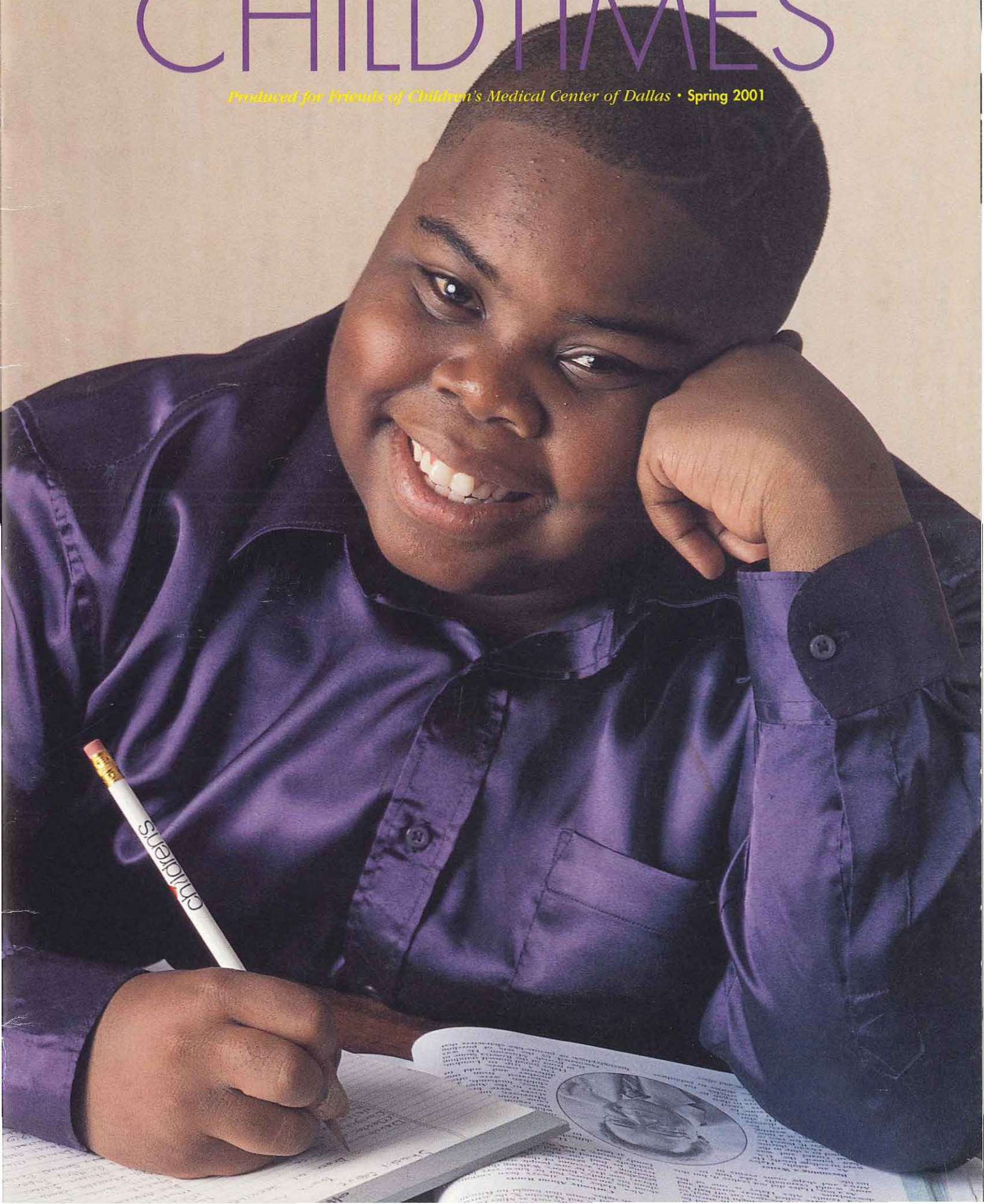


# CHILDTIMES

*Produced for Friends of Children's Medical Center of Dallas • Spring 2001*



## A NOTE TO READERS

**E**very day is busy at Children's Medical Center of Dallas. (And so are the nights.) That's because we are providing care for more and more children every day. Some of our patients are here for just a quick checkup, and others stay for extended periods. But no matter how long their visit, our patients know that our employees and medical staff are committed to providing the best healthcare possible.

What may not be so obvious to our young patients is that while our staff members go about their tasks, they rely on supporters like you to provide resources they need to ensure that caliber of care. But we know that we couldn't serve the children in our area without your ongoing support. And we take this opportunity to say a special thank you for the role you play in helping us make life better for children.

Spring 2001

### Children's News 2

TXU President David Biegler becomes new chairman of the board at Children's, a survey ranks Children's among the top 10 pediatric hospitals in the country and the hospital honors two lawmakers with the LINC award.

### Donor News 6

Children's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Brett Giroir will address an international audience at the Children's Circle of Care Leadership Conference, the hospital receives more than \$19,000 from the seventh annual Marilyn Smith Charity Golf Classic and the Women's Auxiliary Family Night at Six Flags is set for April 6.



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### Shining Star 10

Dallas Stars right wing Jamie Langenbrunner confronts personal challenges when his newborn son, Landon, undergoes heart surgery at Children's the day before Langenbrunner was to begin volunteering at the hospital. Langenbrunner continues to volunteer at Children's and escorts several patients for a special behind-the-scenes look at the Stars during some of the hockey team's home games.

### Miracle on Commerce Street 14

The Neiman Marcus/Adolphus/Children's Parade marches down Commerce Street for its 13th successful year. This time, parade-goers are entertained by floats with a Texas twist and join in during Celebrate Christmas, a new family festival held at City Hall Plaza.

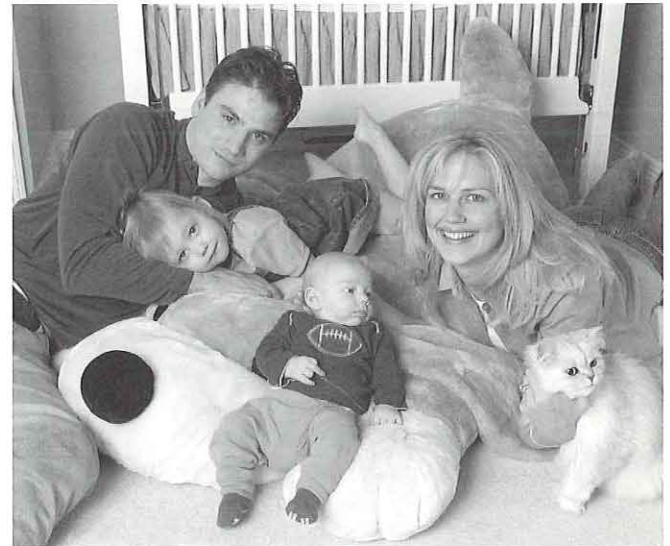
### Medical News 16

The hospital is featured in a low birth weight study published in *JAMA*, Children's participates in a national otorrhea study and a new procedure provides quicker recovery for kidney donors.

### Volunteer News 18

Volunteer sitters enjoy evenings with patients, teens donate time outside of school to be with children at the hospital and a local Fast Signs owner creates and donates uplifting signs for patients.

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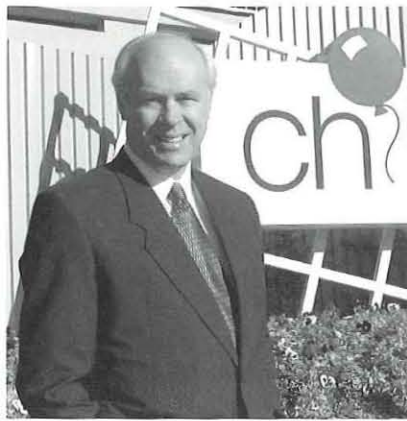
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**On Our Cover:** Patient Romeal Johnson, age 15



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## New chairman looks to promising future for Children's

**D**avid Biegler plans to do all he can to help the administration and employees continue making Children's a great place for kids.

"I've always viewed Children's as one of the great institutions in Dallas," Biegler said. "Not just because of the work that is done, but the commitment to excellence by the employees. As an institution, it has always impressed me."

Biegler, president of TXU, is the newly elected chairman of the board for Children's. He succeeds former chairman Joel T. Williams, III.

Biegler has been a member of the Children's board since January 2000, when he succeeded retiring board member Gene Bishop. He also served on the Foundation board of Children's from 1987-1992 and the board of Children's Health Services since 1992.

"I feel very strongly that the role of the chairman of the board and the board itself is to facilitate and enable the staff, who are fully capable of managing the institution. Facilitating and guidance are the primary purposes of the board.

"I don't have a personal objective," he continued. "My objective is working with George Farr and John Dragovits to ensure that their, and the board's, vision is accomplished.

"Children's has tremendous potential," Biegler said. "It has made a lot of progress in the past decade, but is on the threshold of breaking out and achieving the preeminence we are all striving for."

Children's has stayed abreast of changes caused by the evolution of healthcare as an industry, he said. "Children's is not just riding with that trend, but being pro-active," Biegler said, citing the hospital's association with Baylor Health Care System and Texas Health Resources as examples.

"Our association with UT Southwestern is as strong as it ever has been, and the renewal of that relationship sets the stage to launch us to preeminence," Biegler said.

"The technical changes have been significant over the past decade. What's great is what hasn't changed — our commitment to children being the singular focus of the hospital. It's not that we just say it, but we act it and believe it."

Biegler's association with Children's began at the urging of two friends, Bill McCord and Carol Neaves. Both were strong supporters of Children's.

