Meet Kyle – Nothing Holds Him Back

In 1996, Kyle was born with spina bifida. After his initial surgery at 3 months old to remove the tumor on his spine, Kyle was referred to Shriners Hospitals for Children® — Springfield. Over the years, specialists performed several orthopaedic surgeries on his feet and ankles. With the help of ankle foot orthoses (AFO), he was able to walk by the time he was around 2, and then run. And that was just the beginning of Kyle’s progress.

AN ATHLETE AT HEART
While growing up, it was obvious that Kyle was very interested in sports.

“Not being sure how this (participating in sports) was going to be possible for him, we encouraged him to do whatever he wanted,” said his dad, Bill. “Once he was the age to play T-ball, we signed him up and he joined his first team. At that point he was just another kid learning baseball.” Kyle’s family knew it might not always be easy for their son to play team sports, but they were determined to allow him to try.

“As he got older, the different levels became more competitive. It was apparent his disability was going to hold him back. Although he could hit and was a good pitcher, he just could not run fast enough. It was a difficult thing to see him realize he wasn’t going to be able to play competitive baseball any longer.”

During this time, Kyle’s occupational therapist and orthotist would talk to him about sled hockey during almost every visit to the Springfield Shriners Hospital. “He just didn’t think it was something he wanted to try,” said Bill. “After all, he had baseball.”

HITTING THE ICE
In February 2010, Kyle finally decided he would see what sled hockey was all about and got into his first sled. “You could see almost instantly that he was hooked,” said Bill.

Every time he got on a sled and on the ice, he just seemed to get better at the sport. Kyle started practicing with the Springfield Shriners Hospitals-sponsored Springfield Sliders, a team made up of patients of the hospital. He got his first taste of competition that April in the Amelia Park New England Sled Invitational.

In his second season of playing, Kyle’s ability increased significantly, and he was asked to play for the adult team at the age of 14. After two years of playing for the Western Massachusetts Knights in the Northeast Sled Hockey League, he was noticed by the coaches from the Northeast Passage (NEP)/University of New Hampshire (UNH) Wildcats, one of the top sled hockey programs in the country. One of the coaches is a two-time Paralympic gold medalist. Kyle began to practice and play with NEP, and there he really started to excel.

Kyle’s coaches nominated him to attend USA Hockey’s Sled Development Camp, and he has been invited every year since. During the camp, the players are scouted for the national development team.

After his third camp and tryouts in July 2014, Kyle was offered a position on the U.S. Development Sled Hockey Team. The team’s goal is to prepare players for the national team and the upcoming Paralympics.

Kyle, now 21, reached his goal of making the U.S. National Sled Hockey Team for the 2018-2019 season. He will be attending the 2019 World Para Ice Hockey World Championships in Ostrava, Czech Republic, in early 2019. He is now focused on his ultimate goal, the 2022 Paralympics in Beijing.

“Kyle is a great inspiration for anyone who was born with or has acquired a disability,” said Bill. “With hard work and determination, you can accomplish your goals despite your disability.”
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What Does Shriners Hospitals for Children Stand For?

Shriners Hospitals for Children is a health care system that is world-renowned for pediatric specialty care, innovative research and outstanding teaching programs for medical professionals. Children up to age 18 with orthopaedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries and cleft lip and palate are eligible for care and receive all services in a family-centered environment, regardless of the families’ ability to pay.

Our Mission

The mission of Shriners Hospitals for Children is to:
• Provide the highest quality care to children with neuromusculoskeletal conditions, burn injuries and other special health care needs within a compassionate, family-centered and collaborative care environment
• Provide for the education of physicians and other health care professionals
• Conduct research to discover new knowledge that improves the quality of care and quality of life of children and families

This mission is carried out without regard to race, color, creed, sex or sect, disability, national origin or ability of a patient or family to pay.

FIND US ONLINE

Facebook.com/ShrinersHospitalsforChildren
Twitter.com/shrinershosp
Youtube.com/shrinershospitals
Instagram.com/shrinershospitals
Former Patients Define Their Own Success

Shriners Hospitals for Children is a unique health care system known for its wrap-around care and concern for the overall well-being of our patients. In addition to providing world-class specialty care, we strive to help the children we care for develop self-confidence and discover their potential, so that they know there are no limits to what they can accomplish.

We are proud of all our patients’ achievements and are pleased to share two stories of former patients who have grown up and defined their own success. We are honored to have been a part of their lives and thank them for being a part of ours.

FORMER PATIENT WALKS MILES DAILY
Shawn Skau, of Genoa, Illinois, enjoys his job as a postal carrier. He gets the mail where it needs to go and has spent hours walking every day for the last 22 years. Shawn said he once tracked his steps and recorded 35 miles in one workday.

Although Shawn has trouble with his feet from time to time, he does not let this stop him. Foot trouble from too much walking gives Shawn a humbling perspective: When he was a baby, his parents were told he may never walk.

Shawn was born with bilateral clubfoot, a condition characterized by the feet being twisted and improperly positioned. When he was a baby, a physician recommended taking him to Shriners Hospitals for Children — Chicago for treatment.

“As a child, I had several surgeries at the Chicago Shriners Hospital to correct my club feet,” Shawn recalled. In fact, he underwent his first surgery when he was just 6 weeks old. Shawn went on to have 13 surgeries in 13 years.

Despite having been through surgery after surgery, Shawn has fond memories of his experiences, and a love for the Chicago Shriners Hospital. He recalls the fun activities he participated in while a patient at the hospital, such as wheelchair basketball and bumper pool. In addition, he loved getting to know other boys at the hospital who were also dealing with orthopaedic conditions.

“When I was home, in school, I was the boy who walked funny and couldn’t run very well,” Shawn said. “When I was at the Chicago Shriners Hospital, with those boys, I was just one of the guys.”

Two years ago, Shawn’s family surprised him by bringing him back to the hospital for a special tour. “I spent my first birthday in that hospital, in the previous building,” he said. “I celebrated my 50th birthday by touring the ‘new’ hospital, which is 34 years old.” Shawn was then invited to give a talk about his experience to the Chicago Shriners Hospital’s Board of Governors.

In recognition of the important work of the Shriners organizations, Shawn joined Shriners International, the fraternity that founded and continues to support Shriners Hospitals for Children. He is a member of Tebala Shriners, the local Shriners International temple (chapter) in Rockford, Illinois, which he joined in March 2018.

