

An Extraordinary Team

As Sarah Von Maur watched our Emergency Department team caring for her baby – a near-drowning victim – last November, she was both terrified and amazed. She said, “I’ve never seen anything run so perfectly in all my life. It was seamless and loving. The care was superb. Somehow, the staff made a horrible experience into a positive memory.”



Berlinda
Tyler-Jamison

What a moving sentiment! Our highly educated and caring staff worked with speed, sensitivity *and the latest equipment* – including forced-air heating blankets to quickly and carefully warm the baby – to prevent a tragedy.

Thanks to your donations, patients like little Josh “make it.” From pediatric crash carts to automatic external defibrillators, your gifts help provide dedicated emergency physicians and nurses with the support they need to save lives. For Josh’s mom and all the rest of the loved ones whose lives would have been forever changed by loss, let me say *Thank you ... and may your New Year be filled with the joy you have helped give others with your selfless gifts!*

Trinity Foundation Volunteers

Volunteers are a critical part of our Trinity team. From those who help tend the surgery waiting rooms to those who greet guests at our front desks, volunteers give of themselves to those who are in need.

We can always tell when our Foundation volunteers have arrived because of the laughter that comes from the conference room. Gathered around the table, they stuff envelopes with mailings (such as this newsletter), work on projects, chat and enjoy each other’s company.

Many have to overcome obstacles to volunteer. One dreads driving over the bridge. Another must cart her oxygen tank. Yet another uses a wheelchair.

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Trinity Emergency Department nurse Cherie Walker, RN, left, is reunited with Josh and his mom, Sarah Von Maur. Walker helped treat Josh following his near-drowning last November.

A Little Boy’s Miracle

Eighteen-month-old Josh had been busy all morning, which was nothing new. Josh was always busy, playing with toys, wrestling with his brother, running circles around his mom.

But today, Josh’s mom was busy too. Sarah Von Maur, 25, was determined to finish her move from Moline to Davenport, and had a couple more things to do in the boys’ old bedroom before she could leave.

Sarah had seen Josh go downstairs, where the rest of the family – grandpa, grandma, an uncle and five-year-old Elijah – had gathered. When Sarah joined them a few minutes later, she glanced around. “Where’s Josh?” she asked. No one knew.

An uneasy feeling came over the young mother as she walked to the front door and looked out. Josh could move very fast. She stepped outside and continued around back. The mid-November day was raw and overcast, maybe 40 degrees. If Josh was outside, Sarah worried, he’d be cold.

She glanced around the backyard. Then she froze. There was a gap in the old fence separating her property from her

neighbor’s dilapidated landscape pond. The gap was just large enough for a toddler to squeeze through. She sprinted over and saw something floating on the water.

“I couldn’t fit through the gap, so I had to run around to the other side,” Sarah says. “When I got close enough, I saw his little pants and shoes...”

Even though it happened three months ago, Sarah believes she will never get the sight of her baby floating face down out of her mind.

“I grabbed him out of the water and started screaming for help,” she says. Despite being a certified nursing assistant, all Sarah could do was hold him at first. Then her training kicked in. “I laid him on the ground to check him. He wasn’t breathing. There was no heartbeat. He was wet and cold and limp and purple.”

“Everyone said I did everything right, that I checked Josh’s airway and then began mouth to mouth resuscitation and chest compressions. It was a blur to me. After a couple of minutes he opened his eyes and coughed up some water. I yelled for someone

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Miracle continued

to call 911. What I knew was, Josh was alive. I didn't know if he had brain damage, but at least he was alive."

The firefighters arrived, wrapping the tiny child in a "big fireman's coat." Then the paramedics started an IV and raced to Trinity Rock Island. There, an elite team of physicians and nurses took over.

"Josh's core temperature had fallen dangerously," Cherie Walker, RN, says. "Babies don't have a lot of body fat, which makes them very vulnerable to hypothermia in these cases. Josh's eyes were open, but he was dazed."

When Sarah arrived at Trinity's Emergency Department a few minutes later (she and her mom had followed the ambulance), she was stunned by the sight of her tiny child on a gurney surrounded by white coats.

"So many wonderful doctors and nurses were working to help Josh," she says. "It was weird to see my busy little boy so still. He wasn't moving much. Then they took him for a CT scan."

Sarah says she worried that Josh would be scared during the scan, but she didn't

know that he had already quietly bonded with his special nurse.

"I sang to him the whole time," Walker says. "He reminded me so much of my own grandson. His big brown eyes kept looking into my eyes as I sang. He stayed completely quiet and calm."

Sarah, who had been dripping wet herself, had been given dry clothes and was ready to hold Josh when he returned from the CT scan.

"I've never seen anything run so perfectly in all my life," Sarah says. "Trinity's ER was seamless and loving. The care was superb. Somehow, they made a horrible experience into a positive memory."

By evening, Josh began asking for his "baba" and was admitted for overnight observation in the Pediatrics department. Walker visited Sarah and Josh in his room before her shift began the next morning.

"There he was, smiling and throwing food on the floor like a normal baby," Walker says. "It was nothing short of a miracle. I'm grateful to have been able to help, and grateful we had the latest emergency equipment available. I have to thank the Foundation donors for their role in making



18-month-old Josh is alive today, thanks in part to life-saving equipment funded by Trinity Health Foundation.

the miracle happen. It's the kind of outcome we live for in the ER."

Sarah chokes up. "My child was gone," she says. "He had no heartbeat. Now he's here, still throwing food on the floor, still wrestling with his brother, still carrying Doggie (his stuffed bear) around."

"God gave me the wisdom to know what to do when I saw him in the water. But Trinity completed the miracle. Between Trinity's extraordinary care and Cherie's extra-loving attention, we all were set on the road to healing."

The Trinity Emergency Department is funded in part by Trinity Health Foundation. For more information, contact Berinda Tyler-Jamison at (309) 779-2232 or (563) 355-0746.

Team continued

But as they would say, *We might be retired and a little creaky, but we still have a few miles left in us!*

Words can't possibly express our gratitude for the gift of our donors' and volunteers' precious resources, whether those resources are financial and/or time. Your commitment to the health and well being of our community will benefit us all well into the future.

Blessings in the New Year,

Berinda Tyler-Jamison
President, Trinity Health Foundation



Foundation volunteers gather before Christmas to help with a mailing and to enjoy one another's company.



Thanks, Advanced Radiology, SC!

The New Year has dawned with a generous gift from Advanced Radiology, SC. Created to help educate highly skilled radiographers needed to operate increasingly sophisticated equipment, Advanced Radiology, SC has established a scholarship at Trinity College of Nursing and Health Sciences for radiography students. The first two scholarships will be awarded in 2011, with more scholarships available in succeeding years as the fund increases.

On behalf of all the donors and trustees, patients and radiography students who will benefit from your generosity for years to come, thank you from the bottom of our hearts!