

MIRACLES

A CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK AT GEISINGER UPDATE

May 2008



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Miracle Fest joins weekend lineup

Event will feature games, activities and family fun on Geisinger Medical Center campus

Geisinger employees have developed even more ways to celebrate during Children's Miracle Network's Celebration Weekend 2008 — and they include pets, puppets, entertainment, games, paint, trucks and even a scavenger hunt!

The all-new Miracle Fest 2008 will take place Sunday, June 1 in the Knapper Clinic parking lot on the Geisinger Medical Center campus. The festival kicks off its first activities at 10 am and will conclude at 4 pm.

Miracle Fest will include visits with Tender Paws pet-therapy dogs, emergency-vehicle demonstrations, car-safety presentations, a puppet show, face-painting and more! Kids also will have the opportunity to go on a



The 2008 Miracle Fest will take place in the Knapper Clinic parking lot on June 1.

For more information about the festivities surrounding Celebration Weekend 2008, see the full schedules on pages 4-5 — and don't forget to visit us online at www.geisinger.org/cmn for the latest updates!

scavenger hunt with their parents or guardians, picking up clues at various stops on the hospital grounds.

All Miracle Fest activities are free, and the public is invited — and encouraged — to attend.

"It will be a lot of fun for kids and families, and we hope everyone will come out for the free events," says Rebecca Drumheller, CCLS, a Janet Weis Children's Hospital Child Life Specialist and Miracle Fest committee leader. "Geisinger employees from various departments have invested their time, energy and creativity to make this a fun event — and it has been wonderful to work with all of them."

This is the first year for Miracle Fest, which was created by a committee of Geisinger employees who are donating their time and talents to help Janet Weis Children's Hospital pediatric services through Children's Miracle Network at Geisinger.

For more information, visit www.geisinger.org/cmn.

Get to know the 2008 miracle kids!

Every year, Children's Miracle Network at Geisinger introduces you to children who have overcome incredible odds.

These children — and their families — have battled serious illnesses and injuries with the help of Geisinger's Janet Weis Children's Hospital, and now are willing to share their stories of strength and hope with our Children's Miracle Network supporters.

The 2008 miracle kids are a diverse group with one very common trait: they all are determined youngsters who have not let medical obstacles conquer them.

We are proud to give you a glimpse of these children, who will help us celebrate 25 years of miracles during Celebration Weekend 2008, May 29 through June 1.

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New to Janet Weis Children's Hospital pediatric services...

Dr. Salbert added to Pediatric Genetics department

Bonnie Anne Salbert, DO, has recently joined the Pediatric department at Geisinger's Janet Weis Children's Hospital to develop the division of Pediatric Genetics.

Dr. Salbert is a board-certified clinical geneticist with expertise in syndrome diagnosis. Her special interests include Down syndrome, craniofacial malformations, fetal alcohol syndrome and cardiovascular genetics. Dr. Salbert is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics and the American Board of Medical Genetics.

Dr. Facktor joins Allergy and Immunology department

Geisinger's Janet Weis Children's Hospital recently welcomed board-certified Pediatric Allergy and Immunology specialist Michael A. Facktor, MD, FAAP, FAAAAI to its team.

Dr. Facktor graduated from MD University of Michigan School of Medicine, and completed his residency and fellowship at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

Board-certified in pediatrics and allergy and immunology, Dr. Facktor has interests in pediatric asthma and allergic rhinitis, food allergies, and chronic sinusitis and eczema.

New pediatric outreach services come to Lime Ridge

Geisinger Health System is pleased to announce the recent addition of a Geisinger Specialty Services Outreach Clinic in Lime Ridge. The clinic, which is inside the Stanley Center at Susquehanna Valley Medical Specialties, will offer services in several areas of specialized medical practice including pediatric cardiol-

Janet Weis Children's Hospital ranked No. 1 in country for patient satisfaction

Geisinger's Janet Weis Children's Hospital recently was ranked first in the nation in patient-satisfaction scores.



Janet Weis Children's Hospital received a 98-percent rating, according to Press Ganey survey data collected from July through December 2007.

Klingensmith named Children's Miracle Network coordinator



Vanessa Klingensmith recently joined Children's Miracle Network at Geisinger as a central-region coordinator.

