

JANUARY 2016

Coffee Talk nourishes parent interaction

Through the St. Jude Family Advisory Council, patients and families make creative suggestions and proposals that have far-reaching effects in the hospital. This group includes family members of current and former St. Jude patients, a few staff members, former patients and some bereaved parents. They want to hear your thoughts about the care your child receives at St. Jude.

Katie Witsoe joined the council in 2012. Like the other parents on the council, she wanted to use her experiences as a St. Jude parent to give back to the hospital, even though her son, Sean, did not beat his cancer.

Last year she and other council members sought ways to solicit patient-care opinions and ideas from parents whose children were inpatients.

In response, the council hosted its first Coffee Talk, an informal parent-to-parent social break. During the first Coffee Talk, council members learned that parents wanted to discuss their thoughts about the hospital. Parents said they were also eager to

meet other parents.

“Families left Coffee Talk feeling connected in a way they had not been before. The Family Advisory Council had improvement topics and a plan to continue providing this important opportunity for parents to share and discuss their concerns,” Witsoe says.

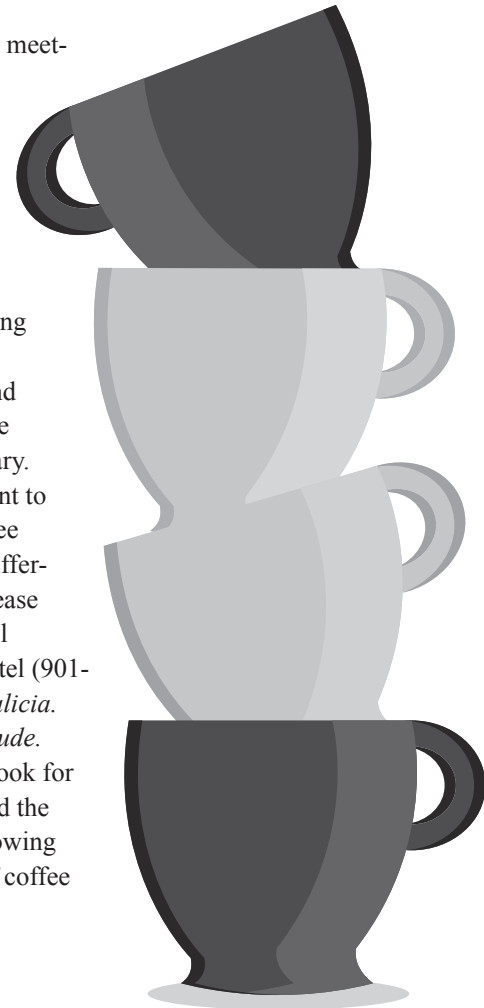
“Going from appointment to appointment, parents really don’t have time to just sit and talk and get to know each other,” she says. “Coffee Talk gives them an outlet to cope as they meet other families and share their experiences. It really builds a bond.”

On average, 10 parents attend the meetings, along with three or four Family Advisory Council members and at least two St. Jude staff. The meetings are open to both inpatient and outpatient families.

“As a council member, I’m able to give back and turn something that was tragic for our family into hopefully something positive that will help other families as they move forward,” Witsoe says. “It’s an honor to be on the committee.”

The next Coffee Talk meeting will be Thursday, January 7, from 2–4 p.m. in the Medicine Room waiting area. Dates, locations and times for the meetings vary.

If you want to attend Coffee Talk on a different date, please call or email Alicia Huettel (901-595-5453, alicia.huettel@stjude.org.) Also look for signs around the hospital showing the stack of coffee cups.



World-class care is close to home

In 2015, St. Jude opened its seventh affiliate clinic at Novant Health Hemby Children’s Hospital in Charlotte, North Carolina. The St. Jude Affiliate Program is a network of pediatric hematology-oncology clinics in the US. These clinics allow St. Jude to extend care and benefits to more children while increasing the number of patients treated on our clinical trials. Having more patients enrolled in clinical trials means St. Jude can work faster at finding cures and saving more children.

Doctors and staff at the affiliates work with St. Jude staff to provide care to patients in settings that are closer to home. Affiliates located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Charlotte, North Carolina; Huntsville, Alabama; Johnson City, Tennessee; Peoria, Illinois; Shreveport, Louisiana; and Springfield, Missouri provide St. Jude patients with the best of both worlds, cutting-edge medical care and the convenience of receiving it close to home. What this means for families is that siblings can be together, parents may not have to lose employment, and these St. Jude families can receive support from their local communities.