FORMER PATIENT BECOMES DOCTOR
Dana Leventhal is no stranger to the halls of Shriners Hospitals for Children. You might say the care she received inspired her future career choice.

Following a sports injury, she lost function in her right hand and over the years underwent three separate surgeries to repair the damage. She was eventually referred to the Philadelphia Shriners Hospital’s Chief of Staff Scott Kozin, M.D., because of his well-known expertise in treating hand injuries.

The hospital’s medical staff quickly got to know Dana and learned of her dream to become a doctor. Dana even asked that she not be given anesthesia until after she was in the operating room, “because she wanted to see what the OR looked like,” her dad, Michael, said. The staff recognized her passion and encouraged her by taking extra time to explain the purpose of each device and how it was used.

Dan Zlotolow, M.D., orthopaedic hand surgeon at the Philadelphia Shriners Hospital, performed Dana’s final surgery, which returned her hand back to full use. Dana went on to attend Clemson University – and even came back to shadow Dr. Kozin and Dr. Zlotolow before being accepted at Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine in North Carolina.

Now known as Dana Leventhal, D.O., Dana graduated with honors in May 2018 and has been accepted into a pediatric residency at Vidant Medical Center – a large regional hospital in North Carolina.

“There is no question that my experience at Shriners Hospitals for Children had a tremendous influence on my career path,” said Dana. “I plan to be as kind and compassionate as all of the caregivers I encountered here.”
Since the first Shriners Hospital opened in 1922, we have been improving the lives of children by providing world-class pediatric specialty care. Today, Shriners Hospitals for Children is a unique health care system with a reputation for finding answers, and giving families hope. At our locations in the U.S., Canada and Mexico, children receive quality care for orthopaedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate, regardless of the families’ ability to pay for services.

LEADING THE WAY IN ORTHOPAEDICS
The first Shriners Hospital was opened primarily to help children who had contracted polio. Now, the majority of our Shriners Hospitals for Children locations are staffed and equipped to handle virtually all pediatric orthopaedic problems, including sub-acute trauma.

Care for children with all types of orthopaedic conditions is provided, including clubfoot; Legg-Calvé-Perthes disease and other hip disorders; hand disorders; limb deficiencies and discrepancies; scoliosis (curvature of the spine); osteogenesis imperfecta (brittle bone disease); juvenile idiopathic arthritis; and orthopaedic difficulties related to cerebral palsy, spina bifida and other neuromuscular conditions.

Shriners Hospitals for Children also offers a range of multidisciplinary services, including physical, occupational and recreation therapies; orthotics and prosthetics; child life activities; and transitions programs to help each child grow into a happy, healthy, productive adult.

PIONEERING BURN CARE AND RESEARCH
Shriners Hospitals for Children has been a leader in burn care, research and education since opening in the mid-1960s. Thanks to the innovative medical care provided at our hospitals, every year countless children have a greater chance of surviving all types of burn injuries. Some of the advances made through our research efforts include improved survival rates, creation of pressure garments to minimize scarring, and development of engineered skin and better wound-healing techniques.

Shriners Hospitals provide critical, surgical and rehabilitative care for all degrees of burn injuries. Each state-of-the-art hospital offering burn care provides treatments for acute and sub-acute burns; healed burns; scarring that has caused contractures or limited mobility; smoke inhalation; facial scarring or deformities; and other skin conditions. Our locations have the capacity to provide laser treatments to lessen the effects and appearance of burn-related scarring.

DELIVERING EXCELLENCE IN SPINAL CORD INJURY REHABILITATION
Shriners Hospitals for Children was the first health care system in the country to develop spinal cord injury rehabilitation programs specifically for children. We offer innovative therapies, emotional support and training in independent living skills. In addition to therapy, exercise and activity-based rehabilitation are emphasized. These activities also increase strength and stamina and enhance social interaction, confidence and independence.

PROVIDING EXPERTISE IN CLEFT LIP AND PALATE CARE
Cleft lip and palate occurs when the tissue that forms the upper lip and roof of the mouth fail to join together before birth.

At Shriners Hospitals for Children, patients with a cleft lip and/or palate are treated by a multidisciplinary team that works to improve the child’s appearance and their ability to eat, breathe and communicate. Each patient’s unique treatment plan may include surgery, orthodontics, and hearing, speech and psychological therapies to restore optimal function and appearance. Our goal is to help each child achieve optimal function, improve their facial appearance to the fullest extent possible and restore their self-esteem.

To learn how to refer a child, please visit shrinershospitalsforchildren.org or call the patient referral line at 800-237-5055 in the U.S., or 800-361-7256 in Canada.
Better Treatment via Motion Analysis Technology

Shriners Hospitals for Children is an internationally recognized leader in clinical motion analysis. In the simplest terms, motion analysis brings the animation techniques used in Hollywood to the clinical and research setting.

**IMPROVING CARE BY MORE PRECISE EVALUATION**

In our 14 motion analysis centers, high-speed cameras, reflective markers, force platforms and muscle sensors are used to record, measure and evaluate how a child with a mobility impairment – such as those caused by neuromuscular conditions including cerebral palsy, congenital challenges like clubfoot and spine conditions such as scoliosis – actually moves. When we understand different gait and movement patterns, we can help children with mobility impairments to move more efficiently, more effortlessly and more confidently.

Motion analysis can also be used to provide a better understanding of some upper extremity abnormalities such as brachial plexus birth injury, and to analyze how individuals use assistive devices, such as a manual wheelchair, to help them save energy and move more effectively, with less stress on specific muscles.

The data collected helps provide an understanding of the interactions between the child’s muscles, joints and bones, which helps the patient’s medical team create an effective care plan. The health care team, which may include orthopaedic surgeons, physical therapists, kinesiologists and biomedical engineers, collects, interprets, analyzes and assesses the data to create and follow through on a personalized treatment plan.

**BRINGING MOTION RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TOGETHER**

This same technology can be used by researchers – including mathematicians and biomechanical engineers – to gain even greater understanding of typical and atypical movement patterns.

For example, led by Gerald Harris, Ph.D., director of the motion analysis center at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Chicago, physicians, therapists and engineers at the hospital are working with biomedical engineers at Marquette and Loyola universities to develop state-of-the-art solutions to improve care.

