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Working Together for the Children

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JULIAN: A Little Boy With a Big Heart

Julian Dawkins is a very special 7-year old boy from Colorado. Like many little boys, he decided to make a little money by having a neighborhood lemonade stand last summer. His efforts were successful, and he made \$20 in his first business venture.



Julian and Supreme Queen Muriel visit Shriners Hospitals for Children in Los Angeles

At the end of the summer, his parents spoke to him about the importance of 'giving back', of

donating some of his proceeds to charity. They mentioned helping the homeless in their community, or since Julian loves animals, his parents suggested that he donate some money to the local animal shelter. But Julian had other ideas. His mother, Patti, a member of the El Mejdell Temple No. 47 Ambassador Unit, had told him stories about her first tour of a Shriners Hospital, and his Great Grandfather, a Shrine clown, made balloon animals for Julian before he passed away. He had seen a book that his mother brought home called, "Granny Uncovers Miracles at Shriners Hospitals for Children," by Lou Brinegar and illustrated by Bill



Julian learns how donations are used at Shriners

and Diann Procter. This book was part of the late Imperial First Lady Helen Coe Lemieux's fundraising program to provide scholarships for summer internships for medical and allied health care students. Julian was convinced that he wanted to help the patients at Shriners for Children. He decided to give

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Daughters of the Nile Presents Check to Shriners Hospitals for Children

Members of the Daughters of the Nile Foundation Board of Directors met with representatives from Shriners Hospitals for Children to present a check in the amount of \$1,215,537.71 on behalf of all Daughters of the Nile. This contribution,

combined with \$15,000.00 from the Louis Fredrick Meyer Estate to the Philadelphia Hospital brings the contribution from the U.S. Temples to \$1,230,537.74. The Canadian Temples contributed a record-high amount of \$101,161.65 to CEF and

\$231,840.14 to CRA. The total contribution for 2008 from all Daughters of the Nile amounted to **\$1,462,377.88.**

Imperial Sirs Gene Bracewell and Ralph Semb expressed appreciation on behalf of

See *Presentation* on Page 3

“Julian” *continued from page 1*



Julian learns how Shriners Hospitals for Children help kids

He decided to give \$4.00 or 25 percent of his earnings to Past Supreme Queen Mickey Fitzpatrick at a social function at El Mejdel Temple.

In August, when Supreme Queen Muriel V. Knapp was making her official visit to El Mejdel Temple No. 47, Julian wrote a letter to her and included \$2.00 that he had saved from his allowance; he said he wanted to help the children. Supreme Queen Muriel was amazed by the generosity of this child and mentioned his gift in her talks in subsequent visits.

At the Official Visit to El Nasig Temple No. 162 in Parkersburg, West Virginia, the banquet was held prior to the ceremonial. There were 8 candidates in attendance. The Queen of El Nasig had arranged for a local 18-year old Shriners patient named Ashley to attend the dinner. Ashley wanted to come to thank the Nile ladies and Shriners

for their support of her at the Cincinnati Hospital. She was born with cerebral palsy and her parents had been told she would never walk. The Shriners took her to Cincinnati at age three. Ashley walked up to the microphone with the support of crutches, but even she couldn't keep a dry eye while saying her thank you. Whenever there was a Shriners patient, Supreme Queen Muriel told the banquet crowd that there really was nothing anyone could say to top the story of the children themselves; but in this case SQ Muriel wanted Ashley to know that not only did adults help support the patients but so did little boys in Denver, Colorado. SQ Muriel told about Julian's \$2, his lemonade stand and his donation. While SQ Muriel was telling the story, the El Nasig candidates spontaneously began collecting \$2 from the people around them. After the Supreme Queen's talk, one of the candidates stood up and said she should keep talking because they were collecting matching funds for Julian's \$2. They collected \$71 in total. After that whenever SQ Muriel spoke about Julian, she challenged the people to match Julian's money. To date, \$11,390.30 has been collected!

Julian felt very good about being able to help the children, and it was important

for him to visit a hospital. In January, when, Supreme Queen Muriel was visiting the Los Angeles Shriners Hospital, Julian and his mother made the trip. Julian's grandmother is a Past Queen of Mokattam Temple, No.12 in Los Angeles. Julian grabbed an additional \$10 from his allowance to give to SQ Muriel. He was touched by his interaction with the children at the hospital and was so happy that his money would be used to help them.

