

CRANIOFACIAL FOUNDATION OF AMERICA



“Dreams Can Come True” CFA Family Camp

On April 15, 2011, the CFA hosted 150 patients and their families at our annual “Dreams Can Come True” weekend family camp. This year marked our 11th anniversary, and we were excited to have 13 new families join us. As we welcomed a new generation of children to camp, it was touching to watch our older children grow into leadership and volunteer roles. The camp is sponsored by the CFA and is of no cost to our patients and their families.

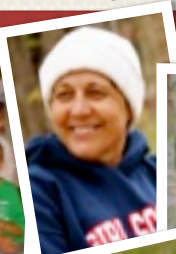
The festivities began on Friday afternoon at Camp Adahi in Menlo, Georgia as

families arrived for a weekend of canoeing, horseback riding, archery and arts and crafts. The children were treated to a surprise petting zoo provided by Noah’s Little Ark and got to hold a special bundle of joy affectionately called “pig in a blanket”.

On Saturday morning, everyone enjoyed scaling the climbing wall, running through an inflatable obstacle course, kicking soccer balls, fishing in the pond, exploring camp on a hay-ride and making spin-art. Saturday night was the traditional bonfire where families

roasted marshmallows and sang camp songs.

The camp also offers activities for parents to get together and discuss their journeys, find support and provide guidance to our new craniofacial families. Thank you so much to all our sponsors and donors for making this camp possible. Thank you to the Henderson family and all of our wonderful volunteers for making “Dreams Can Come True” camp a place where families want to return year after year.



"The Art of Making Smiles"
 PALATE 2 PALETTE 2011
 Held April 4th to benefit the CFA



2011 Palate 2 Palette Sponsors: Athens Distributing, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Carter Distributing, CBS Law Firm, CFA Board of Directors, Chattem, Decosimo, Dr. and Mrs. Mark Brzezienski, Dr. Timothy Strait, Erlanger, First Tennessee Foundation, Jay and Ellen Heavilon, Jim Reynolds, Kelly Infiti, Red Apple Cheese, Retubeco, SMP Industries, Starkey Printing, Tennessee Valley Federal Credit Union, The Plastic Surgery Group, and Volkswagen Group of America.

Local Schools Support the CFA

The CFA has many supporters throughout the community. We receive support through financial contributions, volunteer hours, and various fundraisers and collections. Recently, two local schools chose to give generously to the CFA.

Rossville Elementary School faculty and staff collected over 50 stuffed bears to donate to our "Bear Hugs" program. The bears bring so much comfort to all our young patients when they are hospitalized with craniofacial surgeries.



During the month of January middle-school students from OLPH collected non-perishable food items in support of our annual family camp. The food drive was part of their service-learning and community outreach program during Catholic Schools Week. Many of the students from OLPH and Notre Dame High School also volunteered long hours at the camp helping to serve meals and entertain the children. The CFA wishes to thank our many young supporters who teach us that giving can start at any age!



"RELIEF CAMP" FOR PRIYA

"Dreams Can Come True" family camp has been a big part of our lives since the first year we attended after adopting Priya at the age of 2. When Priya came to us, she had many fears. She would hide her face and hold on tight to us if anyone tried to talk to her. The first day of camp was no exception, but something magical happened that weekend. We found everyone was so accepting and understanding of her, her face, her fears, and her tears. By the end of the second day she was wanting to be involved in all the activities and smiling at the other children. By the time we left, she was holding hands and walking around waving goodbye to her new friends and signing to another child with a cleft palate like herself. Something changed in Priya forever that weekend. She did not want to leave, so now we make a chart to show her how many months until we come back again.

We have now been attending "Dreams Can Come True" camp for 9 years. A few years ago Priya started referring to CFA camp as "Relief Camp". When I asked her what that meant, her answer was, "I call it relief camp because it gives me relief from being made fun of because I look different from my friends at school. I do not feel like I am the only person in the world that has a crooked face. Lots of kids at camp smile just like me."

We have 2 other adopted children who are both blind. They have also been accepted and included in all the camp activities, and camp has also impacted their lives in a positive way. There are very few places we can go as a family and feel included without exception. We are so thankful to all the people who help make "Dreams Can Come True" camp possible every year!

Editha Jones, Priya's Mom

PRIYA



ELISEA



ELISEA'S JOURNEY

Having a child born with a bilateral cleft lip and palate has made us truly better, more adaptable and more accommodating individuals. We feel blessed for the luxury of not spending time obsessing over typical first-time parent issues.

One of the most common questions we are asked is, "Wasn't that so hard dealing with everything?" Honestly, we are happy to look back over Elisea's infancy and be able to say, "No, it was just an expensive inconvenience, not a terrible life-altering event." Dr. Sargent, the TCC team, and the Craniofacial Foundation took every opportunity to help us become informed, educated, and encouraged us about Elisea's procedures. At 3 years of age, Elisea is happy and active and enjoys attending gymnastics, playing the ukelele, and re-enacting her favorite scenes from the Wonder Pets.