In this role, Klingensmith will coordinate fundraising efforts in Danville and the surrounding area, sharing the duties along with fellow coordinator Bonnie Tharp.

Previously, Klingensmith coordinated partnerships with public high schools for KC Distance Learning, a private online high school program, and worked with at-risk high school students with the area's first virtual high school, SusQ-Cyber Charter School. She also has coordinated fundraising for non-profit groups such as The Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble.

Klingensmith says she was thrilled to join the Children's Miracle Network staff because "Janet Weis Children's Hospital does so much good for so many; I'm really proud to be able to support that work."

gy.

The goal of adding these services is to provide patients in the Columbia County area with the resources and experience of Geisinger specialists without having them make the drive to Geisinger Medical Center.

Janet Weis Children's Hospital pediatric cardiologists Robert Mangano, MD, David Connuck, MD, Fred Emge, MD or Wasim Khan, MD, will be on site Mondays and Fridays of each week and will offer consults and various medical tests.

Located at 6850 Lows Road, Bloomsburg, the new clinic represents a major improvement in specialty care provided to our patients in Columbia County.

"The staff at the Children's Hospital has always provided exceptional patient care," says Michael Ryan, DO, Chairman of Janet Weis Children's Hospital. "These impressive results demonstrate and validate their commitment."

Press Ganey provides survey data for Geisinger Health System, as well as comparable national data for benchmarking.

The results of the patient-satisfaction survey are based on responses from 163 patients.

Introducing our 2008 miracle kids...

Chase

Barnesville, Pa. (WYOU)

When Chase was 4 years old, he went to his Geisinger pediatrician with a complaint of leg pain. No one expected the diagnosis that followed: acute lymphoblastic leukemia.



Chase endured years of chemotherapy treatments at Janet Weis Children's Hospital to battle the cancer.

Now in remission, Chase and his twin brother, Noah, have been regulars at Camp Dost — the specialized camp for children with cancer and a program of the Danville Ronald McDonald House. He is a healthy 8-year-old who loves to read and wants to be an author.

Aubrey

Williamsport, Pa. (WYOU)

Aubrey began wheezing one morning and, when nothing helped, she was taken to her local hospital. From there, the 8-month-old girl was flown to Geisinger's Janet Weis Children's Hospital in severe respiratory distress.



Specialists at the children's hospital discovered that Aubrey had bronchogenic cysts and required surgery.

After a lengthy stay in the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU), she recovered. While she still visits the specialists for follow-up treatments, this 3-year-old is doing very well.

After a lengthy stay in the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU), she recovered. While she still visits the specialists for follow-up treatments, this 3-year-old is doing very well.

Sarah

Wilkes-Barre, Pa. (WYOU)

At 14 years old, Sarah was on her way home from school when she was hit by a car and knocked unconscious.

She was flown by Life Flight® to Geisinger's Janet Weis Children's Hospital, where she was treated for a long list of severe injuries.



After a number of operations and a lengthy stay in the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU), she awoke from her coma.

While she still is undergoing therapy today, she has improved tremendously and is thriving.

Danilo

Pittston Township, Pa. (WYOU)

Danilo seemed fine when he was born, but when a heart murmur was discovered, a diagnosis of a complex congenital heart defect followed.



Danilo underwent the first of a three-part heart surgery when he was less than 2 weeks old. After a tumultuous recovery, he was ready for the second surgery at 4 months old.

The final-stage of the three-part surgery was completed before he was 2 years old, and Danilo has continued to improve since then. Today, he is an active young boy who won't let anything slow him down.

Luke and Evan

State College, Pa. (WTAJ)

Even before Luke and Evan were born, they were followed at Geisinger Medical Center.

As discordant twins, their odds of survival weren't promising. It was likely that both twins would be lost or only one twin would survive — and, if they did survive, the odds pointed toward severe disabilities.



The twins were delivered by C-section at 31 weeks and spent time in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Janet Weis Children's Hospital.

Despite all the odds, they both thrived.

Today, they are 2-year-old boys with bright futures.

Sloane

Altoona, Pa. (WTAJ)

Sloane was only an infant when she would appear to "turn maroon."



With the help of telechocardiography equipment, Sloane was found to have a heart defect that required open-heart surgery.

