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...where
miracles
happen

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MAY 2013 E-News Letter



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L to R: Greater Miami Chamber Healthcare Committee Chairman Chris Dudley; Erin Kobetz-Kerman, PhD, MPH, UHealth/University of Miami Miller School of Medicine; Luis G. Chiappy, AXA Advisors, LLC; Michael S. Gordon, MD, PhD, Michael S. Gordon Center for Research in Medical Education, UHealth/University of Miami Miller School of Medicine; Joshua M. Hare, MD, FACC, FAHA, UHealth/University of Miami Miller School of Medicine; Nancy Auster, RN, BSN, CHPN, VITAS Innovative Hospice Care; Joanie Ippolito, PATCHES; Sonia Perez, Angel's Pediatric Heart House; and Greater Miami Chamber Chairman Phillis Oeters

GREATER MIAMI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF HEALTH INDUSTRY AWARDS

The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the winners of the 16th annual Health Care Heroes® Awards. Held on Tuesday, May 21 at Jungle Island, the awards program honored individuals, institutions, professionals, students, volunteers and programs who through their individual or collective actions have made an extraordinary impact in the South Florida health care community

PATCHES is a Winner at the HealthCare Hero's Award Luncheon

The room exploded with excitement when PATCHES was named as one of the winners at the 16th annual HealthCare Hero's Award luncheon held earlier this month at Jungle Island.

The process of selecting the winners is lengthy in deed. A panel of judges base their decision on how the nominees fit into the description of:

Who is a Health Care Hero?

An individual, institution, professional, student, volunteer or program who, through their individual or collective actions have made an extraordinary impact in the South Florida healthcare community. The nominee might be working in one of the following fields: bio-medical, community health, education, private practice, public media or the news media.

Their acts of heroism represents a display of dedication to excellence in their area of expertise beyond the scope of their job. Through their commitment to their profession and community, they serve as an inspiration to others in an effort to improve the quality of healthcare and discover new ways to assist those in need.

Prior to each winners envelope being opened a brief video of each nominee, in each category was shown to the more than 1000 attendees in the audience. The stories and successes of the nominees were beyond words. In our opinion every one nominated were winners. They have done so much to further the cause of care for others not only in our communities but perhaps around the world.

However, much to our surprise Bill Duquette, CEO of Homestead Hospital (friend & supporter of PATCHES) was the face and spokesperson on the PATCHES video.

Just before the envelope was opened you could hear a pin drop in the ballroom - Then it happened "PATCHES is the winner" and the place exploded with excitement! Joanie Ippolito, Founder accepted the award on behalf of PATCHES.

It was a moment in The PATCHES Story that we will never forget. Joanie and Kyle realize this award belongs to their entire PATCHES Team. PATCHES wouldn't be possible without them.

You're all winners Florida City and Ft. Pierce! We love you guys! Joanie & Kyle



The following is what Bill Duquette said on the PATCHES video:

Since its first day of operations, PATCHES has provided a safety net for children with medical needs and for their families. The organization cares for any child meeting medical necessity, regardless of the families ability to pay. PATCHES provides safe, cost-effective, stimulating environment, staffed by licensed pediatric nurses, respiratory therapists, licensed rehab therapists and teachers that enables children to thrive physically, socially and developmentally. It offers parents peace of mind because they know that their children are in the hands of a staff of health care professionals expertly trained in the care of children with subacute and chronic medical conditions. If PATCHES were not available, the parents of these very sick children would have no available facility to provide skilled nursing care during the day, often limiting their ability to go to work and resulting in another cycle of economic problems for the family. In additions to caring for their children, PATCHES' staff also educates parents on how to care for their children's medical needs, which has helped to decrease ER and hospital admissions. Since 2005, PATCHES has successfully transitioned 93 percent of its patients into schools or day care where minimal nursing support can sustain them in a relatively good state of health.

Thank you Bill for speaking out about PATCHES

"Real Hero's" In My Eyes

By Sharon Fields

We had just arrived back to the nursing center from the HealthCare Hero's Award Luncheon where PATCHES had been awarded as one of the winners. It was an awesome day....when we heard "911 is on its' way". I rushed down the hall into the Toddlers room. There sitting on his nurses lap, was one of our little guys. He didn't look real happy as his nurses were taking his vital signs repeatedly but he wasn't crying. I'm wondering "what's wrong?"

I whispered to a nurse who was standing off in a distance "what's happening?" She replied, "he has a headache." I'm thinking to myself, a headache... a headache results in a call to 911?!

