



for Children
in Hospital

LOLLIPALOZA

A newsletter about volunteers, sponsors and friends to promote Radio Lollipop in the community • May 2010



Miami Children's Hospital celebrates 60th Anniversary

Cotton candy, popcorn, and cupcakes were just some of the lovely treats that welcomed all guests to the celebration of Miami Children's Hospital 60th Anniversary on March 20th. The courtyard was magnificently turned into a carnival filled with balloons, clowns, and jugglers brought smiles to all visitors. Radio Disney was on site playing fun tunes and games for the children and giving away great prizes.

Radio Lollipop had its own booth with face painting and activities for children to create and enjoy. The booth provided children with the opportunity to create their own masterpieces; from masks with colorful feathers to



windmills, children were able to use their imagination once again with Radio Lollipop. Our magic bubbles made the little ones smile and volunteers also gave out some fun Radio Lollipop bags.

A priceless moment of this event was hearing from visitors, patients, and hospital staff, who spoke about Radio Lollipop and how helpful the program is in creating a fun and comforting environment at the hospital for the children.

"Events like these really show you how important volunteers and programs like Radio Lollipop are to the hospital and the community," said Radio Lollipop Wacky Wednesday member Juan Oves.



RADIO LOLLIPOP

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, Radio Lollipop 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.



Parent / Patient Stories...

This is a great hospital. It was a lot of fun and it was awesome. My nurses were great! Amy Holyfield had an extra special touch. Thank you MCH, I hadn't been here in years, and after our stay here, I'm happy to say, I will definitely come back here for my children's medical needs. The nurses in charge for my daughter's care were very sweet and attentive to our needs. I must thank Radio Lollipop for being such a great part of MCH. You guys have incredible volunteers and we had lots of fun.

Parent



On behalf of Elizabeth and myself we would like to thank all the volunteers, especially from the morning hospitality cart. It is the kindest, most-thoughtful thing to do for patients and family in a hospital. This is one of the many reasons why Miami Children's is the best!

Parent

This is my second stay in Miami Children's Hospital and I must say that I have both wonderful experiences with the staff here. Overall I find this hospital a great healing place for children, even though I am 19, I see the activities, the volunteers, Radio Lollipop, and these excellent televisions. The staff members aren't just amazing at what they do but they have an outstanding personality and heart. Keep up the great work.

Patient



I just want to say thank you for making our son's (Mitch) stay in the hospital a happier experience. You all made him smile and kept his mind off the reason he was there. He told all his friends and family about the fun he had doing the activities, and especially being live on the radio! Thank you.

Parent

I think MCH has covered every base. I love the improvement with the rooms and the get-well network and television set up. It kept my daughter very entertained while in the hospital. Also, I always enjoy the Radio Lollipop team and volunteers for their help as well too.

Parent

The volunteers that do Radio Lollipop are awesome. They made both my sick child and my other child who came to visit smile. They gave my one year old a teddy bear and every time the nurses came to check him, he grabbed on tight to the bear. It comforted him a lot. Thank you.

Parent



I am very surprised with the services provided at Miami Children's Hospital. I would like to extend my gratitude towards Radio Lollipop and Child Life Services. Radio Lollipop is not only entertainment for the patients but also for the parents who are so tense with everything that is going on. These are the kind of services that make the difference amongst other hospitals; they are truly focused on the children and their families.

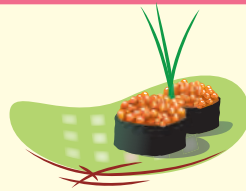
Parent



I am extremely surprised and pleased with programs like Radio Lollipop. I admire their dedication, enthusiasm, and passion the volunteers show when coming into the room and encouraging patients to engage into the activities. This made the admission to MCH less stressful and that was commendable.

Patient

'Maki Madness' rolls out donations for Radio Lollipop



On your mark, get set, sushi! That was the scene at Radio Lollipop's second annual "Maki Madness," an all-you-can-eat sushi contest sponsored by RA Sushi South Miami. The event brought out many hopeful contestants looking not only to win the contest, but to also donate \$10 with their participation to Radio Lollipop. Another way folks contributed to Radio Lollipop was by ordering the Viva Las Vegas roll, donating \$2 to Radio Lollipop with every roll that was ordered. In total, the event was able to raise an unofficial total of over \$600.



The Champion!

As for the contest, this year's event had cameras rolling as two special contestants from Telemundo Network's late night sports talk show, Titulares y Más, anchors Edgar Lopez and Karim Mendiburu gave it their best shot to take home the trophy.

