



This is Who I Am:

The stories of Riley and Lily

Every year, Shriners Hospitals for Children® selects two National Patient Ambassadors to represent the health care system's patients. The ambassadors spend the year sharing their stories of perseverance in the face of adversity and the ways Shriners Hospitals for Children has made a dramatic, life-changing difference in their lives. Introducing our two new Ambassadors:

RILEY

Riley, now age 17, was born with hereditary multiple exostoses (HME), a genetic condition which causes irregular bone growth. Exostoses are more commonly known as “bone spurs,” which typically grow on the end of long bones during childhood and adolescence.

In Riley's case, physicians discovered growths from nearly head to toe through a full body X-ray when he was only 15 months old. Shortly thereafter, he became a patient of Shriners Hospitals for Children — Tampa.

Over time, Alfred V. Hess, M.D., the hospital's director of hand surgery, and Shriners Hospitals for Children — Tampa's Chief of Staff Maureen Maciel, M.D., have performed more than a dozen surgeries to remove growths and lengthen bones in Riley's arms and legs.

Riley has been a very active patient ambassador for the Tampa Shriners Hospital for several years. He also mentors Theodore, another child with the same rare condition, which Riley said is “one of the best things that happened to me this year.” Theodore's mom said that meeting Riley and his family gave them hope.

Riley's family also supports a golf tournament organized by Riley's dad's former employer. Since 2002, the C&W Charity Golf Classic has raised more than \$500,000 to benefit the Tampa Shriners Hospital.

Riley is looking forward to the opportunity to share his story and help others as a National Patient Ambassador. He intends to remain part of the Shriners family.

“I plan on becoming a Shriner when I grow up,” Riley said. I want to be known as someone who gave of his time and his money.”

LILY

Lily, age 18, from Paducah, Kentucky, was born with fibular hemimelia, meaning she did not have a fibula, the outer thin bone that runs from the knee to the ankle, in her right leg. She underwent a Syme's amputation, which is an amputation done through the ankle joint that helps to preserve the heel pad, and she received her first prosthesis a few months later.

When Lily was 18 months old, she became a patient of Vishwas Talwalkar, M.D., pediatric orthopaedic surgeon at Shriners Hospitals for Children Medical Center —



Lexington. Over the years, Lily has undergone five surgeries there to straighten her remaining right leg and has received more prosthetic limbs than she can count.

Lily recently completed her freshman year at the University of Kentucky. Because of the care she received at Lexington Shriners Medical Center, she has chosen to study nursing, and minor in music. “I hope to be a nurse at Shriners Hospital after graduating,” said Lily. “It is my dream to help provide the same care I received all my life to others as a way to show my gratitude for the Shriners health care system.

“Shriners Hospitals for Children has helped me to not see my leg as a handicap, and instead to look at it as a challenge,” she said. “Because of Shriners Medical Center, I wake up every morning thankful for two legs instead of regretting that I only have one.”

Lily is looking forward to being a National Patient Ambassador. “I am so glad I get to be a National Patient Ambassador and talk to other patients and families who are going through the same things,” said Lily. “Somewhere out there is at least one person who needs to hear what I have to say.”

To learn more about Riley and Lily, please visit shrinershospitalsforchildren.org/Media-resources or youtube.com/user/shrinershospitals.



Shriners Hospitals
for Children®



Meet Alec, Shriners Hospitals for Children Superstar

You may recognize 15-year-old Alec from the various commercials for Shriners Hospitals for Children® that have aired nationally. Alec, a patient of Shriners Hospitals for Children — Chicago, has become a popular television star, been interviewed on numerous national news and talk shows, and has captured the hearts of many with his adorable smile and charming personality.

The Story Behind the Star

Alec lives in the suburbs of Chicago, and is quite the active teenager. From playing wheelchair softball and basketball, to assistant coaching tee-ball, he loves just about any sport. However, because he has Osteogenesis Imperfecta (OI), also known as brittle bone disease, Alec's approach to his favorite activities is a little different.

OI is a genetic bone disorder characterized by fragile bones that can frequently and easily break, which can make it hard for Alec to participate in sports. The underlying cause of OI is a lack of collagen – or abnormal collagen – in the bones that prevents them from absorbing appropriate minerals and developing correctly. As a patient of the Chicago Shriners Hospital, Alec receives intravenous (IV) infusions of pamidronate, a medication that slows down the process of bone resorption and improves bone mass. He also routinely visits the hospital for physical therapy.

