

AMY (Jahn) HELVIE

A Team Player: Amy Helvie's Role in Helping Children

Graduate: Class of 1995 Occupation: Pediatric Clinical Pharmacist
By Taylor Heilers, Spring, 2010

Teamwork: work completed by several associates with each doing a part and all contributing to the efficiency of the whole. Working with an extensive team of medical experts makes up a significant portion of Amy Helvie's typical morning schedule. As a pediatric clinical pharmacist at the Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, Amy works with a plethora of people on an everyday basis to provide patients with the best care possible. Amy's high school years and teenage experiences taught her many lessons she has carried into her professional and adult life today.

In 1995, Amy (Jahn) Helvie became a graduate of Forest Park Jr.-Sr. High School. During her high school years, she developed many close friendships and participated actively within extracurricular groups; basketball, track, and drill corps formed unforgettable high school memories and introduced her to some of her lifelong friends. Because of these activities, Amy learned the importance of teamwork. This lesson has played a prominent role in her life because as a pharmacist in a prestigious hospital, she collaborates with a team of doctors and specialists every day.

After high school graduation, Amy attended Purdue University to receive a bachelor of science in pharmacy. To satisfy her interest of working within the health field, Amy chose to study pharmacy. Amy's oldest brother, a previous graduate of Purdue, encouraged her to seize the challenge of this field of study. With her bachelor of science degree completed, Amy worked full time but also simultaneously studied to achieve her doctor of pharmacy degree. With both of these degrees and a pediatric pharmacy residency, she became a pediatric clinical pharmacist-giving her the opportunity to work with and to help cure children. For the past three years, Amy has worked at Riley as a clinical pharmacist for the hematology/oncology and stem cell transplant department. Here, she joins forces with a dynamic team: physicians, nurses, a dietician, a social worker, and a discharge coordinator who together decide the most effective treatment and solution for each patient. Amy's primary tasks include providing and monitoring patients' medications, finding cost-effective medication, and improving patients' quality of life. Even though some of her patients do not receive their happy ending, Amy still enjoys knowing that she has made a difference and impacted many patients' lives.

Although Amy's occupation involves serious and professional work, she still loves her free time and relaxation. Amy resides in Noblesville, Indiana, and her family consists of Scott, her husband of nine years, and Jack, her eleven-month-old son. When not busy with work, Amy spends lazy weekends with her son and husband watching the Indianapolis Colts-her favorite team. Since Amy and her family live in Noblesville, she attempts to find numerous opportunities to come home to southern Indiana to visit her family. Since graduating from Forest Park, Amy has also kept in close touch with her high school friends and communicates with them weekly in her spare time.

Amy encourages students who possess an interest in pharmacy to explore opportunities while still in high school and college to find a pharmaceutical career that best suits their personalities and interests. In order to reach your potential, Amy's words of advice simply state, "As with anything in life, don't let anything or anyone stand in the way of achieving your goals. If you work hard and are willing to make sacrifices, anything is possible!"