

Treating the Whole Child

For more than 18 years, Noah's Children has served pediatric patients and their families from across a vast portion of Central Virginia. Our patients are referred from all three major health systems. As a result,



Thanks to Noah's Children, Sebastian celebrated his birthday this year at Great Wolf Lodge.

Noah's Children has forged terrific partnerships with a number of different physicians and specialty clinics. One such partnership is with the Pediatric Hematology and Oncology (Hem-Onc) division at the Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU. The division is dedicated to improving the quality of children's lives through prevention, control, and cure of cancer and blood disorders. Like Noah's Children, VCU's Hem-Onc division believes in treating the whole child – not just the illness – by providing comprehensive and compassionate medical and psychosocial care for the patient and their family. Patients like Sebastian Winters, age 9, who has Stage 4 neuroblastoma.



Sebastian Winters hams it up with his sister, Kathleen, and Rich Catlett, Noah's chaplain.

Since being diagnosed in 2012, Sebastian has been in and out of hospitals for chemotherapy, radiation, blood work, and more. "One day," said Nina Winters, Sebastian's mother, "he finally said to me, 'Mommy, no more hospitals.' And I realized that he was suffering, not just from the tumor, but from not having any kind of quality of life. I knew by this time that we couldn't fix the problem, so I began searching for an alternative that would give him some sort of happiness." It was then that the social worker at VCU's Hem-Onc division connected Nina with Noah's Children. "I am so thankful that she told me about Noah's Children. I don't know what I would have done otherwise."

Since becoming part of the Noah's family, Sebastian's quality of life has improved dramatically. He can now play with his video games and stuffed animals. "He is a happy kid now. He enjoys and appreciates life," Nina said.

"Noah's has been a blessing not only with Sebastian," added Nina, "but for our entire family, as well, because they make sure to include all of us in fun activities and outings." (His sister Kathleen is 11.) "It's difficult being a single mother of two children who are always vying for my attention. But I've been blown away with how Noah's has taken care of us in so many ways."

Partners in Treating the Whole Child



Dr. India Y. Sisler

The Hematology and Oncology division at Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU provides both inpatient and outpatient care to children with hematologic and oncologic disorders. In addition to cancer, it treats children with sickle cell disease and other blood disorders. The comprehensive team includes seven physicians, five mid-level providers, a psychologist, chaplain, child life specialist, and several social workers. The division sees approximately 80 new cancer diagnoses a year, with patients coming from the Fredericksburg region down to the North Carolina border.



Dr. Christina M. Wiedl

Two of the division's doctors spoke to us about their partnership with Noah's Children – India Y. Sisler, MD, Interim Chief and Assistant professor, Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU, Hematology and Oncology, and Christina M. Wiedl, DO, Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU, Hematology and Oncology.

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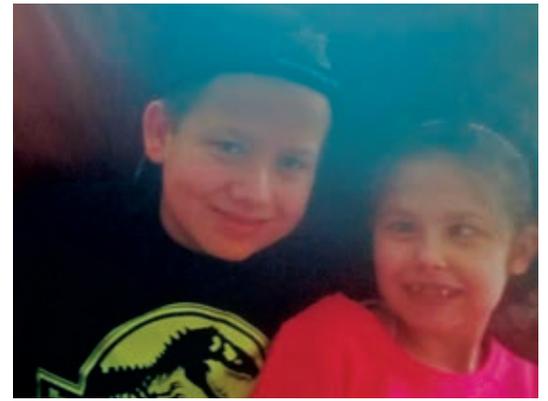
The Fisher family feels the same way. At the age of six, Hailey Fisher was diagnosed with Stage 3 brain cancer. Although doctors were able to remove the tumor, it came back soon after. Now 14, Hailey has long surpassed the five-year life span her physicians predicted; however, the tumor recurred again for a third time in 2013, and this time it was inoperable.



Hailey Fisher loves riding her bike and her visits from the Noah's Children team.