"The first exposure I had with Children's was a tour by George Farr in 1987," Biegler said. That tour led to his participation as a member of the foundation board.

At the helm of TXU, he oversees a worldwide corporation with 22,000 employees and \$20 billion in annual revenues.

Biegler went to work in oil and gas exploration for ENSERCH Corp. while attending college in his home-

town of San Antonio. During his employment with ENSERCH, he moved from Dallas to Houston to Saudi Arabia. He returned to Dallas in 1985 as president of Lone Star Gas Co., a subsidiary company. In 1991, Biegler was named president and CEO of ENSERCH Corp., and held that position until its merger with TXU in 1997.

Biegler and his wife, Diane Knappe, live in Dallas with their four children, Spencer, 19; Amanda, 17; Mallory, 15; and Alex, 12. He also has two older children, son Brian, 29 and daughter Carrie, 26.

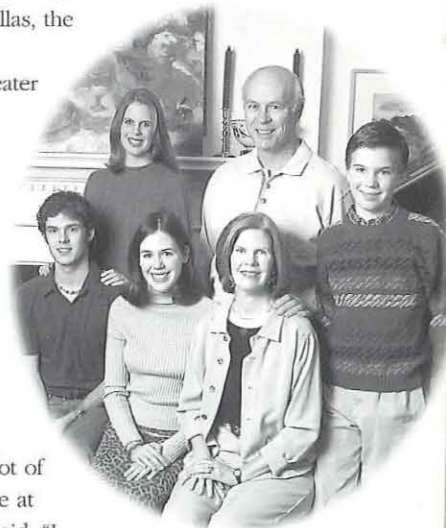
Biegler also is chairman of the United Way Foundation, the Old Red Foundation and the Dallas 2012

**"The technical changes at Children's have been significant over the past decade. What's great is what hasn't changed — our commitment to children being the singular focus of the hospital.**

— David Biegler

Olympic Committee, and one of the chairs for the Dallas Together Forum. He previously served as chairman of the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, the Dallas Citizens Council, the Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce, the American Red Cross Dallas area chapter, the Central Dallas Association and the Dallas Zoological Society.

"We have a lot of dedicated people at Children's," he said. "I look forward to serving them as chairman of the board." ■



**The Biegler family at home: from left, sitting: Spencer, Mallory and Diane. Standing: Amanda, David and Alex.**

# New board members join hospital, Children's Health Services

**C**hildren's welcomed 13 new members to its leadership, and named a new board chairman in January 2001.

"Children's serves as a significant resource to our community, and as such, is privileged and blessed to have very talented, committed and visionary leaders who are first and foremost focused on the well-being of our most precious resource — our children," said George Farr, president and CEO of Children's.

Allow us to introduce our new leaders:

## Board of directors

The board of directors of Children's consists of 12 voting members, equally appointed by Baylor Health Care System, Texas Health Resources and Children's Health Services of Texas.

■ **David W. Biegler**, chairman of the board, joined the hospital board in January 2000. He has been a member of Children's Health Services of Texas board since 1992 and served on the Children's Foundation board from 1987-1992. He is president of TXU. He also serves on the boards of Trinity Industries, Chase Bank of Texas, NA, and Metroplex Regional Advisory Board of Chase Texas-Dallas.

■ **William "Bill" Aylesworth** is senior vice president, treasurer and CFO of Texas Instruments, Inc. He has served on the Children's Health Services of Texas board since 1996 and also served the past three years as a member of the Children's Foundation board.

■ **Ann Goddard Corrigan** has been a director on the Children's Health Services of Texas board since 1992, and previously served on the hospital board. She has served on several board committees and is a lifetime member of the Women's Auxiliary. She carries on the legacy and long-time commitment of the Goddard family to Children's. Her great-grandfather, Tom Bradford Sr., donated \$100,000 in 1929 to build a baby hospital in Dallas, the predecessor to Children's.

■ **Debbie Scripps** has been chairman of the trustees at Children's for the past three years. She is a former president of the Women's Auxiliary and the Junior League of Dallas. She has served on the Crystal Charity Ball Committee and the Bryan's House board. She is active at the local and state level in advocating for children and is a member of the CPS Texas Community Partners Board. She has been a Children's Health Services board member for more than seven years.

## Trustees

The focus of the trustee group is to serve as community advocates for local children's issues and at the state and federal levels on public policy issues impacting children and children's health. Trustees also are committed

to cultivating donor relations and participating in fund-raising efforts.

■ **Kathy and Ben Brooks** joined the trustees during 2000. Brooks is an attorney with Vinson & Elkins, L.L.C. and has a strong desire to "assure that the betterment of children is a high priority in our state and our community." Mrs. Brooks is a tenured member of the Women's Auxiliary.

■ **Martha Hooper** has been active in the Highland Park PTA, Kappa Alpha Theta and chaired the Women's Auxiliary Six Flags Family Night in 1999. Her leadership skills and fund-raising experience netted significant proceeds in the successful Family Night. Now as a trustee, she "remains committed to the emotional and physical health of children."

■ **Jan Myers**, along with her husband, founded Camp John Marc Myers in memory of their son. She is an active member of the Women's Auxiliary, Crystal Charity Ball and Junior League of Dallas. She has chaired several Auxiliary fundraisers, including Six Flags Family Night and the annual Style Show.

■ **Sharon Worrell** is co-founder and executive vice president of Sound Warehouse Inc. She has served on the Crystal Charity Ball advisory board, The Family Place board and, most recently, served as a member of the Children's Red Wagon Fund. Her service as a trustee is a "natural extension of her commitment to the children and their families in the Dallas region."

## Children's Health Services of Texas

Children's Health Services of Texas is the parent holding company for Children's and several other subsidiaries. The major role of its board is to assure that the not-for-profit mission of the hospital is carried out and that Children's remains responsive to the needs of the children and families it serves.

■ **Marilyn Augur**, chairman of North Texas Mountain Valley Water, is former chair of the board of Baylor Health Care System Foundation and has been actively involved in Southwestern Medical Foundation, the Salvation Army, Dallas Woman's Club and the Crystal Charity Ball. President and founder of the

Marilyn Augur Family Foundation in Dallas, she is a longtime supporter of Children's.

■ **Randi Halsell** has served on the Children's Foundation board and as a Trustee. She also has served on the Crystal Charity Ball Committee, Junior League of Dallas, the Susan G. Komen Foundation and the Baylor Health Care System Foundation board. Halsell founded the Genesis Women's Shelter auxiliary — the Alliance. Her interest in pediatric healthcare is a family interest, as her father and daughter are pediatricians.

■ **Robert Olmsted Jr.** is chairman of the board and CEO of Olmsted-Kirk Paper Co. A Trustee of Children's for almost 10 years, he is an advocate and supporter of the Children's mission and its patients. He has served the community in a variety of organizations, including the Dallas Citizens Council, Salvation Army, State Fair board, City of University Park, Salesmanship Club of Dallas and UT Southwestern.

■ **Theodore P. Votteler, M.D.** has been on the medical staff at Children's since 1957. He has served on the Foundation board since 1998 and on the holding company board since 1981. He is a former chief of pediatric surgery and has been director of pediatric surgery at Children's for more than 20 years. Dr. Votteler was instrumental in the development of the surgical-service program. In recognition of his long-standing service and contributions, Dr. Votteler was honored at his retirement with an appointment as Honorary Life Member of the Children's Health Services of Texas board of directors.

## Children's Foundation

The primary role of the Foundation is to support the mission and vision of Children's through its receipt of gifts, grants and bequests on behalf of the hospital, and to wisely manage and invest the foundation's assets to preserve and grow the critical philanthropic support from friends in the community.

■ **Connie O'Neill**, a CPA, is a past president of both the Women's Auxiliary and the Junior League of Dallas. She serves as treasurer of the Crystal Charity Ball Committee and is a member of the board of directors of the Susan G. Komen Foundation. She has served as a Children's Trustee since 1994 and has served on the holding company board for two years.

■ **Barbara Stuart** has served on the boards of the Dallas Historical Society and Zale Lipshy University Hospital. She has contributed to the community through a variety of other organizations, including the Crystal Charity Ball and Senior Citizens of Greater Dallas. Stuart has been a Trustee at Children's since 1996. ■

## Children's named among top pediatric hospitals in country by national magazine

**C**hildren's is among the top 10 best pediatric hospitals in the country, according to a recent *Child* magazine survey.

Children's is ranked No. 7 in the list, which was released in the magazine's February issue. *Child* evaluated 178 hospitals that are members of the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions (NACHRI).



The finalists were selected after a five-month investigation that included a comprehensive 42-question survey and evaluation by the magazine's medical advisory board.

The exclusive survey calculated results according to criteria including the quality of doctors and nurses, survival rates for common childhood cancers and the amount of government research funding the hospital receives.

"Children's is honored to be recognized among a group that includes some of America's leading

children's hospitals," said George Farr, president and CEO of Children's. "This recognition is a testament to the residents of Dallas and North Texas that children in our community have access to excellent specialized pediatric care close to home."

The magazine's editor-in-chief, Miriam Arond, said the results were based on hard survey data and not on subjective opinions.

"When a child is seriously ill, a parent wants the best care possible," she said. "Our survey provides parents with exceptional medical care in a sensitive kid- and family-friendly environment."

Other hospitals on the list include Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, which ranked No. 1; Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, which ranked No. 5; and Children's Hospital & Health Center in San Diego, which tied with Children's Medical Center of Dallas for the No. 7 spot.

