



Midnight in Milwaukee

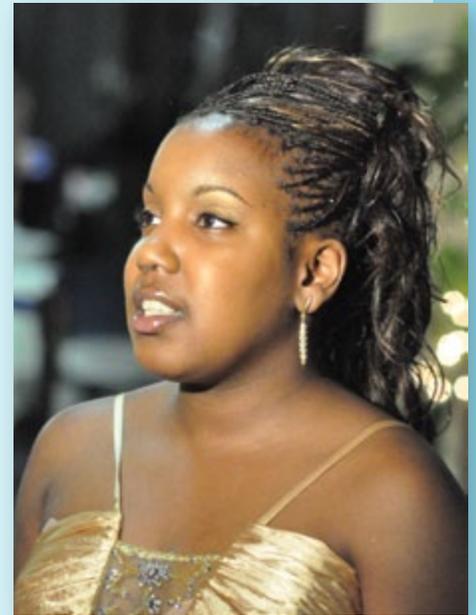
High school prom – three small words that have a big impact on teens. For many, prom is the social pinnacle of their high school career. Memories of the event last a lifetime.

As senior LaHelen Baldwin was getting ready for her prom, she suffered a stroke and was taken to Children's Hospital of Wisconsin where she spent the next three days recovering. She was sad she missed her prom.

"For many young people, the prom is a defining, coming-of-age event," said Maggie Butterfield, director, Patient Amenities and Family Services. "In addition to providing our patients with exceptional care, we want to provide them with many of the same experiences other teens their age often take for granted."

Staff at Children's Hospital committed to hosting a prom for teen patients and families. Butterfield said, "It's one small way we can add some normalcy to our patients' lives." A volunteer crew of stylists treated patients to manicures, hair and make-up. Formal wear was donated by a community member.

"When I heard Children's Hospital was having a prom, I was really excited," said Baldwin. "It meant a lot to me because I never got a chance to go to my high school prom."



LaHelen Baldwin



On June 5, 2010, the hospital cafeteria was transformed into "[Midnight in Milwaukee](#)," the hospital's first-ever prom. Music, food, decorations, laughter and a lot of dancing was the scene.

The prom was made possible thanks to the hospital employees and community volunteers who donated their time and resources to plan and host the event. Children's Hospital's Teen Advisory Council, current or former patients ages 14 to 18, also helped employees coordinate and plan the prom. They painted a "Midnight in Milwaukee" skyline on the cafeteria walls and helped decorate for the special evening. Many community partners also helped make the night extra special.

“It was fun!” said Baldwin. “I got to bring my own date and we met a lot of new people. The food was good and we had fun dancing with everyone. The DJ played songs we wanted to hear.”

The event was so successful that plans are under way to host another prom for current and former patients.

- Thirty-eight teens participated in Children’s Hospital’s prom.
- Children’s Hospital’s Teen Advisory Council members decorated for the prom, including painting the Midnight in Milwaukee skyline on the cafeteria walls.
- Seventeen hospital staff volunteers, and a volunteer photographer and videographer from Mortenson Photography, worked the event.
- Studio 890 salon staff members styled hair and gave manicures to the girls attending, and even some patients who were not able to attend.
- Prom now is an annual event.

