

# FOCUS

St. John Health Foundation News

## Camp blends play with therapy

Parents of children with special needs understand the importance of ongoing therapy to help the child reach his or her full potential. During the academic year, this usually isn't a problem; therapy is provided through the school district.

But during the summer, it becomes a problem for many families. Therapy is rarely a benefit covered by insurance – especially for children under age six – and is often too costly for private payment. Children who most need ongoing therapy may lose some of the ground they worked hard for during the school year.



*Kids on the Go seamlessly blends therapy with fun for Ryan Kundrata (left) and Clayton Beaver.*

“Kids on the Go” offers a solution to area families. The innovative program was developed in 1999 and is now in its third year at St. John Oakland Hospital. Through Kids on the Go, children ages 3-6 who have special needs can receive physical, occupational and speech therapy twice a week for six weeks - at no cost to their families. Thanks to the generosity of local businesses, charitable organizations, corporations and individuals,

well over 100 children have participated in the program to-date. With the help of donations, Kids on the Go will be able to offer scholarships to another 36 children for the summer of 2004 (children are enrolled on a first-come, first-served basis). The program has been recognized in local, state and national publications and is endorsed by the Macomb and Oakland County School Districts.

Director Kristy Piana Schena, a speech pathologist, created the program after she began receiving calls from parents concerned that once school was out for the summer, their children would lose their hard-fought progress in areas such as speech, motor skills, balance and coordination. She began to raise money to fund the program, offering sponsorship levels that start at \$5.

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## Camp...continued

"A gift of \$500 provides the tuition for one child to take part," she reports. "Sponsorships in smaller amounts are applied toward tuition and help purchase the equipment and supplies we need. All donations are deductible to the fullest extent of the law."



*Samantha Hilborn is actually working on small muscle control as she plays.*

Each of the six weeks has a different theme which reinforces development and stimulates vocabulary. Daily sessions include circle time with the speech pathologist, gross motor play, fine motor activities that include handwriting and an art activity. Snack time addresses any feeding or swallowing deficits, and small group or individual time with a therapist addresses each child's goals. The ratio of children to therapist is 3:1.

"We look at the children's goals as established by their intermediate school districts," Kristy notes. "Parents and teachers have reported that children with special needs who take the summer off can be until the following December before they catch up. We work to help

the children maintain their skills through the summer months so they're not playing 'catch-up' once school starts again."

New for 2004 are

Friday Clinics for Kids on the Go participants. "Clinics will offer 'Get Fit Gymnastics' for children with special needs, 'Language through Literacy' and 'Sensory Integration,'" explains Kristy. "We'll also provide a segment called 'Handwriting without Tears,' which is a creative approach to teach pre-printing, printing and cursive skills to the children. It addresses fine motor skills in several unique ways using music and play. We're very excited about it!"

Feedback from parents has been extremely positive. Kids on the Go "...made therapy fun," says one parent. "I don't think she even knew how hard she was working!" To make a donation to Kids on the Go or receive additional information, please call 1-248-967-7917.

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## Bears bring comfort to pediatric patients

If you were a child in the hospital, you might need a friend. A friend you could whisper your fears to. A friend you could hug if you hurt and who wouldn't complain if you hugged too hard.

That was the thinking behind the "Hug-a-Bear" program at St. John Hospital and Medical Center.

Through the upcoming Fontbonne Auxiliary Fashion Show, funds are being raised to purchase teddy bears for all patients admitted to the pediatric unit. The bears will wear St. John t-shirts and will be the children's to take home when they're discharged.

"The program was conceived in an effort to provide emotional support to our pediatric patients during a difficult and frightening time," says Peggy Davis, Fontbonne President. "The bears will be given to the children with an introduction – that the teddy bear is there to keep the child company and to be his or her friend.

"Although many of the children will be too young to realize it, the Hug-a-Bear program is a way we can meet the child's emotional, as well as physical, needs," Peggy comments. "It can also demonstrate to parents that we care about the whole child, not just the illness or injury that brought the family to St. John."