The group at Marquette supports biomechanical modeling and image processing of motion-picture images of the foot during walking (fluoroscopy) to obtain full 3-D motion of the bones and joints internally.

Until recently, the ability to diagnose foot and ankle deformities was limited to the information provided through stationary medical examinations, traditional X-rays and MRIs. The biplane fluoroscopy imaging system can record 3-D video of the subject’s foot pattern as they walk on the monitored path in the motion analysis center.

This research provides a way to directly study internal bone alignment and correction of foot deformities. It could also allow tracking of the alignment of the bones of the foot and ankle while moving with braces and/or corrective footwear and following surgeries. The information provided by this research potentially has numerous applications for Shriners Hospitals for Children, as we treat many children with bony foot deformities, misalignment fractures and other serious conditions related to the foot.

The team at Loyola is working on machine learning approaches to provide more advanced analysis of the big data files resulting from years of detailed motion analysis of children in an effort to provide more intelligent and long-term solutions to individual patient care.

The innovative potential of having research staff from Shriners Hospitals for Children work with our motion analysis centers and our prestigious university affiliates is leading to improvements in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with a variety of orthopaedic conditions, including cerebral palsy, scoliosis, osteogenesis imperfecta, and to customized designs of orthotics for our patients.

Our motion analysis centers offer unparalleled opportunities for both patient care and research. The sophisticated technology can provide more complete information that improves patient care and outcomes, as well as treatment protocols. Equally important, motion analysis provides researchers the opportunity to make discoveries that will lead to improved treatment protocols, and contribute to both the overall body of medical knowledge and the understanding of human movement and gait patterns.
**Childhood Experiences Shape Physician’s Career Path**

Growing up, William Magee III, M.D., D.D.S., experienced the difference medical care can make as he traveled the world with his parents, and watched them provide life-changing free surgeries to children with facial birth defects. Dr. Magee’s parents, Kathy and Bill Magee, founded Operation Smile and inspired their son to continue the effort.

Dr. Magee went on to become a world-renowned plastic surgeon. He went to dental school at the University of Maryland, then medical school at George Washington University. He completed a six-year combined residency in general surgery and plastic surgery at the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California and a fellowship in craniofacial and pediatric plastic surgery at the former Shriners Hospital for Children — Los Angeles (now Shriners for Children Medical Center in Pasadena™).

Now chief of plastics and the director of the cleft lip and palate program at Shriners for Children Medical Center™ in Pasadena, California, Dr. Magee remembers his roots and inspiration. In his office are photos from a childhood trip to Kenya, where he played with and helped care for children, the hospital hallway so dark that he could barely make out their faces. “Whenever you have times that are difficult and you remember the experiences that were so vivid,” he said, “they can drive you through the challenges of your life.”

**LOOKING FOR A CURE**

As director of international programs for the division of plastic surgery at the University of Southern California and associate professor in the department of surgery and global health, Dr. Magee also researches the causes of cleft deformities.

Dr. Magee launched the International Family Study. Gathering resources from the Operation Smile program and the University of Southern California, the study is exploring close to 14,000 DNA samples drawn from families affected by cleft lip to determine its cause.

He is hopeful the results of the study can produce a cure. Dr. Magee and his team have learned that advanced maternal age and hypertension are contributing factors, as are poverty and pollution, among other things.

**THE ABILITY TO HELP FAMILIES**

While working with genetic testing, Dr. Magee developed a close relationship with a family of three boys who were all born with some form of cleft lip, demonstrating both the role of genetics in this condition, and the importance of quality care.

Annalisa, the mother of the three boys, was devastated when, during a routine ultrasound, she was told her first baby, Jaxon, would be born with a cleft lip, and possibly a cleft palate. When Jaxon was born, it was clear that she needed to find help. Luckily, she found a member of Shriners International (the fraternity that founded and continues to support the health care system) who introduced her family to Shriners Hospitals for Children and explained how he could help. A few weeks later, they were scheduled to see Dr. Magee at the Los Angeles Shriners Hospital (now Shriners for Children Medical Center in Pasadena) for a surgery consult.

“Dr. Magee made us feel like family,” said Annalisa. “He took the extra time with us and answered any questions we had.”

After Jaxon’s successful surgery, Annalisa knew Dr. Magee was the right person to help her family. “We were very blessed to find Dr. Magee with our first, and laid down a solid foundation for our next two boys that came to our family,” Annalisa said.

Dr. Magee will continue to care for the three boys and other children with cleft lip and related conditions, while he works to find answers that could lead to solutions and improved treatments.

Care for cleft lip and palate is currently offered at nine Shriners Hospitals locations. To learn more, please visit shrinershospitalsforchildren.org.

This family is grateful for the medical care Bill Magee, M.D., has provided for their children.
PROMIS Improves Outcomes and Performance

Sometimes you can look at something and just know there’s been a change or an improvement. And sometimes you need to ask questions to achieve a desired result. Having the data to both back up assumptions and provide answers can be critically important – especially in the medical field.

The outcomes program at Shriners Hospitals for Children uses a variety of questionnaires, reporting methods and initiatives to do just that. Outcomes data provides information that allows us to quantitatively measure and demonstrate patient improvements over time. It also offers valuable information regarding the effectiveness of services provided at Shriners Hospitals for Children for our staff, patients and families, insurance providers and others and is an important element in today’s “value-based” healthcare purchasing programs. Our outcomes program includes three main areas: clinical outcomes, process outcomes and business outcomes.

One clinical effort to promote positive outcomes is PROMIS, which stands for Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded the development of PROMIS, which offers hundreds of different tools and ways to measure a patient’s physical, mental and social health-related quality of life, regardless of diagnosis or condition. Examples of topics offered by PROMIS include physical function, fatigue, pain, sleep/wake function, emotional distress and social health.

SHRINERS HOSPITALS’ PROMIS
To establish a patient-reported outcomes program at Shriners Hospitals for Children, Maureen Cottom, quality outcomes manager for Shriners Hospitals, established a system-wide steering committee of clinicians, nurses and other medical professionals at Shriners Hospitals for Children. This group was responsible for choosing the individual PROMIS pediatric measures our health care system would use, creating the way the program would be administered, determining how the results would be used and championing the project to achieve physician and nursing buy-in.