Lopez made it to the second round, while Mendiburu struggled and said sayonara ("goodbye" in Japanese) after the first round. Reigning champion, Brad Goodwin defended his title for a second consecutive year, edging out

Radio Lollipop volunteer Jorge Tameron, who came in second place.

"The event was awesome, winning second place was even better, but raising money for Radio Lollipop and bringing awareness to the program takes the cake," said Tameron.

Radio Lollipop would like to thank RA Sushi South Miami, all of the contest participants, and volunteers for all of their help and for lending a helping hand to the kids at Miami Children's Hospital.



Valentine's Bake Sale

The lobby of MCH was filled with yummy smells of Valentine baked goods, February 12th! Volunteers Linda Faber, Juan Oves, Rhoni Tannebaum, and Melissa Ruiz-Lau donned Lollipop aprons and under the direction of Juan, we sold wonderful home baked goods donated by the volunteers. Brownies, cookies, cupcakes, cakes and lollipops brought smiles to everyone and over \$500 in proceeds. It was such a successful and fun event that we plan to do it again!



Volunteers serving up sweet treats.



Interested in
Volunteering
for Radio
Lollipop?



for Children
in Hospital

Get an application at

[www.mch.com/
RadioLollipop](http://www.mch.com/RadioLollipop)

Visit our
international site at
www.RadioLollipop.com

or give us a call at
786-624-4431

Join us!



Volunteer Stories...

Juan Oves

I truly believe that the three hours a week we volunteer at Radio Lollipop allow us to truly discover the value of life. I remember when I first started volunteering at Radio Lollipop; I instantly got attached to PICU/CICU. I felt that these units really needed that burst of good energy and company, not only for the patients, but also for the family and friends. I remember exactly a year ago, I walked into a room and saw a mother sitting in a chair looking into a cradle and speaking in a smooth and calming voice. At that moment, my heart sank, as I realized how delicate the situation truly was. I did not know how to react, but I smiled at her and asked if I could come in. The mother had an amazing spirit and energy about her, which made me feel very comfortable. She introduced me to her child and I saw the excitement in the child's eyes when I presented the child with an arts and crafts activity.

The child stayed in the hospital throughout the year, so I naturally developed a relationship not only with the nurses and staff, but also with mother and child. I realized how important a few words and a conversation could be to a patient and their family while staying in the hospital. Every

Wednesday night, the patient was always looking forward to the art activity, and no matter the circumstances, her spirit was always high. After a year of seeing the child in a cradle filled with tubes, you could now see a beautiful little boy that was constantly smiling. I remember once looking into his eyes and realizing how important love and compassion can be for the healing process. I realized that it takes more than medicine to heal. Healing can come from a soft voice of a mother whispering to her child, a nurse caring for a child, a doctor giving a child hope, and a volunteer comforting the child and family. I realized Miami Children's Hospital is a big community family, which is just as important as the medical treatment a patient receives while they are at the hospital.

This particular patient that has taught me so much about the value of life had to fly to another hospital recently, but I do know Miami Children's Hospital and Radio Lollipop played a major role in healing that child and family and gave them a sense of hope.

Thank you MCH and Radio Lollipop, together we can make a difference in a child's life.



Rhoni Tannenbaum

Last night it happened again, as it has several times over the years of my volunteering. A patient stole my heart. I was working in one of the units and a little Haitian boy, just 3, who recently had back surgery, spotted me with my magic wand. He looked in awe and I bent down to him and showed him the wand, alight with colors and magical sounds; a huge smile came across his face. We could not communicate but did not have to. I showed him how to push the heart and the wand would go on. I gave it to him to keep. It matters not that we could not speak each other's language, rather the language of care, comfort, laughter and entertainment. It was just another example of how Radio Lollipop continues to carry out our mission worldwide.



Nancy Campos

Three years ago, I lost my life-long best friend, mentor, business partner, second father, brother, and hero to cancer. For three months straight, I spend every minute with the man I loved the most in life, believing with all my heart that he would pull through. I was in no way prepared for the worst.

As I sat in the hallway of a hospital, other patients came outside of their rooms, including one patient who suffered from narcolepsy. He spoke to me and said that no one ever came to visit him on his countless visits to the hospital. Another patient, an elderly woman three rooms down from us, would always scream for her daughter, but her daughter was no where to be found or seen in those three months. My sister and I would go in and calm her down and she would stop screaming and crying. We saw many children with and our hearts would go out to them because children should not have to suffer this dreadful disease called cancer. I have always loved children and I have always worked with children in one capacity or another, but never in a hospital setting, I realized that in a hospital is where volunteers are most needed.

