

Silhouettes

Square & Compass Children's Clinic

Fall 2023 | Volume 33 | Number 1

"Serving Tucson & Southern Arizona since 1947"



X marks the Spot

Jonathan is a bright, energetic, fifteen-year-old teenager. Jonathan and his family are somewhat new to the clinic. They are actually new to Tucson, too, having moved to the "Old Pueblo" a few years ago from the Pacific Northwest. Tucson seemed to have the perfect weather for the family after enduring winters in North Dakota and wet and rainy weather in Washington State.

Lisa, Jonathan's mother, was directed to the clinic through the Pediatric Department at TMC. Jonathan first started showing symptoms of FSHD around 4th or 5th grade. An appointment with an Occupational Therapist confirmed the diagnosis. Once the family had settled in Tucson, Jonathan's first appointment at the clinic was in January of 2022. At the appointment they met with doctors regarding the diagnosis of FSHD (Facioscapulohumeral Muscular Dystrophy). FSHD is a rare genetic muscle disease that affects the muscles of the face, shoulders, upper arms, and lower legs. FSHD can affect both males and females and either parent can pass it on to their children. It is not necessary for a

Jonathan tries not to play favorites here at the clinic, but would like to give a special thanks to Dr. Scherer and also his Occupational Therapist, Monica.



parent to have the condition; a parent with the FSHD gene has a 1 in 2 chance of passing it on to each of their children. The disease can be passed down through sperm or egg cells but not the rest of the parent's body cells.

Despite his diagnosis Jonathan is a delightful young man. He is a freshman at Cholla High School along with his older sister who will graduate this year. They both

play in the school marching band. Jonathan's band instrument is the Xylophone, which he thoroughly enjoys. Band practices, performing at

school football halftime, and band competitions rank high on his list of fun things to do. Also, on the "fun list" are video games and hanging out with his friends. Math seems to be his favorite subject in high school with Mr. Miller (science teacher) and Mr. Ruben (band director)

continued ►

continued

topping the list of favorite teachers so far. Jonathan has embraced the “high school” life and enjoys almost all of his classes.



Jonathan’s hope is, after graduation from high school, he will attend college and major in either math or technology.

At home, it seems that Jonathan’s dad is the cook in the family and Jonathan is a huge fan of his Brown Spaghetti and also his Ranch Chicken. Just don’t offer him rice, mashed potatoes, or jello. Jonathan is definitely not a fan of these three. When Jonathan is not playing his Xylophone, attending school, or playing video games, he enjoys being a social butterfly; always trying to make people laugh and be happy.

Jonathan tries not to play favorites here at the clinic, but would like to give a special thanks to Dr. Scherer and also his Occupational Therapist, Monica.

Lisa has nothing but praise for the clinic staff and Square & Compass for assisting Jonathan with the care he requires. Everyone here at the clinic has been compassionate, caring, and forthcoming with answering all questions or concerns that the family may have.

The future looks bright for Jonathan, as X marks the spot for him and his Xylophone.



Guiding Families Through Medical Challenges with Support and Hope

Child Life Specialists are pediatric health care professionals who collaborate with children, families and health care professionals in hospitals, clinics and other healthcare settings to help the family cope with the challenges of medical procedures, illness, and disability. The Children’s Clinics, has two of the best.

The main goal of Lyssa and Laurel, the Child Life Specialists at the clinic is to assist children to cope in a medical environment during their procedures. The ladies provide children with age-appropriate activities in preparation for appointments, medical procedures, and pain management by providing coping strategies and play with self-expression activities; even using actual medical instruments, mixed in with toys, the kids may be playing with. They also provide information, support, and guidance to parents, siblings, and other family members. Both Lyssa and Laurel strive to provide a fun, friendly, and welcoming environment for all who come through the doors of the clinic.

The field of Child Life is not new, but began to flourish in the United States in the early 1960’s. It was through the dedication of Emma Plank who trained alongside Maria Montessori with both using the principles of child development to promote appropriate care for children. Prior to this it was not uncommon for family members, especially siblings, to be excluded from knowledge or appointments regarding the child’s healthcare. Today, health care facilities acknowledge the special emotional and educational needs of children and families by providing support and knowledge that ensures the “entire” family is involved.

Children’s Clinics Child Life Specialists see approximately 50 children each week accompanied by their parents, care givers, and siblings.

Lyssa has a graduate degree in Child Life and Laurel has a graduate degree in Child Development. Lyssa arrived in Tucson from Southern California while Laurel has been a “desert dweller” from an early age. Laurel has been with Children’s Clinic for approximately six years while Lyssa joined the clinic five and a half years ago.

The goal of both Lyssa and Laurel is to see that all patients and families walk out our front doors with a smile on their faces.