REAL-TIME FEEDBACK
Shriners Hospitals for Children uses iPads to ask patients between the ages of 5 and 17, or their families, questions at their outpatient visits in these four areas:

- Mobility
- Upper extremity function
- How pain interferes with activities of daily living
- Quality of peer relationships

While waiting to see a physician, patients complete a short questionnaire on the iPad and then touch the “submit” button. Immediately, the patient’s responses are scored and recorded in the patient’s EMR (electronic medical record). Real-time availability to the patient’s physicians, gives them valuable information and insights on issues that may need to be addressed. The combined data is available for statistical purposes.

Through responses provided via the iPad, our physicians have discovered that patients were experiencing additional problems they were unaware of, and have been able to bring in physical therapists and other professionals to address them, providing care that is more complete. An example would be learning that a patient receiving treatment for scoliosis is also having issues with range of motion in their upper extremities. Our providers have also seen that often children are more comfortable and forthcoming answering these types of questions on the iPad than responding to them verbally to their physician.

Currently, 10 Shriners Hospitals locations are participating in the PROMIS program, and, as of July 2018, 36,509 patient assessments were completed, using more than 100 iPads. Over a 15-month period, from April 2017 through July 2018,
more than 93 percent of eligible patients completed a PROMIS assessment. PROMIS scores also indicate that more than 85 percent of all patients reported maintained or improved score categories in all four measurement areas (physical function and mobility, pain interference, peer relationships and upper extremity function). This means, for example, that a patient who previously scored “severe” in the mobility area has improved to “moderate,” “mild,” or “within normal limits.”

A USEFUL TOOL FOR MEDICAL STAFF
Our physicians appreciate the PROMIS effort and say it is a valuable tool, providing them important information and insights on their patients’ overall well-being. For example, Michelle James, M.D., chief of orthopaedics at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Northern California has said, “PROMIS results give me a good idea how a patient is doing before I enter the room... I have noticed that adolescents are more willing to tell an iPad they are struggling with peer relationships than to volunteer this information in response to in-person questioning. PROMIS has helped me uncover issues that I would have otherwise missed.”

The importance of the program’s ability to enhance understanding of patients’ situations is tremendous.

“The ability to assess certain aspects of the mental health of our patients, especially regarding peer relationships, via the PROMIS program is huge. We have found teenagers are often more willing to tell an iPad of social difficulties than their doctor, and this provides us with an opportunity to help, which we may have missed otherwise,” said Richard Paula, M.D., chief medical informatics officer.

There is an outcomes coordinator at each Shriners Hospitals location. Nancy Abarca, outcomes coordinator for the Northern California Hospital, was invited by PROMIS Health Organization (PHO) to be a member of the PROMIS Standards and Clinical Application Committee. The goal of this committee is to maintain the quality of PROMIS measures by developing and maintaining PROMIS standards, validation and implementation. Tasks include improve awareness of, and access to, PROMIS standards, revise existing standards when needed, develop new standards and approve new PROMIS measures and translations as needed.

Abarca has also been selected for a podium presentation at the November 2018 National Association of Healthcare Quality (NAHQ) Next Conference in Minneapolis. The title of her presentation is Clinical Implications of Using PROMIS in SHCNC Outpatient Clinics – 17 Month Follow-Up.

In addition, in September 2018, Drs. James and Claire Manske, M.D., (both from our Northern California hospital) presented on the Comparison of PROMIS Scores for Children with Congenital Hand and Upper Limb Malformations at the American Society for Surgery of the Hand (ASSH) in Boston and at the third International Symposium on Arthrogryposis at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Philadelphia.

“Patient-reported outcomes are the future of health care. This technology allows Shriners Hospitals for Children to generate crucial data obtained outside of the traditional clinic/hospital environment,” said Cottom. “It supports and engages patient and provider interaction, and promotes health literacy in our patients and their families. We are improving patient outcomes while delivering more personalized care.”
New Study Seeks to Determine the Best Care for Trigger Thumb

While Shriners Hospitals for Children has eight designated research centers, all of our locations are involved in research in some way. Here is an example of a study done at Shriners Hospitals for Children Medical Center — Lexington to gain a greater understanding of pediatric trigger thumb and help determine the best course of treatment.

PERFORMING INNOVATIVE STUDIES
Researchers at Shriners Hospitals for Children Medical Center — Lexington looked at this question, along with a few others. How often does trigger thumb recur after surgery in patients who have sought treatment at the medical center? How often do patients present with trigger thumbs that are locked in a straightened position (as opposed to locked in a flexed position)? Very few studies have ever reported on these issues.

Results of the Lexington Medical Center’s study showed that 54 percent of those undergoing observation improved after 1.3 years. Researchers also found that the more severe trigger thumbs were 4.6 times more likely to not improve with observation. These findings indicate that if the trigger thumb hasn’t resolved on its own after 1.3 years, or if the thumb is locked in position when the child first sees the physician, surgery is likely indicated and the best course of action.

Of the 193 thumbs seen at the Lexington Shriners Medical Center over a 10-year period, 73 percent were locked. A very small number of these (five, or 2.6 percent) were locked in a straightened position versus the more common flexed position. In the English pediatric orthopaedic literature, only 16 patients with a trigger thumb locked in a straightened position, five of whom were from our study, have been described. Since trigger thumbs locked in a straightened position have been so rarely reported, it is important to increase awareness of this information to providers so they may consider a diagnosis of trigger thumb when a child presents with an inability to bend the thumb.

The study highlighted the vast experience our pediatric orthopaedic surgeons have with treating pediatric trigger thumb. Because of the complexity of care, Lexington Shriners Medical Center is sent a large number of patients with trigger finger from its five-state catchment area. The information learned from this study will be helpful in guiding physicians who treat pediatric trigger thumb in the management of this common orthopaedic problem and improve the information given to parents regarding treatment expectations.

WHAT IS TRIGGER THUMB?
The tendons inside our thumbs work like strings and are held in place by ligaments, like a pulley system. As the thumb bends and flexes, the tendons slide back and forth. When the tendon cannot slide back and forth through the ligament, it results in pediatric trigger thumb, a condition that affects the movement of the thumb in children. The thumb may click or “trigger” when it is straightened. In worse cases, the thumb is locked and can no longer bend or straighten at all.

