Naomi Pitts

AGE 14
ANAPLASTIC LARGE CELL LYMPHOMA
CHILDREN'S OF ALABAMA

Volleyball player Naomi knew something was wrong. Despite her usual ability to play hard, the exhaustion the 12-year-old started feeling after games wasn't right. After several inconclusive visits, her doctor recommended she be taken to the emergency room the next time she experienced pain. Within an hour of her next ER visit, Naomi was diagnosed with anaplastic large cell lymphoma.

Treatment for Naomi included injections into her spine—a procedure so painful that she had to be sedated. Most of her discomfort eventually went away, but the body aches did not. Filled with faith and strength from her supporters, Naomi persevered through more than a year of treatment. Her chemo port was removed the week before Christmas 2012.

Since her illness, Naomi hasn't been able to play volleyball but that hasn't stopped her from joining the debate team, playing the piano, volunteering and continuing her love for art.

Alaska

Karen Nickoli

AGE 10
ACUTE LYMPHOBLASTIC LEUKEMIA
THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AT PROVIDENCE

When she's nervous, Karen likes to tickle people. It doesn't matter who—family members, doctors or nurses—when she's stressed, she puts her fingers to work. It's this exact diversion that helped her battle acute lymphoblastic leukemia at 9 years old.

Life took an abrupt turn when Karen and her family received the diagnosis. Far from her Yup'ik Eskimo home in Russian Mission, Karen stayed at a hospitality home in Anchorage for over a year, funded in part by CMN Hospitals. She needed frequent blood and platelet transfusions and oral chemotherapy. Relatives sent subsistence foods like salmon and moose for Karen to eat when treatment made other foods taste bad.

Finally, around Thanksgiving 2012, Karen was in remission. She returned to her small village where she was able to turn her tickling-fingers into caterpillar catchers. She also enjoys fishing, being around animals and—a local favorite in her native Alaska—snow machining.

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

CMN Hospitals help provide child life specialists and programs that keep Karen busy and distracted from treatment as well as certified educators to keep Karen on top of her education.

Solaine Carter

AGE 14
ENCEPHALITIS, TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY
TUCSON MEDICAL CENTER

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

CMN Hospitals funds were used to maintain the pediatric restorative care facility that provided equipment to help Solaine regain muscle strength, coordination and balance.

Solaine was only 3 years old when she developed a rare type of acute inflammation of the brain. Within days, she had lost the ability to move or speak and quickly reverted to the physical abilities of a 1-month-old child.

Times were bleak for Solaine and her family until a glimmer of her strong willpower began to emerge. Armed with a great sense of humor, an incredible staff and the pediatric restorative care facility—paid for, in part, by CMN Hospitals—at Tucson Medical Center, she continued her therapy until she regained most of her cognitive and motor skills.

Nowadays, Solaine keeps busy by playing tennis on her school team, riding her horse in preparation for hunter/jumper competitions and volunteering with the hospital's pediatric therapy program. Although she is permanently classified with a traumatic brain injury, nothing can hold her back.

Arkansas

Leighton Toland

AGE 5
CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT/DOWN SYNDROME
ARKANSAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Nothing slows young Leighton down. Not even heart surgery or Down syndrome, both challenging trials for a child.

Leighton's entrance into the world wasn't an easy one. Born with a congenital heart defect, he received open-heart surgery a mere 12 weeks later due to a terrible episode of respiratory distress. Leighton's unhealthy lungs complicated his heart defect until doctors successfully constructed new parts for his heart and valve system.

Today, Leighton is a lively, active child who loves baseball and playing with his older sister, Blair. He attends annual cardiology check-ups at the hospital and is welcomed by staff who can't get enough of the little boy who radiates happiness everywhere he goes.

Dylan Nims

AGE 6
MAJOR BRAIN TRAUMA AND SKULL FRACTURE/STROKE
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL & RESEARCH CENTER OAKLAND

Dylan aspires to be a racecar driver when he grows up. After surviving a 17-foot fall from a second story bedroom window, he's already used to life in the fast lane.

