



Pirate Toy Fund Brings Sunshine and Smiles to Daystar Kids

Thanks for celebrating with us at our Pirate Toy Fund Party and Picnic on May 26th. We had a wonderful turnout with 41 family members and guests and appreciate our partners at Pirate Toy Fund for their generous support.



Daystar Families Make a Difference



We're grateful to all the Daystar Kids, families and alumni who took part in our video tribute to outgoing Board President, Mike Buckley, for his 13 years of dedicated service to our mission. Thanks for giving Mike a priceless gift he'll always remember. The tribute video, coupled with heartfelt testimony from Daystar Dad, Richie Mastin, helped the 15th Annual Daystar Derby make fundraising history, raising more than \$278,000 to help other children who need our services and supports. To see the video and event photography, visit <https://www.daystarkids.org/derby>

Rising Stars Celebration

Help us celebrate all of our wonderful Daystar Kids at our year-end party on Thursday, August 25th at Temple B'rith Kodesh at 2131 Elmwood Avenue in Brighton. Just a few reminders:

- All guests must pre-register to attend. Email attendee names to program@daystarkids.org or return the RSVP form in your child's folder.
- NEW THIS YEAR: there will be no services on this date and busing will be suspended for the Rising Stars Ceremony. If you need transportation assistance, contact Alyssa at program@daystarkids.org.



2022-23 Program Calendar Approved

The Program Calendar for the September 2022– August 2023 Program Year is updated. As a reminder, children are expected to adhere to Daystar Kids attendance policy to maintain their enrollment. Medical appointments, hospital visits and documented illness are excused absences.

2022-23 Calendar

Happy July 4th

Daystar Kids will be closed on Monday, July 4th for the holiday. Please make sure you have all of your child's medical devices, supplies, and medications needed over the long weekend. We will reopen on Tuesday, July 5th for our regular programs.

Save the Dates

Last Day of Program – Wednesday, August 24th

Rising Stars Celebration – Thursday, August 25th

Summer Break – Friday August 26 – Tuesday, September 6th

First Day of Program – Wednesday, September 7th

Renew Your Child's 2022-2023 Service Agreement

If you haven't already returned your child's Updated Service Agreement for the 2022-23 Program, please review, sign and send it back to us in your child's Communication Folder to secure your child's placement for the Fall. Once we receive the Service Agreement, information packets will be sent home in August with updated information about your child's enrollment. For questions or changes to the Service Agreement, please contact Alyssa at program@daystarkids.org. Thank you!



Volunteer to Help Daystar Kids at the RBC Golf Tournament

Daystar Kids is honored to be one of the lucky recipients of the proceeds from the Rochester Business Classic (RBC) Golf Tournament on July 18th at Country Club of Rochester (CCR). We need a few dedicated volunteers to help out. Please use this link, <https://rb.gy/msym4c> to sign up – details to follow.



Meet our Providers



Bridget Platania, NP, a pediatric nurse practitioner at URMedicine/Golisano Children's Hospital, officially joins Daystar Kids on July 1st as the agency's Health Care Consultant and liaison to our providers at Golisano Children's Hospital. Bridget has more than 20 years of experience as a pediatric nurse practitioner and earned her Masters Degree in Health Care Organization Management and Leadership in 2014 from University of Rochester. Bridget currently works with Pediatric Pulmonology and will be partnering with Dr. Megan Gabel in Pediatric Gastroenterology (GI) to support the health care goals of Daystar Kids. Bridget lives in Brighton with her family and looks forward to becoming part of the Daystar Kids team.



Megan Gabel, MD, joins Daystar Kids as a Medical Advisor, providing in-service training on Pediatric GI conditions and services and serving as a consultant to our team throughout the year. Together, Dr. Gabel and Bridget will provide onsite clinic visits for GI patients at Daystar Kids. This new initiative will help Daystar Kids fully integrate its nursing activities and therapeutic directives with our medical partners at the Pediatric Advanced Nutrition Support Clinic (PANS) to better serve the needs of your children.

*Daystar Kids will share more details about this program at an Open House Meeting in October (details tba).

Improving Health Care Coordination at Daystar Kids

To improve efficiency, promote effective communication and facilitate better health care coordination with families, team members, and providers at Golisano Children's Hospital, Daystar Kids has established a dedicated Nurse Care Manager Team comprised of Nurse Manager, Jackie Odell, RN, BSN and Nurse Coordinator, Caroline Cowles, RN, BSN. Together, they are responsible for coordinating your child's health care needs and work closely with the assigned classroom nurses and Nurse Practitioner to implement any changes or updates, as needed.

Please direct your child's health care concerns to our Nurse Care Management Team by email at nursing@daystarkids.org. You may also contact the front desk to request nursing for any urgent matters. The team will connect with classroom team members to ensure that your concerns are shared and to triage any urgent issues quickly.

Team News

Congratulations to Ms. Taylor Pevlor on her promotion to Special Education Teacher! Previously, Ms. Pevlor supported Team Yellow as a Teacher Aide and recently earned her New York State Teaching Certification and degree from Roberts Wesleyan College, where she studied Childhood and Special Education. Before joining Daystar Kids, Ms. Pevlor was a substitute teacher in grades K-2 at Greece Central Schools. We are delighted to recognize Taylor's talents, commitment to Daystar Kids, and academic achievements, and look forward to supporting her career goals.



Lisa DiDomenico, MS, Ed., has been promoted to Program Director. Ms. DiDomenico first joined Daystar Kids as one of the program's first full-time Special Education Teachers in 2014 and has steadily expanded her responsibilities to include Director of Preschool and Special Education Services. Lisa is an experienced and gifted Special Education Teacher with more than 20 years of specialized teaching experience working with young children with a wide range of special health care and developmental needs. She has been instrumental in leading the agency's expansion and inclusion of related services and preschool special education services. As Program Director, Lisa continues to supervise the Pediatric Respite Program, Early Intervention and Preschool Special Services programs, and Nursing to fully integrate all program-related activities under one cohesive and coordinated umbrella. To contact Lisa, please email ldidomenico@daystarkids.org or contact her directly at ext. 2400.

Alyssa Bacon, LMSW, will take on a new role as Intake and Family Support Services (FSS) Coordinator. Alyssa currently provides Early Intervention Service Coordination to Daystar Kids and will now dedicate her time to admissions and supporting Daystar Kids Family Support Services (FSS) programs. Alyssa previously served as a Social Worker at Golisano Children's Hospital and is responsible for helping families apply to Daystar Kids and access important services including Early Intervention (EI) and Medicaid Waiver services through Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), among other resources. Alyssa will continue to work closely with our EI Service Coordinator, Merrie Franklin, LMSW, to assist Daystar Kids and families to access the supports they need to promote their learning, social, and health care goals.



Photo Gallery

