



Matthew

Overcomes *the Odds*

Toothtown
Keeps Kids Smiling

**Give Them Their
Best Shots**
Vaccines All Teens Need

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Dear Friends,

Almost everyone is born with a birthmark, but approximately 40,000 American children are born with birthmarks that require special attention. That was the case for little Matthew Wanger. A port wine stain covered his face as a result of a condition that could lead to seizures and other potential neurological complications. Fortunately for Matthew, his parents sought the help of Miami Children's Hospital where laser surgery was performed to help him live a normal life. You can read his story on page 3.

The feature article on pages 4 and 5 of this issue of *Children's Gazette* focuses on the importance of good dental health. Cavities are on the rise in children as young as age 2, so it's important that parents practice prevention from their child's first tooth. A special place at Miami Children's Hospital—Toothtown—can help.

If you have been watching the news lately and are concerned about the recent toy recalls due to lead exposure, you're not alone. Unfortunately, keeping an eye on toy recalls is not enough. The article on page 6 can help you be more aware of other items in your home that may contain lead.

Thank you for your continued support of the programs and services we offer to help your children, as well as the children of South Florida and beyond.

Sincerely,

Christian C. Patrick, MD, PhD

**CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER/SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEDICAL
AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

MIAMI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Overcoming the Odds

PATIENT PROFILE:

Matthew Wanger



Michael and Michele Wanger were thrilled when they found out they were pregnant with their second child. When Matthew was born, however, they immediately noticed that something was wrong—his entire face was bright red. The Wangers soon learned that the red coloration was a port wine stain, a facial birthmark often associated with Sturge-Weber Syndrome, a disorder that causes seizures, glaucoma and a host of other neurological problems.

When Matthew was just 6 weeks old, a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan showed excessive blood vessel growth on the surface of his brain that was causing abnormal function. The scan confirmed Sturge-Weber Syndrome.

“When your child is born, you don’t expect something like this. Michael and I were devastated,” says Michele. “You want your kids to have every opportunity in life, and we were afraid our son’s opportunities would be limited.”

A PARENT’S SEARCH

Even before they were certain that Matthew had Sturge-Weber Syndrome, the Wangers began looking for treatments for the birthmark on his face. When he was only 3 weeks old, they met with Ana Duarte, MD, FAAD, Director of the Division of Dermatology at Miami Children’s Hospital and one of only 89 board-certified pediatric dermatologists in the United States. Dr. Duarte told the Wangers that Matthew would benefit from vascular dye laser surgery.

“Laser surgery has been used to treat port wine stains for over a decade now and has made a very significant difference in the affected children’s lives,” says Dr. Duarte. “The earlier laser surgery is started, the more effective and successful the results, and children with fair skin tend to do quite well. Matthew was very young with a fair complexion, so I felt his prognosis was promising.”

WONDERFUL RESULTS

The day after his first appointment, the Wangers took Matthew back to Dr. Duarte’s office where she

performed pulsed dye laser surgery on his face while Michele held him in her arms. Matthew would need treatments about every six weeks, which meant long drives for the Wangers, who live in Clearwater. In the end, however, it was worth it—after 26 treatments over three years, Matthew’s birthmark is virtually gone.

“Matthew looks fantastic,” Michele says. “We have gone to great lengths to get to Miami, and it’s been well worth every mile we have traveled.”

A BRIGHT FUTURE

As a result of Sturge-Weber Syndrome, Matthew still has much to overcome. He is on medication for his seizures and glaucoma. Additionally, he has developmental delays, which have required speech, occupational and physical therapy. With the bright red mark gone, however, the Wangers are optimistic about Matthew’s future.

“Many people with Sturge-Weber Syndrome have lived normal lives,” says Michele. “That’s what we’ve always wanted for Matthew, and we are so thankful we found Dr. Duarte because she has made this possible.”

FUN FACTS ABOUT MATTHEW

FAVORITE...

