



Dr. Mohammad Malekzadeh, an internationally known pediatric nephrologist, has made significant contributions in the management of children with end stage renal disease and kidney transplantation. He is the Director of the National Kidney Foundation and Children's Kidney Camp and is a Professor of Pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine and Chair, Department of Pediatrics at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center.

DR. MOHAMMAD MALEKZADEH INTERVIEW

HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED WITH THE PAINTED TURTLE?

I have been involved with the National Kidney Foundation of Southern California for many years, participating in its camp program since it began in 1978. It started as four weeks each summer in Big Bear. The Kidney Foundation relied upon rental of a YMCA camp site. When The Painted Turtle was in development, the foundation considered the new partnership. I just naturally continued my commitment to camp once it transitioned to The Painted Turtle.

WHY DO YOU THINK IT IS IMPORTANT FOR CHILDREN TO HAVE ACCESS TO OUR PROGRAM?

These kids need to have a week to just forget about their illness - seems as if they at least deserve that given their lifetime of incessant kidney disease considerations. The program lets them see that there are other kids like them in the world; that they have peers. At camp they learn to interact with one another and communicate with others who have similar challenges.

WHAT IMPACT DO YOU BELIEVE THE CAMP EXPERIENCE HAS ON THESE CHRONICALLY ILL CHILDREN, BOTH PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY?

The Painted Turtle experience definitely has a combination impact of both emotional and physical significance. We see it emotionally when the children emotionally express their wish to get back to camp. Their time at camp is so positive. I notice that children with kidney disease tend to be physically restricted by their families/doctors and often are not able to be physically active. Mothers hover or are not around because they need to work. The kids become sedentary - I call them couch potatoes. They end up not being outside but instead watching TV or spending all of their time on computers. At The Painted Turtle, they learn they can do other things. They are up on the ropes course; they are swimming and doing crafts. I hope this stays with them when they go home and that these bad habits change because of camp.

DO YOU HAVE A PARTICULAR RECOLLECTION OR MEMORY?

I think of these kids doing things they would otherwise never have a chance to experience. One time, I went out to the ropes course with one of our campers who is wheelchair-bound. I remember her being able to literally reach new heights being hoisted up on to the high ropes platform. She zipped down and said she felt like she was "flying just like a bird." I also want to say that the staff is really great, very dedicated. The ladies in the Well Shell can only be described as angels. They have no match. Because of these "Well Shell Angels", our volunteer nurses have a very easy time administering the complex dialysis.

ENSURING PARENTS ARE COMFORTABLE SENDING THEIR SICK CHILD TO CAMP WITHOUT THEM CAN BE A HUGE LEAP, HOW WOULD YOU PERSUADE THEM?

Many of the families that we serve with kidney disease tend to be below the poverty line. They have never had a chance to do something like this before. Their neighborhoods are often unsafe and so they protect their kids for that reason in addition to the health concerns. Camp is a new chance for their children, a completely different opportunity that they have never known for many reasons.

Fall Family Weekend Programs

September 21-23:
Primary Immunodeficiency Diseases

October 5-7:
Skeletal Dysplasia (Dwarfism)

October 19-21:
Asthma

November 2-4:
Kidney Disease

November 16-18:
Crohn's & Colitis

November 30-December 2:
Asthma

DaVita...Giving Life

With a national nursing shortage, it is a challenge for experienced medical professionals to take time off to come to camp. This summer The Painted Turtle had the remarkable pleasure and good fortune to be supported by an extraordinary group of medical professionals and employees from DaVita.

The word DaVita is an adaptation of an Italian phrase meaning, "he/she gives life." DaVita provides dialysis services for those diagnosed with chronic kidney failure, a condition also known as chronic kidney disease (CKD).

During the kidney and diabetes summer sessions, DaVita graciously encouraged and supported eleven of their most experienced and dynamic nurses and one dietician to attend The Painted Turtle. The DaVita Medical Dream Team generously gave their time, heart and expertise to provide for the tremendous camper care requirements: nightly peritoneal dialysis monitoring, daily blood pressure checks, fluid weight surveillance, preparation and administration of countless medications, testing thousands of blood glucose levels and giving hundreds of insulin injections. These incredible professionals further exemplify the high quality of care provided at The Painted Turtle.

Expressing a unanimous desire to continue being involved in camp, the DaVita Medical Team not only gave the gift of their professional excellence, but left filled with new perspective, joyful memories and a renewed spirit. One nurse said, "Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to be part of this fantastic mission." This is The Painted Turtle Experience!

DaVita also generously donated their in-kind services by refurbishing damaged and insufficient pipes and drainage behind dialysis machine access "water boxes." They did this for all six dialysis access areas in the Great Room of the Well Shell. DaVita also helped The Painted Turtle's medical team develop updated cleaning protocols.

