



Tidbits

Updates from Executive Health Director Alyssa Tallo

- We had an outstanding time at this year's Cornhole tournament! Thanks to the Foundation for organizing another successful event, and to everyone who participated & donated!
- August's Job Fair was a big success! With more than 400 shares on Facebook, word-of-mouth at churches, libraries & neighborhood meetings, along with walk-ins who were alerted by onsite signage - we brought in more than 50 applicants throughout the day! Plus over a dozen more inquiries came in through Messenger! We truly appreciate your help to share with others, and hope you'll assist us again next month. We plan to continue these monthly Job Fairs at least through the fall. We look forward to welcoming new faces to the team!
- Mark your calendar! Our annual Fireworks Festival is on September 14 (rain date of September 21). Neville Frances and The Reggae Exchange will provide entertainment. This is one of our favorite events every year - hope you can join us!

Alyssa Tallo

Facilities Update

As usual, our awesome Facilities team is hard at work, updating and improving our campus. Some of the latest projects include:

- Relocated the Thrift Shop from FA3W to Hope 1
- Installed new ceiling, new LED lights and two 55" TV's to assist with communication to staff and residents
- Remodeled vacant space on CR3 to accommodate our new tenants: Research, Strategy & Development
- Started foundation work for the pavilion in our future enclosed courtyard

Happenings at MCH!



MCH Foundation Cornhole Tournament



MCH Monthly Job Fair During August



Construction Begins On Enclosed Courtyard Pavilion

Camp Friendship

At the end of July our Pediatric Unit, Friendship 1 East, hosted their second annual summer camp, called Camp Friendship.

We celebrated this year with five days of fun including Animal & Disney Day, featuring a special showing of Beauty and the Beast. Residents decorated their own Prince and Princess crowns and spent time with some adorable animals. We also enjoyed the beautiful weather, spending an afternoon together making some cool tie dyed t-shirts and beautiful pour paintings. We had a big outing to the Strong National Museum of Play that was so much fun! Residents had a wonderful time - the Butterfly Garden was a definite favorite! To wrap up the week's activities, residents enjoyed music therapy followed by a concert performance by The Brotherhood Music Group.

The staff and residents on Friendship 1 East would like to thank the MCH Foundation and MCH Auxiliary Group whose generous donations helped make Camp Friendship possible. And MCH Administration would like to recognize & thank all of the staff who made this program happen for the second year - it was a big hit for a reason, and we are proud of the outstanding team who are dedicated to its success & to the care of our residents.

Learn more about Camp Friendship from Nurse Manager Maria McCracken, who oversees the initiative along with the F1E team:

What inspired the program?

Camp Friendship was done years ago when FR1E was all a pediatric unit. But what inspired my nurses and I to restart this was when one of our pediatric patients mentioned that they had never gone to a summer camp. This was surprising to me because some of my BEST memories as a child was at the summer camp I went to. On FR1E we want to give these children the most "normal" life possible and experience things that any child gets to experience. It is important to all of us that children who live here do not miss out just because they reside at MCH.

How have residents & families responded?

Everyone, including residents, staff and families has loved it! The kiddos get excited about it and have even given their input on what they would like to see at future camps. The families love that they get the opportunity to participate in all the activities with their children.

What have been some of the favorite activities?

This year our favorite activity was going to the strong museum of play. Our children all have a wide range of cognitive ability and the museum had something for everyone, from the butterfly garden to the arcade. Residents also loved the Brotherhood music group, the auditorium was packed with residents from all units! It was great to see staff members dancing with residents.

Tell us about a memorable moment you've had with a resident in the program.

This year on art day we were able to bring all the pediatric residents outside to enjoy tie dying and pour painting, it was great to see everyone make amazing art. Staff members brought their own children and we even included some of our adult residents. It was a great opportunity for our staff's children to get to spend time with the residents here and become familiar with what a "medically fragile" child looks like and how they are more similar than they are different. Since then we have had employees kids come just to hang out and spend time with our children.

Any plans for the future, or things you would like to do to keep growing the initiative?

I would love to expand camp friendship and open it up to the community including previous residents and their families. I would love camp friendship to be an opportunity where families could bring their medically frail children to camp and provide respite to the families.