FOODS: ice cream cones, pizza, M&Ms and broccoli

COLOR: blue

HOBBIES: jumping on the trampoline, swimming, listening to stories and taking care of his fish, Nemo

MOVIES: *The Incredibles* and *Finding Nemo*





Welcome to

Toothtown



Teeth. They help your child eat, speak and flash the sweetest smile. Yet it's easy to overlook the dental health needs of young children, and the prospect of putting your child in the dentist's chair can be daunting. Not at Toothtown—Miami Children's Hospital's dental clinic that's designed just for kids.

Dental care for your child begins early, even before all of his or her teeth have made their way into the world.

"Children need to have their first dental visit by age 1," says Rosie Roldan, DMD, MD, Director of the Pediatric Dentistry Residency Program at Miami Children's Hospital. "At Toothtown, we are equipped to care for the youngest children and those with underlying medical problems that may make dental care more complex."

During your child's first dental visit, his pediatric dentist will give you information about preventive measures you can take to keep his teeth healthy. You

will also be establishing a dental "home" so you know who to call with questions or concerns about your child's oral health.

OPEN WIDE

Specially trained support staff, pediatric dentists and other consulting specialists offer a wide range of services at Toothtown, including:

- anesthesia/sedation
- dental care for children from infancy through adolescence
- dental care for children with special needs due to behavioral or medical problems
- emergency dental care—the only local hospital offering this service 24 hours a day
- endodontics/root canal therapy
- Mobile Dental Unit
- oral surgery
- orthodontics

"The broad scope of care at Toothtown is extremely difficult to find elsewhere," says Dr. Roldan. "Because





Raising *the* Bar

Finding dental care for very young children or those with medical problems can be difficult. Miami Children’s Hospital is doing its part to increase the availability of pediatric dental care with the introduction of a Pediatric Dentistry Residency Program.

“The entire country is experiencing a shortage of dentists, and pediatric dentists are in even shorter supply,” says Rosie Roldan, DMD, MD, Director of the Pediatric Dentistry Residency Program at Miami Children’s. “Our residency program is training highly qualified specialists both for this community and the nation.”

The first class of three residents began in July, with three faculty members providing instruction. Adding the residency program has also allowed Miami Children’s to expand the care available at Toothtown, its dental clinic. Residents receive special training in primary dentition (baby teeth) and the transition to permanent teeth, dental care for children with a wide variety of medical conditions, emergency dentistry, as well as how to put children at ease and create a non-threatening treatment environment.

In addition to their dental training, residents learn how to manage oral health as a part of overall physical health, taking part in pediatric medicine, inpatient medicine and anesthesia rotations.

the dental clinic is integrated with the hospital, patients at the clinic have access to world-class hospital services, and hospital patients in need of specialized dentistry receive it on-site.”

STOP CAVITIES IN THEIR TRACKS

While seeking professional dental care for your child is an important piece of the oral health puzzle, supervising your child’s dental hygiene on a daily basis is at least as important. Most Americans have experienced fewer cavities in recent years due to fluoridated water and improved oral hygiene. However, cavities are on the rise among children ages 2 to 5, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—mostly due to snacking on sweets.

Here are five guidelines to help prevent tooth decay in children.

- ① **Banish bottles in bed.** Putting babies to sleep with a bottle of anything but water can cause tooth decay.
- ② **Offer only water in a sippy cup.** Giving your child soda, fruit juice or even milk in a sippy cup means her teeth can stay coated with sugar for hours.
- ③ **If it’s sweet, keep it short.** We all know that too many sweets are bad for kids’ teeth, but did you know that a quick sweet snack is better than sucking on the same lollipop for hours? The less time your child spends with a mouthful of sugar before brushing, the better.
- ④ **Teach good eats.** Healthful foods not only help children grow strong, they also protect teeth. In particular, avoid refined carbohydrates found in processed foods, and offer fruits, veggies and whole grains like brown rice and whole-wheat bread.
- ⑤ **Brush and floss often.** For infants, use a soft baby toothbrush and water. Introduce a pea-sized amount of fluoridated toothpaste between the ages of 2 and 3, and continue to supervise your child to reduce the amount of toothpaste he or she swallows.

