

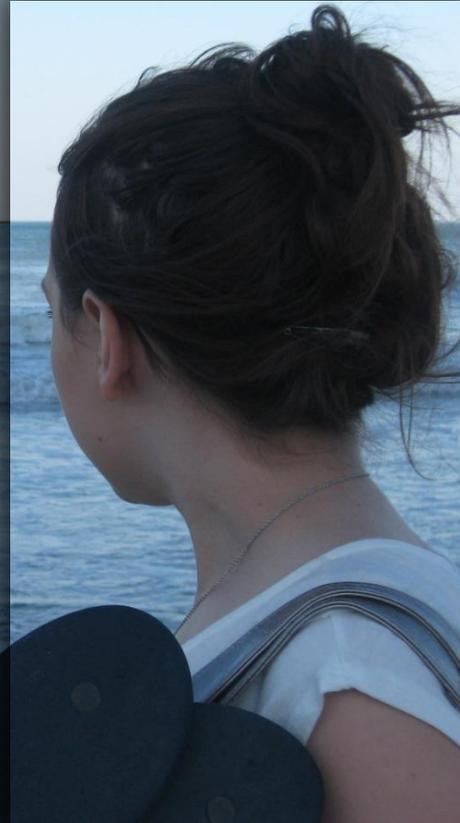
Good News for Kids *Pediatrics Program Offers Support, Stability to Teens and Families*

By Kendall Williamson, Assistant Editor

Life as a teenager can be very difficult. It can be even more challenging when you're a teenager with a serious medical condition requiring long stays in the hospital and time away from friends. Thankfully, the Streetlight Program at Shands & UF is there to help with these challenges so that teens may find hope and dreams for the future. Streetlight was founded by Rebecca Brown, M. Div. in 2006 and offers support for adolescents and young adults ages 13-25 living with cancer, cystic fibrosis, sickle cell disease, and other chronic and life-limiting illnesses.

Streetlight

(Continued on page 16 as, 'Streetlight.')





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Welcome Readers



With this issue of *ON PAR*, we introduce a wealth of new contributors alongside research celebrations worthy of their own special issue. From the article on The Streetlight Program and its important work in helping children with life-limiting illnesses to the inspirational story of the SHIP program and its early successes, the work of UF & Shands pediatricians, researchers, nurses, coordinators, and assistants begins to emerge as a leader among leaders. As mentioned on page 11, the influence of colleagues from the Department is felt in publications and in venues around the world.

ON PAR itself takes on a new role, with this being our final print issue. Starting with our next issue, the magazine will be fully electronic. All issues will be available at <http://www.peds.ufl.edu/onpar/>. Moving to an online-only format allows us to publish more quickly and avoid unnecessary fiscal and environmental costs. Research wins can be publicized closer to the time they are realized and announcements and calls for papers will be available shortly after they are released. Join me in celebrating another successful year in working towards the improvement of kids' health.

For the benefit of children,

Heidi Saliba

ON PAR Board Members:

Dr. John Nackashi
Dr. Kathleen Ryan
Dr. Lindsay Thompson
Dr. Marilyn Dumont-Driscoll



ON PAR news magazine is edited by Heidi Saliba, Coordinator of Research Programs for Ped-I-Care and the Division of General Pediatrics at the University of Florida.

Assistant Editor Kendall Williamson recently completed a nursing degree at the University of Florida.

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Research News and Announcements

Calls for Papers

Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine has issued a call for papers for its May 2012 issue, which will focus on nutrition and the Health of Children and Adolescents. The manuscript submission deadline is September 15, 2011. See <http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/cgi/reprint/165/7/667?etoc> for full details.

The Pediatric Academic Societies have issued a call for workshop submissions, due August 12. See http://www.pasworkshop.org/PasWorkshop12/workshops/main_abstract_menu.cfm for submission information.

Beginning July 15 The Pacific Rim International Conference on Disabilities will accept proposals for its 2012 meeting. The annual conference is scheduled for March 26 & 27 in Honolulu. Visit <http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/> for conference and submission information.

The Excellence in Paediatrics conference has issued a call for submissions relevant to “this year’s core thematic streams [which] include infectious disease and immunisation, respiratory medicine, dermatology..., adolescent medicine and nutrition while the scientific programme also includes sessions in many other fields of interest.” The meeting is scheduled for November 30 through December 3 in Istanbul, Turkey. Submissions are due September 16. Visit <http://www.excellence-in-paediatrics.org/content/contact> to review additional requirements.

