



*Sebastian
Overcomes
the Odds*

Tummy Troubles
**When It's More
Than a Stomachache**

Struggling to Stay Dry?
**Help for Drier
Nights and Days**

Listen Up!
**What You Need to
Know about Ear
Infections—**

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**Director of Marketing & Public Relations
Miami Children's Hospital**

Marcia Diaz de Villegas

**Director of Marketing & Community
Relations, Miami Children's Hospital
Foundation**

Ivette R. Diaz

Editor

Rachel Perry

Contributing Writers

Ivette Diaz, Maria Moldes, Daniel Brantley,
Heather Durst, Lori Futcher, Jenny Havron,
Erin King, Sheryl K. Montle, Toby Pendergrass,
Jason Skinner

Designer

Marianne R. Dunn

Developed by

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Dear Friends,

Stomachaches are a common part of childhood, and sometimes they require serious help. In fact, chronic abdominal pain syndrome affects 10 to 15 percent of school-aged children between the ages of 5 and 15. For children suffering from this disorder, as well as many others ranging from gastroesophageal reflux disease to lactose intolerance, Miami Children's Hospital offers help through the Division of Gastroenterology. Leading physicians conduct screenings and clinics to diagnose and treat these conditions in children throughout South Florida.

In this issue of *Children's Gazette*, you'll also read about Sebastian Alfonso, who started walking under the watchful guidance of Miami Children's Hospital's neurosurgeons. Born premature, Sebastian suffered from a severe case of cerebral palsy that affected his muscle control. Now, the active 4-year-old is a walking, talking "pianist" who hopes to one day lead a symphony.

Our leading pediatric gastroenterologists and neurosurgeons—as well as our varied other specialists—continue to save lives and achieve medical breakthroughs at Miami Children's. And the world is taking notice. We are proud to sponsor the 40th Annual Pediatric Postgraduate Course, which brings together physicians from around the country.

While we're advancing medical care for children throughout the world, we're also making them laugh. Our Big Apple Circus Clown CareSM (BAC) program adds a unique element to Miami Children's—helping our patients forget they're in a hospital environment through laughter.

This is just a glimpse of the great works going on at Miami Children's every day. We thank you for your continued support in bringing our services to the community.

Sincerely,

Christian C. Patrick, MD, PhD
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER/SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEDICAL AFFAIRS
MIAMI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



Overcoming the Odds

Born premature and diagnosed with cerebral palsy, Sebastian Alonso underwent a procedure called selective dorsal rhizotomy at Miami Children's Hospital. Today, the active and joyful 4-year-old counts playing the piano among his favorite hobbies.

PATIENT PROFILE: *Sebastian Alonso*

Born on April 10, 2000, Sebastian Alonso seemed to be in good shape. He was 19.5 inches long, weighed 3.5 pounds and spent only four hours on a ventilator—pretty impressive for a baby born 11 weeks premature. But that was only the first test for young Sebastian.

Before their son's inaugural homecoming, new parents Esther Rivera and Carlos Alonso were told Sebastian needed to see a neurologist. During their visit, Sebastian was diagnosed with a severe case of cerebral palsy, a condition that causes difficulty with muscle control. In Sebastian's case, it would make it nearly impossible to pass key milestones like chewing solid foods and walking.

"A specialist in the community said my son would never be normal," Esther recalls, "so I never went to him again."

Instead, the Hialeah resident took Sebastian to a rehabilitation center in Miami, where she eventually learned of a procedure offered at Miami Children's Hospital that would change Sebastian's life forever.

MOVING FORWARD

Only a little later than his peers, Sebastian learned to walk using a walker. As he walked, Sebastian's legs

moved in a scissor-like motion, causing his body to droop close to the floor. After a lot of research, encouragement from Sebastian's physical therapist, and a meeting with Glenn Morrison, MD, pediatric neurosurgeon on staff at Miami Children's, Esther decided selective dorsal rhizotomy could benefit her 4-year-old son.

"Before I met Dr. Morrison, I was very nervous about the procedure," Esther admits. "However, the way the doctor explained it and his calm, friendly manner helped me relax, and I realized Sebastian would be in good hands."