The magazine article, titled "The 10 Best Children's Hospitals in America," also contains a brief article about Children's and a profile of Dr. Brett Giroir, Children's chief medical officer. Dr. Giroir, who began the integration of molecular biology into the Children's pediatric intensive care unit, most recently developed a therapy that has proven effective in treating the rare but deadly meningococemia, an infection that can kill a child in a matter of hours.

*Child* magazine is published monthly and is distributed to a national audience. It also is available in area bookstores and newsstands. ■

## Congress increases GME funding for 2001

Children's got a major boost to help pay for resources used at the hospital in training pediatricians when Congress included Graduate Medical Education funding in the 2001 appropriations bill.

Congress recently approved spending \$235 million to pay for GME at independent children's teaching hospitals nationwide. At Children's, the money is a six-fold increase over what was received last year to help pay for the residency program, which includes about 80 medical residents.

"Congress recognized that the lack of GME funding was a real threat to the future of pediatric care and child services," said George Farr, president and CEO of Children's.

In 1999, Congress addressed the GME federal funding gap for the first time. With strong bipartisan support, it took a historic first step and appropriated \$40 million in new start-up funding to help independent children's teaching hospitals in last year's budget.

The funding disparity between children's teaching hospitals and other teaching hospitals has been a growing cause for concern in the pediatric community. Almost one-third of all pediatricians and nearly half of all pediatric specialists train at one of the country's independent teaching hospitals. Locally, a majority of pediatricians and specialists trained at Children's and stay in the Dallas-Fort Worth area to practice.

Independent children's teaching hospitals treat more than 15 percent of all hospitalized children, which in 1997 totaled 2.9 million.

"The pediatric population in the Children's service area will increase by as much as 12 percent to a total of about one and one-half million children within the next five years, so the need for more pediatricians is real, and we need the support to train those doctors," Farr added.

Farr thanked Rep. Pete Sessions, R-Dallas, and Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, for their work and support of GME. Farr also thanked Children's staff members and supporters who urged their elected representatives to support the appropriation. ■

## Giroir to hold new chair created for pediatric research and care

**D**r. Brett Giroir, chief medical officer at Children's, has been named to fill a distinguished chair supporting pediatric research and care at UT Southwestern.

The chair was created when The Associates First Capital Corp. added \$250,000 to previous gifts to UT Southwestern.

The new distinguished chair will facilitate further investigation into severe childhood diseases and trauma and will help support the work of physicians who practice in the critical care unit at Children's.

"This is our way of showing appreciation and support for two institutions — UT Southwestern and Children's Medical Center — that do so much to enhance the quality of life for our children," said Keith W. Hughes, chairman and chief executive officer of the Irving-based company.

"Brett Giroir is a tremendous asset to both institutions, and we're pleased to support his ongoing work," he said.

Dr. Giroir, associate professor of pediatrics at UT Southwestern, recently led an international trial that found a cloned protein could reduce deaths and amputations from meningococemia, a deadly bacterial infection.

"The gift is a great honor for me personally," Dr. Giroir said. "But the gift is important because it will supply me with a continual source of funds with which to develop therapies for children with life-threatening illnesses. This contribution provides the freedom to pursue ideas and the opportunity to bring therapies to children more quickly." ■

## Children's joins Channel 5 in first HealthFit Expo at Dallas Convention Center



**Cassie Collins, community relations coordinator at Children's, explains the proper use of a carseat to Stephanie Guajardo and her 3-year-old daughter, Jessica.**

Children's participated in the first NBC 5 HealthFit Expo in January, showing hundreds of families the proper way to use carseats for their children.

The carseat demonstration was one of many events at the Expo, which was held at the Dallas Convention Center.

Children's also had representatives on hand to talk to patrons about the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

"Being a sponsor of HealthFit provided Children's with an opportunity to talk to hundreds of parents about child passenger safety," said Cassie Collins, community relations coordinator. "Our main focus was to encourage parents to call the Children's injury prevention hotline and arrange for a professional carseat safety checkup."

The free, weekend-long event included health screenings, exercise demonstrations, presentations by fitness experts and athletes and representatives from 50 non-profit health and human services organizations. ■

## Lawmakers honored with Children's leadership award

Children's presented Texas Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, and state Rep. Tony Goolsby, R-Dallas, with the first Legislative Initiatives Nurturing Children award, known as LINC. The awards were given in December during a joint meeting of the Children's Medical Center Foundation and Children's Health Services of Texas.



Rep. Tony Goolsby, R-Dallas, and Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, far right, with Children's director of public policy Mazie Jamison following the LINC Award presentation.

The LINC award honors members of the Texas Legislature from the North Texas area who provide leadership on issues that impact children and Children's Medical Center of Dallas. Nelson and Goolsby each were given framed artwork by a Children's patient.

"We're grateful for our congressional champions," said Mazie Jamison, director of public policy at Children's. "These members of Congress have come forward on behalf of pediatric teaching hospitals across the country."

Nelson, who was first elected to the Senate in 1992, is chairwoman of the Senate Health Services Committee and a former public school teacher. She is a key lawmaker when it comes to Texas healthcare policy. Before then-Lt. Gov. Rick Perry asked her to lead the state's top health panel, she twice served as vice chairwoman of the Health and Human Services Committee and was a strong proponent of reform during the overhaul of Texas HMO laws in 1995.

Goolsby is serving his 11th year as a state lawmaker. He is an advisory board member of Texans Care for Children and supporter of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Goolsby also was an instrumental supporter of the backseat safety belt law, which passed in 1999. Goolsby has been an advocate for adopted children and children of divorce. He has written child safety legislation as well as various education proposals.

## Neiman Marcus: A treasured friendship

For eight years, Neiman Marcus has served as title sponsor for the nationally televised Neiman Marcus/Adolphus/Children's Parade. And as the parade's programming and syndication steadily grow, a relationship with this legendary retailer means that each year's parade is bigger and better than the year before.

"Much of our parade's continued success can be directly traced to our relationship with Neiman Marcus as title sponsor," said Holly Hassmann, director of special programs in the Children's office of development. "Their generosity and enthusiastic support enable us to build upon an incredible history of quality holiday programming that is now an undisputed family favorite — not just in Dallas, but throughout the country.

"Their sponsorship allows us to creatively dream and expand our fund-raising capacity for Children's," Hassmann said. "We are so grateful for their ongoing support."

Neiman Marcus Vice President Ken Downing said the folks at Neiman Marcus are proud to play such a vital role in the annual parade.

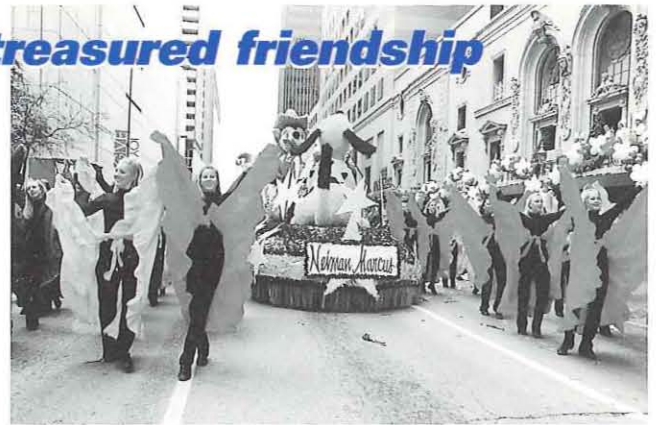
"Our customers look forward to this parade every year," Downing said. "Not only has this exciting event become a Dallas tradition and favorite of children and families alike, but it also benefits Children's Medical Center of Dallas, one of the nation's leading children's hospitals — located right here in the Metroplex.

"Herbert Marcus' philosophy was that if you were going to be in the community, you should be a part of the community. For more than 90 years, Neiman Marcus has had a generous policy of supporting charitable organizations in the communities in which it has stores," Downing said.

Each year on parade morning, more than 300 Dallas Neiman Marcus customers and employees gather in front of the downtown flagship store to enjoy the parade as it marches by, touting colorful holiday banners that bear the Neiman Marcus name.

"Again this year, the Neiman Marcus/Adolphus/Children's Parade was a smash, better than ever, and enjoyed by all, even though the weather was cold," said Burt Tansky, Neiman Marcus Group president and COO. "The parade warmed the hearts of all those lining the sidewalks because they knew that this was for Children's Medical Center of Dallas."

And for all those at Children's and Hotel Adolphus who worked to produce the parade, the Neiman Marcus sponsorship is a treasured asset.



The Neiman Marcus float is always a crowd-pleaser.

"Neiman Marcus brings great excitement to the table, and a long track record of making dreams come true," said parade director Ashley Terrell of Hotel Adolphus. "This is what we also work toward in producing our parade. Each year, we strive to dazzle and delight. And there is no question that Neiman Marcus is one of the best dazzlers and delighters to be found." ■

### 2000 Parade Sponsors

- Neiman Marcus
- Hotel Adolphus
- 7-Eleven®
- 94.9 FM KLTU
- Arthur Andersen LLP
- The Associates
- Barrow, Hanley, Mewhinney & Strauss, Inc.
- Borden
- Chuck E. Cheese's
- City of Dallas
- The Dallas Morning News*
- Downtown Improvement District
- J & S Audio Visual, Inc.
- Keebler Company
- The Magnolia Hotel
- Mrs Baird's Bakeries
- Northwestern Mutual Financial Network/
- The Mahoney Group
- ReelFX Creative Studios
- Schepps Dairy
- Six Flags Over Texas
- Sodexo Marriott Services
- Texas Health Resources
- Transamerica Real Estate Tax Service
- Univision
- Variety Club Children's Charities
- Wal-Mart/SAM'S Club
- Washington Mutual
- WFAA-TV Channel 8

American Airlines — *Official Parade Airline*  
Chevrolet — *Official Parade Automobile*

A special thank you to DART for providing transportation for our parade volunteers



Neiman Marcus Group President and COO Burt Tansky enjoys the 2000 parade with his family.

