



**Nicklaus  
Children's  
Hospital**

**MIAMI BEACH**

**\*\*\*Media Advisory\*\*\***

**CHILDREN WITH SPECIALIZED NEEDS SPEND CAREFREE DAY ON MIAMI BEACH**

*Dr. Moises Simpson Ventilation Assisted Children's Center Camp (VACC Camp) provides dozens of children and their families a week of family fun in South Florida*



**WHAT:**

Dozens of children who are ventilator-dependent (children who need tracheostomy ventilators, C-Pap, BiPap or oxygen to support breathing) and their families will enjoy a stress-free day on Miami Beach as part of the Dr. Moises Simpson Ventilation Assisted Children's Center (VACC) Camp. The annual visit to the beach is one of several special activities that create opportunities for recreation and socialization for children who have medical limitations.

Miami Beach Fire Rescue will set up wheelchair paths over the sandy beach for the children. A special "waterproof" wheelchair enables patients to go into the water comfortably. Special hand-held ventilators provide children with the ability to breathe without their devices while in the water.

Dr. Moises Simpson VACC Camp, sponsored by Nicklaus Children's Hospital, is the nation's first week-long camp for ventilation-assisted children and their families. The week-long camp has hosted over 250 families in its 31 years, some of whom have traveled from 27 states and three countries.

The experience is provided at no cost to the families and is supported by generous donations made to Nicklaus Children's Health Foundation via [www.nicklauschildrens.org/vacc](http://www.nicklauschildrens.org/vacc) Please visit [www.vaccamp.com](http://www.vaccamp.com) for more information.

**WHO:**

- Young patients and their families
- Dr. Maria Franco, Pediatric Pulmonologist and Director of VACC Camp
- Miami Beach Fire Rescue
- Medical caregivers from Nicklaus Children's Hospital
- Student volunteers who serve as camp counselors

**WHEN:** **Tuesday, March 27 at 9:30 a.m.**

**WHERE:** Nikki Beach  
1 Ocean Drive  
Miami Beach, FL 33139  
(Members of the media can meet us on the sand at 1<sup>st</sup> street on Miami Beach)

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**About VACC Camp**

In 1986, the first Ventilation Assisted Children's Center Camp took place during the summer and operated in collaboration with SKIP of Florida. Dr. Moises Simpser VACC Camp gives families a fun opportunity to socialize with peers and enjoy activities not readily accessible to technology dependent children. The camp activities promote family growth and development while enhancing individual self-esteem and social skills. Parents have formal and informal opportunities to network among themselves. Overnight campers come from throughout the United States. South Florida families and youngsters from local residential care facilities join in as day campers. For more information about Dr. Moises Simpser VACC Camp, please visit the camp's website at: <http://www.vaccamp.com/>

**About Nicklaus Children's Hospital**

Founded in 1950 by Variety Clubs International, Nicklaus Children's Hospital is South Florida's only licensed specialty hospital exclusively for children, with nearly 800 attending physicians and more than 475 pediatric subspecialists. The 289-bed hospital, known as Miami Children's Hospital from 1983 through 2014, is renowned for excellence in all aspects of pediatric medicine with several specialty programs routinely ranked among the best in the nation in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017-18 by *U.S. News & World Report*. The hospital is also home to the largest pediatric teaching program in the southeastern United States and has been designated an American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Magnet facility, the nursing profession's most prestigious institutional honor. For more information, please visit [www.nicklauschildrens.org](http://www.nicklauschildrens.org).

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