

Joe DiMaggio  Children's Hospital
AT MEMORIAL

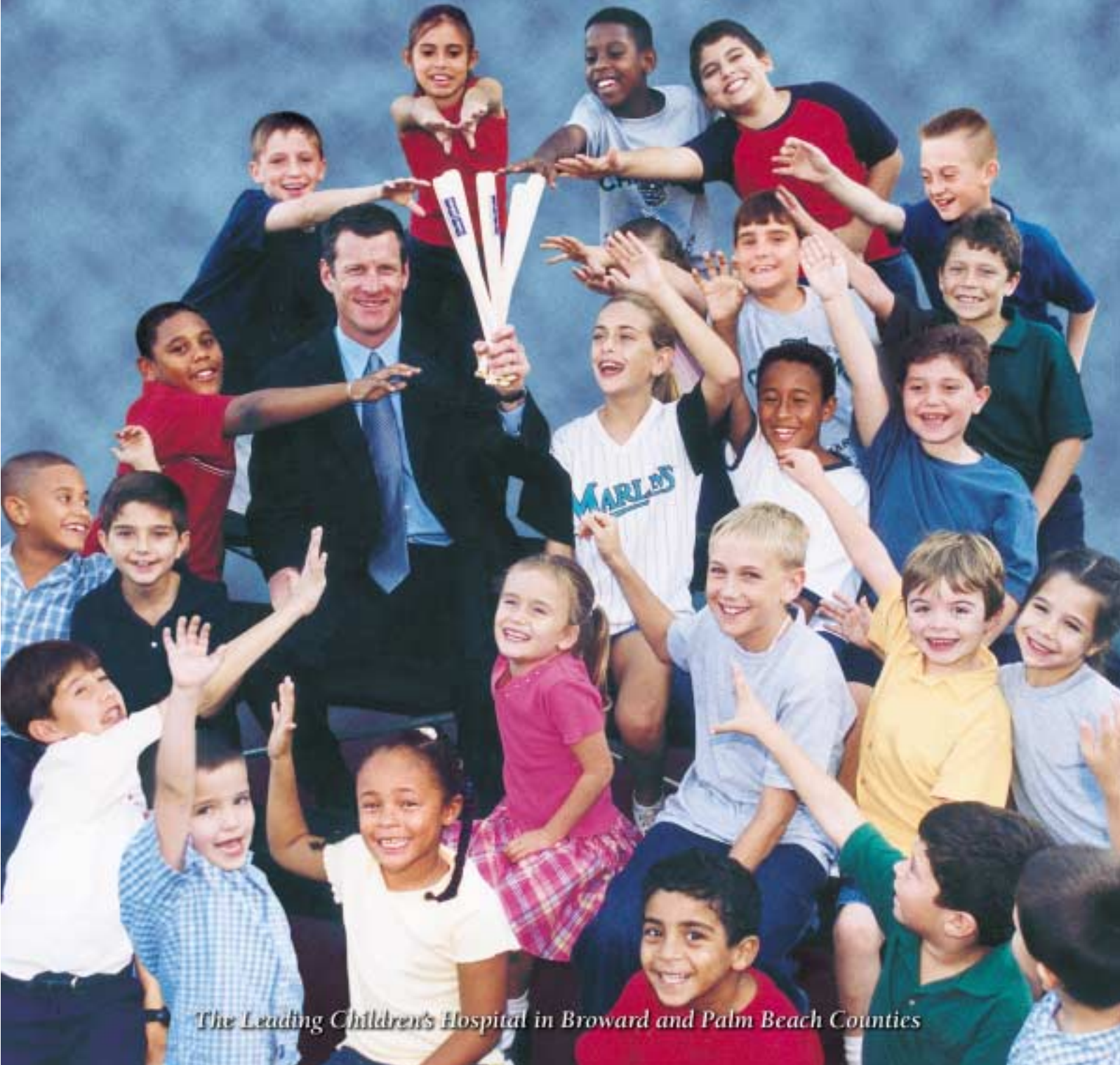
Health Watch

A Community Health Publication of Memorial Healthcare System

www.jdch.com

SPRING / SUMMER 2004

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The Leading Children's Hospital in Broward and Palm Beach Counties

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Dear Neighbors,

Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital is the leading children's hospital in Broward and Palm Beach Counties. Our unwavering dedication to high-quality care and superior service has once again placed us in the nation's top 5 percent in patient satisfaction.

Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital provides a full spectrum of services and specialty programs, supported by the most diverse group of board-certified specialists in the region. Our Centers of Excellence for Cardiac, Craniofacial, Oncology and Regional Perinatal Intensive Care have all earned prestigious distinction as designated pediatric centers from the Florida Department of Health, Children's Medical Services. We've introduced a new Pediatric Hemodialysis Program to treat children with renal failure, the only program of its kind in Broward and Palm Beach Counties, and our multi-disciplinary Cystic Fibrosis Center is affiliated with the National Cystic Fibrosis Foundation to ensure the most comprehensive cystic fibrosis care available.

Further distinguishing Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital as an institution of excellence is the level of care we demonstrate with every young patient. We understand the unique physical and emotional needs of children and support a Family-Centered Care atmosphere. This includes the Conine Clubhouse — formerly known as the Visitors Clubhouse — a free of charge "home away from home" for families of hospitalized children.

At Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, the health, happiness and well-being of our young patients are guiding forces in everything we do, inspiring us to be our best.

Warm regards,

Frank V. Sacco
Chief Executive Officer
Memorial Healthcare System

Nina Tucker
Administrator
Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital

HealthWatch is a publication that provides information about community health classes and programs, medical advances and the many services offered by Memorial Healthcare System. These articles should not be considered specific medical advice, as each individual patient and circumstance is different. Should you need medical advice, see your doctor or call our Physician Referral Service at (954) 985-3450 to help you find the right doctor.

Leading-Edge Cardiac Surgery

Renowned Heart Surgeon Gives Boy a New Chance at Life

Guerlyn was born with a congenital heart defect that is fatal without surgery. Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital provided the care he needed just in time.

When Guerlyn was 5, he was just like the rest of his friends in Haiti who made the long walk to school every day. But five months after he started kindergarten, he was too weak to go to school, play or run, and even walking a few steps left him struggling for his next breath.

Guerlyn was diagnosed with Tetralogy of Fallot, a hole between the lower chambers of the heart and an obstruction that constricts the flow of oxygenated blood from the lungs, which causes fatigue and cyanosis (blueness from lack of oxygen). But even with a diagnosis, there was no medical care for Guerlyn in Haiti. Since most children with this defect do not reach the age of 7 without surgery — and Guerlyn was already 6 — time was running out.

A Life-Saving Connection

In the summer of 2003, Steve Aguis, Vice President of the Rotary Gift of Life Program in Florida, contacted Beverly David, PhD, RN, on the medical staff at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital. "I am the conduit between the Congenital Cardiac Surgery Program at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital and the Rotarians, who partially funded the surgery," says Dr. David.

The next step was to locate a Creole-speaking host family for Guerlyn. When Phares Duverne, a Haitian businessman and father of three, overheard the story of a young Haitian boy who needed somebody to provide a home while he recovered from surgery, Phares immediately stepped up, saying, "I'm somebody."

Phares and his wife, Josette, received no financial help during Guerlyn's stay in their North Miami

home. "With Guerlyn, it was time for us to share what we have in our hearts without waiting for anything back," says Phares. "God will take care of that."

A Leader in Specialized Cardiac Surgery

Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital is the only hospital in Broward and Palm Beach Counties performing open heart surgery and cardiac catheterization, assisting children of all ages from as far away as the Northeast, the Caribbean and South America.