PROCEEDING TO A BETTER LIFE

During selective dorsal rhizotomy, a one- to two-inch incision is made in the lower back. Through this hole, the surgeon can view the sensory nerve fibers running from the muscles to the spinal cord. Those nerve fibers responsible for creating the muscle tightness are cut, relieving tension in the affected limbs. The incision is then closed with special surgical glue.

"Sebastian was a good candidate to see positive results from the procedure as he didn't have an excessive amount of spasticity," says Dr. Morrison. "For maximum benefit, patients have to undergo intense physical therapy afterwards. Sebastian's mom made sure

her son did that, and Sebastian has reaped the benefits as a result."

A BRIGHT FUTURE

Since undergoing his operation last summer at the ripe age of 4, Sebastian has started walking again—now with proper posture—and has hopes of one day running with his 18-month-old sister, Rebecca, without his walker. He is fluent in Spanish and English, has a love of the arts, attends Miami Springs Elementary and has started eating solid foods.

"There is not a word in the English language to show how grateful I am for the surgery Sebastian underwent," Esther says. "I want to say 'Thank you, thank you, thank you,' to all the staff at Miami Children's who helped my son. It's the best thing that could ever have happened to him."

FUN FACTS ABOUT SEBASTIAN

FAVORITE SPORTS
Soccer and baseball

FAVORITE MUSIC
Classical

FAVORITE HOBBIES
Painting, playing the piano and computer games

FUTURE OCCUPATION
Orchestra or symphony conductor

Taking on Tummy



“Chronic abdominal pain is very common in children. Most of the time it does not represent a severe disease or illness.”

—Jesse Reeves-Garcia, MD,
pediatric gastroenterologist at
Miami Children’s Hospital

Waking your child up for school, you hear those words—again. “My tummy hurts.” You start asking questions, “Do you feel like you’re going to throw up?” “Does it hurt anywhere else?” “Are you worried about something at school?”

WHY BEING SICK IS SOMETIMES OKAY

According to a recent survey in the *British Journal of Cancer*, children’s risk of developing acute lymphoblastic leukemia drops by 20 percent or more if they experience four or more common infections, including tummy trouble, before age 1. This is because exposure to germs can help some potentially cancerous immune cells grow properly.

Kids get stomachaches from all sorts of things including gastroenteritis (stomach flu), milk intolerance or allergy, stress, changes in the diet and intestinal blockage. While these can be serious, common causes for benign stomachache include mild constipation and overeating, especially sweet, high-fat, low-fiber foods. A few hours of rest and an adequate amount of water and fiber in the diet can be a quick fix for children’s stomachaches.

If the pain doesn’t go away or reoccurs frequently, watch for the following symptoms:

- pain comes and goes for longer than one week
- pain when urinating
- your child also has a sore throat or cough
- diarrhea continues for more than seven days
- pain that is focused above or below the bellybutton
- fever with severe pain

- pain that awakens a sleeping child
- blood in stools or bloody or green vomit

One or more of these signs may indicate a serious problem. You should make an appointment with your child’s doctor as soon as possible.

BIG-TIME TUMMY ACHES

Here are some stomach troubles that should be monitored and treated by a doctor.

Gastroesophageal reflux (GER) happens when food backs up into the throat and irritates the lining of the esophagus. Physicians at Miami Children’s Hospital can perform an endoscopy, a test that checks the lining of the stomach and upper gastrointestinal tract, or a pH probe study. This test will evaluate the pH level in the esophagus and determine the severity of the condition. Some cases of GER may be treated by modifying your child’s diet, while others require medication prescribed by a pediatrician.



My Tummy Trouble



Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) can create feelings of cramping, gas and diarrhea or bloating and constipation. IBS often occurs during times of stress such as divorce, moving or going on vacation. Certain types of food (milk, chocolate, caffeine) should be avoided because they can irritate IBS symptoms. Your doctor can also prescribe medication to relieve symptoms.

Gastroenteritis is commonly known as the stomach flu. It's caused by a viral or bacterial infection that results in inflammation of the stomach and intestines, which may lead to vomiting, diarrhea and loss of appetite. These symptoms in turn can cause dehydration, a serious condition if not treated. Throughout the two- to three-day duration of the stomach flu, encourage your child to drink small amounts of liquids frequently. If your child still doesn't have wet diapers or isn't going to the bathroom, call his or her doctor immediately.

Lactose intolerance happens when the body doesn't produce enough lactase, the necessary enzyme to break down sugar that's found in milk and dairy products. These sugars can cause gas and diarrhea as it ferments in the stomach. If your child experiences discomfort after consuming dairy products, you can schedule a lactose intolerance test at Miami Children's. This test will measure your child's tolerance of dairy products. Treatment may include lactase enzyme tablets



as prescribed by your doctor and an appropriate diet.

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) is a broad term that covers ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. The symptoms of ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease are similar, but ulcerative colitis commonly occurs in the small intestine and Crohn's disease affects the large intestine. Both conditions cause the walls of the intestines to become red, swollen and thick. IBD can cause diarrhea, bleeding from the rectum, fever and weight loss.

MINIMIZING TUMMY TROUBLE

While stomachaches aren't fun, they can be controlled. The Division of Gastroenterology at Miami Children's offers ways to help children stay healthy through building a healthy diet, screening those at high risk for heart disease, determining body fat in relation to a child's height and weight and testing for lactose intolerance to prevent unnecessary discomfort. Miami Children's also offers subspecialty clinics on inflammatory bowel disease, gastroesophageal reflux and encopresis, a complication of constipation.

For more information about tummy troubles your child is experiencing, call the Division of Gastroenterology at Miami Children's at (305) 661-6110.

WHO SAID YOU HAD TO HAVE A TUMMY ACHE?

Try these easy precautions for those times when tummy aches can be prevented.

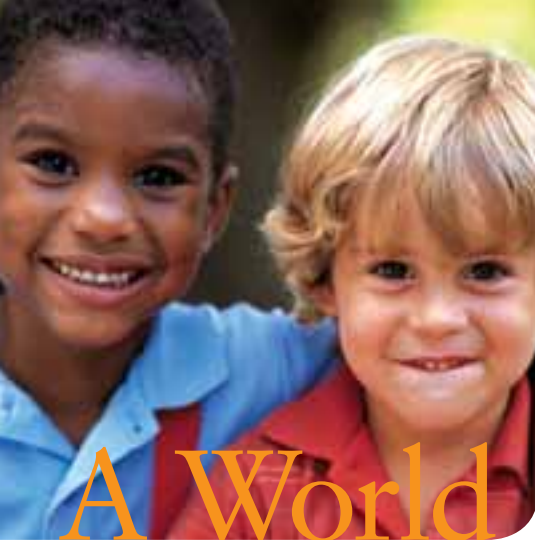
- Don't let your child overeat.
- Fill your child's diet with fiber-rich foods, such as fruits and vegetables, to keep bowel movements regular.
- Encourage your child to wash his or her hands before every meal.
- Avoid letting your child eat right before bedtime.
- Schedule adequate sleeping time.

SERIOUS HELP FOR STOMACHS

Sometimes there are stomach problems kids won't outgrow. In this time of need, professionals at Miami Children's Hospital offer a wide range of treatments for the following conditions to ensure your child won't miss a beat of his or her active life:

- gastroesophageal reflux (GER)
- Crohn's disease
- giardia and other gastrointestinal infections
- inflammatory bowel disease
- lactose intolerance
- gastrointestinal bleeding
- short bowel syndrome





A World of Specialists Await

Each week at Miami Children's Hospital's Dan Marino Center, children are seen by numerous specialists for the comprehensive and high-quality care they need. Making it all possible are the many medical specialists who take time to visit the tiny tots and teens at the MCH Dan Marino Center, which specializes in diagnosing and treating children at risk for developmental and psychological problems.

"We can provide care in an integrative fashion to optimize each child's care and ultimately his or her outcome," says Albert Rego, Administrative Director

of the MCH Dan Marino Center. "In fact, we're the only outpatient facility in Broward County

where children can come and see multiple specialists on the same day."

Among the specialties available at the center are the following:

- cardiology
- dermatology
- ear, nose and throat (ENT)

- genetics
- nephrology
- neurology
- ophthalmology
- psychology
- urology

Other services available at the Dan Marino Center are physical, occupational and speech therapy; audiological screenings; brainstem, audio and visual-evoked potential studies; EEG testing and video monitoring; educational services; psychology and behavior modification; and MRI testing.

"We've grown from approximately 26,000 patient visits in 1998 to more than 46,000 in 2003 because of the county's growing population and increased awareness of the services available here," adds Rego. "To further enhance our service capabilities, we're starting construction on a 5,000-square-foot expansion of the second floor in January 2005."

For more information about Miami Children's Hospital's Dan Marino Center, call (954) 385-6200.

Influencing Medicine for 40 Years

Since 1950, Miami Children's Hospital has been improving the lives of children from South Florida and beyond. But children aren't the only ones benefiting from the hospital's expertise. For 40 years, doctors from around the United States have participated in one of the most established pediatric continuing education programs in the country at Miami Children's.

During the 40th Annual Pediatric Postgraduate Course "Perspectives in Pediatrics," physicians will gather in Miami to attend lectures by leading experts in pediatrics, who will speak on state-of-the-art diagnosis and treatment options for some of the most prevalent conditions affecting children and adolescents.

"The experts we gather to lecture at the Pediatric Postgraduate Course are at the top of their fields and provide information on the most current developments," says

Christian C. Patrick, MD, PhD, Program Chair, Chief Medical Officer and Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs at Miami Children's Hospital. "This conference has enjoyed a long lifespan because of the expertise of the presenters, the quality of the lectures and the value of the information gained by the doctors."

After attending the week-long series of lectures on topics such as infections, public health and pediatric HIV, physicians return to their offices and apply their newly learned information to patient care.

"It's a win-win situation for everyone involved," Dr. Patrick says, "because the information shared during these lectures has a positive impact on patient care."

To learn more about the 40th Annual Pediatric Postgraduate Course, call (305) 663-1628.



Telefonica

Giving the Gift of Security

When you think of making a donation, dollars and cents may come to mind. But that's not the only way organizations give to Miami Children's Hospital Foundation—some choose to offer their valuable services as gifts. And it's with much gratitude and appreciation that Miami Children's Hospital Foundation receives the emergency data recovery/protection services of Telefonica USA, a provider of high-quality telecommunications services for businesses and residents.

A SOURCE OF SECURITY

Telefonica is one of the world's leading telecommunications companies

with operations in 40 countries. The company provides unique global communications and computing infrastructure management and solutions to maintain and protect information technology assets of organizations across the globe like the hospital's Foundation.

As Miami Children's Hospital Foundation faced the threats of the summer's unrelenting series of hurricanes, the services provided by Telefonica were in the spotlight. The Foundation rested easier knowing its electronic data of fundraising history including donor records was protected and secure despite the storms.

"After going through four hurricane scares, it has become all the more important to have Telefonica's assistance," says Ivette Diaz, Director of Marketing and Community Relations for Miami Children's Foundation. "Telefonica is currently responsible for hosting our web site, e-mail and back-up files for all data including financial and donor records. This information is the heart and soul of our operation, and it's vital to our ongoing operations."

WHERE THE HEART IS

The heart of Telefonica resides at its world-class KeyCenter (a 173,000-square-foot next-generation data center) in Miami, where this information is housed, monitored and secured.

"We have always enjoyed a great business relationship with Miami Children's Hospital Foundation, and we felt a desire to contribute to its efforts by offering our Business Continuity package, complete with data backup and 24-hour, seven-day-a-week data monitoring and security services," says Al Quintana, Vice President of Marketing Communications at Telefonica USA. "We also provide an additional equipment location in a structure built to withstand hurricane winds in excess of 155 miles per hour.

"In today's world, it's critical for businesses to have plans in place to protect themselves from catastrophic acts of nature or terrorism that would in any way inhibit their ongoing operations," says Quintana.

With the proper business continuity plans in place, Telefonica clients never have to worry about implementing disaster recovery programs.

"We appreciate and respect the contributions organizations like Miami Children's Hospital Foundation have made to the South Florida community throughout the years," says Quintana. "We're proud to be a partner in their efforts."

For more information about how you or your company can contribute to the Miami Children's Hospital Foundation, please contact Ivette Diaz at (786) 268-1822.

"In today's world, it's critical for businesses to have plans in place to protect themselves from catastrophic acts of nature or terrorism that would in any way inhibit their ongoing operations."

—Al Quintana, Vice President of Marketing Communications at Telefonica USA

Drier Nights



Your 6-year-old daughter has been potty trained since she was 2, but all of a sudden, she's wetting the bed several times a week. Not only is she frustrated and embarrassed by the wet sheets and the teasing she gets from her siblings, but she won't spend the night with friends because she fears she'll have an accident.

While most children can stay dry during the day by the time they're 4 years old, it's not unusual for kids to wet the bed during childhood. In fact, nocturnal enuresis—the medical term for bedwetting—affects 15 percent of 5- to 6-year-olds.

This hereditary condition is not caused by a psychological disorder, stress or laziness. Instead, bedwetting occurs when the brain doesn't react to the message that the bladder is full and needs to be emptied.

SEEKING HELP

While bedwetting is completely normal, parents might want to seek treatment options for their child that will help him or her stay dry at night. At Miami Children's Hospital's Center for Enuresis and Urinary Disorders, the team of medical experts offers a multidisciplinary approach to diagnosing and treating urinary disorders, all while keeping the child's well-being in mind.

On the first visit to the clinic, the center's staff will perform a patient and family medical history as well as a physical examination to properly diagnose the condition. At that point, the program director, Anselmo Cepero-Akselrad, MD, board-certified pediatric nephrologist on staff at the clinic, will develop a treatment plan that may include behavior modification or prescription medications. Follow-up visits will continue throughout the year.

EXPERT CARE ON HAND

If an additional approach is necessary, the Center for Enuresis and Urinary Disorders can bring in one of Miami Children's Hospital's subspecialists—including surgeons, urologists, adolescent medicine specialists, neurologists or gastroenterologists—to help in the child's treatment.

For more information about Miami Children's Hospital's Center for Enuresis and Urinary Disorders, call (305) 662-8352.

Happy Mornings



staying dry

If your child continues to wet the bed after he or she has been potty trained, don't get upset about the problem or ignore it and hope it will go away. Instead, talk to your child about going to the bathroom and find out the source of the problem. Sometimes, an explanation of how the bladder works is all it takes.

You'll need to mention the bedwetting to your child's pediatrician, but you can try some of these suggestions at home as well.

- Encourage your child to drink fluids throughout the day and to use the restroom regularly while at daycare or school. When kids come home thirsty and then drink lots of fluids right before bedtime, they'll often urinate more at night.
- A moisture-sensitive alarm that rings and wakes your child at night can over time help your child develop a conditioned response to wake for urination. This method is effective for between 50 and 80 percent of cases.



“Mommy, My Ear Hurts!”

If you haven't heard those words from your toddler yet, you probably will. That's because two out of three children under the age of 3 experience at least one episode of acute otitis media, or ear infection, especially children who are in daycare or who live with a smoker. And

when it happens, there are specific symptoms every parent should be able to recognize.

“To diagnose ear infection, I tell parents to look for three indicators—pain, fever that's moderate to severe and fluid in the middle ear,” says Isaac Shubich, MD, board-certified otolaryngologist (ear, nose and throat physician) on staff at Miami Children's Hospital. “If those three signs are present, it's clear the child has an ear infection.”

The next steps parents should take depend on the child's age and severity of symptoms. While many seek relief with antibiotics, studies have shown that up to 80 percent of acute ear infections will clear up on their own without medical treatment. In addition, the bacteria that most commonly causes ear infections (pneumococcus) is becoming increasingly resistant to antibiotics as a result of overuse.

“Many ear infections are caused by a virus and therefore do not require antibiotics,” says Dr. Shubich. “While children younger than age 2 should be started on antibiotics because of the risk of meningitis, the best treatment for an ear infection in children age 2 and over is to wait and watch them for two or three days. If symptoms persist, then you should schedule a doctor visit for diagnosis and appropriate treatment.”

For more information or to schedule an appointment with Dr. Shubich, call (305) 662-8316.

The **Funny** Side of Medicine



DR. PESCADO

A colorful team of unusual doctors brings a dose of laughter to Miami Children's Hospital.

A group of young patients at Miami Children's Hospital hears a knock on the door and expects to see a doctor or nurse. Instead, a colorful clown appears in the doorway—juggling, smiling and performing magic tricks—and within seconds the children are clapping and smiling and the room has been transformed into a magical place.

“A hospital can be a serious environment, so a child appreciates the absurdity of seeing a clown doctor dressed in a funny costume,” says John Lynch, also known as Dr. Pescado, a professional clown in the Big Apple Circus Clown CareSM (BAC) program. “The clowns treat children as kids instead of patients—we use humor as our medicine.”

“Clown doctors” like Lynch are professional performers trained to work in the sensitive environment of a hospital. The clowns—who don't wear scary wigs or make-up—make bedside

visits throughout the hospital, including the Intensive Care Unit, Bone Marrow Transplant Center, and Emergency and Physical Therapy departments.

Three to four days each week, the clown doctors use parody to help take the mystery out of medical procedures by performing “clown medicine,” including red-nose transplants, juggling, kitty “cat” scans, chocolate milk transfusions and music.

“When a child sees a clown enter the room, he or she is able to leave the problems of the world behind and become part of a fun place where anything can happen,” says Lynch. “When a parent tells me, ‘That's the first time I've seen my child laugh in days,’ I feel like I have the best job in the world.”

For more information on Miami Children's Clown Care, visit www.bigapplecircus.org.



2004 International Pediatric Hall of Fame Gala

CBS 4 News anchor Maggie Rodriguez and inductee Ambassador David M. Walters

Domino Tournament Benefits CMN

The Second Annual Citgo/Sunshine Gasoline Distributors' Family Picnic & Domino Tournament was held at A.D. Barnes Park in Miami. The fun-filled afternoon included a delicious barbecue, Cuban coffee, entertainment for the children and, of course, a very competitive domino tournament. This year's tournament raised \$8,500 for CMN. Thank you to Max Alvarez for matching the funds raised at the tournament and Sandy Alvarez-Reus and everyone at Sunshine Gasoline for coordinating another wonderful event.



Sarah M. Selem, Dr. Jose Selem, Dr. Sarah Legoburu-Selem, Dr. Luis Gonzalez-Mendoza and Catin Mendoza

2004 International Pediatric Hall of Fame Gala

Candy Land was the theme of the night as guests strolled into a ballroom that mimicked the game board path and enjoyed themed desserts like Molasses Swamp and Mr. Mint. Thank you to our Community Council for hosting a great event.



Nordstrom Dadeland Gala

Thank you to Nordstrom and to all of the guests who attended this wonderful grand opening event, which raised more than \$200,000 for Miami Children's Hospital Foundation and the Junior League of Miami.

Swing for Smiles

MCHF and Hyatt Hotels teamed up with presenting sponsor Atlantic Dental, Inc. to host the Swing for Smiles Golf Tournament at Doral and with pro-golfer Raymond Floyd, who also hosted a golf clinic after the tournament. Thank you to all of our sponsors, especially the *Miami Herald*, Carnival Cruise Lines, Corporate Express, Hyatt Hotel and Doral Golf Resort and Spa.



The Hyatt Team led by Victor Lopez enjoyed a great day of golf while raising funds for Miami Children's Hospital Foundation.

CROSSMARK Tees Off for CMN

The First Annual CROSSMARK/CMN Golf Tournament was held at the Bonaventure Country Club in Weston. Thank you to Joe DiGiacomo, Linda Horn, and Kristi Reed for coordinating the tournament and raising \$7,000 for CMN.

From left, Andy Marsano, Linda Horn, Maria Moldes, Kristi Reed and Joe DiGiacomo at the CROSSMARK/CMN golf tournament.



Planned Giving

Leaving a Legacy That Matters

By William T. Marks, Senior Vice President, Northern Trust Bank in Ft. Lauderdale

Several years ago, I worked with a wonderful client named Esther. Every few weeks I visited Esther, who was then in her 80s, to assist her with the payment of her bills. During a visit, Esther explained that since her son's recent death, an already strained relationship with her grandchildren had deteriorated. She had decided to change her will and now faced an all-too-common problem—she had no heirs to whom she wanted to leave her estate.

During that visit, I asked Esther if she had ever considered creating a private foundation. Esther was not familiar with this concept and asked me for details. I explained that it was a wonderful way to establish a charitable fund to benefit her favorite organizations in perpetuity, as well as create a legacy in the family name. Esther enthusiastically decided to create a foundation in her husband Charlie's and her name. On many future visits, Esther expressed how thrilled Charlie would have been to see his estate used for such noble causes.

As beneficiaries of the foundation, Esther chose charities including her church, children's hospitals and several other organizations.

Since Esther's death a number of years ago, substantial improvements have been made possible to the building and gardens at her church. And as the research and cure of brain disease was an area that was near to Esther's heart (she lost her son to a brain tumor), her family foundation has already provided significant funding, as well as a recent major commitment, to Miami Children's Brain Institute. With our counsel, when Esther felt alone and unsure in the estate planning process, we were able to give her direction allowing her family's legacy to continue to benefit charitable institutions in perpetuity.

If you would like more information concerning estate and planned giving for Miami Children's Hospital Foundation, please contact Karen Dudley, Vice President of Development, at (305) 666-2889, ext. 1823.



Torch Relay—Miles4Miracles

Marriott's annual Torch Relay began its long 1,100-mile journey to Atlanta at Marriott's Villas at Doral in Miami. Kayla, one of our CMN children, and her family were the guest speakers at this year's torch-lighting ceremony. Marriott properties in Miami-Dade and Broward counties raised funds for CMN through the sale of "miracle" paper torches, sponsorships and pledges. Thank you to Marriott, its associates and vendors for helping to make this year's event a huge success.



Champions Across America

Congratulations to Shea Garcia, one of our CMN children, on being selected for Foresters' "Champions Across America," a CMN program. Shea will be representing the state of Florida as he and his family visit Washington, along with representatives from the other states and Canada.

TGI Friday's Benefits CMN

Four TGI Friday's locations in Miami-Dade County chose CMN as the beneficiary of their annual Bartenders' Competitions. Locations at the Dolphin Mall, The Falls, Aventura Mall and Coral Gables held competitions, and the winners advanced to the regional competition at the Dolphin Mall. This fun event included an auction featuring the specialty drinks created by the participating bartenders, a raffle, promotional-giveaways and great music provided by a guest DJ. Through these competitions and the sale of "miracle" balloons, these four TGI Friday's locations raised \$6,230 for CMN. Thank you to Wally Herrera from the Dolphin Mall location for all his efforts in coordinating the competitions.

CMN News

We'd like to welcome WFOR Channel 4/WBFS UPN 33 to the CMN/MCH Foundation family. We will be working with them on our annual Children's Miracle Network Telethon as well as other projects throughout the year.

Upcoming Events

January/February

Aventura Mall and American Performing Arts Network will host the 2005 Miami's Most Photogenic Baby Contest. Photographs will be taken at Aventura Mall Thursday, January 27 through Sunday, January 30 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.) Awards ceremony on Sunday, February 27 at 1 p.m. The event is open to all children from infants to 5 years of age. For more information, please visit www.photogenicbaby.com or call (330) 467-0577.

March 5 & 6

The Eighth Annual FIU's 25-hour Dance Marathon will be held at the FIU University Park Campus. The event is open to the public. For more information, please call Maria Moldes at (786) 268-1832.

March 9

Strike Miami's Corporate Challenge at Dolphin Mall will be held from 6 to 9:30 p.m. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Children's Miracle Network. For more information, contact Ana Cuartas at (305) 594-0200, extension 408.

April 9

The Sixth Annual XOXO Hugs & Kisses Children's Fashion Show at J.W. Marriott Brickell. For more information, please contact Ivette Diaz at (786) 268-1822.