Mark Your Calendars

PAS Workshop Submission Deadline
August 12, 2011

First day of school – Alachua County Public Schools
August 22, 2011

Noche de Gala
October 22, 2011

UF Homecoming
November 5, 2011

PAS Abstract Submission Deadline
November 17, 2011

PAS 2012 - Boston
April 28 – May 1, 2012

Send your research news and announcements to hsaliba@peds.ufl.edu.

Contributing to This Issue



Sandie Ha began as a Research Assistant with an NIH-funded study led by Dr. I-Chan Huang of the Institute for Child Health Policy. Ha recently completed an MPH degree at UF and is entering the PhD program in the fall. Her article on the SHIP program is found on page 12.



Contributing writer **Ann Van Doren** works as Program Assistant in the Pediatric Chairman's office. She brings writing and editorial expertise to this issue. Her article on the opening of the Shands Children's Emergency Room may be found on page 8.



Recent UF grad **Simone Sher** began as a Research Assistant for Dr. I-Chan Huang of the Institute for Child Health Policy, and has since gone on to work on other IRB-approved projects. She hopes to begin medical school in the fall. For this issue of ON PAR she provided design and editorial assistance.



UF undergrad **Nicole Brunner** is a Research Assistant in the Division of General Pediatrics. She is in leadership training to become a coordinator and hopes to go on to medical school in the fall of 2013. Ms. Brunner is responsible for content editing of this edition.



Assistant Editor **Kendall Williamson** recently completed her Bachelor of Nursing Science degree and is pursuing graduate opportunities for the fall. Ms. Williamson's article on the Streetlight program graces this issue's front and back covers.

Would you like to see your work featured in the next issue of ON PAR? Volunteer positions include contributing writer, content editor, design editor, and photographer. Email Heidi Saliba at hsaliba@peds.ufl.edu to apply.

Ped-I-Care Perpetually Pushing the Boundaries of Patient Progress, Parental Satisfaction, and Financial Success

It's an unusual headline for a health care program: Patients are getting healthier, families are among the most satisfied in the nation, and fiscal and corporate accountability are without peer. The Ped-I-Care program, established in 2003 to cover children in 16 counties, has since expanded into a 23-county region and includes those with special health care needs whose families receive Title XIX (Medicaid) or Title XXI benefits.

Recognized by the Agency for Health Care Administration for its nearly flawless behavioral health and Bureau of Managed Health Care audits, the program has continued to score high on its CAHPS-driven customer satisfaction surveys. The CAHPS (Consumer Assessment of Health Plans Survey) measures parents' experiences with:

- getting needed care;
- getting treatment quickly;
- doctor communication;
- health plan customer service;
- getting specialized services for their children;
- the child's personal doctor;
- shared decision making; and
- care coordination.

For 2010-2011, 53% of Ped-I-Care parents rated the program as excellent overall, with 92% rating the program as either excellent, very good, or good overall. When compared to national averages in fifty-ninth percentile overall, the program may serve as a model for the responsible implementation of health care reform efforts. While its member population is the riskiest and costliest to insure, the program continues to see a downward trend in costs over time while maintaining high standards of care and continually improving its customer satisfaction scores. The Ped-I-Care business model and its successful work for children were the focus of a Grand Rounds presentation for the Department of Pediatrics on Friday, July 15.



Lily, age 9 months. Used with permission.

Ped-I-Care



Rosellen Dedlow

Award of Distinction

Rosellen Dedlow, ARNP, was presented with a Certificate of Excellence at the 24th annual Ingeborg Mauksch Clinical Excellence Conference in May. As an award recipient, Ms. Dedlow was invited by The Florida Nurses' Association to present her work on a case report of unusual presentation of atlantoaxial instability in a patient with Down's Syndrome. She is listed in their newsletter at

<http://www.floridanurse.org/newsEvents/index.asp>.



Doug McConnell

Off to Med School

UF graduate **Doug McConnell** will begin medical school at Florida Atlantic University this fall. McConnell, who served for nearly a year as Dr. Kathleen Ryan's Volunteer Research Coordinator, will be part of FAU's inaugural class of medical students. During his time volunteering with General Pediatrics, McConnell contributed to the management of several studies including MRSA research presented at the 2011 PAS.

Pediatrics Honor Roll

Part of the mission of *ON PAR* is to celebrate the research successes of those who work with children. In this issue we feature accomplishments from all over the Department of Pediatrics, with an invitation to submit work of your own to be announced in future editions of the magazine.