Richard A. Perryman, MD, Director of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, performed the life-saving surgery on November 23, 2003. "Guerlyn showed improvement immediately," says Dr. Perryman, who is regularly listed in "America's Top Doctors" and has been performing pediatric cardiac surgery for more than 23 years.

In addition to receiving highly specialized surgical care, Guerlyn was able to recuperate in a warm and loving environment — thanks to the caring and attentive nursing staff, who fell in love with Guerlyn. "Everyone at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital was outstanding," says Phares Duverne.

"Now I can play! Now I can run!"

Just days after his surgery, the Duvernes treated Guerlyn to his first real birthday party. Guerlyn loves to share the photographs of this special day filled with cake,

balloons, laughter and wishes for a bright future. Now Guerlyn plays and runs and keeps up with no problem.

Because Guerlyn is here on a medical Visa, he will be required to return to Haiti. Saying goodbye will be extremely difficult, but, says Dr. Perryman, "Guerlyn is the kind of kid who could make a difference in his country. Now he has the chance."

To learn more about the Pediatric Cardiac Surgery Program, call (954) 985-6939.



Guerlyn received life-saving surgery from Dr. Richard A. Perryman and the highly specialized pediatric cardiac team at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital.



Among the distinguished physicians at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital is Richard A. Perryman, MD, Director of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery, who is regularly listed in "America's Top Doctors."

A World-Class Children's Hospital

Consistently Ranked in the Nation's Top 5 Percent in Patient Satisfaction

Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital offers virtually every specialty of pediatric medicine and surgery — all led by highly trained physicians, nurses and support professionals dedicated to carrying on a longstanding tradition of excellence.

Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital is a world-class facility where children receive comprehensive pediatric care in a setting designed specifically for them. The hospital features the latest, state-of-the-art technology and a highly trained medical staff that includes the largest and most diverse group of board-certified pediatric specialists in the region.

Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital has earned the distinction of being the leading children's hospital in Broward and Palm Beach Counties. In addition, an unwavering commitment to

providing superior service consistently ranks Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in the nation's top 5 percent in patient satisfaction, and frequently in the top 1 percent (Press Ganey).

Excellence in Pediatric Healthcare

Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital is one of only a few hospitals worldwide utilizing extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) for severe heart and lung conditions — and is the only hospital in Broward and Palm Beach Counties performing pediatric open heart surgery and cardiac catheterization. Our Centers of Excellence for Cardiac, Craniofacial, Oncology and Regional Perinatal Intensive Care have all earned prestigious distinction as designated pediatric centers from the Florida Department of Health, Children's Medical Services. The new Pediatric Hemodialysis Program offers specialized care for pediatric patients experiencing renal failure and is the only program of its kind in Broward and Palm Beach Counties. In addition, the multi-disciplinary Cystic Fibrosis Center is affiliated with the National Cystic Fibrosis Foundation to provide the latest treatment protocols for young cystic fibrosis patients.

Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital offers Level II and Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Units to treat the youngest and tiniest infants, as well as a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit with board-certified pediatric intensivists specially trained in critical care medicine.

Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital
 1000 Joe DiMaggio Dr.
 Hollywood



At Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, state-of-the-art technology and medical expertise come together to provide award-winning care for children from South Florida and around the world.

For more information or our free Physician Referral Service, call (954) 985-3450.

On-site hospitalists are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to coordinate and manage the care of hospitalized patients.

The hospital is home to one of only eight Pediatric Trauma Centers in Florida, as well as the busiest Pediatric Emergency Department in Broward County with more than 27,000 visits annually. Our dedicated Ground Transport Team provides safe medical transfer for more than 1,000 patients each year — while our Aeromedical Transport Team, with a specially equipped Lear jet, has conducted air transports from locations around the world.

