

USA Funds Helps Hospital Program Address Education Needs

All teachers encounter challenges when working with students. But when a child is facing a life-threatening illness, those challenges can seem to multiply.

The supervisor and two teachers in the Child Life School Program at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis face these multiple challenges daily as they assist hospitalized children in keeping up with their schoolwork.

Terri Bolles, school program supervisor, and her team oversee the educational plans of school-age children and adolescents hospitalized at Riley during the academic year. They assist students in grades kindergarten through 12. The Child Life School Program brings some stability to patients' lives while they are in the hospital.

“By incorporating their schoolwork into their hospital stay, we are sending children the message that they will get better and that their schoolwork is important,” says Bolles. “And by keeping up with their schoolwork, they will be able to be with their classmates when they get back to school.”

USA Funds® has awarded more than \$296,500 to Riley Hospital's Child Life School Program since 2003 to fund a teacher and educational supplies, including a laptop computer.

Staying on track

Because Riley is a referral hospital, its patients are children with chronic, long-term — and often debilitating — diseases. To ensure that hospitalization doesn't interrupt patients' education, Riley's school program provides teachers who communicate with patients' schools to get homework, develop educational plans, tutor, and help with students' re-entry to their schools after lengthy hospital stays.

The Riley teachers' help can make the difference between academic success and falling behind, failing a grade or class, missing graduation, or even quitting school altogether. The parents are appreciative as well.

“Homework provides some normalcy to their child's life,” says Bolles.

The teachers in the school program also serve as a resource to family members of the patient. In some instances, the teachers in the program have helped



parents obtain their General Educational Development diplomas while their children are patients at Riley.

After 14 years in the school program at Riley, Bolles says the patients keep her going.

“These are average children facing extraordinary health challenges. And we are helping them be that average child,” says Bolles. “And the strength I witness from them and what I learn from these patients over the years is amazing.”

Meeting students' needs

Each day in the hospital, the staff takes a census of the patients in the hospital, meets with families and conducts an academic needs assessment. At this point, the Riley teachers step in to facilitate communication between schools and the families. They work with the schools to coordinate any necessary paperwork to ease the burden for the families.

In some instances, a student may return to school with different needs. In these cases, the staff will work with schools to develop a re-entry program

Young patients participate in school activities in the Child Life School Program at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis.

for that student, and meet with teachers and students if necessary to talk about the situation.

“Some schools have never dealt with a situation where a student might return different than when they left, so they are grateful for any help or guidance we can give them,” says Bolles.

Students of the School of Education at Indiana University Purdue-University Indianapolis and local retired school teachers volunteer their time to assist the Riley teaching staff.

Bolles' team spends time one on one or in small groups with approximately 40 to 60 patients each day. Last year they consulted with 5,927 school-age children on educational plans, tutored 440 children, set up homebound services upon discharge for 132 children, and conducted 68 school conferences.

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Selected Grants Awarded by USA Funds April 1, 2008-June 30, 2008

USA Funds awards grants to advance its nonprofit mission to enhance postsecondary education preparedness, access and success.

Council for Opportunity in Education

Washington, D.C.

Project USA Funds Retention Initiative

Geographic Scope Maryland

Amount \$245,737

COE and the Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education are working to provide colleges and universities in Maryland with tools to better serve low-income students by increasing retention and graduation rates.

The Learning Community Initiative — Dollars for Scholars

Washington, D.C.

Project Learning Communities Initiative

Geographic Scope Washington, D.C.

Amount \$154,000

This chapter of Dollars for Scholars, a Scholarship America program, will strengthen the Benning Heights Learning Community in Washington, D.C. This Learning Communities endeavor is part of a national program spearheaded by a coalition of organizations — including USA Funds — to bolster educational achievement.

Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning

Jackson, Miss.

Project Middle School and Career Counselor Workshops

Geographic Scope Mississippi

Amount \$150,000

Mississippi IHL will offer five regional training sessions about student post-secondary education options, for 500 middle school counselors.