The accident caused a stroke and left Dylan with a fractured skull. After being flown to the hospital where an emergency craniectomy was performed, Dylan's prognosis was dim: he had to survive 72 critical hours before doctors would discuss survival possibilities with his frightened family.

Several exhausting days later, Dylan was brought out of his coma and showed promising signs of recovery. Additional brain surgery and physical therapy were required to get Dylan back on track. Upon returning to preschool, Dylan was temporarily restricted from the monkey bars, swings and the slide so children took turns playing with him in the sandbox.

Now Dylan is a happy, thriving boy, counting down the days to his first NASCAR race.

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

Unrestricted Children's Miracle Network Hospitals funds helped support the pediatric physical therapists, neurosurgery equipment and physical therapy programs used to help Dylan recover.

Zachary Miller

AGE 13
HEMIPLEGIC CEREBRAL PALSY
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL COLORADO

If you'd told Zachary's parents right after his birth that at 6 years old, he'd be skiing, they might not have believed you. Pediatricians weren't sure what to make of the movement challenges he exhibited the first several months of his life.

The diagnosis of hemiplegic cerebral palsy came after multiple visits to the hospital. Zachary began receiving extensive treatment and therapy for his feeding issues, physical capabilities and seizures. Through meticulous care and medication, Zachary's seizures were controlled, he began working on walking and, by the time he entered grade school, he had joined the Hospital Sports Program.

Today, it's almost impossible to keep up with Zachary. The competitive skier turned snowboarder won the 2012 Wells Fargo Ski Cup National Adaptive Race and was selected to participate on a training team for the International Paralympics. Zachary has overcome his condition and proudly serves as inspiration for others to do the same.

Connecticut

Cameron Greenwood

AGE 16
EWINGS SARCOMA
CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER

Two years. This is how long Cameron was told it could take for him to walk again, following the removal of a tumor. The surgery was successful, and Cameron was relieved that he'd be able to keep his right leg, but the 12-year-old's battle wasn't over.

Prior to his cancer diagnosis, Cameron had his heart set on college sports. But after hearing this news, his future was uncertain. The young athlete made up his mind: he was going to play sports and nothing could get in his way. Two months and multiple rounds of chemotherapy later, he walked on his own. Three months after that, he walked a 5K. Almost a year after his surgery, doctors gave Cameron clearance to play lacrosse and soccer.

Today, Cameron also enjoys hanging out with friends and playing video games. His experiences have made him a fighter and he never backs down to a challenge.

Rinear and Antonia Rae Dougherty

AGE 14, AGE 12
ANAPHYLACTIC FOOD ALLERGIES, ASTHMA
JOHNS HOPKINS CHILDREN'S CENTER

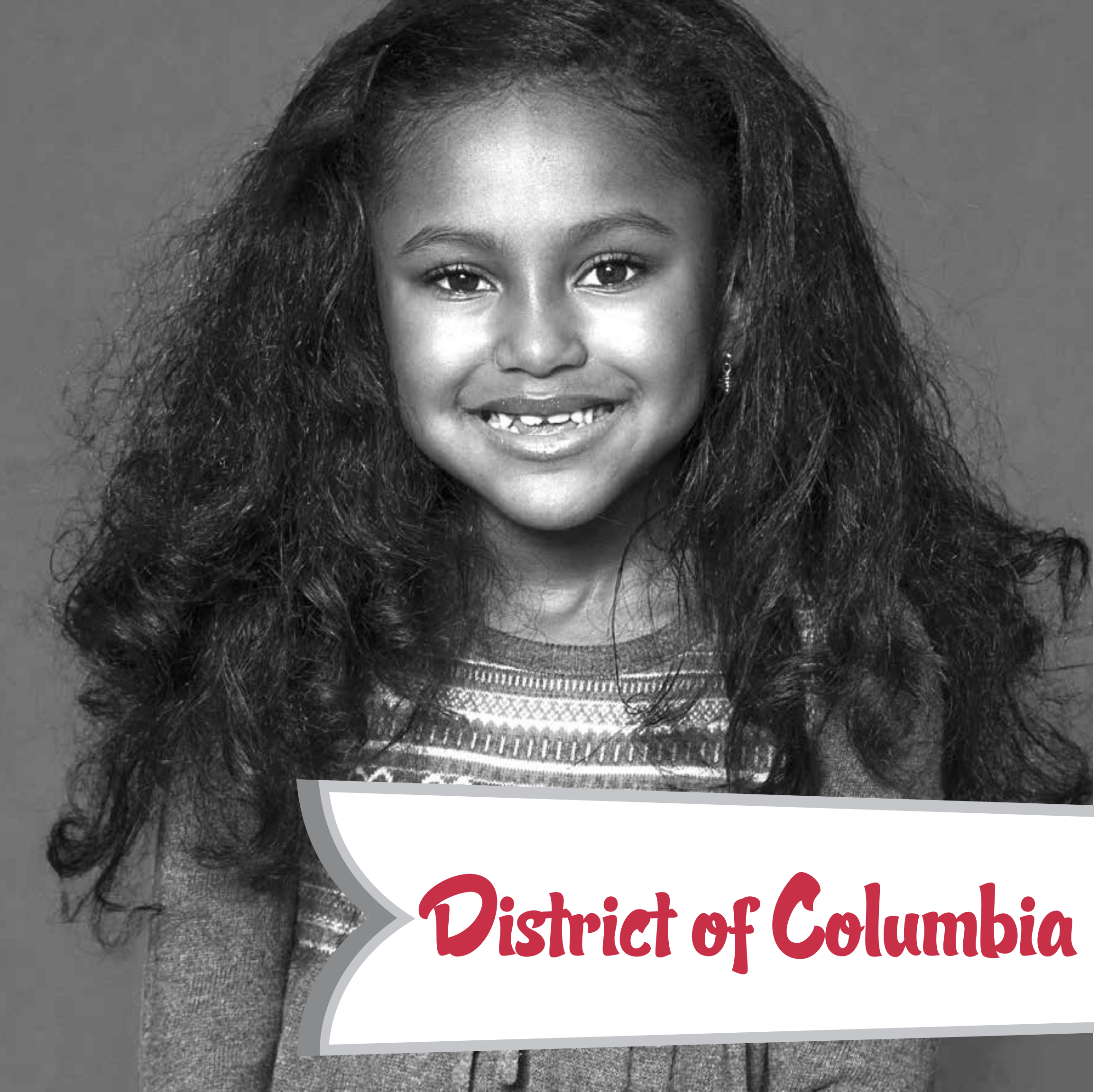
CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

CMN Hospitals dollars help fund toys and activities in the pediatric allergy unit for children like Rinear and Antonia to enjoy during testing and treatment.

While two years separate sisters Rinear and Antonia Rae, little else does—including anaphylactic food allergies and asthma, which both girls have battled. Both girls have outgrown their allergy to milk, but exposure to peanuts, tree nuts and eggs still cause serious allergic reactions that affect Antonia Rae's ability to breathe.

Life with these conditions can be hard. Dinners at friends' houses, birthday parties and eating out all involve extra preparation. Traveling on planes requires advance notice to flight attendants to prevent accidental exposure, and both girls carry inhalers at all times in the event of a surprise asthma attack.

The extra precautions can be frustrating, but facing them with a sister makes them bearable. Rinear and Antonia Rae are both extremely responsible, mature and eager to bring awareness to food allergies and asthma. They have walked in each other's shoes and support each other with an unwavering bond only sisters could share.



Zoie Prandy

AGE 7
STAGE IV WILMS TUMOR
CHILDREN'S NATIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Zoie is known as a rock star among her family and friends. She loves to sing and perform at home. But when she was diagnosed with a tumor at 3 years old, the fun-loving and confident fashionista developed a quiet strength that helped her family through this experience.

The tumor developed in Zoie's left kidney and spread to her lungs and a major vein that carries blood to the heart. Before the kidney could be removed, Zoie had to endure chemotherapy to reduce the size of the tumor. Just over a year later, Zoie completed her treatment and doctors gave her a clean bill of health.

Today, Zoie is back to her old self. She still loves singing, drawing and being a big sister to her two younger siblings. She takes with her the lessons of beating cancer, knowing that she can accomplish whatever she sets her mind on.

