

- Meet Ben Carpenter: A true success story
- Addison Benson is a happy little girl
- A message from Megan Johnson

INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:

Holiday Sharing 2

Addison 3

Support your Foundation 4

Megan 5

McHenry Awards 5

Holiday cards 6

Working Together for the Children

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3

WINTER 2011

Ben Carpenter: An inspiration

Ben Carpenter, age 16, was born on February 13, 1995. From the time he was a small child, his parents, Jim and Tari Carpenter, knew something was wrong. He was crawling, but in a method alien to his parents, and when he was supposed to be walking, he wasn't. Jim and Tari took Benjamin to doctor after doctor to try to determine what was wrong, but nobody could diagnose why he wasn't walking on schedule.

Finally, when Ben was just two years old, someone told the Carpenters to

check with the Shriners Hospital for Children® in Tampa. After a Muscle Biopsy and various other tests, the Shriners were finally able to give Ben's parents a solid diagnosis. Ben had Spinal Muscular Atrophy Types II and III.

The Carpenters continued their visits to the Tampa hospital from their home in Ocala. The Shriners outfitted Ben with leg braces and a walker, enabling him to become independent in a very active pre-school and early elementary school environment. The independence granted to

Ben by the equipment from the Shriners was amplified by his family and teachers who pushed Ben to walk when possible, even if Ben said he couldn't. While Ben's condition is irreversible and progressive, they all knew he could help slow the

(Continued on page 2)



Joyous Holidays from the Foundation Board

It is that most wonderful time of the year! Time for joining together with family and friends, time for celebrating, time for decorating, time for shopping, time for baking, time for writing and sending holiday cards, time for reflecting over the last year. The Foundation Board of Directors wishes each of our friends and supporters a peaceful and

meaningful holiday season. As we get caught up in the hustle and bustle, we hope you will remember the true



meaning of the holiday. Think of those who do not have the blessings we enjoy, especially those being treated at Shriners Hospitals for Children®. We have been given the opportunity to give of ourselves, through donations to CEF and CRA, through the time we spend raising funds and hosting parties, through our thoughts and prayers. Enjoy the holidays and look forward to a wonderful 2012!!

Ben's Mends has donated over 4,200 books to many different organizations, including Shriners Hospital for Children® - Tampa

Ben Carpenter, Continued from Page 1

progression of his disease if he kept working.

Ben continued to visit the Shriners Hospital for Children® in Tampa after the Carpenters moved to Brandon in 2003. After Ben's public speaking in fifth grade won him the 4H Tropicana Speech Competition, he began speaking for the Junior Achievement and, of course, Shriners Hospitals for Children®. Over the years, Ben has spoken on numerous occasions for the Shriners, helped narrate the Shriners Hospital for Children® - Tampa's online walkthrough, and was the Patient Ambassador for the 2011 East-West Shrine Game. Ben was the guest speaker at the Get Together Banquet at the Ninety-fifth Annual Supreme Session of Daughters of the Nile held in Tampa in June 2011.

Public speaking isn't all that Ben does, however. He also is the founder and president of Ben's Mends, a non-profit organization which takes in used and abused books, repairs them, and then donates

them to other non-profit organizations which help women, children and young adults. So far, Ben's Mends has donated over 4,200 books to many different organizations, including Shriners Hospital for Children® - Tampa, which was the recipient of one of the organization's largest donations. Ben truly does believe that is the least he can do for an organization which has given him the ability to reach goals and expectations beyond his wildest imagination.

Ben vividly remembers how encouraged he felt when his freshman English teacher stopped him in the hallway one morning before school and told Ben that for the last three months he had totally forgotten about Ben's wheelchair and complimented him on not letting his disability restrict his abilities socially and in the classroom.

Ben is also an accomplished student, having achieved straight "A's"

in school since kindergarten. He is currently in his junior year in the International Baccalaureate program at King High School in Tampa. To round out his resume, Ben is also the captain of the Tampa Thunder, a power wheelchair soccer team which he has been a member of since it started nine years ago. The Thunder are currently ranked third in the nation.

Ben doesn't show any signs of slowing down any time soon. He plans on going to the University of Central Florida and getting a Master's Degree in mechanical engineering. His dream is to be a ride designer for either Disney or Universal theme parks. Wherever his life may take him, Ben says he is always going to be driven by the Shriners Hospitals for Children® and how they did everything they could to ensure he could do everything he could.

Holiday Sharing: There's still time...

There is still time to get your Holiday Sharing contribution in to the Daughters of the Nile Foundation. Your donations need to be received by the Foundation by **December 15, 2011** for your

funds to be credited in the current Foundation fiscal year and be printed in the Supreme Session Proceedings. If your donations arrive after the deadline, they will be credited in 2012. Help

make dreams come true for the special children of Shriners Hospitals for Children®.

See page 4 for information from the 2010 program.



Addison Benson is a busy, happy girl

Addison Benson plays in the front room of her home in Laurel, Montana as her mother Andrea Benson watches. She flies across the living room with her pigtails flying. Not much sets Addison apart from other children on the verge of entering the wider world outside the immediate circle of family and friends—not even her two prosthetic legs.