Thanks to the outstanding care and innovative treatment Alec receives at the Chicago Shriners Hospital, his muscles are strengthening and his bones are breaking less often. This provides Alec with more opportunities to indulge in his passion for sports. Alec often participates in up to four hours of sports a day; his mother, Alma, works hard to ensure his homework and physical therapy are done, as well.

They manage to fit it all in. Alec has been coming to the Chicago Shriners Hospital for treatment since 2002. Since then, he has made great progress thanks to his customized treatment with our rehabilitation specialists.

Alec's mom is grateful for the excellent care her son has received. "If there is a number system to rate the hospital from one to 10, I'd give it a 16," she said. "They are always working with him and pushing him to work hard."

Currently, Alec is building more strength and increasing muscle development through aquatic therapy. The hospital's therapists work with Alec in a temperature-controlled hydrotherapy pool using aquatic treadmills and other equipment. Tapping into Alec's love for sports, his therapist has even incorporated water basketball into rehabilitation sessions.

The hospital also helped provide Alec with a customized, adaptive bicycle. While riding the bike is fun, it also helps strengthen his muscles, to help prevent future bone fractures.

According to Alma, these unique treatments, specifically designed for Alec, have allowed him to gain more independence. He continues to work on increasing his mobility.



Shriners Hospitals for Children – Helping Dreams Become Reality

Thanks to the health care system's focus on improving the quality of life of patients and families, Alec has developed a level of confidence that has opened up a world of opportunities. Knowing that Alec hopes to be a sports broadcaster someday, the hospital staff has done what it can to encourage faith in that dream.

During the NFL Draft weeks in 2015 and 2016, patients of the Chicago Shriners Hospital had the chance to experience the excitement of the draft first-hand when players visited during a Prospect Community Visit. As a special surprise, Alec was given the opportunity to conduct interviews with NFL Draft prospects, which were featured on the NFL website.

Alec has also appeared in national commercials for Shriners Hospitals for Children, representing the many patients whose lives have been changed forever by the health care system. Alec is a great voice for Shriners Hospitals for Children, and continues to share his appreciation everywhere he goes.

"Without Shriners Hospitals for Children, I wouldn't be able to dream as big as I do," said Alec. "I know anything is possible because the staff remind me all the time that I can do whatever I set my mind to. I live a full life because of Shriners Hospitals."

Alec is just one of the more than 1.3 million children who have benefited from the hope and healing found at Shriners Hospitals for Children.



FUTURE NFL LEGENDS

Today's College Football All-stars



The East-West Shrine Game® is the longest running college all-star football game in the nation. Since 1925, the game has benefited Shriners Hospitals for Children® and its mission to provide advanced care for children with orthopaedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate. At Shriners Hospitals for Children, all care and services are provided regardless of the families' ability to pay. For more information, please visit shrinegame.com or follow us on social media at [@Shrine_Game](https://twitter.com/Shrine_Game).

OVER 90 YEARS OF GREATNESS

An invitation to take part in the East-West Shrine Game is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the best collegiate football players in the country to showcase their talents as top NFL prospects. A strong performance in the game greatly impacts a player's chances of a career in the NFL. Many of professional football's most recognized and decorated players, including Tom Brady, Brett Favre and John Elway, played in the East-West Shrine Game.

- More than 100 players from last year's game signed with professional teams this spring, and more than 70 made final NFL rosters last season.
- On average, more than 300 East-West Shrine Game alumni are on NFL rosters each year.
- Since the game's inception, 77 former players have been inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.
- More than 200 former players have been named to the College Football Hall of Fame.

ALL-STAR PLAYERS

Players are selected based on their potential to make NFL rosters. A consensus of the 32 NFL teams is taken into consideration during player selection. The general divide used to assign players to the East or West team is the Mississippi River. However, exceptions are made to ensure that the best 100 players are selected for the game, regardless of the location of their school. Players must be college seniors and currently eligible to play for their school. All divisions are considered.

NFL COACHES

The NFL will supply the coaching staffs for the two teams from among current league assistant coaches whose teams do not advance to the playoffs. At the conclusion of the regular season, NFL teams nominate deserving assistant coaches who will be reviewed by a panel that includes NFL Football Operations staff, East-West Shrine Game leadership and two members of the NFL's General Managers Advisory Committee. Once the head coaches are selected, each head coach will then fill his 12-person staff from among other NFL assistant coaches nominated by the clubs, a key job requirement for head coaches at every level of the sport.

Coaches nominated by NFL clubs must be active assistant coaches who display extraordinary teaching and communications skills, and are recognized for their integrity and commitment to excellence in the coaching profession. The coaches must be accomplished at developing and preparing players to compete in the NFL. The NFL will also provide the game officials.

