

IT'S TIME TO PLAY!

"A safe haven for kids." "An island of safety and peace." "A beacon of hope." Councilwoman Jan Perry gave high praise to Orthopaedic Hospital, the women of the Everychild Foundation, Shane's Inspiration (SI)—the playground designers—and all the very generous donors who made it possible for the amazing, universally accessible playground to be open on the OH campus. "The best part is that it is open to the public, so everybody from this area benefits," she commented.

The official opening was held Thursday, February 28, with more than 300 participants treated to the delightful antics of Fang the Dragon, the dulcet tones of the children's choir under the direction of Tess Borden (SI) and Laurel Terreri (OH); welcoming words from our own Dr. Luck; Jacqueline Caster, founder and president of the Everychild Foundation; Councilwoman Jan Perry; Tiffany Harris, founder and executive director of Shane's Inspiration; and Regina Adams, representing the LA City Department of Recreation and Parks. The highlight of the day was decidedly the sight of more than 50 children of all abilities, utterly beaming with joy as they made their way excitedly through the newly opened playground gates to roll down the little hill where their motion triggers musical notes; fly through the air on the high-back, supportive swings; thrill to the twirl of the blue dish they lie on; and dash through the water of the misting dragon.

The preview opening for employees earlier in the week brought out the child in all of us. We enjoyed a delicious

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The playground entrance feature honors the Everychild Foundation for its major gift.



Fang the Dragon poses with friends, from left, Sharon Herzog, Justine Lewis and Nancy Rossi of the Crippled Children's Guild.

AMAZING ADVENTURES AND COMPASSIONATE KIDS

Every year, Orthopaedic Hospital sponsors 10 patients to attend an adaptive sports program with the United States Adaptive Recreation Center in Big Bear Lake. The winter program focuses on skiing and snowboarding. The amazing aspect of this program is that, no matter how differently-abled the participants are, all of them experience success in these activities. If they have difficulty standing, they may ski with a walker attached to skis. Perhaps they are unable to walk; they are able to use their upper body while sitting down to speed their way down the mountain.

This year on March 13, 10 lucky patients accompanied by five hospital staff members traveled to Big Bear for two fun-filled days on the slopes. Each trip is always a meaningful experience

for all those involved. This year was particularly noteworthy for two reasons. One was an 11-year-old boy with muscular dystrophy. Not only had he never skied before, he had never seen snow. It was an amazing experience to watch him touch snow for the first time, to witness his journey from his wheelchair into a bi-ski, and then to see him speeding down the slopes with a scream of elation



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IT'S TIME TO PLAY *continued*

barbeque, music, karaoke from some brave souls, and an activity-based “scavenger hunt” on the playground. Several days later, the playground welcomed nearly 200 community members with a Saturday festival complete with Disney characters, face painting, games, and music. The playground is now open for everyone’s enjoyment, seven days a week, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A most heartfelt “thanks” to everyone who contributed in so many ways to making this playground possible.

As one able-bodied child noted when he spent some time on a universally accessible playground with children with disabilities, “When everybody plays, the boundaries slip away.”

For more information about the playground, visit www.orthohospital.org/playground.php.



Above: Carolina Rivera enjoys the new playground with daughter, Maria.



Left: The accessible playground allows a wheelchair-bound young lady to push a typically-able youngster on the swing.



Bottom Left: Lupita Monterrosa enjoys a ride with help from Las Niñas member, Alison Kaufman.



Jacqueline Caster, founder and president of Everychild Foundation, escorted by Spencer Hawk of Shane's Inspiration.

AMAZING ADVENTURES *continued*

echoing through the hills. Although it was his first time on this trip, he immediately forged friendships with the other returning patients.

Another young man, who had participated in the program before, shined his light bright enough to melt all of the snow in Big Bear. Seeing another camper having difficulty, he instructed him to do what he did. With his guidance, the other patient improved markedly and they were boarding at the same level by day’s end. The instructors were proud of what a wonderful team these two boys made.

At the end of the trip, a volunteer mentioned to the group leader from OH how polite all of the patients were. He wanted to know when our group would be back so that he could work with our patients again. What a marvelous tribute to our patients! It was an incredible experience for them to be able to participate in activities that previously were out of reach.





Top Left: Art and Leadership students from the OH Medical Magnet High School created the colorful dragons that greeted guests as they arrived for the playground opening.

Above: Councilwoman Jan Perry, Jacqueline Caster and women from Everchild Foundation, Dr. James Luck and Christopher Martin, Chair of the LAOH Foundation Board of Trustees, get ready to throw open the playground gates for the many excited children.

Left: Dancing down Palm Drive, Fang the Dragon leads the children's choir to the newly opened playground entrance.



An aerial view of a quiet playground before the children arrive.

The children's choir members excitedly await their next number, as Dr. Luck addresses the opening day gathering.

SPEND OCTOBER TOURING THE HISTORIC ANTEBELLUM SOUTH

Take a step back in time this autumn and escape to the Old South. The Foundation is planning an eight-day tour that will originate in Jacksonville, Florida, and end in Charleston, South Carolina. We will tour Jekyll and St. Simons Islands and stay at a hotel located in the restored historic district of Savannah. While enjoying our two-night stay in Savannah, we will visit the ships of the Sea Maritime Museum and enjoy a private dinner at the Metts-McNeal Mansion, while sipping Mint Juleps on the veranda overlooking Forsyth Park—an authentic taste of traditional Southern hospitality. We will tour other sites featuring grand plantations, graceful antebellum mansions

and pre-Revolutionary War buildings. Our journey will take us to the historic cities of Charleston and Beaufort, and we will cruise the harbor on a private boat in the city known as the *Queen of the Carolina Sea Islands*, Beaufort, South Carolina. Our hostesses will be Ruth Wagner and Sandra Moore from the League for Crippled Children and Jackie Crowley and Gay Swanson from the Crippled Children's Guild. This sightseeing excursion will take place October 2 to October 9, and is coordinated by Tauck Tours. Space is limited, so those who really want an adventure through the Old South, contact Joe Naylor at 213-742-1509 by May 15.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE...

19th Annual Paul & Berniece Harbers Runyan Memorial Golf Classic

COME ENJOY A DAY ON THE COURSE

While Supporting Orthopaedic Hospital's
Physical Therapy Treatment Program
for Patients with Hemophilia

Monday, May 12, 2008

**Oakmont Country Club
Glendale, CA**

For Questions about Playing or Sponsorship
Opportunities, please contact Melissa Malone at
213-742-1508 or mmalone@laoh.ucla.edu.



If you are interested in finding out more about the many ways you can support Orthopaedic Hospital, please call the Foundation at 213-742-1500 or visit us at www.orthohospital.org.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

May

- 9th – International Children's Program
– Calexico Clinic
- 12th – The 19th Annual Paul and Berniece
Harbers Runyan Memorial Golf Classic
- 13th – Estate Planning Seminar - Pasadena
- 15th – Estate Planning Seminar - Pasadena
- 28th – President's Circle - Griffith Observatory

June

- 29th – League for Crippled Children's
Year-End Brunch
- TBD– Estate Planning Seminar - South Bay

July

- 11th – International Children's Program –
Calexico Clinic
- 11th, 12th, 13th –
Las Amigas de Las Lomas – Horse Show