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PATCHES



...where
miracles
happen

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April 2015...Newsletter

"Bittersweet" Heartache

Loss of a loved one leaves a hole in your heart- many of us have experienced this already in life. If you've been to the nursing center you've most likely met the *Princess of PATCHES*. She came to the nursing center when she was 5 weeks old with multiple complex medical conditions. As years passed her conditions became worse and April 21st she was called home to heaven at age 9 ½. She touched the hearts of all who knew her. We are blessed with wonderful memories of a little girl who was silly, had an attitude, bossy and she had the cutest crooked smile. She was one of the strongest people we know- we aren't sure many adults could have handled the type of suffering she endured. Bittersweet is knowing she's no longer in pain - our heartache comes because we miss her so much and always will.



I would like to share parts of an email that PATCHES received from someone who also loved The Princess:

I just heard from those close to me that The Princess of PATCHES – left us last night. We all knew this day would come because she has been very sick. She only lived because of the grace of God and the angels he's put on earth at a place called PATCHES. Unfortunately, there are more children – but for us, there will never be another one like the Princess – she was the heart and soul of PATCHES and her loss weighs heavily on me personally. She spent much of her time at Miami Children's Hospital during her critical health battles. She suffered for so long- but managed to find happiness wherever and whenever she could. I guess in my heart there are messages I take from her life. First, there's always hope as long as there are those who care and those who give of themselves to make life better. Second, find happiness wherever and whenever you can - we never know when we'll no longer have those opportunities or when our time here is over. I mourn the loss of Princess – but I know there is so much work to be done - I know there are so many more children who need the help and care of PATCHES and it helps me to rededicate myself to her memory and inspires me to work even harder to help PATCHES. There will never come a time when the need to provide nursing care is gone – and I will do everything I can to give of myself to help make the dreams of the pediatric nurses who gave their adult lives to create PATCHES and to make it a reality. Princess – thank you for being an example for all of us – we've learned so much from you. I almost feel greedy for using Princess as an inspiration while she suffered so much. But Princess you will live in my heart and mind as long as I live. My goal is to help PATCHES and precious children like her – until one day – maybe there really won't be a need but that cures will have been found for all illnesses. I thank God for many things - the years we had with the Princess – PATCHES a place for children with complex medical conditions – those angels who continue the fight to provide the nursing care for children like Princess and the hundreds of children who will come after her.

"Charlie's Ride" for PATCHES

L: Charlie Martin R: Bill Winn



Over the last 15 years Charlie Martin has been cycling to raise money with the help of his friends for different charities.

"This year I decided to help a local charity, PATCHES PPEC. PATCHES is an acronym for Pediatric Alternative Treatment, Care, Housing, and Evaluation Services and PPEC means Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care. They are a Florida City based nursing care facility for children with extreme medical needs. PATCHES takes care of children with requirements such as ventilators, feeding tubes, oxygen care, brain injuries and so many other special needs. Along with taking care of these special kids, they also have a separate fund to cover funeral expenses for parents who have lost their child."

The ride started on Saturday, March 21st which is Charlie's mother's birthday. This is to honor her and the over 30 years of nursing she provided to our veterans at the VA Hospital. Charlie and his friend Bill Winn began their ride at the PATCHES nursing center located in Ft. Pierce. The first day they rode 85 miles to Delray where Bill's wife, Vilma picked him up. Charlie's wife, Mary Kay drove up with him to Ft. Pierce. She checked in with him in Delray and then went ahead to Ft. Lauderdale where they spent Saturday night. Sunday morning Charlie rode solo to PATCHES in Florida City where Mary Kay picked him up. The ride was approximately 200 miles long in just over a two day period. Charlie's Ride raised nearly \$3,000 for PATCHES. Thank you so much!.

Charlie, how do we begin to thank you, Bill, Vilma, Mary Kay and your many friends for all that you have done for PATCHES.

You can't begin to know how much it means to us.

Many, many thanks to all of you.