Congratulations to the physicians, nurses, medical students, and research coordinators for their noteworthy advancements in the field of pediatrics.

Building a Leadership Legacy

Robert Kolb was elected leader of the independent UF Research Coordinators' Consortium for the 2011-2012 term. Kolb has more than 25 years of experience in clinical research coordination and has been an active member of the group since its inception in the fall of 2010.



Robert Kolb

Continual Honors for Up-and-Coming Scholar

Dr. Onyekachukwu Osakwe was awarded the Master of Public Health program's Exemplary Student Award. Osakwe was the Division of General Pediatrics' first MPH intern. His research on longitudinal trends in the management of MRSA infections by pediatric hospitalists was presented at the 2011 PAS.



Dr. Onyekachukwu Osakwe

Dr. Desmond Schatz was named the UF Research Foundation Professor for 2011-2013. Bestowed upon him for a second time, Schatz is known internationally for his work in pediatric diabetes.

Connie Nixon, a nurse in neonatology, was honored with the Bev Millard award on March 9.

An article by **Dr. Debra Esernio-Jenssen** was published in the April edition of *Pediatrics*. "Abusive head trauma in children: a comparison of male and female perpetrators" examines the "effect of perpetrator gender on victim presentation and outcomes." The article has been cited and discussed in numerous medical and media outlets.



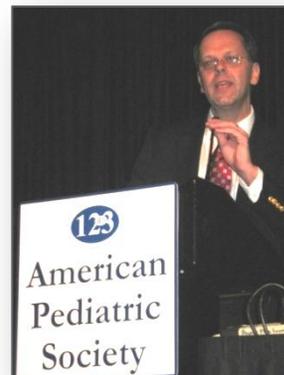
Dr. Kathleen Ryan

Work That's Read around the World

Dr. Kathleen Ryan's article, "Are gymnasium equipment surfaces a source of staphylococcal infections in the community?" was published in the March issue of the *American Journal of Infection Control*. After being discussed in an online blog of *The Wall Street Journal*, the article received international media attention in mainstream, medical, trade, and sports and athletics news.

At the Forefront of His Field

Dr. Paul Carney presented "Emerging Therapies in Epilepsy" at the APS Outstanding Invited Science by New Members program of the 2011 PAS. His work has been chronicled in television specials and other news outlets, and Carney is recognized as one of the leaders in his field of specialty.



Dr. Paul Carney

Continued on page 15 as, 'Pediatrics Honor Roll'

A Good Day for Kids

Shands Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony Marks Completion of Dedicated ER Space for Children

By Ann Van Doren

Comfortable, soothing, cheerful and kid-friendly aren't the kind of words typically used to describe the setting for an emergency room. But, they represent the atmosphere created within the new Pediatric Emergency Room at Shands Hospital for Children.

The Pediatric ER, which officially opened July 1, is housed in the space formerly occupied by the original emergency room at the east entrance of Shands. The new facility includes 13 private treatment rooms, five



Top and left: The June 21 ribbon-cutting ceremony was attended by community, UF, and Shands leaders. **Right:** The Pediatrics After Hours waiting room is adjacent to the new Pediatrics ER at Shands.



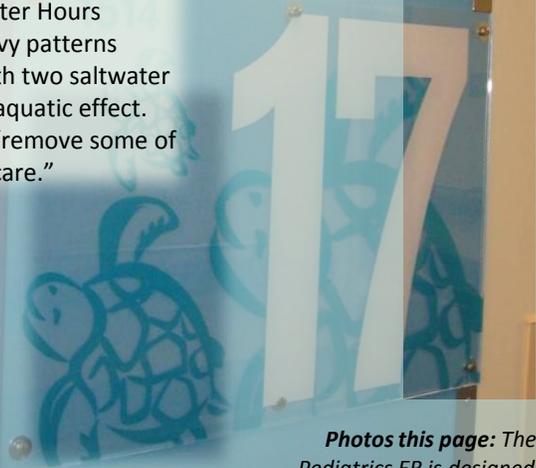
observation bays and separate waiting rooms for sick and well children. Additionally, there are two exam rooms dedicated to children with contagious diseases. The ER also includes a consultation room where families can meet privately with staff.

Pediatrics After Hours, currently located at the Shands Medical Plaza, will move into the new space July 20 and will include six exam rooms and a waiting room.

Dr. Richard Bucciarelli, professor and chairman of the Department of Pediatrics, describes the facility as, “a terrific addition to the Health Science Center and the community. It will allow more flexibility in caring for kids at one site.”

