

New Operating Rooms to open in September



"Lake Michigan" is the theme of the new Pediatric Surgical Services Unit on the third floor of the American Family Children's Hospital. Currently under construction, the unit will open on September 22.

As the American Family Children's Hospital (AFCH) approaches its first birthday in August, final preparations will be taking place on a brand new Pediatric Surgical Services Unit scheduled to open in late September. Consisting of six operating rooms, two procedure rooms, a 30-bed pre/post operative unit and a 10-bed post-anesthesia care unit, this enhancement to the Children's Hospital represents a major milestone for pediatric surgery in south-central Wisconsin.

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—DENNIS LUND, MD

"One of the most stressful experiences parents can have is when their child goes in for surgery," says Dennis P. Lund, MD, surgeon-in-chief at the AFCH.



Dennis Lund, MD

"This new space will be a great step forward toward easing those anxieties. Today, children and adults share the same operating room space. Once we open the pediatric operating rooms in September, children—and only children—will undergo surgery in our brand new space on the third floor of the AFCH. The look, the feel and the mood of the space will be much calmer and more child-friendly than what we currently have. So, not only will we have doctors, nurses and staff who are specially trained to take care of children, but we supplement that with a beautiful

surgical space designed just for children and their families."

With the first pediatric surgery scheduled for September 22, the \$21 million project—funded by hospital bonding and private fundraising—is built upon a "high tech, high touch" foundation.

"These operating rooms are much larger to accommodate the state-of-the-art video and robotic equipment we use today," Lund says. "At the same time, the aesthetics provide a much warmer and calmer feel that is more appropriate for families with children. This all helps reduce stress for parents, allowing them to focus more positive energy on their child."

Lund also says the new operating rooms may enhance the hospital's ability to attract patients from longer distances.

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—DR. LUND

many people even knew we had a children's hospital in Madison. This new hospital has given us an identity that is starting to penetrate across the state as more people see what we have to offer children and their families."

Poltawsky joins AFCH as Vice President



Jeff Poltawsky

UW Health is pleased to welcome Jeff Poltawsky as the new Vice President for the American Family Children's Hospital.

Prior to his arrival in Madison earlier this year, Poltawsky served as administrator at Peyton Manning Children's Hospital at St. Vincent Health Indianapolis Region, where he had been since 2004. Poltawsky has also been in leadership positions for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Geisinger Health System in Pennsylvania and SSM-Ministry Corporation in Wisconsin.

"It is incredibly exciting to be part of this beautiful new children's hospital," Poltawsky says. "This is a real treasure not only for the children and families of Madison, but for the entire state of Wisconsin."

Jeff can be reached at (608) 890-8316 or jpoltawsky@uwhealth.org.

Advisory Council members needed

Family members whose children have been cared for at the American Family Children's Hospital can help improve the level of care for future patients by applying for membership to the Hospital's Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC).

The PFAC was formed in 2006 as a more formal way to involve patients and family members in policy and program decision-making in health care settings. The Council consists of patients, families and staff. Meetings are held every other month. In addition, there are two children advisory boards for present and former patients, the Kids As Partners (ages 8-12) and Teen Advisory Board (ages 13-18).

"Constructive feedback from families and patients is one of the best sources we have to improve the way we care for children," says Mary Kaminski, director of Patient and Family Services. "We strongly encourage family members to consider getting involved with the Advisory Council."

For more information about the American Family Children's Hospital Patient and Family Advisory Council please visit our web site at uwhealth.org/kids or to receive a membership application, please call (608) 890-7888.

Champions for Kids Radiothon Raises \$636,000



They did it again! For the fourth consecutive year, Connie and Fish of Madison's top-rated radio station, Z104 FM, went out and put their hearts and souls—not to mention 39 hours of compelling airtime—into the Champions for Kids Radiothon to benefit the American Family Children's Hospital.

As they have each year, Connie and Fish's listeners responded in large numbers with donations and pledges topping \$636,000 this year, or \$2.2 million over the four-year life of the Radiothon.

Broadcast live from the hospital lobby in early May, the Radiothon not only raised money to support patient and family needs, but also gave thousands of listeners a window into the world of hospitalized children and the difficult journey their families go through.

As an added feature for 2008, the Radiothon featured stories about patients from every corner of the hospital, not only those with cancer.

"During the first three years, we called it the 'Cure Kids Cancer' Radiothon," says Connie. "As we learned more about the hospital, we heard about kids who were hospitalized with kidney disease, heart disease, traumatic injuries and many other serious illnesses. So, Fish and I and the hospital people agreed to include some of these families and help make the Radiothon more reflective of the entire hospital."

