



# Introducing New Renovations and Pediatric Programming

At The Children's Center at The Phoenix, we have one goal in mind, to provide individualized pediatric medical and rehabilitation services that ensure the dignity, worth, and individuality of each child who comes through our doors.

Last year, The Children's Center at The Phoenix was excited to partner VOCSN. Our VOCSN Ventilators seamlessly integrate five separate devices including a ventilator, oxygen concentrator, cough assist, suction, and nebulizer into one unified respiratory system. This year, The Children's Center plans to unveil major renovations that are currently underway and expected to be finished by spring of 2021, Additionally, Children's Center at The Phoenix has unveiled new programs that will focus on serving underserved communities in the region.

The Refuah Program is the first to be executed. This program provides services that are understanding and appreciative of Judaism. The Children's Center at The Phoenix noticed a major need for placement in the Jewish community. With a Halachic Medical Advisory Board, a highly qualified Rabbi on staff, readily available Kosher food on hand and a Bikur Cholim room for families, the Refuah Program is truly one-of-a-kind.

Additionally, The Children's Center at The Phoenix is in the process of building a behavioral mental health program for those children who have mental health needs. Physical treatment is only one aspect of a child's overall well-being. To provide comprehensive, life-changing care, behavioral health and mental health must also be a priority.

With state-of-the-art technology, advanced programming, and experienced and nurturing staff who go above the call of duty, the Children's Center at The Phoenix has quickly become the most trusted facility in the tri-state area.









#### Covid-19 Vaccine Coming to The Children's Center at The Phoenix

A light at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel has begun to appear as the first doses of a coronavirus vaccine is expected to be given to around 21 million health-care workers, 3 million residents, and staff of various nursing homes and long-term care facilities.

The Children's Center at The Phoenix has partnered with CVS Pharmacy to administer COVID-19 vaccinations. Our team has been working diligently with the CDC, DOH and CVS to plan to efficiently distribute these vaccines safely to our long term care residents and staff members.

As some of the hardest hit demographics, these groups have been noted as the highest priorities to receive the vaccine. This first group is known as Phase 1a, and has also been given the go ahead by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director, Robert Redfield.

It is anticipated by U.S. officials that 40 million doses of vaccines from Pfizer and the biotech company, Moderna, will be given out by the end of the year. According to Operation Warp Speed, the vaccine initiative created by the administration, the first batch of Pfizer vaccines will be given out within 24-hours of FDA approval.

Distribution is estimated to begin at The Children's Center at The Phoenix by January 1, 2021.





#### Phoenix Team Feature:

#### **Ed Peters** Director of Respiratory

Ed Peters is The Phoenix Center's incredible Director of

Respiratory. He was hired in December of 1989 with the sole purpose of setting up a Chronic Pediatric Ventilator Unit. He was given an empty wing and received his first patient in February of 1991.

Peters, having set up the ventilator unit, was also responsible for writing all of the policies and hiring the respiratory therapists. However, respiratory therapy was not in Peters' line of sight until he entered college as a premed student.

Ed knew med school wasn't the path he wanted to take and with a degree in biology from the University of Jersey City when a friend told him about respiratory therapy, Peters found his career path.

Being at the Phoenix Center for as long as he has, Peters has developed some memorable friendships over the years. He became close with one little girl, whom he worked with for 4 years, and her family and visited her family's farm with his own family quite often.

Peters even has a 'guard' stand watch over his office every morning. A young girl with whom he befriended who waits for him to come to work every day.

"I'm happy with what I've accomplished here," Peters said.

In addition to overseeing the department, Ed was elected to the State Respiratory Therapy Board and remains on the State Education Committee. Peters also helps put together a yearly convention for Respiratory therapists in Atlantic City. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the convention has been postponed.

Peters has been running the unit he set up for 31 years and come January he'll be entering into his 32nd year.