A little over a year ago, three year old blond, blue-eyed Addison was playing in her yard when a riding lawn mower backed up with Addison in its path. The tragic accident cut off both her legs below the knee.

Now Addison is receiving the specialized care that keeps her a very active child, thanks to the hometown Shriners who hooked the family up with the Shriners Hospital for Children® - Spokane.

Within two days after the accident, her mother Andrea said, “No fewer than four Shriners contacted the family and offered to be a sponsor if needed.” She said their offers were an immediate sense of relief.

During Addison’s first visit to the Shriners Hospital for Children® - Spokane, a team of specialists analyzed her injuries and came up with a plan. The hospital contracted with a prosthetics firm in Billings to make her first set of legs. She was wearing them three months after the accident.

Addison will visit the Shriners Hospital for Children® - Spo-



Photo courtesy of Larry Mayer, *Billings Gazette*

kane periodically and have many more prosthetic legs during the next fifteen years.

Andrea said she loves the way the hospital deals with each patient. “They bring everyone into the room at the same time and talk to each other right there,” she said of the members of her daughter’s team of specialists. “We were in and out in 45 minutes the last time we were there.” They see the head of the department at each visit.

“I just get the feeling they are in the right place and that they really care for the children,” she said. “Frankly, without the Shriners I don’t know where it would put us. I probably wouldn’t be able to be a stay-at-home mom.”

During the first stages of her

recovery, Addison had physical therapy five days a week. Now, she is down to one day each week. With each adjustment of her prosthetic legs, Addison has proved resilient.

Addison is aware that her legs are a little different. She’ll see someone with a prosthesis or some limb difference and say, “Look Mom, she has legs like me,” Andrea said.

Addison attends pre-preschool, two days a week for two hours. Her mother said the other children think her legs are pretty cool. Andrea said she and Addison will probably demonstrate for the kids in pre-preschool how she gets the legs off and on in an effort to deal with any lingering questions. There are stairs at the school and she goes up and down just like the other students. Her favorite toys are Barbie dolls and Tinker Bell fairies.

Addison’s Shrine sponsor keeps an eye on her, making sure she has everything she needs and then some. They brought her Shrine Circus tickets and a 100 pound pumpkin for Halloween.

Addison was the poster child for the annual East-West Shrine Game held in Laurel this year, which raises money for the Shriners Hospitals for Children®. She rode in the parade and tossed the coin at the start of the game.

Andrea has learned there will be few barriers for her smart, busy and happy little girl.

Holiday Sharing helps kids through CRA

The Holiday Sharing program was a huge success last year with over \$82,800 raised for the Convalescent Relief Account. The top three Temples in each of three membership classes are recognized at Supreme Session for their outstanding support of this program.

For Temples with up to 99 members:

Tarsus Temple No. 161, \$878.77, Tallahassee, Florida

Aurora Temple No. 39, \$700.00, Aberdeen, South Dakota

Al Haram Temple No. 130, \$500.00, Trenton, New Jersey



For Temples with 100 to 299 members:

Lybia Temple No. 32, \$3,714.34, Salt Lake City, Utah

Ilderim Temple No. 15, \$2000.00, Syracuse, New York

Ajeb Temple No. 156, \$1,000.00, Green Bay, Wisconsin

For Temples with more than 300 members:

Shalman Temple No. 90, \$26,404.17, Dallas, Texas

Sapphira Temple No. 79, \$10,000.00, Helena, Montana

El Tehran Temple No. 122, \$5,140.65, Atlanta, Georgia

Be sure to be part of the Holiday Sharing program for 2011. Talk with your Charitable Giving Chairman or send your donation to the Daughters of the Nile Foundation.

Last minute gifts support the Foundation

Many beautiful gifts are available from the Daughters of the Nile Foundation and most are available for immediate shipment. A beautiful silk scarf with the *Working Together for the Children* motif is a wonderful gift. Buy one or several for friends, officers, or unit members. The *My Gift Incentive Program* offers a wide variety of items, such as For the Children pins, Seasons of Children ornaments, and pledge items. Notecards, embossed with our special white rose, are appreciated by everyone.



New items include candle holders for votives and tapers; and of course, the Stepping Stones to Happiness or 21st Century certificate demon-

strates your commitment to our special children. There is also time to get your exclusive Foundation Holiday Cards.

Check out all of these items on the Daughters of the Nile Foundation website at www.donfdn.org. And remember, the proceeds from all items go to the Convalescent Endowment Fund. Every gift is special because it helps the precious patients of Shriners Hospitals for Children®.

Megan Johnson sends an update

Hi to all my DON friends and family. I cannot believe how fast this year is going by. I am almost finished with my pre-nursing degree and will soon start applying to nursing schools for next year. I am sorry I missed seeing everyone at Supreme Session, but that was the week of my finals. But, I will definitely be there next year!

As always, this has been a very busy and eventful year from me (glad I love being busy!!!). I started out in January with a trip to Charlotte, NC for Oasis's Installation where I spoke and gave a PowerPoint/song presentation. Then in February I was invited to Tampa's Hospital Divan Days where I was asked to present the same PowerPoint and then on to Egypt's Potentate's Ball where I spoke.