I'm so grateful to have been referred to MCH Radio Lollipop and being given the opportunity to do so because there's nothing like it. I have seen firsthand the difference Radio Lollipop makes. Live radio, trivia, story-telling, creative activities all brings about a sense of well-being and cheers up children by having their hospital stay actually be somewhat of a fun experience. If only for a few hours, several days a week, the kids are distracted from what they're going through and it gives them a break from medical procedures. It gives them a sense of accomplishment. It brings a mother from tears to smiles as she's doing the activity with for or with her child.

The lasting impression Radio Lollipopers give is seen in other areas as well. For example, I did the art project for Child Life, in which 2 out of 5 kids made it a point to put the Radio Lollipop logo on their creation. The joy Radio Lollipop brings is beyond what we can even imagine and the effects are felt way long after the child leaves the hospital. There's nothing like Miami Children's Hospital, and there's nothing like Radio Lollipop.



Katrina Sanchez

I recently joined the Radio Lollipop team and I can say that it has been an amazing and a life changing experience. The people I volunteer with are nice, funny, extremely welcoming, and make every day enjoyable for both the kids and for one another.

Having the ability to make at least one child smile, knowing all that they must be going through, makes me feel like I have accomplished something that not too many people have the opportunity to take part of.

One story that really touched me happened a few weeks ago. I went to cheer up a beautiful little girl, who was a non-responsive patient. She could not speak or make eye contact with me, but after a few visits, I brought her back a few prizes to cheer her up.

I felt such great joy when I went back to the room and the little girl turned and smiled at me for the first time. That moment made me smile along with her. I am so proud that by giving the patients hope and happiness through play, laughter, and tons of silliness, we give them a little bit more strength as each day passes. I am so happy to be a part of this amazing group of people, and I hope to continue changing the lives of children each day I get to volunteer at Radio Lollipop.



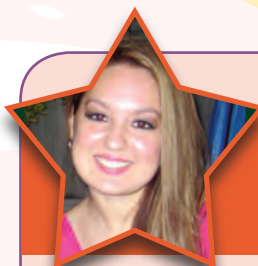
Volunteer Spotlight



Hilda Alvarez
Wacky Wednesday

Hello, my name is Hilda Alvarez or better known as "Little Miss Sunshine", and I have been a proud Radio Lollipop volunteer since August 2009. At first, I knew that I wanted to volunteer for something but I wasn't sure of what or where. I came into the volunteer office and asked for an application. It was at orientation that I started becoming interested in Radio Lollipop. I looked more into it, and wasn't too sure it would be for me but I was decided to give it a shot, be a little bit more adventurous and expand my horizons a bit. Since that day, I keep on being reassured that the decision I made was the best I have ever made. On the first day as an official volunteer, I was very nervous but it all went very well, all the volunteers were great, full of joy and made me feel like family right away.

My expectations for the program have been way overachieved because I thought it would be a fun experience, being part of a radio station and all, but its just so much more than that, you have to experience the lollipop world for yourself. If I were to even think of leaving Radio Lollipop, I would thank the program by organizing a fundraiser to obtain funds for all the needs of the program so that they could continue bringing smiles to children and their families when it is most needed.



Laura Londono
Super Saturday

My name is Laura Londono and I have been volunteering for one year. I have always done volunteer work in the past and I decided I wanted to volunteer with kids, which is something I had never done before.

The program far exceeded my expectations. I was not expecting to get so attached to the patients that I visit as well as my fellow volunteers. They have made my experience at Miami Children's Hospital unforgettable and have made me a better person.

It is very difficult to find the words to express one's gratitude for a program that has actually changed your life. However, I am very thankful to the program for constantly reminding me that life should never be taken for granted and to always tell those you love just how you feel. I would say thank you for allowing me not to judge others because I myself am not perfect. Lastly, I would thank the program for opening up my heart and allowing myself to be vulnerable to those around me. These are great lessons to learn that I will take with me for the rest of my life.



Cory Jones
Thrilling Thursday

My name is Cory Jones. I've been currently volunteering with the Radio Lollipop for a year. I decided to become a volunteer because I felt I wanted to contribute and make a difference, and Radio Lollipop would be an excellent vehicle by which to touch someone else's life. Reflecting on this past year, my numerous experiences have offered me an abundance of opportunities to interact with patients and their families. I've truly been blessed by my Thursday night team members and the spirit of the patients as I visit them on a personal level. I transfer and move around a lot due to my job. Eventually, I will have to say goodbye to Radio Lollipop and I'm really not looking forward to that day. I've bonded with my Thursday team, and getting an opportunity to visit with the patients is priceless. My life has been enriched in a way I can't fully explain. The only way I could really say thank you to Radio Lollipop for all that it has done for me, is by continuing to volunteer and serve in a new capacity in my new city. Spreading the word of what it really means to be of good cheer, and helping out. I've learned we are all called to do more; we just have to answer that calling.



