



ST. HILARY PALS REUNITE AS DOCTORS

Dr. Christine Bacha, chief resident at Akron Children's Hospital, still hangs out with her grade school friends. She can't help it. She sees them every day at work.

Five current residents at Children's, including Bacha, are graduates of St. Hilary, a K-8 Catholic school of about 600 students in Fairlawn. Two more St. Hilary alums recently graduated from the hospital's residency program, making a cozy group of seven out of about 60 residents. They are the same vintage, ranging in age from their late 20s to early 30s.

"We all knew each other at school. We were in the same class or had siblings in each other's classes. Our families knew each other," said Bacha."

They all went their separate ways after St. Hilary. Bacha went to Walsh Jesuit High School in Cuyahoga Falls, then on to the University of Notre Dame for college and The University of Toledo for medical school.

But now they find themselves back together. They run into each other in the halls and stop to either joke around or seek each other's opinions.

When Dr. Nicole Shovlin puts on the mantle of chief resident next year, it will be the fourth consecutive year a St. Hilary grad has had the title.

"It tells you a lot about the Akron area that we all came back home," said Bacha. "We're lucky to be able to work at a superb hospital in the hometown we love."