

THE INNINSIDER

A PLACE LIKE HOME



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The Children's Inn at NIH



ZILLY'S CORNER

MELISSA DEL'OMO, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF THE CEO

Hi, Children's Inn friends! I hope everyone had a nice winter and holiday season. I certainly did, and I also had a great time celebrating my 9th birthday! We had a Valentine's Day/birthday party, and my friends had so much fun celebrating with Valentine's activities and special birthday treats from Crumbl Cookies. Despite all the fun, I had this past winter, I am sure ready for warmer, sunnier weather this spring! Some of my favorite spring activities include playing fetch outside, long walks, and sunbathing any chance I get. If you are visiting The Inn soon, please be sure to stop by the front desk and say hello. We can go for a walk outside if it is a nice day, or I'm always happy to stay inside and do some tricks for treats. Until next time, woof, woof!



RESIDENT SERVICES UPDATES

The goal of the Resident Services Team at The Children's Inn is to promote a homelike environment of support and understanding for families of The Inn, demonstrating an ability to cope with and offer comfort to people in acute personal crises. We aim to provide customer-centered services and information to make the transition as seamless as possible for families throughout their stay at The Inn.

Respiratory Isolation Pilot: Rhinovirus

ALLISON BRISMAN, RESIDENT SERVICES OPERATIONS MANAGER

We are happy to announce The Inn recently implemented a pilot program that allows us to house families on respiratory isolation for Rhinovirus. Families can stay in one of our four isolation rooms or in a community apartment. Each isolation room has two double beds, a personal bathroom, a small kitchenette with a microwave, a small refrigerator, a sink, and cabinet space, a television with a Roku including Netflix and Disney+, a dresser, and a table. Our apartments are fully furnished and can accommodate up to six family members. To keep residents safe while staying at The Children's Inn, medical teams will inform The Inn when a patient is placed on respiratory or contact isolation.

CrochetINN

**KRISTIN ARABIAN,
FAMILY PROGRAM COORDINATOR FOR RECREATION**

When you have a talent why not share it! In recent months, one of our young adults, Mai showcased her crocheting skills and has everyone hooked. She generously started hosting her own class to teach our children, teens, young adults, and caregivers how to crochet. The weekly crochet classes hosted by Mai cover the basics of crocheting. And after just a few classes, families have been working on crocheting hats, socks, shirts, and many more items.

Everyone is eager to learn more and looks forward to weekly classes. Throughout the day, families are seen working on their projects on their own and with their friends. Families at The Inn have many talents and we hope to showcase them all!



RESIDENT HIGHLIGHT: MARIA G.

HAJA KUMALAH, FAMILY PROGRAMMING INTERN



We have many wonderful families residing at the Inn, but this month we would like to highlight a long-term family from Baghdad. Maria is well known around the Inn and always strives to keep a smile on everyone's face. She is never shy to approach anyone and spreads love and compassion throughout The Inn. Her sense of humor is effortless and she is eager to make new friends.

Maria is an active participant in our ongoing activities and had an amazing time last week on our field trip to the Gwendolyn Coffield Community Center. Although she is not too familiar with American culture, Maria is eager to learn more English and takes the opportunity to teach others Arabic whenever she can. We are so grateful to know Maria and her family!

Maria and her family are at NIH to support her brother's medical journey as he battles a rare illness. You can catch the whole family at BINGO, which is their favorite program at The Inn. Even as her brother undergoes medical treatment, Maria and her parents always make sure he can participate in his favorite programs by way of video chat!



ACTIVITIES

- **In-person/ Virtual Bingo:** Families at the Inn can log on to zoom or meet in the multipurpose room to play BINGO, win great prizes, and meet a local Montgomery County Police Officer. Fun for the whole family!
- **Virtual Exercise Classes:** Join fitness instructors, Ashley, and Stacy, for cardio strength workouts/yoga that you can do from the comfort of your room. All you need is a yoga mat.
- **In-person Reading with Zilly:** Every Monday you can read with our volunteers Debra and Zilly!
- **Happily Hungry:** Join Family Programming and Danielle in the E Kitchen and learn how to cook quick, easy, and healthy recipes.
- **Soccer for the Future:** Join Hannah a Soccer instructor out on the Sport Court every Tuesday to learn and play soccer with others! No experience is needed!
- **Art Lessons with Dave:** Join Dave in the A/B Kitchen every Wednesday and learn tips and tricks on how to paint, color, and draw like a professional!
- **VisArts Field Trip:** Families can sign up to attend a field trip to VisArts to create unique fused glass art
- **In-Person Yoga:** Join Yoga instructor Vainavi in the multipurpose room every Thursday.
- **Off-Campus Field Trips:** Be on the lookout for fun off-campus field trips - sign up to attend!

