

# Shands For Kids



Spring/Summer 2009, Volume 3

## UF's Tebow, Meyer visit with Kids at Shands



On April 16, the kids at Shands Children's Hospital at the University of Florida welcomed a pair of special visitors – UF quarterback Tim Tebow and UF head football coach Urban Meyer.

Tebow and Meyer went room to room in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and the General Pediatrics Floor. They visited with patients and their families, signed autographs, took pictures and handed out Gator paraphernalia. They capped the visit with an ice cream social for the children.

On April 18 following the Orange and Blue spring football game, Tebow spoke at a benefit dinner and silent auction hosted by UF Student Government and the University Athletic Association to benefit Shands Children's Hospital and Uncle Dick's Home (an orphanage in the Philippines).

"Because I'm a football player, people look up to me," he told those dining. "But if I was just a football player, I wouldn't be successful. It's about making a difference, and you all can. It's taking what you've been blessed with and the little effort to go see a kid and encourage him."

The dinner and a UF Student Government sponsored Powder Puff Football tournament met the fundraising goal. Meyer said he was so moved by the initiative and his April 16 visit that he came back for a second visit to Shands Children's Hospital on April 29.

"To me, these are the real heroes," Meyer said. "It's an inspiration to be around these children. I want to bring some more of our players in here this summer to visit these kids."



UF quarterback Tim Tebow signs a poster from one champ to another who's undergoing cancer treatments, Chris Epifanio on April 16.



UF football coach Urban Meyer visited with Gracyn DenBesten and her mother, Robin, on April 29.



### INSIDE Highlights

Shands Children's Hospital...2 Events

Children's Miracle Network...3-6 Annual Report 2008

Calendar of Events .....7

Shands Children's Surgical ....7 Center Opening

This is a periodic publication produced and funded by the Office of Development at Shands HealthCare. The purpose of this publication is to inform our readers of the latest developments, improvements and advances at Shands Children's Hospital and Children's Miracle Network. For further information, please call 352-265-7237 or 1-800-284-6472. Or check out our Web site at [www.shandskids.org](http://www.shandskids.org).

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