For more information about Toothtown or to make an appointment with a pediatric dentist, call (305) 663-8538.

Brush Those Babies!

If you think baby teeth are just a cute preview of the real deal, think again. Dental care is just as important for your young child’s pearly whites as it is for your permanent chompers. Here are some reasons to insist on dental hygiene from baby’s first tooth.

Children need baby teeth to chew. Even though they won’t last forever, your child needs his baby teeth to eat everything from those first Cheerios to his vegetables. Children with tooth decay often experience pain when eating, causing them to eat less and suffer nutritional deficiencies or slow growth.

Decayed teeth = poor academic performance. Imagine how hard it would be to concentrate at your job if you had a toothache. Damaged, unhealthy teeth are just as painful and distracting to a child as to an adult, hampering your child’s success in school.

Baby teeth are placeholders. If a baby tooth falls out prematurely, the space that tooth was holding for a permanent tooth may be crowded by the remaining baby teeth.

Healthy teeth make happy smiles. Pretty teeth aren’t just a matter of aesthetics. A child with decayed teeth or one who loses baby teeth prematurely can feel self-conscious about her smile.

Good habits stick. A child who learns to brush and floss baby teeth properly is likely to continue this healthy routine when permanent teeth make their appearance.



This Lab's a

Lifesaver



The Simulator Lab at Miami Children's Hospital helps parents and caregivers of children with certain chronic conditions practice emergency care in the hospital, so they can be better prepared at home.

When a tracheostomy or gastrostomy tube falls out in the middle of the night, minutes are precious—so it's tremendously helpful when parents and caregivers can comfortably reinsert the tube without a trip to the emergency room. To help parents in this situation, Miami Children's recently opened the Simulator Lab—which medical personnel use for practice sessions—to families.

A SAFE SPACE

The Simulator Lab is equipped with sophisticated mannequins and advanced technology, allowing the staff to customize your training session based on your child's age, sex, condition, assistive devices and other characteristics.

"Many parents whose children have chronic illnesses or special needs are concerned about providing care without the safety net of a nearby nurse," says Linda Nylander-Housholder, ARNP, MSN, CCRN, Critical Care Educator at Miami Children's. "We hope that practicing home medical care in the lab's supportive atmosphere reduces emergency room visits and gives parents confidence and peace of mind."

For more information on caregiver training at the Miami Children's Hospital Simulator Lab, call Linda Nylander-Housholder at (305) 666-6511, ext. 3550.



Get the LEAD OUT

Asking if your home is lead paint free isn't the only question parents should be posing. As we've all learned this year, lead exists in places other than the walls of older homes. Here's what you need to know to protect your children.

Toy recalls are all over the news—with lead being found in children's jewelry, sidewalk chalk and even furniture. However, since lead must be ingested to cause serious harm, playing with a toy away from the face does not pose an immediate threat. On the other hand, there is no "safe" level of lead, so even small amounts should be considered dangerous.

LOOKING OUT FOR LEAD

How can you tell if your child has been exposed to lead? Symptoms may include:

- abdominal pain
- constipation

- irritability
- learning difficulties
- loss of appetite
- pallor
- sluggishness
- vomiting
- weight loss

"Babies and toddlers are most susceptible to lead poisoning because of their tendency to put things in their mouths," says Deise Granado-Villar, MD, MPH, FAAP, Director of Preventive Medicine and Ambulatory Services at Miami Children's Hospital. "Ask your pediatrician for a blood test if you are concerned about your child's possible exposure."

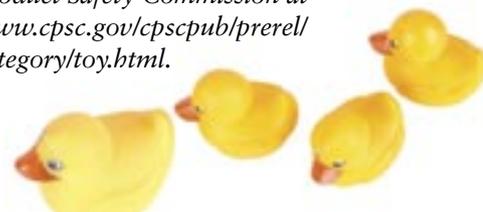


BUYER BEWARE

Parents should be reassured that lead content is being checked in foreign and domestic products. United States regulatory efforts over the last three decades have eliminated or reduced the amount of lead in soil, water and paint, but parents will always be the last line of defense.