## Modifications to estate plans made simple with codicils

A codicil is an appendage to a will that adds to or modifies the document. For example, *Little* REASONS to GIVE if you want to change the independent executor named in your will, you can do so with a codicil. If you want to add the name of someone to receive a bequest, you can use a codicil. Or, if you want to name Children's as a beneficiary under your will, a codicil will make that happen.

### *Codicils are effective*

They do the job. Codicils are just as legal and binding as the main document. Some of our friends may want to add Children's to their wills and others may want to adjust the amount they had previously decided to give. In either case, this can be done effectively through a codicil.

### *Codicils are inexpensive*

You might be surprised to learn the relatively low cost of a codicil. It is considerably less than the expense of drafting an entire will. A quick call to your attorney will tell you just how reasonable this service is compared with other estate planning documents.

### *Codicils are easy*

The codicil presents an easy way for our friends to include Children's in their estate plans. It's not necessary to go through the time and expense of redoing the entire will; all it takes is the creation of a brief legal document that is then stored in a safe place with the will.

If you would like more information about wills and codicils and how you can include Children's in your estate plans, please contact Children's Trust Counsel Joe Hancock at 214-456-5344. Hancock is available to provide draft language and review of legal documents to assist you and your advisers in structuring charitable gifting strategies that can benefit you, your family and Children's.

## Giroir chosen to address international audience at Children's Circle of Care Leadership Conference

Children's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Brett Giroir will speak to an international audience of benefactors representing North America's most prestigious children's hospitals during the Children's Circle of Care Leadership Conference and Gala on May 3 in Seattle.

The event, which will feature presentations on recent developments in pediatrics by renowned leaders in children's healthcare, will be hosted by Children's Circle of Care founding members Melinda and Bill Gates.

Dr. Giroir, whose selection was based on his leadership in research and clinical care from among an impressive list of the country's most respected physicians,



Dr. Brett Giroir's impressive research has attracted international attention and accolades. Pediatric healthcare philanthropists will hear him speak at this year's Children's Circle of Care Leadership Conference.

will share his groundbreaking research in the treatment of meningococemia, a deadly infection that can kill a child in a matter of hours.

Dr. Giroir will join Dr. Richard Ellenbogen of Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center in Seattle and Dr. Peter Havens of Children's Hospital of Wisconsin as this year's physician presenters.

More than 50 Dallas Children's Circle of Care members are

expected to travel to Seattle with Dr. Giroir and his wife, Jill, to attend the leadership conference and gala and network with other benefactors who share a heart for pediatric healthcare philanthropy.

Founded in 1995, the Children's Circle of Care's mission is to advance the work of pediatric patient care, research and teaching by encouraging and recognizing annual major gift-giving (\$10,000 or more) to its member hospitals. In so doing, the program also educates the public about child health issues and the unique mission and service of children's hospitals. Children's is a founding member of this respected organization.

For more information about the Children's Circle of Care or the May leadership conference, please call the office of development at 214-456-8360. ■

## Philanthropist's love for children, golf is winning combo for hospital

**I**t was a love for golf that first introduced Richard Rogers to Children's. The avid golf enthusiast, who also is a first vice president/investment officer with Dain Rauscher, remembers the day a colleague asked him to serve on a volunteer committee for the Chip Moody Pro-Am Classic, benefiting Children's.

"Being a big golf fan and having children of my own, I thought it sounded like fun," Rogers said. That was six years ago.



**Children's trustee Richard Rogers shares his love for golf and community service with grandson, Richie.**

This year, Rogers will co-chair his third Chip Moody Pro-Am Classic and begin his third year as a hospital trustee. The now-avid Children's enthusiast said he enjoys every opportunity he has to work with the Children's staff and volunteers.

"The commitment of the people I've come to know at Children's is contagious," Rogers said. "There is a light that emits from their

souls. They are enthusiastic and inspiring, and it is obvious that they love what they do. The more I get to know them, the more they draw me in. And the more involved I become, the more I want to be involved.

"I've also enjoyed meeting patients and their families through functions at the hospital and at the golf tournament," he added. "Seeing how Children's Medical Center of Dallas has changed and, in some cases, saved the lives of so many children reminds me of what an incredible place this is."

Talk to anyone in the office of development at Children's, and they'll tell you that they think Rogers is pretty incredible as well.

"Richard is a joy to know and a joy to work with,"

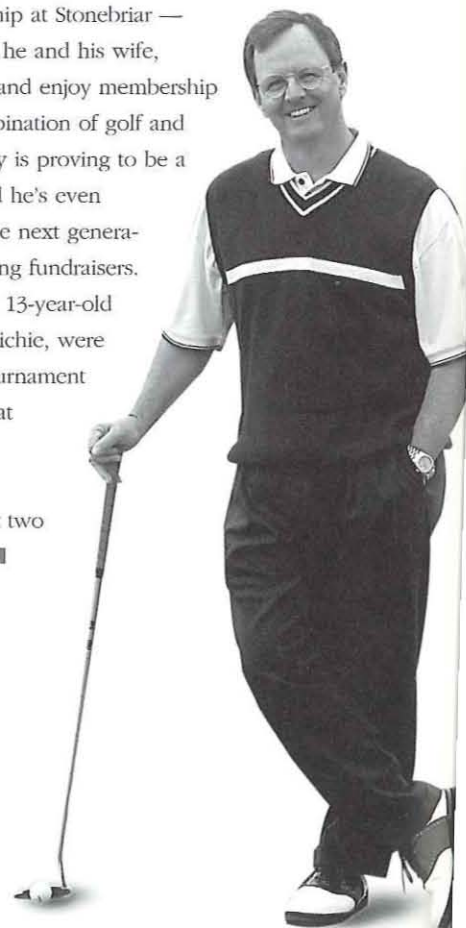
said David Krause, senior vice president for development. "He is straightforward, enthusiastic and hard-working. But most of all, he has a passion for our mission of making life better for children. With Richard, there is always an energetic smile. And behind that smile is a rock-solid commitment to serve the children of our community."

In addition to his leadership role with the Moody Classic, which raised more than \$160,000 last year, Rogers is responsible for bringing another fund-raising opportunity to Children's.

As a board member of the Briar Club, whose members share a common bond of golf, fellowship and community service, Rogers chaired last year's Briar Club Charity Golf Classic. Thanks to his initiative and devotion to Children's, half of the tournament's proceeds — more than \$34,000 — was donated to Children's.

"Chairing golf tournaments for Children's is almost a year-round job," said Rogers. "And I love every minute of it."

For Rogers, who recently won the Senior Club Championship at Stonebriar — where both he and his wife, Janice, live and enjoy membership — the combination of golf and philanthropy is proving to be a winner. And he's even "training" the next generation of golfing fundraisers. He and his 13-year-old grandson, Richie, were crowned tournament champions at Stonebriar's Father/Son Tournament two years ago. ■



## Family Night at Six Flags scheduled for April 6

**M**ark your calendars for Friday, April 6. Your family can enjoy an evening of fun and help raise money for Children's by attending Family Night at Six Flags. Begun in 1969 by the Women's Auxiliary, Family Night has raised more than \$6 million during its 31-year history. All funds raised are used to support critical care equipment needs at the hospital.

Family Night co-chairmen, Gail Knapp and Nancy Carroll, say they are proud to report that several key sponsors are on board again this year — including presenting sponsor, Tom Thumb and title sponsor, Centex Construction Company. WFAA will return as a promotional sponsor — joined by new radio sponsor KLTU.

Long-time hospital supporters Ric and Debbie Scripps are serving as this year's honorary co-chairs, and Drs. Debbie Burns and Joe Hanig, who are husband and wife, are this year's physician co-chairs.

Advance tickets for this year's event are \$20 each — almost half off the gate price. Tickets are available at area Tom Thumb stores or from Auxiliary members. Tickets at the gate will be \$35.99.

For more information about Family Night at Six Flags, please call the event hotline at 214-456-8371. ■



Family Night at Six Flags co-chairs Nancy Carroll, left, and Gail Knapp.

## Marilynn Smith Charity Golf Classic



In Jan. Children's received more than \$19,000 from the seventh Annual Marilyn Smith Charity Golf Classic. Proceeds benefit the neurology/oncology department at Children's and Camp Feliz. Pictured, from left: John Dragovits, Children's EVP and COO; Judy Smith, founder and president of The Children's Brain Tumor Foundation of the Southwest; Bridget Heath with daughter and Children's patient Emily; Dr. Dan Bowers, CCBD oncologist; and Marilyn Smith, tournament chairperson and co-founder LPGA.

## Thank you notes

Many thanks to Christmas in the Park Charity Enterprises for donating more than 900 toys to Children's patients during Christmas. We are grateful to the many people whose hard work makes this donation possible every year.

Yim's Tae Kwon Do Institute once again donated proceeds from the annual Yim's Board-Break-a-Thon. The funds will be used to support cancer research at Children's. A special thank you to Master Yim for his leadership behind this tournament and to the martial arts students who participated for their commitment to helping others.

Eatzie's Catering provided lunch for 16 siblings of patients with cancer at our recent "Day For Me" program. The program, facilitated by child life and nursing staff from the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders, is a half-day workshop for siblings to learn about their brother or sister's cancer as well as have the opportunity to express feelings and gain support. The lunch was fabulous and the kids especially loved the cookies and brownies.

