

OHM Purpose & Mission To use bedside magic as the basis for a therapeutic and personalized interaction to empower children and teens in hospitals at a critical time: when they're trying to get better and need it the most. To adapt this one-on-one interaction so that all children and teens, no matter the illness, medical situation, or restricted mobility, can be part of the joy, excitement, and lasting benefits of creating a miracle and receiving the special power of learning magic at their bedsides.

The Impact of Open Heart Magic

We've seen it time and time again. When we walk into a patient's room, we see pain, stress, fear. We ask if the child and family would like to see some magic. Sometimes they're hesitant: They're preoccupied and anxious. It's hard to let go of those feelings. But once we try out a trick, the entire mood of the room changes. The children become engaged. They laugh. They're eager to learn how to do magic, and to try the tricks out on their parents and doctors. *The effect of bedside magic on patients and their families is—well, magical. Here are just a few stories of the impact OHM has had on kids all over the Chicago area:*

Making a Connection

A four-year-old at Rush University Medical Center had just received some daunting news. The nurses said he could use a distraction. An OHM Hospital Magician (HM) stepped in and placed a small red ball in his hand. The ball multiplied, seemed to vanish, and then was magically transported to other parts of the room. "From the outside, it may have looked just like a simple trick with sponge balls," said the HM, "but I could see from his eyes that he felt the power of connecting with another person."

Relieving the Pain

"She's too sick for magic." That's what

our HM heard from the parents of a six-year-old girl being treated for stomach pain.

But the little girl disagreed, so our HM tried out a trick for her. Soon, the young girl broke out in a smile, and declared, "I don't feel bad anymore!"

Building Trust

The hospital staff at Children's Memorial was worried about an eight-year-old boy in their care. Shy and soft-spoken, he seemed afraid of the doctors—unwilling answer questions with more than a nod or a shake of the head.

Our HM invited the boy to "pick a card"
—See *Impact* on 2



Up This Issue's Sleeve...

<i>The Impact of Open Heart Magic</i>	1
<i>Parent's Perspective: Volunteer Tom Crotty</i>	2
<i>Volunteer Spotlight: Kevin Ebbesen</i>	2
<i>Tricks Are For Kids Benefit Results</i>	3
<i>How Can I Help?</i>	3
<i>Meeting Kids' Needs with Magic For The Blind</i>	4
<i>Funding News</i>	4

2557 W Augusta Blvd, Suite 3 Chicago, IL 60622
312 342 9807 openheartmagic.com



OPEN HEART MAGIC



Parent's Perspective: Volunteer Tom Crotty

"I know what it is to feel helpless in the hospital," says OHM Bedside Magician and Board of Directors Member Tom Crotty. When he checked his youngest daughter into Hope Children's Hospital for acute back pain, the doctors didn't know what was wrong at first. For three days, she experienced fever spikes and

pain, and Tom shared

her fear. "I'd never stayed in a hospital before," he recounts. "It was a strange, anxious time."

The last thing he expected was a visit from a magician. "I thought it was a doctor visit at first," says Tom of the visit from OHM Bedside Magician Ed Barry. But once Ed started to engage Tom's daughter, her whole demeanor changed. "It was the first time since checking into the hospital that I'd seen her smile," Tom recalls. "She lost her look of fear. It was wonderful."

When Tom met Ed in the elevator later on, he had lots of questions about OHM—and lots of gratitude. Ed gave him a brochure, and Tom decided to learn more. He emailed Mike Walton, OHM Founder, and the two started to talk about how Tom could get involved.

Since then, Tom has completed his 12-week training as a Bedside Magician and has joined the Board of Directors, where he gives his input on the management of the organization's growth. Because of his history with OHM, Tom feels he's really able to understand how parents are feeling when he enters a patient's room.

For Tom, the choice to commit his time, energy and talents to OHM goes back to that first experience during his daughter's hospital stay. "The turning point was when I saw the look on my daughter's face," he says. "I thought, 'I want to do that.'"