In addition to sharing space, the pediatric ER and Pediatrics After Hours feature nautical themes. Foamy shades of blue and green in wavy patterns accent the rooms, walls, and floors. Porthole windows along with two saltwater fish tanks filled with colorful coral and clown fish complete the aquatic effect.

Bucciarelli notes the family-friendly environment will help to “remove some of the anxiety that patients and families feel when they come for care.”



Photos this page: The new Pediatrics ER is designed with soothing greens and blues to complement a nautical theme.

The Parents' Page

Splash into Summer with Safety Tips from the AAP

Just in time for warm weather and cool times at the swimming pool and springs, the American Academy of Pediatrics has released its 2011 guide to summertime safety. Visit <http://www.aap.org/advocacy/releases/summertips.cfm> for tips on fun in the sun and water, and <http://www.aap.org/advocacy/releases/summertips-p2.cfm> for topics ranging from fireworks, bugs, bicycles, and playgrounds to skateboards, scooters, ATVs, and lawn mowers.

Planning a Trip or Vacation? Check out These Resources!

The CDC's website offers a plethora of travel information for those planning short trips, family vacations, or even adventures overseas. At <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/>, users will find information on clinics, vaccines, diseases, and how to stay healthy while traveling. Additional items of interest include tips for traveling with children, traveling with people who have special needs, and things to know about traveling by air or cruise ship. Country-specific updates are available on more than 200 international destinations, along with breaking news alerts relevant to seasons, locations, and health concerns.

Site of Significance

Moms and dads, be sure to check out the PBSparents website at <http://www.pbs.org/parents/> for information, games, activities, and fun family resources. The colorful, well-organized site is appealing to both adults and children with life and learning topics to interest everyone.



*Summer Fun
In the Sun*

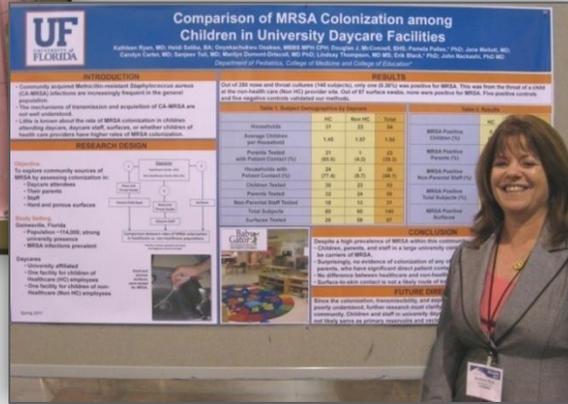


Left: Dr. Becky Fudge presents her work on improving the detection of hypertension in girls with Turner Syndrome.



Continued Success at PAS 2011

The University of Florida was well represented this year, even more so than in years past, at the Pediatric Academics Societies' annual meeting in Denver, Colorado. The downtown area was abuzz with welcome signs and specialized logistics to accommodate the needs of the more than 7,800 attendees from around the world.



Above: Dr. Kathleen Ryan presents her work on MRSA colonization in university daycare facilities.



Left: Dr. Jeffrey Roth delivered a group presentation on maternal body mass index and breastfeeding intentionality.

SHIP Program Promotes Health Awareness, Academics, and Cultural Competency



Above: Rajeeb Das of the Family Data Center leads the SHIP efforts to reduce social disparities.

By Sandie Ha

Inequalities exist in many aspects of our society, including education. For years, educators—from grade to professional schools—have struggled to provide equal educational opportunities through culturally-competent methods that maximize learning.

In an attempt to minimize educational disparity within Gainesville elementary schools and to promote cultural competency among young professionals, the University of Florida Department of Pediatrics has developed an interdisciplinary team called the School Health Interdisciplinary Program, or SHIP. SHIP is a student-run program, currently operated by UF pediatrics residents as well as graduate and undergraduate students from multidisciplinary backgrounds. This interprofessional, longitudinal project involves teams of students visiting local elementary schools in low socioeconomic areas on a weekly basis to serve as health and science educators.

During the fall of 2009, before the program was officially launched, local schools were evaluated for learning and service needs. After-school activity-based curriculums were then tailored to help meet the needs of each school. The overarching goals of the program are to increase physical activity, improve FCAT scores, reinforce science lessons taught in school, and promote general health and health awareness. SHIP students volunteer at Terwilliger, Rawlings, Lake Forest, and Idylwild elementary schools to teach science and demonstrate scientific phenomena in interactive ways. They teach and promote disease awareness and prevention, and provide basic screening services such as dental exams, blood pressure, and nutritional assessments for students and their families.