HOW IS TRIGGER THUMB TREATED?
Care for pediatric trigger thumb includes observation and surgery. In very young children (less than 1 year old), trigger thumb will sometimes improve on its own. If it doesn’t, or if the child is older when they develop trigger thumb, surgery is usually needed to correct the situation. The criteria used to determine when to operate on pediatric trigger thumb are not clear-cut. They can be different based on the medical facility, family and surgeon preferences. So, when is the right time for surgery?

To refer a patient, please call the national patient referral line at 800-237-5055 or the Canada patient referral line at 800-361-7256, or email patientreferrals@shrinenet.org to begin the referral process.
**Researcher Discovers Biology Leading to Improved Healing of Bone Fractures**

Most people have broken a bone or know someone who has. A break is painful and takes time to heal. Recovering from a fracture is even more complicated and lengthy when your body is not able to produce what is needed to heal. More than 10 percent of fractures do not heal properly, and this percentage dramatically increases for patients, like many of those treated at Shriners Hospitals for Children who are affected by metabolic diseases. Improvements in the treatment of fractures are therefore highly beneficial. In a study published in the August 2018 issue of *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*, René St-Arnaud, Ph.D., director of research at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Canada, shared his discovery of a new way to stimulate bone fracture healing.

**THE SCIENCE**
It is well-known that vitamin D is produced in skin when exposed to sunlight and is found in some foods that we consume. In order to stimulate calcium absorption and benefit bone mineralization, our body must transform the vitamin D molecule in two steps. During the first step of vitamin D transformation, another form of vitamin D, called 24,25(OH)₂D₃, is created. Although 24,25(OH)₂D₃ has been mainly regarded as an inactive degradation product, the work from Dr. St-Arnaud's laboratory both revealed that 24,25(OH)₂D₃ improves bone fracture healing and discovered how this process works.

With the help of another molecule, 24,25(OH)₂D₃ synthesizes a waxy fat compound called lactosylceramide. This compound triggers the transmission of a signal in order to maximize the size and biomechanical properties of the callus, a stabilizing structure that surrounds a fracture and promotes its healing. Test subjects who were not able to produce either 24,25(OH)₂D₃ or lactosylceramide had a smaller and weaker callus but when treated with these compounds, both callus size and strength increased. By ensuring a stronger and optimal callus size, we promote better healing of a fracture.

"In this research, we have identified new biology and a previously unrecognized mechanism of action for a vitamin D molecule. It is the culmination of more than 15 years of work from my laboratory," said Dr. St-Arnaud.

**FUTURE APPLICATIONS**
Traumatic bone injury is a worldwide major public health issue with significant socioeconomic cost. Therefore, any improvement in fracture treatment would be of considerable benefit for both our patients and the population at large.

"The next step is to try these compounds in clinical trials. We hope that they could play an important role in improving fracture repair and healing time," said Dr. St-Arnaud.

The full scientific article is available online on the *Journal of Clinical Investigation* website at jci.org.

Conducting research to both add to the worldwide body of medical knowledge and improve treatment protocols is a primary mission of Shriners Hospitals for Children. The research center at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Canada is one of eight officially designated research centers in our health care system. The others are located at our health care facilities in Boston; Cincinnati; Galveston, Texas; Philadelphia; Portland, Oregon; Sacramento, California; and St. Louis.
Discovering the Value of Volunteering

BY SCOTT H. KOZIN, M.D., CHIEF OF STAFF, SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN — PHILADELPHIA

The desire to volunteer and do more for humanity is one of my core philosophies. In 1989, as an orthopaedic resident, I volunteered at Paul Newman’s camp, Whole in the Wall Gang, named after his famous movie with Robert Redford, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. The camp, for children with life-threatening and chronic illnesses, operates on the premise “that every child, no matter their illness, could experience the transformational spirit and friendships that go hand-in-hand with camp,” much like the specialized camps now offered at Shriners Hospitals for Children.

A group of children and counselors at the camp had cancer. At the beginning of the week, most kids were shy and wore wigs to conceal their lost hair. During the week, however, their relationships with each other become more comfortable, more genuine and more open. The wigs were shed and the veils were dropped. The conversations were frank, open and revealing. Witnessing their interactions, their courage and openness, was a life-altering experience. I knew then that volunteerism would be part of my ethos, as I became a physician and surgeon.

PROVIDING LOCAL SUPPORT

In 1992, I completed my hand surgery fellowship at the Mayo Clinic and began to practice in Philadelphia. At the time, I did not have the confidence to participate in the complexities of volunteering overseas as a hand surgeon. Instead, over the next couple of years, I volunteered at Ronald McDonald House in Philadelphia, and helped with running the house, preparing meals for families and offering support.

SHARING EXPERTISE ABROAD

Ultimately, I developed the skill and expertise to volunteer as a hand surgeon. My first volunteer mission was in 2001 to Uganda as part of the Mickey Vargas Award, an award promoting hand care volunteerism. Providing surgical expertise to help adults and children affected by trauma and congenital differences was a life-changing event. The number of overseas mission trips I participated in increased over the years, and included trips to Guatemala, Honduras, Peru and Ethiopia. On these missions, I experienced the rewards of caring for the poor without billing, without surgical coding, without calculating relative value units, and with no bottom line. I truly believe that being an accomplished physician is a privilege, and that I have a responsibility to share my knowledge, skill and compassion with others around the globe, and do my part to make the world a better place.

In 2014, as president of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand, we initiated the Touching Hands Project (THP); an outreach arm with a mission to create opportunities for hand specialists to give back their knowledge and expertise to the global community. THP missions provide both world-class free hand care and educational opportunities for local medical professionals. The surgeons and therapists provide lectures, engage local medical staff in surgery and teach new techniques. THP participants also volunteer in local schools and orphanages, donate clothing and school supplies, and build enduring relationships with international partners. Over the last three years, THP has evaluated and treated countless persons in dire need of hand care who would have otherwise not had the opportunity for treatment. In 2017, THP supported more than 200 volunteers and performed nearly 500 free surgeries during 17 mission trips, including four domestic ones.

THP is a conduit for social entrepreneurs in hand surgery and continues to change the world with respect to hand surgery, hand rehabilitation and hand education. I believe we must look at ways to make the world a better place. We can do that by sharing our skills – whatever they may be – as volunteers, or even through our work, like the work done for the patients and families of Shriners Hospitals for Children.

To learn more about the Touching Hands Project, please visit assh.org/touching-hands.

Scott Kozin, M.D.

