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**#RLMCH**

# LOLLIPALOOZA

A newsletter about volunteers, sponsors and friends to promote Radio Lollipop in the community • January 2014



## Carlos Mencia— A Surprise Hit At “Night At The Improv”

**T**here were many highlights during Radio Lollipop’s 8th Annual Night at the Improv. Local celebrity and avid Radio Lollipop supporter DJ Laz hosted the event alongside morning media maven, Roxy Vargas, from NBC 6. “The Improv is the largest fundraiser that we host each year,” explained Catalina Orozco, Radio Lollipop Chairperson. “This year was even more special because volunteers united as one big team to work towards \$70,000! Surpassing the goal after so much work was a huge reward and a success for all of us!” While the event drove in its highest amount to date (over \$76,000), the biggest highlight was a surprise guest DJ Laz kept up his sleeve until the very end of the night.



Over 30 raffle prizes were awarded throughout the night, amid the comedic performances. The evening kicked off with two hilarious sets by

Jon Vargas and Lando Leyba, and Dean Napolitano reprised his role as headliner for a second year in a row, leaving the audience in stitches.

When it seemed all was said and done, and the last joke had been told, DJ Laz took the stage to have the last laugh. The long-time Radio Lollipop supporter introduced a good friend of his – comedian Carlos Mencia – who treated the crowd to another set of non-stop laughter. Carlos Mencia is one of today’s most popular entertainers and comics who, once again, clearly demonstrated an extraordinary ability to connect with a wide and diverse audience.



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### Who, What, When, Where is Radio Lollipop?

Radio Lollipop is an international non-profit organization dedicated to providing care, comfort, play and entertainment to children in hospitals. This volunteer driven organization uses music and up beat interactive play to gain the children’s attention. This mission allows hospitalized children and their families temporary escape from the serious nature of their hospital stay. Simply put, RadioLollipop provides the best medicine of all... fun and laughter. Founded in 1979 in the United Kingdom, Radio Lollipop currently operates studios in the United States, Australia, United Kingdom and New Zealand.



**MIAMI  
CHILDREN'S  
HOSPITAL®**

...continued from pg. 1



A special thank you to Royal Caribbean and Viva Travel for providing the night's two grand prizes—a 7-night Caribbean cruise for two and a trip for two to Curacao, respectively. Our success is due in large part to our volunteers, the performers, and most importantly, to our sponsors and donors.

### Radio Lollipop appreciates our sponsors and donors!

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Join us!





# #RLMCH – Radio Lollipop Miami Goes Social

In May 2013, Radio Lollipop Miami went from on-air to online with the launch of a new social media platform, #RLMCH, amplifying its reach in the local community. Through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, #RLMCH has unified the entire Radio Lollipop community in South Florida, providing a constant feed of social updates.

From social media coverage of Radio Lollipop events to capturing everyday moments inside and outside the Lollipop studio, #RLMCH has provided a social outlet for all volunteers, as well as a place for supporters to keep up with what's going on at Radio Lollipop.

Check out images below from the last year that capture the essence of Radio Lollipop using the hashtag #RLMCH.



## Radio Lollipop Miami Gets a Facelift

The first Radio Lollipop Miami broadcast hit the hospital's airwaves on August 18, 1996 with just a handful of volunteers. During its 17 years "On Air," the program has expanded to serve over 20,000 patients a year and to accommodate over 60 guests per week. Following in the footsteps of Radio Lollipop in Newcastle, England, Radio Lollipop Miami underwent a major renovation at the end of 2013. As the Miami studio welcomed 2014, we greeted it with open doors and a brand new look.

The new and improved studio features a fully interactive digital interface and boasts a sleek looking DJ booth, equipped with music-sensored LED lighting. Radio Lollipop, its staff and volunteers hope to provide the patients of Miami Children's Hospital many more years of music and laughter in its updated digs.