### *Shuffle on Over for Fun and Fundraising*

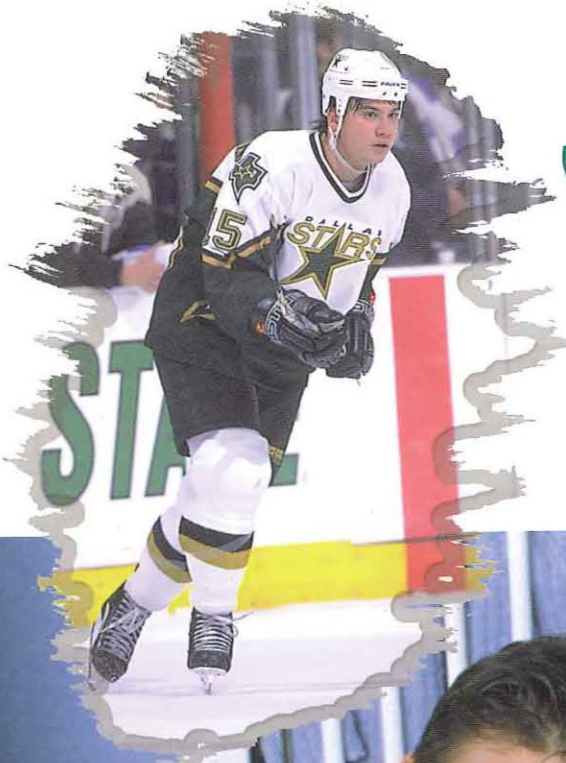
The Greater Dallas Shuffleboard Association, which has donated proceeds from its annual tournament to Children's since 1992, has raised nearly \$50,000 to support the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Children's and to help families in need.

"We hold the tournament each year in memory of our family members, friends and association members who have passed away," said Lajana Story, who serves as secretary-treasurer of the association. "We are dedicated to Children's because we know people who have children and grandchildren treated at the hospital and because the hospital's main focus is the kids."

Thank you, Greater Dallas Shuffleboard Association, for your continued support in helping us make life better for children.

# SHINING STAR

Dallas Stars right wing Jamie Langenbrunner keeps his priorities in check through personal challenges off the ice



**A**sk Jamie Langenbrunner who his heroes are and he's likely to respond with a familiar household name — his household, that is.

Because to this Stars right winger, his wife and his family are the people he most looks up to. Although Langenbrunner fans know him for being a high-energy, hard-working team player, they might not know that he's also a devoted husband, father, brother and son who has a deep commitment to family and a strong desire to give back to kids.

Those kids include patients at Children's Medical Center, where Langenbrunner began volunteering last year. What he couldn't have known at the time was how closely he was about to be linked to Children's after his newborn son, Landon, needed heart surgery.

**Fans know Langenbrunner for being a hard-working team player, but they might not know that he's a devoted husband and father who has a deep commitment to family and a strong desire to give back to kids.**

Langenbrunner became acquainted with Children's a few years ago when the Stars began sending players to visit with hospital patients during the holidays. Last year, Langenbrunner said, he told the Stars' staff that he wanted to get involved with a charity and everyone agreed that Children's would be a good fit.

"I wanted to do something with kids and wanted to get involved more than on a financial basis, more on a personal basis," he said.

**Left: Jamie and Liz Langenbrunner relax with their daughter, Laine, and son, Landon, in Landon's nursery.**

**Inset: Langenbrunner, No. 15, joined the Dallas Stars in 1993.**

During his visits to the hospital, Langenbrunner volunteers time in one of the playrooms, meeting patients and spending time with kids. Sometimes that means just talking while other days are spent playing games with patients.

"Every kid is so different. Some kids want to talk and ask questions, some want to play games, some just want company while they get an IV put in and want someone else to talk to besides a nurse or doctor," Langenbrunner said. "Some kids know what hockey is and some don't, but it doesn't matter."

#### **Northern exposure**

Having someone to talk to was never a challenge for Langenbrunner. As the oldest of four boys, Langenbrunner, 25, always had someone to hang out with while growing up in the small town of Cloquet, Minn. Always the athlete, Langenbrunner played baseball, football and hockey but

also maintained his studies and was an honor student. "I really didn't have much of a choice," he said. That's because his parents are educators: His father is a junior high school principal and his mother teaches preschool.

Langenbrunner's foray onto the ice began at age 4 when he learned to figure skate. But it wasn't long before he discovered his true love was hockey. Langenbrunner got plenty of ice time living in Minnesota, where, he said, there are rinks "at every corner park."

"It's just something I started doing with my friends, and I would skate on the weekends — we'd go out at 10 a.m. and skate until dark," he said.

He continued his passion through high



**Langenbrunner and his 3-month-old son, Landon.**

school, and during his senior year scored 89 points in only 27 games. He was named Minnesota's High School Player of the Year in 1993, the same year the Stars made him their second-round selection in the National Hockey League entry draft. He played his first full season with the stars in 1996-97.

Other triumphs followed: The Stars named him Rookie of the Year in 1997, and in 1998, Langenbrunner joined the U.S. hockey team to compete in the Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan.

This season, Langenbrunner is only three points shy of 200 career NHL points.

#### **Off the ice**

On a personal level, Langenbrunner says he is most thankful for his family — both extended and immediate. He married his high school sweetheart, Elizabeth, in 1997, and the two have a 3-year-old daughter, Laine, and son, Landon, who was born in October.

But 2000 also proved to be a challenging year for the Langenbrunners. Liz's father died in the summer before Landon's birth, and just weeks before Jamie's grandmother passed away.

Then, two weeks after their son's birth, Liz took Laine to her pediatrician for

an ear infection. While there, pediatrician Dr. Mary Askari decided to check Landon since he was scheduled the next day for a routine two-week checkup. In examining the 11-day-old infant, Dr. Askari said, she could not detect a pulse in the baby's leg. She sent the family immediately to Children's and the baby underwent surgery the next day.

"There are times when this can or can't be really serious and you just don't know," Dr. Askari said. "That's the reason for doing two-week checkups (on infants): We're looking for things that aren't apparent right away."

Dr. Steve Leonard, a pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon on the medical staff at Children's, said Landon needed surgery to repair a narrow aorta, a condition known as coarctation of the aorta.

"He was developing heart failure," Dr. Leonard said. "We went in and removed the narrow part of the arteries and sutured the ends back together."

Dr. Leonard characterized the condition as serious, especially in newborns. If left undetected, he said, the condition can cause babies to deteriorate rapidly as blood pressure rises, which may cause the blood vessels in the brain to rupture and bleed.

After his surgery, Landon spent two days in the pediatric intensive care unit at

**Langenbrunner says because of his experience as a parent of a Children's patient, he believes he will even better relate to kids at the hospital. "Once you have kids, your heart really goes out to these patients," he said.**

Children's, with Langenbrunner and his wife constantly at his side.

Langenbrunner said it was difficult seeing his son on a hospital bed with tubes attached to him. "It was hard not to be able to do anything for him," he said.

"But they (doctors and nurses) were so good with Landon, making sure he was comfortable."

Liz Langenbrunner said the situation was made bearable because of the caring staff at Children's. "We had so many people offering their support and everything was so wonderful. The level of support for the parents is unreal."

Since his operation, Landon has been recuperating well, his physicians said. But it might take his parents a little more time to get over the emotional trauma they went through for their baby.

"Sometimes we look at these sports and movie stars and we forget they're human," Dr. Leonard said. "It struck me

that this is a young couple with a beautiful baby and it didn't matter he was a hockey star. He was a concerned dad."

### **All-star kids**

Langenbrunner said that because of his experience as a parent of a Children's patient, he believes he will even better relate to kids at the hospital. "Once you have kids, your heart really goes out to these patients," he said.

Recently, Langenbrunner invited several patients to attend a hockey game in Dallas. Although Langenbrunner wasn't playing that night (he recently had surgery to repair a torn abdominal muscle and was expected not to play for eight weeks), he escorted the kids to the locker rooms for a behind-the-scenes Stars tour. As the team's Honorary Team Captain for the NHL Hockey's All-Star Kids Children's Hospital program, Langenbrunner invites Children's patients twice each month to attend Stars' home games.

In January, Langenbrunner also donated \$10,000 worth of Texas Motor Speedway seats at the new Victory Lane Club to Children's patients and their families.

"I just like the idea of working with the kids on a low-key, personal level," Langenbrunner said.

The same holds true for Langenbrunner's home life. Even with all of his success as a hockey player, Langenbrunner said he prefers spending a day at the park with his wife and kids. He also likes to unwind by playing golf, a sport his wife recently began as well.

"It is a big change from where I grew up to now," he said. "I feel very fortunate and blessed."

