

# SoftSpot

 NATIONWIDE  
CHILDREN'S  
HOSPITAL

NationwideChildrens.org

:: A Newsletter for Friends of Nationwide Children's :: Spring 2011

“When I found out I had cancer,  
I knew I had to find the best pediatric  
medical center to help me get better.

I chose Nationwide Children's.”

Meghan Kinney,  
*Olympic Swimmer  
and Cancer patient*



# Meghan's Choice



◀ Meghan (left) with fellow Olympic Synchronized Swim Team member.



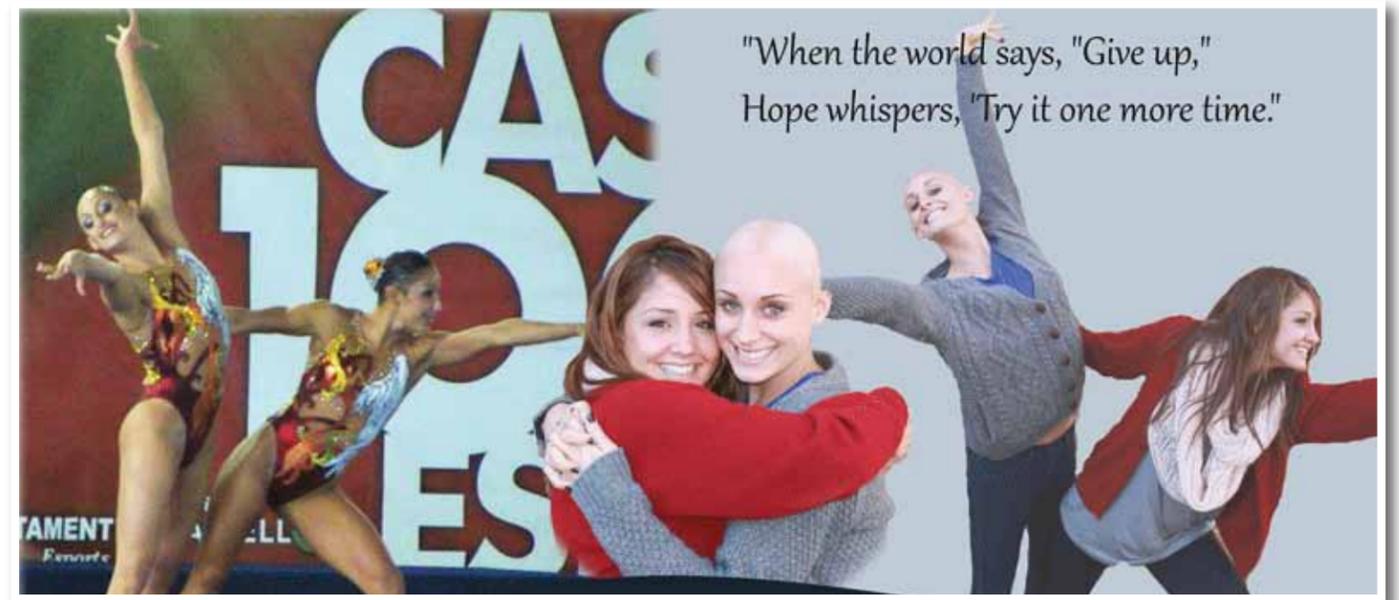
▲ Meghan and her friends cut her hair in preparation for chemotherapy to fight Osteosarcoma, a rare bone cancer.

When 21-year-old Meghan Kinney found out that her knee pain was the result of a rare bone cancer called Osteosarcoma, the doctors at the Olympic training headquarters in Colorado Springs told her to get to the best pediatric medical center she could as quickly as possible.

Three days later, Meghan and her family flew to Columbus to consult with doctors at Nationwide Children's. Meghan had three months of chemotherapy before limb replacement surgery in January. She is in the midst of eight months of chemo and rehab to strengthen her leg and completely eradicate the cancer.

Meghan was a member of the U.S. National Synchronized Swimming Team, and she was preparing for the 2012 Olympics in London. "I took a synchronized swimming class when I was 9 years old, and I was hooked after the first lesson," said Meghan. "Cancer came out of left field. It was the last thing I was expecting."