Orlando Learning Coalition Dollars for Scholars

Orlando, Fla.

Project Learning Communities Initiative

Geographic Scope Florida

Amount \$150,000

USA Funds' grant supports the Learning Communities Initiative efforts of the Washington Shores area in Orlando. Efforts focus on helping youth to graduate from high school and prepare for higher education success.

Thurgood Marshall College Fund

New York City

Project Scholarship Donation

Geographic Scope National

Amount \$100,000

USA Funds provides funding for need-based scholarships. The Thurgood Marshall College Fund provides resources, opportunities and advocacy to public Historically Black Colleges and Universities, students and alumni.

Arizona Community Foundation

Phoenix

Project Arizona College Access Network — The College Depot

Geographic Scope Arizona

Amount \$50,000

The College Depot center in downtown Phoenix will provide area residents with information about college admissions and financial aid.

Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund

Washington, D.C.

Project Today's Minds, Tomorrow's Future Gala

Geographic Scope National

Amount \$50,000

USA Funds supports this organization devoted to the financial and scholarship needs of Asian and Pacific Islander American students.

Indiana Black Expo

Indianapolis

Project Youth Empowerment Summit and Back to School Rallies

Geographic Scope Indiana

Amount \$50,000

Indiana Black Expo's Youth Summit encourages participants to have a meaningful and positive effect on society. The grant supports youth development initiatives and local educational initiatives.

YMCA of Greater Indianapolis—Urban Mission Branch

Indianapolis

Project Black and Hispanic Achievers Program

Geographic Scope Indiana

Amount \$50,000

This program helps provide social and financial access to higher education for low-income students by connecting them with adult mentor-coaches and facilitating placement, tuition assistance and college entrance. Students in the program participate in college tours and receive information about college admission and financial aid.

American Red Cross of Greater Indianapolis

Indianapolis

Project Indiana Tornado and Flood Disaster Relief

Geographic Scope Indiana

Amount \$25,000

USA Funds' grant supports the American Red Cross Emergency Relief Fund's relief and recovery efforts in the wake of recent severe storms, tornadoes and flooding in Indiana.

The Fund for Hoosier Excellence Indianapolis

Indianapolis

Project Lugar Scholars

Geographic Scope Indiana

Amount \$25,000

The fund encourages outstanding minority students to excel in school and remain in Indiana as leaders. The Fund for Hoosier Excellence has awarded more than \$1.5 million in scholarships to 250 Indiana students.

United Negro College Fund

Indianapolis

Project UNCF Vice Chairs and Donors Reception

Geographic Scope Indiana

Amount \$20,000

The event is one of two sponsored by USA Funds to increase awareness of UNCF's annual scholarship campaign.

Wayne Township Education Foundation

Indianapolis

Project Giant Kings

Geographic Scope Indiana

Amount \$20,000

The Giant Kings program is a school-based initiative that aims to enhance learning opportunities for African-American males at Ben Davis High School in Indianapolis.

Advance!

La Habra, Calif.

Project La Habra Goes to College

Geographic Scope California

Amount \$10,000

Advance! provides assistance to students who attend its community college fair by helping them with the college admissions process, financial aid, scholarship searches, SAT preparation and college essay writing.

Metropolitan School District of Perry Township

Indianapolis

Project SMART — Students:

Motivated, Achieving, Responsible and Talented

Geographic Scope Indiana

Amount \$10,000

This 10-week intensive program provides adolescent African-American males with training in key behavioral traits necessary for future postsecondary educational success.

National Society of Hispanic MBAs

Indianapolis

Project Project Stepping Stone

Geographic Scope Indiana

Amount \$10,000

The program prepares and exposes Hispanic youth to postsecondary education opportunities.

State Higher Education Executive Officers

Boulder, Colo.