It Takes an Army:

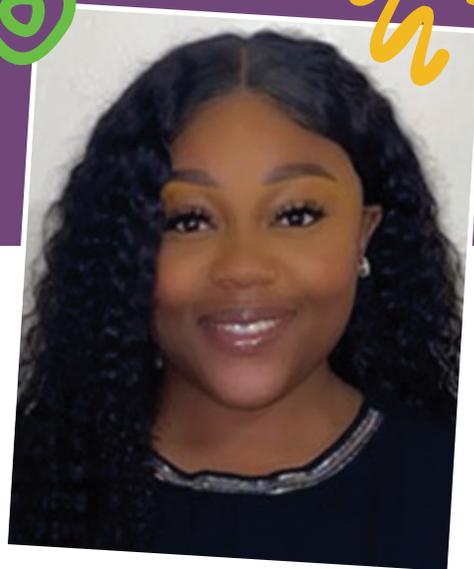
Crafting Unforgettable Moments for Children and Families

Childhood experiences at the clinic are a top priority. Each child and family are entitled to the best experience at the clinic.

This duty initially falls on the shoulders of the “Childhood Experience Coordinator”, Abriana, who along with her army of volunteers have a special relationship with the children and families. As of the end of August, there are approximately 22 volunteers eager, ready, and able to assist in all aspects of childhood experiences at the clinic. On any given day, the volunteers have an array of duties to perform; assisting at the front desk, stocking snacks, cleaning toys, stocking supplies for all the suites, entertaining patients and their siblings, and at times there could even be a “special request” from a provider for a volunteer and the list goes on and on. Abriana is also instrumental in seeing that all Adaptive Recreation Programs run smoothly, including the upcoming adaptive tennis camp. She is constantly monitoring the upcoming events here at the clinic. In October, she will be “corralling” the volunteers for the annual Halloween event which will take place the end of October, with the Adopt-a-Family and the Holiday Toy Day following in December.

Abriana joined Children’s Clinics in April of 2023, coming by way of Mississippi to Fort Huachuca to finally settle in the “Old Pueblo” in 2017. Abriana has a degree in Public Health and has worked several aspects of health care.

Abriana’s background in health care along with her degree in Public Health make her an excellent fit for the clinic. Her constant smile and sunny personality are definitely an asset to the clinic.



★ ★ ★
**Thank you
Abriana and
your “army”
of volunteers.**



THANK YOU!

As supporters of Square & Compass Children's Clinic **you** play a significant role in improving the health and lives of **thousands** of children.

In the past year, there were over **37,000** patient visits in the following clinics:

Audiology	Occupational Therapy
Baclophen Pump	Ophthalmology
Behavioral Health	Optometry
Cardiology	Oral-Maxillary
Cerebral Palsy	Orthodontia
Dental	Orthopedics
Dermatology	Osteogenesis Imperfecta
Developmental Pediatrics	Pediatric Palliative Care
Down Syndrome	Pediatric Surgery
Endocrinology	Pediatrics
Ear, Nose, & Throat	Physical Therapy
Feeding	Plastic Surgery
Gastroenterology	Primary Care
Genetics	Rheumatology
Metabolic	Sickle Cell
Myelomeningocele (Child & Teen)	Sleep Disorders
Nephrology	Spasticity
Neuro-surgery	Speech Therapy
Neuro-epilepsy	Spinal Cord
Neurocutaneous	Upper Extremity
Neurology	Urology
Neuromuscular	Wheelchair
Nutrition	

In addition, we support Children's Clinics' ancillary services for patients and their families:

Child Life Specialist	Patient & Family Services
Educational Support	
On-site Radiology & Lab	Pet Therapy
	RN Coordinators

A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

We are sincerely grateful to - YOU - our loyal donors for making it possible for us to serve children like Jonathan. It's only with your help that Square & Compass is able to continue to provide medical equipment, services, and supplies to patients and families who find it hard to meet some of the expenses related to treating children with complex medical conditions.

You can help lessen the financial burden on families, that face complicated medical issues everyday, by making a tax-deductible donation to the Square & Compass Children's Clinic today. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to help us continue our mission. You are welcome to make a donation through our website. We are a Qualifying Tax Credit Organization. Our QCO code is 20476. Another way to help, your legacy and ours endure, is by making a bequest to Square & Compass Children's Clinic in your will. We greatly appreciate your support and so do the kids we help everyday.

Your generous contributions ensure that the vision, first realized more than 75 years ago, to help and serve children with complex medical conditions in Southern Arizona, will be lasting and impactful to the kids who need our help on a daily basis. Along with our patients and families, we greatly appreciate your support.

With Gratitude,

Amy Burke
Executive Director

Square & Compass Children's Clinic, Inc.

Board of Directors and Officers

Van Elrod | President
Ron Allen | Vice President
James E. Wolfe | Secretary
Robin Settlemyer | Treasurer
Roger C. Biede, II, D.D.S.,
Craig Gross, Randy Jager,
Fred Lohman, Bob Richards,
Vincent Santos

EX OFFICIO DIRECTORS
Amy Burke,
Executive Director
Jared Perkins
Children's Clinics CEO

Email us at: secretary@squareandcompassclinic.com
Visit us at: www.squareandcompassclinic.com

Silhouettes is published by Square & Compass Children's Clinic, Inc.
Editor - Betty G. Alphin