Additionally, DaVita participated in an "extreme makeover" on an old building at camp. More than twenty dedicated and energetic employees of DaVita renovated the building, providing a beautiful space for The PT's hard-working staff to relax, use a computer, or exercise.

Thank you to Dennis Kogod, President of the Western Group of DaVita and thank you to Terry Rowe and Gary Limon who led the "extreme makeover" team. The Painted Turtle is grateful to be a beneficiary of DaVita's generosity. It is evident that their name reflects their purpose, "he/she gives life."

Turtle Scoop

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Founding Hospitals

- Cedars-Sinai
- Children's Hospital and Health Center, San Diego
- Children's Hospital and Research Center at Oakland
- Children's Hospital Central California
- Children's Hospital of Orange County
- Childrens Hospital Los Angeles
- Harbor-UCLA Medical Center
- Loma Linda University Children's Hospital
- Los Angeles County Hospital + USC Medical Center
- Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford
- Mattel Children's Hospital at UCLA
- Miller Children's Hospital
- UC Davis Children's Hospital
- UCSD Medical Center
- UCSF Children's Hospital
- University Children's Hospital, UCI Medical Center

The Painted Turtle Medical Advisory Board and Medical Executive Committee have recently been merged to foster a stronger and more active presence. With this important evolution, the list of Medical Advisory Board members is currently changing. Please stay tuned for our revised Medical Advisory Board member list in the next edition of The Turtle Scoop.

The Painted Turtle Staff

- Arturo Aguayo - Chris Butler - Derrick Caballero - Ronda Carver - Margaret Davis
- Corinne Dorfman - Kristin Friedersdorf - Kyle Hidalgo - Nicholas Holden
- Michael House, PhD - Amanda Johnson - Julie Knickerbocker - Alexis Madrid
- Blake Maher - Alice Mason - Ben Meisel, M.D. FAAP - Jeff Nash - Lynn Parker
- Michelle Plasse - Jackie Ramirez - Jessica Santos - Cassidy Skelton - Sean Torres
- April Uyehara - Lisa Van Ingen Pope - Beth Vandenbogaart - Cindy Weiland
- Claire White

...from Chavez Ravine for our Field Of Dreams



(Left to Right) Joe Curtis, Vice President Channel and Telesales, DHL; camper Elisabeth Jagger; Dodger owner Frank McCourt; Jamie McCourt, Vice President and Chairman, Los Angeles Dodgers; camper Tyler Carl; Dodger pitcher Randy Wolf; camper Chelsea Augustine and The Painted Turtle Founders Page and Lou Adler.

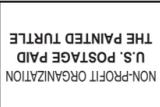
Please visit us at our website online at www.thepaintedturtle.org or email: info@thepaintedturtle.org

An innovative camp and family care center for children with life-threatening illnesses.



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It's the HEART that Matters



As the saying goes, "It's not the size of a man, but the size of his heart that matters." Nowhere is this more evident than in the journey that our campers and families experience day in and day out. Countless individuals have discovered the strength of their own hearts during a stay at The Painted Turtle.

This fall, The Painted Turtle was fortunate to welcome first-time camper 11 year-old Anthony and his parents during the skeletal dysplasia (dwarfism) Family Weekend. One of the many special parts of Family Weekends is a useful and sometimes emotional parent discussion. At Parent's Night Out and other family discussion times, mothers, fathers, and sometimes aunts, uncles and grandparents, gather around to share the joys and challenges of raising a child with a chronic illness.

For the Saturday afternoon parent discussion, Anthony's parents were able to participate together, while our nursing director, Beth Vandenbogaart, and nurses Michelle and Tav took turns caring for Anthony. As minor as this separation may seem, this was the first time in *nine years* that Anthony's parents were together without Anthony at their side and were granted true respite. In fact, this was the *first and only place* where they felt comfortable enough to leave Anthony with anyone other than themselves.

During the discussion, his parents described Anthony as shy, content to play in his room alone, and not as involved in outside activities with others as they would have hoped. However, by the last day of the Family Weekend, Anthony had "come out of his shell" beyond their wildest dreams. Indeed, Anthony greatly enhanced the entire camp's Family Weekend experience with his joy-filled participation in EVERYTHING. Anthony kept busy making new friends and showing no signs of his previous introversion throughout the weekend.

A stay at The Painted Turtle is beyond transforming. As Anthony's parents proclaimed, "It just goes to show you what can happen when someone like our son is simply given the chance to participate with people like him, in a place like this."



