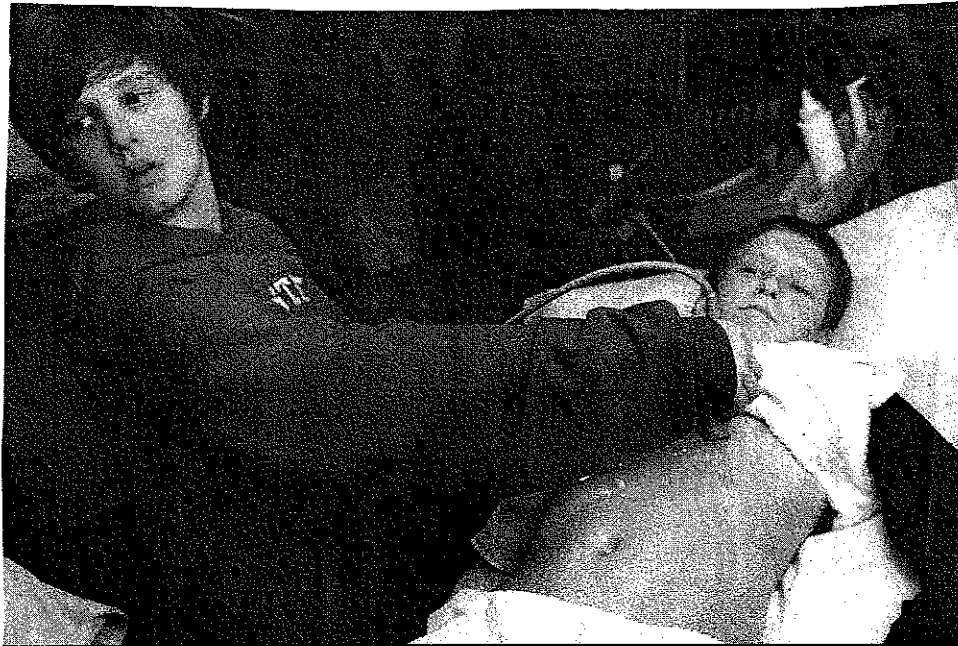


Scouts get inside look at medicine, their own bodies



SNP photo by Jeffrey Konczal

Michael Clausen (left) tries to find Michael Williams' heart with ultrasound equipment during a Wednesday, March 18, tour of the Clinical Skills Education and Assessment Center at the Ohio State University Medical Center. Both 12-year-olds are from Worthington.

By **MATT GERISH**

Suburban News Publications

Local youth groups received a glimpse into a doctor's life during a recent trip to the Ohio State University Medical Center.

Members of Boy Scout Troop 19 of Worthington and youth group members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Powell became doctors in training Wednesday, March 18, at the medical center's Clinical Skills Education and Assessment Center.

The assessment center opened in 2004 as a training center to give Ohio State students a break from books and lectures with simulations of actual patient-care facilities.

"The idea is, it's a safe learning environment, but hopefully it feels real," said Sara Calvey, program manager for the assess-

ment center.

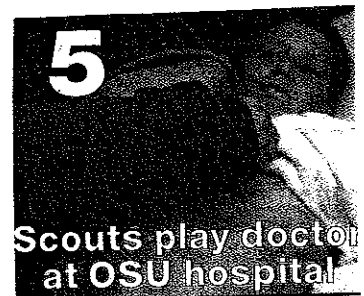
First-year medical student Russell Legg knows the facility well from an ultrasound class he took at the assessment center.

Several church members study at the medical center as students or residents and organized the evening tour for their fellow churchgoers.

The assessment center includes 14 patient encounter rooms, which resemble small examination rooms equipped with two-way mirrors.

Actors participate in mock doctor-patient encounters in the rooms with students while experienced doctors watch and take notes through the mirrors.

Dr. James Clarke, who is in his final year



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of residency at the medical center, gave a tour of the encounter rooms and demonstrated some basic examination skills.

Across the hall, a large room contained virtual reality equipment and "human simulators," or life-sized dummies, to provide instruction on suturing, ECG monitoring, endotracheal intubation, ultrasound endoscopy and other common procedures.

Some of the braver Boy Scouts and church members jumped up on the hospital beds and allowed Clarke and Legg to conduct ultrasounds on their hearts and stomachs - with the results broadcast on flat-screen TVs above the beds.

Calvey helped another group to manipulate a probe through a fake torso in a minimally invasive surgery simulator.

As the probe was moved around in the

stomach of the torso, corresponding images of intestines were displayed on a computer screen above the table.

Calvey said the simulator helps students to develop necessary hand-eye coordination.

Some of the Boy Scouts used the oppor-

tunity to earn merit badges for learning CPR from Boy Scout leader and fourth-year medical student Matt Swenson.

"This was them saying, 'Hey, we can do something cool with where we go to work every day,'" said Theran Selph, who is part of the church's youth leadership.