For more information, visit our website at



Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Distinguished Awards

Best Hospital for Pediatrics in Broward

South Florida Parenting, 2003, 2002, 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998, 1997 & 1996

Best Hospital for Pediatric Emergency Care in Broward, South Florida Parenting, 2003, 2001

Best Place for Services for Special Needs and Family Care, South Florida Parenting, 2003

Best Nursing Team, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Advance for Nurses, 2002

Best Nursing Staff, Florida Medical Business, 2001

Advanced Diabetes Management

New Treatment Option Gives a Young Girl Back Her Childhood

Thanks to the convenience of an insulin pump and the ongoing support of Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital,

Caitlin and her family have learned to manage diabetes and enjoy a full and active lifestyle.

Managing diabetes is as much a part of 4 1/2-year-old Caitlin's daily routine as dolls, dancing and dress-up. Caitlin was diagnosed with diabetes at just 10 months of age. For the rest of her life, keeping track of blood sugar levels and administering insulin is vitally important.

Facing a Critical Situation

The first signs of Caitlin's illness occurred in December 1999. For three weeks, she had been sick with flu-like symptoms, vomiting frequently and acting irritable. Caitlin's mom, Kelly, took Caitlin to her pediatrician three times. On the third visit, Caitlin was diagnosed with a sinus infection and prescribed antibiotics. But Caitlin didn't improve. She was still vomiting, and she was now soaking her diapers constantly. "I was changing Caitlin's bed sheets up to three times a night," says Kelly.

Early in the afternoon on December 31, Kelly went into Caitlin's room to check on her sleeping daughter. She was not prepared for what she saw. Caitlin's breathing was very labored, and her hands and feet were cold and blue. Caitlin was rushed to an emergency department where doctors found her dehydrated and struggled to get an IV in her collapsed veins. "Caitlin looked like a rag doll — she was lethargic and out of it," says Kelly.

Five uncertain hours and numerous tests later, the family was approached by Caitlin's emergency room physician. Tests confirmed his suspicion: diabetes. "We were just so relieved to know what was wrong," says Kelly. "Our daughter had been in such a critical state, we feared she might die."

"We have been blessed with love and support from family and friends, as well as an amazing doctor and staff at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital."

— Kelly, Caitlin's mother



Diabetes doesn't slow down 4 1/2-year-old Caitlin, thanks to the convenience of a pager-sized insulin pump.

New Ways to Manage Diabetes

Diabetes is a chronic metabolic disorder in which the pancreas produces little or no insulin, a hormone that is needed to convert sugar, starches and other food into energy. There is no cure for juvenile diabetes, and someone with this disease requires daily insulin to live.

Initially, Caitlin received insulin via injections. "We experienced a lot of unsteadiness and mood swings with this. When Caitlin's counts were high, she'd scream and cry and pull at her hair," says Kelly. "We were administering injections three to six times a day, and I never slept before 3 am."

A whole new world opened up for Caitlin and her family when they were referred to Robin Nemery, MD, pediatric endocrinologist on the medical staff at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital and Memorial

Early Warning Signs of Diabetes

- Failure to grow or gain weight normally
- Weight loss with either increased food intake or loss of appetite
- Excessive thirst
- Increased urination
- Severe diaper rash that doesn't improve with normal treatment
- Frequent vomiting

Hospital West. Dr. Nemery spent hours talking to Caitlin's parents about juvenile diabetes and suggested that they come back with a detailed, two-week record of all of Caitlin's activities, meals and behavior. It was through this information that Dr. Nemery identified the tremendous highs and lows Caitlin was experiencing. "Dr. Nemery was appalled at how erratic Caitlin's condition was and promptly prescribed a new type of insulin," says Kelly.

Approximately four months later, Dr. Nemery consulted the family about an insulin pump. She felt that Caitlin and those who cared for her were ideal candidates for this convenient, timesaving device. Caitlin's pager-sized insulin pump can be programmed to release specific doses of fast-acting insulin to regulate her blood sugar around-the-clock. "With injections, we had to follow such a rigid schedule," says Kelly. "The pump gives us a lot more flexibility."

