



**Shriners  
Children's™**  
Erie

# Temple Newsletter

An update for our  
Temple Affiliates



Dear Temple Affiliates,

We are thrilled to connect with you and share exciting updates from Shriners Children's Erie! Our dedicated team has been hard at work and we have many wonderful stories and developments to share with you. Thank you, for your continued support and dedication to changing the lives of children. Let's dive into the latest news!

If you plan to feature any of our content and need adjusted files, please contact **Izzy Spires** at [ispires@shrinenet.org](mailto:ispires@shrinenet.org) or (814) 875-8761.

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## Shriners Children's Erie October Online Store Open

The online merch store will be open for the month of October with exciting new clothing options available.

As part of 31 Days to Amaze, the webstore will donate \$5 from every item purchased directly back to support Shriners Children's Erie patients. Link below.

<https://fhi.promo/shc-erie>



## Daughters of the Nile Supreme Queen Visits Shriners Children's Erie

Yesterday, Daughters of the Nile Supreme Queen Kathy Walliker, representing Selket Temple No. 140 (Erie, PA) along with ladies from local Daughters of the Nile temples visited Shriners Children's Erie. During her visit, Kathy toured the facility, met with care providers and witnessed firsthand all the fun and creativity that takes place during Winter's occupational therapy sessions. Winter was excited to meet Supreme Queen Kathy and the rest of the ladies. She enjoyed seeing the collection of crowns and was delighted to try them on. Thank you to the Daughters of the Nile for all you do to support Shriners Children's Erie!



## **Congratulations to Alex Betancourt, MS, MBA, CPO!**

Shriners Children's Erie is proud to share that Alex Betancourt, Pediatric Orthotic and Prosthetic Services (POPS) manager, was invited to present at the Orthomerica Star Summit, taking place October 1–3 in Orlando, Florida. He spoke about cranial remolding orthoses compliance and has also been recognized by Orthomerica as one of their "All Star Cranial Clinicians."

Alex is deeply committed to advancing the integration of orthotic and prosthetic (O&P) care within multidisciplinary medical settings. At Shriners Children's Erie, he has incorporated O&P services into plagiocephaly/torticollis, limb deficiency, scoliosis and rehabilitation/multidisciplinary clinics. He continually challenges the traditional view of O&P providers as technical support, instead advocating for their role as essential clinical partners in patient care.

This recognition highlights Alex's knowledge, dedication and leadership in advancing patient-centered care. Congratulations, Alex, on this well-deserved honor!



## Issue with the New Food Kiosk at Shriners Children's Erie?

Shriners Children's Erie is excited to offer a wider variety of food options for Shriners drivers and patients. In the event of an issue with the food kiosk, individuals are asked to scan the QR code located at the kiosk.

If problems occur with the kiosk, a request needs to be made, a complaint filed or a refund required, the QR code should be used. Messages submitted through the QR code go directly to the market and will be handled appropriately.

Please note: Staff onsite cannot make changes or issue refunds, these must be submitted through the QR code.



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## Spirit of Children Coupon

Use this coupon at any participating Spirit Halloween stores and save 10%! When you use this coupon, Spirit of Children donates 10% of your Spirit Halloween purchase total to support local child life programs, including Shriners Children's Erie! Use promo code **Caring25** when ordering online. Offer valid through October 31.

### Participating locations include:

Ashtabula Towne Sq - 3315 North Ridge Road East, Ashtabula OH, 44004

Millcreek Mall - 345 Millcreek Mall Boulevard, Erie PA, 16565

Peach St - 1908 Keystone Drive, Erie PA, 16509

Lakewood NY - 318 E Fairmount Ave, Lakewood NY, 14750





**SAVE 10% OFF**  
YOUR ENTIRE ORDER

**SPIRIT GIVES 10%  
TO YOUR LOCAL PARTNER HOSPITAL**

Present coupon in any Spirit Halloween or enter promo code  
**CARING25** at checkout when shopping on SpiritHalloween.com

**SPIRIT**  
OF  
CHILDREN  
For a store near you  
visit SpiritHalloween.com



**234761**

Offer valid through 10/31/2025 at Spirit Halloween and SpiritHalloween.com. Coupons that are forged or altered in any way will not be accepted. Not valid on prior purchases, associate discount or taxes. If merchandise is returned, coupon discount will be deducted from items prior to refund/credit. Limit one per customer. Shipping offers cannot be combined with other discounts at store kiosks or online. No cash value. Spirit Halloween may cancel promotion at any time. Exclusions may apply. ©2025 Spirit Halloween Superstores, LLC.

## Shriners Children's Erie 31 Days to Amaze Partners

31 Days to Amaze is a month-long celebration of community generosity, where local businesses and organizations come together to support Shriners Children's Erie. Throughout the campaign, the partners host special events, fundraisers and donation opportunities that directly benefit patients and families.

### Books-A-Million

From October 19 through December 7, visitors to the Millcreek Mall Books-A-Million store can donate a book to support patients at Shriners Children's Erie. This annual book drive helps bring comfort and joy to kids during their visits.

### Faith, Hope and Images

The Shriners Children's Erie webstore donates \$5 from every item purchased directly back to support patients. The store opens four times throughout 2025, giving families and friends multiple chances to shop for a cause.