Hailey's doctor at VCU's Pediatric Hem-Onc division put the family in touch with Noah's Children. Said mom, Terry, "I was initially scared of hospice because of its implications. It felt like we would be giving up if we accepted hospice. But Noah's showed me differently; they showed me that it was more than about death; that is was about having the support we needed to get through such a difficult time. They're there when we need to talk, and to help with appointments and prayers and much more. Noah's Children has done so much for us. I'm so grateful we were introduced to them. You just can't ask for better people."

The Fisher family, which also includes Jacob, age 12, now has peace and



Hailey and her brother, Jacob, enjoy their time playing together.

comfort amid the devastating reality. And through it all, Hailey has maintained the same positive attitude she always had. "She's always smiling," Terry added, "even when she feels bad. She doesn't let it get her down, and that's what keeps me going. She's incredibly brave."

If you or someone you know can benefit from the services of Noah's Children, please call (804) 287-7686 or visit our website at www.noahschildren.org.

Partners in Treating the Whole Child

(Continued from front page)

How did VCU's Hem-Onc Division come to partner with Noah's Children?

Dr. Sisler: "There is a huge and obvious need for end-of-life care in our patient population. We often start talking about symptom management and hospice services as early as diagnosis. For many families, the need to be at home with their child as much as possible is the top priority. We are able to cure the vast majority of our patients, but for those we can't, it is our responsibility to make sure that the end of their life is as comfortable as possible. In that way, our goals and mission line up with those of Noah's Children and make them an obvious partner for us."

Dr. Wiedl: "When I first came to VCU and learned about Noah's Children, I was very excited that there was a program here that provided care for patients at the end of life, but also for patients who needed support services sooner. It's a wonderful benefit for our families, but also for our care team here at VCU because we've been able to integrate Noah's with our families, and we know our families are in good hands with them."

What's been your experience working with Noah's Children?

Dr. Sisler: "The staff at Noah's is always willing to meet a family where they are in the process. We get to know our families and patients very well, and Noah's is so respectful of our relationship with our patients. They go above and beyond and work hard to make any transition seamless. We are in constant communication with each other, and families benefit from that team approach."

Dr. Wiedl: "The Noah's staff is incredibly responsive. I have called their nurses at all hours of the day, night and weekends. They never say, 'It will have to wait.' They are always ready to jump into action for our families."

Why is Noah's Children important to the community?

Dr. Sisler: "Without Noah's, the options for my patients and families would be very limited. Pediatric hospice providers are few and far between, and one that is willing to meet and work with a family from diagnosis is extremely rare. I can't state the value that they have in our community. Imagine you have just received the worst news imaginable, that your child is dying. But with Noah's you already have all of the support systems in place to help you because they are a part of your care team. They allow our parents to just be 'mom' or 'dad' during this process. That is a gift."

Dr. Wiedl: "For a lot of people when they hear the word hospice, they have a grim image of someone coming in only to give pain medication. That's not what Noah's Children is at all. They also care for kids with chronic, long-term needs. And they offer music therapy, social workers, chaplains, volunteers, as well as a number of activities to support the entire family. But most importantly, they develop strong relationships with the patient and all the family members. What Noah's Children provides is not at all what people may normally think about hospice care. They are so much more."

Volunteer Spotlight: Linda Phillips

As a hospice volunteer for Bon Secours for 26 years, Linda Phillips knew of Noah's Children and the support and comfort it provided families across Virginia. Engaging with the organization and its families proved to be a natural transition. A talented artist whose interests include woodworking and quilting, she also runs her 225-acre farm – complete with horses, dogs and, until recently, 60 cows – singlehandedly.

For the past eight years, Phillips has generously supported Noah's Children. Each fall, she hosts a harvest-themed event at her farm for



Linda's workshop displays her many wood creations.

the families. Activities

have included pumpkin picking, pumpkin painting, movies in the barn and pony rides, as well as abundant food and drink. Last year, more than 250 people attended.

