November 3, 2026



Dear Temple Affiliates,

As summer gives way to the crisp days and vibrant colors of fall, we embrace a season of change and new opportunities to create lasting memories. We're pleased to share updates from Shriners Children's Erie. Throughout this season, our dedicated team continues to make a lasting impact, providing exceptional care while bringing hope, healing and smiles to the children and families we are honored to serve. As we look to the months ahead, we remain committed to helping every child reach their fullest potential.

Thank you for your continued support. If you plan to feature any of our content and need adjusted files, please contact us.

Izzy Spires at **ispires@shrinenet.org** or **(814) 875-8761.**

Shriners Children's Erie – A Century of Impact

In June 2027, Shriners Children's Erie will celebrate an incredible milestone: 100 years of providing specialized care, hope and healing to children and families.

To mark the countdown to our centennial, Shriners Children's Erie is featuring *A Century of Impact*, a special series featuring 12 fun facts, one in each newsletter over the next year. Get excited to explore milestones and little-known facts from the past 100 years and celebrate the remarkable legacy of Shriners Children's Erie.

Shriners Children's Erie
A Century of Impact



Celebrating 100 YEARS

Shriners Children's Erie

Fact #4

POPS (Pediatric Orthotic and Prosthetic Services) began at Shriners Children's Erie in August 2016, supporting children of all ages and abilities through skilled evaluation, design, customization, fitting and management of a wide range of orthotic and prosthetic devices.

They are currently the only pediatric orthotic and prosthetic provider in the region and the largest provider of cranial remolding helmets in the country.

Shriners Children's Erie Awarded with 3 Erie's Choice Awards

On Friday, October 9, Shriners Children's Erie was recognized in three categories at the Erie's Choice Awards ceremony:

🏆 Erie's Choice for Pediatric Clinic
🏆 Erie's Choice for Rehabilitation Facility
🏆 Erie's Choice for Physical Therapy Clinic

These awards are especially meaningful because they reflect the voices and experiences of the community Shriners Children's Erie is privileged to serve. Recognition from patients, families and community members speaks to the trust placed in the organization and the positive impact its team has on the lives of children each day.

This achievement is a testament to the dedication, expertise and compassion demonstrated by staff across every department. It reflects a shared commitment to providing exceptional care and creating an outstanding patient and family experience.

Shriners Children's Erie extends its sincere gratitude to its Board of Governors for their unwavering support, leadership and commitment to the Shriners Children's mission. Their guidance and advocacy help make it possible for the organization to continue delivering life-changing care to children and families throughout the region.



2026
THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY'S CHOICE AWARDS
Erie's Choice
WINNER

Best Pediatric Clinic
Best Rehabilitation Facility
Best Physical Therapy Clinic





Shriners Children's Erie Trunk or Treat Hosted over 350 Children and Families

Shriners Children's Erie welcomed more than 350 children and their families to this year's Trunk or Treat event, making it one of the facilities largest and most successful events yet.

Each year, the event continues to grow, expanding its reach and connecting with more children and families throughout the region. The evening featured creative costumes, decorated trunks, treats and plenty of Halloween fun.

This annual event would not be possible without the support of dedicated staff, volunteers and community partners. Special thanks go to Spirit Halloween and Spirit of Children for helping make the event such a success.

Shriners Children’s Erie would like to recognize Daughters of the Nile Selket Temple 140 for their continued participation as well as Board of Governors’ member, Craig Mollon and his wife, Anne. Their creativity and and dedication in decorating trunks and volunteering their time to pass out candy to children throughout the evening. Their enthusiasm helped create a fun and welcoming experience for families attending the event.













Gear Up and Support the Shriners Children's Erie Mighty Otters! 🦦🏒

The Mighty Otters Team Store is now open and will remain available through November 9. Don't miss your opportunity to purchase Mighty Otters apparel and represent the team.