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Kevin Ebbesen of Gladstone, Michigan

Profession: Regional Sales Manager for Aladdin Knowledge Systems

Volunteering with OHM since: February 2005

Why do you enjoy working with OHM?

OHM makes a difference. You can see it in the smile of the child. When I leave the hospital after volunteering, I feel good knowing that a little bit of bedside magic was able to provide a family with a brief distraction from their current stressful situation.

What is your favorite magic trick for kids?

There's a trick we perform that allows the child to be able to make their card change colors, and it ends with a grand finish. I get a kick out of it every time.

We're always happy to hear how our magic impacts children's lives. Here are a few recent comments:

**"After the magic,
she was like a different child."**

—Child Life Specialist at Rush ER

**"That was the first time I'd seen
the patient laugh."**

—Nurse at Central DuPage County Hospital

Impact (continued from page 1)

and draw a picture on it. When his exact card was produced, everything about the boy's demeanor changed. His face lit up as he beamed a bright smile. It was like a switch had been flipped, and for the rest of the evening, he was cheerful, talkative and receptive to staff. It was as if all his fears had lifted.

Overcoming Obstacles

One of our biggest challenges came with a twelve-year-old boy who could not speak or move his arms or legs. Our HM adapted the magic so that the boy could see and even participate using blinks of the eye to "pick a card." The adapted magic allowed the patient to overcome his temporary physical restrictions. He enjoyed it so much he requested another visit from the HM the following week.

Supporting Treatment

A nine-year-old patient was daunted by a treatment that required her to drink a gallon of liquid. Cheered by bedside magic performed by one of our HMs, the patient started to smile and laugh; she happily participated in her treatment, and had no trouble drinking the whole gallon of liquid.

A similar transformation occurred with a twelve-year-old boy who needed to stay up until 2 a.m. for treatment. He rejected other therapists and didn't want to watch TV, and his parents were concerned about how to keep him calm and awake. A visit from the HM did the trick: The patient entertained himself—and his family—with the magic he learned until the 2 a.m. deadline.





*"What made it so great were the people.
It's an amazing organization."*

"It was a fun evening and a great venue."

"Excellent crowd. Great time."

These are just a few of the comments we received in response to our annual Tricks Are for Kids Benefit. On Friday, February 29th, around 260 OHM friends joined us at Rock Bottom Brewery in Downtown Chicago for our annual fundraiser and celebration. In addition to OHM's special brand of close-up magic, we shared a slideshow of the many children we've reached. There was a flurry of bidding at the silent auction, where prizes included sports tickets, wine tasting classes and a luxury Chicago weekend package at

the Ritz Carlton. Our two grand prize raffle winners were excited to receive an all-inclusive Apple Vacation to Mexico and a sports package with tickets to every major Chicago sports team. At the end of the evening, we raised just over \$38,000! We'd like to thank everyone who made the event a success, including our volunteers and our corporate sponsors Starcom, Wolverine and CBOE. Through your generosity, we continue to impact the lives of the kids we serve.

Join the Benefit Team!

Do you have great ideas about how to make next year's Tricks Are for Kids Benefit an even bigger success? Join the benefit committee and make your mark. We need volunteers to help design the event and organize the silent auction and prize raffles. The committee kicks off in September with monthly meetings in the fall and more frequent meetings or conference calls as the event draws closer. Contact Michael Walton at mwalton@openheartmagic.com.



Calling All Donors: Big Benefit Raffle Item Needed

At this year's benefit, we were able to raise a lot of excitement—and a lot of program support—through our grand prize raffle of an all-inclusive trip to Mexico and our Chicago sports package. With your help, we can make next year's event (planned for February of 2009) even more exciting with a new round of raffle prizes. Donations are tax deductible, and we'll gratefully acknowledge every gift on our website. Donors who provide items worth more than \$5,000 will be listed as event sponsors. Call the Executive Director at 312-342-9807 if you'd like to donate items or funds, or if you have ideas about great raffle prizes we could offer.