—Kelly Kegans

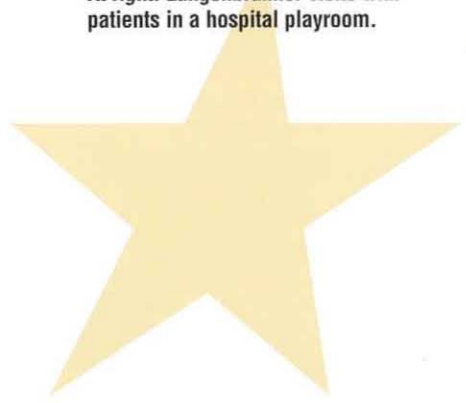
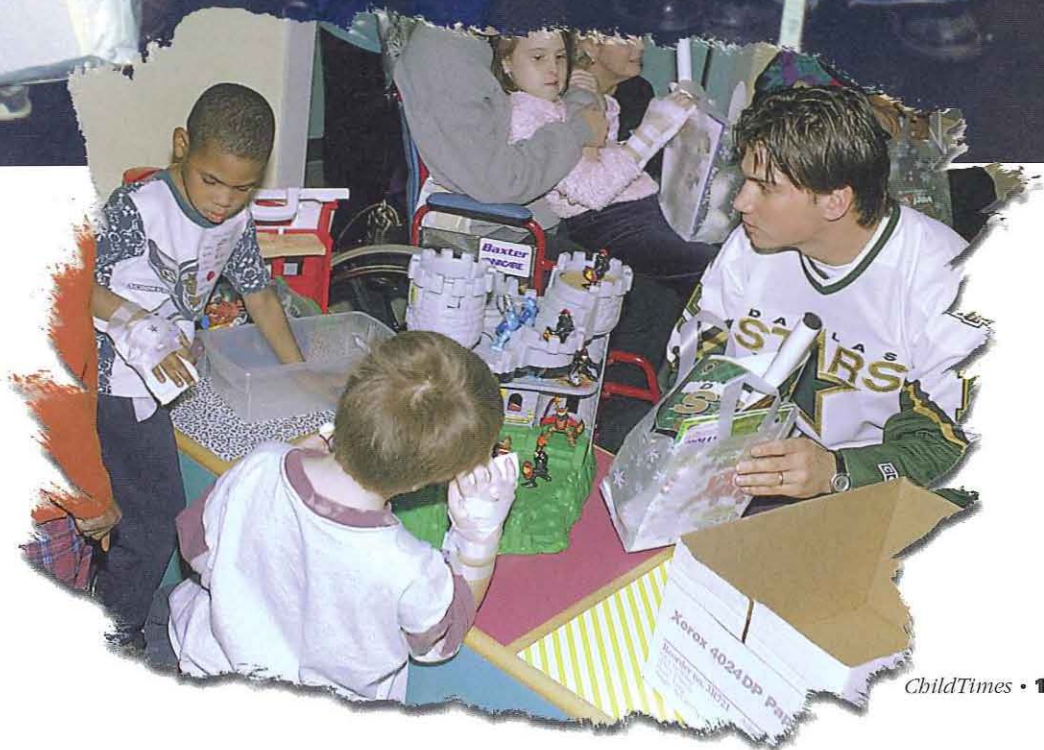
**Heather Larabee, a gastroenterology patient at Children's, poses with members of the Dallas Stars hockey team (Langenbrunner is standing second from left). Larabee's art work was featured on the Stars' official holiday card for 2000 as part of an art contest involving several Children's patients.**

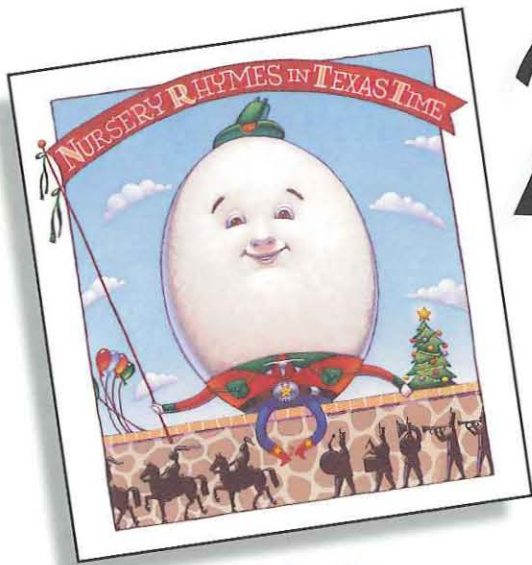




**Above:** Langenbrunner shows Children's patients around the locker room during a Stars game in January.

**At right:** Langenbrunner visits with patients in a hospital playroom.





# Miracle on COMMERCE STREET, TEXAS-STYLE

*Annual Christmas parade features new twist on old favorites*

**A**shley Stevens could not have imagined that a year after she watched the Neiman Marcus/Adolphus/Children's Parade curbside, she would be waving to parade onlookers in December.

The 6-year-old from Combine was one of 35 Children's patients who rode in the 13th annual Christmas parade, which benefits the hospital. Every year, the hospital honors patients by asking them to ride in the parade.

Ashley became a patient at Children's in July after she was in a serious car accident the day before her birthday. Both Ashley and her mother, Sheila, sustained numerous injuries, but both are recovering now after undergoing several operations.

Patients riding in the parade represent a hospital filled with children who, like Ashley, have survived life-threatening injuries or braved devastating sickness and disease.

An estimated 300,000 people lined the streets of downtown Dallas to watch the parade. Another 105 million households from Alaska to the Bahamas saw the parade as it was broadcast in TV syndication.



## TEXAS TWIST

This year, the parade theme of "Nursery Rhymes in Texas Time" entertained spectators by transforming some of their favorite nursery rhymes into floats with a Texas twist. There was no shortage of cowboy hats, bandanas and boots on floats such as "Old King Cole," "Little Boy Blue" and "Hey Diddle Diddle."

Marching bands from several schools played music while towering inflatable balloons, dancers and clowns joyfully continued in the procession that began on Commerce Street and ended at City Hall Plaza.

At City Hall, the audience watched the parade and was entertained at a free festival and holiday concert known as Celebrate Christmas, sponsored by KLTY Radio.

The festival featured dozens of booths

for family entertainment as well as performances by Christian recording artists "Avalon" and The Texas Boys Choir. Families also got a close-up view of the World's Largest Calliope, a 27-foot musical machine made of giant whistles, horns and a 21-bell carillon.

## FAMILIAR FACES

Parade participants this year included Miss America 2001, Miss Texas 2000, Bugs Bunny and friends, Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders and Santa Claus.

Known as the "Miracle on Commerce Street," the parade is the largest all-volunteer Christmas parade in the country. More than 1,500 volunteers organized the event and another 3,500 volunteers participated.

"Children's is grateful for the wonderful opportunity over these past 13 years to have worked with so many generous and dedicated sponsors and volunteers in putting on this terrific holiday family event and in raising much-needed philanthropic support for the children and families we serve," said George Farr, president and CEO of Children's. "We look forward to many more wonderful parades to come."

—Kelly Kegans

This year's parade featured The Kilgore College Rangerettes (above), numerous clowns (right), and many other attractions, including (below, from left) the Coppell High School marching band, the Big Horn Inc. calliope sponsored by American Airlines and a giant inflatable depicting the "Little Miss Muffet" nursery rhyme.





## Report finds positive results in care of high-risk infants

**P**roviding high-risk infants with more comprehensive follow-up care results in substantially healthier babies and saves money, according to a study by a UT Southwestern physician in an October issue of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Dr. Sue Broyles, assistant professor of pediatrics at UT Southwestern and member of the medical staff at Children's, and colleague Dr. Jon Tyson, a former UT Southwestern professor of pediatrics and obstetrics and gynecology, studied the care given to 887 high-risk infants born at Parkland Memorial Hospital and treated at the Low Birth Weight Clinic at Children's.

They found that compared with those who received more routine care, the infants who received comprehensive care had 48 percent fewer life-threatening illnesses and spent 42 percent fewer days in intensive care in the year following release from the Parkland nursery.

In addition to the decreased health risks, Drs. Broyles and Tyson found, care for the comprehensive group cost an average of \$6,265 per infant during the first year after release compared with an average cost of \$9,913 for those who received routine care.

"Inner-city, high-risk infants often receive limited and fragmented care, a problem that may increase serious illness," Dr. Broyles said. "We see this as



**Dr. Sue Broyles, left, and pediatric nurse practitioner Sally Adams with a patient in the Low Birth Weight Clinic.**

a model for how care should be given for these children."

The infants studied had birth weights of less than 2 pounds, 3 ounces or weighed up to 3 pounds, 5 ounces and required mechanical ventilators within 48 hours after birth.

The infants were randomized into two groups. One group received routine follow-up care, available two mornings per week, which included well-baby care (immunizations, social services and

assessment of development) and care for chronic conditions. The comprehensive-care group received the same services, but those services were available five days per week and included care for sudden (acute) illnesses along with 24-hour access to a nurse practitioner or physician assistant. The comprehensive group also received a greater complement of social services, including routine visits by "foster grandparents" who helped with and modeled proper infant care and parenting skills.

Drs. Broyles and Tyson explained that much of the cost savings can be attributed to the simple idea that a more complete regimen of primary care at a relatively modest expense prevents acute illnesses that can be extremely costly.

Funding for the study was provided by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the North Texas Chapter of the National Foundation March of Dimes. ■

## Children's participates in national ear study

Patients at Children's are part of a national study to evaluate two types of ear drops to avoid overuse of oral antibiotics. The first phase of the otorrhea, or ear drainage, study is nearing completion.

Dr. John McClay, a pediatric otolaryngology specialist and a member of the medical staff at Children's, is the principal investigator for the Dallas study.

The study is evaluating two ear-drop solutions, one with an antibiotic and the other with a combination antibiotic and steroid. The drops are used to treat children who have drainage through existing ear tubes.

By not using oral antibiotics and still treating the drainage, the chance of developing resistant bacteria is decreased.

The test drops will fight more types of bacteria than solutions of the past, and should have no long-term side effects, Dr. McClay said.

The first phase of the testing involves about 200 children in 20 facilities. The second phase will involve 1,000 children.

"We will still be involved as this study moves into the next phase," said Dr. McClay, also a faculty member at UT Southwestern. "People are still welcome to sign up to be a part of the study."

To qualify for the six-month study, patients must be 6 months to 12 years old, have tubes in their ears and be experiencing a recent onset of constant ear drainage.

"The children seem to respond well to the medication," Dr. McClay said. "They seem to resolve their ear drainage in just a few days."