You can protect your child from lead by monitoring recalls for children's toys and jewelry and testing for and removing lead paint in your home.

For more information about specific toy recalls, visit the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission at www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/category/toy.html.



3 VACCINES

Your Teen Needs



When they're small, children are protected against everything from whooping cough to chickenpox. Now, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is urging parents of preteens and teenagers to get three additional vaccines.

The following are three highly recommended vaccinations the CDC suggests, and why they are important:

MCV4 (MENINGITIS)

Meningitis—an inflammation of membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord—can be either viral or bacterial and occurs when an infection somewhere in the body spreads through the blood and into the cerebrospinal fluid, which then circulates to the brain and spinal cord. Although rare, meningitis can be very serious and very contagious—spread by such behaviors as hand-to-mouth contact.

“The rate of bacterial meningitis among college students living in dormitories is approximately twice that of the rest of the American population because of the close quarters they share,” says Marcelo Laufer, MD, FAAP, pediatric and infectious disease physician at Miami Children’s Hospital. “Many colleges and universities are now requiring the MCV4 vaccination for incoming

freshman before they can begin their first semester.”

The CDC recommends a routine MCV4 vaccination for preteens 11 to 12 years old and also at 17 or 18 years old, before they enter college.

HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV)

In 2007, approximately 11,000 American women were diagnosed with cervical cancer. To fight this disease, a new HPV vaccination is now being offered. Suggested for females between the ages of 9 and 26, the HPV vaccine helps protect young women from some of the more serious problems caused by HPV, such as cervical cancer.

“The HPV vaccine is probably one of the greatest medical breakthroughs of the last 10 to 15 years,” says Dr. Laufer. “The vaccination protects against 90 percent of genital warts and 70 percent of infections that may lead to cervical cancer.”

Proven safe and effective by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the HPV vaccination is administered through a series of three shots over a six-month period.

“Since the vaccine does not protect girls who are already infected with HPV, it is important for them to receive the vaccination before they become sexually active,” explains Dr. Laufer.

TETANUS (TDAP)

In addition to the DTaP vaccine (a five-series vaccination your child received starting at 2 months and ending at 6 years old), your child should also receive a Tdap vaccination at 11 or 12 years old. This vaccination is meant to aid in protecting preteens against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis, or whooping cough, one of the most common respiratory infections among teens.

“These vaccines are all available at Miami Children’s,” says Dr. Laufer. “I urge parents to contact their children’s physicians to set up appointments. After all, these vaccinations may save your child’s life.”

For information on the pediatric services offered at Miami Children’s Hospital, visit www.mch.com and click on “Medical Services.”

TURN OFF the Tube

The debate has raged for years—is television a positive or negative influence on your child's development? Many would say it depends on the content, but does quantity play a role, too?

(above) Marcel J. Deray, MD, neurologist and Director of the Sleep Disorders Center at Miami Children's Hospital

There are currently several conflicting reports on the effects of TV on attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). One study found that 10 percent of children exposed to excessive amounts of television between the ages of 1 and 3 developed attention disorders by age 7, while other studies have suggested more research needs to be conducted before an accurate connection can be made between the two. Regardless, excessive television can lead to bad health habits.

"Children who spend large amounts of time in front of the television are more likely to become obese," says Marcel J. Deray, MD, neurologist and Director of the Sleep Disorders Center at Miami Children's Hospital. "Watching television

discourages children from physical exercise, and many commercials encourage the consumption of junk foods."

ENCOURAGE OTHER ACTIVITIES

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, children under the age of 2 should not be exposed to any television at all. Older children should be limited to one to two hours of screen time a day—including computers, television and video games.

Instead, play board games with your child, go for a walk together or encourage him or her to join a team sport. Also, set a good example with your own television habits. By limiting the amount of time you spend in front of the tube, your child will be more likely to follow in your footsteps.

Mark Your Calendars!

The following classes are held on a monthly or quarterly basis at Miami Children's Hospital (MCH).