Then in March, came my 28th surgery where I spent five days in Portland's Shriners Hospital. I had my jaw retracted; my nose reconstructed and attached at the bridge; my eye lid raised and the muscle on the left side of my face was pulled and clipped. I am STILL recovering!!!

But, I love my hospital and I love the private rooms. Everyone MUST come and tour it during next Supreme, the remodel is amazing!!! April, I mainly spent recovering and taking 17 college credits and, I was selected as Washington's Jefferson Award recipient to represent our state in D.C. (thanks to all that voted for me!!).

In May, I was invited to Miami to their Potentate's Ball and to enjoy some much appreciated warm-dry weather. Then, in June, I made the trip to D.C. and believe it or not...I was awarded one of the **National Jefferson Awards!!!!** I am STILL in shock!!!! They called my name after a professional football player and a Supreme Court Justice!!!

Now, as I write this, I am packing to go to Denver to the Imperial Session. I have been invited by the Oriental Band association to speak at the President's dinner and I also will be selling my books, *Clowns Make a Difference* and *Growing up Different* (my 2nd book, *Queen Meggie*, is now out-of-print). If anyone is ever interested, they are \$13 each or 2 for \$25.

I am also very excited about my new one-of-a kind purses I make called "Meggie Originals." They have been selling faster than I can keep up and I am bringing a few of them for the first time to Imperial.

But, even though it is summer, I am still studying since I decided to take Statistics this summer and take my state test so I can become a Certified Nursing Assistant since that is now required before applying to nursing school.

Well, that just about wraps it up for me. I hope to see everyone really soon!!
Megan



Eight members honored with McHenry Awards

A generous contribution by John and Nadine McHenry and the law partners of McHenry Hazard Law Firm in Lincoln, Nebraska, allowed the Daughters of the Nile Foundation to recognize eight individuals

who have contributed greatly to the success of the philanthropy. These recipients were selected by the Board of Directors for their gifts of time, talents, and resources to the Foundation. The recipients were recognized at Supreme Session and

presented with a Pyramid of Commitment from the *My Gift Incentive Program*.

The recipients for 2011 are:

(Continued on page 6)

(McHenry Awards, Continued from page 5)

- **Eleanor Canfield**, Zama Temple No. 14, Rochester, New York
- **Virginia Bayless**, Qadesh Temple No. 35, Phoenix, Arizona
- **Sharon Grecian**, Ammon-Ra Temple No. 56, Reno, Nevada
- **Emma Catherine King**, Khem Temple No. 85, Jacksonville, Florida

- **Mary Millard**, Antioch Temple No. 113, Madison, Wisconsin
- **Brenda Scott**, El Tehran Temple No. 122, Atlanta, Georgia
- **Dixie Miller**, Shimron Temple No. 133, Pensacola, Florida
- **Donna Thornton**, Tarsus Temple No. 161, Tallahassee, Florida

The Daughters of the Nile Foundation is so grateful to Mr. and Mrs. McHenry and the partners of McHenry Hazzard Law for their generosity and their commitment

to the Foundation. This is the second year that they have given such a wonderful gift.

Recipients of the *McHenry Awards* are recognized for outstanding contributions to the Daughters of the Nile Foundation. These gifts are varied in nature, but are essential to the success of our philanthropy.



Thank you for supporting the 2011 Holiday Card project

A great big thank you to everyone who has purchased holiday cards from the Daughters of the Nile Foundation for 2011. Some styles have sold out, but there are still cards available through the online Gift Store.

This is a wonderful way to send holiday greetings and let friends and family know about the tremendous work done by Daughters of the Nile for Shriners Hos-



May the Holidays be happy days for you and yours!



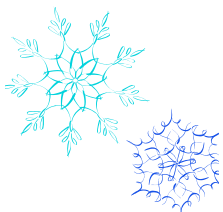
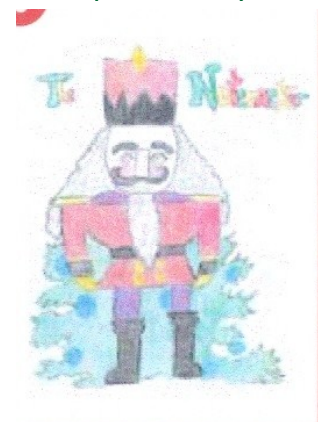
Hope your holidays are filled with merry moments.

pitals for Children®.

The cards are designed exclusively for the Foundation by children who are patients at these special pediatric hospitals. A brief biography and photograph of the artist, along with information on the Daughters of the Nile Foundation and Shriners Hospitals for Children®, help tell our story.

Cards are still available for the 2011 holiday season and are ready for immediate shipment. Visit the Gift Store on our website at www.donfdn.org.

All proceeds from the holiday cards go directly to the Convalescent Endowment Fund. Share your love of Daughters of the Nile and our great philanthropy with family and friends by sending a unique holiday card.



Blessings to All from the Daughters of the Nile Foundation Board of Directors