Andrew and Ashley Hamilton

MAKE A DONATION

THE CRANIOFACIAL FOUNDATION OF AMERICA IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF SO MANY CHILDREN, GIVING THEM A CHANCE FOR A NORMAL LIFE.

THIS EXCELLENT TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS IS DEDICATED TO GIVING THE BEST OPPORTUNITY TO THOSE WITH FACIAL ABNORMALITIES.

THANK YOU CFA!

TO MAKE A DONATION TODAY, VISIT US AT ...

HTTP://
CRANIOFACIALFOUNDATION.ORG/
WWW/DOCS/153

CFA UPCOMING EVENTS

15th Annual Golf Classic
Black Creek Golf Club
Monday, September 26, 2011

Mother's Retreat
Fall 2011

Christmas Celebration
Rock City Enchanted Garden of Lights
Sunday, December 4, 2011



Tennessee Craniofacial Clinic



The Tennessee Craniofacial Center (TCC) has been hosting craniofacial clinic at Erlanger for the past 30 years. When Dr. Larry Sargent moved to Chattanooga in 1987, he formalized the clinic so that these special children could receive a true multi-disciplinary team approach to their craniofacial care. Any child with a craniofacial birth defect, tumor, or trauma related injury who is a patient of Dr. Sargent and the TCC is eligible to attend the clinic, which is held the second Friday of each month.

On average, the TCC team will evaluate 10-12 children during clinic. Most patients come to clinic on an annual basis; however, the visits may be more frequent depending on the stage of treatment. The clinic team includes Dr. Larry Sargent,

Craniofacial Surgeon, Dr. Chris St. Charles, ENT, Dr. Timothy Strait, Neurosurgeon, Dr. Sidney Cox, Pediatric Dentist, Dr. Dennis Standifer, Orthodontist, Susie Keith, Audiologist, and Claire Overmeyer, Speech and Language Pathologist. The physicians donate their time to evaluate the children during clinic. However, there is a facility charge, and there may be other charges related to the treatment plan that will be billed to the patient's insurance carrier. Parents can call the TCC office for more specific information.

Following each evaluation, the team member discusses current issues and future treatment plans with the family. Most patients leave after meeting with each team member, but occasionally the entire team will meet with a family to ensure they are clear on all recommendations and to provide additional time for the parents to ask questions. Long-term treatment plans are determined from a multi-disciplinary team approach including future surgeries, sleep studies, orthodontic and dental plans, and speech and hearing therapies.

MEET Christopher St. Charles, M.D., ENT



Dr. Christopher St. Charles graduated from the University of Tennessee at Memphis. He completed his residency at Methodist Hospital of Indiana in 1992. Dr. St. Charles is American Board Certified in Otolaryngology and is an Ear, Nose, and Throat Specialist with Associates in E.N.T. In 2001, he joined the Tennessee Craniofacial Team as the Otolaryngology specialist. Otolaryngology is the treatment of head and neck disorders. In patients with craniofacial disorders, including cleft lip and palate, the health and function of the patients' ears and control of otitis media is of particular concern. Chronic middle ear infections can impair the development of normal speech and can lead to hearing loss. Additionally, children born with certain craniofacial birth defects may require special airway management, which would also be managed by the Otolaryngologist.

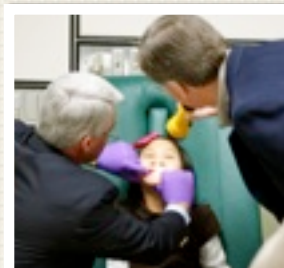


Dr. St. Charles enjoys working with the Tennessee Craniofacial Team of specialists due to their professionalism and dedication in helping children with craniofacial differences. He works closely with Susie Keith in Audiology and other team members to determine long-term ENT plans for the clinic patients. Of his experiences with these special children Dr. St. Charles stated, "Clinic allows me the joy of watching these kids grow and mature both physically and figuratively."

THE TEAM



DR. SARGENT



DRS. COX & STANDIFER



DR. STRAIT



CLAIRE OVERMEYER



SUSIE KEITH

Preparations for Craniofacial Clinic

- ❖ **Time/Date:** Clinic held on second Friday of the month at 8am unless otherwise specified
- ❖ **Paperwork:** Bring insurance card, change of address, and legal documentation of guardianship
- ❖ **Food:** Patient should eat before arriving, and parents should bring light snacks like crackers and juice
- ❖ **Medications:** Bring a list of all current medications and any recent information from orthodontist if in active treatment (provide prior to TCC clinic date if possible)
- ❖ **Questions:** Write down any questions you have for team members before you come. Understanding the treatment plan is very important, so ask questions (i.e. when is the next surgery, will they need braces, do they need speech therapy, how long before the start of therapy, etc.)
- ❖ **Insurance:** Be familiar with your insurance policy prior to clinic
- ❖ **Suggestions:** Wear comfortable shoes and clothing as you will be walking quite a bit. You may also wish to bring a book or magazine to read and a book or toy for the child. We have limited space in the waiting room; we understand bringing other siblings is sometimes necessary, but whenever possible, please make other arrangements for siblings.

