

Referral Procedure

Patients will be welcomed at the Center for Limb Differences by referrals from physicians and community agencies. We also welcome self referrals. Once the Center for Limb Differences is contacted we will facilitate a patient visit as quickly as possible.

Contact Information

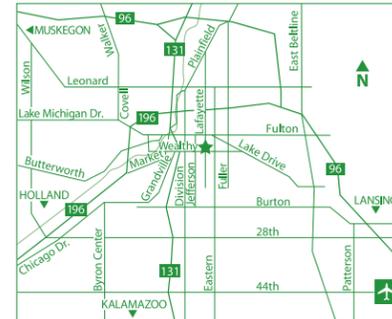
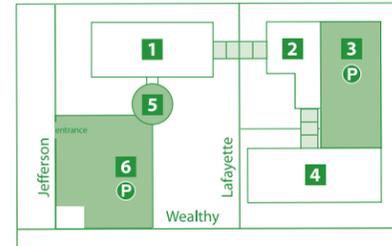
For more information about the Center for Limb Differences please call, e-mail, write or visit our website:

Center for Limb Differences
 Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital
 235 Wealthy SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503-5299
 Phone: 616.454.7988
 Toll Free: 800.528.8989 ext. 4346
 Fax: 616.356.1903
 E-mail: limbcenter@maryfreebed.com
 Website: www.maryfreebed.com

**The CLD sees patients on Thursday mornings
 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.**

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital

- 1 Mary Free Bed Inpatient Building
- 2 Mary Free Bed Professional Building
Mary Free Bed Outpatient Center
- 3 Parking Ramp
- 4 Mary Ives Hunting Center
- 5 Parking (limited)
- 6 Parking
- ☐ Skywalk



Limb Lines

"Providing Care for Children and Teens with Hand, Foot & Limb Differences"

Issue #35; Spring/Summer 2008

"Imagine... Amazing Me"

"Imagine... Amazing Me" is a new book available at the Center for Limb Differences, thanks to a generous donation from the Mary Free Bed Guild. It is written by Libbi Chilia, a CLD parent from Ohio, inspired by her daughter, Sami, who has a limb difference. Within its pages are photos of children from across the US and Canada enjoying childhood activities despite their extremity differences. The book is reflective, educational and inspiring and holds a different meaning to each child that sees it. Feel free to ask about it at your next visit! ■



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 Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital
 235 Wealthy SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503-5299

Restoring Hope and *Freedom*
Mary Free Bed
 Rehabilitation Hospital

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More Than an Office Visit

Sometimes your appointment can feel long with the number of professionals that you see each time you come to the Center. Have you ever wondered why you can't just see the doctor and leave? Who decides which team members plan to see you, and why would you see this or that person anyway? And where is everybody while you are waiting in the exam room?

A visit to the Center for Limb Differences means you have the opportunity for not only expert care from your doctor, but many other specialists all in one place, all on the same morning, and all prepared with services and information for your child.

Seeing a team with complimentary specialties is a proven way to provide excellent care for the overall wellbeing of children with limb differences. The CLD team offers care in orthopedics, nursing, physical and occupational therapy, nutrition, social work, prosthetics and orthotics. Services our team members can provide are listed in detail on the back of your team checklist, which you receive when you arrive for your visits.

Before you arrive on Thursday morning, members of the Center team have already reviewed your child's records from previous visits, and noted any questions or problems that need to be checked on, as well as anything new you may have called us about. In addition, with years of experience providing care for children with limb differences, we are also looking ahead for you, at transitions or changes your child may be approaching – more self-care, starting school, changing schools, starting sports or music, getting close to driving age, looking at career choices. So, on your visit, even though you may not have a question for a particular team member, we may have information for you, anticipating questions you may not have thought of yet, questions that may come up between this visit and the next time you return, planning for changes ahead.

Remember that on every visit, you always have the choice of which team members you have the time or interest to see. On average, the members of the Center team have almost 25 years of experience in pediatric care. So on any Thursday morning, you are given the opportunity to see not just 1 or 2, but potentially 8 experts, depending on your child's limb difference and current needs, all within approximately 2 hours of your time.

Our goal is to have you see team members with no waiting time in between, but sometimes unexpected needs with previous patients can slow everybody down. Please feel free to bring things from home to fill that time – homework, coloring or puzzle books, portable games. If you know you have a lot of questions for one or more of the team, please call the Center before your visit so we can plan for that time, or plan an additional visit separate from a Thursday morning. This will help us meet our goal of providing great service while limiting waiting time for all our patients. ■

Why Do We Take Photos?



Jared with his custom bike.

When you come for your first visit to the Center for Limb Differences we will ask for approval to take photos periodically. You may agree or decline to have photos taken and your care will not change. However it is helpful for us to have photos in your child's medical record for several reasons.

We take photos when you start coming to see us and update photos as your child receives new equipment, prosthetics or orthotics, or before and after surgeries. These photos are kept in the medical record. They are used by the Center team as a visual reference of your child's limb difference (structure, position, length, etc.) when answering questions for you or a home area therapist over the phone. If you have questions for us about equipment between visits, photos can help the team when discussing details with your prosthetist/orthotist.

Photos are helpful to share with other families that are new to the Center to help discuss possible treatment

options and results, to see examples of prostheses and equipment in use, and to show growth and development over time. You may have been shown photos of some of our patients when you first came to see us and hopefully this was helpful for you and your family.

We also may use photos for education of health care professionals, including staff or students for in-services or medical conferences or educational information (i.e. exercise booklets). We may use photos with research or professional articles in medical publications (these photos will make every attempt to conceal/block a child's identity).

You will be asked to sign a consent form which has each of the areas outlined; each area can be approved or declined. When your child reaches 18 years of age they will be asked to re-evaluate this consent and will be able to give permission for photos to be used or not used.

Your child's privacy is very important to our team. Families have told us that being able to see other children with similar diagnoses, prostheses or equipment is so helpful. If you have an adapted bike that works great, chances are that someone else would love to know about it too. If your child had a new prosthesis that fit well and let them run better, photos might encourage someone else. Your child might have an easy way to tie their shoes tight enough to stay tied which might help another child whose shoes don't stay tied. Sometimes we take videos of how well your child is doing as these are very helpful to share with other families and professional staff. We are always learning also, and a visual record of your child's progress can be very helpful in providing the best care possible. ■

Handlebar modification



Events Calendar



Did you know that Mary Free Bed is involved in many recreational activities through our Recreation Program and Pediatric Community Rec Programs? Below is a list of fun and exciting events that your child may want to participate in this summer and fall.

- **Youth Wheelchair Tennis**

Date: Monday evenings, now – August 18, 2008
Age: 7-18 years old

- **Adaptive Waterski Clinic**

Date: Friday, August 15, 2008
Age: 5 years and up

- **Dreams and Wings... Come and Fly!**

Date: Saturday, September 6, 2008
Age: 4-18 years old

- **Junior Pacers Wheelchair Basketball**

Date: Wednesdays, September 10, 2008 – March 2009
Age: 7-18 years old

- **Grand Rapids Eagles**

(Provides athletic coaching and instruction in a variety of sports.)
Date: Tuesdays, October – May 2009
Age: 7 years and up

- **Sled Hockey**

Date: Saturdays, November – March 2009
Age: 7 years and up

For more information or to register for any of these events, please call 616.242.0352.