Each of us can learn a valuable lesson from Julian, a very special little boy; our gifts – large and small – make a difference in the



Julian poses with the parasol he gave to Supreme Queen Muriel

lives of children. If you would like to contribute to Julian's matching project, send your contribution to: Daughters of the Nile Foundation, 411 Windsor Lane – Northwoods, New Braunfels, TX 78132-3837. Note in the Memo Line of your check your temple number and "JULIAN'S PROJECT". The total amount raised will be announced at Supreme Session in London, Ontario, Canada in June 2009.

**Over \$11,000
has been
contributed
to the
Convalescent
Endowment
Fund as a
result of
Julian's
project!!**

Message from Shriners Hospitals for Children

I can only imagine the Shock when you heard the words that some of our Shriners Hospitals for Children were on a list for POSSIBLE closure. It is hard to understand why this would happen, but let me try to give you some of the details. Since 2001, the total operating budget of the 22 hospitals have operated in the red in each of those years. Presently, the 856 million dollar budget is some 350 million dollars short in interest and donations to balance the budget. That means that we are drawing from the endowment fund, about one million dollars a day to fund these facilities. Our staff at headquarters informed the Boards in November that we were headed for financial failure. I, in fact, have told the Representatives over the past 3 years that the one billion dollar budget was getting closer and we MUST find other ways to fund our hospitals, even looking at other models like what is in Louisville

Kentucky, called the Kosair Charities. They have no buildings but take care of hundreds of children in that area.

Yes, there are 6 hospitals that face the dilemma of possible closure: Erie, Shreveport, Springfield, Spokane, Greenville and Galveston (Galveston because of the issue with hurricane Ike; that unit has been suspended since September of 2008). This all hinges on the vote at the Annual Meeting of Shriners Hospitals for Children in San Antonio. The representatives will be given a number of options to choose from. This is not an easy time for our system. Our membership internationally has dropped since 1979 from 940,000 members to approximately 350,000 today. So here we are today, membership continues to decline, the endowment fund continues to decline, yet we all want to keep the 22 hospitals open, taking care of children from all over the world.

As Shriners and staff, we want to continue to take care of these children in need, and I can guarantee each of you, that we will continue to take care of those now presently on our rolls should the suspension of services in any of these hospitals happen. It may be in a different model, but it will continue. We may have to drive the children further to another hospital, and we hope to be able to muster our Shrine volunteers with help from the Daughters of the Nile to drive if needed.

I know that the Daughters of the Nile are helping us as much as they can and for that, we the Joint Boards and all Shriners say Thank You. We all appreciate the work not only volunteering, but fund raising as well.

Faternally,

Ralph W. Semb, President and Chief Executive Officer, Shriners Hospitals for Children

“...we all want to keep the 22 hospitals open, taking care of children from all over the world.”

Presentation (Continued from Page 1)

Shriners Hospitals for Children for the generosity of the Daughters of the Nile in the United States and Canada.

Because of this contribution, a THIRD Gold plaque will be added to the Philanthropic Wall at the Montreal Hospital in July. An additional Gold plaque will also be added to a hospital in the United States. This hospital will be announced at Su-

preme Session.

Even in these times of economic uncertainty, Daughters

of the Nile continue demonstrating their generosity and caring for the special children of Shriners Hospitals through their contributions to the Convalescent Endowment Fund and Convalescent Relief Account. Since 1924, Daughters of the Nile has contributed over \$45 Million to Shriners Hospitals for Children.





Daughters of the Nile Foundation

For More information Contact us at:

3461 Lannette Lane
Lexington, KY 40503

E-mail: contact@donfdn.org

Working Together For the Children



DO YOU WANT TO
BE ADDED TO OUR
NEWSLETTER
NOTIFICATION LIST?

Send your request to
news@donfdn.org



Stop by the **CHARITABLE GIVING** booth at Supreme Session in London, Ontario!

A Message From the Foundation President

Dear Friends,

Working together for the children is a wonderful opportunity for us to bond as members and friends for an exciting purpose. What other ladies' organization has such a worthwhile cause, and to know that we have been doing this for so many years. It makes us very proud to serve with the Shriners in their great phi-

lanthropy.

On behalf of all of members of Daughters of the Nile, we



have now given more than forty-five million dollars for the special children in Shrine hospitals!

A special thank you goes to each member that gave any amount that makes this fantastic total. Thank you, thank you.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Turner, President