A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE CAMP DIRECTOR

The terrible devastation of the wild fires in Southern California has irrevocably affected many members of our camp family. While we are so thankful that The Painted Turtle was spared during these fires, our hearts go out to all of those coping with loss.

Although such events are beyond our control, it was moving to receive the following e-mail from a volunteer staff member. To read of his ability to reach out to others in their time of need and know that the spirit of The Painted Turtle was able to transcend physical boundaries and give respite to some children during an extremely difficult time was heartening to us all.

Blake Maher

EXTRA!!

Hey Everyone, The fires have been crazy in San Diego. I spent my morning rescuing horses and the rest of my day at Qualcomm Stadium.

I wanted to thank all of you at The Painted Turtle. Today, I went to Qualcomm Stadium (the location where all of San Diego was evacuated to) to help out. I went to the head of the volunteers and told her that I wanted to help out with the kids. When I got to the station, it was just me and one other girl. I told her that I was a camp counselor and to just follow my lead. Within five minutes I had about 20 kids singing "A Great Big Moose." It was amazing. It went on like that for about 10 hours. Pun, we played your games and did your magic. Painted Turtle staff, we sang your songs, did your dances, and played your games. I guess I just wanted to thank you for putting a little camp in my heart which I was able to share with all those kids today. It turned a terrible day in their life into a day that one kid said was better than Christmas!

So, thank you for turning me into a camp junky and sharing all that you have to offer with me, which I can in turn share with others.

I am going back tomorrow morning for another day of it.

Peace and love,
Colin

INTRODUCING...

Lisa Van Ingen Pope - Executive Development Director



What an honor to join an organization as important and incredible as The Painted Turtle! As the new Executive Development Director, I have the privilege of supporting an accomplished development team, leading the growth of our major gifts and planned giving programs, and ensuring that The Painted Turtle continues providing children with a life-enhancing experience through the magic of camp.

From my earliest days of volunteerism (Special Olympics, elder care with Alzheimer's patients, and the LA Watts Summer Games) throughout my career in fundraising for higher education (University of Southern California where I earned my undergraduate degree in literature; University of Rochester in New York where I continued postgraduate studies; and California State University, Long Beach College of Engineering), I have enjoyed the satisfaction of "helping others help others." Nowhere is this more profound than at The Painted Turtle, where the generosity of literally thousands of people creates opportunities for the most deserving among us - children facing serious and even life-threatening conditions.

My love of camping and children flows seamlessly from the office to the home (Palos Verdes), where my husband and three young daughters share in the excitement of The Painted Turtle's mission.

Alice Mason - Executive Chef

Food is my passion. Even as a young girl I had a pallet for different types of food, whether sweet or sour, and my mother predicted that I would one day be a cook. Twenty-nine years later I am still cooking and happy to be working with such a great staff here at The Painted Turtle. My first culinary adventures were in Louisiana, where I was born and raised, and I later completed my training--while raising my children--at Boise State University in Idaho. Here at The Painted Turtle kitchen we don't just feed people, we try to make delicious and healthy meals so that our staff and campers can keep up their energy for all the exciting activities offered at the camp. It touches us when campers express gratitude after a meal for what we've served. Preparing hundreds of meals a day is a team effort. Without the hard work and effort of my kitchen staff, it couldn't be done. I am so happy to be here.



PUN, Mark Maxwell-Smith - Volunteer

You can spot him a mile away, not because he stands 6' 3", carries a bag full of scarves and plungers, or that there are yards of white rope hanging from all his pockets, but because he is surrounded by a gaggle of campers captivated by his tricks, jokes, and irrepressible spirit! Who is this magic man? It's Pun, of course, the Painted Turtle's master of fun and humor, otherwise known as Mark Maxwell-Smith.



Pun, as he's affectionately known due to his wit, humor and playful jokes, has been volunteering with The Painted Turtle since 2002. No stranger to the camp world or to working with kids, he spent four summers during college at a camp in New York for underprivileged children. He volunteered for a summer session in 1999 at Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times. It was only natural for Pun to want to get involved with The Painted Turtle for this was the population he had been serving for over twenty five years!

Creator, writer, and producer of television game shows, Pun says the biggest difference is "on game shows there is only one winner; at camp everyone is a winner!"

What motivates a person to give so much? When asked, Pun will simply respond with a tearful eye and his voice brimming with emotion, "I will tell you this, I get so much more out of this than I give." As Pun will quickly tell you, "There could be no Pun without the work that everyone does at The Painted Turtle. We all play a different instrument, but together we make beautiful music. We are an orchestra, no a sym-funny!" Indeed the music would not be so sweet if Pun were not here to play.