“SHIP is a great opportunity for students in different health professions tracks to interact in a community project that is valued. The school district highlighted this community/school partnership in its renewal application for the 21st Century Scholars program.”

- Nancy S. Hardt, MD

In an effort to contribute to pediatric research, most of SHIP’s projects include pre- and post-assessments to evaluate student progress and the effectiveness of activities. Results will help improve SHIP curricula and provide information to policymakers about effective educational support programs.

The projects SHIP is implementing at the schools are important components of education for both UF students providing services and children receiving them. The SHIP team is able to apply their knowledge in new ways to teach and interact with children outside hospital and university settings. These experiences help young professionals better serve the community by becoming comfortable in new settings, improving levels of cultural competency, and building on leadership, teaching, and organizational skills.

SHIP projects also benefit children. In addition to reinforcing school lessons , these projects are critical in increasing students’ interest and awareness in health and science issues from a young age. Additionally, program educators, all of whom are successful college and professional students, serve as role models for children and motivate them to be successful in the future. As a result, SHIP projects not only reduce educational disparities, but also cultural disparities.

SHIP hopes to permanently establish these programs in schools and is frequently adding new residents and students to the team. SHIP continues to look for volunteers to help with writing curriculum, delivering lessons at schools, analyzing data, and planning fundraising activities for the program. Students or professionals interested in gaining great experience with SHIP may contact Sandie Ha at sandieha@ufl.edu.



Speaking of Statistics

By Erik Black, Ph.D.

It's summer, a time synonymous with vacations and pool-side leisure. Given that both these activities can provide ample opportunities for pleasure reading, I'd like to offer some suggestions. I agree, the idea of reading about numbers for pleasure may seem a bit "odd," but you're going to have to trust me.

Each of the following recommendations meets the following criteria:

- They deal with topics related to research, mathematics and/or statistics
- Are non-fiction
- Are entertaining (trust me, I've read all of them)

Try these out for size:

[Innumeracy: Mathematical Illiteracy and Its Consequences](#) by John Allen Paulos

[A Mathematician Reads the Newspaper](#) by John Allen Paulos

[Freakonomics](#) by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner

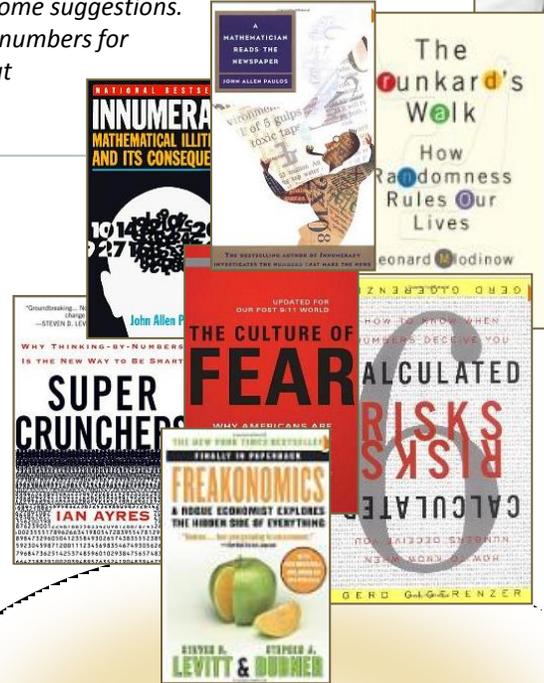
[Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game](#) by Michael Lewis

[Calculated Risks: How to Know When Numbers Deceive You](#) by Gerd Gigerenzer

[The Drunkard's Walk: How Randomness Rules Our Lives](#) by Leonard Mlodinow

[Super Crunchers: Why Thinking-by-Numbers is the New Way to Be Smart](#) by Ian Ayres

[The Culture of Fear: Why Americans Are Afraid of the Wrong Things: Crime, Drugs, Minorities, Teen Moms, Killer Kids, Mutant Microbes, Plane Crashes, Road Rage, and So Much More](#) by Barry Glassner



2011 Summer Reading Recommendations

Erik Black, Ph.D. is Director of Research for Ped-I-Care at the University of Florida. He also has teaching and research duties in the Education Department at UF. This article is the sixth in a series from Dr. Black.