How Can I Help?

People often asked if they can donate anything directly to the kids. Here are a couple ways you can benefit kids directly:

Donate Playing Cards

We hand these out to kids, siblings and parents when we teach tricks. Kids must receive new, complete, sealed decks so we can't accept casino cards. Our favorite brand is Bicycle brand (the kind magicians use!) but Tally Ho branded playing cards are also suitable. Decks are available in gross at Costco (that's where we get ours).

Please mail all donations to:
Open Heart Magic
c/o Michael Walton
2557 W Augusta Blvd, Suite 3
Chicago, IL 60622

Donate Bedside Magic Supplies:

We're happy to accept gift certificates to penguinmagic.com, which are used to purchase supplies used by the OHM Magicians.



Meeting Kids' Needs with Magic for the Blind

With bedside magic, our goal is to bring a therapeutic experience right to the patient. We want to engage their minds and lift their spirits through a direct interaction. But how do you do that when your patient can't see? Thanks to dedication, flexibility and painstaking training, our Hospital Magicians have been able to do just that. Here are some of their stories:

"The first patient on my list was a bright and inquisitive eight-year-old boy who had come a great distance, without his parents, to get treatment at Children's Memorial Hospital. He's looking for something to do, I was told, and, oh, by the way, he's blind. Of all the situations presented in my training—limited mobility, cognitive delays, language barriers—I'd never worked with a patient who wasn't able to see.

Conferring with Mike Walton, the Director of OHM and Grand Poobah of magic, we decided that the Eye of the Mummy magic trick would be fun and would allow the patient to feel the magic as it happened.

I headed down to the patient's room and invited him to do some magic with me. "Is this for real?" he asked. I directed him in how to do the trick—how to hold the bottom of the vase, feel the ball, the empty cup, and the ball once it magically returned. When I asked if he wanted to learn a trick, I received an overwhelming response. Considering carefully, I chose The Secret Samurai Coin case—I felt it would allow the boy to use his sense of touch to feel the case, the secret compartment and the coin. He quickly learned the trick and excitedly performed it for an unsuspecting nurse.

I'd hoped to brighten this little boy's day, but found that we were both empowered by our interaction. Magic truly has no limits in its ability to surprise and entertain children of all ages."

—OHM Hospital Magician Susan Walton

"I was volunteering at UIC one evening and knocked on the door of a dimly lit room where a teenaged boy was sitting with his mother 'Hi! My name is Alyson and I'm an Open Heart Magic Magician. Would you like to do some magic with me?' As the boy enthusiastically agreed, his mother leaned in, saying, 'Just so you know, Daniel can't see.'

That's when my OHM training kicked in. He might not be able to see, I realized, but he can definitely feel. I turned to Daniel and said, 'I've got a great trick that we do. I'm going to need your help. Is it alright if your mother helps out, too?' 'Sure!' he said. I had Daniel's mother count out three sponge balls and describe what I was doing as I put one in my hand and two in Daniel's. 'OK Daniel,' I said, 'I want you to shake your right hand and say any magic word you know.' 'Abracadabra!' he shouted. 'Now open up your hand and tell me what you have.'

Daniel opened up his hand and started to count, 'I have one, two...Mom, I've got three in my hand!' So we continued through the rest of the trick with Mom telling Daniel exactly what she saw and with Daniel counting out what he felt in his hands. By the time I left, we were all laughing. We all had such a great time watching Daniel wield his special magical powers."

—OHM Hospital Magician Alyson Stevens

Funding News

We would like to thank the **Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation** for their generous support, including grant funding provided for the *Bedside Magic & Share the Magic* Programs.

"I hadn't seen my son smile like that for a long time."

—Father of a patient at Lutheran General