Project SHEEO Annual Meeting

Geographic Scope National

Amount \$4,000

USA Funds again is a sponsor of this annual event. The meeting is for state-level coordinating boards that are integral to the governing, financing, academic policies and other state-level interests of higher education.

USA Funds Director Supports Hawaii Students, Parents for 30 Years

Living in the island paradise of Hawaii doesn't exclude students from the postsecondary education access issues that students face on the United States' mainland.

Luckily, students and their families in Hawaii have Lorraine Teniya working on their behalf.

Based in the heart of Honolulu, Teniya works to help bridge the distance between postsecondary education dreams and reality for Hawaii's students by helping students and their families navigate the maze of financial aid.

Teniya is USA Funds' customer relations director for Hawaii. In that position she determines customer needs and monitors customer satisfaction with education loan service in the state.

After three decades and a variety of roles at USA Funds, Teniya has become a reliable resource. She understands the financial aid process can be difficult to navigate, especially for those going through the process for the first time. She finds it especially rewarding when she can help minimize a parent's or student's frustration.

"I try to make the financial aid process a little less intimidating for students and parents," says Teniya. "It really hits home how important this work is when I get a call or letter from a student thanking me because they got the financial aid they need and are heading to college."

Active in community

Teniya's commitment to the financial aid community extends beyond her role at USA Funds.

In 2009, for the eighth year, Teniya will co-chair College Goal Sunday Hawaii. The annual event offers college-bound students and their parents help in completing financial aid forms and teaches them about grants and loans for higher education. Frank Green, president, Travel Institute of the Pacific, has known Teniya for almost 30 years, and serves as College Goal Sunday co-chair with her. Both Green and Teniya were instrumental in bringing the event to Hawaii.

"Lorraine is wonderful to work with and so knowledgeable about the industry. She is so giving of her time and energy and is truly an ally to Hawaii's students and their families and all those in the financial aid industry," says Green. "Above that, she is always willing to lend a listening ear. She's just an extraordinary person."

Teniya has served on the executive board of the Pacific Financial Aid Association in a variety of capacities, including president, president-elect, treasurer, secretary and member-at-large. In 2005 Teniya received a PacFAA lifetime achievement award in recognition of her lengthy service to the financial aid community and students.

"She is respected throughout Hawaii for her knowledge, character and her tireless work in the industry," Green says of Teniya. "She is not just an advocate for USA Funds — she is an advocate for students, their families, universities, lenders and all of us in the industry."



"I try to make the financial aid process a little less intimidating for students and parents."

— Lorraine Teniya

Lorraine Teniya, right, of USA Funds, joins Frank Green, of Travel Institute of the Pacific, to promote Hawaii's College Goal Sunday at a College Awareness Month event in Honolulu.

Advocate for students

The Hawaii Association for College Admission Counseling hosts its largest college fair in the spring, and Teniya is actively involved. She serves on HACAC's college planning committee and often assists in the financial aid resource booth at the event. In 2008 Teniya worked to obtain funding through a USA Funds grant that allowed for 28 students and six high school counselors from neighboring islands to attend the fair.

One of Teniya's proudest endeavors is her work with Soroptimist International of the Americas and its Founder Region Fellowship program. She served on the organization's board of directors representing Hawaii, Guam and the Northern Marianas.

The group provides fellowships to women in the final phase of their doctoral degrees. Last year it awarded \$60,000 to seven women, two of whom were students at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

"My work with the Soroptimist Fellowship program definitely was in line with USA Funds' mission of pursuing and achieving a postsecondary education," says Teniya. "It was very fulfilling to award these fellowships to women who are pursuing research programs that are improving humanity."

Teniya says there still is much work to be done, and she is at her best when she has a full schedule and is giving back to the community she loves.

"I've always believed in community service," says Teniya. "At one point in my life I found myself 'organizationless,' and I felt a little empty. I rejoined the Soroptimists and remembered how good it felt to contribute, and to give back."