Link to order: <https://fhi.promo/shc-erie>

## **Movement Mortgage – Amanda Keith**

Amanda Keith with Movement Mortgage is giving back in a big way! For every mortgage loan closed before December 31, 2025, she will donate \$100 and Movement Mortgage will match it, doubling the impact to \$200 per loan for Shriners Children's Erie.

<https://31daystoamaze.org/partner-movement-mortgage/>

## **Plyler Entry Systems**

Through the Erie Otters Cash for Kids fundraising campaign, Plyler Entry Systems is teaming up with the Erie Otters and Shriners Children's Erie. For every goal scored during the 2025–2026 season, including playoffs, \$10 will be donated to support local kids.

## **ZEF Color Society**

ZEF Color Society is raffling off a deluxe R+Co Bleu box valued at \$258. Throughout November, customers who donate to Shriners Children's Erie will be entered for a chance to win while making a difference.

<https://31daystoamaze.org/zef-color-society/>

## **Macy's**

From October 16–31, shoppers at Macy's Millcreek Mall location can round up their purchases or make a donation at checkout. Every contribution supports the patients and families of Shriners Children's Erie.

<https://31daystoamaze.org/partners-macys/>

## **KANECT Recycling & Savannah**

Shriners Children's Erie patient ambassador, Savannah, is collecting pop tabs throughout October to help provide care for children. Kanect Recycling is matching every recycling amount she brings in, up to \$5,000!

<https://31daystoamaze.org/kanect-recycling/>

## **Jeni's Ice Cream**

On October 16, Jeni's Ice Cream in Chagrin Falls, OH will donate 20% of all proceeds from 3–6 p.m. Enjoy a sweet treat while supporting kids at Shriners Children's Erie.

<https://31daystoamaze.org/partner-jenis-ice-creams/>

## Moore Research

For the month of September, Moore Research is collecting toys and other goods for Shriners Children's Erie. Please see the flyer for accepted items.

<https://31daystoamaze.org/moore-research/>

## Spirit of Children

Each fall, Spirit Halloween supports Shriners Children's through its Spirit of Children campaign. Since 2007, they've raised nearly \$13 million nationwide to help child life specialists support patients and families. Shoppers can also use a coupon for \$10 off and \$10 will be donated to Shriners Children's Erie.

For any questions regarding 31 Days to Amaze, please contact David Schumacher at 814-875-8781 or at [daschumacher@shrinenet.org](mailto:daschumacher@shrinenet.org)



## Positive Press Ganey Comments

See what patients and families have to say about Shriners Children's Erie

### 2025 Press Ganey surveys

"First visit to the office and this was, by far, one of the best offices I have been to in my adult and child's life. Staff was knowledgeable, friendly and so helpful. Amazing work. Thank you so much."

**-Grateful Parent**

### 2025 Press Ganey surveys

"Case manager Dianna was amazing. I had to contact her the day after appt and got an answer and a solution to the problem I called about. Thank you!"

**-Grateful Parent**



## Unique Local Innovation in Scoliosis Care Earns National Recognition

Shriners Children's Erie patient Abigail and her orthotist, Hannah Clark, MS, CPO, traveled to Orlando, Florida, where they received prestigious national recognition from the American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association (AOPA) at its National Assembly. On September 4, the pair served as keynote speakers, sharing their story with an audience of more than 500 attendees. Abigail later reflected that the experience was nerve-wracking at first, but she felt more confident once Clark joined her on stage to help share the story.

For the past four years, Clark has cared for Abigail, working closely with the Shriners Children's Erie Pediatric Orthotic and Prosthetic Services (POPS) team and Spinal Technology to design a custom anterior open Boston-3D brace specifically for her needs. Abigail's physician, Stephen Mendelson, MD, recognized that managing her severe double major curve, which included a high thoracic curve, would require a unique approach. He requested a brace that was both low profile and highly effective. Unlike traditional braces, the Boston-3D applies corrective pressure on the outer side of the curve while cutting out corresponding areas on the inner side, allowing the spine to shift in the desired direction. With Abigail's dedication to wearing the brace and the customized design, her scoliosis curve has been reduced by more than 50%, an outcome rarely achieved.

Coincidentally, just days before Clark learned of AOPA's award prompt, Abigail had jokingly remarked that she deserved recognition for her commitment to wearing her brace. Clark knew she was the perfect nominee. Abigail's journey perfectly illustrated the theme: *the symbiotic relationship between manufacturers, clinicians and patients—leading to successful fits and outcomes—is often overlooked unless it involves a high-profile case.*

Within days, Clark and Abigail learned they had been chosen. Soon after, they were invited to Orlando to share their journey on the national stage. The trip also marked another milestone for Abigail and her family, it was their first time flying on an airplane, adding to the excitement and memories of this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Abigail's mother, Shameka, described the moment of seeing her daughter speak on stage as overwhelming and full circle, emphasizing that the moment truly belonged to Abigail.

Their story demonstrates the power of collaboration between patients, providers and industry partners working together to achieve life-changing results. By celebrating Abigail's perseverance and Clark's expertise, this national recognition not only highlights the impact of personalized scoliosis care but also underscores the role of Shriners Children's Erie in advancing pediatric specialty care locally and across the country.