The surgery offered a positive result, but a month later, Sloane appeared swollen around her head and neck, and a second procedure was deemed necessary.

Since that time, she has continued to grow healthier and stronger.

Today, her parents and her older siblings exercise caution with her, but this 3-year-old faces no restrictions.

Nicole

Lewistown, Pa. (WTAJ)

Nicole was 15 years old when she went to her local hospital with sudden chest pain. She was transferred to Geisinger's Janet

Stories continued on Page 6



Children's Miracle Network Coordinator Bonnie Tharp (left) catches up with former miracle kid Heather Bowman (2001), who now is part of the Janet Weis Children's Hospital nursing staff.

2008 Celebration Weekend: Danville area

Events at Geisinger Medical Center, unless otherwise stated

SATURDAY, MAY 31

- 4 pm **5K Walk/Run registration**
Head to Knapper Clinic to sign up ...
- 5 pm **5K Walk/Run start**
... then walk or run for miracles!
- 9 pm **Live broadcast begins on WYOU**
Meet our miracle kids & generous supporters as the broadcast airs live from Geisinger Medical Center!

PHONE IN YOUR PLEDGES AT 1-800-322-5437!

All events are tentative and subject to change. For more information — including registration forms — please call the Danville Children's Miracle Network office at (570) 271-6188 or toll-free 1-800-322-5437, or visit us online at www.geisinger.org/cmn.

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

- 7 - 11 am **Breakfast Buffet**
Enjoy all your breakfast-food favorites — including pancakes!
- 8 am - noon **Motorcycle Miracle Tour registration**
Sign in for the 75-mile ride!
- 10 am - 4 pm **Miracle Fest — ALL NEW!**
Bring the whole family for free events, including a scavenger hunt, games, a kids health fair & much more!
- 12:30 pm **Celebrity Auction**
Bid on memorabilia, autographed items, local goods, gift certificates & more at Knapper Clinic!
- 6 pm **Live broadcast concludes**
Join us as we announce our final total!

Celebration 2008 broadcasts to highlight 25 years of miracles

Children's Miracle Network at Geisinger has marked its 25th year of making miracles happen in a variety of ways in 2008 — and the momentum will continue throughout the televised broadcasts, which will hit the airwaves May 29 through June 1.

In the Wilkes-Barre area, viewers will have the opportunity to tune in to WYOU for miracle-kid updates as well as new stories of children's health and well-being. Celebration 2008 launches at 9 pm on Saturday, May 31.

Viewers in the Altoona area can tune in to WTAJ for Celebration 2008. This broadcast also will feature miracle-kid updates and new stories beginning at 9 pm on Saturday, May 31.

Both the WYOU and WTAJ broadcasts will conclude with the final-total announcement at 6 pm Sunday, June 1.

WBNG will feature segments of new and updated miracle-kid stories as well. The event will broadcast as segments of the local news broadcasts between 6 am and 6:30 pm on Thursday, May 29 and Friday, May 30. Additional segments will air between 7:30 am and noon on Saturday, May 31, followed by a special two-hour presentation.



The 25th Celebration broadcasts will air between May 29 and June 1 on three television stations. (Left to right) Dr. Michael Ryan, chairman of Janet Weis Children's Hospital and Children's Miracle Network at Geisinger, recently thanked WTAJ's Amy Mearkle, WYOU's Dave Kuharchik and WBNG's Greg Catlin for their participation.

Children's Miracle Network at Geisinger is grateful to the television partners who make successful campaigns possible. With their efforts, Children's Miracle Network has raised more than \$36 million to help sick and injured children in our region.

Please tune in to your local 2008 Celebration broadcast!



Volunteers, including several Red Hat ladies, staff the pledge phone lines during the 2007 Celebration broadcast. Children's Miracle Network always is seeking volunteers for a variety of duties during Celebration Weekend and welcomes new volunteers. For more information about becoming a Children's Miracle Network volunteer, please call your local office or visit www.geisinger.org/cmn.

2008 Celebration Weekend: Altoona area

Events at DelGrosso's Amusement Park, Tipton, unless otherwise stated

SATURDAY, MAY 31

- 9 pm **Live broadcast begins on WTAJ**
Meet our miracle kids & generous supporters as the broadcast airs live from the WTAJ studio!