Please call (305) 662-8282 for further information.

Parenting Boot Camp

Parenting Boot Camp is a creative and interactive class for parents and soon-to-be parents. Facilitators assist expectant moms and dads down that unfamiliar path on life's journey called parenthood. Our goal is to help new parents learn the value and importance of interacting with their babies in ways that will ensure an attached and bonded relationship.

Highlights of this program include instruction on diaper changing, bathing, appropriate dress, crying, how to recognize when a baby is sick, feeding, developmental stages and child development activities.

New Sibling Class

This program is designed to prepare children

3 to 7 years old for a new brother or sister. Positive sibling skills will be presented in a fun, interactive way that teaches children about the important contributions they can make as big brothers or sisters. Please call (305) 662-8282 for further information.

Infant Massage

Infant massage is designed for children from birth to 15 months. Our hands-on method ensures you will learn the art of interactive massage to suit your baby's individual needs and developmental level. Infant massage encourages relaxation for both parent and baby, promotes longer and deeper sleeping patterns and can relieve colic symptoms, among other benefits. Please call (305) 662-8282 for further information.

Stranger Danger

This workshop, sponsored by Miami Children's Hospital and the Child Assault Prevention Project of South Florida (CAP), helps parents and children ages 5 to 12 prevent stranger

danger and abduction. Children and parents learn how to identify a stranger, child protection awareness, techniques strangers use, strategies on what to do when confronted with a stranger and self defense.

CPR Class

This course in pediatric CPR teaches parents, grandparents and caregivers how to administer CPR to infants and children. This class is available in both English and Spanish.

Child Passenger Safety

Child safety is our priority. Child passenger safety technicians will check your child's seat for defects, recalls, installation and fit. Please contact (305) 663-6800 for more information.

For a list of support groups, visit www.mch.com/patient/support_group.htm.

Meet the *Leadership Team* at Miami Children's Hospital Foundation (MCHF)

With our organizational chart finally filled, we are taking this opportunity to introduce some of our team members. Here they are, in their own words.



LUCY MORILLO, MCHF PRESIDENT

"My goal is to support Miami Children's Hospital (MCH), our 'Diamond of the South.' As President, I have been able to staff our Foundation with the most amazing team. We have only 24 people, but our dedication and commitment to achieving our financial goals makes it seem sometimes like we are 100 strong."

You can contact Lucy at lmorillo@mchf.org or by calling (786) 268-1820.

MESCHELLE HUETHER, VICE PRESIDENT ESTATES/GIFT PLANNING & ANNUAL FUND

"Planned gifts are a way of leaving a legacy to Miami Children's Hospital that benefits not only you and your family, but also future generations. We work with individuals who have included, or wish to include, MCHF in their estate plans to ensure quality health care for generations to come."

You can contact Meschelle at mbuether@mchf.org or by calling (786) 268-1847.



CONNIE KAZANJIAN, VICE PRESIDENT OF DEVELOPMENT

"As Vice President of Development, my mission is very simple: I am at the Foundation to find funding to support Miami Children's Hospital. I am on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week to help our incredible medical team find the resources needed to meet the needs of our most important 'diamonds,' our patients. I have the joy of working with the most wonderful volunteers in the world to make the dreams of MCH come true."

You can contact Connie at ckazanjian@mchf.org or by calling (786) 268-1845.

ANN LYONS, VICE PRESIDENT OF PROGRAMS & DONOR RELATIONS

"My long relationship with the Foundation gives me a very unique perspective. In 1982, I witnessed Ambassador David Walters form MCHF with a vision of laying the groundwork for the growth of MCH from a small community hospital into a world-renowned pediatric institution. I also work with a major contributor to our community outreach program—Children's Miracle Network, an international organization dedicated to raising funds for children's hospitals."

You can contact Ann at alyons@mchf.org or by calling (786) 268-1830.