Laura Espinosa
Terrific Tuesday

Hi all! My name is Laura Espinosa (or Looney Laura if you may). I have been a volunteer at Radio Lollipop for about eight joyful months. It's kind of funny how I became a volunteer because it was accidental. Trying to become familiar with the pharmacy world, I was looking to volunteer somewhere in that department. However, the moment I found out about Radio Lollipop, I immediately fell in love, and I knew it was just for me!

I can truly say I have never felt happier to make not only children, but also families, forget about everything that is going on around by having a few minutes of distracting fun. It astonishes me at what a difference Radio Lollipop does for each little heart in each room we walk into, and after every Tuesday night, no matter how horrible my day was, I walk out of Miami Children's with the biggest smile on my face.

When the time comes for me to leave Radio Lollipop, there would be no possible way to show just how thankful I am to be have been volunteer, because it really has impacted my life in so many ways, but I would try to do toy drives or get donations from the community so Radio Lollipop can continue to grow and bring joy to each child.

Burger Kings for one ‘Whopper’ of a night

On Thursday February 25, 2010, representatives from Burger King visited the Thrilling Thursday team in order to spend a night in the shoes of a Radio Lollipop volunteer. The Burger King team not only brought props and a positive attitude but they also brought a great activity for the kids to do. The kids were given a small “make your own crown” kit that included stickers, plastic gemstones and other embellishments. The team also provided us with toys and a fun activity packet for the kids to complete. Once everything was ready, the Burger King representatives were paired up with Thrilling Thursday volunteers and were given the opportunity to go out and visit the rooms. The representatives passed out activities, interacted with the patients, picked winners and delivered toys. In fact, many of the Radio Lollipop volunteers noted how outgoing, helpful and natural the Burger King representatives were. At the end of the night, the Burger King team expressed their admiration for the program and told us that they had a great time. Without a doubt Burger King’s visit to the Radio Lollipop studio was a great success!



Management Team

Chairperson Javier Izquierdo
 Assistant Chairperson Nora Barriere
 Treasurer Lynn Heyman
 Secretary Dayana Rodezno
 Program Coordinator Lucia Schneegans
 Marketing Chair Alex Sanchez
 Fundraising Chair Juan Oves
 Play Coordinator Natalie Equizabal
 Education Chair Ann Cunningham

Thanks to our Special Guests

- Burger King
- Health Occupation Students of America
- Kappa Delta Pi
- Lance Armstrong Foundation
- Merrill Lynch
- Project Sunshine
- Tri M Honor Society

Thank you to our dedicated and committed volunteers:

Hilda Alvarez	David De La Flor	Nicholas Holzer	Vicy Mir	Vivian Revilla	Talisa Suarez
Melissa Alvarez	Lydia Del Pino	Donna Huck	Melissa Morales	Dayana Rodezno	Stephanie Sydnor
Nora Barriere	Jerfoon Desorme	Javier Izquierdo	Amy Murphy	William Rodriguez	Evelyn Tamayo
Carolina Bedoya	Natalie Equizabal	Cory Jones	Mejdi Najjar	Melissa Ruiz	Jorge Tameron
David Berry	Laura Espinosa	Randolph Koper	Katherine Napuri	Alex Sanchez	Rhoni Tannebaum
Kristina Cahill	Linda Faber	Marc Kuperman	Kiara Nydam	Katrina Sanchez	Esmeralda Torres
Joel Calafell	Javier Farinas	Laura Londono	Veronique Nydam	Claudia Sandino	Elaine Urdaneta
Nancy Campos	Miguel Garcia	Alicia Lopez	Jimena Ordonez	Jessica Sandoval	Ana Vega
Catherine Cepeda	Andrew Geffner	Vanessa Lopez	Juan Oves	Nathalie Santa Maria	Lissvett Vergara
Iris Cicero	Florencia Goluboff	Caterina Marazzi	Dalina Padron	Jessica Santana	Vanessa Vinas
Sebastian Cortes	Caressa Gonzalez	Marlene Martinez	Kristy Ramirez	Jessa Santiago	Meagan Wentworth
Colleen Cummings	Hunter Heniser	Betsy Medina	Jorge Ramos	Lucia Schneegans	Kenneth Wilder
Ann Cunningham	Alexander Hernandez	Dani Meyrick	Alexander Ravelo	Aleyda Sosa	Marien Yanes

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

