

Exciting Changes to Fun Spaces at The Inn

The Inn embarked on two exciting renovation projects last year to enhance our “place like home.” Both projects, the Children’s Park/Playground and Kitchen and Dining Area INNitiatives, will make a real difference in the lives of families who will use these facilities on a daily basis.

The Inn’s ADA accessible, state-of-the-art Park and Playground is almost complete. This new outdoor space features interactive activities that are appropriate for children of all ages and levels of physical abilities. In July, The Inn held a productive Build Day with partners KaBOOM! and MedImmune. Hundreds of volunteers and staff worked diligently to get the playground in place and prepare for the second phase of construction.

Last fall, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) became a major cor-



INNspirations

The Children’s Inn at NIH

SPRING 2013

Mission Statement

The Children’s Inn at NIH is a private, nonprofit, family-centered residence for pediatric patients at the National Institutes of Health and their families. Its purposes are to keep children together with their families during serious illness, reduce their stress, and facilitate their healing through mutual support. The Inn relies on private contributions for its operating funds.

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porate underwriter of the larger outdoor park, which includes an amphitheater, walking trails, lighting, landscaping and outdoor seating. Benjamin’s Tree House, a tribute to young Benjamin Memmott, will be erected in the coming months as one of the final components of the park. Benjamin’s family supported the Park/Playground initiative.

Renovations began in the kitchens—the “heart” of our home—in late October. The two original 20-year-old kitchens, which are used to prepare an estimated 14,500 meals annually, were in need of major upgrades and design changes to better accommodate our families’ diverse needs. Features will include an open floor plan, upgraded communal and new individual refrigerators, accessible cabinetry and countertops, individual dry good pantries, new dishwashers, stoves and much more.

Support for the kitchen renovations has come from several corporations and individuals. Two of the many special events that have helped raise nearly \$1,000,000 to support this project were the AFCEA Bethesda Chapter’s annual gala, “A Night for the Children,” held last April, and the annual Congressional Gala, held last September. The Inn recently received a generous grant from the J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation to help with this project as well.

In addition to the kitchens, the bathrooms in 36 of the 59 sleeping rooms are in the process of being updated. New heat pumps also will be installed, with completion expected this fall.

All of these renovation projects will surely bring joy and comfort to the more than 1,700 children and their families who stay at The Inn each year.



Excitement builds as the opening of the new Children’s Inn Park and Playground nears.

INNSpirational People



The Children's Inn has been a part of Zach Peters' life for more than 20 years. At 23, he realizes the important part The Inn plays in the lives of its residents.

Meet Inn Resident Zach Peters

Zach Peters measured his years growing up at The Inn through the giant stuffed panda bears that graced the living room at the foot of the fireplace. Now, at age 23, the strapping, easygoing young man still remembers the very visit when he arrived at The Inn as a young boy, finally taller than the huge pandas. "I couldn't wait to run up to them," he says.

Zach started coming to The Inn in 1990, the year it opened. He was an infant and his mom traveled with him from their rural Ohio home every three months for many years. He remembers sitting in the panda's lap, crawling around them and eventually, pulling up to walk. When he was six -years-old, he stood beside the furry black and white bears and discovered to his delight that he cleared the head of the big bear. It was a proud moment.

The decades have been filled with such moments and milestones. Small comforts surrounded The Inn and helped reassure Zach that he was just like every other kid, wanting to grow tall and strong, despite a serious genetic illness. "At The Inn, you don't feel out of place," Zach says. "You can be a kid here."

For more than 20 years, Zach has traveled to the NIH for treatment of Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia, an inherited disorder affecting the adrenal glands. Zach participated in early research, often taking as many as 10 pills up to three times a day. "I would rather be the test than have a young kid go through all that I have been through," he says.

This January, Zach met a little girl who was visiting The Inn for only the second time. Young Avery Ayan, eight, from Florida, watched as Zach flipped through an old Inn photo album and when he found a photo of the pandas, he lit up, telling her all about his one-time stuffed friends. "I realize now what [The Inn] did for me as a kid," Zach told her. "All those needle sticks, disliking my doctors because they pricked me, well, when I got here, all that was gone."

Come Back to Bethesda a Success

Cars, trucks, and motorcycles... oh my! On October 6, 2012, thousands of people from DC, Maryland, and Virginia attended the 22nd Annual Come Back to Bethesda Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show and Family Day to benefit The Inn. Presenting sponsor Chevy Chase Acura hosted the area's finest display of custom, classic, antique and modified vehicles while hometown band Almost Blue wowed the crowd with traditional blues and rock music. The event featured an appearance from Homer the Dog of Bethesda Big Train, exciting performances by youth dance companies from Joy of Motion, and an inflatable world sports game and moon bounce for kids. Most importantly, the event offered Inn residents a special opportunity to leave the hospital behind and spend a day having fun. The Inn would like to thank sponsors Chevy Chase Acura, Allied Party Rentals, Chuck Levin's Washington Music Center, Janet, Jenner & Suggs LLC, Enterprise Rent-a-Car, Suburban Hospital, and many others for making the event possible. Mark your calendars for this year's Come Back to Bethesda on October 5, 2013. Learn more at www.backtobethesda.org.



