

# The Fezzy Focus



## A Shriners Children's Erie Update

### Build-A-Bear Buddy Cart Now Open at Shriners Children's Erie

Shriners Children's Erie and Build-A-Bear Foundation have joined forces to offer a one-of-a-kind experience to patients, helping to provide hope and healing.

Monday, November 14 was National American Teddy Bear Day and also the launch of the Build-A-Bear Buddy Cart at Shriners Children's Erie. The cart will allow patients who have an upcoming surgery or an otherwise challenging appointment or procedure, an opportunity to pick out a complimentary furry friend and an outfit or accessories for them. The bears will act as comfort items for kids providing a sense of solace, safety and distraction from the health challenges they are facing. Build-A-Bear Foundation is donating bears and bunnies annually and supporters can also donate furry friends, clothing and accessories or Build-A-Bear gift cards to help keep the cart stocked.



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**BUILD-A-BEAR**  
FOUNDATION   
Buddy Room



**Shriners**  
Children's™  
Erie

## Erie Patient Represents at Charleston Classic



Shriners Children's Erie patient, Easton, recently enjoyed a once-in-a-lifetime experience at the Charleston Classic November 17, 18 and 20. The active 12-year-old boy was selected to travel to State

College, PA to interact with the Penn State Men's Basketball team. Easton, his dad, Cody, and Troy Harding, member of the Board of Governor's at Shriners Children's Erie, spent the day with the team and helped the players connect with the mission of Shriners Children's in advance of the three day tournament. They also produced a video, which was shared in the arena during the premier college basketball event.

Born with spina bifida, Easton has been receiving orthopedic specialty care from Shriners Children's Erie since he was a baby. He has had numerous surgeries through the years and has received braces and other orthotic devices to help with mobility. An avid athlete, Easton plays both sled hockey and wheelchair basketball on the Shriners Children's Erie teams.





## Mighty Otters Season Underway



The Shriners Children's Erie sled hockey team, The Mighty Otters, are active in their 2022/23 season, which includes ten practices from October to March. The team has twenty players on their roster this season, ranging in age and ability with many new players, who are trying the sport for the first time.

Players and coaches from the Harborcreek Huskies hockey team joined the Mighty Otters for practice recently to help push players around the ice. Pushers must be insured through US Hockey to be on the ice, so partnerships such as this one are critical to the program's success.

Sled hockey and other patient programs offered at Shriners Children's Erie offer many physical and social benefits for patients. Sled hockey supports weight-loss goals, increases strength, provides emotional support and serves as a productive outlet for anxiety and frustration.

