



Shawn Brasher is a seasoned Child Life Specialist with 25 years of experience and knowledge acquired from working clinically in several settings, creating a Child Life department in a new 100-bed children's hospital, and currently directing a team made up of 25 child life specialists, music therapists, and 2 four legged friends at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN.

Shawn has a Bachelor of Science degree in Family Infancy and Early Childhood Education and a Master of Science degree in Family and Child Development, both from Louisiana Tech University.

One of his most proud moments as a director came when he initiated and helped implement St. Jude's first facility dog program, which is now called Paws at Play. This program has expanded outside of the child life program and includes other members of the psychosocial services department including social work, psychology, spiritual care, and the school program. Clinically, he is a primary handler for one of St. Jude's facility dogs, CC. CC is a four-year-old Golden Retriever from Canine Assistants in Alpharetta, GA. She is a certified facility dog specifically trained for the hospital setting. Shawn and CC provide patient/family interventions in the leukemia/lymphoma, transplant, and hematology clinics and inpatient units.

Administratively, he encourages his staff to understand their purpose, find worthwhile work, and see how they are making a difference. His leadership training has allowed him to support the child life staff as they help children and families cope with their medical experience. He has provided presentations at the local and national levels and has been fortunate to join in with his psychosocial colleagues publishing articles and co-authoring a chapter in a child life textbook. He is active in the Association of Child Life Professionals serving on various committees and working groups. He is proud to have been the recipient of the Inaugural Shirley P. Reagan leadership award in 2008 given by the College of Human Ecology at Louisiana Tech University.

Shawn lives in Olive Branch, MS with his wife, Christy and daughter, Bailey.