



**Children's
Miracle Network
Hospitals**
Helping Local Kids

**UF
&
Shands
Jacksonville**
The University of Florida
Academic Health Center



Wolfson Children's Hospital Patient Will Represent Florida To Inspire Others and Raise Awareness for Children's Hospitals

*Haley Richardson Will Join Champions From Every U.S. State
as Part of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals' Champions Program*

Jacksonville, FL- May 3, 2011 – A local girl has been chosen to represent the state of Florida for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Champions program in 2011.

Haley Richardson, 10, was treated at Wolfson Children's Hospital for Osteosarcoma, more commonly known as a type of bone cancer. She was selected and is being honored because of her bravery battling and overcoming cancer. Haley was officially announced as the Florida Champion this morning at Sam's Club on Busch Drive with a Proclamation from Mayor Peyton's office in recognition of her remarkable courage and honor in representing the entire state of Florida throughout the year.

The Champions program brings together children from across the United States that have tackled severe medical challenges. They represent the 17 million children that are treated at 170 Children's Miracle Network Hospitals every year. Locally, Shands Jacksonville and Wolfson Children's Hospital benefit from these efforts. In October, they will visit Washington, D.C. and then Walt Disney World to inspire others to support children's hospitals.

In Washington D.C., Champions will visit The White House and Capitol Hill, where they meet with Florida state representatives to share their stories. Following their trip to the nation's capitol, the Champions and their families take part in Children's Miracle Network Hospitals' annual *Celebration* event in Orlando, Fla. *Celebration* unites hospitals, sponsors and celebrities to celebrate achievements, share best practices and honor the children who benefit from Children's Miracle Network Hospitals' fundraising efforts.

"These Champions are the heart and soul of what we do," said John Lauck, president and CEO, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. "Their inspirational stories are proof that the \$236 million we raise each year for children's hospitals makes a difference. However, our hospitals give away billions of dollars in charity care each year, so these children also serve as a reminder that the need to support children's hospital is still great."

2011 is the 15th continuous year for the Champions program.

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About Children's Miracle Network Hospitals

Children's Miracle Network Hospitals® raises funds for 170 children's hospitals across North America, which, in turn, use the money where it's needed the most. When a donation is given it stays in the community, ensuring that every dollar is helping local kids. Since 1983, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals has raised more than \$4 billion, most of it \$1 at a time. These donations have gone to support research and training, purchase equipment, and pay for uncompensated care, all in support of our mission to save and improve the lives of as many children as possible. Learn more at CMNHospitals.org.

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