

## **Children's Harbor Expands It's Role with Children's Hospital** **By Jim Ray**

Most of us have probably heard the phrase, "I Love a Parade." Well, in December, several of our staff teamed up with some Children's Hospital staff and paraded Big Ben (our mascot) all over Children's Hospital. The occasion was the announcement that the Children's Harbor Family Resource Center, located in the Children's Harbor Family Center at Children's Hospital, is now designated as the official Hospitality Center for all families whose children are receiving medical services.

Prior to this designation, the hospital tried setting up a hospitality area in the hospital lobby for families whose children were being admitted and discharged. When we stepped forward to offer our services and our Center, the Hospital's Volunteer Services department gladly accepted.

Our Family Resource Center, donated by Ben and Luanne Russell, is a one-of-a kind facility. It was designed by families for families. When people tour our facility they say, "This place has everything," and it does because we used the ideas that were given to us by the families. We also used Ben Russell's unique interpretation of their ideas in the design.

When families come, they will enjoy a facility that does not resemble a hospital. It has a nautical flair with curved hallways and uniquely shaped rooms. We anticipate over 20,000 visitors each year, and each one who comes will have the opportunity to enjoy our game areas, educational areas, inside basketball court, hair salon, kitchen and snack area, and many other features.

In addition to all of the above, Children's Harbor continues to offer counseling, social service support, financial assistance and educational support to families who are served by the Hematology/Oncology, Nephrology (kidney), and Pulmonary departments.

Children's Harbor's mission is to provide services that will uplift and strengthen families who have a seriously ill child. We are not trying to save the world, but we are making life a little easier for a number of families who are having tough times.

Thanks to all who make our services possible.

