Children's Lexington has been a part of my life from the very beginning," Grayson said. "Shriners Children's has literally given me the legs to be my fullest self. I am forever grateful for everything they have done for me."

Grayson's parents agree. Ceci said the medical center has always made it easy for Grayson to get the care he needs, especially remaining accessible at any time to make adjustments to his prosthetics for comfort, fit and function. "We're so thankful for Shriners Children's, because we've been able to get above and beyond what Grayson needs. The quality of the care and the quality of the providers far surpass anywhere else," she said.

Grayson credits his parents and his care team for instilling in him the confidence to never put limits on himself just because of his physical differences. He strives to be the kind of leader who is humble, kind and generous even when people aren't watching.

Grayson grew up in Kentucky with his parents, brother and sister and is now attending college in Arkansas. He is majoring in construction science, with dreams of being a real estate developer.

He is very excited for the opportunity to serve as an International Patient Ambassador to give back to the organization that has treated him since he was a toddler. "I am so humbled to have been chosen to share my story and represent Shriners Children's. I want to inspire other amputees and let them know about this special community that has become like a family to me," said Grayson.

<https://www.shrinerschildrens.org/en/news-and-media/patient-stories/2024/07/international-patient-ambassador-grayson>

Shriners Children's selects International Patient Ambassadors each year to represent the healthcare system at local and international events. The ambassadors share their inspiring stories of perseverance and how Shriners Children's has made a dramatic difference in their lives. Our 2024-2025 International Patient Ambassadors are Paige and Grayson.



Colt and Ty— Our awesome twosome



Throwback pic of our Twosome supporting Shriners Children's.

Colton and Ty, both patients at Shriners Children's™ Ohio, will have the experience of a lifetime when they represent the local Shriners care location at the Shriners Children's Open™, an official PGA TOUR event in Las Vegas this October.

Colton and Ty were chosen as two of the patient ambassadors throughout the country to represent the pediatric care network at the tournament, where they will serve as Standard Bearers throughout the weekend, carrying the scores of professional golfers as they compete in the tournament. It is a rare “inside the ropes” opportunity at a PGA TOUR event, as well as the chance to share how Shriners Children's has helped transform their lives.

About Colton and Ty

Colton and Ty are 13-year-old twins who have faced every challenge together, including their cleft lip and palate journey with Shriners Children's. They are athletes with a passion for baseball, but they shine in unique ways.

Colton, with a laser focus on pitching, is already throwing in the mid-60s and perfecting his slider. Ty also has a creative flair, painting stunning pieces that have turned into commissioned pieces of art.

The twins' incredible journey began at just 4 months old with their first surgery at Shriners Children's Ohio. Since then, the duo has undergone numerous procedures, transforming their smiles and their confidence. Ty and Colton put those smiles to good use, too! They actively share their story in their community to raise money for Shriners Children's and helping spread awareness about the Most Amazing Care Anywhere.

Parent Corner:

Today, as we reflect on our journey with cleft lip and palate, we are filled with gratitude for Shriners Hospital for Children. They didn't just provide medical care—they gave us hope, strength, and a reason to smile brightly, even in the face of adversity. Our boys' journey is a testament to the incredible impact that Shriners have on the lives of families like ours, and we will forever be thankful for the care and compassion they showed us.

Barbie and Rod



Online Exclusive Shriners Children's™ Fezzy® Bear

Help transform children's lives and support a cuddly cause with our Shriners Children's Fezzy Bear! This adorable brown teddy bear is the official mascot of Shriners Children's. With its iconic Shriner red fez and bow tie, Fezzy Bear provides lots of comfort and hugs to Shriners patients and other children. This smiley teddy has also been used during medical play sessions to teach young children about upcoming medical procedures and outcomes. Bring a Fezzy Bear home with you today and share the life-changing work of Shriners Children's. **Build-A-Bear Foundation® is a proud supporter of Shriners Children's**

Now you can donate Fezzy or any plush, outfit and/or accessory to the Build-A-Bear Foundation Buddy Room at Shriners Children's locations in North America. If you'd like to donate to a patient, via the Build-A-Bear Foundation Buddy Rooms, please click the link below. Follow these instructions on how to ship to the Build-A-Bear Foundation Buddy Room of your choice!

This item cannot be purchased unstuffed, nor can stuffing adjustments be made. A sound or scent cannot be placed inside this pre-stuffed item.

Titan Ambassador - Middle School

Ashton is an outgoing 13-year-old boy who excels academically, currently serves as a Titan Ambassador at his middle school, and has a passion for baseball.

On Ashton's 12-year-old routine physical, his pediatrician diagnosed him with AIS (adolescent idiopathic scoliosis) of the thoracic region. He was sent for X-rays and referred to a local orthopedic surgeon. He immediately started wearing a nighttime brace. The curve continued to progress, and soon, we discussed surgery. Our insurance and geographical location were determining his treatment plan.

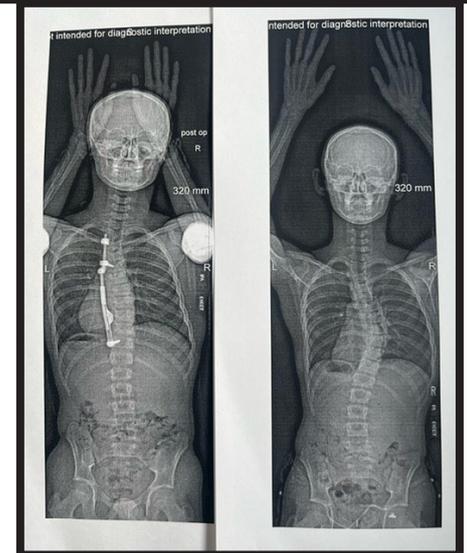
As a mom and medical professional, I started researching all available options. I wanted a second opinion. As a daughter and sister of a Shriner, I knew of the organization and made a self-referral to the closest facility, Shriners Children's Greenville.

