



**Shriners
Children's™
Erie**

Temple Newsletter

An update for our
Temple Affiliates



Dear Temple Affiliates,

As we welcome the new year, we're excited to share uplifting updates and meaningful news from Shriners Children's Erie! Over the past year, our dedicated team has worked tirelessly to provide exceptional care and bring joy to the children and families we serve. Thank you for your continued support. Together, we look forward to another year of making a positive impact and brightening lives.

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



13th Annual Telethon Success!

On Tuesday, February 17, Shriners Children's Erie hosted their 13th Annual Telethon at the Millcreek Mall and it was an unforgettable night.

The telethon is one of the clinic's major fundraisers and a special opportunity to connect with the community while showcasing the compassionate, life-changing care provided to children and families every day. In just one night, the event reached an incredible audience of 286,062 people.

Thanks to the generosity of supporters and the dedication of everyone involved, the telethon not only met but exceeded its fundraising goal, raising an outstanding \$41,835, well above the \$30,000 target.

The impact of this event is tremendous and its success reflects the strength of a community that continues to show up in support of local children and families. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the dedicated Shriners who showed their support at the event.



Patient Ambassador Morgan Represents Shriners Children's Erie at Clearwater Softball Invitational

Morgan, patient ambassador at Shriners Children's Erie, recently had the exciting opportunity to throw several first pitches at the Shriners Children's Clearwater Softball Invitational in Florida from February 12-15. Morgan was selected to represent the pediatric care network alongside four other patient ambassadors during the event, where they also met athletes from 16 NCAA Division I college softball teams.

A multi-sport athlete at Eisenhower High School, Morgan competes on the Lady Knights basketball and softball teams and also plays travel softball outside of the school season. In the winter, she enjoys skiing and staying active and she hopes to continue her athletic career by playing softball at the collegiate level.

"The experience meant everything to me," Morgan shared. "I have dreamed of watching girls play at this level and not only did I get to watch them, but I got to meet them. All of the girls were so kind and welcoming to us."

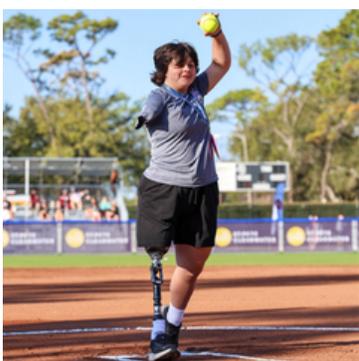
Meeting the athletes further fueled her motivation both on and off the field. Morgan said the experience inspired her to continue pushing herself to be the best player, and person, she can be, carrying the team mottos shared with her throughout the weekend.

For Morgan's family, the event created many meaningful moments, including fans of all ages asking Morgan for her autograph, a proud reminder of the respect she has earned as an athlete. The family also connected with another patient ambassador family and the two girls quickly bonded over shared experiences.

The invitational held special significance for Morgan's father, Mark, a Shriner, who was honored to represent Shriners Children's Erie and the Zem Zem Shriners Temple while connecting with fellow Shriners and event organizers from Shriners International.

Morgan became a patient at Shriners Children's Erie at just 2 years old following an accident that resulted in the loss of her right arm and leg. Since then, the care team has supported her through multiple surgeries, rehabilitation and custom prosthetic fittings, helping her learn to walk, grow and thrive. She especially enjoyed personalizing her prostheses over the years, making each one uniquely her own.

Today, Morgan proudly serves as a patient ambassador, using her story to encourage and inspire others. Known for her determination, resilience and positive spirit, she continues to show fellow patients that with perseverance and the right support, anything is possible.



Need to shred your important documents? Participate in Shredding for Shriners!

The community is invited to attend the upcoming Shredding for Shriners event hosted by Shriners Children's Erie on Saturday, April 18, from 10 a.m. to noon. This event offers a safe and secure way to dispose of sensitive documents while supporting the clinic's mission to provide exceptional care for children and families.

A promotional graphic for a shredding event. The top half has a grey background with the text 'SHREDDING FOR SHRINERS' in large blue letters and 'Fundraiser' in red below it. The bottom half has a dark red background with 'Saturday April 18' and '10am - noon' in white. To the left is an illustration of a light blue box filled with papers. To the right is an illustration of a blue shredder with white paper shreds. The text 'Shred your documents safely!' is at the bottom in red. There are several colorful circles (green, yellow, blue, red) scattered around the graphic.

SHREDDING FOR SHRINERS

Fundraiser

**Saturday
April 18**

10am - noon

Shred your documents safely!

Quarterly Store Opening Soon

The quarterly store will be open until March 31!

This is a great opportunity to purchase Shriners Children's Erie branded apparel and merchandise.

Be sure to browse the available items and place your order before the store closes at the end of the month. Link to store is below.

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

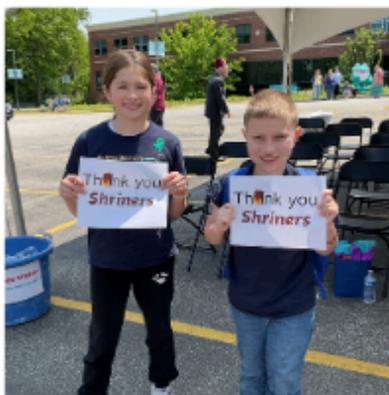


Save the Date - Shriners Day 2026

Save the Date!

Shriners Day 2026

Sunday, June 7, 2026
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



- Medical center tours
- Classic car show
- Shriner ceremony
- Live entertainment

Join us for our Shriners Day Open House to learn more about the excellent orthopedic care we offer to thousands of children each year, regardless of the families' ability to pay.

Questions? Contact Micheal Widrig at 814-875-8780

Positive Press Ganey Comments

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

“Shriners Children’s Erie is top-notch and I will recommend them to everyone. I never once felt like he was mistreated or looked down on or not a priority. We were welcomed every time from the security desk to the staff treating him and every desk we passed by in between. We received a wave and a smile up the hall and 'have a good evening' by everyone on the way out. I could not have asked for a better place to take our son. Thank you so much.”



Shriners
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Erie

Mission Minute

On Thursday, February 12, Spirit of Children presented a donation of just over \$87,000 to the child life department at Shriners Children's Erie. Their generous support of our child life program makes a world of difference in the lives of patients and families.

Child Life Specialists, Michelle DeRooy, CCLS and Kristin Maguire, CTRS use play therapy to help alleviate the stress and anxiety that children often face during medical appointments. They also prepare patients for procedures, ensuring they feel informed, comfortable and supported throughout their care journey.

Thanks to Spirit of Children's incredible generosity, they have raised about \$463,623 for Shriners Children's Erie since 2011. We are beyond grateful for their ongoing support and commitment to helping our patients thrive!

This year, the Lakewood, NY Spirit of Children staff were recognized by the Shriners Children's Erie team with a special trophy honoring their achievement as the top fundraiser among the locations that support Shriners Children's Erie. Shriners Children's Erie is proud to celebrate their outstanding dedication and impact!

