

News from SHC - St. Louis

Applications by Temple Year to Date through April

Temple	'07	'06
Abdallah	13	26
Abou Ben Adhem	97	75
Ainad	174	172
Akdar	9	15
Al Chymia	12	18
Ansar	46	46
Arab	8	8
Ararat	39	37
Bedouin	1	0
Hadi	23	30
India	4	2
Isis	10	8
Kaaba	2	3
Midian	15	19
Mirza	11	10
Moila	13	10
Moolah	177	198
Rizpah	3	11
Sahara	11	6
Scimitar	3	5
Zorah	11	22
Non-affiliated	32	28
Total	714	749

We're experiencing a downward trend in the number of applications we have been receiving this year. As of the end of April, patient applications are down by 5%. As many temples suspend activities during the summer, we're looking forward to a productive fall screening clinic season. In the meantime, if your temple would like advice or help in recruiting patients, please call us at 314-872-7837.



Shriners Physician Honored

Michael Whyte, M.D., medical/scientific director of the hospital's Center for Metabolic Bone Disease and Molecular Research, has been inducted as a member of the Association of American Physicians. The goals of the organization include the pursuit of medical knowledge, advancement through experimentation, discovery of basic and clinical science, and their application to clinical medicine. Each year, 55 individuals having attained excellence in achieving these goals are recognized by nomination for membership by the Council of the Association. Their election gives them the opportunity to share their scientific discoveries and contributions with their colleagues at the annual meeting. Congratulations, Dr. Whyte!

Patient's Family Urges Safe Lawnmowing Practices

Dave and Mabyn Sims thought they had done everything to instill a healthy fear of lawnmowers in their two youngest children, Braden and Shelby. But, on June 27, 2006, Mabyn's worst fear about the lawnmower became a tragic reality. With much on her mind, and Dave stationed with the Air Force in Dubai, Saudi Arabia, as part of the war in Iraq, Mabyn was mowing the last few rows of her back yard. Braden was playing outside on a wooden play center, with strict instructions to not come near the mower.

Twenty minutes later, five-year-old Braden, from his perch on the play center, was trying to get his mother's attention, when he slipped and fell under the mower blades.

"It's still very vivid for me: the sound, the feeling of him slipping under the mower," Mabyn says. "But what I'll never forget is the look on his face. For a moment, I couldn't even remember how to turn off the mower."

Braden's left leg was mangled by the mower. Mabyn rushed to call 911, but living in a rural area outside Harrisburg, IL, it was a half hour before the ambulance arrived. He lost so much blood, he nearly lost his life. Local doctors sent him on to St. Louis Children's Hospital, where he remained for the next 18 days.

"I was crying a lot," remembers Braden. "Jesus held my leg in the ambulance."

It took doctors weeks to stabilize the remaining portion of his left leg before they could begin revision surgery on his leg bones. Lawnmower blades are so dirty, it takes many treatments and surgeries in order to remove all the debris and contamination in the wounds. Upon his release, doctors referred him to Shriners Hospital to continue his non-emergency treatment and to fit him for a prosthesis.

Today, Braden is a lively, active 6-year-old. Dave and Mabyn say they feel blessed that Braden survived the accident and feel it is their calling to spread the word to families about the dangers of mixing children and lawnmowers.

"Just keep your children inside when you mow," Mabyn warns. "Since the accident, when we see people giving a child a ride on a lawnmower, we've stopped to tell them our story. Every time, people ask us to mind our own business and tell us that they 'know what they're doing.' Well, we thought we knew what we were doing, too, but children are unpredictable. Just keep them inside."

A sobering fact to support the Sims' plea: In spite of numerous safety standards implemented by lawnmower manufacturers in 1987, the number of accidents have not declined. Half the children injured by lawnmowers change their plans and goals for the future, even if they've returned to normal athletic ability.

The Sims family were able to share their message with hundreds of thousands of viewers of KSDK NewsChannel 5. Health reporter Kay Quinn, right, and news photographer Jim Tuxbury, left, interviewed the family for a story on May 15. After airing, the story received thousands of hits on the station's website.