RICHARD PEREZ, VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

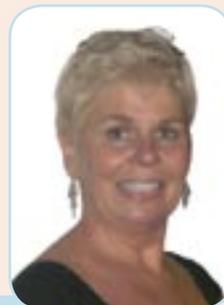
"Being a parent and having lived next door to MCH for the last 30 years, I know how important this hospital is to the South Florida community. I have personally watched MCH's dramatic growth and can recognize the contribution that the Foundation has made to help foster such growth."

You can contact Richard at rperez@mchf.org or by calling (786) 268-1825.

JAMIE HOLT, VICE PRESIDENT OF MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS

"What a fantastic time to be part of this amazing MCHF team! With the recent ranking of our 'Diamond of the South,' MCH, as one of the top 30 pediatric hospitals in the country and the only one in Florida, I have experienced a marketing person's dream. Our next step is to take the MCHF message national."

You can contact Jamie at jholt@mchf.org or by calling (786) 268-1822.



Inaugural Diamond Ball

This sold-out glittering evening held at The Ice Palace Film Studios on October 13 featured Juan Carlos Mas and Vivian Mas as Chairs and surpassed the ambitious \$1 million-goal set forth by Mr. Mas. Six-year-old piano prodigy Ethan Bortnick, surprise guest, played Mozart and three of his own compositions to a standing ovation. Ethan told the story of how his little brother Nathan was born with a heart condition and had surgery at MCH and now "he runs around and plays fine." Entertainment was provided by international recording artists Fanny Lu, Nicole Henry and Karina Iglesias. Lucy Morillo, MCHF President, was radiant in red, and Mistress of Ceremonies Myrka Dellanos, two-time Emmy award winner, sparkled in silver.

A four-course culinary experience was coordinated and prepared with the help of Angela Nowland, Managing Director of The Capital Grille, Ft. Lauderdale, and Head Chef Marc Guverman, in partnership with Michelle Bernstein, chef and co-owner of Michy's. The guests were also treated to a wine pairing provided by Premier Beverage and the Gallo Wine Family. The diamond theme carried through the entire evening with Emporio Armani's newest fragrance "Diamonds" sparkling on the tables for all of the ladies.



Mark Blank, J.C. Mas, Vivian Mas, Lucy Morillo with son Nicholas Lopez-Morillo and Bonnie Blank



Hannah Bortnick, Lucy Morillo, Gene Bortnick, Nathan Bortnick, Nicholas Lopez-Morillo and Ethan Bortnick



Tom and Ann Marie Rozek



Credit Unions Golf Tournament

The 2007 Southernmost and Broward Chapters of the Florida Credit Union League golf tournament was held at Jacaranda Golf Club in Plantation. This year's tournament raised \$20,000 for the Children's Miracle Network program at MCH Foundation. Thank you to Cynthia Lasso and everyone who helped to make this year's tournament a success.



The 7th annual Hasbro toy sale was a huge success and raised more than \$21,600 for the Children's Miracle Network program at MCH Foundation. Shoppers got a jump-start on their holiday shopping and were delighted with the assortment of toys from all of the Hasbro brands available at discounted prices. Thank you to our friends at Hasbro Latin America for your unwavering friendship and support. We'd also like to thank Krispy Kreme for donating breakfast to our hardworking volunteers. A BIG thank you to our volunteers from Key Clubs, Phi Mu, Phi Delta Epsilon, HOSA, etc. for helping to make the sale a huge success!

Pre-Ball Fashion Luncheon at Rene Ruiz Atelier

Hosted by Vivian Mas and Constance Fernandez, a pre-ball luncheon was held September 24, courtesy of fashioner designer Rene Ruiz at his new studio and salon. The 30 guests were treated to pink champagne and had full access to shop Rene's gorgeous creations. Rene also made a contribution of 10 percent of all sales made during the luncheon to MCHF.

(Photo) Left to right: Myrka Dellanos, Mistress of Ceremonies for the Inaugural Diamond Ball; Constance Fernandez, MCHF Board Member; Rene Ruiz; Vivian Mas, Chair of the Inaugural Diamond Ball; Lucy Morillo, MCHF President



Panda Express Visits Patients at Miami Children's Hospital

Mandy Wong and members of the Panda Express team from the Sawgrass Mills Mall location visited with children in the playroom. Activities included making beautiful origami designs and fun paper bag puppets. Panda Express is a new national Children's Miracle Network sponsor.

