



## *Inside the Issue*

### **VOLUNTEERS RETURN!**

After a long 2 years, we finally welcomed back our volunteers! See what we've been up to!

### **HOWDY VOLUNTEER**

Read about our volunteer in the spotlight this month—Carol Ann Demaret

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

Upcoming events and happenings

## **VOLUNTEERS RETURN!**

At the beginning of March, all Texas Children's campuses excitedly welcomed back our beloved red-vested volunteers to select placements. Two years in the making, the long-awaited celebration was emotional and fun. Our reinstatement plans are still evolving as we work to bring back all placements, along with new ones as well!

We are forever grateful to each of you and feel so lucky to have volunteers back on campus!





## A SUCCESSFUL RETURN!

Volunteers landing in 3..2..1! After nearly 2 years, we are thrilled to have our volunteers back on campus. Each campus celebrated in style to welcome back our #ONEAMAZINGTEAM of volunteers.

Woodlands launched into space and mission control, while West campus was feeling extra *lucky* and celebrated alongside the Irish holiday St. Patrick's Day to welcome back their lucky charms! The Medical Center campus brought the Tomorrow, Together spirit to celebrate their returning volunteers.

We all know that together, things are just better.

Our teams are hard at work ensuring our remaining placements can be brought back safely, so be sure to keep an eye out as we update the placement opportunities. We feel so thankful to our faithful volunteers who returned this past month, our offices and campuses are much brighter with you here!



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*I am so excited to be coming back! I have missed TCH so much!*





## CAROL ANN DEMARET

Her story with Texas Children's

My beloved son, David, was born September 21, 1971 with a genetic defect called "Severe Combined Immunodeficiency Disease," known by the fearsome acronym, SCID.

Treatment, at the time, demanded a near impossible matched bone marrow transplant. Doctors believed they expanded David's chances with complete isolation. He had a germ free birth and placed directly into a bubble, to give science time to keep him free from infection and search for a cure. He would become affectionately known to the world as "The Bubble Boy."

He lived mostly at home beginning at age 2 months. Now and then he would journey to Texas Children's Hospital to give samples and take tests to see whether the status of his non-existent immune system might have improved. All his needs were sterilized and transported by bubble by way of an intricate connection to his living quarters both at home and at the hospital.

He was never able to eat a hot meal but his bubbles were close to the kitchen and he could watch as I cooked. His bubbles also allowed him to be present in the rest of the family home as some inside walls were removed so he could share with family, as he grew. Once we were able to smuggle him into a movie theater, it was closed at the time, and he watched "Star Wars" (his favorite) from his transport bubble.

His life was happy, his sense of humor was sharp and his intelligence and curiosity was keen. David had a great capacity to love his family and all those who nurtured him and took care of him. David was especially close to his Dr. William T. Shearer and his TCH nurses. In October Of 1983, he wanted to try a new treatment that held great promise but something went terribly wrong. It did not work and all attempts to reverse it, failed. Our beloved David died February 22, 1984 at age 12. We wept and a nation wept with us.

"NASA made him a space suit and before he outgrew it, he played in the back yard, squirting people, (including a Priest) as little boys will do and laughed and cavorted."



"The one thing he wondered about and never got to do, was to see how it felt to run barefoot in the grass."





We have been told that what was learned from David's gallant life and death lives and grows, here and now. And many children born with faulty or compromised immune systems whether genetic or acquired are treated at The David Center at Texas Children's Hospital and the David Clinic/ The Woodlands, can live their lives stronger and without confinement.

I am often asked to share my David's story and always mention our heartfelt gratitude to Texas Children's Hospital for giving us twelve years with our David and all that is needed to make his life safe and purposeful for life outside the bubble, we believed would happen. The enormous help offered to bring David home for months and return him to TCH and home again. It was not an easy task but it worked. I hate to think what life would have been like for David and his family if home life would not have been possible.

I was happy to know that TCH was building a free standing hospital close to where I live now and not far from where we lived with David. I would often pass by construction to view the progress. I knew I would offer to volunteer and so I join Volunteer Services nearly 5 years ago.

We were furloughed two years and I couldn't wait to return. As always, the safety of patients and their families is always a high priority with TCH and so we waited until it was safe from COVID.

Every Volunteer I have met has an eagerness to offer their time and attention to help others. Patients and their families know they will receive the best care at TCH and we can offer a smile and kind word and help needed to guide them to where they must go.

Within the walls of TCH the Woodlands, is an extension of the David Center, The David Clinic. Montgomery County has always embraced David's memory and his family. David's desire to "walk barefoot in the grass" is highlighted by the students and faculty of David Elementary in support of the David Dream Run held each year since about 1992 and all proceeds benefit The David Center and The David Clinic. Last year the "Run" was virtual but the year before, I was very proud and happy to see many red TCH vests in attendance. It was a wonderful surprise. "Thank you all" for honoring our David and his memory.

**David's Dream Run 2022 will be April 29th at WOODFOREST Stadium in The Woodlands.**

**To join the TCH Volunteer Services teams please register [here](#)**

# EVENTS ON THE HORIZON

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## HOWDY VOLUNTEER!

An evening with Carol Ann Demaret

Join us virtually on April 19th from 5pm-6pm to hear Carol Ann Demaret tell her story about her son, David and their experience at Texas Children's.

Click [here](#) to RSVP for the event

## NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

A week of celebrating each of you!

Keep an eye out for more information from your campus! We are looking forward to celebrating alongside each of you.

## DAVIDS DREAM RUN

Honoring Carol Ann, her family, and David

David's Dream Run 2022 will be April 29th at WOODFOREST Stadium in The Woodlands.

If you'd like to join the TCH Volunteer Services and walk or run with us you can register [here](#)



**APRIL 19**

Howdy Volunteer-  
an evening with  
Carol Ann Demaret



**APRIL 18-23**

National Volunteer Week



**APRIL 30**

Dauids Dream Run  
Woodlands, TX