The Fontbonne Auxiliary Fashion Show will be held April 28, 2004 at Penna's of Sterling. For more information, call 313-343-3675.



## Endowments help pave the way to success

Within the last 18 months, two St. John Health hospitals – St. John Hospital and Medical Center and Providence Hospital and Medical Centers – were named among the “Top 100 Cardiovascular Hospitals in the U.S.” by *Solucient*, a leading national health care data company. Designation is based on patient outcomes for heart attack, angioplasty, bypass surgery and related procedures.

World-class heart care doesn't just happen. It takes innovation, technology, dedication and research.

It also takes funding, and one of the ways St. John provides that funding is by putting the power of its endowments to work. Today, endowments such as the St. John Guild Endowment of Cardiac Research, the Donald G. and Eleanor M. Strnad Cardiology Services Endowment, and



the Anna Marie Fleming Cardiac Education Endowment – to name just a few – have supported St. John Health in becoming a pioneer in the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease. Interest on the endowments' principal has helped pay for the care of financially disadvantaged patients, purchased cardiac care equipment, subsidized cardiac research, and underwritten educational opportunities for medical professionals.

As a result, St. John Hospital and Medical Center can boast achievements such as:

- being the first hospital in Michigan to offer an advanced Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator, which closely mimics normal heart function;
- being the first hospital in Michigan to offer radiation treatment for cardiovascular disease complications;
- being one of only a few hospitals in the country to provide Surgical Ventricular Restoration, an alternative aimed at treating the disease of congestive heart failure, rather than just managing its symptoms;
- being one of the first hospitals in the country to perform new surgical procedures to treat atrial fibrillation.



The reputation St. John has built over the last 30 years continues to attract the best and brightest in the field of cardiology. Thanks to them and to the visionaries who established our endowment programs, that reputation continues to grow as St. John Health carries out its mission to improve the health of those whom we serve.

*St. John Health endowments may be established with a minimum contribution of \$25,000. The principal is invested, and the interest is used to fulfill the endowment's specific purpose. Additional contributions to an endowment are added to its principal. For more information, please call 313-343-7480, or access our website at [www.stjohn.org/foundation](http://www.stjohn.org/foundation).*

## Upcoming Events

- April 28, 2004, 6 p.m.** Fontbonne Auxiliary Annual Fashion Show  
Penna's of Sterling Contact Lorraine Owczarek at 313-343-3675.
- May 26, 2004, 5:30 p.m.** St. John Oakland Hospital "Hands Around the Table"  
Club Venetian, Madison Hts. Contact Kathy Parish at 248-967-7772.
- June 7, 2004, 8 a.m.** Providence Hospital Golf Classic  
Indianwood Golf & Country Club, Lake Orion Contact Sherry Licata at 248-849-3087
- June 8, 2004, 11:30 a.m.** St. John Detroit Riverview Hospital Golf Outing  
Greystone Golf Club, Romeo Contact Sue Davis at 313-499-4263.
- June 9, 2004, 6:30 p.m.** St. John Hospital & Medical Center Annual Guild Dinner  
Penna's of Sterling Contact Kathy Taranto at 313-343-3674.
- June 15, 2004, 1 p.m.** St. John River District Hospital Golf Outing  
Contact Janice Hertel at 586-573-5999.
- June 26, 2004, 8 a.m.** Van Elslander Cancer Center "Dragon Boat Race"  
Belle Isle Contact Liz Mitchell at 313-343-7492.

For more information about St. John Health Foundation, please visit our website at [www.stjohn.org/foundation](http://www.stjohn.org/foundation). If you are interested in learning more about giving opportunities at any St. John Health hospital, program or service, you may use the links found in the website, or call 313-343-GIFT (313-343-4438).

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*Please write to us if you wish to have your name removed from the list to receive future fund raising requests supporting St. John Health.*

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