The study is sponsored by Alcon Laboratory of Fort Worth and UT Southwestern. For more information, contact Rhonda Giddens at 214-648-9793. ■



**Dr. John McClay**

## Plano center offers expanded services

**A** move to a larger home is enabling the Children's Specialty Center of Plano to offer more services. The clinic moved in November to Medical Office Building 3, 6124 W. Parker Road, Suite 336, at Presbyterian Hospital of Plano.

In addition to expanding its current services, the center added pediatric urology, and pediatric cardiology is planned. The center already offered ear, nose and throat; gastroenterology; endocrine-diabetes; audiology and dietitian services.

"The number of patients is growing," said Stephan Moore, operations director of

diabetes specialists are Drs. Ernesto Fernandez and Bryan Dickson.

Children's also has specialty centers in Mesquite, Irving and DeSoto.

"One of the benefits of a satellite location is that it's closer to home for the families in the different communities," Moore said.

"Another benefit is that it decompresses Children's, both from the parking standpoint as well as clinical space, and it gets our name out there as well."



**Left:** Natalie McDaniel adjusts equipment in the procedure room at the new Plano clinic. **Above:** The clinic's spacious waiting room.

Both the Irving and Mesquite clinics offer ENT services, audiology and speech therapy. The Irving clinic began offering pediatric cardiology services in January. The DeSoto clinic offers physical, occupational and speech therapy.

Physicians at the Irving and Mesquite clinics are on the medical staff at Children's. Physicians at the Irving location include Drs. Alan D. Murray and Amy Bręnski, ENT; and Dr. Lee Ann Pearse, pediatric cardiology. ENT physicians at Mesquite are Drs. Orval E. Brown and Kathleen R. Billings.

The Plano center opened in 1996. The other three centers opened a year later. ■

cardiothoracic and ambulatory services for Children's. "And there is room for growth."

The new space features seven exam rooms, two audiology booths and a large waiting room.

All physicians providing care at the clinic are on the medical staff at Children's. The ENT physicians are Drs. Renee M. Rossi, Amy R. Coffey and John E. McClay. The urologists are Drs. Warren T. Snodgrass, William R. Strand and Clanton B. Harrison III. The GI physician is Dr. John Andersen, and the endocrine-



## New procedure means quicker recovery, less pain for kidney donors

Deborah McDonald says she would have undergone a traditional operation to give her niece Kameshia Barron a kidney, but once she learned of the less invasive laparoscopic procedure, she knew that was the way to go.

In November, Kameshia, 19, became the first patient at Children's to receive a kidney from a donor who had undergone a laparoscopic procedure. The traditional "open" method of kidney removal requires an incision below the rib cage to remove the organ through the muscles. This procedure can cause substantial postoperative pain and recovery can last weeks.

In the laparoscopic procedure, several short incisions are made to insert a specialized camera and other instruments to allow the surgical team to free the kidney from its surrounding tissues. This means recovery is much quicker and donors can be released from the hospital in just a day or two.

The transplant operation was performed with high success marks.

"The kidney had instant function and started producing urine within minutes," said Dr. Jay Roden, a physician on the medical staff at Children's and assistant professor of surgery at UT Southwestern. Dr. Roden and Dr. Tom Renard, also a member of the medical staff at Children's, performed the transplant on Kameshia.

The laparoscopic procedure for kidney donors has become more popular nationwide, said Dr. Jeffrey Cadeddu, a member of the medical staff at Children's and assistant professor of urology at UT Southwestern. Dr. Cadeddu performed the surgery on McDonald. "The surgery went great," he said.

Dr. Albert Quan, a physician in nephrology on the medical staff at Children's and associate professor of pediatrics at

UT Southwestern, said Kameshia had undergone dialysis treatment for about four years but dialysis was never a permanent solution.

Dr. Roden said the laparoscopic procedure should be yet another motivating factor for living donors.

"This will help make donors more comfortable, allow them to be released from the hospital sooner and return to work quicker," he said.



Kameshia Barron, left, received a kidney from her aunt, Deborah McDonald.

## Teen volunteers form special connections with patients

**T**eens add a new dimension to Children's, volunteering for weekend duty through the teen-volunteer program.

The teen program at Children's previously was a summer-only program, but expanded to year-round last year. Twenty teen-agers are enrolled, with 10 volunteering on a regular basis, said Laurel Blackman, coordinator for the program.

Teens between the ages of 14 and 18 serve one four-hour shift per week. Saturday and Sunday shifts are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1 to 5 p.m.



Will Georgia at the information desk.

Teens 16 and older are able to work with the child life department or volunteer as sitters. Other teen positions include working at the front desk, helping in the nurses station on patient floors and helping out in the Seay Emergency Center, doing jobs such as breaking down charts, helping families and entertaining siblings of patients.

Will Georgia, 16, has been volunteering on Sunday afternoons since April.

Georgia usually is stationed in the Aikman's Endzone. Working with a child life specialist and an adult volunteer, he enjoys the contact with the patients, he said.

"I'll play air hockey, pool, board games and Nintendo, especially with the ones that are alone," Georgia said. "You learn a lot from the kids. You come to feel for the kids, because they are in that situation.

"It's a big commitment, but it doesn't impede me from doing homework and other things I need to do. I definitely recommend the job. It's really worth it."

Georgia keeps a busy schedule outside of the hospital. He works eight hours per week, is a member of the track team, ambassador program and the MAGIS program at his high school.

Yana Sax, 16, began volunteering at Children's in November 1999, and is excited about becoming a sitter.

"I wanted to work with the kids," she said. "Then I found out that I couldn't work with the kids until I was 16. Now I am about to start sitter training."

Clerical tasks she has done include breaking down charts in the emergency center, answering calls and directing people at the front desk and putting charts together for incoming patients.

Sax likes volunteering so well that she has recruited some of her friends to apply as volunteers.

"I like giving a little bit of yourself to help people. When I leave every Sunday, I feel like I've helped — like helping somebody find their room or making people feel at ease. It gives them a little comfort in a not-so-comfortable situation," she said.

Sax also is involved in Peer Assistance Leadership at her high school.

Blackman said the teen program has openings for more teen-agers, particularly those ages 14 to 15. Volunteers must complete an application and interview. For more information, call 214-456-6388. ■

## Decorated signs offer patients well wishes

Following her surgery at Children's, 4-year-old Sintia Gonzalez received a big "sign" of encouragement. The well wishes came in the form of an inspirational banner for her hospital room that reads "Keep up the Good Work, Sintia."



Fast Signs owner Mitch Levine with patient Sintia Gonzalez.

The custom banner was created by Mitch Levine, owner of Fast Signs at Skillman and LBJ Freeway in Dallas. Levine came up with the idea for his "Vital Signs" program four years ago when he was looking for a way to use materials left over from making vinyl signs for commercial use. He since has honored hundreds of Children's patients with inspirational banners that provide encouragement after a surgery or medical procedure or for children who are celebrating their birthday while in the hospital.

"I thought, 'What can I do with the extra material that would be a win-win situation?' and the idea just came to me," Levine said. "I'm happy to be able to provide a bright spot in the life of a child who is hospitalized."

Levine's idea worked so well that he recently took it national. Ellen Hollon, director of child life at Children's, put Levine in touch with other hospitals and today, he ships banners to hospitals around the country.

"The banners provide a unique way for the patient to feel special and for the staff to express positive and encouraging sentiments by signing the child's banner," Hollon said. ■

## Patient smiles, appreciative parents motivate volunteer

Kelly Spicer reached a point in her life where she wanted to give something back, but couldn't decide what she wanted to do.

She was reminded of her two teen-age cousins from her home state of Minnesota who were diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy.

"I'm down here in Texas and unable to help," Spicer said. "I knew how hard it was for my aunt and uncle and what they were going through — I wanted to do something.

"I said to myself, 'I'm healthy, I have a good job, I have a good husband and I have a blessed life.' I felt like I was at a time in my life where I could give something back."

In April 1999, Spicer began volunteering at Children's. She has put in more than 225 hours, filling whatever need she could find. She primarily is a sitter, but has delivered gifts and flowers, worked in several playrooms and in the Seay Emergency Center.

After a full day of work as a software development specialist, Spicer drives from Carrollton to volunteer for four hours one night each week.

"And of course, I'm the one who ends up gaining. I just thought I'd give back," she said. "I get a ton of hugs and smiles."

She remembers spending the evening with a child who had undergone a heart transplant. "It was just amazing to me that he was all smiles and he was so happy having gone through what he just went through.

"There are just so many kids that are so happy," Spicer added. "It is such a de-stressor for me. I have a stressful job and life and it's amazing how different you feel from the time you get here until the time you leave in just a few hours. The stress level is gone."

Spicer said it's satisfying to leave with kids smiling.

"I feel like I'm a part of Children's even though I'm not on the payroll," she said. "It's a good feeling to be here."

She recalled one night she sat with a child while the parents drove back to Denton to retrieve clothing and other articles. The parents were amazed that Spicer would sit with their child while they made this lengthy round trip.

"The parents are always so appreciative," she said.



Kelly Spicer plays with 8-year-old Marquis Craver.

## Volunteer enjoys one-on-one time with patients

In February 1999, Suzy Graham decided it was time to follow through with something she had been saying she would do for years. She became a volunteer at Children's.

Even before she officially began her volunteer work, Graham already had started. She is one of eight women who call themselves the "Babes" and get together for dinner and gifts to celebrate one another's birthdays.

The group decided that dinner, a card and a cash donation for the birthday girl's favorite charity would be the tradition, and that has continued since 1995.

