

# PEER

SUPPORT PROGRAM



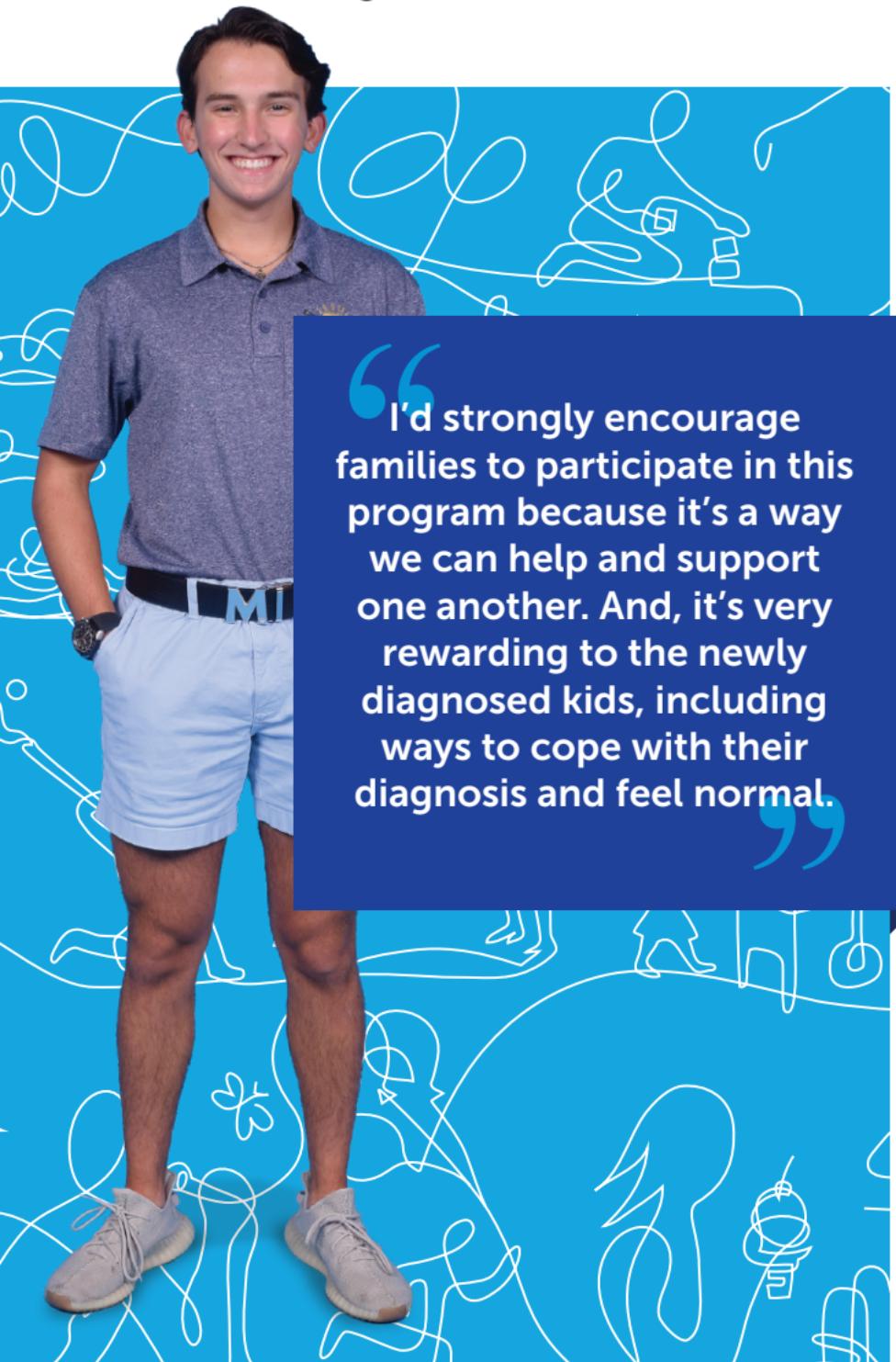
SCOTTISH RITE



## WHAT IS PEER SUPPORT?

A process through which people who share common experiences or face similar challenges come together as equals to give and receive support and knowledge. At Scottish Rite for Children, we offer family-to-family support between families whose children:

- have the same diagnosis
- are undergoing a surgical procedure
- are following the same treatment



**“I'd strongly encourage families to participate in this program because it's a way we can help and support one another. And, it's very rewarding to the newly diagnosed kids, including ways to cope with their diagnosis and feel normal.”**

## EXAMPLES OF PEER SUPPORT PARTICIPANTS

*A family whose child has a rare diagnosis and has had challenges, but now has some wisdom gained from those struggles to share with a family whose child is younger or newly diagnosed with the same rare condition.*

*A preteen girl and her family have been told that a spinal fusion operation is necessary to treat an increasing scoliosis curve and she wants to talk with another patient who has had this procedure for a firsthand account of what it is like.*

*An athletic elementary age boy has been diagnosed with a juvenile form of arthritis, and he must now drastically reduce how much he practices his sport, stay out of the sun, change his diet and take medicine that has side effects.*

### HOW ARE FAMILIES CONNECTED?

Families may be identified by clinic staff as a good candidate for receiving support from another family, based on their situation.

Families can self-refer to receive (mentee) or give (mentor) peer support.

- A family may ask for support, and there may not be a specific support group that meets the need.
- A family may have had a great experience or good outcome and wishes to support other families.

In both of these situations, peer support may be a good option.

## **HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?**

If a family would like to be supported, they can let their clinic staff know and the Family Resource Center (FRC) Coordinator will contact the family.

If a family would like to provide support, or be a peer mentor family, they can let their clinic staff know or reach out to the FRC Coordinator for more information.

Both families will then complete and sign an authorization form to move forward.

# **FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER**

Located at:

**SCOTTISH RITE**



2222 Welborn Street  
Dallas, Texas 75219

Clinic Level

Monday - Friday  
8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.



214-559-7573



frc@tsrh.org

Scottish Rite for Children does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, gender, religion or age in admission, treatment or participation in its programs, services and activities, or in employment.