Soon, we saw a physician at a satellite office only 45 minutes from my home. He agreed Ashton appeared to be a good candidate for some of the newer, less invasive surgical options. We were then referred to Dr. Luhmann at Shriners Children's in St. Louis, where many of these options were available.

I then contacted my local Alee Shriners, who came on board and offered whatever support I needed. We meet Dr. Luhmann and I knew immediately this was where Ashton needed to be. The nurses, child life specialists, social workers, resource navigators, and anesthesiologists were confident in their skills. We left St. Louis that day with hope and peace.

We returned on January 8, 2024, and he had the Apifix procedure. He woke up in recovery to be greeted with gifts donated for the children at Shriners Children's. The surgery went great, and he walked out of the hospital the next day. He continues to recover and will soon be back to being a teenager at the ball field. All of these were made possible by Shriners Children's.

Christine & Ashton



Our Precious Little Girl—Gracie

We are foster parents. We began our family when Gracie was only 48 hours old. We could see something was not right from the time she started walking. We saw local doctors who recommended braces. She wore them all night; anyone experiencing this knows it is difficult for a small child. We followed this program for over a year with no noticeable change.

We applied and were accepted into Shriners Hospital for Children in Greenville. From the moment we entered, we felt at peace. This was the place we felt would give us answers - she has an in-toeing gait caused by Femoral Anteversion. The doctor was helpful and compassionate.

Fast forward a few years, and she broke her arm.

The teachers and I noticed she was favoring her arm. So we turned again to the best place for Gracie—Shriners Hospital in Greenville.

We can never thank everyone at the hospital and Alee Shriners for their help with our sweet, precious little girl.

When we have an appointment, we call the Alee Shriners and let them know our appointment date and time and they send a check to help with our expenses. With this help, we could make all of these trips. We want to thank the Alee Shriners and the Greenville Doctors and Nurses for all they have done for us.



*Jenny & Jody
& Gracie*

Shriners Hospitals for Children®

As a 501(c)(3) organization, Shriners Hospitals for Children® relies on generous donations from Shriners, corporations and the general public. Individuals can support our work in many different ways. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law.

- **Gifts of Cash:** Contributions can be made at any time to Shriners Hospitals for Children. Donors may send a check or money order payable to Shriners Hospitals for Children or make a credit card gift online at donate2shc.org. Donors can also call **855-401-4897** to make a donation.
- **Charitable Gift Annuities** (if permitted in your state): This is a method of giving that provides the donor (and a second beneficiary, if desired) with a fixed income for life. The donor is given certain tax benefits when he/she transfers money or securities in exchange for our charity's agreement to pay a specified annual rate of return. The fixed rate of return is based on the age of the donor and any other beneficiary. The rate is proposed with the intention that this charity will retain approximately 50 percent of the donor's original gift.
- **Pooled Income Fund:** Persons contributing \$5,000 or more may participate in the Shriners Hospitals for Children Pooled Income Fund. Under this agreement, donors or their designees will receive annual payments from their contribution during their lifetime. A portion of the contribution may be deducted as a charitable donation.
- **Real Estate:** Gifts of real estate are welcomed in our mission of helping children. After approval from Shriners International Headquarters, real estate may be deeded outright to Shriners Hospitals for Children, or, if it is a donor's residence or farm, may be given subject to retained life interests. The value of the interest being contributed may be used as a charitable contribution for income tax purposes.
- **Securities:** Contributions of securities may be easily accomplished. If the donor's securities have appreciated in value at the time of the gift, there may be income tax deductions and other benefits available to the donor.
- **Insurance:** If your state permits charities to have an "insurable interest," you may designate Shriners Hospitals for Children as the beneficiary and/ or owner of an insurance policy. If the policy has a cash surrender value, you may be able to deduct approximately this amount from your taxes. You may also be able to deduct your premium payments if Shriners Hospitals for Children is named both the owner and beneficiary.



- **Wills and Bequests:** Designations of bequests should clearly indicate Shriners Hospitals for Children. Bequests under wills may reduce estate taxes.

- **Charitable Remainder Trusts:** This is an increasingly popular way to make a generous gift, receive tax savings and generate annual payments for yourself and your family. Charitable Remainder Trusts are usually funded with cash, appreciated securities, real estate, or other assets with a value of at least \$100,000. Annual payments are based on a percentage of the value of the trust at inception (annuity trust) or valued yearly (unitrust).

For More Information: We welcome the opportunity to discuss the many options for giving with you today. For specific information about making a donation or planned gift, please call **855-401-4897**, visit donate2shc.org, or write to the Office of Development at the address below. Please consult your tax advisor or attorney before making any planned giving decisions.

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ as a contribution to
Shriners Hospitals for Children.
 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City State Zip: _____
 Make Checks Payable To: Shriners Hospitals for Children,
 P.O. Box 14147, Savannah, GA 31416.
 Memo: Hospital Crusade

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Don't forget when shopping via Amazon to make sure you're shopping via Amazon Smile and have Shriners Hospitals for Children selected as your charity to help our kids.

Despite the challenges of their conditions, these patients exemplify the CARE characteristics Shriners Children's works to instill in every patient:

Confidence, Ambition, Resilience, Empathy.

See how the care they received at Shriners Children's shaped their inspiring stories.

<https://www.shrinerschildrens.org/en/news-and-media/amazekids>