

Dollars at Work

BraveCubs

By Carolyn Kimmel

As the minutes ticked closer to his surgery, 11-year-old Tymere Patterson got more and more anxious — which made his parents more and more anxious — until suddenly Sleeping Beauty, Belle and Elsa swept into his room in all their princess glory.

“The timing was perfect,” said Tymere’s mother, Tara Patterson, who with husband Terry Patterson was trying to ease her son’s fear before surgery for an inguinal hernia at Penn State Children’s Hospital. “I don’t think it really hit him about what was going to happen until we were actually in that room, and then he was very nervous — until the princesses showed up.”

The distraction of their visit — even though they were princesses and not Superman — was enough to put a smile on Tymere’s face and help him forget about the butterflies in his stomach.

“They really lightened the mood for all of us,” his mother said. “As a parent, you never want to see your child in the hospital, much less upset about being there. After the princesses left, we were still laughing, and Tymere didn’t talk about being nervous anymore.”

The princesses were actually Penn State College of Medicine students who volunteer with BraveCubs, an organization that brings well-loved characters to life for young patients at the Children’s Hospital. The name honors the bravery of the pediatric patients and is also a nod to the Penn State Nittany Lion. Brave Cubs is sponsored by Division of Urology at Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center and donations to Children’s Miracle Network.



From left, Molly Carney as Belle, Maddie Goss as Sleeping Beauty and Elizabeth Profeta as Elsa, share a laugh with 11-year-old Tymere Patterson of Harrisburg.

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