# FUN RAISEROO

## Radio Lollipop Kicks Off 2013 with its First Annual Kickball Tournament

"Our first annual Radio Lollipop Kickball Tournament was a huge success!" exclaimed Thrilling Thursday volunteer Cristina Mas, who co-organized the event alongside Terrific Tuesday volunteer David Berry, co-chairs on the fundraising committee management team. Over 100 people arrived at Peacock Park for a day of team-on-team action. For hours, 12 teams battled it out for the right to call themselves champions! Throughout the day, teams that were not out on the field playing still racked up points by taking part in other fun activities. During the activities, a guest DJ pumped the players up with his energizing music! In the end, Team Guallando proved to be unstoppable as they took the field by storm and claimed their victory. The first ever kickball tournament was a huge success, raising more than \$6,000 for Radio Lollipop. Special thanks to our sponsors:



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And to Alex Sanchez for capturing all the action.



## A Domino Effect: Good, Better, Best



ALPFA, the nation's oldest and largest Latino professional organization, hosted its inaugural Domino Night on November 14. A part of its ALPFA Cares Program, the Domino Night aimed at establishing a lasting relationship between key influencers in the community and local philanthropic organizations. The event was hosted at Bongos Cuban Café, where attendees enjoyed an evening of networking and playing dominoes, all geared toward raising money and awareness for Radio Lollipop.

With over 70 guests in attendance, the fundraiser and networking event proved to be a success, raising \$1,000 for the organization. Event organizer and Radio Lollipop volunteer Natalia Marco commented, "The event turned out to be a huge success! A big thank you to ALPHA and Radio Lollipop for taking part." In the end, a night of networking turned into a successful fundraising opportunity for Radio Lollipop, for which we are very thankful.



## A Night With Non-Profits

The philanthropic powers of South Florida came together for a night of giving at the First Annual Night with Non Profits on April 24. More than 10 organizations met at The Hoxton Urban Beach House in Brickell to mix and mingle with like-minded individuals and, ultimately, unite all organizations with a similar goal in mind – to better the lives of those in South Florida. The event brought in over \$5,000, benefitting various local causes, including Radio Lollipop at Miami Children's Hospital. "Night with Non Profits was an event I created that brought together 13 different non profit organizations to raise awareness and funds for each of the causes. We had over 800 people that evening and were able to talk about our cause and share what we do with a large audience," said Cristina Mas. Radio Lollipop is thankful for her continued support of Radio Lollipop and of organizations throughout Miami.



## Boost Mobile and Miami Legends

On February 28, 2013, five Radio Lollipop volunteers attended a fundraising event hosted by Boost Mobile in Miami. Boost Mobile invited Miami's famed DJ Laz to emcee and Miami Heat legend Tim Hardaway as the special guest. Later that afternoon, Boost Mobile presented Radio Lollipop with a \$5000 check! We appreciate Boost Mobile's generosity and support. Radio Lollipop thanks these valued local partners and others like them.



## Annual Bake-Off Bake Sale

Thanks to Terrific Tuesday's Rhoni Tannebaum for her coordination of Radio Lollipop's annual bake sale, in which volunteers showed off their baking talents by donating their baked goodies for the event. The bake sale was a success as always, raising nearly \$800, in which all proceeds benefitted Radio Lollipop. Volunteers spread holiday cheer throughout Miami Children's Hospital sporting their best elf costumes and holiday gear while delivering delicious delicacies.



## Atlantis Swimming Club Toy Donation

Over 350 fun new toys were donated by the Atlantis Swimming Club to show appreciation for the care and entertainment provided by Radio Lollipop. On October 26, 2013, parents and children of the Atlantis Swimming Club expressed their gratitude for the program as many families had experienced the joy brought by Radio Lollipop volunteers with first-hand experience at Miami Children's Hospital. Thanks to the Atlantis Swimming Club for providing this opportunity and donating for a third year in a row.





# Special Guests And Supporters

## He Dribbles, He Scores

The famous Dr. Dribble, world record holder for completing full marathons while continuously dribbling two basketballs, visited children throughout the hospital. He lit up the eyes of basketball lovers and sports fans as he shared his inspiring story of overcoming blindness as a child to becoming a Guinness world record recipient for a challenging yet entertaining record. Basketball enthusiasts passed the ball with Dr. Dribble and received autographs as patients shared stories of their sports experiences with him and Lollipop volunteers.



## Wyld Fly Shares the Gift of Music

A young new band, Wyld Fly, visited the Radio Lollipop studio and brought patients' rooms to life as they gave acoustic performances to music lovers throughout the hospital. Teaming up with Radio Lollipop volunteers, Wyld Fly spread their love of music and great sounds, while listening to the stories of our very own young aspiring musicians at Miami Children's Hospital.