"For Madison's number one radio station to spend three days raising money to help locally hospitalized children says so much about Clear Channel's commitment to our patients and families."

—JEFF POLTAWSKY, AFCH Vice President

With a new name for the Radiothon—"Champions for Kids"—listeners were encouraged to "become a Champion" by making a \$15 monthly pledge. Several donors, however, made gifts of \$500, \$1000 or more, including about \$20,000 in "walk-up" gifts from people who dropped off donations in person during the broadcast.

AFCH Vice President Jeff Poltawsky said AFCH patient families are very grateful to Connie and Fish, as well as Clear Channel Madison for devoting so much time and resources to the Radiothon.

"For Madison's number one radio station to spend three days raising money to help locally hospitalized children says so much about Clear Channel's commitment to our patients and families," Poltawsky says. "There is no finer gift than helping hospitalized children, and these very powerful stories moved so many people to make a pledge."

Top: Patient Riley Adkins, 7, of Oregon, Wisconsin watches the Radiothon's conclusion.

Middle: Patient Micaela Horning, 11, of Waunakee, Wisconsin enjoys a moment with 2104's Connie and Fish.

Bottom: Lori Schultz, mother of the late Kristina Schultz of Marshall, Wisconsin, thanks 2104 listeners for their generous pledges.

Cheers for Volunteers: Ready, set, SEW

Someone once said, "Sewing mends the soul." For the past several years, a core group of dedicated quilters from the Mad City Quilting Guild have been sharing their talents and introducing the art of sewing to young minds and hands. Their visits are twice a month and the fabric to create pieces is donated.

Through their volunteer efforts, many pieces of art have been created by patients. According to Debra Cole, the most enjoyable moments for patients are "running the machines, choosing fabrics, and pressing on the foot peddle." While the most popular requests are pillows and drawstring bags, guild members take special requests. Guild member Kristin Gumbinger recalls making an I.V. protector for a patient who was

connected to an intravenous line. Not only did the final piece bring the patient comfort, but it was made with her innovation and creativity.

"The amazing feature of this program is its adaptability to the hospital environment," says Debra. "We observe children becoming engaged in the project and find a sense of control and mastery—something that is in short supply while they are hospitalized."

Many thanks to the Mad City Quilting Guild for its years of dedication and commitment to our patients and families. For more information about volunteering at the AFCH, please call (608) 890-7888, or for more information about the Madison City Quilting Guild, please contact Karen Mandt at (608) 833-6960.



Mad City Quilting Guild members visit the American Family Children's Hospital twice a month.

AMERICAN FAMILY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

MISSION
 We are committed to

- achieving the best health outcomes for children
- improving the health and well-being of Wisconsin's children through community service and partnerships
- educating the next generation of pediatric health professionals and
- advancing pediatrics through translational research

VISION
 We will be

- one of the nation's best and safest children's hospitals
- a model for patient and family-centered care
- the provider of choice for children's health care in Wisconsin

Kids Connection

UW Kids Connection is a semi-annual publication for friends and families of American Family Children's Hospital. Please contact Michael Felber at (608) 265-7427 or e-mail mfelber@uwhealth.org with story ideas or if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter.

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UW Kids Connection

Twin Spin

Appleton-area family juggles not one, but two girls with leukemia

In some ways, Kaitlin and Kylie Drechsel are just like typical 3-year-old girls. They ride tricycles, draw with colored chalk, shop and watch "Doodlebops" on Playhouse Disney. And, like any pair of siblings, they can occasionally be a handful for their mom and dad, Lynn and Jim of Greenville, Wisconsin.

What makes the Drechsels' handful overflow at times, however, is that their identical twin girls have cancer. Yes, both of them. Kaitlin was 2 when she was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL) in October 2006. Kylie was about to turn 3 when she received the same diagnosis just nine months later.

One can only begin to imagine how full this family's plate has been over the past 21 months. Since Kaitlin's diagnosis, it has been a seemingly endless string of hospitalizations, doctor visits, chemotherapy infusions, spinal taps, prescriptions and two-hour drives between their Appleton-area home and the American Family Children's Hospital (AFCH) in Madison.

Kaitlin and Kylie are Lynn's first babies—Jim has three older children from a previous marriage—and she understandably went through her share of "Why me?" moments.

Since then, however, Lynn and Jim have amazed their friends, family, doctors and nurses by tackling all that needs to be done with keen focus and organizational skill.