PHONE IN YOUR PLEDGES AT 1-800-451-5437!

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

- 1 - 4 pm **Kids Games & Activities**
Take part in a variety of fun — just for kids!
- 3 & 7 pm **Free Concerts by James Otto**
Come to the park for free concerts by the popular country-music star!
- 6 pm **Live broadcast concludes**
Join us as we announce our final total!

All events are tentative and subject to change. For more information — including registration forms — please call the Altoona Children's Miracle Network office at (814) 943-8887 or toll-free 1-800-451-5437, or visit us online at www.geisinger.org/cmn.

2008 Celebration Weekend: Binghamton, NY, area

Events at Wal-Mart, Vestal

THURSDAY, MAY 29 — SATURDAY, MAY 31

- Celebration broadcast on WBNG**
Meet our miracle kids & generous supporters as WBNG airs segments during local news broadcasts between 6 am & 6:30 pm Thursday & Friday, plus segments between 7:30 am & noon — followed by a special two-hour presentation — on Saturday!

PHONE IN YOUR PLEDGES AT 1-800-799-5437!

All events are tentative and subject to change. For more information — including registration forms — please call the Danville Children's Miracle Network office at (570) 271-6188 or toll-free 1-800-322-5437, or visit us online at www.geisinger.org/cmn.

2008 Celebration Weekend: Wilkes-Barre area

Events at Geisinger campuses indicated

FRIDAY, MAY 30

- 10 am - 4 pm **Caring for Kids Carnival**
Come to Geisinger Wyoming Valley for food, kids games, inflatables, story time, basket raffles & much more!

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

- 10 am - 2 pm **Breakfast Buffet**
Food, raffles, entertainment & more will surround this second-annual event at Geisinger South Wilkes-Barre!

Donations help make miracles happen for 25 years

For 25 years, Children's Miracle Network at Geisinger donors have made miracles happen for the children of our region. Every dollar raised has contributed to state-of-the-art equipment, educational programs and specialized services to help local children when they need it most.

Thousands of items have been funded since Children's Miracle Network at Geisinger launched 25 years ago. For example:

In 1994, Geisinger's Janet Weis Children's Hospital opened with help from Children's Miracle Network funds.

In 1998, Children's Miracle Network funds allowed Janet Weis Children's Hospital to purchase a specialized ambulance for pediatric patients.

In 2002, Life Flight® used Children's Miracle Network funds to add a transport isolette to the State College-based helicopter.

In 2003, Children's Miracle Network contributed funds for Geisinger Medical Center's state-of-the-art bi-plane cath lab.

In 2004, the Janet Weis Children's Hospital Pediatric Services Unit at Geisinger Wyoming Valley opened with help from Children's Miracle Network funds.

In 2006, Children's Miracle Network provided funds to start Geisinger South Wilkes-Barre's Pediatric Urgent Care Center.

As the needs continue to grow, Children's Miracle Network at Geisinger will strive to meet these needs. With help from our generous donors and supporters, we will succeed in making miracles happen for years to come.

Our 2008 miracle kids, continued from Page 3...

Weis Children's Hospital and admitted to the PICU, where she was diagnosed with Lyme disease. The disease was affecting her heart, causing the chest pain.

After specialized treatment, Nicole's Lyme disease was under control, and she was able to return home.

Today, she is a healthy teen who is preparing to attend college in the fall.



hospital to the Janet Weis Children's Hospital NICU because of a cleft lip and palate, as well as breathing problems.

He followed up with monthly injections to help his immune system

and with the children's hospital's cleft palate clinic, which is funded by Children's Miracle Network. Today, 3-year-old Garrett is doing well.

Anthony Tyrone, Pa. (WTAJ)



After a lengthy illness and a number of doctor visits, Anthony was taken to his local hospital, where he was found to be suffering from pneumonia and empyema.

He immediately was transferred to Janet Weis Children's Hospital for specialized treatment. Once there, he required near-immediate surgery to treat a severe infection.

After an additional three weeks of intravenous antibiotics, Anthony improved tremendously. He now is 3 years old and continues to do well.

Devan New Milford, Pa. (WBNG)

In 2001, Devan moved to Pennsylvania with his family — and with the diagnosis of chronic renal failure.



