

Raising the Blues at Shriners Hospitals for Children—Boston

BOSTON, MA – **Lucas Leary**, a patient at Shriners Hospitals for Children – Boston, will receive a Laguna electric guitar courtesy of Raising the Blues, Ltd on Tuesday, September 8, at 10:00 a.m. at Shriners Hospital. Photo opportunities will be available.

An eighth grader at Salem Academy Charter School, Leary was injured in a gasoline accident in August and has been receiving treatment at Shriners Hospitals for Children – Boston for his

injuries. “He was injured while he was landscaping,” said **Stephanie Leary**, Lucas’ mom. “We have been so amazed at his recovery since the accident and it is due to the great staff at Shriners. Everyone from his wonderful surgeon, **Dr. Ryan**, who made miracles happen, to the recreation therapist, **Katie**, who looked beyond Lucas’ bad mood and pushed him to work hard. Lucas is doing much better and at this point he has no limitations on what he can do.”

During Lucas’ music therapy treatment, he expressed an interest in learning to play the guitar. “We supported this as it would address many goals for him including increasing self-esteem, increase adaptation to being in a hospital, and increasing his repertoire of positive recreation skills,” said **Annette Whitehead Pleaux**, music therapist at SHC-Boston. “Lucas was a quick learner and mastered each lesson with a few hours of practice. When Dr. Ryan saw him playing the guitar, she was excited at the prospect of him having a new skill and a positive recreation activity to use in his free time. This reminded me that Raising the Blues has said they will get a guitar for kids who want to learn to play. I contacted Ruth and started the ball rolling.”

“When we heard from Shriners that there was a teenager who had responded well to learning the guitar, we were pleased to be

able to donate an instrument to their patient,” said **Ruth E. Atherton**, Ph.D., President of Raising the Blues, Ltd. “We look for children with unique life challenges and offer them a way to use music to help them cope and recover.”

Raising the Blues is a community partner that brings blues musicians to hospitals to play for the kids and families to brighten their spirits. They have donated a guitar to SHC -Boston for the music therapists to use to teach children to play guitar. “We have loaned it to parents and guardians to play for their children,” Whitehead-Pleaux explains. “When we have a patient who shows a real interest to play, Raising the Blues has offered to donate guitars to children. Raising the Blues is a great community partner. Part of their mission is to support music therapists and by having musicians play at the hospital and by donating these instruments, they definitely do that.”



Shriners Hospitals for Children™

Raising The Blues, Ltd. is a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization dedicated to bringing music to children undergoing medical treatment or recovery, and children with physical, emotional or educational challenges. Primarily through the use of Blues music, we seek to raise the spirits, abilities and aspirations of children who can benefit from musical enrichment and interactive musical opportunities



Shriners Hospitals for Children – Boston is a pediatric burn hospital, research, and teaching center. The Boston hospital is operated by Shriners Hospitals for Children, an international health care system of 22 hospitals dedicated to providing pediatric specialty care, innovative research, and outstanding teaching programs. Children up to age 18 with orthopedic conditions, burns of all degrees, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate are eligible for care and receive all services in a family-centered environment at no charge – regardless of financial need. For more information, visit www.shrinershospitals.org.

Your Donation to the Hospital Children’s Transportation Fund Plaque Program



The plaque is given for a \$100, \$200 or larger - tax deductible - donation to the hospitals. All monies derived from this program will go to the Children’s Transportation Fund. The plaque is a beautiful addition to your home, office or club. It is one that you can be proud to display. You will be sent your plaque with the current year on it, and we will contact you each year to give you the opportunity to keep your plaque current.

Masonic Lodge Donates \$250,000 to Shriners Hospitals for Children

SEPTEMBER 22, 2009

HANSELMANN Lodge No. 208, one of the oldest Masonic Lodges in the Cincinnati area, demonstrated an extraordinary act of Masonic charity with a donation of \$250,000 to the Shriners Hospitals for Children— Cincinnati.

Hanselmann Lodge members formed a committee last year to evaluate the ways in which the Lodge could reinforce one of the key tenets of Freemasonry to the benefit of a Cincinnati Masonic charity. Shriners Hospitals for Children was the logical choice, according to **Marshall Hunt**, Past Master of Hanselmann Lodge.

“We decided it was time for us to do something important. The hospital was immediately considered as a recipient for our charitable activities,” Hunt said. “We had money set aside for such a donation and decided to make the contribution to Shriners Hospitals for Children as our first major donation to a Masonic charity. Every Masonic charity is worthy, and we will concentrate on others when opportunities arise.”

“This gift is so important to our hospital,” says **Jerry Hardisty**, vice-chairman of the board of governors for Shriners Hospitals for Children—Cincinnati. “The Masonic Lodges have always been active in our hospitals, but this donation represents a new level of support. We are humbled by their generosity and faith in our mission of helping kids defy the odds.”

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