

2007 Facts and Figures for Shriners Hospitals for Children

Over the past 86 years, Shriners Hospitals for Children has provided the best, most advanced medical care at absolutely no charge to more than 865,000 children with orthopaedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate. Founded by Shriners of North America, this unique health care system has grown from a single hospital in Shreveport, La., to 22 sophisticated pediatric specialty hospitals located across the U.S., and in Canada and Mexico.

Providing Pediatric Specialty Care

The Shriners Hospitals specializing in orthopaedic conditions are committed to providing specialized medical and rehabilitative services to children with congenital deformities and conditions, orthopaedic injuries, and diseases of the neuromusculoskeletal system. Some of the most commonly treated disorders include clubfoot, limb deficiencies and discrepancies, scoliosis (curvature of the spine), osteogenesis imperfecta (brittle bone disease), juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, and orthopaedic problems related to spina bifida, cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy. The orthopaedic hospitals in Chicago, Philadelphia and Sacramento, Calif., also provide spinal cord injury rehabilitation.

The Shriners Hospitals that specialize in treating burns, located in Boston; Cincinnati; Galveston, Texas; and Sacramento, Calif., are known worldwide as leaders in burn research and treatment. These hospitals provide a full range of care, including physical rehabilitation and psychological sup-

port services for patients with burn injuries and related complications, including scarring and smoke inhalation.

In 2005, cleft lip and palate was added to Shriners Hospitals' official care disciplines. This comprehensive program involves lip and palate repair, nasal reconstruction, jaw surgery, dental procedures and audiological, speech and psychological services. The Chicago Shriners Hospital's program is the model for a national program currently in development.

The 2008 Budget

Shriners Hospitals for Children's total budget for 2008 is \$826 million, of which \$722 million is designated for operating expenses, including \$44 million for research. The budget also includes \$104 million for buildings and equipment, which includes funds for building renovations, new construction, and improving and upgrading medical technologies, such as digital radiology and electronic medical records.

A new category – corporate fundraising – was added to the budget this year, reflecting the growing importance of a concerted effort in that area, especially given the changes in the economy and in the health care industry.

Shriners Hospitals for Children is determined to remain financially strong in order to continue to provide

the best possible care to children far into the future.

For more information, please visit www.shriners-hospitals.org.

2007 Patient Care Statistics

In 2007, Shriners Hospitals for Children approved 39,454 new patient applications and cared for 125,125 patients, providing the following services:

- 302,614 outpatient, outreach and telemedicine clinic visits
- 226,455 radiology procedures
- 72,159 orthotic and prosthetic devices
- 25,028 operations
- 422,325 physical therapy treatments
- 200,810 occupational therapy treatments



The Shriners Hospital for Children—Boston More Than Meets The Eye

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apy less like therapy, kids will do it. If a child needs to move an arm back and forth to work the muscles, it is much easier to get the child to do it by giving them a toy car to push around on the floor than by simply telling the child to do it." Perhaps the most striking example of this is the staircase for leg therapy. Normally, a child would not want to do the stairs, so a painter was hired to paint a scene all the way down the walls of the staircase. The mountains and the sky are at the top, then trees and a waterfall, and so on down to the bottom of the ocean. There are all sorts of animals in the scenes, and even some hidden ones; David told me there is a squirrel somewhere that he has yet to find.

There is also plenty of serious scientific innovation. Two floors of the hospital are devoted to research, and there are all sorts of ideas that are being implemented at the hospital, some of which come in from unexpected places. In the past, if a plastic mask had to be made for a child (to help keep the skin moist and reduce scarring, thus improving healing), the usual procedure was to literally stick the child's face in plaster of paris and make a mold. It was suggested that the same machine that NASA uses to design space helmets (and which scans the head to create the mold rather than requiring a physical mold to be made first) could be used at the Hospital. \$250,000 later, the Shriners Hospital in Boston has the only unit in the New England area.

"We also provide a lot of support for not only the children we have as patients, but also the families," David said. "For a lot of the children who come from foreign countries, especially those in the Third World, what they learn from the teachers here at the Hospital may be the only education they get. We have also recently gotten some patients from the Middle East, and the families are staying here in the hospital. We've had staffers take them to the Boston Public Library to get books in Arabic so they can read. These little things make a great deal of difference."

There is also a cafeteria for families and patients up on the ninth floor. While I was up there, Volunteer Services Director Bob Tibbetts told me that a lot of the doctors at Massachusetts General Hospital (which is across the street, and whose burns specialists also work for the Shriners Hospital) tend to keep an eye on the menu. It is actually pretty good food, and the atmosphere is quite congenial, open, and airy - not clinical or stark as one might expect.

The support staff and nurses do a lot of work as well. Because of the wide range of patients that the Hospital treats, there are acute patients who are isolated, and others who simply come in every once in a while for outpatient-type treatment. Severe burn victims in the early stages of treatment may need to have two nurses available to them 24 hours a day. Similarly, to avoid infection, the hospital

must be kept clean, and there are a lot of support staff that help to do this. There are an estimated 6000 visits to the Boston Hospital per year for treatment, and the Hospital even provides trained medical interpreters on request.

There are a lot of people who help make the hospital the first-class place it is, and we don't necessarily hear about them. The Boston Hospital has received numerous certifications and awards (including the Press Ganey Summit Award in 2006 and 2007 in the Outpatient category), and those awards are based on not only the level of care, but the quality of the overall hospital environment. Care is certainly part of it, however, and it is clearly not a question of the care being of a lesser quality because it is free.

However, money is certainly a factor. David said, "The state of the economy in recent years has caused some serious erosion of the Shriners Hospital system endowment. The interest on the endowment is not keeping pace with the costs of care, and we have gotten to the point where we need to start soliciting funds outside of the organization, and that is part of my job as Development Director." According to the 2007 Year-End report, the overall projected hospital budget for the 22 hos-

pitals in the system in 2008 is \$826 million. 90% of it goes directly to patient care, teaching, and research. David also noted that the cost of the system is expected to top \$1 billion within 15 years.

He went on to say: "My job as Development Director is to get the word out to people, not to go out and hard-sell the Shriners Hospitals and ask for donations. I reconnect with former donors, and I educate non-Shriners about what the hospitals do. I try to create affinities to the organization by talking with my audience and fostering possible affinities."

I have always had the feeling that as we make the transition from Shrine Candidates to Shrine Members, we become somewhat focused on things like the Children's Transportation Fund, and that the hospitals themselves are sort of an abstraction "that the money eventually goes to." Any single hospital is really a much bigger entity than I think we all realize, and there are many ways to donate to them: not only do we have the Plaque Program, but there are many of ways to donate personally, especially if you want to earmark funds for a certain area. For more information, log on to www.donate2shc.org, or contact David Faulkner at the Boston Shriners Hospital at 617-371-4746 or at dfaulkner@shrinenet.org.



PICTURES AND DRAWINGS made by patients of the Shriners Hospital for Children—Boston displayed in the cafeteria of the hospital. Aleppo's special guest at the January Ceremonial, **Megan Johnson**, checks out the drawings during her tour of the Hospital.

Wanted: Used Cell Phones

THE Immaculate Conception Church in Malden/Medford is collecting used cell phones to help battered women at the Mass. Battered Women's Coalition. They have collected 936 cell phones so far to help the women and children in the shelters.

If you have any to donate drop them off at the church at 600 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148.

