Red Kite Round Up comes to hospital

In March, NorthShore University HealthSystem (NorthShore) Foundation partnered with Chicago Children’s Theatre to bring performances of the Red Kite Round Up to NorthShore Evanston Hospital.

Red Kite Round Up is a 40-minute, multisensory adventure specifically created for children with autism spectrum disorder.

“More than 200 children and their caregivers attended the performances, where children were encouraged to participate in the show and interact with the specially-trained artists,” said Dr. Michael Caplan, chairman of the department of pediatrics. “It was an honor to host Chicago Children’s Theatre and offer our community this invaluable resource.”

To learn more about NorthShore’s autism support services, call The Access Center at 847-570-2500, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

— This article was written by Leslie Winger of Winger and Associates, a PR firm in Chicago.

Michellete Museum to host Native American poets

A trio of notable Native American poets with upper Midwest roots will read and discuss their work at the Michellete Museum of the American Indian’s first Native American Poetry Night, from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 16, at the museum, located at 3001 Central St., Evanston.

Kimberly Blaeser, Mark LaRoque, and Thirza Dejoe will take part in the Michellete’s observance of National Poetry Month.

Blaeser, a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, grew up on the White Earth Nation Reservation in northern Minnesota. A professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, she worked as a journalist before earning a doctorate from the University of Notre Dame.

Her book “Apprenticed to Justice” is described as a collection of vividly rendered lyrical and narrative poems that trace the complex inheritances of 21st century Native America. Blaeser’s “Trailing You” won the Native Writers’ Circle of the Americas First Book Award.

LaRoque (Ojibwe), a Chicago-based writer who grew up on a Minnesota reservation, counts among his mentors the late, celebrated Chippewa poet and playwright E. Donald Two-Rivers.

LaRoque will read from his poetry and share childhood memories. Audience members say LaRoque offers unique insights into the lives and emotions of Native Americans.

“We can be humans on a spiritual journey, or we can be spirits on a human journey,” LaRoque said. When asked which journey he’s on, he says the latter.

When not pursuing literary interests, LaRoque works in the Chicago office of the nonprofit California Indian Manpower Consortium.

The multi-talented Dejoe (Ojibwe and Onondaga) is a Milwaukee-based writer, singer, instrumentalist, and Native hoop dancer, as well as a stage, film, and voice-over performer. Originally from northern Wisconsin, she learned the art of traditional storytelling and knowledge of the Ojibwe language from her Ojibwe grandmother.

Her poems have appeared in the journals Thorny Locust, Pitkin Review, Woody Guthrie Anthology, and Kahiliwiaks.

She graduated from the California Institute of the Arts in 2004 with a bachelor of fine arts in theater. Her acting credits include the starring role and narrator in the Emmy Award-winning PBS documentary “People of the Forest.” She has had principle roles in several feature films.

Dejoe received the 2007 First American in the Arts Outstanding Performance Award and 2004 First Americans in the Arts Scholarship Award, among other honors.

Admission to Native Poetry Night at the Michellete Museum is $8 for the general public, $5 for Michellete members. The museum is located at 3001 Central St., Evanston.

For more information, call 847-473-1030 or go to michelleteumuseum.org.

— This article was written by Nathan J. Silverman of Nathan J. Silverman Co. Public Relations, an Evanston-based PR firm.