"I think the families enjoy it," she said. "I'm glad to be able to do it but it's a sad thing that hospice for children is necessary. It truly is. It's just overwhelming to see that there is this need and that there are twice as many people who don't know about it."

A soft-spoken woman whose artistic creations fill her home and workshop, Phillips doesn't care for attention or recognition for her good works.

"Knowing that I'm giving back makes this meaningful to me," she said. "That's why I will continue to support Noah's Children," she said.



Linda on her 225-acre farm in Midlothian.

Fun in the Sun

Noah's annual Picnic & Pool Party was hosted once again by the Weinstein JCC at Camp Hilbert on August 8. More than 60 participants attended the party at Camp Hilbert in Goochland County, where they enjoyed swimming in the pool and a catered lunch. "What an awesome day of fun with Noah's Children," said the Jones family. "Thanks so much for a normal summer day experience for my family. It was wonderful to attend a pool party where no one stared at any of our child's tubes and lines. Today we were just like every other family. Thank you!"



The Frazier family and Noah's Children nurse Tammy Ratliff take a break from swimming to enjoy a good lunch.



Volunteer Coordinator Lee Ailstock holds Nyla Reynolds, while brother Sanji looks on.

Friends of Noah's Children

Thanks to our friends at BB&T and incredible volunteers, Noah's Children prepared and delivered roughly 60 backpacks for our "Tools for Back-to-School Program." Volunteers gathered on August 1 at the Target at Libbie Place and shopped for much-needed supplies.



BB&T provided all the backpacks for the program, as well as a majority of the supplies. "We are eternally grateful to BB&T for their continued support of our backpack program," said Noah's Volunteer Coordinator Lee Ailstock.



Thanks to BB&T and volunteers, we were able to assemble many colorful backpacks full of supplies for our patients and siblings.

Parents Night Out

It's not always easy for parents with a sick child to enjoy a night out on the town. But that all changed on May 2, 2015, when the Thomas Dorsey family of North Chesterfield, longtime supporters of Noah's Children, hosted parents at their business, Diamond Billiards, for the first Parents Night Out celebration. This adults-only event allowed Noah's Children parents to mingle and create positive memories. Attendees played pool and participated in trivia games and other challenges.



These Noah's Children parents enjoyed playing a high-spirited trivia game.

Parent Kim Hassmer said of the event, "Thank you, Noah's Children for all your amazing coordination, the time it took to set up Parents Night, and the love you share with our families. It's such a comfort to know that we can connect with other moms and dads who really 'get it.' We are so blessed by you!"



Mrs. Guerrero-Ortega and a Noah's volunteer get in a game of pool.

Another mom, Melanie Baker, added, "Many thanks to everyone who made this night possible! It was wonderful being able to connect with others and RELAX! Can't wait for the next one!"

With the success of this event, there are sure to be others. Stay tuned!

Volunteers Help Us Bloom and Grow!

The annual Noah's Children Volunteer Appreciation Brunch was held Saturday, April 18, 2015, at the Boathouse at Sunday Park in Midlothian with approximately 110 volunteers, significant others, staff and board members in attendance. In addition to being a social gathering, attendees heard firsthand from families about their experiences with Noah's Children and the tremendous impact these volunteers have had on their lives. Thank you to the best volunteers in the world!

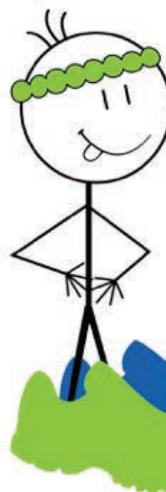


MCV dental student and Noah's volunteer Lance Cheng (second from left) and his date, as well as volunteer Adrian Archer (far right) and her mother, enjoyed a delicious meal and panel discussion.



Noah's staff and the Fischer family, who served on the parents panel, pause for a group photo.

Join the Noah's Children Team



**5K Runners needed
October 17th**

Register for VCU Broad Street Mile 5K and select Noah's Children as your charity of choice.