Seconds later a rescue team with loads of equipment was right by the child's side taking vital signs again. Another EMT is listening carefully to the child's nurses and taking notes as they explain what they have observed and documented through out the day. To me as a lay-person his "signs" seemed normal. Who hasn't been more tired one day than another and who hasn't had a headache? Later I learned that for this child those were important signs. These signs caused the nurses to monitor and check other things.

As it turned out the little guy and his nurse were taken by ambulance to Homestead Hospital's ER where mommy would meet them. Due to his critical condition he was airlifted to Miami Children's Hospital. He remained there until he was discharged back to PATCHES after three days.

I share this with you because the more that I'm at PATCHES the more I realize just how blessed these families are to have such dedicated professionals caring for their children each day. The peace that they feel knowing that they can work or go to school and that their precious little ones' will be safe. I also realize again how scared a parent can be. They are not nurses so it is very possible they could "miss a sign" that would lead to a very serious situation for them and their child. Once a mom told me that when her child is at PATCHES she *felt like she could actually breathe*. That she feels like a *weight is lifted for a time*. Sometimes she just doesn't feel like she can make it and *PATCHES provides a relief for her*.

I am thankful for PATCHES and the Founders who move forward with the mission of providing nursing care for the smallest, weakest and sickest in our communities. I am thankful for the **community of dedicated PATCHES Hero's**, RN's, LPN, CNA's, EMT's, Respiratory, OT, PT, Speech Therapists and behind the scenes our billing, maintenance, security departments and office staff.

Applause goes to all the HERO's in Florida City and Ft. Pierce
PATCHES touches the lives of many each day... it is where miracles happen



The little guy is back at
PATCHES...
we're one big happy
family again!



Visitors & Volunteers constantly bless PATCHES



Baptist Health - Managed Care Department "Day of Service"

Fifteen volunteers from Baptist Health came to PATCHES and spent time and energy sprucing up the exterior of the nursing center. They pressure cleaned walk ways, washed windows, removed spider webs from the walls and washed down all of the playground equipment and all the outside toys.

Thank you all for making
a difference



PATCHES Children Love to Sing with Friends

L: 4-H Club,
R: Avocado Elementary
School

Both groups came to the
center for a time of singing
with the children.



Amazing young artists!

The children from Avocado Elementary School did an art project for the Waddlers & Toddlers of PATCHES. Each child colored a picture and framed it for our kids to take home. Thank you all for your kindness.



Representative Joe Garcia visits PATCHES

We would like to thank Representative Joe Garcia for taking time to visit the nursing center. The children were drawn to his gentle, kindness. We hope you will come and visit again.



The PATCHES Princess tries the Passy-Muir Valve for the first time

Princess' first trial with a Passy Muir Valve (PMV) was a success! Although she didn't vocalize, she was able to tolerate the PMV by exhaling through her mouth for approximately one minute. She has decided that her first word will be "mom". With her positive attitude, she will continue with the PMV trials to reach that goal soon!

What you can't see in the photo:

In the room with the Princess is her Team of specialists. Sitting next to her is her Speech Pathologist, Respiratory and her nurses who are monitoring her pulse as the trial takes place.

Her speech therapist has just explained what she was going to do by removing the cover on her trach and replacing the opening with the Passy. Like most of us she took a few minutes to gain courage to try something new. When she was ready...it happened. The whole team applauded this little Princess for a job well done.

Below is a description of the Passy-Muir Valve to help better understand what it does.



R: Speech Therapist—Maria



The Passy-Muir[®] Tracheostomy & Ventilator Swallowing and Speaking Valve is a simple medical device used by tracheostomy and ventilator patients. When placed on the hub of the tracheostomy tube or in-line with the ventilator circuit, the Passy-Muir Valve redirects air flow through the vocal folds, mouth and nose enabling voice and improved communication. Years of evidence-based research has shown that the Passy-Muir Valve offers patients numerous clinical benefits beyond communication.



Ft. Pierce.....Happenings

Success, Success, Success....The Golf Tournament was a success!!!

PATCHES wants to thank everyone that helped make our 1st Golf Tournament such an amazing success! The weather was perfect, the day was fun and we were able to raise funds to help with the sustainability of PATCHES where sick children come first.

A very special thanks goes to **Judy & Robbie Fox** who worked so hard to help make this event happen and our **Gold Sponsor- George E. Warren Corporation.**

We would like to thank our Sponsors for their generosity: Tee Sponsors- All In Fun Inc. Party & Event Rentals, Titan Mechanical Inc., Aero Door International, LLC, Superior Metal Fabricators, Inc. and Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis. Many thanks go out to Kia of Vero Beach, Aztec Graphix, Seacoast National Bank - Gatlin Office, Natalie's Orchid Island Juice, Marisol's Photography, Gator Trace Golf & Country Club.