## Teddy Bears for the Holidays

Former Miami Children's Hospital volunteer, Afiya Matthews, along with fellow FIU students Dashagh Shirley, Giancarlo Simpson and Hanack Ramirez, solicited donations through their university for Teddy Bears to give to the children during the Radio Lollipop show. Afiya decided to celebrate her appreciation for her 25th birthday by giving back with very cuddly bears for the children of Miami Children's Hospital.





## A Visit From Down Under

Radio Lollipop Miami had the pleasure of hosting a group of Lollipoppers from the other side of the world— literally. Volunteers from Radio Lollipop Brisbane left winter “down unda” for some Miami heat and visited Miami Children’s Hospital, joining Thrilling Thursday for a night of international collaboration.



Over the course of the night, the Lollipoppers from different continents worked together to bring smiles to the patients’ faces, while discovering just how similar Radio Lollipop’s volunteers are in their desire and dedication of providing this wonderful mission across the globe. Miami volunteers hope to someday return the favor, and pay our Aussie friends a visit.

## Lyrics That Lift Spirits

2013 was a year full of musical visits in the Radio Lollipop studio. Vers, the 17-year old rapping sensation, gained instant popularity on YouTube with his impressions of well-known rap and hip hop artists. He took YouTube and Miami Children’s Hospital by storm as he shared some rhymes and had a great time with Radio Lollipop patients. His lyrics brought smiles and laughter to patients and volunteers alike.



## Thank You To All Our Additional Visitors & Donors!



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# In The News

## El Poder de Dar: The Power of Giving

On April 9, Patty Perez appeared on CNN's CALA during an hour long segment on the power of giving. Prompted by host Ismael Cala's inquiry into the nature of charity, Patty was able to share what giving back means to her and to Radio Lollipop.

The Thrilling Thursday team leader was especially proud to represent the organization as she discussed its mission and provided a firsthand account of what it is like to be a Radio Lollipop volunteer at Miami Children's Hospital.

The show featured three representatives from different charities who discussed how each organization succeeds in bringing hope to those with whom they work. Alongside Patty were Angela Patricia Janiot, CNN correspondent and co-founder of Colombianitos, as well as Angela Tafur, CEO and Founder of Give to Colombia.

During the one-hour interview, Patty gave the show's host and audience an inside look into a typical day at Radio Lollipop, and flanked by Ms. Janiot and Ms. Tafur, showed how organizations harness the power of giving on local, international and even multinational levels. Radio Lollipop is grateful to have been able to share its mission statement as part of such a universal platform.



## CBS This Morning

Lollipop volunteers showed CBS This Morning what Radio Lollipop is all about as they were interviewed in the studio by CBS correspondent Elaine Quijano, and led CBS through a night of visiting patients' rooms. CBS filmed as volunteers joked and played with patients and gave true insight into the joy that volunteers bring to patients as they engaged children and teens with activities, bubbles, and prizes throughout the night. CBS aired the segment nationally and has put Radio Lollipop in the spotlight for the tremendous work being done to provide fun and unique entertainment opportunities for the children throughout Miami Children's Hospital.

## Local Radio Lollipop Gets National Broadcast



Journalist Judith Ritter visited Terrific Tuesday and chronicled her experience as she shadowed volunteers through the halls of Miami Children's Hospital, patients' rooms and the Radio Lollipop studio. Dazzling Dave Berry and Nutty Nora Barriere were joined by Thrilling Thursday's Patty "Potter" Perez for a night of silly voices, laughter and music, showing Judith what Radio Lollipop is about. "I hope [people] see how valuable your program is," exclaimed Ritter,



once the segment aired on NPR's Weekend Edition. In her segment, Ritter featured volunteers, patients and families, shedding light on how Radio Lollipop provides care, comfort, play and entertainment at Miami Children's Hospital.







## Radio Lollipop Patients Give Thanks

With holiday season in full-effect, Wacky Wednesday volunteer Stephanie Peña gave patients the opportunity to say what they were most thankful for in 2013. Some highlights include:

"I'm thankful for my family, my friends, and for Miami Children's Hospital. God bless you. Radio Lollipop has a special place in my heart. I love you guys."

