

Children's Hospital Foundation of Richmond

WINTER 2016

young at heart



Former Patient Returns to Hospital as Kohl's Volunteer

For Alicia Currin, assembling dental health kits in August was more than an opportunity to volunteer with fellow Kohl's associates – it was a homecoming. Born with spina bifida, Alicia was three months old when she first visited Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU. She received physical and occupational therapy at the Brook Road Campus until she started school and returned for annual check-ups throughout high school.

In August, Alicia and 18 other Kohl's associates helped assemble 13,000 dental health kits that will be distributed to first graders in Central Virginia as part of the Kohl's Cares® Dental Outreach Program. Kohl's recently donated \$52,577 to fund the eighth annual program, which shares information about dental health and hygiene with students in the counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent and Prince George and the cities of Colonial Heights, Hopewell, Petersburg and Richmond. Alicia's 6-year-old daughter will be one of those students receiving a kit this year.

Kohl's regularly supports associate volunteer efforts by donating at least \$500 for each store that sends five or more associates to volunteer at a community event. A cashier at Kohl's Mechanicsville store for the last three years, Alicia said she wanted to participate in other company volunteer efforts at the hospital during those years but her work schedule always prevented her. This year, she said, "I made sure I got there. It was amazing to see how different [the hospital is] and what they are doing now."

Since Alicia's last visit, she graduated from high school, held multiple jobs, got married, had her daughter and started community college classes.



Sarah Irby, Director of Community Relations, Children's Hospital Foundation (CHF), welcomed Alicia Currin (right), Kohl's volunteer, back to Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU, more than 15 years after Alicia's last visit as a patient. Alicia was featured on one of CHF's earliest magazines in 1998.

Many of Alicia's co-workers who volunteered with her in August were amazed to learn of her personal connection and see her on the cover of one of Children's Hospital Foundation's earliest magazines.

"When I was [a patient], I learned how to walk and take care of myself," Alicia said. "I never thought I'd be able to live on my own or have my daughter. I'm definitely blessed."

Thanks to Alicia and other Kohl's volunteers, Children's Hospital Foundation received a \$1,500 donation, representing the three stores that had associates participate in the August volunteer event.

Black and Gold Raise Green for Kids

For more than 25 years, members of the Steel City Connection, a group of Pittsburgh sports fans, have gotten together every week during football season to cheer on the guys in black and gold. While their gathering spot – and the people in it – have changed over the years, the group's commitment to helping children hasn't waivered. This fall, the group presented a check for \$6,438 to representatives from Children's Hospital Foundation (CHF). Since the Steel City Connection started supporting CHF in 1990, more than \$64,650 has been collected from individual donations, special events and Pittsburgh memorabilia raffle drawings.

"We never know when someone in our community will need the support that Children's Hospital Foundation provides," said Ryan Gibson, a life-long Pittsburgh fan and one of the group's coordinators with his wife Crystal. "It helps us feel closer to the community as we cheer on our favorite teams together and help raise money for a great cause."

In addition to watching football, the group's more than 140 members enjoy cheering for Pittsburgh's baseball and hockey teams, traveling to nearby games and supporting CHF events including the Four Mile Fun Run and Bowl-A-Thon (see back page). The Steel City Connection's support of CHF began a year after its founding as a way to honor the



Ryan (right) and Crystal (center) Gibson, coordinators with the Steel City Connection, presented a check for \$6,438 representing the group's 2015-16 fundraising efforts to Stephanie Allan with Children's Hospital Foundation in October.

time spent at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh by the daughter of the club's founding president. Since that time, children of club members have been helped by Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU.

"It's truly a group effort," said Ryan of the group's annual donations, "as many of our members volunteer time in recruiting players, getting autographs or donating unique Steelers memorabilia. It's great to see how everyone comes together to commit to the cause."