Today, Caitlin understands that the insulin pump helps her to feel better — delivering life-saving insulin for her and peace of mind for her family. "In learning to live with Caitlin's diabetes, we have been blessed with love and support from family and friends, as well as an amazing doctor and staff at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital," says Kelly.

To learn more about the Pediatric Diabetes Program, call (954) 986-2234, Option 2.

State-of-the-Art Cancer Care

Progressive Medical Treatment Helps Infant Fight Leukemia

The expertise of cancer specialists at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, combined with the love and support of family and community, are providing hope and healing for 21-month-old Harrison.

When 11-month-old Harrison suddenly developed a low-grade fever and became cranky, tearful and unhappy, Beth-Ann and Peter thought their son was experiencing routine teething. They took Harrison to his pediatrician, and he was treated for an ear infection.

The ear infection cleared up, but the fever and crankiness persisted so Harrison was brought back to his pediatrician. With the results from a routine blood test, "we went from teething to leukemia," says Peter.

Lynn Meister, MD, pediatric oncologist on the medical staff at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, Memorial Regional Hospital and Memorial Hospital West, confirmed the diagnosis later that day: Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL), or cancer of the white blood cells responsible for fighting infections. According to Harrison's parents, Dr. Meister was incredibly empathetic; she knew just what to say and how to say it. This was their first impression of the care they could come to expect from the cancer specialists at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital.

"We asked for second opinions and were amazed that the doctors had already taken steps to obtain them," says Beth-Ann. "Everyone worked to help us understand exactly what was happening and what our options were."

Aggressive Cancer Treatment

Now 21 months old, Harrison is currently undergoing an aggressive, 47-week treatment protocol that calls for intensive chemotherapy and subsequent blood transfusions.

Harrison's blood type is B-positive, which is shared by only 10 percent of Americans. His parents compiled a list of people who can be called upon to donate each time Harrison undergoes chemotherapy. "People aren't always aware of the importance of donating blood," says Beth-Ann. "When they say, 'Give the gift of life,' that is what it does. It gives my baby life."



Although Harrison (pictured at 14 months) is still undergoing an aggressive, 47-week treatment protocol for leukemia, recent bone marrow tests show no signs of cancer.

Taking Every Precaution at Home

Because of his treatment, Harrison must be protected from germs "unfamiliar" to his system. "We have to take extreme precautions against infection," says Beth-Ann. "We don't go out as a family of five anymore. Harrison's brothers, 6-year-old Spencer and 8-year-old Brendan, change their clothes and wash their hands in the garage when they come home from school. We don't even wear shoes in the house. The risk of infection is just too great."

At the same time, the Krimskeys are doing everything they can to enjoy a normal family

Early Warning Signs of Pediatric Cancer

- Unexplained weight loss
- Headaches or recurrent fevers
- Painful, swollen joints
- Lump in abdomen, neck or elsewhere
- Excessive bruising or bleeding
- Prolonged fatigue

life. At all times, one parent is with Harrison while the other is home with the other boys, participating in everyday activities like homework, meals and school events. As much as Harrison's illness has brought the family closer together, some days are extremely difficult. When he's feeling discouraged, Peter is reminded of a saying on a refrigerator magnet that reads, "Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes it is the quiet voice at the end of the day that says 'I'll try again tomorrow.'"

A Family Looks to the Future

Harrison's family is grateful to have all the medical expertise and support that Harrison needs at one facility. "We know that these doctors love our son," says Beth-Ann. The Krimskeys also appreciate the community's support in donating life-saving blood.

And in spite of the challenging circumstances, they are thankful that Harrison is too young to truly understand what he's going through, that recent bone marrow tests show no signs of cancer and that the end is in sight for Harrison's treatment.

"We've put our lives on hold and will pick up where we left off later," says Beth-Ann. "Somehow we know this is survivable."

