

## Taking Positive Steps: The Denny Family



Shriners Hospitals  
for Children™

**T**HE Denny family doesn't take things one day at a time.

"We take one minute at a time and enjoy every minute of every day like it's our last," **Jim Denny** said. "This is the way we live, and it's a good life."

Over the years, the Denny family of Oklahoma City has created and maintained a positive approach to life. Shaping that perspective in part was an experience so devastating that it forever changed the lives of the Denny family, and left a lasting impact on the entire nation.

On April 19, 1995, Jim Denny went about his morning routine of dropping his wife, **Claudia**, off at work and his two youngest children – 3-year-old **Brandon** and 2-year-old **Rebecca** – off at America's Kids, a daycare center located in the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

At 9:02 that morning, more than 5,000 pounds of explosives were detonated near the Murrah building in what was, at the time, the worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil. The explosives were in a rental truck, which was parked just outside the second-story windows of America's Kids. Nineteen of the 25 children there were killed.

Rebecca and Brandon were the only child siblings to survive. Rebecca sustained extensive injuries to her left side; and Brandon had massive injuries, including life-threatening ones to his head and brain. Rebecca recovered after spending 10 days in the hospital. Brandon's condition was far worse.

In the weeks and months following the attack, Brandon had four major brain surgeries, each posing life-threatening risks. After 126 days of hospitalization, Brandon was released, but his prognosis was not favorable.

Within eight months, Brandon was walking and talking, which doctors did not expect he'd be able to do. Because of the necessary removal of brain tissue, he had no use of his right hand and his wrist was pointed downward. He also walked with a limp.

After years of therapy failed to produce tangible results, Brandon's Oklahoma City physician recommended the family seek treatment at Shriners Hospitals for Children – Shreveport. In the summer of 2007, Brandon, who was then 15, had several surgeries at the Shreveport Shriners Hospital to improve his gait (walking pattern), arm mobility and use of his fingers.

Brandon returned to the Shreveport hospital this

past fall for a month-long session of intensive therapy, focusing primarily on eliminating the need for a walker. Upon completing his session, Brandon walked out of the hospital unassisted.

"We're at a place in Brandon's life where I couldn't be happier," Jim said. "This is a five-star facility without a doubt, from top to bottom. Everyone we've come in contact with has been super."

Having experienced firsthand one of the darkest days in American history, the Denny family savors each moment together and maintains a steadfast, positive focus on the future. While Brandon will always have orthopaedic issues related to his brain injuries, both he and Rebecca exude amazing perspective and determination. For Jim, it's the right view.

"It's a long road, and we've never asked for sympathy from anybody, but what we've received from people is understanding, a lot of prayers and a lot of help from good doctors," he said. "We feel we're in the best position at Shriners Hospital for Brandon to continue his efforts to walk better and use his fingers."

The family will continue their positive journey. One minute at a time.



DESPITE SUSTAINING severe injuries during the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing that will affect him throughout his life, **Brandon** has a positive outlook. With the help of Shriners Hospitals, he continues to progress and improve.

## Able Restoration Golf Tournament

**O**N Friday, June 6, 2008 we will be hosting the 3rd Annual Able Restoration Disaster Relief Golf Tournament at Waverly Oaks Golf Club in Plymouth MA. The proceeds from this year's event will benefit the Shriners Hospitals for Children–Boston. Please join in our efforts to raise funds for this amazing organization by donating an item to our raffle.

Able Restoration, Inc. is one of the largest independent restoration companies in Massachusetts. We are dedicated to uniting the Disaster Relief community. Over the last two years we have been the proud sponsor of the Able Restoration Disaster Relief Golf Tournament. In 2006, our tournament raised \$10,000 to benefit the American Red Cross, Southeast Area Office. In 2007, we were pleased to work with Shriners Hospitals for Children–Boston to raise \$15,000 for their burns center.

Each year, thousands of children are severely burned and require specialized treatment for their injuries. The Shriners Hospital for

Children–Boston is a 30-bed pediatric burn hospital providing comprehensive acute, reconstructive and rehabilitative care to children with burn injuries. All medical treatment and services at Shriners Hospitals are provided at no charge to patients, parents, insurance companies, or any other third party.

Please join us in our efforts to support the Shriners Hospitals for Children–Boston. To participate in the silent auction and raffle or for more information, please contact **Megan Ward**, Event Planning Specialist at (617)786-0010 or [mward@tiffaniewilliamsco.com](mailto:mward@tiffaniewilliamsco.com).

Donations may be sent to:

Tiffanie Williams & Co.

Attn: Able Restoration Golf Tournament

21 McGrath Highway, Suite 206

Quincy, MA 02169

Sponsor and donation listings are due by May 9, 2008 to ensure placement in the program book. Thank you for your consideration!



## “TEAM Membership” Unites All Masonic Family Organizations in Illinois



**T**HE Grand Lodge of Illinois is spearheading an effort to once again position Freemasonry as an essential and vibrant part of communities throughout the state.

At the annual Grand Lodge of Illinois Ancient Free and Accepted Masons Session in Springfield in early October, elected leaders of the Grand Lodge and all appendant Masonic bodies signed a proclamation making a four-year commitment to support a new statewide membership effort, called “TEAM Membership.”

“Membership is the lifeblood of Freemasonry,” said Illinois Grand Master **Daniel C. Yandel**. “The significance of the ceremony at the Grand Lodge Session is most eloquently captured by the words of **Ben Franklin** during the signing of the Declaration of Independence: ‘We must all hang together, gentlemen...else, we shall most assuredly hang separately!’”

The concept for what developed into TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) Membership was discussed in June at a meeting of leadership representatives of each appendant Masonic body in Illinois. Leaders unanimously agreed to collaborate and create a comprehensive membership development program for all Masons to use across the state.

“What makes the TEAM approach different is that we are about to embark on a unified, universal process available to all Masonic organizations in Illinois,” said Noble **Mark Maxwell**, coordinator of TEAM Membership and Ainald Shriners’ administrator. “All Illinois Masons can now share the same playbook with the same language and teaching

materials at every location.”

The TEAM Membership process incorporates concepts from numerous programs used by both Masonic and non-Masonic organizations across North America. The training program includes four modules, addressing various aspects of membership with detailed approaches to recruitment and retention. The program centers around ideas to promote a deeper understanding of social evolution, such as explanations about generational differences that influence decisions about joining service or fraternal organizations.

The training program – which includes such items as PowerPoint presentations, recommended exercises and templates – is intended to work in a pyramid-effect, where identified Masonic trainers learn the approved messaging and materials, and then train other trainers, who train others, and so on. This system is designed to help every Mason in Illinois have an understanding of the issues facing all of Masonry, so challenges can be overcome and opportunities transformed into positive results.

For more information about TEAM Membership, please visit: [www.ilmason.org](http://www.ilmason.org).



MASONIC LEADERSHIP of the Grand Lodge of Illinois and its appendant bodies at the Grand Lodge Session in October.