Scott H. Kozin, M.D., is the chief of staff for Shriners Hospitals for Children — Philadelphia and is board certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery. Areas of special interest to Dr. Kozin include upper extremity/brachial plexus injuries, spinal cord injuries, congenital differences and upper limb reconstruction.
Shriners Hospitals for Children Presents
Acute Burn Care Course

BY CLAYTON COLLINS, BSN, RN

Last August, a team from Shriners Hospitals for Children — Galveston was invited to present the course Preparation and Transportation of the Patient with Burn Injury for La Armada de Mexico (the Mexican Navy).

The Galveston team accepted the invitation as an opportunity to develop and present a course focusing on the acute management of burn injuries and the stabilization and transport of the burn patient.

FOCUSBING ON COLLABORATION
The team consisted of Mary Jaco, hospital administrator; Ronald Mlcak, Ph.D., administrative director; Carlos Jimenez, M.D., burn surgeon; Guillermo Foncerrada, M.D., research fellow; Clayton Collins, BSN, RN, clinical education coordinator; and members of the Galveston Shriners Hospital’s transportation team.

The two-day course was presented on Aug. 5-6 in Mexico City to 120 providers, including military and civilian physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists and paramedics. Many of these providers are the first responders who will provide initial care to patients who have sustained a burn injury. Content for the course was developed from the experience and expertise of the Galveston Shriners Hospital’s leaders and staff.

The first day of presentations focused on the management of patients who have sustained a burn injury, while the second concentrated on the stabilization and transportation of patients with burns.

FIRSTHAND PRACTICE
Following the formal presentations, a skills laboratory was held. This gave students the opportunity to practice intubation, ventilator management, chest tube management, fluid resuscitation, temperature management and other procedures. The hands-on demonstrations supplemented the lecture series by bringing theory into practice.

The hospital’s goal for this program is to help fulfill the Shriners mission of bringing the highest quality care to patients with burn injuries all over the world. Making this education accessible to many of the providers who have helped transport our patients, and those who will help in the future, gives the Galveston Shriners Hospital the opportunity to impact care for patients even when they are thousands of miles away.

Over the last few years, the Galveston Shriners Hospital has worked with La Armada de Mexico to safely transport more than 65 patients. This collaborative effort helps give these children the best possible chance to survive after sustaining a severe burn injury.

DID YOU KNOW?
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Carlos Jimenez, M.D., burn surgeon, leads a burn injury demonstration.

Content for the course was developed from the experience and expertise of the Galveston Shriners Hospital’s speakers.

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We Depend on Our Donors and Our Donor Relations Team

The donor relations staff at both our corporate and hospital level is responsible for raising funds to support the mission of Shriners Hospitals for Children, and strives to create, strengthen and sustain lasting relationships with our donors.

These dedicated individuals cultivate and work with donors in many different fundraising venues, including direct response television, online and direct mail.

OUR INCREDIBLE DONORS

In 2017, more than 1 million incredible donors helped us keep our promise of providing care for kids with complex medical conditions. Clearly, donor involvement is extremely important to the success of our mission to improve the lives of children and families, conduct research that impacts medical knowledge and introduces new treatment protocols, and provide quality education programs for medical professionals.

With the support and generosity of our donors, Shriners Hospitals for Children continues to be a leader in offering world-class specialized pediatric health care to the patients and families who depend on us. Our donors help support everything from capital campaigns to quality state-of-the-art technology and medical equipment to our research and telehealth programs, all of which allows us to provide the very best care we can for the children we serve. And, as always, that care is provided regardless of the families’ ability to pay.

CHARITY NAVIGATOR AWARD

Shriners Hospitals for Children has once again received a 4-star Charity Navigator rating for its strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency. This is the highest possible rating and indicates that the Shriners Hospitals for Children organization adheres to fundraising best practices and that we execute our mission in a financially efficient way. Attaining a 4-star rating verifies that Shriners Hospitals for Children exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in the area of pediatric health care.

We are proud of everyone associated with our donor relations program, and every donor. Their commitment and generosity helps ensure that the mission of Shriners Hospitals for Children will continue far into the future. We are grateful for every donor who supports us in our efforts to improve the lives of children, and we appreciate every donation and gift, from the smallest to the largest.
Our Partners Help Advance Our Mission

Our corporate partners are extremely important to both our donor relations efforts and our hospitals and outpatient facilities. Across North America, corporations are teaming up with Shriners Hospitals for Children to help bring Love to the rescue®. Here are just a few examples of amazing support and generosity:

SPIRIT OF HALLOWEEN/SPIRIT OF CHILDREN

Spirit of Halloween, via its foundation, Spirit of Children, donated more than $888,000 to the child life departments of 15 Shriners Hospitals in 2018. The organization has given Shriners Hospitals more than $3.6 million since 2007. Our child life programs, part of our family-centered approach to care, are designed to support patients and families and reduce stress associated with hospital stays. Child life staff teach patients coping skills by providing opportunities to play, learn and interact with others in an emotionally and socially safe environment.

“It is a great honor and privilege to be able to do what we do to help child life specialists provide therapeutic healing and advocacy for children and their families while doctors and nurses focus on medical treatment,” said Rick Tereo, team lead, Spirit of Children.

“Spirit of Children has collected more than $45 million since 2007 to support the continuing services of child life specialists at 140 partner hospitals across the United States and Canada. And what makes us proud is that 100 percent of every dollar donated goes to hospitals in our local communities,” said Tereo. “What is most gratifying is seeing the smiles on children’s faces and hearing about how Spirit of Children helped normalize an otherwise far-from-normal experience for families as they navigated through medical circumstances.”

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES

Through its Southwest Airlines Medical Transportation Grant Program, Southwest Airlines provides complimentary, round-trip tickets to nonprofit hospitals and medical transportation organizations, helping to give individuals access to medical care. In 2017, Shriners Hospitals for Children was again chosen to participate in this very special grant program.

“Southwest Airlines is passionate about giving back to the communities we serve, especially through our highly successful Medical Transportation Grant Program,” said Debbie Wafford, senior specialist, Southwest Airlines, community outreach team. “Our work with Shriners Hospitals dates back to when our program started in 2007; we’ve been able to help countless patients receive the care they need. We are honored and humbled to play such a critical role in helping patients get back on their feet.”