Cars, trucks, motorcycles and dogs are welcome at the annual Come Back to Bethesda event to raise funds and awareness for The Inn.



From left: Holly Cobb Parker, Teresa Bozzelli and Susan Penfield with Giada De Laurentiis (second from left), who displays a "Chef's Hat" plate given to her by The Children's Inn.

Celebrity Chef Giada De Laurentiis Cooks Up Support for The Inn

Through the generous support of sponsors and attendees, an exciting evening with celebrity chef Giada De Laurentiis boosted efforts to raise \$1.5 million for The Inn's Kitchen and Dining Area renovation, a project to update The Inn's two older kitchen and dining areas. Nearly 100 guests attended the "A Recipe for Giving" private reception held for Inn supporters during November's Metropolitan Cooking & Entertaining Show. With an array of top-ranked cooking shows and six cookbooks under her belt, the talented Italian American chef appreciates the importance of a good kitchen. Giada's path to eventual culinary stardom had an early start, with a passion for cooking that developed when she was a young child, spending a good deal of time in her family's kitchen. The petite, popular television personality appeared even more stunning in person as she captivated guests with her down-to-earth style. Inn supporter Teresa Bozzelli, Vice President and Managing Director of Sapient Government Services, interviewed Giada about her family's influence on her passion for cooking. Board Member and chair of The Inn's Kitchen and Dining Area INNitiative, Holly Cobb Parker, shared with guests the importance of this renovation project to Inn families. We extend a special thank you to our key sponsors: Denise Medved, CEO of the Metropolitan Cooking & Entertaining Show; Susan Penfield; Pepe Figueroa; Martha McGrath of MW Marketing; and Perry Pidgeon Hooks and Loretta Yenson, both of Hooks Book Events.

To learn more about supporting this and other important Inn initiatives, visit www.childrensinn.org and click on Ways to Give or contact Fern Jennifer Stone, Director of Development and Public Relations, at stonefj@mail.nih.gov.



Children's Inn staff welcomed NIH employees on a warm day in October.

Inn Hosts Open House for NIH Employees

The best way to understand the magic of The Inn is to visit in person, as more than 100 NIH employees learned at an Open House on October 17, 2012. Between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., The Inn opened its doors to employees on campus who were interested in learning more about The Inn's mission and programs. Montgomery County food trucks Curley's Q BBQ (www.curleysq.com) and Go Fish! (www.gofishdelivers.com) set up shop in The Inn's parking lot to serve mouth-watering barbecue and seafood dishes to guests. Inn staff members led guided tours of the building for visitors, the majority of whom had never been to The Inn before. As attendees walked through the facility, many remarked on how comfortable and inviting the space is, while others talked about how impressed they were by the wide range of programs offered to support families.

The event was also the perfect occasion to thank NIH employees who participated in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), a program that offers federal employees an easy way to donate to The Inn through payroll deduction. The CFC is an important source of support for The Inn each year, helping to provide the many programs and services available for Inn residents. A special thank you to all supporters who gave through the CFC in 2012. The Inn's CFC number is 10324.

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Inn CEO Kathy Russell (second from left) and her foursome at the 2012 Children's Inn Golf INNvitational.

The Children's Inn at NIH

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There are many ways to support The Children's Inn such as food drives and the Thoughtful Treasures mailbox program. Visit www.childrensinn.org and click on Get INNvolved to learn more about how you can help the many children and families who call The Inn home.

Fundraising Events to Benefit The Inn

The Inn is grateful to the many individuals and local businesses that are organizing events to benefit The Inn this spring. Visit www.childrensinn.org and click on Special Events and then Upcoming Events for complete details or to register.

Wednesdays at Le Ciel Salon & Spa in Bethesda

10% of the cost of hair, facials, waxing and massage services between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays throughout 2013 will be donated to The Inn.

Shulman Rogers 5k

Shulman Rogers celebrates its 40th anniversary with this USATF certified 5K race on April 6, 2013 in Potomac, MD. Also includes a short children's fun run.

ComPassion Golf Tournament

Passion Food Hospitality has generously supported The Inn through their annual tournament at Reston National Golf Course for the past three years, raising over \$70,000 to benefit Inn residents. This year's tournament will be held on April 29.

6th Annual Children's Inn Golf INNvitational

The Inn's Sixth Annual Golf INNvitational on June 3, 2013 at Lakewood Country Club in Rockville, MD includes 18 holes in a captain's choice format, cocktail hour, silent auction, dinner, and awards ceremony.

If you have questions about special events to benefit The Inn or are interested in organizing your own event, contact Lauren Conte at contele@mail.nih.gov.