Sounds… like an opportunity for Volunteers

Karaoke during Fun Night at the Harbor

Fun Night at Children’s Harbor is a service of The Children’s Hospital Auxiliary and has really taken off this year, picking up several new volunteer sponsor groups who want to give their time and money for a great cause. The event is held each month on the 4th Monday at 5:45 and lasts until 8:00 pm. We usually have several of our hospital volunteers come and help with our volunteer sponsor group who pay $125 to the Auxiliary for the pizza, drinks and bingo door prizes. The sponsor group serves the fun to the patients and parents while they play bingo and then we break up for crafts or karaoke with Myla in the Harbor atrium. Billy Bob the clown usually stops in to face paint and turns no one away.

This year we have had several new groups to sponsor, including Alicia Vercher and her Sunday school class from Church of the Highlands. Alpha Kappa Pi from Samford University has also volunteered several times and often won the karaoke award hands down. Another great service group from Samford that is lending a hand is Gamma Sigma Sigma Service Sorority which sponsored March, in addition to helping put together wagons throughout the year. The Vestavia YMCA/ Shades Mountain Baptist Church Sunday school group recently sponsored April and plan to come back again in October. Then our very own Children’s Heath System employee Aren Williams is returning with her Sunday school class in November to sponsor Fun Night just like they did last year.

We’ve seen several changes at Fun Night at the Harbor. We had to give up two of our volunteers, Steven Bobo and Amy Tucker, who have done such a good job as coordinators for the last two years. They’ve been assigned to the Huntsville Hospital to continue their medical education. To replace them as Fun Night Coordinators we have added long time volunteers Brittany Pelfrey and Virginia Quigley.

We’d like to send a special thank you to the numerous volunteers and groups who make this event so special.
There is plenty of fun to go around. In fact, we are still looking for a group who would like to sponsor September. If you or someone you know would like to help put smiles on the faces of precious children and their parents please call 205-939-9797 for further details.

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**A Night to Remember**

The annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet was held April 4, 2009 in the Bradley Lecture Center of the Children’s Harbor Building. This year we continued with the Children’s Idol Theme holding our second contest.

After an Italian Buffet prepared by the Happy Catering Company, our hosts for the evening, Rob Conrad of Magic 96.5 and our own Doug Dean, kept us entertained and helped recognize the talents of our volunteers and contestants.

You will note the pictures of the award winners and of our Idol contestants in this Issue. However, we also wanted to recognize the three judges for the Idol contest – Mary Anne Glazner, Chris Montana, and Johnny Montgomery. They added timely comments for the contestants, but were also a hit with their comedy and dancing abilities. If you were there you know what we are talking about. A special thanks goes to our producer and man behind the scenes, Gary Asher.

Recognition also went to the organizations who volunteer at Children’s. As well as the individuals who provided 26,223 hours of service in 2008. This represents a cash equivalent of $428,192.00.

The Idol contest showcased the talented staff of the health system. With our closest vote ever, Wesley Smith was the winner of the $500.00 cash prize. Natricia Bibbs was the first runner up. All of the seven contestants have remarked about how much fun the evening was and what a wonderful audience we had.

Of course Myla, representing the previous year’s contestants, added a little fun in her production, and the guys in volunteer services (who obviously think they are talented) added some excitement.
Congratulations to our award winners:
Carol Rachels & Mary and Steve Blackwelder received the Distinguished Service Award
Nicole Safiano 2008 Teen Scholarship Winner
PACU and HEMOC tied for the Department of the Year
Leah “Jellybean” Curtis and Rebecca “Giggles” Hunt – Buchanan received Clown of the Year
John Obert received the Volunteer of the Year Award.
Imagine our excitement when we heard one of our very own volunteers was being honored with the distinguished Young Hero Award. Caitlin Campbell has been a volunteer at Children's Hospital for three years. She has served in the Child Life, Dialysis and PACU departments. Below is an article published by the Birmingham News.

**Alabama Public Television honors Young Hero**

**Caitlin Campbell of Hoover High**

A camera crew from Alabama Public Television spent a day in Hoover last week to document the activities and accomplishments of Caitlin Campbell. The 17-year-old Hoover High School senior is being honored May 13 with one of five Alabama Public Television Young Heroes Awards, an annual recognition bestowed on high school students who have overcome adversity and demonstrated academic excellence, volunteerism and perseverance, among other things. She is the only recipient from the Birmingham-Hoover metro area this year.
The crew interviewed Campbell, then filmed her at lunch and around school, and then at the Lakeshore Foundation, where she often goes for practices as a nationally ranked member of the foundation's varsity wheelchair basketball team, and a member of the swim team.

Campbell is a lifelong athlete - she is also an avid horseback rider - despite physical challenges that, most of the time, require the use of a wheelchair. As a toddler, Campbell was diagnosed with chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, a neurological disorder that can impair function in the arms and legs. She began therapy at the Lakeshore Foundation at the age of 3 and says her participation in athletics has helped strengthen her weakened limbs. She has dealt with dislocated hips and orthopedic problems that have required multiple surgeries. Still, she considers herself lucky because she has been spared some of the more serious consequences of the disorder.

"I don't really have a reason not to be positive," Campbell said. "I'm surrounded by family and friends that really encourage me all the time." Among her community activities, Campbell, spends time talking and playing games with kids in recovery at Children's Hospital in Birmingham, helping to take their minds off what they're going through. "It's a way for me to encourage kids that are maybe in the same situation," she said.

**Tutor and mentor:**

At school, Campbell serves in the school's peer helper program as a tutor and mentor to other students, and also participates in First Priority, a Christian club on campus, and Very Involved People, a community service group. She is a member of the National Honor Society and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She also volunteers as a counselor at the Lakeshore Foundation's Spring Break Camp and in Sunday school at Bluff Park United Methodist Church, where she helps lead a class of 4-year-olds.