For more information and to register visit:
vcubroadstreetmile.com

Shop at Rite Aid to Raise Money for Noah's Children

As we mentioned in a previous newsletter, Noah's Children is an official Rite Aid KidCents charity! The program allows Rite Aid customers to round up their purchases to the nearest dollar and donate their change to help support kid-focused charities. Noah's received a \$10,000 grant to kick-start our partnership for the program and will receive a check with our "rounded-up" funds this December.

In an effort to increase contributions and to reward participating charities, the Rite Aid Foundation also will offer a "Step Up" reward. For every \$500 a charity raises in contributions, that charity will then receive a matching donation of \$500 from the KidCents program (up to \$5,000 dollars).

So it's more important than ever to shop at Rite Aid. And it's easy and free to join. Just take these few simple steps:

Visit www.kidcents.com and follow the steps online to become a Rite Aid wellness+ member (free) and enroll in the KidCents program (<https://kidcents.riteaid.com/howitworks>). Then log in at www.kidcents.com and click "Select a Charity"



Staff from Noah's Children and the Bon Secours Richmond Foundation happily accept a \$10,000 start-up check from the Rite Aid Foundation.

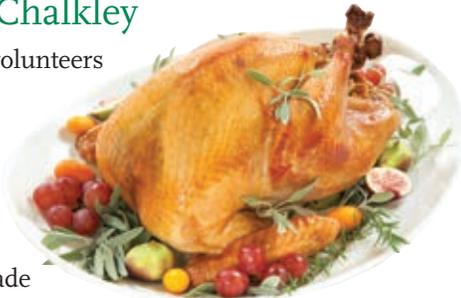
on the website menu. Search for Noah's Children in the list of official KidCents charities, and then click on the "Select this Charity" button.

Now the next time you shop at Rite Aid, your change will be rounded up to support Noah's Children programs. We encourage you to invite your friends and family to participate, as well. Imagine the difference your change can make!

Help Our Homemade Holiday Program

Chef Annie Chalkley

and her troupe of volunteers will soon be at it again this year, preparing more than 200 delicious homemade



Thanksgiving meals for the families of Noah's Children. Each meal is made from scratch with fresh ingredients and lots of love!

Donations are needed to purchase the food and supplies for Annie and her team's efforts. Please join us in bringing a little extra holiday comfort to our families!

To make a donation online, visit www.bsvaf.com/givetonoahs and make a donation by selecting "Noah's Children Thanksgiving Meals" in the drop-down menu.

Checks can be sent directly to Noah's Children at 5855 Bremono Road, Suite 409, Richmond, VA 23226. Please indicate "Thanksgiving Meals" in the Memo section. All donations must be received by **November 26, 2015**.

Save the Dates

2016 Children's Hope Gala

An annual fundraiser that supports Noah's Children and Richmond Hope Therapy

Children's Hope Gala

Saturday, February 20, 2016

The Jefferson Hotel • Richmond, VA

More details will be available later in the fall.

Fall Family Fun Day



Mark your calendars now for our next **Fall Family Fun Day** on **Saturday, October 3, 2015**, from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. This year's theme is "Monster Mash," and the kids are welcome to dress up! The day will include carnival games with prizes, pumpkin decorating, balloon twisters, a hayride to the "pumpkin patch," dinner and more.

THANK YOU
DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

*Noah's Children has accomplished
so much over the years
because of friends like you.
Whether it's making a donation
or volunteering your time,
your support helps us provide
quality care and services to families.
On behalf of the staff
and families we serve,
thank you!*



IN MEMORIAM

Maci Mae Adams
5/19/15 - 5/19/15

Michael Wayne
Turner III, "Trace"
6/21/15 - 7/2/15

Aiden Joseph Mathew
7/7/15 - 7/11/15

*We celebrate the lives of these children
and honor all those who love them.*

Visit Our New Website
www.noahschildren.org
(804) 287-7686



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