"I'm happy with what I've accomplished here"

#### Adrian - Child Feature

Meet Adrian, he just turned 1-year-old on December 3 and we were overjoyed to celebrate him! Adrian is our superhero. He has been with us at The Children's Center at The Phoenix for 9 months. In the beginning, Adrian was vent dependent and not able to take any breaths on his own. We are thrilled that now, Adrian is off the vent for 6 hours a day, breathing on his own.

Adrian is a kid who loves to be held and snuggled. When he watches Hey Bear sensory videos, with the sensory light, his whole face beams. Music and smiling are some of Adrian's favorite things to do and when its time for his tummy time therapy, this sweet little boy is ecstatic.

#### Phoenix Family Feature:

Adrian also loves getting his physical, occupational, and speech therapies daily.

His mother, Briona, is highly active in his life and progress and has made

sure to do a lot of FaceTime and Skype visits and we were honored to be able to celebrate his 1st birthday with him a few weeks ago.

At The Children's Center at The Phoenix, Adrian is a true superhero.





## How Phoenix Center is Successfully Navigating Covid-19

Nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities were affected particularly hard by Covid-19 and most have never before experienced a pandemic quite like this.

This has posed the question as to whether there is a correlation between facilities experiencing a lower number of coronavirus cases and deaths and how the facilities are being run. No conclusive evidence has been obtained but a trend has been discovered that those facilities that have been hit the hardest, had problems before the pandemic hit. This left them more vulnerable.

The Children's Center at The Phoenix has been successful at navigating the coronavirus waters.

Natasha Islam, The Phoenix Center administrator explains why the facility was able to keep Covid cases so low in the facility. "Before Governor Murphy announced coronavirus mask mandates, The Phoenix Center was already proactive about requiring staff, residents and anyone entering the building to wear face coverings," Islam said. "We even shut down visitations before other facilities because we knew these protocols would help us control the spread of COVID-19 early on."

Additionally, the Phoenix Center tests for COVID weekly and enforces a strict cleaning process. "We just hired a new Director of Housekeeping, Ruben De La Rosa, who has upheld our cleaning protocols to a level that's even beyond what has been required by the state," Islam said. "The sanity standards at our center are truly remarkable."

The nursing department has been immensely helpful in maintaining the facility's infection protocol all while going above and beyond for the residents.

These actions enabled The Phoenix Center's pediatric unit to report 0 cases and only 30 total cases in the geriatric unit. This is a major contrast to nursing homes across the country.

A recent addition to the Phoenix Center, Genta Yabut, Director of Recreation, has been implementing incredible activities for the residents including a Disney-themed 'Under the Sea' day for the pediatrics unit. These activities still comply with social distancing rules, of course, but children should be able to get some semblance of normal again. Yabut's dedication to lightening the mood and giving residents another reason to smile is inspiring.

The Phoenix Center did more for its residents and their families than other centers in their area. It's the kind of success story you like to see.



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#### **Another Successful Outcome!**

#### Alesha, 17

Alesha was admitted on 10/09/20 for short term rehabilitation at our Children's Center.

- Diagnoses: Left hip and leg hip and leg fracture, S/P Reduction and Percutaneous Screw Fixation of Pelvic Ring Injury and Removal of Left Distal Femoral Traction Pin, ADHD
- Nursing Interventions: Alesha was admitted to Children's Center at the Phoenix due to left hip and leg hip and leg fracture in August for short-term rehabilitation. She was totally dependent and non-weight bearing on admission. She had 3 stitches to left hip. She is continent to both bowel and bladder but barely moved and drive her time when she wanted to be treated. Staff made themselves available. She was on regular diet with thin liquids consistency. She was admitted with surgical wounds that fully healed prior to discharge.
- Rehabilitation Interventions: Resident benefitted extensively from skilled physical therapy, occupational therapy, and the multidisciplinary approach to her care. Initially, she was unable to bear weight on both lower extremities due to MD orders and her diagnoses, thus, was unable to ambulate. Therapists worked on her upper body in preparation for out of bed transfers and activities. Once MD orders upgraded her weightbearing, her lower body strength improved and with her determination, was quickly ambulating without any assistive device. Resident was successfully discharged by the team and is now home with family.
- Emotional Support: Alesha initially presented herself as well-guarded, remained quiet in her room with limited verbal responses towards staff except to her mom during facetime schedules. She stayed in her wheelchair in daytime in her room requesting to close her privacy curtain. Despite

her keeping herself away from the staff, the social services team, psychologists, recreation, rehabilitation and nursing teams continued to support and remained available to her. Slowly, she showed her trust and her guard down. She started to relearn to walk when her orthopedist cleared her to bear weight and she enjoyed socialization with team members and other pediatric residents in the unit. Alesha made lasting relations at the Children's Center at The Phoenix.

