

La Rabida Children's Hospital

East 65th Street at Lake Michigan
Chicago, IL 60649
P: 773.256.5980



Fast Facts

Year Established	1896
Corporation Type and Governance	La Rabida is a privately-owned, not-for-profit 501(c) 3 corporation
Facility Type	Acute care pediatric hospital, specializing in caring for children with chronic illness and/or developmental disabilities or those who have suffered abuse, trauma or maltreatment
Overview of Services and Programs	<p>La Rabida provides inpatient and outpatient services for children who require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical management of a chronic illness• Transitional care following hospitalization for premature birth, traumatic injury, surgery or cancer treatment• Early intervention to minimize the risk of developmental delays• Rehabilitation services including physical and occupational therapy <p>Through its child advocacy and trauma centers it helps children address the emotional consequences of abuse and trauma.</p>
Patient Demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 80% African American• 10% Caucasian• 6% Hispanic• 4% Other
Hospital Statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 49 licensed inpatient beds• 5-bed urgent care unit• Approximately 400 employees• 10,966 inpatient days in FY 2008• 34,606 outpatient visits in FY 2008• Approximately 9,000 children served annually• Volunteers and hours served: 286 volunteers serving more than 11,000 hours
Notable Facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only hospital of its kind in the Chicago area• Expert in the care management of children with technology dependencies i.e. tracheostomies and ventilators• Model provider of comprehensive services to children who have suffered abuse and/or trauma.• Illinois' most Medicaid dependent hospital as a percent of patient revenue• Plays an important part in metro Chicago's healthcare delivery system; many acute care hospitals refer patients to La Rabida for transitional care• Earned an international reputation for its role in the eradication of rheumatic fever in the 1950s

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2009 Fanfare

- July 16, Lawn Fête fundraiser celebrates the early 1900's era of lace and pearls
- August 4, 20th Annual Golf Classic sponsored by The La Rabida Business Council
- Women in Support of La Rabida launches its annual fundraiser -- Cruisin' on a Sunday Afternoon -- aboard the Mystic Blue at Navy Pier, summer date to be announced
- October 22, Former patient reunion reconnects patients from the 1940s – 1960s, spokesperson for the former patient recruitment campaign is actor and former La Rabida patient Joe Mantegna
- November 12, Friends of La Rabida host its annual fundraiser at the Four Seasons
- November 26, Thanksgiving Feast brings patients and families together. ACF chefs volunteer time and talents for this decades long tradition
- December TBD, Mayor Daley visits and presents gifts to patients
- December 25, Santa makes a morning stop to distribute toys to inpatients on Christmas Day

Executive Leadership

Paula Kienberger Jaudes MD, President and CEO
Michael Cleavenger, Vice President, Development
Aden Henry, MSN, R.N., Vice President, Patient Care Services
Kevin V. Rath, Associate Vice President, Business Development and External Affairs
Mark Renfree, CFO, Vice President, Administration
Brenda Wolf, Executive Vice President and COO

History of La Rabida

- 1893** — Government of Spain erected a replica of the monastery La Rabida at the Chicago World's Fair to house artifacts from Christopher Columbus' 1492 expedition. The exhibition hall stood just north of the hospital's present location between Jackson Harbor and Lake Michigan.
- 1895** — At the close of the exposition, Spain donated its building for use as a sanitarium for children.
- 1896** — A volunteer group of women raised funds, recruited volunteer physicians and opened the Jackson Park Sanitarium to serve poor children, who suffered from intestinal disorders resulting from unsanitary living conditions and improperly stored food and milk.
- 1922** — The facility burned to the ground, though services continued as a "hospital without walls" throughout the community at various locations.
- 1932** — La Rabida Jackson Park Sanitarium reopened with 30 beds and a waiting list. Increasingly, patients were being treated for rheumatic fever, a condition of the heart and muscles.
- 1940-50's** — La Rabida formed a partnership with the University of Chicago to research ways to treat and cure rheumatic fever. During this time, the hospital earned international recognition for research that led to the eradication of the disease.
- 1954** — The Gertrude Frank Pick Building, named for the wife of a physician who served La Rabida's children, opened at the south end of the facility. Now, this 13,000-square-foot wing primarily serves outpatient and support services on the main and lower levels.
- 1959** — The Richard Finnegan Memorial Building, named for board president and former Sun Times editor, was dedicated. Today, this 17,000 square foot wing on the north end of the facility houses administrative offices and support services.

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History of La Rabida

- 1960's** — Treatment and community education helped control rheumatic fever, which was no longer considered a threat by this time. La Rabida turned its attention to the treatment of chronic illness and disabilities.
- 1992** — The Child Life Pavilion wing was added to house classroom and recreational activities while children are in the hospital. The room provides a scenic view of the hospital playground and Lake Michigan.
- 2001** — A renovated section of the inpatient unit opened. The S.S. La Rabida, designed as a cruise ship, features 37 “cabins”, each room a porthole to give young “passengers” a waterside view.
- 2009** — Today, La Rabida Children’s Hospital provides comprehensive care for children with chronic illness -- such as asthma, cerebral palsy, diabetes, Down syndrome, and sickle cell disease -- developmental disabilities, and those who have been abused or experienced emotional trauma.