



# PEDIATRIC TRAUMA

First and Only Center in the State

*High school football player Christopher Kline, of East Windsor, was tackled while catching a pass at practice. As he hit the ground, his elbow jammed into his abdomen, resulting in a potentially serious spleen injury.*

*Shown: High school athlete Christopher Kline has returned to the field after suffering a ruptured spleen, thanks to the state's only Pediatric Trauma Center at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, and the coordinated care of the Robert Wood Johnson Health System.*

## THE LEVEL I TRAUMA CENTER'S AMAZING SAVES PICNIC



### Honoring Pediatric Trauma Patient Jenna Delacruz

Sunday, June 2, 2013

12 to 5 p.m.

Black Bear Lake Country Club  
457 Stage Coach Road  
Millstone Township, NJ

To register, call 1-888-MD-RWJUH.

Adults: \$20

Children 3 to 11 years of age: \$10

Admission includes a buffet lunch, snacks, laser tag, rides, a rock climbing wall, water sports, paddle boats, mini golf and more!

Registration required.  
1-888-MD-RWJUH  
[www.rwjtrauma.org/amazingsave](http://www.rwjtrauma.org/amazingsave)

"When it happened, I thought I just got the wind knocked out of me," says Kline, who was a freshman wide receiver at the time. "I was off balance when I fell, the ball was in my left arm, and when that arm came down, my elbow went right into my side."

Kline reported the injury to his coach, who had him sit out for a few minutes. The pain persisted and Kline had trouble breathing, so he saw the team trainer, who quickly determined that Kline should seek medical attention.

Tim Kline picked his son up and drove him to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJ) Hamilton. In the Emergency Department, Diane Albala, Nurse Practitioner assessed Kline in triage. She noted his intense discomfort and ordered a CAT scan right away.

"It showed a lacerated spleen, which can be very serious," recalls Dale Goode, MD, an emergency medicine physician at RWJ Hamilton. "Someone with a ruptured spleen can lose a lot of blood in the abdomen, or there can be a delayed or further rupture later on. If you have enough blood loss, the body can go into shock."

The scan also revealed a lumbar fracture in his spine, which Kline attributes to a football injury he sustained during a game the week before this incident.

Kline was then transferred to The Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital (BMSCH)

at RWJ. RWJ is the first and only hospital in New Jersey to be designated a Pediatric Trauma Center by the American College of Surgeons (ACS).

"From our advanced and specialized transport of pediatric patients from referring facilities all over the state, to the trauma bay and Pediatric Emergency Department, along with the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), trauma floor and pediatric rehabilitation, we see to it that children who are injured get the best possible care from start to finish," says Adam M. Shiroff, MD FACS, Assistant Professor of Surgery at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Trauma Program Director at RWJ.

Debbie Kline, Chris' mom, was impressed by RWJ Hamilton's swift action and by the pediatric ambulance and team that transported her son to New Brunswick. "I was worried about the extent of his injury, but I was grateful that RWJ took that level of care to make sure he was safe."

At RWJ, Dr. Shiroff determined that surgery to remove the Kline's spleen wouldn't be necessary. "In pediatric patients, every effort is made to preserve the spleen because it serves an immunologic function," he explains. "It helps to prevent infection."

Kline spent two days being monitored at BMSCH. Mrs. Kline commended the hospital's Child Life team, whose members set up video games for her son to make his stay a little more enjoyable and answered

any questions that he, his siblings or his parents had.

The Kline family was also very impressed with the nursing team for its skill and attentiveness. "Everyone was very caring," Mrs. Kline said.

Kline was released with restrictions for several weeks to allow his spleen and his spine to heal. He returned to school the week following his hospital visit and in March he resumed normal activities and play.

"It was one of those things that just happened, but all told, in light of the circumstances, this was a very positive experience," Mrs. Kline says.

Visit [www.bmsch.org/pedstrauma](http://www.bmsch.org/pedstrauma) or call 1-888-MD-RWJUH.



As the state's only Pediatric Trauma Center, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJ) and The Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital at RWJ recently acquired two, brand new, state-of-the-art pediatric ambulances for transport of the state's most seriously ill and injured children made possible by a generous donation from The Auxiliary at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital.