

## Support Shriners Children's

We rely on the generous philanthropic support of donors like you! There are many opportunities to make your gift to Shriners Children's.

- **Give Online:** [shrinerschildrens.org/en/ways-to-give](http://shrinerschildrens.org/en/ways-to-give)
- **Give by Phone:** 855-401-4897
- **Give by Mail:\*** Shriners Children's  
PO Box 947765  
Atlanta, GA 30394

### Charitable Gift Annuities (If permitted in your state)

This is a method of giving that provides the donor (and a secondary beneficiary if desired) with a fixed income for life, while providing meaningful support to Shriners Children's.

To learn more, call us at (813) 367-2241 or email [plannedgiving@shrinenet.org](mailto:plannedgiving@shrinenet.org)  
[shrinerschildrens.org/cga](http://shrinerschildrens.org/cga)

### Gifts of Real Estate

Donate any property type (land, homes, commercial), and net proceeds will directly support our mission.  
[shrinerschildrens.org/property](http://shrinerschildrens.org/property)

### Gifts of Appreciated Assets

A stock donation is a tax-smart way to give because you may be able to avoid capital gains tax (between 18% – 40%) and Shriners Children's will receive the full value of your contribution. You may also deduct the fair market value of the stock. Please consult with a tax professional prior to giving stock for more details about capital gains.  
[shrinerschildrens.org/stock](http://shrinerschildrens.org/stock)

### Wills, Trusts, and Bequests

A bequest is given by identifying Shriners Children's as a beneficiary of your will or trust. To learn more, call us at (813) 367-2241 or email [plannedgiving@shrinenet.org](mailto:plannedgiving@shrinenet.org).  
[shrinerschildrens.org/bequest](http://shrinerschildrens.org/bequest)

## Helping a child is just a phone call away

Determining whether a child is eligible for care at Shriners Children's is as simple as calling **800-237-5055** (toll free in the U.S.), or **800-361-7256** (in Canada) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time Monday through Friday. During the initial phone call, you will discuss the nature of the child's condition, age and location of residency with a patient referral coordinator. Based upon the information provided, you will be referred to a specific Shriners Children's location that can best care for the child. Additional information is available on [shrinerschildrens.org](http://shrinerschildrens.org). Shriners Children's specializes in treating orthopedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate.

## ABOUT THE Shriners™ FRATERNITY

Founded in New York City in 1872, Shriners International is a fraternity grounded in fun, fellowship and the Masonic principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth. It is the organization that established and continues to support Shriners Children's. Today, there are more than 200 chapters located throughout the world, and Shriners can be found on six continents. Shriners love to support Shriners Children's and do so in many ways, from organizing fundraisers to benefit their official philanthropy to participating in awareness efforts for the healthcare system. Shriners also voluntarily serve on the healthcare locations' boards of governors, act as tour guides and assist patients and families however they can.

For information about joining Shriners International, please visit [beashrinernow.com](http://beashrinernow.com), or contact the fraternity's membership development office at [membership@shrinenet.org](mailto:membership@shrinenet.org) or **813-281-0300**.

# Register NOW!

For more information and to sign your business up to participate visit [31DaystoAmaze.org](http://31DaystoAmaze.org)



Dominic

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as a contribution to Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable To: Shriners Hospitals for Children

Mail To: Shriners Children's, Processing Center  
PO Box 947765 Atlanta, GA 30394



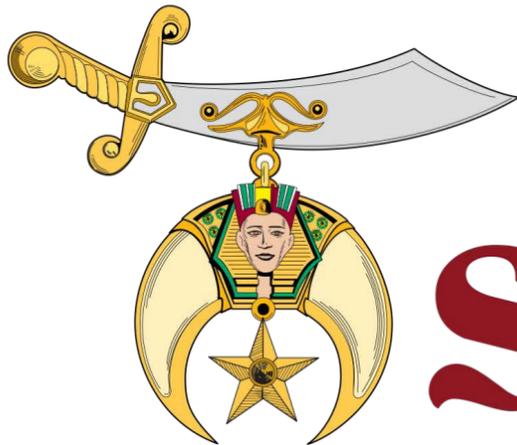


**SHRINERS**  
INTERNATIONAL



**Shriners**  
Children's™

2026



# ALADDIN SHRINERS

1801 Gateway Circle, Grove City, Ohio 43123 | (614) 475-2609 | [AladdinShrine.org](http://AladdinShrine.org)  
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

## A commitment to hope and healing Shriners Children's provides specialized pediatric care



### NEARLY 2 MILLION CHILDREN AND COUNTING

Shriners Children's is a renowned healthcare system dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for children worldwide. Patients with orthopedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries and cleft lip and palate receive care regardless of their families' ability to pay or insurance status.

What started as a single hospital in 1922 has grown into a healthcare system with locations in the United States, Canada and Mexico, along with international outreach clinics, and is a leader in medical education and research. For over 100 years, members of the Shriners fraternity have supported Shriners Children's, impacting the lives of nearly 2 million children.