Recently, Southwest also teamed up with Build-A-Bear Workshop to send “Bear Hugs” to patients of Shriners Hospitals for Children. The hugs were actually 1,000 teddy bears in recognition of National Teddy Bear Day on Sept. 9.

EXPLORIA RESORTS

In August 2018, Club Exploria LLC, developer of the Exploria Resorts brand, entered into a corporate partnership with Shriners Hospitals for Children in support of the health care system’s mission to bring hope and healing to children, wherever they may live. Exploria Resorts is the first corporate partner of Shriners Hospitals for Children in the hospitality industry. A portion of the quarterly proceeds of the Orlando, Florida-based vacation ownership company, along with donations collected from the thousands of owners and guests who vacation at the brand’s resorts, will be donated to the health care system.

“We are so very pleased to bring the joy of giving into the corridors of Exploria Resorts, sharing it with our team members and throughout the campuses of our family vacation destination resorts, where our owners and the many thousands of families from around the world vacation with us throughout the year,” said Thomas J. Morris, President/CEO.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

For more information on how your organization can become a corporate partner of Shriners Hospitals for Children, please visit lovetootherescue.org.
Every Donation Makes a Difference

Shriners Hospitals for Children depends on the generosity of donors to fund all its programs, from telehealth to research to high-tech equipment, including EOS imaging and motion analysis centers. Here are brief descriptions of these highly important efforts:

TELEHEALTH
To help us provide care to our patients in an efficient, considerate manner, we continue to strengthen and expand our telehealth care program. This initiative allows patients to be seen at local affiliate locations, and uses real-time videoconferencing to connect the patient to Shriners Hospitals medical staff, reducing both the amount of time away from home and travel time. In 2017, more than 350 telehealth clinics were held, benefiting nearly 1,000 children. We expect to have all locations participating by 2019.

Our commitment to the development, refinement and implementation of a system-wide telehealth care network is just one more example of our determination to provide excellent, compassionate, innovative care to children in need of our services, wherever they may live.

RESEARCH
In 2017, Shriners Hospitals for Children provided funding for 141 research projects, two RFPs, 20 research fellowships and 15 Lemieux medical student internships. Our research projects generally involve discovering new knowledge that will increase understanding and improve treatments in our four service areas of orthopaedics, burn care, spinal cord injury, and cleft lip and palate. These efforts cover a wide range of themes, including the discovery of innovative methods that allow earlier diagnosis of sepsis, which is a major threat to patients with severe burn injuries, as well as the development and testing of new drugs to stimulate bone formation to improve care for those with bone diseases.

EOS IMAGING
The EOS Imaging System is a Nobel Prize-winning technology that will produce life-size images with up to 85 percent less radiation compared with conventional X-rays. EOS provides full-body images of patients in a natural standing or seated position in both 2-D and 3-D. These weight-bearing images reveal a patient’s natural posture and allow physicians to analyze the interactions between bones, joints and ligaments from different angles.

Research has indicated that radiation from repeated X-rays can increase the risk factor for cancer later in life. This is a great concern to our medical team, as Shriners Hospitals for Children is committed to providing the best and the safest treatment we can to our patients. Radiation exposure is cumulative over one’s life span, so EOS imaging is particularly helpful for use with children who need multiple images taken throughout their course of treatment.

MOTION ANALYSIS
In our 14 motion analysis centers, high-speed cameras, reflective markers, force platforms and muscle sensors are used to record, measure and evaluate how a child with a mobility impairment – such as those caused by neuromuscular conditions like cerebral palsy, congenital challenges including clubfoot and spine problems such as scoliosis – actually moves. The data collected helps provide an understanding of the interactions between the child’s muscles, joints and bones, which helps the patient’s medical team create an effective care plan. When we understand these different gait and movement patterns, we can help those with mobility impairments to move more efficiently, more effortlessly and more confidently.

At Shriners Hospitals for Children, every patient receives individual attention and a care plan tailored to their specific needs. We do our best to provide a complete range of care and services that will allow our patients to recover to the fullest extent possible, and go on to achieve their goals and dreams. Our generous donors make this possible.
Help Us Make the World a Better Place for Children

Shriners Hospitals for Children relies on donations from Shriners, corporations and the general public to support its efforts to provide excellent care, innovative research and outstanding medical education programs.

At Shriners Hospitals for Children, every donation and gift – large or small – is greatly appreciated, acknowledged and used efficiently and effectively to improve the lives of the children in our care. We need and depend on every one of our donors, and are forever grateful for their compassion, unending generosity and ongoing support.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR MISSION
There are a variety of ways to give to Shriners Hospitals for Children:

- An annual monetary commitment through our Annual Giving Program
- A one-time cash donation or monthly gifts charged automatically on your credit or debit card
- Matching gifts available through your employer
- Honorarium/Memorial Gifts
- A charitable bequest in your will, including membership in the Dream Makers Legacy Society
- Gifts of appreciated assets or real estate
- Planned giving opportunities, such as Charitable Gift Annuities or Charitable Remainder Trusts, wills, estates and bequests
- Personal fundraising pages, e-giving, eBay Giving Works
- Online donations
- Text to Give Program (keyword “dream” 25383)

Have you seen our commercials? Become a monthly Love to the rescue donor at loveshriners.org and receive a free Love to the rescue blanket.

MORE WAYS TO HELP
Additional ways to help raise donations for Shriners Hospitals for Children include:

- Facilitating a corporate gift, event sponsorship or in-kind gift from your place of employment. Or, if you are a business owner or decision-maker for your company, consider one of our many opportunities for corporate sponsorship.
- Hosting a fundraiser at your home or local business
- Attending a Shriners Hospitals for Children fundraiser in your local area

Donations can be designated to a specific hospital and/or given in honor or memory of someone special.

LEARN MORE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE
To learn more about this tremendous philanthropic effort that reaches across the U.S., Canada and Mexico, please visit donate2shc.org, where you can also sign up to receive a monthly newsletter via e-mail. You may also call 855-401-4897 or send a check payable to “Shriners Hospitals for Children” to the Office of Development, Shriners International Headquarters, 2900 Rocky Point Dr., Tampa, FL 33607-1460.