From the Craniofacial Foundation Board



CINDY BUTLER, VICE-PRESIDENT

In 2007, I was asked to join the CFA Board of Directors, serving as Secretary from 2008-2010. I am currently serving as Vice President. I have been an active supporter of the foundation since 2004 when I volunteered for the CFA Golf Classic. I am honored to be part of the CFA, a local foundation with little overhead and incredible results.

I continue to volunteer for all the fundraisers and events. My best memory is attending "Dreams Can Come True" family camp and watching the children interacting with each other. Hearing their stories and the impact that the CFA makes on their lives is the reason I continue to support this wonderful organization.

I was born and raised in Salem, VA where I graduated from Roanoke College and started my career at Dillard Paper Company, now Expedx (a division of International Paper).

I have been married to my husband, Bo, for 12 years, and we have two wonderful boys, Trip and Cole.

Cindy



JEFF LOY, PRESIDENT

"My wife, Teresa, and I really enjoyed our time at camp. To see the kid's faces having so much fun was very enjoyable to watch first hand."

Jeff



TERRY SMYTH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

From the first time I attended CFA camp back in 2004, I realized what a special experience this was for our patients and our families. However, what I did not realize at the time was how much I would come to enjoy this weekend!

"Dreams Can Come True" is no ordinary camp. I have witnessed self-esteem soar to the top, I have seen tears that know no boundaries, and I have listened to heartbreaking stories of warmth and gratitude. However, the one area that is consistent is the laughter and excitement to be attending this special weekend. Whether it is your eleventh time or your first time to be a part of CFA camp, it is always a new experience for everyone.

From the volunteers to the staff, everyone seems to gain a new outlook on life. We all seem to walk away with a newfound compassion and understanding for others, especially those with facial differences. Witnessing just how special these children really are as they help each other with their words or their actions is truly something to behold.

So, thank you to our donors and sponsors for helping us continue "Dreams Can Come True" CFA camp. We saw many new faces this year, and with your help we can reach out to more families in the future.

Terry

2011 Board Members:

Jeff Loy * Cindy Butler * Cindy Lusk * Traci Fant * Terry Smyth
Dr. Larry Sargent * Leslie Turner * Cherita Adams * Jimmy Adams
Dr. Mark Brzezienski * Ralph DeCicco * Jennifer Goodman
Danielle Alvarez-Jones * Melissa Jones * Scott McMahan
Brenda Sargent * Dr. Tim Strait * Ginger Wadel * Jennifer Young

CRANIOFACIAL FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

CFA is a non-profit organization that supports the work of the Tennessee Craniofacial Center (TCC) at Children's Hospital at Erlanger. **The CFA is dedicated to helping individuals with facial differences lead normal lives through education and emotional support.**

The CFA provides financial assistance for non-medical needs to patients traveling to the TCC for evaluation and treatment, financial support for the Center's International Medical Program, and medical assistance as approved by the Foundation's Executive Committee. **The CFA programs are made possible through private donations and fundraising.**

How You Can Help!

- * Celebrate a birthday, anniversary or other milestone by naming CFA as your charity of choice
- * Sponsor a family to attend "Dreams Can Come True" family camp
- * Start a "Bear Hugs" program at your local school or organization
- * Check to see if your employer offers a matching funds program
- * Join the Parent to Parent Network
- * Name CFA in your estate planning

Please call to discuss the possibilities ...
(423) 778-9176 or 800-418-3223.

Books:

Brink – *David's Story: A Book about Surgery*
Graham – *A Special Smile*
Sargent – *Craniofacial Surgery*

Children's Services:

Tennessee Craniofacial Center – **(423) 778-9192** or
leslie.turner@erlangers.org
TN Children's Special Services –
<http://health.state.tn.us/MCH/css.htm>
GA Children's Medical Services -
<http://health.state.ga.us/programs/cms/>

Photography: Brooke Craig, Theresa Koltz, &
Motion Picture Company
Design Layout: Colleen Aitkenhead

BETTER TOMORROWS

is a newsletter distributed to the patients, families, and supporters of the CFA. If you have a story you would like to share, please send your story and photos to

renee.craig@erlangers.org.

craniofacialfoundation.org

Sign Up for the E-Newsletter @

"DREAMS CAN COME TRUE"

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