Accomplishments: Alesha learned to walk again though extensive rehabilitation and multidisciplinary approach. She was discharged safely home with her family.

### Dear Phoenix Center,

My daughter, Alesha, had a terrible accident in August which caused her to end up at the hospital needing major surgery. It was an incredibly hard time for our family not knowing if she would be able to fully regain mobility. She got transferred to the Phoenix Center for a few months. Our first meeting with the staff gave me hope and comfort that Alesha would be in good hands. Everyone from Ms. Katie to all of the individual nurses helped nurse my daughter back to health. I'm truly grateful.

sincerely, Stephania R.



#### Testimonials













"The staff is truly one of a kind! They go to great lengths to ensure the patient and family are happy. Right from the start we were amazed at the devotion each and every staff member displayed. Such a compassionate team; so giving. We were lucky to have our son cared for by these wonderful people. He got great therapy and they showed such love to him. We were constantly informed of any changes in his care plan and the nurses patiently answered our questions over the phone. His room was really neat and he got so many toys! Choosing this facility was a smart choice we made!"

#### - Moishe Geller



"My grandson received exceptional care. I was really amazed at everything the wonderful staff did for our family. I would highly recommend this place."

#### - Shlomo Fuhrer



"We had a great great time in your facility. We have seen many staff and many people that do this but we felt like it's much more than just a facility it's like a new family. We are his family but it looks like we have a new competition . Everyone of the staff members was so welcoming and so warm. And this is not an easy job. It's not a job that someone can do just for money, it's a job that special people are doing because they have something very special inside their heart. We have seen many facilities, and they were good - but at The Children's Center at The Phoenix it feels much more and it feels like family. We are so comfortable to give our child to you to take on his care. We are sure, and we know that your amazing staff will do a great great job. We already love everyone and each of the staff. Please send them my regards and our love. We hope and are sure to have a great great family relationship by taking care of him TOGETHER."

#### - Fli's Father



"I want to Thank everyone at Phoenix Center for all their hard work & dedication to all the residents. My visit with my daughter was very satisfying. Phoenix followed all the Protocols. This showed me how much they care. Keep up the good work."

#### - Richard Casaletta



#### **Driveby Holiday Lights Display**

The Children's Center is excited to announce a special, socially distanced, Holiday event.

On Tuesday, December 22 from 4:00 p.m. through 6:00 p.m. families are invited to drive through our festive lights display located at 1433 Ringwood Avenue in Haskell. NJ.

The event will offer families the opportunity to take a socially distanced photo with Santa Claus, so the kiddos safely tell Santa all they want for Christmas this year.

Live entertainment will be on hand to perform some of favorite Holiday classics and to keep everyone warm and toasty, hot cocoa and delicious cookies will be served.



# Wishing you a Wonderful Holiday Season!

Happy Holidays from our Phoenix Family to yours!







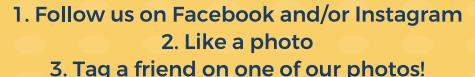




# Phoenix Sweepstakes!

# ENTER TO WIN A BRAND NEW DELL OPTIPLEX 7470 ALL-IN-ONE DESKTOP!

#### How? It's simple!



You'll be automatically entered to win.

Contest ends Thursday, January 14.

Winner will be announced Friday, January 15th!





**Children's Center at The Phoenix** 



@Childrenscenteratphx

OPEN THE CAMERA ON YOUR PHONE,
FOCUS ON THE QR CODE, SAVE OUR INFORMATION!



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