



News from Phoenix Children's PARENT ACTION COMMITTEE



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McCain visits PCH



Senator John McCain visited Phoenix Children's Hospital on Wednesday, July 1, to host a healthcare reform discussion. He toured the expanding hospital and then heard from some of the state's largest healthcare providers as he and other members of Congress start working on healthcare reform. [Watch exclusive video from the event.](#)

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Making a Difference for Arizona's Children

Issue 6 - June 2009

Update on the 2010 Arizona state budget

After one of the longest sessions in Arizona history - and a debate that went well into the night on the last day of the fiscal year - Arizona lawmakers and the Governor agreed on a 2010 state budget last week.

The good news for Phoenix Children's Hospital: Many of the cuts to healthcare that were proposed during the session either did not make it into the final budget bills or were line-item-vetoed by the Governor.



That means that Phoenix Children's will continue the actions we implemented to absorb the \$14 million in healthcare cuts that came our way in 2009: Staffing to patient volume, performance improvement, and restaging the expansion.

But Phoenix Children's is not out of the woods yet. The Governor has called for a Special Session of the Legislature, starting today, to come to agreement on how to pay for the deficit in the 2010 state budget.

As the special session gets underway, **we will continue to fight for children's healthcare.**

In rejecting many healthcare cuts, **the Governor and Legislature heard you loud and clear: Voters will not stand for huge cuts that will have a negative impact on children's healthcare.** When new budget proposals are developed during this special session, and their implication understood, we will call on you again to reach out to Legislators and the Governor.

Your involvement has made a difference! We know we can continue to protect our state's most vulnerable citizens from harm. We will keep you up to date on the latest developments and what you can do to effect positive public policy.

Celebrate Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month in July

In January 2007, 9-year-old Angela Bravo woke up with a swollen knee. She went to see her doctor, and before long, the swelling had spread to her ankles and hands. Over the next year and a half, Angela would see some of the top orthopedic surgeons and rheumatologists in the Valley - she even had four MRIs and a full body scan - but nobody had an answer for Angela, who now needed a walker to get around.

Angela's parents were devastated - they were now watching her hands and legs becoming deformed - but they didn't quit. Finally, Angela was referred to see Kaleo Ede, MD, at [Phoenix Children's Pediatric Rheumatology program](#). Raquel Bravo, Angela's mother, says, "As soon as we walked in to see Dr. Ede, he knew what was wrong. My baby had juvenile



rheumatoid arthritis."

Ede ran blood tests and x-rays that helped confirm the diagnosis of polyarticular JRA just a few days later. Ede started Angela on some medications immediately to reduce the swelling and pain, and within two weeks, Angela was walking on her own again.

Left untreated or under-treated, rheumatic diseases can cause disability in childhood and negatively affect a child's growth and development. Treatment from a pediatric-trained rheumatologist gives kids the best chance because rheumatic diseases behave differently in a child's body than an adult's.



That's why, in 2006, Phoenix Children's hired Michael Shishov, MD, MPH, to develop an [in-house pediatric rheumatology program at the Hospital](#).

The program has grown to include a second pediatric-trained rheumatologist, Kaleo Ede, MD, and a pediatric nurse practitioner, Debra Carlin, PNP. A group of dedicated nurses, social

workers and nutritionists complete the division's talented team of medical professionals.

Today, the program regularly treats about 200 children like Angela who were previously seeing adult specialists - or no doctor at all.

In celebration of Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month, Phoenix Children's, along with the Greater Southwest Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation, will host a special program on Wednesday, July 22 at 7 p.m. in the Melvin L. Cohen Conference Center on the Phoenix Children's Campus. Drs. Shishov and Ede will speak on the latest treatments in juvenile arthritis. (Please RSVP by July 15 to Allie Avishai, Arthritis Foundation, (602) 212-9905 or aavishai@arthritis.org.)

The [Rheumatology team](#) hopes that by hosting this special program, more parents and children will find the answers they are seeking. Angela is now 11 years old and is walking, running, and playing on her own. "There are no words to express our gratitude for Phoenix Children's Hospital," Raquel Bravo says.

Take Action!

Please contact us with your stories, forward this message to your friends and family, and ask them to [join the team](#). Don't forget we are on the [Web](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#), too!

Thank you for all of your help as we work together to speak up for Arizona's children!

Sincerely,

Parent Action Committee
Phoenix Children's Hospital



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