She wants to become a nurse because she enjoys working with kids and because she knows firsthand what it can mean to a patient and a family when a nurse shows extraordinary concern. "It's a great way for me to give back because I have been given so much," she said.

Hoover High guidance counselor Ann Hastings and several Hoover High teachers nominated Campbell for the award, which brings with it a $2,500 scholarship, a laptop computer and a $100 gift certificate to Books-A-Million. The May 18 "Stars in Education" event will be televised statewide on APT in conjunction with the Alabama Department of Education's announcement of the annual Teacher of the Year Award.

In a recommendation letter, Hastings said Campbell is "the best kind of hero - one who simply does what needs to be done, without seeking any praise or reward."

Teachers describe her as confident and courageous, but also humble and kind. Terri Borie, Campbell's peer helping teacher, said she is inspired by Campbell every day. "If all of us had a dose of what's in her heart, this world would be a better place," Borie said.
A Standout Volunteer:
Kara Graves
By Howard Holmes

This story is about a volunteer at the Health System named Kara Graves. I first met Kara a couple of years ago. She was a student at Samford University and wanted to bring a wagon, her service sorority purchased, to the hospital. Kara wanted to put it together and paint it and give it to Children’s Hospital for the patients to use. I remember meeting the sorority in the lobby and making a few pictures.

This group of college students represented the Gamma Sigma Sigma Service Sorority and Kara was their service coordinator. She has continued to serve the sorority at Samford as well as become a volunteer at Children’s Health Systems. Kara volunteered in the area called PACU/ Recovery for over 61 hours last year plus a lot of volunteer time that didn’t get recorded into our system.

Kara went on a trip to England last Fall under a Samford sponsored program. She lived and studied in London in a house owned by the University. Kara was in London for about four months. After speaking with her about the trip I could tell she was very emotional and treasured all of the passion and memories of England as well as back packing through France, Germany, Austria, Turkey, and Italy. Some of her favorite cities were Rome, Paris, Vienna, York, Cambridge, Bedford, Kent and Budapest. Kara especially enjoyed the experience at the Bath house while in Budapest and the auction at Christies in London. She saw a total of 21 plays during the four month trip in Europe. I would think this is a literature education worth a lot.

Kara will graduate in May with two degrees, the first in Biology and the second in The Classics and she plans to walk and receive both. She was accepted into medical schools at South Alabama and UAB and plans to stay in Birmingham to attend UAB.

We wish Kara the best of luck as she starts the next step of her life and we want to support her in her pursuit of a medical career. She has done so much for Volunteer Services and the patients at the Health System. The good part is we will have her for four more years in Children’s. What a deal for us from such a big-hearted lady.
Amy Tucker and Steven Bobo, Fun Night Coordinators, are moving on in their medical careers to the hospital in Huntsville, Alabama. We will miss them at Fun Night at the Harbor, but we wish them the best as they begin a new journey working in the Huntsville hospital. April 27th was the last day for them as volunteers at Children's, but maybe we’ll get them back in a few years. They have contributed greatly doing everything from cleaning, repairing and assembling new wagons. Both even interviewed new volunteer applicants to help coordinate the food and volunteers at Fun Night at the Children's Harbor. Thanks for all your contributions. Volunteer Services will miss you.

SNAPSHOTS!

Our clowns of the year….having fun!

Jelly Bean, Giggles, and Billy Bob having fun at the Homewood & Mountain Brook Kiwanis meeting
Mr. Snake visiting with the kids in the lobby of Children's Hospital.

A Patient pal volunteer in the clinic mall with Dream Factory art cart.

Greeters returning from One Day Surgery after taking a patient.

Greeter in action with wagons.

Fair-fishing.

Our Easter bunny clowns.....
Junior League Volunteer Greeter

Gamma Sigma Sigma

What a view!

Alpha Psi at Fun Night at the Harbor

Frank receives Leadership award

Parent’s Night Out in April
Last year we had these tricycles donated by a church in northwest Alabama. A group of volunteers from Kohls Department Store came to the hospital and handled the assembly so we could find them a good home. Angi Griffin in PT/OT Outpatient Park Place Clinic agreed to take them and find patients who could use them. You can see from the picture that the tricycles are in good hands and will be put to good use. Thanks to Angi and her staff for all they do to give back to the kids of Children's Health System.

Are you Hip with HIPAA?

It is a HIPAA violation if you use your access as a CHS employee or volunteer to look up your own child or grandchild’s information? You must go through proper channels, as a CHS parent in Medical Information Services. If you are a grandparent and not a legal guardian, then your son or daughter will need to go through Medical Information Services.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**June 2009**

11th Parent’s Night Out, 6pm, Bradley Lecture Center
17th & 18th Masquerade $5 Jewelry
19th Masquerade $5 Sale South
22nd Auxiliary Fun Night at the Harbor, 6pm, Children’s Harbor
23rd Auxiliary Meeting, 5:30pm, Bradley Lecture Center

**July 2009**

9th Parent’s Night Out, 6pm, Bradley Lecture Center
27th Auxiliary Fun Night at the Harbor, 6pm, Children’s Harbor
28th Auxiliary Meeting, 5:30pm, Bradley Lecture Center

**Volunteer Voice** is a publication for volunteers of Children’s Health System.

To submit a story or story idea:

*Call:* 205.939.9797  
*Fax:* 205.558.2080  
*E-mail:* Sharleta.Stamps@chsys.org  
Howard.Holmes@chsys.org

1600 7th Avenue South  
Birmingham, Alabama 35233

**Department Phone Directory**

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