# Shriners Hospitals for Children Provides Hope and Healing Through Care, Research and Education

Shriners Hospitals for Children® is a unique health care system with a reputation for finding answers, and giving families hope. At our 22 locations in the U.S., Canada and Mexico, children receive expert care for orthopaedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries and cleft lip and palate, regardless of the families' ability to pay for services. Since opening our first hospital in 1922, we have provided care to more than 1.3 million children, regardless of the families' ability to pay.

## A Tradition of Providing State-of-the-Art Specialty Care

In the 1920s, the first Shriners Hospital was opened primarily to help children who had contracted polio. Today, the majority of our 22 Shriners Hospitals for Children provide care for children with all types of orthopaedic conditions, including clubfoot, hip disorders, limb deficiencies and deformities, scoliosis, and orthopaedic difficulties related to cerebral palsy and other neuromuscular conditions.

Aware of a need for medical expertise in pediatric burn care, we opened three hospitals specializing in acute and rehabilitative burn care in the mid-1960s. These are the only hospitals that were initially established exclusively for the treatment of pediatric burns and related conditions. A fourth hospital in our health care system offers treatment in all four of our care disciplines, including burns. These hospitals continue to be pioneers in pediatric burn treatment and research and are recognized as leaders in the development of improved and innovative treatment techniques.

In the early 1980s, our organization opened the nation's first pediatric spinal cord injury rehabilitation centers. There, patients have access to a complete range of services needed to recover to the fullest extent possible.

Cleft lip and palate is the health care system's fourth service line. Facial clefts are one of the most common birth defects in the U.S. Despite the frequency of its occurrence, and the severity of the deformities, comprehensive care for patients with cleft lip and palate can be difficult to obtain. Shriners Hospitals for Children is committed to improving care for children with this condition through a coordinated program of clinical excellence, teaching and research.

### **Groundbreaking Research and Discoveries**

Shriners Hospitals for Children strives to discover answers that will one day improve lives by conducting high-quality, innovative research,



especially in the areas of burns, orthopaedic/ musculoskeletal and neurological injury and disease.

Over time, our researchers have made significant breakthroughs in all four of our service lines, improving the care and quality of life for countless children worldwide, while adding to the global body of medical knowledge.

## **Educating the Health Care Professionals of Tomorrow**

We are also proud of our role in medical education. By maintaining relationships with several medical teaching facilities, Shriners Hospitals for Children fosters an academic environment committed to providing superior education for medical professionals and expert care to all patients.

## Eligibility

Admission to our hospitals is based solely on medical need. All children, under the age of 18, are eligible for care if there is a reasonable possibility they could benefit from the specialized services available. All services are provided regardless of the ability to pay.

#### Be Part of Our Mission

At all Shriners Hospitals for Children locations, our patients receive both expert treatment and support that encourages healthy, independent lives. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, our health care system relies on the generosity of donors to carry out this mission of improving the lives of children.

To learn how you can support our efforts, visit donate2shc.org or call 855-401-4897.