When you donate to Shriners Hospitals for Children, you are helping to ensure that excellent care for pediatric orthopaedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate will be available to children in need now and in the future.
An Innovative Orthotics and Prosthetics Program

Jacob, 17, went from being a star on the basketball court for his Wahpeton, North Dakota, high school team to spending months in the hospital in Minneapolis. In early January, he fell during warm-ups for his first varsity basketball game and broke his femur. X-rays of the broken bone indicated Jacob had a cancerous tumor in his leg. He was put on an immediate medical fight to the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital in Minneapolis.

THE RIGHT PLACE FOR INNOVATIVE CARE
After months of chemotherapy, treatment and scans that showed he was cancer-free, Jacob and his family learned that his best chance to avoid the cancer coming back would be to have his leg amputated above the location of the tumor. This news brought a completely new set of worry and decisions about where Jacob should receive care after the amputation and for his future prosthetic needs.

Jacob’s mother, Connie, recalled that she received an overwhelming response from her community in the Wahpeton area about kids who have had a chance to go to Pediatric Orthotic and Prosthetic Services (POPS) Midwest located at Shriners Healthcare for Children — Twin Cities for prosthetic needs, so she knew the Twin Cities facility would be the right fit for Jacob.

A CUSTOM FIT
In early July, Jacob was fitted for his very first prosthetic leg. Matt Morel, certified prosthetist orthotist at POPS, spent Jacob’s first appointment getting to know him and his interests. Matt learned quickly how active Jacob’s life was before his cancer diagnosis and above-the-knee amputation, and that Jacob’s goal is to get back on the basketball court soon. Because of this active lifestyle, Matt knew that he needed to fit Jacob with an Ottobock C-Leg® 4 prosthetic system, which is designed to reproduce the functions of a biological leg.

The C-Leg’s microprocessor-controlled hydraulic system performs throughout the user’s walking pattern, or gait cycle, to give them stability and control. The C-Leg allows for real-time adaptation to the wearer’s gait, changes in surface or speed, even when traversing unstable ground, stairs or ramps. If the user is falling, the knee reacts to this change and adjusts the knee automatically to resist the flexion – sometimes known as stumble recovery*, making it easier to navigate crowds and avoid slips on unstable surfaces, like sand, grass or gravel.

In early September, Jacob was able to go back to school in Wahpeton, and start his junior year in high school. He’s learning more and more about his prosthetic leg every day and anxiously awaits the day he’s able to get back on the basketball court.

Jacob is just one example of countless lives that have been improved by Shriners Hospitals’ orthotic and prosthetic services, which are available in the majority of our locations that provide pediatric orthopaedic care.

Burn Awareness Week Kicks Off Annual Burn Prevention Campaign

Shriners Hospitals for Children continues to work to decrease the number of preventable pediatric burn injuries by raising awareness, and promotes burn awareness and prevention year-round. One program in this effort is the annual Burn Awareness campaign, which began more than 20 years ago.

Every year, during the first full week of February, our marketing and communications efforts emphasize Burn Awareness Week, the kickoff of a yearlong educational campaign focused on burn awareness and prevention, including offering free educational materials via our website. The items, including activity books and fact sheets, are designed to be a resource for firefighters, teachers, parents and others concerned with the safety and well-being of children.

SHRINERS HOSPITALS WANTS CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO ‘BE BURN AWARE’

The 2019 Burn Awareness Week will take place Feb. 3-9. We are once again using the theme “Be Burn Aware” and focusing on preventing burn injuries in the home because the vast majority of preventable burn injuries continue to occur in residences. Homes are the sites of thousands of burn injuries to children every year, including scalds, fire-related injuries and even electrical burns. Many of these incidents could have been easily prevented by following and implementing some basic safety tips.

These educational efforts do have an impact; in the U.S., the occurrence of major pediatric burn injuries has decreased.

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS EMPHASIZE BURN AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

The campaign features two child-friendly characters, Boots and Brewster – a caped, cuddly bear and a googly-eyed teapot – in the activity books for children ages 3-7 and 8-12, which are available in English, Spanish and French. The entertaining duo leads children through the various rooms of a house, pointing out dangers and how to easily correct or avoid them.

The coloring pages, word searches, cartoons and other activities are designed to grab children’s attention and present the information in a memorable, age-appropriate manner. The campaign also includes various tip sheets and fact cards that emphasize the prevention of scalds, fire-related injuries and electrical burns.

Shriners Hospitals has also created an animated video, Boots and Brewster: The Burn Awareness Pair, which kids are sure to enjoy. In the video, available on beburnaware.org, Boots and Brewster take viewers on a fun and educational adventure to help them become more burn aware.

FREE BURN PREVENTION MATERIALS

Have fun while learning about burn prevention with Boots and Brewster. Our complimentary burn prevention materials include age-appropriate activity books, posters and fact sheets. All materials are available for viewing and ordering at beburnaware.org.
National Signature Events Benefit Shriners Hospitals for Children

THE EAST-WEST SHRINE GAME – IT’S MORE THAN JUST A GAME
The 94th East-West Shrine Game® will be held Jan. 19, 2019, at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, Florida.

The East-West Shrine Game is the longest-running college all-star game in the nation, showcasing the next generation of NFL greats while also benefiting Shriners Hospitals for Children. Since 1925, the East-West Shrine Game has helped support Shriners Hospitals for Children’s mission to improve the lives of children.

Every year, players and coaches visit the local Shriners Hospital during game week to meet the patients and gain a greater understanding of the importance of the game. During the inspirational and humbling visit, the teams experience a day they will never forget.

For more than 90 years, some of football’s greatest athletes and coaches have contributed to the tradition of the East-West Shrine Game. Players like Gale Sayers, Tom Brady, John Elway, Allan Page, Dick Butkus, Brett Favre, Gino Marchetti and Walter Payton, along with coaches Don Shula, Dick Vermeil, Paul “Bear” Bryant and Jerry Glanville, to name a few, have supported the East-West Shrine Game.

THE SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN COLLEGE CLASSIC
The 2019 Shriners Hospitals for Children College Classic will take place on March 1-3 at Minute Maid Park, home of the Houston Astros. The three-day, nine-game tournament will feature Baylor University, University of Houston, Rice University, Texas Christian University, Texas A&M University and Texas State University.

In December 2015, the Astros Foundation announced a multiyear naming rights agreement for the event with Shriners Hospitals for Children. This event is regarded as one of the top collegiate baseball tournaments in the nation, as it continues to draw fans, top-ranked programs and scouts from every Major League organization each year.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit shrinegame.com.