

Shriners Scramble in Sycamore Scores Big for SHC - Chicago



When Connor Wright came to us, he was a babe in arms. He's grown up to be an integral part of our family. In the photo left, he presents a check for \$14,000 to our Cleft staff, from the 2016 Shriners Scramble in Sycamore, IL. His mom Kelly, a teacher, and his family have hosted annually, since 2007, the Shriners Scramble Golf Outing to benefit our Cleft program here at SHC - Chicago.

Assisted by Connor's grandma, Peg Wallis, on Connor's left in the photo, the family brings

teams of golfers to the Sycamore Country Club for a day of golf and a full-course evening dinner for 175 guests at the Regale Center in Sycamore, donated by Kelly's friends, Jill and Srdan Selimberovic. This sterling third-party fundraiser has raised \$136,000 since its launching, and Connor, who has had three major and five minor surgeries with us, has grown to be a young man before our very eyes. He's a fine golfer and plays in Shriners Scramble every year. He was pleased that his doctor, Pravin Patel, and Dr. Patel's son attended as well. "We had a great time with Connor, his family, and their friends," Dr. Patel reports with a big smile.

Kelly and Connor are excited about the 2017 Shriners Scramble, for it will mark the 10th anniversary of the event—and they say, "It's going to be the greatest of all Shriners Scrambles!"

Kenosha Shrine Club Remembers Kids and Our Hospital--Always!

They were the first visitors upon my return from medical leave. It was a delight to greet three members of the Kenosha Shrine Club, that effervescent, energetic family of friends on the shore of Lake Michigan in a city called *Kenosha*, fourth largest city in Wisconsin, and named from the Ojibwa words *masu-kinoja*, or the "place of the spawning trout."

Representing their 145 members Nobles Russ Gename, 2006 President; Larry Pfeiffer, 2016 President; and Jim Gename, 1989 and 2012 President, brought in an end-of-the-year gift of \$12,000 from their "Raffle Night" event. "We had 219 guests," Jim reported, "which included several of our 12 new club members." Kenosha, one of the most successful and active Shrine Clubs in our area, has engaged the entire community in such programs as manning beer garden bashes, hospital night to give everyone the opportunity to learn what is happening at our hospital, and other exciting events attractive to both Shrine and non-Shrine friends.

On this particular trip, they brought in the afghan (photo right), made by long-time needle artist Fran Rice, who had for years produced lap blankets for our kids and who recently died. This is her final gift to children.



The goal of Kenosha, Noble Russ reports, is to raise \$25,000 a year for the kids in our hospital. We are deeply grateful to this committed, friendly, and highly successful Shrine Club, a true model for other clubs.