HELPING TO SUPPORT

Shriners Hospitals for Children



Shriners Hospitals
for Children®

To learn more about who we are, visit:
shrinershospitalsforchildren.org

Shriners Hospitals for Children® is a health care system with locations in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Our staff is dedicated to improving the lives of children by providing pediatric specialty care, conducting innovative research, and offering outstanding teaching programs for medical professionals. Children up to age 18 with orthopaedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate are eligible for care, regardless of the families' ability to pay.

Within these broad service lines, many types of care are provided. For example, some locations offer reconstructive plastic surgery, treatment for craniofacial abnormalities or care for sports injuries. Generally, care is provided until age 18, although, in some cases, it may be extended to age 21.

LEADERS IN RESEARCH

Shriners Hospitals for Children is committed to conducting high quality, innovative research in the areas of burns, orthopaedic/musculoskeletal and neurological injury and disease in order to improve the care and quality of life of children with these conditions and challenges.

MEDICAL EDUCATION

Shriners Hospitals for Children is proud of its role in medical education. By maintaining relationships with several medical teaching facilities, Shriners Hospitals for Children fosters an academic environment committed to providing high-quality education for its medical staff and excellent care to all patients.



PLAYERS' HOSPITAL VISIT

Since the very first East-West Shrine Game®, players and coaches have visited the local Shriners Hospitals for Children during game week to meet the patients and learn about the importance of the game. Whether dancing to music, playing games or sharing stories with one another, the instant friendships that form between the patients and players is priceless.

THE STORY BEHIND THE LOGO

The official logo of the East-West Shrine Game was inspired by the 1974 player visit to the San Francisco Hospital (later relocated to Sacramento, California). During the visit, player Mike Esposito of Boston College took the hand of 2-year-old patient Nicole Worley-Urteaga, to comfort her. As the two walked the hallway, a special moment was captured. This compelling photograph is the idea behind our logo, representing our motto "more than just a game".

EAST-WEST SHRINE GAME® | 2019 MEDIA GUIDE

Interview Request Contact

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Please share your East-West Shrine Game experience on Facebook and Instagram/Twitter using **#ShrineGame**

94th East-West Shrine Game | Saturday, January 19, 2019

Tropicana Field | 1 Tropicana Drive, St. Petersburg, FL 33705 (Media Parking Lot 2)

3 p.m. EST Kickoff

Telvised by NFL Network

Live radio coverage will begin at 2:15 p.m. EST on January 19. Platforms include over one hundred over-the-air radio stations coast to coast, Sirius XM NFL Channel 88, Tampa Bay Sports Talk Florida WHBO 1040 AM.

Game Tickets

\$15 General Admission

Sold in advance online through Tickets.com. Available for purchase at Tropicana Field Box Offices at Gates 1 and 4 on game day. Price of tickets will not increase on game day.

Host Hotel

TradeWinds Island Grand Resorts | 5500 Gulf Boulevard | St. Pete Beach, Florida 33706

Players' Hospital Visit | Sunday, January 13

Shriners Hospitals for Children® — Tampa (see media credential registration for details)

Team Practices | Monday, January 14 – Thursday, January 17 (see practice schedule for times)

Gate 4 | Tropicana Field | 1 Tropicana Drive, St. Petersburg, FL 33705 (Parking Lot 1)

Credentials required for field access; no exceptions.

Silent Auction benefiting Shriners Hospitals for Children | Wednesday, January 16 – Saturday, January 19

TradeWinds Island Grand Resorts | 5500 Gulf Boulevard | St. Pete Beach, Florida 33706

Players'/Hall of Fame Awards Banquet | Friday, January 18

Gate 1 | Tropicana Field | 1 Tropicana Drive, St. Petersburg, FL 33705

Cocktail party begins at 5:30 p.m.; banquet begins at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased online at: shrinegame.com/tickets

Pre-Game Party | Saturday, January 19

Parking Lot 6 | Tropicana Field | 1 Tropicana Drive, St. Petersburg, FL 33705

Begins at 11:30 a.m.

No charge; ticket not required for this event.



94 GAMES: MORE THAN **1.3 MILLION KIDS HELPED**

PURCHASE TICKETS AT: SHRINEGAME.COM



More than just a game

JANUARY 19

TROPICANA FIELD

ST. PETERSBURG, FL | 3 P.M. EST



Shriners Hospitals
for Children®



NETWORK



BENEFITING SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN®



PARKING MAP