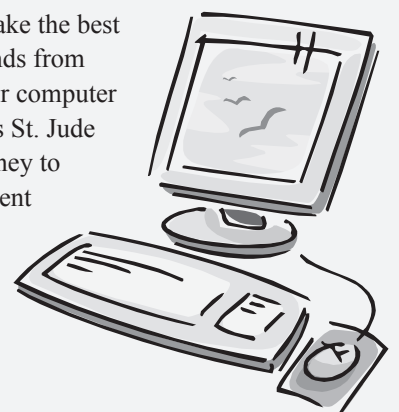
The affiliate clinics and St. Jude strive to make the medical care for patients as seamless as possible. Medical records for affiliate patients are shared between the affiliate clinics and St. Jude staff. The affiliates also have access to patient education materials, research protocols, clinical guidelines, and everything that is on the St. Jude intranet. Affiliate Program staff members always welcome feedback from patients and families.

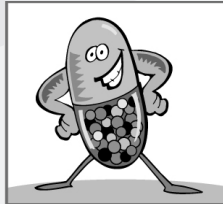
If you have questions about the Affiliate Program, please call 901-595-3974.

You can help keep clinic computers in working order

We all know that computers are expensive. At St. Jude, computers have been placed in each clinic room to help the staff better serve our patients. Please do not allow children to play on these computers and keyboards.

We thank you in advance for helping keep these computers in good working condition, so the staff can access the important files they need to treat your child. This also helps staff make the best use of the funds from donors. Fewer computer repairs means St. Jude has more money to spend on patient care.





Talking about Medicines

Learn more about your child's medicines

By Shane Cross, PharmD, Pharmaceutical Services

If you're looking for information about the medicines your child takes, the St. Jude Pharmacy is a wonderful resource. The Pharmacy has Patient Medication sheets that contain helpful details about many drugs used at St. Jude, including chemotherapy drugs. Each sheet contains a brief description of the drug along with a list of some of its possible side effects. Patient Medication sheets also contain special instructions for each drug.

You can pick up medication sheets from the main Pharmacy (located on the first floor, near D clinic and E clinic). They also are available in the Translational Trials Unit (TTU) Pharmacy and online. Just go to www.stjude.org and search for "A to Z List of Medicines" using the search tool.

Along with reading Patient Medication sheets, you can always ask your child's doctor, nurse or pharmacist about the medicines your child is taking.

Nominate your nurse for a DAISY award

The next DAISY Award ceremony honoring St. Jude nurses will take place Wednesday, February 10, at 2 p.m. in the Kay Kafe Corner. Any nurse can be nominated by patients, families, employees, volunteers or visitors. If you would like to nominate a nurse for a DAISY Award, pick up a nomination form from any inpatient unit (Transplant, ICU, Leukemia, Solid Tumor), your child's clinic waiting area, the Linda R. Hajar Family Resource Center (located on the second floor of the Patient Care Center), the Blood Donor Center or Chili's Care Center lobby. You may also nominate a nurse online at www.stjude.org/daisyaward. To find the nomination form, click on "Nominate a Nurse" located under Related Topics.

DAISY stands for diseases attacking the immune system. The DAISY Foundation was formed in 1999 by the family of J. Patrick Barnes,

who died of an immune disorder at 33. His family had experienced the skilled and compassionate care of many nurses, and they started the DAISY Award program as a way of saying thank you. Today, more than 1,800 health care facilities in all 50 states and 14 other countries honor nurses with DAISY Awards.

Congratulations to the 2015 DAISY Award winners from St. Jude: **Sommer Brannan** (Solid Tumor Unit), **Ron Hardin** (Medicine Room), **Shelley Jones** (ICU), **Kari Lahmon** (Surgical Services), **Tabatha Doyle** (Neuro-Oncology), **Terrie Leslie** (Medicine Room), **Rebekah Pittman** (Solid Tumor Unit), **Becky Tippet** (Medicine Room), **Nolan Eason** (Transplant Unit), **Leslie Mann** (Patient Scheduling), **Jo Ann Powell** (Assessment/Triage) and **Sonia Thomas** (Assessment/Triage). These honorees demonstrate professionalism with a focus on our mission, vision and values. They exemplify great teamwork, interpersonal skills and have established a professional connection with patients and families through emotional support and trust.

If you have questions about DAISY Awards, email DAISYAwardRecognitionCommittee@stjude.org.



St. Jude Parents is published on the first of each month by Family-Centered Care Services and Biomedical Communications. Your questions and comments are important to us. We want to print advice and tips from St. Jude parents to other St. Jude parents.

To share your ideas or to receive this newsletter by email, please call or email Alicia Huettel, RN, MSN, at 901-595-5453 (parents_newsletter@stjude.org) or Lois Young (lois.young@stjude.org). To subscribe to an online version of this newsletter or to learn more about *St. Jude Parents*, visit www.stjude.org/parents-newsletter. St. Jude is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



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262 Danny Thomas Place
Memphis, TN 38105-3678