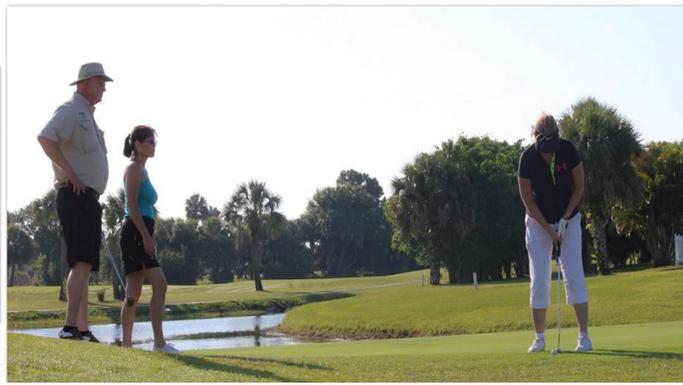
Thanks to the following for donating our door prizes - Hutchinson Island Marriott, A Touch of Brooklyn Pizza, New England Fish Market, Norris's, Dale's Bar-B-Q South, Sandridge Golf Club, Gator Trace Golf & Country Club, West End Grill, Taylor Creek Optical & A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery.

As our day came to an end *Gator Trace Golf & Country Club* provided a wonderful lunch for everyone.





No wonder it's called "Gator Trace"



MARISOL'S PHOTOGRAPHY

If the ball ends up in the lake I'm not going in after it



Gail make sure to measure all the way to the end of his finger tips-he wants to win the raffle



MARISOL'S PHOTOGRAPHY



What a great day!

Volunteers are "A Team of Committed People"

Planning and organizing an event takes a ***Team of Committed People*** who are willing to work together for the same goal by giving of their time and energy. Without these people known as "Volunteers" raising funds would be difficult.

To all of our Volunteers, we THANK YOU!!!!

L: Tony Gonzalez, Tammy Crandell, Patty Damato, Marisol Guntkowski, Diana Gonzalez, Nicole Guetler, Judy Fox, Buck Freeman.

Note in photo: Gail Steward, Founders Kyle Smith & Joanie Ippolito, JoEllen Smith & Rosemary Adams.



MARISOL'S PHOTOGRAPHY

Fun in Ft. Pierce during Nurses



Psychologist Dr. Jack Mitchell was an invited guest during Nurses Week in Ft. Pierce. He gave a seminar on the different personality types describing the traits of each type. The nurses had fun as they participated in a personality review of themselves. All the nurses had a chance to see what type of personality they have and how they can best work with each other.

Thank You Dr. Mitchell for coming to PATCHES. It was great fun!



Thank you so much for thinking of us.....

Mike & Melissa Beck – Gave us a 50 inch Sanyo TV & Home Theater Sound Bar. We know the kids will just love watching their Disney movies on this.

Kerri Clark & Greg Noble — Donated, delivered and set-up a hospital bed. This bed will come in handy as our census is continuing growing.



American Idol
At
PATCHES?



Last Christmas Santa brought the children a Karaoke Machine and the kids love singing and performing.

PATCHES



A 501(C3) PEDIATRIC NURSING CENTER FOR MEDICALLY FRAGILE KIDS

OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2013

8:30AM — 10:30AM

9:15 RIBBON CUTTING PRESENTED BY
ST. LUCIE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

4100 OKECHOBEE RD

FORT PIERCE, FL

ORANGE BLOSSOM BUSINESS CENTER

For more information call: 772-462-6601

WWW.PATCHESPEEC.ORG

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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 www.patchesppec.org and returning it to our office.



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
Florida City, FL 33034

PATCHES

where miracles happen

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

Shop through iGive or GoodShop

Every time you shop at one of the over 720 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. There is **no additional cost to you**. Some of the stores include Home Depot, Amazon, Apple, Dell Computers, Target, Macys and many, many more. [Summer vacations are here and before you know it back to school buying will begin so consider doing your shopping thru iGive.com or GoodShop and help PATCHES at the same time.](#)

We are sincerely thankful for your support.....

Avocado Elementary School, Esther Coolidge, National Council of Jewish Women, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Welsh, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ares, Geraldine O'Sullivan, Mayling Cuerta, Maria Odbo, First United Methodist Church-Homestead and Cristina Piloto.

We would like to extended a heartfelt thank you to
Ocean Reef Community Foundation Inc.
for selecting PATCHES as one of their recipients
for the 2013 Community Grants.

Friday, June 14th

Flag Day...fly 'ole Glory with pride

Sunday, June 16th

Father's Day...remembering the special men in your life

Thursday, July 4th

Independence Day
4th of July