### THE MOST AMAZING SPECIALTY CARE

The first Shriners Children's locations were established to address a need — primarily to help children affected by polio. Over time, Shriners Children's has continued to identify and meet needs in pediatric specialty care. Today, our patients receive exceptional care for orthopedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries and cleft lip and palate. Our goal is to bring the very best compassionate, specialized care to more children, more conveniently, and closer to where they live.

### LEADING THE WAY IN ORTHOPEDICS

Most of our locations offer care for orthopedic conditions, from common injuries and routine sports-related issues to the most complex cases and rare diseases, disorders and syndromes. Commonly treated conditions include clubfoot, limb discrepancies, scoliosis and osteogenesis imperfecta (OI, or brittle bone disease), as well as orthopedic challenges associated with neuromuscular conditions like cerebral palsy. We are committed to providing a comprehensive program of medical and rehabilitative care to help each child become as healthy and independent as possible, including surgeries, physical, occupational and recreational therapies, and orthotic and prosthetic services.

### PIONEERING BURN CARE

Shriners Children's has been a leader in pediatric burn care since the mid-1960s. At our burn care locations in California, Texas, Ohio and Massachusetts, experienced teams provide critical, surgical and rehabilitative care for all degrees of burn injuries and scars. Advances from our research include increased survival rates, methods to minimize scarring and improved wound-healing techniques.

### SPINAL CORD INJURY REHABILITATION

Recognizing the need for spinal cord injury rehabilitation programs specifically for children, Shriners Children's developed programs offering innovative physical and occupational therapies, emotional support and training in independent living skills. Beyond therapy, exercise and activity-based rehabilitation are emphasized. A distinctive feature of Shriners Children's care is our comprehensive, team-based approach.

### CLEFT LIP AND PALATE CARE

Sometimes a baby or child has a craniofacial (head and face) difference, affecting the smile, face shape, nose or chin. Conditions can range from mild to severe. A multidisciplinary team collaborates to address the many issues related to this complex condition, including breathing, speaking, hearing and eating. Each patient's customized treatment plan may include advanced treatments and services such as craniofacial surgery, 3D printing for jaw surgeries, facial and dental imaging, psychology, speech therapy, audiology, ear, nose and throat surgeries, and dental- and orthodontic-related services.

### RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

Shriners Children's is dedicated to discovering answers that will improve lives by conducting high-quality, innovative research. Our researchers have achieved significant breakthroughs that enhance care and quality of life for children worldwide, contributing to global medical knowledge. By maintaining ties with medical teaching facilities, Shriners Children's fosters an academic environment focused on delivering superior education for medical professionals and quality care to all patients. Many of our care providers are dedicated to helping medical professionals in other countries so more children can receive care closer to home.

## Relief for Amelia after years of pain



Five years ago, 15-year-old Amelia's active life took an unexpected turn.

Her knee had begun to hurt. Pediatricians recommended ice, orthopedists diagnosed tendonitis, rheumatologists found no answers and acupuncture didn't help. She underwent years of physical therapy, only to be told her pain might be all in her head.

But, fortunately, about the time her right hip began hurting, Amelia came to Shriners Children's Northern California's sports medicine clinic. She saw physician assistant Darwin Foo, PAC, PT, MMS, who reviewed Amelia's history with fresh eyes.

In an hour, he had identified the root cause: borderline hip dysplasia.

The hip is a ball-and-socket joint. Hip dysplasia occurs when the socket is too shallow, allowing the ball to slip partially or completely out. Though often painless in infants, untreated dysplasia can cause early arthritis and lifelong pain. Prompt detection is critical, but mild cases like Amelia's are easily missed without pediatric expertise.

Darwin explained how post-puberty changes amplified her subtle hip displacement, causing a tear in the labrum, which is the ring of cartilage that cushions the hip joint — the cause of her radiating knee pain.

**“I don't have words to describe how it felt to get answers for my child who had been in pain for years.”**

—Amelia's mom, Debbi

Amelia remembers that first appointment vividly. “I cried with my mom,” she said. “I was so relieved to finally have an answer.”

Orthopedic surgeon Brian Haus, M.D., performed the surgery to repair Amelia's torn labrum and lengthen her tendon. After surgery, her nurse, Megan, stayed by her side to make sure she recovered. Her inpatient nurse, Wesley, kept her laughing and smiling while she healed.

**“I felt like I had my best friends taking care of me.”**

—Amelia

After six weeks on crutches and personalized physical therapy, Amelia was approved to be active. She went on a bike ride with her brother. “He would always ask to ride together, and I would have to say no,” she said. “For the first time, I could finally say yes.”

Today, Amelia, now a college student, is pain-free and goes to the gym, bakes and is able to work on her feet. She enjoys science classes in school and wants to go into the healthcare field.

At Shriners Children's, our experience with children — and just children — often gives us a leg up on providing the best care for the little ones and the youth. Children are not little adults; they need specialized care.



## From clubfoot casts to surfing and soccer



Kia'i was born with talipes equinovarus, commonly known as clubfoot. His *tūtū* (grandmother in the Hawaiian language), Napua, knew just where to turn. “My cousin was treated at Shriners Children's and I witnessed her exceptional care,” she recalled. “I wanted the best for Kia'i, so I called Shriners Children's for an appointment.”

