



BearNet

ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN'S NATIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

NEWS

SPRING 2008



Children's National Honored for Legislative Advocacy

Children's National was one of only eight children's hospitals nationwide to receive the National Association of Children's Hospitals' (N.A.C.H.) third annual Legislative Advocacy Leadership Award. This award recognizes the hospital's consistent participation in, and contributions to, N.A.C.H.'s 2007 federal legislative advocacy activities. N.A.C.H. President and CEO Lawrence McAndrews presented the award to hospital representatives at the April 8 meeting of the Board's Committee on Advocacy and Public Policy. 🐾

(left to right) Clare Kelly, Richard W. Snowdon III, Jacqueline Bowens, Lawrence McAndrews, Edwin K. Zechman, Jr. and Joseph Wright, MD.

Advocate Appreciation Week Brings Fun, Prizes and Education

Children's National Medical Center's Government and External Affairs and Advocacy and Community Affairs Departments showed their appreciation for BearNet members and other Children's National advocates this year during the second annual Advocate Appreciation Week, May 5-9. During the week, BearNet members' savvy was tested with daily trivia questions about advocacy at Children's National. The first person to respond with the correct answer each day won a pair of tickets to the May 25th Washington Nationals baseball game. In addition to advocacy trivia, hospital employees and guests were encouraged to visit the

Advocate Appreciation Week table in the cafeteria to join BearNet using the online-registration system. The week concluded with a luncheon presentation on legislative advocacy by Magi Curtis, Associate Director of Legislative Action Programs for the National Association of Children's Hospitals.

Thanks to our dedicated employees and friends in the community, Children's National is an effective advocate for children in our region. Our advocates truly put the "A" in our C.A.R.E mission – Care, Advocacy, Research, and Education on behalf of all children. 🐾

DID YOU KNOW?

On June 24, the Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee provided \$310 million for Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME). This is more than an \$8 million increase over current funding of \$301.7 million.

On June 19, the House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee also approved \$310 million for CHGME.

Last year, Children's National Medical Center received \$13.7 million from this program.

BearNet Team Participates in LIVESTRONG Day

The BearNet Legislative Advocacy Team, in collaboration with the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders, participated in LIVESTRONG Day on May 20, 2008. The goal of LIVESTRONG Day is to engage communities with experiences that increase awareness and show support for cancer survivors and their loved ones.

LIVESTRONG Day was particularly timely this year because on May 7, the House Energy and Commerce Committee approved H.R. 1553, the "Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act of 2008," sponsored by Rep. Deborah Pryce, (R-OH). Then, on June 12, the bill passed the House with unanimous approval. The legislation expands pediatric cancer research at the National Cancer Institute, establishes a population-based childhood cancer database, and provides for expanded outreach and education on childhood cancer. The bill authorizes Congress to appropriate \$30 million annually for five years to carry out its provisions. The bill is named for Rep. Pryce's daughter, Caroline, who died of neuroblastoma in 1999 at the age of 9. The Senate companion bill, S. 911, was reported out of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee in December 2007. It is currently awaiting floor consideration. 🐾

www.childrensnational.org

111 MICHIGAN AVENUE • NW WASHINGTON, DC 20010 • (202) 476-5000

Congress Approves Federal Research, Capital Funding for Children's National

In fiscal year 2008, Children's National successfully advocated for approximately \$10.7 million in federal appropriations to support research, construction projects, and equipment needs. Recognizing the hospital's role as an international leader in neuro-muscular research, Congress appropriated \$9.2 million to Children's National to continue and to build the groundbreaking Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) research program. This represents the largest ever federal investment in DMD research. Children's National also received \$1.5 million in capital and equipment funding for the new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, opening in Spring 2009, and to purchase a dedicated CT scan for the Division of Emergency Medicine. Children's National is grateful to the Congressional champions who consistently support the hospital and the children and families we serve. 🐻

Iraqi Delegation Visits Children's National

At the suggestion of First Lady Laura Bush, a delegation of Iraqi physicians and government leaders visited Children's National in May for a tour and to discuss how to make and sustain a modern children's hospital in Iraq. Construction is currently underway in Basrah, Iraq, to build a 94 bed children's hospital. It will be the first new hospital built in Iraq since the 1980's. Among the distinguished delegation were the Iraqi Minister of Health, His Excellency Dr. Salih Al-Hasnawi, and the Director General of Technical Affairs at the Ministry of Health, Dr. Eman Al-Emani.

In the past 25 years, Iraq has experienced a significant increase in the rate of childhood cancer, particularly leukemia, so the delegation was very interested in visiting Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders. Jeffrey Dome, MD, Chief of Oncology and Acting Chief of Hematology, took the delegation through the inpatient and outpatient units and answered their questions about research and current protocols. The delegation also visited the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and Cardiac Intensive Care Unit. 🐻

3 Ways to Join BearNet!

Register On line at:
www.childrensnational.org
under the Advocacy section

E-Mail: governmentaffairs@cnmc.org

Or Call: Bill Quirk, Manager,
Government & Legal Affairs at 202.471.4803

Federal Medicaid Bill Advances

In April, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the "Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008," legislation to suspend implementation of seven damaging federal Medicaid regulations. If allowed to take effect, the Medicaid regulations would reduce federal Medicaid spending by \$13 billion over five years. Children's National participated in a nationwide grassroots campaign and generated more than 300 e-mails to members of Congress in support of this legislation. The legislation was included in a supplemental spending bill, which passed the House and Senate and is currently awaiting the President's signature.

Specifically, the legislation would impose moratoria on Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services regulations that would:

- limit state mechanisms for financing their Medicaid programs;
- eliminate federal Medicaid funding for graduate medical education;
- narrow the definition of outpatient hospital services that can be reimbursed through Medicaid;
- clarify which rehabilitation services can be covered under Medicaid;
- eliminate Medicaid reimbursement for transportation of school-age children between home and school; and
- clarify what constitutes case management and targeted case management under Medicaid. 🐻

Maryland General Assembly Approves Child Health Bills

Children's National successfully worked with members of the Maryland General Assembly to enact a number of bills during the 2008 legislative session, which concluded in April. Among the legislation enacted was a bill to create a state-level task force to examine major issues relating to all-terrain vehicle (ATV) safety. Although a small percentage of Children's National's overall trauma cases, the number of emergency visits resulting from operating or riding an ATV has increased over the last decade. Since many of the injuries treated at Children's National involved head/ facial injuries, the institution championed legislation that would require children to wear helmets while riding ATVs. Ultimately, the General Assembly approved legislation to create the task force, to which representatives from Children's National have been named.

The General Assembly also passed legislation that creates a task force to complete a comprehensive study of childhood obesity. Specific subjects that will be considered by the task force include physician reimbursement for obesity-related treatment and the appropriate use of obesity screening for children. Children's National, which recently adopted a policy position on the subject, championed this legislation and was named as a member of the task force. 🐻

Edwin K. Zechman, Jr. *president and chief executive officer*

Jacqueline D. Bowns *vice president and chief government and external affairs officer*

Clare Kelly: *director, government and external affairs*

Editor: *Bill Quirk, manager, government & legal affairs*

Copyright 2008 by Children's National Medical Center. All rights reserved. The bear logo and Children's National Medical Center are registered trademarks. The names of the other organizations within the Children's National Medical Center system are service marks of Children's National Medical Center and/or its affiliates.

A member of the Children's Miracle Network

Children's does not discriminate on any grounds prohibited by applicable law, including race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin or ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, status as a disabled or Vietnam veteran or as a qualified disabled individual.