Charles Martin, Jenn Helms-Shelley, Patricia Peeler, Jennifer Nelis, Janet Thibault, C. J. Hibson, Joyce Rice, Phyllis Miller, Debra Corman, George Caines, Mr. & Mrs. Gooch, Mary Martin, Island Tropical Nursery- (Larry Barr), Emerald Forest, Sun-Fire Nurseries, LLC., TruckMax Isuzu, J. Correa & Associates, Inc., Nature's Way Nursery of Miami, Inc., All Tropicals, Inc., Jefferson Motor Co., Inc., Kin-Wal Enterprises Inc., Turner & Lynn, P.A., Constance Betterley, Martin Bay, Carl Martin Jr., Sherwood Johnson, Kathleen Rapp, Mr. & Mrs. Lipscomb, Echo M. Dake LMT, Laurie Hibson and Patrick Hibson.

Anyone who takes care of a little child like this is caring for me! Luke 9:48



Celebrating the **Whole** PATCHES Team

PATCHES consists of an amazing group of professionals.

We function as a Body - working Together to provide the best possible care.

A **body** without **feet** wouldn't get very far. Without **hands**, we wouldn't be able to touch, feel administer medication or give and receive hugs. Without a **head** that understands the need to provide nursing care and therapies to some of the smallest, weakest and sickest children in our community... and... Without a **body core** to provide the energy to keep us going and a **heart** for the mission to help sick children...

PATCHES wouldn't be here.

We are a TEAM – a Body that is dedicated to promoting the optimal health of each child because we care.

We Celebrate ALL Professions Together - it takes a Team for miracles to happen.

Luncheon to Celebrate **ALL** of Our Professionals:

Wednesday, June 10th

Read about the team of professionals you will meet at PATCHES.

April - Administrative Professionals

Successful business people are only as good as the teams they have around them. That is why *Administrative Professionals Day* is all about giving thanks where it is deserved – *to the people working behind the scenes* to make sure their offices are run like well-oiled machines.

Humane Resource, Secretaries, In-Take, Nursing Consultant, Director of Nursing, Billing & IT Departments, Community Liaison-Public Relations, Fundraising and Maintenance Department

April - Occupational Therapists

Occupational therapy (OT) treatment focuses on helping people with a physical, sensory, or cognitive disability be as independent as possible in all areas of their everyday lives. OT can help kids with various needs improve their cognitive, physical, sensory, and motor skills and enhance their self-esteem and sense of accomplishment.

April - Volunteers

PATCHES has some wonderful employees. There has been times when some of the staff have given up their Saturdays and or Sundays to help with fundraising events with no financial gain involved. We can't begin to thank those who gave of their time and energy expecting nothing in return to support the nursing center.

May - Nurses

A **pediatric nurse** is a specialty nurse who cares for infants and children. Contrary to what some people believe children are not just little adults. Little ones come with their own set of problems. They perform assessments, give medications, do wound care, they create care plans, they collaborate with physicians and other health care team members to ensure seamless care, they provide education and emotional support to the patient and their family.

May - Child Life Specialists (Teachers)

Our teachers (CLS) play a critical role in educating and shaping our children: the future leaders of our country. They are kind, patient, hard-working, dedicated and understanding professionals that mold our children's lives daily in a positive direction.

May - Speech and Language Therapists

Speech and language therapists (SLTs) work closely with babies, children and adults who have various levels of speech, language and communication problems, and with those who have swallowing, drinking or eating difficulties. The role can involve working with a diverse client group, including children with physical and learning disabilities, hearing loss/deafness, psychiatric disorders or serious medical conditions and more. Therapists assess a client's needs before developing individual treatment programs to enable each client to improve as much as possible.

May - Emergency Medical Technician & Paramedics

Emergency Medical Technicians' (EMT) are provided by PATCHES to escort our children to and from the nursing center each day. This team of professionals are on the vans to assist the child should they need comfort or medical attention at any given time during transport. The EMT's have contact with the child's nurse at PATCHES and with 911 in case of emergency.

June - Certified Nursing Assistants

A **Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)** is an integral part of a medical team. They often have direct contact with patients, helping them eat, bathe, dress or providing comfort. In some facilities, the CNA might be responsible for taking patients' pulse, temperature and blood pressure as well as working closely with the nurse.