April 21

The Seventh Annual South Florida Marriott Invitational Golf Tournament will be held at Doral Golf Resort and Spa. For more information, please call Maria Moldes at (786) 268-1832.

May 12

The Miami premiere of Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith. For more information contact Ann Lyons at (786) 268-1830 or e-mail alyons@mchf.org.

June 5

The annual Children's Miracle Network Telethon will air on WBFS, UPN 33 from noon to 8 p.m. For more information, please call Maria Moldes at (786) 268-1832.

Coming Soon!

CMN Bracelets—Show your support of the Children's Miracle Network and Miami Children's Hospital Foundation by purchasing the new CMN bracelet for \$1 each. If your company or organization is interested in purchasing CMN bracelets, contact Alexis Viera at (786) 268-1827. Minimum order of 50 bracelets required.



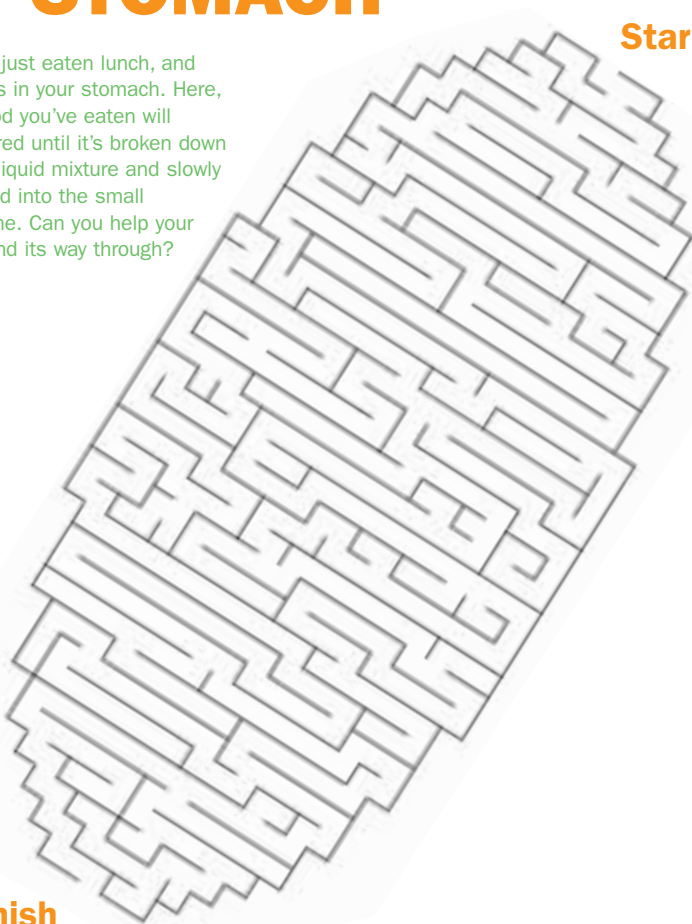
It is with great pleasure that we announce CVS/pharmacy as a new local Children's Miracle Network sponsor. CVS recently acquired Eckerd, a longtime supporter of CMN. Locally CVS will continue raising funds for CMN. CVS sold "miracle" paper snowmen during the holidays and hosted a holiday toy drive in all its stores from Key West to Boca Raton. Toys were collected and delivered by Santa to the kids at MCH. Other in-store CMN fundraisers will be held throughout the year. We thank Vince Urrutia and his entire South Florida team for being such great CMN sponsors and look forward to many years of working together for the benefit of children in our community.

Kid's Korner

THROUGH THE STOMACH

You've just eaten lunch, and now it's in your stomach. Here, the food you've eaten will be stored until it's broken down into a liquid mixture and slowly emptied into the small intestine. Can you help your food find its way through?

Start



Finish

A Long Way to Go!

Once food leaves your stomach, it still has a long journey ahead of it. It will first travel through 22 feet of small intestine. (This can take as long as four hours!) After that, it goes through your liver where the harmful stuff (waste) is filtered out and sent through the large intestine, which is about five feet long. The large intestine then pushes the waste into the rectum, where it stays until you are ready to go to the bathroom.



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