

Generous Indiana Donor Provides New Lounge Chairs for Drivers



Drivers have long urged us to get chairs that are more comfortable for our Drivers Lounge--like those at SHC - Cincinnati, they would say. Past Mizpah Potentate Gary Soblotne took matters in his own hands. He decided to raise money for new chairs and was chair-shopping in John Klopfenstein Furniture and Floor Covering store in Leo, IN. Another Mizpah Noble, Steve Noll, was waiting on him. When he found out what Gary wanted the chairs for, he said, "Let me talk with Mr. Klopfenstein."

"The chairs are on me," John Klopfenstein said, and he donated four, top-of-the-line, Lane Comfort King Lounge chairs to our hospital--and even delivered to Chicago from Leo, IN.

In the photo above Noble Gary (l) and Mizpah Potentate Jerry Freewalt try the chairs out shortly after delivery. We are grateful to John Klopfenstein and to the Mizpah Nobles who spearheaded these new chairs. Our Shrine drivers will be even more grateful for the comfort provided by such a good friend of children and our hospital as Mr. Klopfenstein. Thank you, John!

Drivers from Savannah, GA, Bring Patient for Care to SHC - Chicago

Howard Major and Mike Nichols, Alee Shriners, Savannah, GA, recently drove 977 miles, an 18-hour trip from Savannah to our hospital. They brought Bella Bartels and her mother Desiree (photo right, with Yours Truly) for care with Dr. Peter Smith. Nobles Howard and Mike regularly transport children from the Savannah area to SHC in Tampa, Cincinnati, Greenville, and now, Chicago.

Both drivers are retired police officers. A 10-year member of Alee Shrine, Brother Mike (r), is a member of Knights of Mecca and the Haunted House Club of his Shrine. He served 33 years on the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police force and was in the Air Force and Air National Guard for 20 years.

A four-year member of Alee Shrine, Brother Howard rides his Harley in the Motorcycle Unit, besides his Roadrunner duties, which brought him to Chicago. "I joined the Shrine," Noble Howard said, "just to drive children to Shriners Hospitals." He served on the Chatham County Police Department 27 years.

These men, splendid representatives of the thousands of Shrine drivers across North America, are the highest quality professionals, who continue to share in retirement their vitality, their lives, and their driving skills. Drivers are the first contacts children have with our hospitals. We salute them for their selflessness, great skills behind the wheel, and dedication to children and the mission of SHC.

Bella (above) blows us a kiss before heading south to Savannah!

