

Shrinelines

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A weekly update for friends of Shriners Hospitals for Children® — Chicago

Robert Cotner, Editor

Hospital Day 2016 Is Among the Best Yet, Folks Say . . .

When we celebrated our 90th Anniversary--“A Legacy of Love for 90 Years”--at Hospital Day, June 5, 2016--there were a lot of smiles among our more than 1,500 guests. All took advantage of our open house, hospital tours, good food, and fellowship of all sorts. Mingling with the gathered Ladies and Nobles, patients and parents, donors and good friends, one heard laughter and found much happiness among the camaraderie.



Director of Hospital Ushers Bob Gilfillan reported that the usher team had its hands full all day, with the sheer numbers of guests requesting hospital tours. Twenty-eight ushers, from Medinah, Orak, Tebala, and Kaaba Shrines, conducted tours for 825 guests--the largest number ever. Usher Bob commented, “People were amazed both with our hospital facility and with what we do for children,”



The day’s program, held in Ballreich Activity Mall (left), was a beautiful event in every way. Board Chairman Bill Kuehn, Imperial Board member James Smith, and Administrator Mark Niederpruem (left) hosted the gathering--a full house--welcoming guests, sharing stories about the hospital, and making people feel at home.

Linda and Timmy Bannon, mom and son (right), were keynote speakers, telling of their multi-generational experiences at SHC - Chicago, where each has learned to live a rich, full life without arms. Timmy has been featured in recent national TV ads for SHC and has found a wide fan-base with his delightful smile, scripting his name using his feet, and an obvious sweet disposition resonating with millions of viewers across the country. The Bannons represent precisely what SHC - Chicago is all about: Resilience fulfilling wholeness!



And then . . . and THEN . . . there was the World’s Shortest Parade--which seems to get longer every year! Magnificent engines from the Chicago Fire Department led the parade, lights flashing, firemen waving; Medinah’s Flying Carpets, their classic car unit, bag-piping Highlanders, and the prancing Black Horse Troop entertained; Tebala’s Air Squadron soared; clowns from many Temples laughed; brass bands blared; Nobles from all 14 Temples marched and waved; and Shriners, on every seat of Tripoli’s bicycle-built-for-36 (left), pedaled. What a parade!

The day was, as Administrator Mark described it perfectly, “A celebration deserving of 90 years caring for children and serving their families!”



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Chicago

90TH ANNIVERSARY • 1926 - 2016