

Community Connection Greenville



Shriners Hospitals
for Children™

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Shriners Hospital Happenings

SHC-G Road Runners

Imagine spending your entire day driving a child to the hospital. What if that child was not your own? Each day, dozens of Road Runners from across the six states the Greenville Shriners Hospital serves spend their day making the trip to the hospital. They pick up a local family, drive them to the hospital for treatment, and then return them back home. The transportation is free of charge to the child's family, but the Road Runners say they are paid with smiles from the child.

When asked why they volunteer so much of their time, Road Runners simply reply that when they look at what the families are going through with the sick children, they are happy to drive any distance to help them.



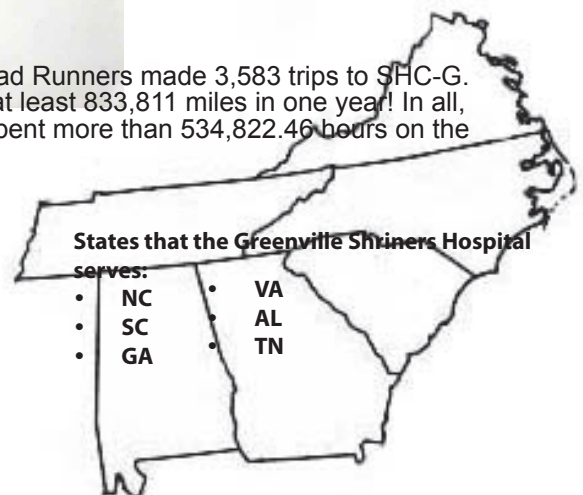
During 2009, Road Runners made 3,583 trips to SHC-G. That's a total of at least 833,811 miles in one year! In all, Road Runners spent more than 534,822.46 hours on the road.

"Legendary Shriner Remembered, More than Statue"

From Tristatehomepage.com
Shriners across the Nation mourn the loss of an icon. A picture of Albert Hortman a Hadi Shriner helping a little girl made history. Hortman passed away [in December] and the now grown woman, Bobbi Jo remembers how Hortman and other Shriners helped her.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. However, one taken 40-years-ago in Evansville turned out to be an image words can not describe.

The picture was taken in 1970 at Evansville's Mesker Amusement Park which was then located by Mesker Park Zoo. Al Hortman saw a 5-year-old girl with cerebral palsy struggling to walk on gravel. He scooped her up in one arm and carried her crutches in the other. That little girl is Bobbi Jo Wright. She and Hortman kept in touch after all these years. Bobbi Jo says she's saddened by the loss of her long time friend yet thankful to have known him. "I just feel blessed to been part of it. Not only blessed because the help I received from the Shriners but blessed to be part of an image that epitomizes what they're all about," said Wright.



States that the Greenville Shriners Hospital serves:

- NC
- SC
- GA
- VA
- AL
- TN

As a child Bobbi Jo was often a patient at the Shriners Hospital in St. Louis. Without their help she says she wouldn't be walking today. Hadi Shriners are a non-profit organization raising money and assisting children in need.

"We have a saying it's, 'No man ever stood so tall when he kneeled down to help a child.' That's exactly what Al Hortman did in that picture," said Brian Ball a Hadi Shriner.

According to Shriners, the picture was taken accidentally by Randy Dieter who was working at the local news paper at the time. His camera jammed but Dieter was able to snap the picture as Hortman and Bobbi Jo walked away. That photo has since become the Shriners international symbol.

Bobbi Jo says Hortman always liked the fact the picture was taken from behind. He said it could be the face of any child and every Shriner.

The larger than life image can be seen around the world on stained glass windows, statues, ties, and tee shirts.

Hortman was 80 years old.

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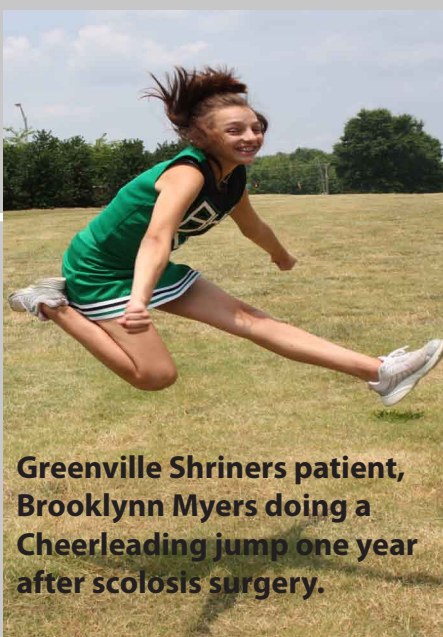
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Patient Spotlight

Brooklynn Myers, a 14 years old Shriners Hospitals for Children patient who attends to Berea High School in Greenville, SC, had scoliosis. She is a cheerleader and an active softball player. Brooklynn started coming to the Greenville Shriners Hospital three years ago. Her mom noticed her back wasn't straight one day while she was jumping on a trampoline. Doctors at Shriners Hospital diagnosed Brooklynn with Scoliosis. Scoliosis is a curvature of the spine.

Her spine was curved 21 degrees when she first came to Shriners. To try and stop the curvature doctors made her a brace. For some kids, wearing the brace as they grow helps the spine straighten out. For Brooklynn bracing didn't work. Her spine continued to curve until it was 68 degrees.

Left untreated, eventually her spine would curve so much that she would have trouble breathing. It could even crush her heart and lungs. Brooklynn had surgery in December of 2008. Her mom and dad were with her waiting in the pre-op holding area the morning of her surgery. Orthopaedic surgeons at Shriners Hospitals for Children® put two metal rods and two screws and 8 hooks into her spine to straighten it. Brooklynn stayed in the Shriners Hospital for seven days. She was not supposed to do jumps for 1 year but...her back is doing so great that the doctors told her she could jump seven months after her spinal surgery. Now, she is a cheerleader and an active softball player. Brooklynn, like many Shriners patients, is defying the odds.



Greenville Shriners patient, Brooklynn Myers doing a Cheerleading jump one year after scoliosis surgery.

Scoliosis refers to abnormal curvature of the spine. There are many varieties of scoliosis affecting children at different ages. Congenital scoliosis refers to abnormal curves of the spine caused by abnormalities in the backbone. Idiopathic scoliosis is the most common form of scoliosis and typically presents in the early teenage years. Mild curves are generally observed and periodic radiographs. Moderate curves may be treated with bracing. More severe curves typically require surgery to correct and stabilize the spine.

Shriners Hospitals for Children® is a one-of-a-kind international health care system of 22 hospitals dedicated to improving the lives of children by providing specialty pediatric care, innovative research and outstanding teaching programs. Children up to age 18 with orthopaedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate are eligible for admission and receive all care in a family-centered environment at no charge - regardless of financial need. Shriners Hospitals relies on the generosity of donors to deliver this mission every day.



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For more information, please visit: www.shrinershospitals.org