

One of My Great Day's of Fun! The Happy Heart Party

From Nurse Bandi Aid,
Jenny L. Naegele of Seminole Florida

Caring clowning has always held a special place in my heart. These kid's (big & little) always need a lot of special attention! That is my job! SMILES & GIGGLES... One of my favorite days each year is to play at the Happy Heart Party! This year it was held at Tropicana Field during the Tampa Bay Ray's baseball game. Nurse Bandi Aid' loves to do *Nose Transplants & Face Lifts!* The age-old questions like "Have you picked your nose before?" "or "Have you picked your sister's nose? Would you like to pick your nose?" So by the end of the party EVERYONE has picked a nose - or someone else's nose - or have run down the hall because their nose was running!

Dr. Jeffrey P. Jacobs, M.D. of All Childrens explains the party:

"The Happy Heart Party started in 2003 as an annual party for all patients and their families of The Congenital Heart Institute of Florida (CHIF) [www.chif.us] and All Children's Hospital [<http://www.allkids.org>]. The Congenital Heart Institute of Florida operates on around 800 patients every year.

Patients come to our party every year. Our first party was in 2003. The parties in 2003 and 2004 were funded in part by a donation of \$1000 per year from my wife Stacy. Since then, the party has been funded by The Krewe of the Conquistadors of Panfilo de Narvaez. The Krewe was founded by Dave Puckett. On August 21, 1998, Dave's daughter Allyson underwent open heart surgery to repair an AV Canal at the age of 2 years. Allyson continues to do very well! I was her surgeon. Her father Dave founded The Krewe and led The Krewe to become sponsors of The Happy Heart Party.

The Happy Heart Party provides young parents with young children with congenital heart disease the opportunity to interact with teenagers and young adults who had surgery 10 or 20 years ago and are now leading meaningful productive and healthy lives!! The Happy Heart Party also provides an opportunity for physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals to interact with their patients young and old in a fun social setting. For me, it is one of the highlights of the year – a truly special day!"



This is a "sharing" from the Internet from a parent of a child being treated at All Children's Hospital. I think it shows the affect of the party on the parents.

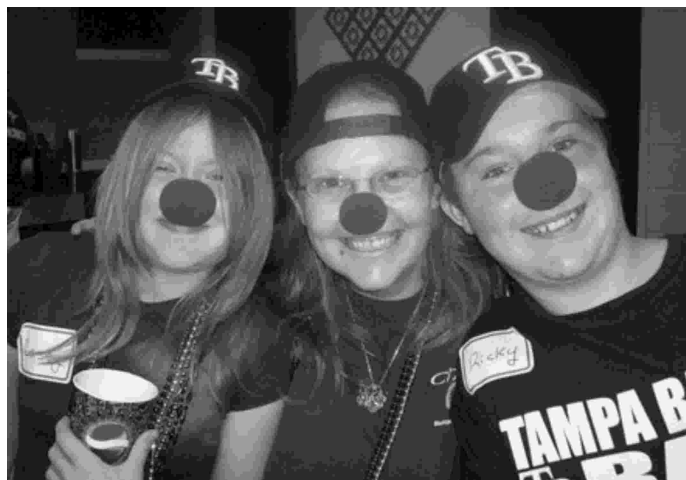
"ACH has a happy heart party. While I was pregnant I met a wonderful family (the Hesouns). There daughter had a heart transplant when she was 22 days old. She brought me to the happy heart party and I met so many families and children with HLHS. It was amazing. I felt so much better after leaving that party, because all you think to yourself is that you are the only one and how could I do this. After seeing the kids and parents... I thought... wow!!! I can do this!!!" <http://www.mlhofstpete.org/stories/emma.html>



Above Nurse Bandi Aid at Toy's For Tot's which runs every December in St. Petersburg, FL. "We collect toy's, have auction's, paint faces, what ever to make sure Santa comes for the kids!"

Nurse BandiAid has been clowning for ten yrs. In September, she will become the President of the Uptown Clowns of Largo in Largo, Florida - COAI Alley # 301. They also sponsor Florida Clown Day ~ which is held every January in Largo Park, Largo, Florida. About 150 clowns from all over Florida come to play and do face painting, balloon twisting, skits on stage, and just a wide array of fun thing's for families! The Uptown Clowns are her main clown family!

Nurse BaidiAid visits nursing homes, hospitals, schools, restaurants and assists with activities for All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, FL, to include Ronald McDonald House & our own Child Care Center ~ which is also where she has her "day job (Clinical Coding Specialist). In addition she does events for Breast Cancer, Lupus, Hydrocephalus & the Marine's ~ Toy's for Tot's.



A typical 'Red Nose Family'... with lots of heart & love!