"Families like the Drechsels amaze me. They have taken this whole cancer experience in stride and have really managed the stress it places on a family very well."

—Kristin Casey, AFCH pediatric nurse practitioner

"You will be amazed what you can do for your child when this happens—even if it is to both twins," Lynn says. "You just change your routine and focus your energy on the child that happens to need it most."

Carol Diamond, MD, Kaitlin and Kylie's pediatric oncologist and a mother of twins herself, cannot say enough about how thoroughly and graciously Lynn and Jim have managed the non-stop demands of a child—let alone two—with leukemia.

"When Kaitlin was diagnosed, the Drechsels



Kylie and Kaitlin Drechsel

immediately understood that Kylie would be at a higher risk of getting leukemia, since they shared a blood supply before birth," Diamond says. "To be proactive, we did routine surveillance and ultimately that was how we diagnosed Kylie. As devastating as that was, Lynn and Jim had the advantage of 'knowing the drill,' and that has made a difference. It also is something to see Kaitlin almost mentor Kylie during the treatment schedule. They are incredibly sweet to each other."

AFCH pediatric nurse practitioner Kristin Casey finds this family extraordinarily fulfilling on a personal level.

"Families like the Drechsels amaze me," Casey says. "They have taken this whole cancer experience in stride and have really managed the stress it places on a family very well. Lynn has even commented on occasion that Kylie and Kaitlin are so lucky because they could have it so much worse off."

While juggling all that goes with caring for two kids with cancer—not to mention running the family printing

business—Lynn and Jim take things one day at a time. The prognosis is very favorable for both girls, so mom and dad anxiously await the scheduled treatment completion dates for Kaitlin (December 2008) and Kylie (September 2009.)

The Drechsels also feel quite blessed by the quality of care their girls have received.

"We're so fortunate to have the doctors and nurses we have here in Appleton and in Madison," she says.

Kelly Meyer, DO, an Affinity Medical Group physician based in Neenah, Wisconsin, and the Drechsels' regular pediatrician, looks forward to resuming the twins' care once their cancer treatment is completed.

"Dr. Diamond keeps me informed every step of the way," Meyer says. "These girls are doing great and I can't wait to see them again once they are off treatment."

2009 "Kids' Art" Calendars Coming Soon



While the winter holidays may be a few months away, it is never too early to think about affordable gifts—especially something as unique as a 2009 calendar featuring high-quality artwork by patients and siblings from the American Family Children's Hospital.

Produced by Friends of UW Hospital and Clinics, the first-ever AFCH "Kids' Art" calendar includes 13 beautiful pieces of children's art. The calendar will sell for \$14.99 and will be available beginning in September at local retailers or online at friendsofuwhc.org. Best of all, every dollar of proceeds will support patient and family needs at the American Family Children's Hospital.

Reserve your copy
 Friends Board Secretary Debbie Cray, who chairs the Friends Product Line committee, said she was overwhelmed by the comments from patients and family members who contributed artwork for the calendar.

"One mom said this was the perfect way to bring closure to her child's hospital experience," Debbie says. "It really left these children thinking of their time here in such a positive light."

More information about the AFCH "Kids' Art" calendar is available at friendsofuwhc.org or by calling (608) 890-9957.

Gear Up for Kids Leaves everyone smiling

A favorite Madison summer kickoff event—Gear Up for Kids—left hundreds of happy cyclists smiling on June 7. From the small to the tall, more than 450 participants spent a warm Saturday morning getting fit while helping raise \$25,000 for the American Family Children's Hospital and the UW Health Pediatric Fitness Initiative.

Among those who enjoyed the event was Verona's very own Casey FitzRandolph, who took home an Olympic gold medal at the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City. Casey, who rode the 10-mile bike route with his 18-month-old son Sawyer in tow, was joined by his wife Jen at the event, and the FitzRandolphs were very pleased to be part of Gear Up 2008.

"This is a lot more than just a bike ride," Casey says. "It is a great event with lots of activities for young and old. Riders had food available both before and after

the ride, and then got the chance to enjoy some live music and even a chair massage. It was a fun event with no corners cut."

Gear Up for Kids was presented by Schwinn, with additional support from Unity Health Insurance, Famous Footwear, Madison's CW, Isthmus, Z104, Panera Bread, Whole Foods, J.H. Fendorf & Son Inc., First Choice Dental and DeWitt Ross & Stevens law firm.



UW Cycling members led riders along the routes at Gear Up For Kids.