During 2007, The Painted Turtle was fortunate to welcome over 300 volunteers during two separate work days. They participated in projects that included stuffing turtle pillows; cleaning camper cabins, staff housing, The Dining Hall, kitchen, and Well Shell and preparing them for occupancy.



On Saturday, May 19, 136 employees from Southern California organizations participated in our 2nd Annual Corporate Volunteer Day. We are deeply grateful to the 15 groups that helped prepare The Painted Turtle for our summer session: The Boeing Company, Deluxe Corporation, Disney VolunTEars, Hilton Hotels Corporation, HSBC, JibJab Media, KB Home North Los Angeles Division, Kiwanis Palmdale & Palmdale West, Antelope Valley Champion Youth Build, NBC Universal & General Electric, Pratt Whitney Rocketdyne, Rituals Colour Salon, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Suburban Realty, and Toyota.



On Saturday, August 29, 174 employees from The Boeing Company, Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman joined forces to lend a helping hand for the 4th Annual Aerospace Volunteer Day. Volunteers tackled 21 projects to prepare camp for its fall family weekend season.



We are deeply grateful to all of the companies and their employees who participated. For more info on ways to get your company involved contact

michellep@thepaintedturtle.org. or 310.451.1353 x 105

Foundation For Giving HOPE's 7th Annual Event

On Saturday, November 10, The Foundation for Giving HOPE hosted its seventh annual event to benefit The Painted Turtle. To date the foundation has raised indispensable support for campers and camp programs. Over 800 guests attended this perennial sell-out at Bimbo's 365 Club in San Francisco where guests wore black-tie, danced to the sounds of the 80's cover band Tainted Love, and had the opportunity to win some great raffle prizes. It was an evening to remember and special thanks go to event co-chairs Jennie Ebbitt, Ken Ebbitt, Seth Miller and Paul Williams.



Regional Board Sponsors Campers

Hats off to co-chairs Sherry Lasagna, Cherie Bryant, Cheryl Hughes and the North LA County Regional Advisory Board for their successful *Shell We Camp* fundraiser in September. Together with title sponsor Greg Medeiros of Centennial, the 18 member group comprised of community leaders from the Antelope Valley and Santa Clarita Valley treated 400 guests to tours of the camp, dinner and carnival games. Proceeds will sponsor a camp summer session.



Regional advisory board members pose with Shaughne Warnack, auction winner of The Painted Turtle quilt that won second-place at the Iowa State Fair out of 1000 entries.



Regional Board Shares Mission

This past spring our Los Angeles Regional Advisory Board hosted 100 guests for its 4th annual event *Bon Appetit: A Chef Showcase Dinner* at Cinespace in Hollywood. Thank you to chefs Franco De Furia, Stephen Rea and Tim Schafer for their generous donation of time and talent which was displayed in a delicious 3 course meal. Many thanks to event chair Joshua Hart, board co-chairs Scott Gertz and George Manor and the entire Regional Advisory Board for their efforts in support of our campers and camp programs.



In addition, L.A. Regional Advisory Board member and Palos Verdes High School National Honor Society Advisor Susie Mocerri welcomed students back for the 2nd Annual Walk-a-thon to benefit The Painted Turtle. For the past two years the PVHS National Honor Society chairs and members have raised funds to directly benefit The Painted Turtle. Thanks to PVHS National Honor Society, Susie Mocerri and NHS chairs.



Weingart Challenge

2007 is the final year of the Weingart Foundation's Challenge Grant. This three year grant was awarded to The Painted Turtle to help us build sustainable support for our future. If you are a first time donor this year or if you increase your total contributions this year, your gifts will qualify for the matching grant. This is a wonderful way for all supporters to enhance their giving dollars. Your help is deeply appreciated - please consider making a gift with the enclosed envelope.



A Deserved Day At The Beach

The Painted Turtle summer staff members were able to wind down and relax at the Malibu home of Board members Jami Gertz and Tony Ressler.

Disneyland runners

Painted Turtle Board Member Tom Amster participated in The ING NYC Marathon, one of more than two hundred members of Team Hole in the Wall raising awareness and funds for The Painted Turtle. Thank you Tom. And additional thanks to runners Bo Pearl and Julie Liebenberg.

Turtles on the Run

34 people raced for The Painted Turtle during the Disneyland Half Marathon Weekend. Fifteen completed the Half Marathon, 19 including 5 kids finished the 5K...their efforts will send campers to The Painted Turtle! Thanks to all of the wonderful sponsors. For more info contact Tyler Turquand at 818-207-4263.

Hats off to Claire White our Well Shell Coordinator for her tireless commitment & know-how since day one of the Painted Turtle Camp.

Thanks to Board Member Matt Jones for delivering 5 truck loads of food to the camp.