🔗 Shop the Mighty Otters Team Store: Mighty Otters Web Store

📅 Store closes: November 9

If you have any questions, please contact Michelle DeRooy at 814-875-8707 or at MDeRooy@shrinenet.org.

Interested in cheering on the team? You're welcome to support the Mighty Otters at practice. Please refer to the practice schedule below for dates and times.





- 11/3/26 from 5:30-7 at the Erie Insurance Arena
- 11/17/26 from 5:30-7 at the Erie Insurance Arena
- 12/1/26 from 5:30-7 at the Erie Insurance Arena
- 12/15/26 from 5:30-7 at the Erie Insurance Arena
- 1/12/27 from 5:30-7 at the Erie Insurance Arena
- 2/2/27 from 5:30-7 at the Erie Insurance Arena
- 2/16/27 from 5:30-7 at the Erie Insurance Arena
- 3/2/27 from 5:30-7 at the Erie Insurance Arena
- 3/13/27 from 1-4 at the Flo Fabrizio Ice Center for our End of the Season game and party, more details to follow



Shriners Children's Erie Quarterly Store Closes Soon!

The Shriners Children's Erie online store closes Wednesday, November 4. Don't miss your chance to order your favorite Shriners Children's Erie merchandise before the deadline!

The store features a variety of Shriners Children's Erie-branded apparel and accessories, making it easy to show your support while representing the Erie team. Staff, patients, families and supporters are encouraged to browse the selection and place their orders before the store closes.

Link to store is below.

https://faithhopeandimages.chipply.com/SHC-Erie/?action=viewall

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Shriners Children's Erie Patient Ambassador LeeAnn Helps Award Winners at Annual Champions Pullin' for Children Event



On October 23-24, Champions Pullin' for Children hosted its 9th Annual Truck Pull to benefit Shriners Children's Erie. Event organizers Calvin Brown Jr. and Rochelle Brown welcomed Shriners Children's Erie patient ambassador LeeAnn, along with members of the Board of Governors, including Board Chairman Michael Kerns, to this year's event. During the event, LeeAnn had the honor of presenting Fezzy Bears to the first-place winners.

Over the past nine years, Champions Pullin' for Children has raised more than $173,000 to support the mission of Shriners Children's Erie and the pediatric specialty care provided to children and families. The continued success of the event reflects the dedication and generosity of the Browns, event participants, sponsors and volunteers who make a lasting impact on the lives of the patients served by Shriners Children's Erie.

Shriners Children's Erie extends its sincere gratitude to everyone involved for their ongoing commitment to helping children receive specialized orthopedic care.

Welcome New Shriners Children's Erie Patient Ambassadors

Charlotte



Charlotte loves being in the spotlight and is passionate about theater, where she enjoys singing, dancing and performing on stage. When she is not rehearsing, she can often be found on the softball field or making a splash in the swimming pool.

As a patient at Shriners Children's Erie for the past 11 years, Charlotte has worked with many of the hospital's physicians, therapists and care teams. Throughout her journey, she has received both occupational and physical therapy to help build strength and improve the function of her legs and core. Today, she continues her care with Terrance Ishmael, MD.

Charlotte wasted no time getting involved as a patient ambassador. Within her first hour in the role, she met fellow patient ambassador Liam and participated in a special photoshoot for Shriners Children's 100th anniversary.



Olivia

While Olivia has recently aged out of care at Shriners Children's Erie, she is certainly no stranger to the facility or the staff who supported her throughout her journey. Following three consecutive injuries, Olivia spent several years working hard in physical therapy to regain her strength and return to the activities she loves.
Her first round of therapy spanned from 2021 to 2023, and after another injury, she returned for a second course of treatment from 2025 to 2026 before recently being discharged from care.

Now a student at Kent State University, Olivia is excited to share her Shriners Children's Erie journey as a patient ambassador. She hopes her story will be a source of encouragement for other patients facing similar challenges, showing them that setbacks do not define their future and that they are never alone in their recovery journey.