To learn more about the Pediatric Cancer Program, call (954) 986-2234, Option 1.

Conine Clubhouse

Going to Bat for Families of Hospitalized Children

Donations to Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Foundation help fund vital services, including the Conine Clubhouse, a free of charge "home away from home" for families of hospitalized children.

Jeff Conine, World Series champion with the Florida Marlins, was recently honored in a ceremony to dedicate the Conine Clubhouse — formerly known as the Visitors Clubhouse. "Memorial Healthcare System is an amazing organization to work with," said Conine. "It's easy to give my time and efforts to the Clubhouse. Helping kids — that's what it's all about."

This special facility has provided all the conveniences of home, free of charge, for more than 2,730 families from across the United States and around the world. The Conine Clubhouse is conveniently located across the street from Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital and features private bedrooms with private baths and cable TV; suites for larger families; a video lending library; a communal living room; laundry facilities; a playroom for young children; an outdoor park and playground; and a chapel for quiet reflection.

Accommodations at the Conine Clubhouse offer all the comforts of home at a time when normal family routines are disrupted. But even more important, the Conine Clubhouse is a special place where families can join together, share

similar experiences and offer each other encouragement.

Turning to You for Support

The Conine Clubhouse obtains funding for day-to-day operations through the annual Conine Classic Golf Tournament, as well as through planned gifts and individual donations to the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Foundation. Your contributions help ensure that the Conine Clubhouse can continue to assist and support families of hospitalized children for years to come.

To learn more about donating to Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Foundation, call (954) 985-3454.

Jeff Conine and his wife, Cindy, were honored at a special ceremony to dedicate the Conine Clubhouse — formerly known as the Visitors Clubhouse — on November 24, 2003.



While visiting Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, Jeff Conine (far left) spent some time with Dawn and Michael Quinn and their infant daughter, Mikayla.

Conine Clubhouse Opens Its Doors to Quinn Family

When 7-month-old Mikayla Quinn was admitted to Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in November 2003, her parents were handed a key to a room at the Conine Clubhouse.

With this key, Michael and Dawn Quinn had a warm and inviting place to stay while their daughter received treatment for a rare form of liver cancer. But more than that, it allowed them to be completely accessible and focused on their daughter's care. "The Clubhouse is the biggest lifesaver," said Dawn.

In late January, the Quinns had the opportunity to meet the man behind the

Conine Clubhouse, World Series champion with the Florida Marlins, Jeff Conine. Beyond his status as a professional baseball player and primary supporter of the Clubhouse, he is a father who shares the same hopes and dreams for his children as any loving parent. The heartfelt exchange between the Quinns and Conine exemplifies another important facet of the Clubhouse: families providing emotional support during a difficult time.

The Quinns were deeply touched that Jeff Conine made the time to visit them, saying, "We're your biggest fans. What you have done for the Clubhouse and us is huge — we appreciate it more than you know."

Help Give a Child a Brighter Future

On her fifth birthday, Erica got a surprise that no parent would ever wish for his or her child: a diagnosis of bone cancer.

Today, 8-year-old Erica is cancer-free, thanks to the state-of-the-art care she received from Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital. For a little girl who was once afraid of vaccinations, Erica's courage in fighting cancer was nothing short of triumphant. With the help of caring physicians, nurses and support professionals, Erica and her family were able to put cancer behind them and look to a brighter future.

Your Donations Make a World of Difference

Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital is the leading children's hospital in Broward and Palm Beach Counties and is committed to providing quality healthcare to all children, regardless of the family's ability to pay.

Your generous donations to Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Foundation help fund vital services that make a world of difference in children's lives. No one understands this better than Erica's family and all the other families who have found hope, healing and a brighter future through Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital.

Please donate to Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Foundation today. Call (954) 985-3454 for more information.



Joe DiMaggio
Children's Hospital Foundation

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At age 5, Erica received
leading-edge treatment at
Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital
for bone cancer.

Today, she is a cancer survivor.