Meghan grew up in Southern California. Her father had a fraternity brother who told him about the great work being done in Osteosarcoma, at Nationwide Children's Hospital. Meghan's mom, Ann Kinney, said that they couldn't be in a better place. "Meghan spent a year and a half at Ohio State as part of the nationally ranked Synchronized Swim Team, so she has many friends here who have been an incredible support," she said. (see page 3)



▲ (Far left) Meghan and her Synchronized Swimming partner, Michele Thierry, at the 2010 World Championship Games in China. (Far right) After Meghan begins chemotherapy, she and Michele reenact their winning duet.

"We're so grateful that Meghan is receiving chemo and rehab at Nationwide Children's. We've been to many children's hospitals because our older daughter is disabled, but we've never been to a hospital like this one. There's a different vibe when you walk in the front door. Everyone here, and I mean everyone, cares about kids. From the lady who cleans the room to the doctors and nurses, everyone is focused on what is best for the children. What a difference that makes for Meghan," said Ann.

"Synchronized swimming has been my life for more than a decade, and I hadn't thought about a future without it until this diagnosis," said Meghan.

"But cancer has helped me see that I have so many other choices open to me."

Dr. Nicholas Yeager, Meghan's oncologist, is impressed by Meghan's strength and commitment to fighting this awful disease. "Meghan is a role model for our younger patients," he said. "Her spirit and her determination are examples for them, and she inspires our staff to do everything we can for her."

Meghan and her family had a choice to make. They chose Nationwide Children's Hospital. Thank you for helping us help children – and young people – like Meghan – get better.

## Jordan's 16th Birthday is Sweet for Nationwide Children's

For Jordan Blosser's 16th birthday, she knew she didn't want presents. "I have a wonderful life, with a family who loves and cares for me, and great friends. I don't really need anything," she said. "I did some online research and was amazed by the scope of Nationwide Children's. I decided to ask my friends to make a gift to the hospital instead of buying me a gift."

"Jordan has a caring heart," said Kevin Blosser, Jordan's dad. "She helped me realize how fortunate our family is that our children are healthy. We decided to match Jordan's gift."

In talking with the hospital Foundation staff, we realized that we could do more than that, so we made a planned gift."

Jordan presented the hospital with \$1,600 and her parents made a generous planned gift that will benefit children for generations to come.

A planned gift allows many donors to make a gift greater than they ever imagined and can provide significant tax savings and financial benefits for you, your estate and your heirs. Contact our Vice President of Planned Giving, Bill Economus, at 614.355.0888 to learn more.



◀ Jordan (third from left) and her family recently celebrated the gifts they made to Nationwide Children's with a reception in the Rehab Activities room.

When the replacement hospital opens next June, the Blosser Family Rehab Activities Room will be formally dedicated.



◀ We remain on schedule to open the new replacement hospital in downtown Columbus in June 2012. This will transform the way we serve our patients and families and it's only made possible because of generous donors like you.

## Because of Your Support Nationwide Children's Hospital Continues to Grow.

Nationwide Children's Hospital's campus expansion would not be possible without thousands of people who continue to give so generously.

As our reputation for outstanding patient care has grown, so has the demand for our programs and services. In addition to the construction of the new main hospital, we are also expanding our offsite operations. When our Surgery Center in Westerville is completed in 2012, we will have 44 offsite locations to better serve families.

Last year alone, Nationwide Children's cared for more than 900,000 patients from 49 states and 8 countries around the world.



### & WORLD REPORT **U.S. News**

#### **NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S RANKS IN ALL 10 SPECIALTIES BY U.S. NEWS**

Thanks so much for helping us help sick children get better. Your support makes all the difference in helping us fulfill our mission.

*The full results are now published online at [www.usnews.com/childrenshospitals](http://www.usnews.com/childrenshospitals) and will be available on newsstands August 30.*

Specialty	2011 Ranking	2010 Ranking
Gastroenterology	7	8
Cardiology/Heart Surgery	10	11
Urology	14	21
Neonatology	15	24
Pulmonology	15	18
Cancer	16	22
Nephrology	19	25
Orthopedics	20	Not ranked
Neurology/Neurosurgery	32	Not ranked
Diabetes/Endocrinology	33	Not ranked

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Woody Hayes Celebration  
Bash and Woody Hayes  
Celebrity Classic**

Sunday, June 12 – Monday, June 13

**BIA Parade of Homes**  
June 11–26

**Women's Board Junior  
Golf Classic**  
July 18

**Nationwide Children's  
Hospital Invitational**  
Monday, July 18 – Sunday, July 24

**Dairy Queen Miracle Treat Day**  
August 11

[www.NationwideChildrens.org/Events](http://www.NationwideChildrens.org/Events)



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