Once he was in Pennsylvania, the disease quickly progressed, and he was referred to Geisinger's Janet Weis Children's Hospital for specialized treatment.

The following year, Devan underwent a kidney transplant at the hospital and was one of the first pediatric patients to benefit from Geisinger's robotic-assisted surgery.

Today, he is a healthy 14-year-old.

Garrett Monroeton, Pa. (WBNG)

Garrett was diagnosed with SCID — a severe immunodeficiency — at Geisinger. At birth, he was transferred from his local

These are only brief glimpses of our miracle kids' stories. If you would like to read more about these amazing kids, please visit the Children's Miracle Network at Geisinger Web page at www.geisinger.org/cmn.



Former miracle kids Megan Murphy (2007) and Nolan Johnson (2006) share a hug and smiles during the Miracle Makers Reunion, which marked 25 years of Children's Miracle Network at Geisinger.

MAKING MIRACLES HAPPEN EVERY DAY

Enclosed, please find my donation of:

- \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100
 \$12x12 (credit card only; deduction of \$12 per month for 12 months) Other — \$ _____
 SPECIAL 25th YEAR DONATION! \$25x12 (credit card only; deduction of \$25 per month for 12 months)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Payment: Check or money order (made payable to "Geisinger Health System Foundation")

- MasterCard Visa Discover American Express

Account number: _____ Exp. date: _____

Signature: _____

Send completed form and payment to: Children's Miracle Network at Geisinger, 100 N. Academy Ave., Danville, PA 17822-5020.

Where are they now? A glimpse into the lives of three former miracle kids...

Kevin, 1988

When Kevin was born, doctors were concerned with his breathing and sent him to Geisinger. There, he was diagnosed with a condition that did not allow his lungs to properly function. He had a 10-percent chance of survival.



Now Kevin is about to graduate from Lafayette College with a double major: Economics-Business and Africana Studies.

At Lafayette, he was on championship football teams, captain of the baseball team, a Student Athletic Advisory Committee member and a Site Leader for a community service event.

Elizabeth, 1997

Just after birth, Elizabeth was struggling to breathe. She was also having problems swallowing and, as a result, was lacking proper nutrition.

A tracheotomy and feeding tube lessened the problems — but soon, they returned. Elizabeth was admitted to the Janet Weis Children's Hospital feeding clinic, and there, her feeding drastically improved.

Today, Elizabeth is doing very well. She is an active 10th-grader who fondly remembers her time as a miracle kid and regularly returns to Celebration Weekend in Binghamton to share her story.



Madison, 2001

In March of 2000, after suffering more than a year of stomach pains, Madison was referred to Geisinger's Janet Weis Children's Hospital.

Doctors diagnosed her with a condition known as chronic ulcerative colitis, a type of lifelong inflammatory bowel disorder that affects the colon and large intestine.

Madison underwent treatments, which prompted a speedy recovery.

Madison now is 11 years old and thriving. She, her family and her relatives regularly take part in Celebration Weekend in Altoona, where they often staff the phone banks.





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Geisinger Health System Foundation
100 North Academy Ave.
Danville, PA 17822

Upcoming Children's Miracle Network events

May 22

Children's Miracle Network Golf Tournament, hosted by RE/MAX Centre Realty, Blue & White courses, State College

May 29 - June 1

Celebration Weekend

June 7 - 8

Tour de Tykes Mountain Bike Races, Danville

July 31

Janet Weis Children's Hospital Invitational Golf Tournament, Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort

July 31

94KX Cares for Kids Radiothon, Susquehanna Valley Mall, Selinsgrove

Aug. 4

Janet Weis Children's Hospital Benefit Golf Tournament, sponsored by The Daily Item, Susquehanna Valley Country Club, Selinsgrove

For complete listing of events, please visit
www.geisinger.org/cmn.



Celebrating 25 years of miracles

Children's Miracle Network at Geisinger recently hosted a Miracle Makers Reunion to celebrate its 25th year of making miracles happen. The event featured miracle kids from throughout the years. Above: (left to right) James Giordina (father of 2008 miracle kid Danilo Giordina), 1984 miracle kid Mike Leidy, Children's Miracle Network Director Carol Rheam Tevis, and Children's Miracle Network and Janet Weis Children's Hospital Chairman Michael Ryan, DO, cut a cake commemorating the milestone.