At only 20 days old, Kia'i received his first gentle manipulation and cast to straighten his tiny feet. For the next several weeks, he and Napua traveled more than 200 miles from Hilo to Honolulu for new casts at Shriners Children's Hawai'i.

“The serial (progressive) casting process is the biggest hurdle for any child with clubfoot,” explained pediatric orthopedic surgeon Jonathan Pellett, M.D. “But Kia'i tolerated it remarkably well.”

After graduating to a boot-and-bar brace, which he wore for two years, Kia'i embraced an active lifestyle. Napua encouraged activities that would build discipline, foster individuality and keep him connected to his Native Hawaiian roots — including learning *'Olelo Hawai'i*, the Hawaiian language. Kia'i developed a passion for the ukulele, surfing, fishing, swimming, *wa'a* (canoeing) and *Kajukenbo*, a martial art created in Hawai'i. “Without Shriners Children's, Kia'i wouldn't be as independent as he is today,” Napua said.

When Kia'i was 7 and learning soccer, Napua noticed his legs turning inward again. She quickly contacted Dr. Pellett, who reapplied casts for five weeks, followed by physical therapy with Michele Chee, DPT, to strengthen his legs and ankles. Thanks to early intervention, Kia'i avoided surgery, which is rare, as most children with clubfoot need it. “As a surgeon, it's almost a contradiction to say the best treatment for clubfoot is to avoid surgery through casting and bracing,” Dr. Pellett notes. “But in Kia'i's case, that was true.”

Now 10, Kia'i continues to add new interests while dreaming big. “He loves swimming and wants to become a firefighter,” says Napua. “Nothing holds him back — I know he can achieve anything he desires.”

## Forged by Fire: Burn survivor becomes a Strongman



Steven wears his life on his skin. Ink from more than 14 tattoos can be found beside raised lines, bumps and swirls. Every scar is like a map you can trace to the accident that changed his body forever.

When he was 14, Steven sustained second- and third-degree burns over most of his body after a gas leak triggered an explosion at his home in West Virginia. For three months, he received treatment at Shriners Children's Ohio.

"It was really frustrating," he recalled. "I remembered how to walk, eat and lift things, but my body wouldn't cooperate."

Steven credits his family and care team for finding the right motivation: sports. "We started small by tossing a ball," he said. "They knew playing sports was really important to me, so it felt like we were accomplishing something together."

After he was discharged, Steven wanted an activity that was both physically and mentally challenging. He found that in Strongman competitions and has spent the last six years competing and succeeding in these events. He placed second in West Virginia's 2020 Strongman competition and was named "Miami's Baddest Man" in 2021.

This strongman can lift a 330-pound stone over his head and carry an 800-pound yoke for 50 feet. "Just because I look different doesn't mean anyone should underestimate what my body and mind are capable of," said Steven.

Now 31, Steven says that is a lesson he tries to give to his children. "I want my kids to be comfortable around people who look different, so I want them to ask questions about my accident. They'll be better prepared to go out in the world and expect that everyone is a little different."

## Shriners Children's at forefront of scoliosis treatment



Shriners Children's pours resources into innovation and research, to ensure not just that our patients get the absolute best care possible, but to advance care every day.

So when Gabby, a dedicated cheerleader, needed surgery for her progressing scoliosis and severe back pain, she turned to Shriners Children's Northern California. Her surgeon, Rolando Roberto, M.D., medical director of the pediatric spine program, determined Gabby was an ideal candidate for a surgical procedure known as vertebral body tethering.

Vertebral body tethering (VBT), an approach developed at Shriners Children's, is a result of that commitment to innovation.

Traditionally, when a patient with scoliosis has had surgery to help straighten their spine, they've had a fusion procedure. A fusion procedure makes the spine straighter by joining adjacent vertebrae together, rigidly. The shortcoming of that approach is the fused part of the spine loses its mobility and shock-absorbing capability.

That's where tethering has an advantage. The tether is a cord, one that is attached with screws to the individual vertebrae. The tension of the cord straightens the spine, without a loss of flexibility.

Amer Samdani, M.D., of Shriners Children's Philadelphia, helped pioneer VBT as a fusionless treatment option for scoliosis. Through early clinical research and refinement of the technique, Dr. Samdani played a key role in the development of the FDA-approved vertebral body tethering system, which became the first device of its kind approved in 2019 for growing children with scoliosis.

The tethering procedure isn't right for all scoliosis patients. VBT candidates must still be growing, because the growth tightens the tether and produces greater straightening.

At 12, Gabby fortunately still had some growing to do. Just enough.

After undergoing vertebral tethering surgery at Shriners Children's Northern California, Gabby stayed in the hospital for two days

and was cleared for physical activity five weeks later. The very next day, like the cheerleader she is, Gabby did a back handspring.

**"My knees and hips are in alignment so those don't hurt anymore either, and I can do all the same things as before, plus more. I'm really glad I had the surgery, and it's great being back in the gym with my friends."**

— Gabby

She is not only back to the gym. Less than two years after Gabby's surgery, her cheerleading team won a national championship tournament.

