

Enhancing Care for Our Youngest Patients

The medical care of children is often where the greatest need exists in a hospital. Fortunately for the McLeod Children's Hospital and Women's Services, the generosity of those living in the communities the hospital serves allows the McLeod Foundation to provide the latest technology and support to these medical teams.

Children's Hospital

The McLeod Foundation recently funded six Temporal Artery Temperature reading devices for the McLeod Children's Hospital. These new tools allow hospital staff to simply swipe the temperature reading unit across a child's forehead, providing a safe and accurate reading with no discomfort to the child. This is extremely beneficial to pediatric patients who may already feel anxious about being in the hospital. The McLeod Foundation also funded

more than \$10,000 in state-of-the-art equipment to the McLeod Children's Hospital and McLeod Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) in 2010.

NICU

The McLeod Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) also received funds to purchase and stock an additional Emergency Cart as a part of their "Golden Hour" initiative. The Golden Hour refers to the first hour of a premature infant's life, a critical time when staff work to prevent significant life-long complications. This evidence-based program is designed

to provide specific care and meet goals which can have a positive impact on an infant's life.

The McLeod NICU has piloted many new programs as a part of this initiative, including the use of the ready-stocked emergency cart.



▲ Kay Dewitt, Director of Women's Services, cares for a newborn using one of the new Radiant Panda Warmers purchased through gifts to the McLeod Foundation.



▲ Jessica McDaniel, MST, uses one of the new Temporal Artery Temperature reading devices to obtain the temperature of nine-year-old Willie Wilson.

Initially, NICU staff borrowed a cart from another area of the hospital that was not in use. They stocked it with all the supplies that would be needed should they be called to respond to an extremely premature birth at McLeod Regional Medical Center. Previously, staff lacked adequate space for all of the supplies needed as well as a functional work station. The cart provides both storage and acts as a work space for sterile procedures and medication delivery. The cart is also outfitted with a scale to weigh the infant.

Staff was so pleased at the effectiveness of the cart and the

Providing quality care to the youngest patients of McLeod is a result of the power of giving.

improvement in response time it provided, that they requested \$2,000 from the McLeod Foundation to purchase another emergency cart. Thanks to generous gifts, the Foundation was able to grant them the funding to purchase this essential piece of equipment.

Women's Services

Gifts to the McLeod Foundation also funded nearly \$35,000 for McLeod Women's Services to purchase two Radiant Panda Warmers, which aid in thermoregulation of an infant after birth. McLeod Labor and Delivery Services staff were in need of two additional bedside warmers, which allow for the after-delivery transition of newborns to take place at the mother's bedside. These Panda Warmers offer the latest in Radiant Warming technology.

Improving Communication for Children

Children are resilient and often times able to overcome many of life's challenges. However, when faced with a limitation in their ability to speak, hear or see, everyday tasks can become obstacles. Finding ways to enhance and improve their current abilities can provide a multitude of opportunities.

Through the support of the McLeod Foundation, McLeod Pediatric Rehabilitation is now able to offer children with auditory processing difficulties an opportunity to improve their abilities and limit auditory obstacles using The Listening Program (TLP).

TLP is a music-based auditory stimulation method with the primary

purpose of bringing the auditory system into balance. It helps improve brain function, reduce stress and in essence "train the brain" in the auditory skills needed to effectively listen, learn and communicate.

"When a child's hearing is distorted, whether the cause is from an illness, injury or a developmental issue, the distortion can lead to emotional, cognitive, academic and social challenges," said John Esteves, a Certified Occupational Therapist with McLeod Pediatric Rehabilitation. "With the use of The Listening Program, children with auditory or sensory processing concerns, speech and language delays, and varying diagnosis are able to strengthen their abilities in communication, learning, and memory."

The Listening Program is designed to stimulate the different functions of the auditory processing system. This stimulation enables the brain to better

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- John Esteves

receive, process, store and utilize valuable information.

The McLeod Pediatric Rehabilitation staff of Speech Pathologists, Occupational Therapists and Physical Therapists identify patients who can benefit from this program. Pre- and post-testing is conducted to gather information on the changes, improvements and benefits for the various age groups and diagnosis.

The Listening Program is designed as a home-based program with oversight by the Pediatric Rehabilitation staff. "The McLeod Foundation support is also enabling us to allow the families of our patients to rent the equipment so that the children can utilize it in the comfort of their own homes," said Esteves.

The compelling gift of this new technology is providing children with added strength and confidence to effectively communicate.



◀ *McLeod Speech Pathologist Wynne English shows Zena Branham how to use The Listening Program equipment. Zena's auditory processing skills are improving with the TLP equipment.*



Coastal Groups Supporting the Children's Hospital

The McLeod Children's Hospital serves pediatric patients as far away as Horry County, the only Children's Hospital in northeastern South Carolina. This coastal community's residents proudly showed their appreciation for McLeod by supporting the Children's Hospital with time, talent and gifts during the past year.

In May, the House of Blues Myrtle Beach, led by Operations Manager John Kelly, hosted the Children's Miracle Network Beach Party to honor Horry County Miracle Children and McLeod Children's Hospital donors. The event, which drew a large crowd to enjoy the festivities, aired on WBTW News 13 during the 28th Annual Children's Miracle Network Broadcast.

Additionally, Kelly and the House of Blues team donated the "Gospel Choir Angels" tree, featuring handmade gospel choir angel ornaments, to the McLeod Children's Hospital's Festival of Trees event in November. Trees from the event are auctioned off to the highest bidder with proceeds benefiting the Children's Hospital. Kelly also personally organized various events at the Festival of Trees "Day with Santa" event.



▲ Team members from the Surfside Beach Walmart #574 present a check for the funds they raised in 2010 to WBTW's Lindsay Milbourne during the Children's Miracle Network Broadcast Beach Party held at the House of Blues.



▲ *John Kelly, Operations Manager for the House of Blues Myrtle Beach, decorates his company's tree for the Festival of Trees event.*

Other Horry County supporters of McLeod include eight Walmarts and one Sam's Club. These businesses held many events this year to benefit McLeod Children's Hospital, including fishing tournaments, golf tournaments, chili cook-offs, hot dog and bake sales, and pot-luck dinners. One Walmart team even produced and sold their very own cookbook. These efforts resulted in a total of \$54,209 being raised for McLeod Children's Hospital by the Sam's Club and Walmarts located on the Grand Strand.

McLeod Children's Hospital is grateful to those who live along the coast of South Carolina. Their gifts of generosity continue to make a difference for the pediatric patients from the beaches to the inland.

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