"Hola, mi nombre es Sady. Le quiero dar gracias a Dios por darme 5 meses de vida y gracias a todos los medicos de este hospital y a todas las enfermeras, que Dios me las bendiga y gracias por abrirme sus corazones y a los de la radio tambien que Dios me los bendiga. Muchas gracias, bendiciones."

"I am thankful for life and health. Knowing that somewhere out there someone is worse than I am, and I am sorry for them, but that just tells me that life could be worse. I am also thankful for my mother, sister, niece, and all of my friends and family."



"Doy gracias a...Dios...por estar siempre a mi lado en estos dificiles momentos... Doy gracias...al maravilloso PERSONAL de este HOSPITAL por brindarme el cuidado, el apyo, y todo su cariño...y pore star muy al pendiente de me. Gracias a todos...por su GRANDIOSA LABOR. Happy Thanksgiving... today...tomorrow, and forever! God Bless you."

"I'm thankful for the doctor putting me in remission. I'm thankful for my family. I'M THANKFUL FOR LIFE..."

## In The Office Heather Savaia



*I'm excited to be new to such a unique and rewarding program and am grateful to the volunteers who bring an unparalleled amount of enthusiasm and energy each night to the studio. It's a challenge to enter a room where a patient may be feeling down or having a bad day, but Radio Lollipop volunteers continue to surprise me as they always find ways to make everyone around them laugh. Lollipop volunteers bring inspiration, hope, and most of all fun to an otherwise difficult situation and nothing could be more appreciated. I'm very thankful to be able to make a small contribution to the program and can't wait to see what 2014 holds!*

# Lolli-Spotlights



## Jader Gutierrez Terrific Tuesday

**My Radio Lollipop Name is...** Jader Darth Vader. I was given the name by my fellow volunteer Cuckoo Colleen.

**A Radio Lollipop Moment I will never forget is...** my first day. I was intimidated by the energy of my fellow volunteers. I soon realized what that energy was for, and that was for the entertainment and care of the patients in the hospital. Because of that first day, I committed myself to being more outgoing, eccentric, funny and clever, in hopes that I can match the energy of my fellow volunteers.

**My favorite thing about Radio Lollipop is...** that it gives me an opportunity to give back to my community. It is a great feeling knowing that you're a part of something special. Each smile I can muster from patients, their families, and even the staff around the hospital, lets me know I'm doing a great job.



## Randy Koper Thrilling Thursday

**My Radio Lollipop Name is...** Handy Randy and I love that it rhymes. I've been volunteering for many years and I can't exactly remember where the nickname came from but something tells me Ken Wilder of Terrific Tuesday thought of it when I first started volunteering.

**A Radio Lollipop Moment I will never forget is...** visiting a set of Siamese twins from Peru before and after they were separated. By chance I was in that unit at both times and was able to personally experience this story that received media coverage.

**My favorite thing about Radio Lollipop is...** the positive energy and enthusiasm of the volunteers. Having been here for 15 years, I've been able to experience different types of volunteers and patients. What I find most fun is watching the kids interact with their activities and how they express themselves.

**Radio Lollipop is important in my life because...** it allows me to help people—both the children and their families. What I find most important is being able to give the gift of Radio Lollipop to every patient in the hospital.



## Leslie Del Busto Wacky Wednesday

**My Radio Lollipop Name is...** Lovely Leslie. We were all asked to come up with a nickname and I really could not think of one. My "Wacky Wednesday" colleagues gave me the nickname, Lovely Leslie, and it kind of just stuck with me.

**A Radio Lollipop Moment I will never forget is...** One Wednesday night we walked into a patient's room who was unresponsive. We talked to him about Radio Lollipop and turned on his television to channel 26. As soon as he heard the music, he started moving his limbs and blinking. I was in complete shock! That night proved to me the impact that Radio Lollipop has on both patients and their families.

**Radio Lollipop is important in my life because...** it is a constant reminder that I should complain less often and be grateful more often. I was born premature and was transferred to MCH after birth. It gives me great pleasure to be able to give back to a hospital that, 30 years ago, gave so much to me.