Torch Relay for Children's Miracle Network

Festivities at this year's Torch Relay for Children's Miracle Network included a "miracle village" at Renaissance Fort Lauderdale and the Courtyard Miami Beach Oceanfront. At each location, a local "miracle" child shared their inspirational story with participants. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped raise much-needed funds for Miami Children's.

Team Dade County



Team Broward County



Queen of Hearts Luncheon

Hosted by MCH Auxiliary, the Queen of Hearts luncheon held November 15 saw Brenda Nestor Castellano crowned as this year's Queen of Hearts. Brenda, a long-time resident of South Florida, has run a number of private and public companies as President and CEO but now spends much of her time serving a multitude of organizations close to her heart. Also honored was Brenda's Royal Court, which included many honorary queens, princesses, ladies in waiting and junior princesses and princes—including Brenda's daughters, Connor and Diana, and their brothers, Brandon, Robert and Sean. The luncheon was held at Indian Creek Country Club where the 400 attendees enjoyed a fashion show by Neiman Marcus, Bal Harbour, and guests received wonderful Cartier goodie bags.



Upcoming Events

February 12

IHOP restaurants in Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe counties will once again host "National Pancake Day." Visit your local IHOP restaurant, enjoy a free short stack of their delicious pancakes and make a donation benefiting the Children's Miracle Network program at MCH Foundation.

February 15

Through a partnership between the Children's Miracle Network and HIT Entertainment, Barney's 20th Anniversary Bus Tour will be visiting 20 Children's Miracle Network hospitals across the country and Miami Children's Hospital is proud to be one of them. Barney's "Sharing and Caring Birthday Party" will be a fun, engaging and inspiring experience for patients at Miami Children's and their families.

March 2

The Hugs & Kisses Committee is doing it up bigger and better than ever. A Family Fun Day is planned for Sunday, March 2, that will start with the traditional kids' fashion show, followed by "Kids Making a Difference," an award ceremony for children who have gone above and beyond for charity. A big, old-fashioned carnival will cap off the afternoon.

The event will take place at the Village of Merrick Park. For information on sponsorships and underwriting opportunities, please contact Karla Jones at (786) 268-1841 or kjones@mchf.org.

March 1 & 2

The 11th Annual FIU Dance Marathon will be held at the University Park Campus in Miami. Participants of the 25-hour event will raise funds for Children's Miracle Network. For more information, please call (305) 348-2149 or visit www.fiu.edu/~dm.

March 29

The Community Council of MCHF will team with Radio Lollipop for the Fantasyland Masquerade Gala, a fun-filled evening held at the Hyatt in downtown Miami. Details are being finalized, but contact Ann Lyons at (786) 268-1830 if you are interested in ticket information.

April 24

The 8th Annual South Florida Children's Miracle Network golf tournament hosted by Marriott will be held at the Doral Golf Resort & Spa, a Marriott Resort. Players will enjoy a day of golf on the legendary Blue Monster Course. For more information, please contact Maria Moldes at mmoldes@mchf.org or call (786) 268-1832.

CMN News

We'd like to welcome the following to the Children's Miracle Network family:

- ♥ Costco #623 in Royal Palm Beach
- ♥ RE/MAX BestSeller in Surfside
- ♥ RE/MAX Premier in Miami
- ♥ Neighborhood Market #4380 in Coral Springs
- ♥ Neighborhood Market #4498 in Coral Springs

Caring for Children in Need

Miami Children's Hospital Foundation (MCHF) is proud to announce the new MCHF Piggy Bank Endowment Fund. With your support, we will be able to supplement the shortfall of patients at Miami Children's Hospital (MCH) whose insurance either runs out or who have no coverage at all.

