

COUNTY ASSOCIATION MAKES DONATION TO SHRINERS HOSPITALS

At the January meeting of the Firefighters' Association held at the West Corners fire station, the Broome County Firefighters Association made a \$1,000 donation to the Shriners hospitals. The money has been collected over several years, the proceeds of raffles held at our meetings and money donated by local fire companies.

Dutch Mc Gill, a local resident who is on the Shriners board and active in the local Shriners, accepted the donation and talked to us about the free care the hospitals provide for children.

The Shriners currently operate 22 hospitals in the United States. Nineteen provide totally free orthopedic treatment to children and three provide free burn care for children. In addition to medical care, they provide transportation and travel expenses for parents and accommodations for parents at Ronald Mc Donald house.

The hospitals are structured so that all donations go into an endowment fund and the interest from the fund pays expenses for the hospitals.

The Shriners hospitals are often on the cutting edge of care for both orthopedic injuries and burns. The Shriners developed something called "Shriner skin" a cultured skin grown from a tiny piece of the patient's own skin. In 1985 two children who were burned over 97% of their bodies were among the first recipients of the new cultured skin. They both survived, the first time anyone had ever survived such severe burns and the first successful use of the cultured skin.

The Shriners continue to emphasize research in their hospitals. Over 85% of orthopedic surgeons train at Shriners hospitals because of their great level of expertise in treating many orthopedic conditions.

If you know of a child (under 18) who is in need of orthopedic or burn treatment, their parents should contact the Shriners Hospitals to find out about free care.

The Shriners Hospital in Boston, MA, provides free burn care to children. The Shriner's hospital in Philadelphia, PA provides free care to children with orthopedic or spinal cord injuries.

For more information on the shriners' hospitals, visit their website. <http://www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org/>