Pediatrics Honor Roll, continued from page 7

Already an Accomplished Researcher

Cristos Ifantides won third place in the Lawrence M. Goodman Award competition for his work as a study author of, "Gymnasium Equipment Surfaces are Not a Source of Community Staphylococcal Infections." Ifantides presented the poster at the Pediatrics Science Days in April. He is a third-year medical student who is also completing an MBA degree at UF.



Cristos Ifantides

Dr. Maureen Novak was honored by the UF COM Class of 2011 with the Hippocratic Award in early May. She joins the ranks of preeminent pediatricians such as Dr. Gerold Schiebler and Dr. Elia M. Ayoub who have won the award in the past. This is the first time since 1984 that a member of the Department of Pediatrics has won the prestigious award.

Dr. William Slayton was named the Chief of the Division of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology after serving as Interim Chief for more than two years.



Dr. Vikas Dharnidarka

NIH Grant to Benefit Teens

Dr. Vikas Dharnidarka was awarded a five-year, \$2.5 million grant by the NIH to study ways to assist teens with kidney transplants. The focus of the study is overcoming non-adherence to medication and other routines. In this study, he and colleagues seek ways to utilize technology that teens are already involved with. Dr. Dharnidarka is the Chief of the Division of Pediatric Nephrology at UF.

Dr. Marilyn Dumont-Driscoll was awarded a Department of Defense grant to study the effects of specific types of exercising in patients who have Prader-Willi syndrome.

Active Physician-Researcher Now Division Chief

Dr. Sanjeev Tuli was named Chief of the Division of General Pediatrics in January 2011, after a one-year, nationwide search. Dr. Tuli has led and participated in numerous research projects, which have been published and presented in both national and international venues. As Chief he continues to pursue research interests in residents' learning styles, pediatric ophthalmology, and related fields.



Dr. Sanjeev Tuli

Streetlight, continued from page 1

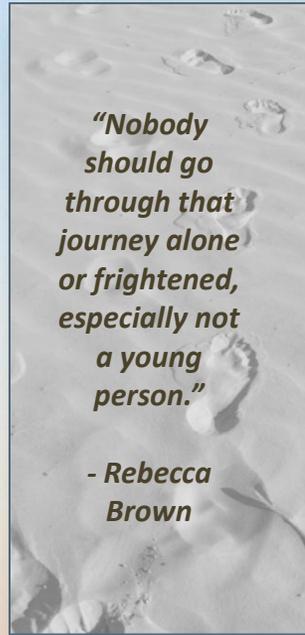
With a palliative care focus, Streetlight volunteers provide comfort and care at times they're most needed. According to Brown, "many of the teenagers are scared to move to adult care because they think that's where they go to die." The Streetlight Program helps maintain consistency, facilitates transition, and helps ease patient fears about moving to adult care. They create yearbooks so that the patients can say goodbye to their nurses and write what they want to say about their journey. The program also works to connect patients with people who share similar experiences. For example, Streetlight created a social network for teenagers with cystic fibrosis so they can talk and share their stories.

The program consists of a team of more than 50 college students (mostly pre-med) who divide into nine different shift-teams that serve afternoons and evenings, five days a week. Their goal is to build relationships with the teens and develop a companionship for help through difficult transitions. "We want to help these teenagers realize that life is worth living and there's something more than just their treatments," Brown said.

Another focus of Streetlight is peer support. Companionship is offered by people close to the teenagers' age who are familiar with the same things such as pop culture, sports, and loving parents who may hover. "I spend my life in their world but I'm not the same and can't do the same things that a peer of a similar age can," Brown said. The program has a strong end-of-life support and hopes that at least three members close to the patient can visit with them and be there for them during this difficult time. They create memory boxes and make video tributes to support the teenagers and their families.

Streetlight not only affects the patients in a positive way but also affects the team members. Brown believes this program gives the team members a perspective from the other side of the bed and makes a difference in the doctors they will become. "You may worry about a bad hair day or worry about getting a B instead of an A in a class, but after you've visited someone with a chronic illness that will take your life young, it shifts your perspective in a way where you don't see anything about your life in the same way," Brown said.

The Streetlight Program has provided many teenagers with the support they need during their difficult times and will continue to make a difference in many lives. Brown explains, "Nobody should go through that journey alone or frightened, especially not a young person."



"Nobody should go through that journey alone or frightened, especially not a young person."

- Rebecca Brown

To learn more about Streetlight and find out how you can help, visit www.shands.org/streetlight.

ON PAR

Organizational News in Pediatrics and Research