

# Closing the Gap

**Riverview Medical Center** Riverview Medical Center surgical staff put Eric Garza's parents at ease from miles away.



Twelve-year-old Eric Garza has played roller and ice hockey for the past eight years.

WHEN JOLENE GARZA AND HER husband, Eric, of Middletown visited family in Michigan, their son Eric stayed with his aunt.

That Saturday evening, Jolene experienced every parent's nightmare. Jolene received a text from her sister, informing her that Eric had fallen off his bike. He was hurt. It was clear that he had broken his arm.

"It was the most stressful time I've ever experienced," Jolene says. Twelve hours away, the Garzas felt helpless about their son's pain. Fortunately, Eric's aunt turned to the experts at Riverview Medical Center.



**Nader Bakhos, M.D.**  
Board certified in  
Orthopedic Surgery  
Red Bank  
732-741-2313

## Swift Action for a Complex Injury

After arriving at Riverview, the Emergency Department staff wasted no time. **Nader Bakhos, M.D.**, an orthopedic surgeon on staff at Riverview, met with Eric and called for an X-ray.

"Eric sustained an open fracture in his left arm," Dr. Bakhos says. "I could tell he was in a lot of pain, but he was brave through the whole process." As a hockey player, the bumps and bruises Eric has experienced on the ice rink have made him one tough nut to crack.

Despite Eric's composure, Dr. Bakhos knew time was of the essence. "It was a severe fracture. If we didn't act quickly enough, things could easily go from bad to worse." According to Dr. Bakhos, an open fracture is one in which the bone has pierced the skin, which makes the body incredibly vulnerable to infection if left untreated.

## We're There for the Parents, Too

The surgical staff at Riverview talked with Jolene and Eric on the phone to clearly explain the ins and outs of Eric's procedure.

## Join the Fun at Riverview Kids Rock!



Eric's positive experience is a testament to the extensive pediatric emergency care capabilities at Riverview, affiliated with K. Hovnanian Children's Hospital and part of the Meridian Pediatric Network. Learn more about Pediatric Care Center at Riverview by attending the 6th annual Riverview Kids Rock. Check out the fun events we have planned at [RiverviewMedicalCenter.com/KidsRock](http://RiverviewMedicalCenter.com/KidsRock).

The surgeons would work carefully to prevent infection while also restoring proper function to the bones.

"I talked to everyone involved in the surgery," Jolene says. "From the surgeon, to the anesthesiologist, each one took the phone and explained their role in the procedure. They were so professional and calm — it was very comforting to know Eric was in good hands."

Once the surgery was complete, Dr. Bakhos immediately called Eric's parents to inform them that everything had gone just as planned.

After driving the whole night, the Garzas arrived at Riverview early Sunday morning to find Eric back to his old self — with the addition of a cast. Thanks to Dr. Bakhos and the skilled team at Riverview, Eric is back to doing what he loves, whether that's popping wheelies or flicking wrist shots.

by Noah Carpenter