Shriners Children’s Erie Patient Ambassador Morgan Commits to Keuka College Softball Program

Shriners Children's Erie is proud to congratulate Patient Ambassador Morgan on her commitment to play softball at Keuka College in New York.

This fall, Morgan will begin an exciting new chapter as she pursues a degree in psychology with a minor in sports management while continuing her athletic career on the softball field. Throughout her journey, Morgan has demonstrated remarkable determination and perseverance, inspiring those around her with her positive attitude and strong work ethic.

The Shriners Children's Erie family is honored to have been part of Morgan's journey and celebrates this significant achievement alongside her. Her commitment to pursuing both her academic and athletic goals reflects the dedication and drive that have helped her reach this milestone.

Congratulations, Morgan!



Shriners Children's Erie Patient Family Testimonial

Tessa, Harley's mother, recently reached out to Shriners Children's Erie through Facebook to share her family's positive experience with her daughters clubfoot care. She expressed her gratitude for the compassionate support, timely access to treatment and wonderful care that helped make a challenging journey easier for their family.



Shriners Children's Erie Patient Ambassador Savannah Receives 2026 Outstanding Young Philanthropist Award

Shriners Children's Erie patient ambassador Savannah has been named the recipient of the 2026 Outstanding Young Philanthropist Award by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Northwestern Pennsylvania Chapter.

Since becoming a patient at Shriners Children's Erie, Savannah has transformed her own healthcare journey into a mission of service and advocacy. Through her generosity she has become an inspiring ambassador and a champion for children facing medical challenges.

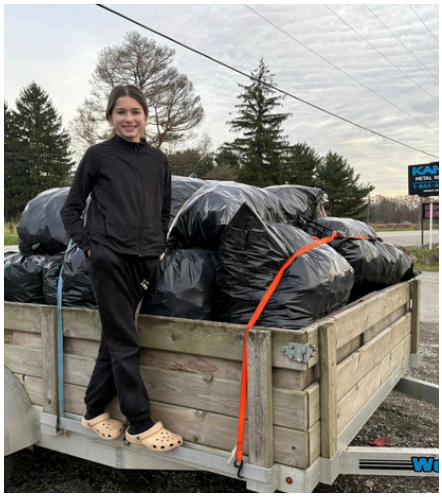
Savannah has organized and led numerous successful fundraising efforts for Shriners Children's Erie. Her philanthropic endeavors began with a lemonade stand that raised $250 and grew to include a fundraising campaign at the Crawford County Fair that exceeded its goal by raising more than $1,000. She also generously donated the proceeds from the sale of her 4-H pig that was then matched by a local company.

Beyond fundraising, Savannah generously gives her time and talents to support others. She has volunteered alongside local Shrine clubs at community events, helped sell Tim Hortons Smile Cookies benefiting Shriners Children's Erie and participates in fundraising efforts along side Ladies and Shriners. She has also organized collections of aluminum pop tabs, gas gift cards and restaurant gift cards to assist families traveling for their care.

Committed to providing comfort and encouragement to fellow patients, Savannah regularly donates Higgy Bears to other patients diagnosed with scoliosis at Shriners Children's Erie. Her thoughtful efforts help ensure young patients feel supported throughout their healthcare journeys.

Savannah has also become a passionate advocate for scoliosis awareness and early detection. She has shared her story through community presentations, television interviews and outreach efforts to educate others about scoliosis and the importance of early screening. Her advocacy has extended to the legislative level, where she and her family have worked with elected officials to advance policies that could improve scoliosis detection and outcomes for children across Pennsylvania. Their efforts were recognized with a proclamation from Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro. Most recently, Savannah has partnered with Pennsylvania State Senator Michelle Brooks in support of legislation promoting earlier scoliosis screenings in public schools.

Savannah exemplifies the true spirit of what it means to be a patient ambassador. Her compassion and service are making a meaningful impact on children and families at Shriners Children's Erie and throughout the community.









Shriners Children's Erie

Shriners Children's Erie
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