October—Physical Therapy

Physical therapy (PT) helps people get back full strength and movement in key parts of the body after an illness or injury. Physical therapy doesn't just help a person rebuild strength and range of motion, though — it also can help someone manage pain, whether that pain is caused by bad posture, an injury, or a disease. When done properly and consistently, physical therapy can help prevent permanent damage and recurring problems. Most physical therapy uses a combination of techniques to relieve pain and boost coordination, strength, endurance, flexibility, and range of motion

October - Respiratory Therapy

Respiratory therapist treat people with disorders affecting the cardiopulmonary system such as asthma, emphysema, pneumonia, cardiovascular disorders, and trauma. In the hospital setting, the respiratory therapist provides care and life support to patients in the emergency room, intensive care units, general hospital areas, the pulmonary diagnostics laboratory and other specialty areas such as rehabilitation. Patients receiving care from a respiratory therapist range in age from the premature infant to geriatrics. The respiratory professional is also involved in the diagnostic testing of infants, children and adults with varying medical problems including cardiopulmonary diseases and sleep disorders.

*“No one who achieves success does so without acknowledging the help of others.
The wise and confident acknowledge this help with gratitude.”*



“Ocean” Mural

PATCHES was the recipient of a beautiful Ocean Mural painted on canvas by artist *Cecilia Stevenson*. Her art work is around the community in other locations as her desire is to bring joy to those who see her colorful creations. The children and staff are thrilled to have such a fun loving piece at the nursing center to enjoy.

We are forever grateful to Mrs. Stevenson for choosing PATCHES to donate her art work to.

Students from..

Florida Career College - Kendall

While doing their pediatric clinical rotation at PATCHES they saw an immediate need in the baby room and met it.

Thank you so much for meeting a need -

You guys ROCK!!



Starting early for Mother’s Day.... *Child Life Specialists* helping the children start their Mother’s Day craft project. The children are painting their pots, once they dry they will fill them with dirt and plant flower seeds.



The children really enjoy the ability to do “hands-on” activities with their teachers.



Ft. Pierce...happenings



Administrator, Gail Steward of PATCHES - Ft. Pierce was thrilled to receive gifts of appreciation from the



Let us all remember to make the most of each day....after all "we aren't promised tomorrow"



Occupational Therapists—

OT can help kids with various needs improve their cognitive, physical, sensory, and motor skills and enhance their self-esteem and sense of accomplishment.

L: Danielle, Cntr: Diane, R: Marta

Ways To Give

Automatic Giving—Electronic giving is a convenient way to give regularly and systematically. If you would like to give consistently by becoming an electronic giver at PATCHES. Please consider filling out the form on our website and returning it to our office. www.patchesppec.org

We take Credit Cards for your donating convenience. You may stop by the center, or call to use the credit card feature or use PayPal on our website. www.patchesppec.org

Donate By Mail: Make checks payable to PATCHES and mail to:

PATCHES, 335 South Krome Avenue #104, Florida City, FL 33034

501 C 3 Not for Profit charity. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Shop through iGive or GoodShop for your Holiday Shopping

When shopping on-line "you can help PATCHES without costing you a cent!"

Every time you shop at one of the over 1400 name-brand internet stores in the iGive.com Mall or GoodShop, we will receive a donation. The donation amount varies depending on the store and the amount of your purchase at no additional cost to you. Some of the stores include **Home Depot, Amazon, Apple, Dell Computers, Target, Macys, Penny's, Best Buy** and so many, many more to choose from. When doing your **Graduation, and Father's Day, 4th of July, Summer Vacation** - *Please consider using iGive.com when shopping on-line and help PATCHES at the same time.*

The iGive Button is on the PATCHES website under the Tab called Ways To Give. When registering the iGive Button gets uploaded to your tool bar.

Thank you for your generous support...
we appreciate each and every donation.

Maria Luisa Gonzalez de Silva, Efrain E. Sora, Mr. & Mrs.
Raymond Smith, Heriberto Nunez, Vicki Atlas,

Shirley Patterson, Mr. & Mrs. Napoleon, Second Baptist
Church, Cutler Ridge Woman's Club, Ideal Consulting Solu-
tions, Wylene Ashley Robinson, Mr. & Mrs. Ramon Casas,
Dan Carter, Medical Care Services, GFWC Cutler Ridge
Woman's Club, Florida Career College Kendall, Roberto
Calderin and Priscilla Cotto,



Remember -
our fallen heros.
They are the reason
that we are free.

HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY

PATCHES e-News Letters.....Can be seen by going to our website: www.patchesppec.org

Click Tab: News/Events: On the right side of that page are current and previous newsletters for your enjoyment.

Newsletter by Sharon Fields