Graham chose Children's as her favorite charity, which actually began her volunteer career at Children's.

Since 1999, Graham has logged more than 300 hours sitting with patients.

"It's just because I love children so much," she said. "I wanted that one-on-one relationship. I don't have any grandchildren of my own, so I get my grandmother fix this way."

Graham wanted to stay the first night after her orientation. "I saw all of these small children by themselves — I wanted to stay that night.

"I thought to myself about how frightening a hospital must be for a child when no one stays with them, and I knew I could help," she added. "I also noticed how loving everyone was and how they cared for the children — I wanted to be a part of that."

One of her most rewarding experiences happened one morning as she arrived to volunteer. Traffic had been heavy, and she had experienced some delays in getting to Children's.

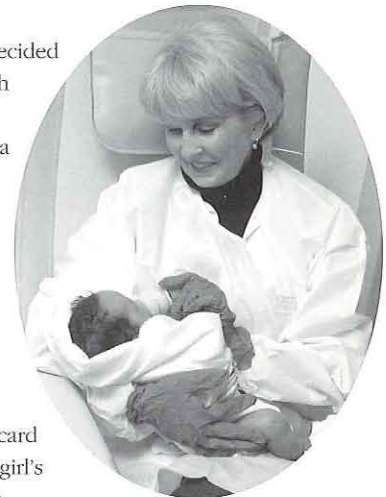
As soon as she exited the elevator, she heard a little voice say, "Yea! My volunteer is here." Graham's patient was running down the hall to meet her.

"That makes it all worth while," she said.

Graham has spent time with patients of all ages, from 2 weeks to 15 years old. She volunteers for four hours once a week.

Graham and her husband, Steve, have been married for 30 years. They have two children: son, Josh, and daughter and son-in-law, Allison and Randy Williams.

"I think everyone should volunteer at Children's," she said. "You get so much more out of it than you give. It would be hard for me not to do this." ■



Suzy Graham volunteers her time at Children's as a sitter and has donated more than 300 hours to patients at the hospital since 1999.

# OUR LEADERSHIP

Children's Medical Center of Dallas is a not-for-profit pediatric hospital governed by a community volunteer board equally appointed by Children's Health Services of Texas, Baylor Health Care System and Texas Health Resources. Children's Medical Center of Dallas is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and approved by the Council of Medical Education of the American Medical Association and the American Dental Association. Children's also is accredited by a variety of educational programs in related healthcare fields. Children's is a member of the American Hospital Association, the Texas Hospital Association, the Children's Hospital Association of Texas, the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions, the Council of Teaching Hospitals and the Association for the Care of Children's Health.

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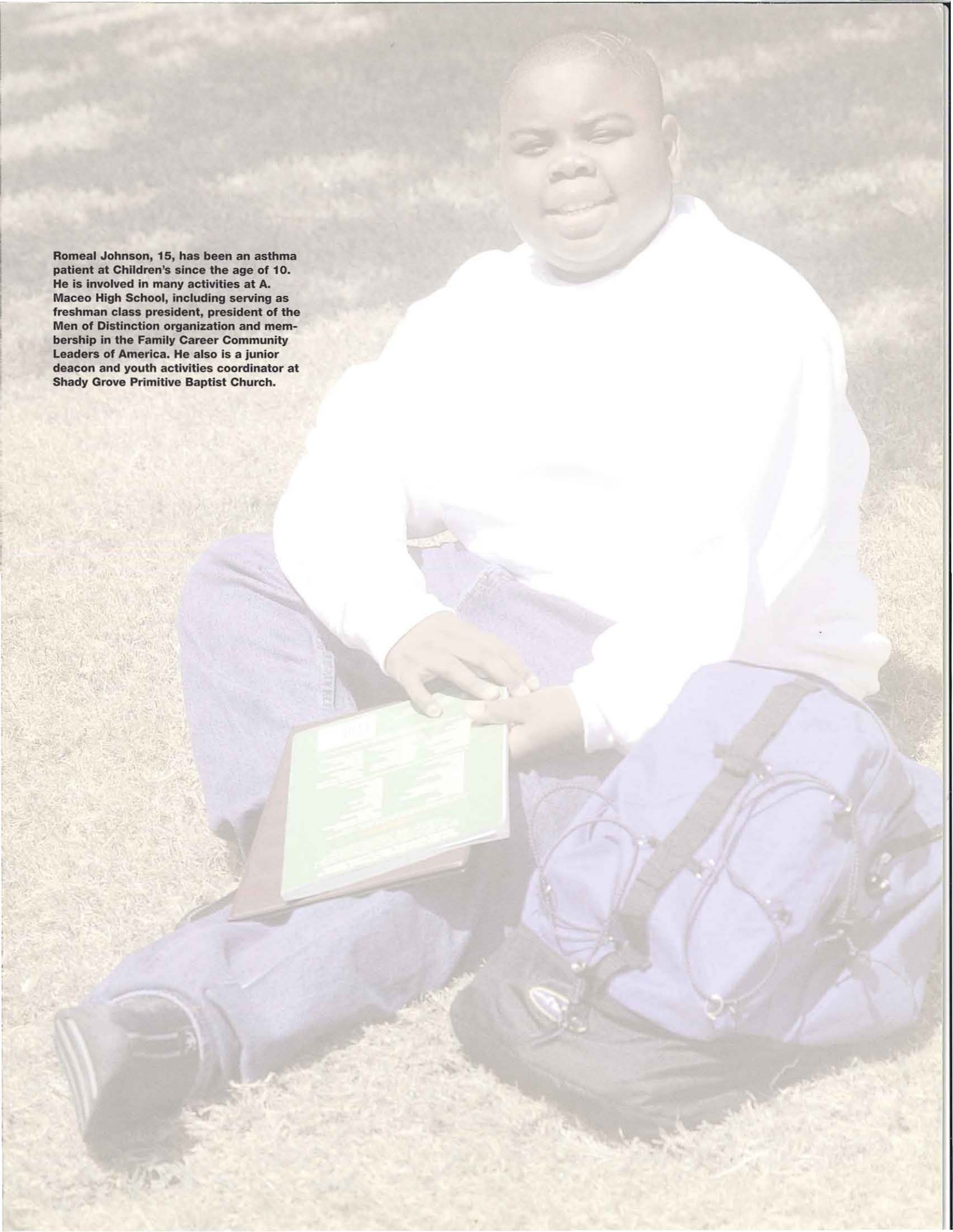
George D. Farr

#### Ex-Officio Members

John F. Dragovits

Brett Giroir, M.D.

David E. Krause

A young man with short hair, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans, is sitting on a grassy field. He is holding a green book or folder in his lap. A large blue backpack with black straps is resting on the ground next to him. The background is a blurred field of dry grass.

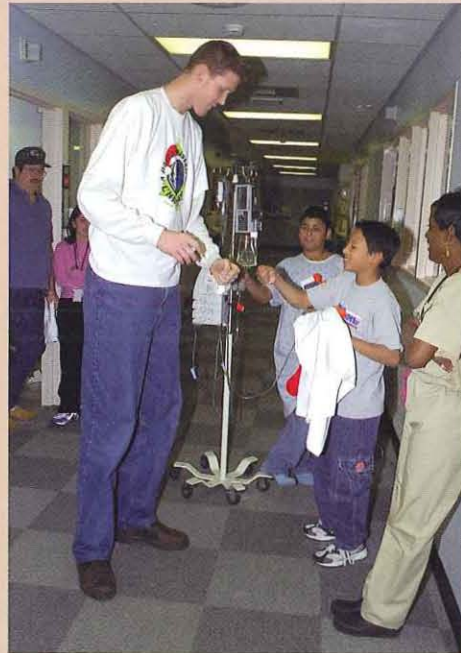
**Romeal Johnson, 15, has been an asthma patient at Children's since the age of 10. He is involved in many activities at A. Maceo High School, including serving as freshman class president, president of the Men of Distinction organization and membership in the Family Career Community Leaders of America. He also is a junior deacon and youth activities coordinator at Shady Grove Primitive Baptist Church.**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

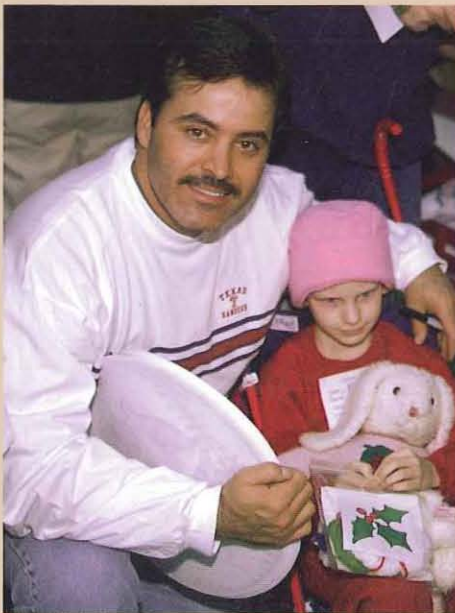
Although we strive to constantly update our address labels, occasional errors and duplications do slip by. Should that happen, please contact us at 214-456-8360. In the meantime, please share your extra copy of *ChildTimes* with a friend.



Dallas Stars center Mike Modano signs an autograph for Children's patient Heather Larabee. Heather designed the Stars' team Christmas card this year.



Dallas Mavericks center Shawn Bradley, who stands at 7 feet, 6 inches, signs T-shirts for patients at Children's during the team's holiday visit.



Texas Rangers' first baseman Rafael Palmeiro poses with a Children's patient.



Emmitt Smith shook hands with patients and signed autographs during the Cowboys annual Christmas visit.