In 2006, MCH provided more than \$19.4 million in uncompensated care to meet the medical needs of children. Most of these funds provide essential inpatient services for uninsured children or serious or critical-care needs as part of MCH's important ongoing role as a regional safety-net hospital.

Please help us reach our goal to ensure that our children continue to receive the best possible pediatric care available from our "Diamond of the South"—MCH.

To contribute to the MCHF Piggy Bank Endowment Fund, please contact Meschelle Huether at (786) 268-1847 or mhuether@mchf.org. If you would like to donate a gift, please make your check payable to Miami Children's Hospital Foundation and mail it to Meschelle at MCHF, 3000 SW 62nd Ave., Miami, FL 33155. Thank you.

MCHF
Piggy
BANK
ENDOWMENT FUND



Operation *Winter!*

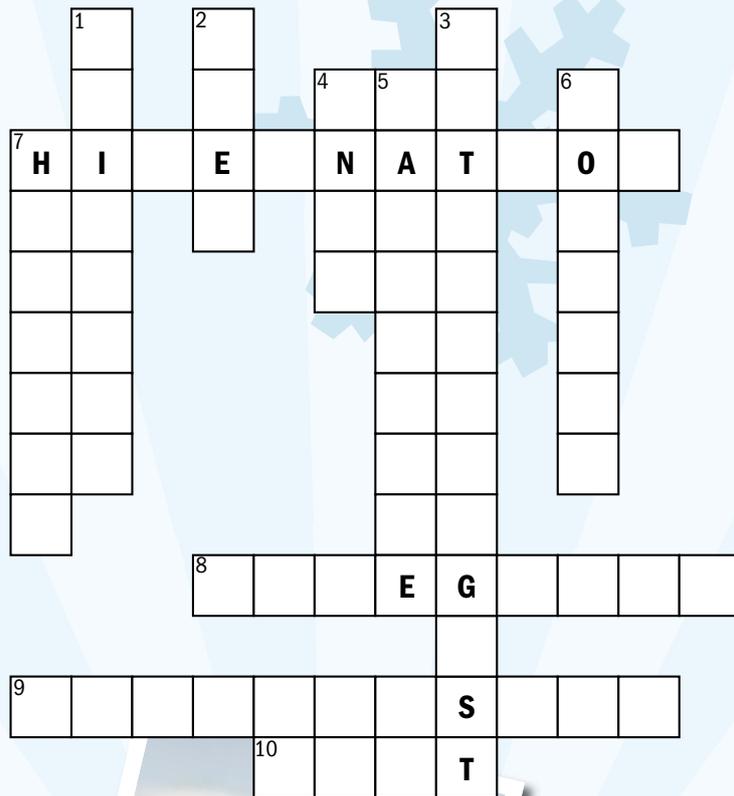
Winter may not come often to South Florida, but you can pretend it's snowy outside with this fun puzzle.

Across

- 7. Some animals go to sleep during the winter. This is known as _____.
- 8. It has to be at least this temperature in order to snow.
- 9. This is what we call January 1. (3 words)
- 10. You should wear this anytime it's cold outside.

Down

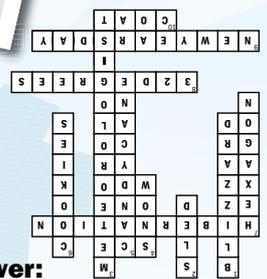
- 1. This is another name for a snowstorm.
- 2. On a snowy day, you can race down a hill on one of these.
- 3. Someone who studies and predicts the weather
- 4. It's white, flaky and fun all over.
- 5. It's red and white, sweet and tastes like peppermint. (2 words)
- 6. Mom bakes these small round treats for us in the oven.
- 7. Snowflakes usually form a six-sided shape called a _____.



Let It Snow!

Everyone loves walking in a winter wonderland, so here are some interesting snow facts to wonder about!

- ✦ The shape and size of a snowflake is determined by how cold and humid it is when it forms.
- ✦ All snowflakes are different, but most of them are hexagons (six-sided shapes).
- ✦ A typical snowflake weighs about .000001 gram.



Answer:



MIAMI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

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