Hospital Program Prepares Students for Long-Term Academic Success

By Mary Crevey

Foundations and Corporate Foundations Officer
Riley Children's Foundation



Excellent care for all Indiana children is the core commitment of Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. *Child* magazine recognized this achievement in 2007 when it ranked Riley as 11th in the nation among more than 250 top children's hospitals. Riley Hospital partners with Indiana University School of Medicine, the nation's second largest medical school, and training site for two-thirds of Indiana's pediatricians.

As part of the health care team, the staff members of the Riley School Program serve children who come to Riley for treatment. Hospitalization causes many concerns for patients and families — including anxiety about school absence. Riley Hospital's certified teaching staff provides educational services so that patients may continue their studies while hospitalized. The normalizing experience of attending class also helps to reassure patients that they are on their way to recovery and living a normal life.

The program enables patients with chronic or life-changing illnesses to be successful in school and prepares them for higher education or job training by providing the necessary resources to continue their studies uninterrupted and to lead productive lives.

Collaborating with schools

Children are admitted to Riley from all 92 Indiana counties, at every grade level. Riley teachers collaborate with local schools to ensure that patients obtain credits, complete lab assignments and tend to

classroom projects — demonstrating to schools that Riley kids can keep up with their classes. Schools follow mandated academic standards, and any modifications necessary for a hospitalized child must fall within this framework.

The average length of stay at Riley is just over nine days. Many patients are seriously ill or have chronic conditions that require repeated lengthy hospitalizations. Even though a child is hospitalized, the child's education must continue. For patients hospitalized an extended period of time, the school program provides comprehensive educational instruction. Patients hospitalized for a shorter period receive homework assistance and tutoring. Classes take place in hospital activity rooms and at bedside for patients.

Overcoming obstacles

Whenever possible, Riley teachers facilitate a student's graduation from high school — despite the many obstacles patients may face because of illness or injury. Last spring, many graduating high school seniors throughout Indiana were Riley kids.

Terri Bolles is beginning her 14th year of teaching at Riley Hospital. Last spring, as she faxed the last high school exam of a patient named Ashley to Ashley's high school, it was with the satisfaction that the school program was crucial in allowing her to graduate with her class.

The school program also serves Riley kids who are receiving outpatient treatment. One student, Michael, was diagnosed with a brain tumor and received radiation treatment for three months. When he came to Riley, Michael was not passing any school classes. Daily tutoring helped Michael raise his grades to Bs and Cs. He also graduated from high school with his class in the spring.

With assistance from Riley teaching staff, these patients overcame the challenges of absent school days, classroom interaction, and lack of the day-to-day routine of high school to graduate with their classes. Riley Hospital School Program staff members are proud of the accomplishments of these students, made possible by the support of USA Funds.

USA Funds Helps Children's Hospital

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Encouraging continued education

Austin Myer has been a patient at Riley from a very young age and has been involved in the Riley school program throughout his school years. He has cystic fibrosis, which can require extended hospital stays. He graduated from high school in May and currently is attending Ivy Tech Community College.

"The school program at Riley Hospital really helped me a lot," says Myer. "They helped me study for graduation, e-mailed my teachers to get my homework and tutored me. I spent much of my junior and senior year in the hospital, so it was nice that they were always there to help — and I am thankful for it every day."

The opportunity to assist students at Riley is in line with USA Funds' mission of enhancing postsec-

ondary education preparedness, access and success for all deserving students.

"I've had the opportunity to get to know the staff at the Riley school program and witness the difference they are making, not just in these students' academic lives, but in their lives in general," says Kyle Malone, manager, USA Funds access and outreach. "USA Funds is pleased to partner with Riley Hospital as they help these students reach their academic goals and help them heal and return home to their classmates and continue their education."

Austin Myer credits Riley Hospital for Children's Child Life School Program with helping him complete high school and prepare for college.