## Special Spotlight

Meagan Wentworth, or "Money Meagan" as she's known to the patients and fellow volunteers, is the epitome of a Radio Lollipop volunteer. For more than four years, Money Meagan has dedicated herself to the happiness and well-being of the kids at MCH by delivering her own brand of fun and cheer. Whether she's visiting the kids' rooms, or broadcasting on the air, she has a knack for reaching these kids and touching their hearts in such an amazing way. Meagan knows what a lot of these kids are going through because she too has battled back from a life-threatening illness, and throughout that battle, continued to volunteer with Radio Lollipop as much as possible. It goes without saying that Meagan is an incredible role model for the rest of us. That is why she is "so money."



# CONGRATULATIONS...

**To all of the Radio Lollipop Volunteers who reached their mark in 2013!**

## **One-year:**

Alex Gavilla  
Andrew Nashad  
Beatriz Buzzi  
Charlenne Blanco  
Cristina Dominguez  
Gabrielle Roman  
Jennifer Maceiras  
Jessica Sanchez  
William Godoy

## **Three-years:**

Catalina Orozco  
Christina Demetre  
Cristina Mas  
Jader Gutierrez  
Jessica Santana  
Nancy Campos  
Nathalie Romero  
Stephanie Sydnor  
William Rodriguez

## **Five-years:**

Alex Sanchez

## **Fifteen-years:**

Linda Faber  
Randolph Koper  
Rhoni Tannebaum

**To our Radio Lollipop volunteers for their recognition for outstanding volunteer service in 2013!**

Cristina Mas and William Rodriguez

**To our Radio Lollipop volunteer for her recognition in contributions in 2013!**

Rhoni Tannebaum



## **Management Team**

Chairperson .....Catalina Orozco  
Secretary.....Stephanie Sydnor  
Treasurer.....Lynn Heyman  
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Fundraising Chair ..... David Berry  
Play Coordinator.....Stephanie Peña  
Education Chair ..... Leslie del Busto  
Volunteer Coordinator....Heather Savaia  
Director of the Board,  
Radio Lollipop USA. .... Donna Huck

**Thank you to all of our dedicated and committed volunteers who provide care, comfort, play and entertainment to hospitalized children, and continue to drive the Radio Lollipop program to its success:**

Adlinda Toutounji  
Adriana Vilhena  
Albert Menacho  
Alex Gavilla  
Alex Sanchez  
Alexa Lopez-Trigo  
Alyssa Cheleotis  
Amanda Rabines  
Ana Alfonso  
Andrew Nashed  
Arlene Moretz  
Ashley Salvatore  
Ashley Stednick  
Beatriz Buzzi  
Carlos Acosta  
Caroline Granado  
Catalina Orozco  
Charlenne Blanco  
Christina Demetre  
Christina Mastroberardino  
Christina Terrero  
Christine Gloria  
Colleen Cummings  
Cristina Dominguez  
Cristina Mas  
David Berry

Edwin Marlowe  
Ethan Dominguez  
Gabrielle Roman  
Giannina Meyer  
Jackelyn Marcos  
Jader Gutierrez  
Javier Izquierdo  
Jennifer Maceiras  
Jessica Sanchez  
Jessica Santana  
Joshua Gammon  
Kayla Rhodes  
Katie Conover  
Kenneth Wilder  
Kiara Nydam  
Krystinne Espinosa  
Leslie Del Busto  
Linda Faber  
Lisandra Gonzalez  
Lucia Gonzalez  
Marc Kuperman  
Marcia Mollere  
Maria De Cabrera  
Maria Figuerola  
Maria Riut  
Maria Troconis

Maritza Couto  
Mayler Martinez  
Meagan Wentworth  
Nancy Campos  
Natalia Marco  
Natalie Eguizabal  
Nathalie Romero  
Nicolas Roldan  
Nicole Socarras  
Nora Barriere  
Patricia Perez  
Randolph Koper  
Rhoni Tannebaum  
Roxana Roque  
Stephanie Barrientos  
Stephanie Mazzawi  
Stephanie Peña  
Stephanie Sydnor  
Suzanne Cruz  
Victoria Martinez  
William Rodriguez  
William Godoy  
Xochilt Rojas  
Yvette Hernandez



Radio Lollipop's mission is to provide care, comfort, play and entertainment to children in hospital.



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