Florida

Jack and Luke Edwards

AGES 6
PREMATURE BIRTH/PULMONARY HYPOPLASIA
WOLFSON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

Children's Miracle Network Hospitals funds purchased the premie transporter used to take Jack and Luke to the neonatal intensive care unit immediately after birth.

Jack and Luke entered the world at the same time, but with very different complications. Born at 30 weeks gestation, each weighed little more than two and a half pounds.

Jack wasn't surrounded by amniotic fluid in utero, so his lungs didn't develop normally—a condition called pulmonary hypoplasia. He received blood transfusions, supplemental oxygen and underwent respiratory therapy. Luke's underdeveloped nervous system couldn't regulate his breathing and sometimes he would "forget" to breathe, causing his heart to stop.

Thankfully, Wolfson Children's NICU team worked tirelessly for eight weeks to help the babies make, in one nurse's words, "the most remarkable turnaround ever seen." And Children's Miracle Network Hospitals support played an integral part. Funds provided a premie transporter that took Jack and Luke to the neonatal intensive care unit immediately after birth.

Analytical Jack and fearless Luke are now living the lives all kids deserve—ones full of puzzles, playgrounds, pancakes and Mario Brothers.

Georgia

Emma Taylor

AGE 7
MITOCHONDRIAL DISEASE
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF GEORGIA

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

CMN Hospitals funds provided sleeper chairs so Emma's parents could stay comfortably overnight with her in the PICU. Donations also funded specialized equipment for occupational and physical therapy.

Emma has a special way to announce her arrival, especially when visiting her grandparents. The minute she enters, she yells "Emma's in the house!" That's just one of her latest "Emmaisms." An occupational therapist claims she's going to have T-shirts made with all of Emma's funny sayings.

Emma's sense of humor, bright smile and positive personality overshadow the permanent effects of mitochondrial disease, a progressive disorder with no cure. Early symptoms common for dehydration quickly took a turn for the worse. Now unable to walk or stand on her own, Emma has also lost fine motor skills and experiences muscle weakness and seizures.

Though Emma's diagnosis at age 4 turned her family's world upside down, they say they wouldn't change a thing because it's brought them closer as a family. Instead of getting discouraged with her challenges, Emma just finds her own way of doing things. She loves to dance and shop, but also enjoys hunting with her dad.

Hawaii

Ikaika Ka‘ahanui

AGE 10
MEDICALLY FRAGILE, HEARING LOSS DEAF PLUS
KAPI‘OLANI MEDICAL CENTER FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN

Ikaika (pronounced ee-KY-kah) is Hawaiian for “strong.” Time would tell just how fitting this name would be. Just hours after birth, Ikaika was rushed by ambulance to Kapi‘olani Medical Center for Women & Children. A hole between his trachea and esophagus was identified as the most urgent of several conditions and resulted in the first of a dozen major surgeries.

Within four months, Ikaika needed a tracheotomy tube to aid breathing, a gastronomy tube for eating and two tiny hearing aids. The words “failure to thrive” and “medically fragile” were frightening, but Ikaika proved himself a fighter. Seven years later, the trach tube was removed and he began making significant improvements with eating and talking.

Now thriving in school, Ikaika talks and uses American Sign Language with friends. He visits Kapi‘olani twice a week for speech and feeding therapy. Ikaika is a bright, caring and inquisitive boy who loves dinosaurs, outer space and reading about everything found in the ocean.

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals donations help Ikaika with many services and resources not covered by insurance, including ongoing specialized rehabilitation and therapy programs.

Idaho

Annelise Mason

AGE 13
CYSTIC FIBROSIS
ST. LUKE'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Annelise begins and ends each day like most teenagers. She brushes her teeth, makes her bed and does her homework. But unlike other teens, she has to wear a special vest and inhale medications for 30 minutes twice each day to keep her lungs clear of mucus. Annelise has cystic fibrosis.

Despite her progressive disease and frequent medical treatments, Annelise is determined to live life to the fullest. She is a smart, feisty cheerleader and soccer player who loves to shop, dance and sing. Being active helps keep her body healthy and helps to avoid lengthy stays at St. Luke's Children's Hospital.

Annelise is also a straight "A" student who never misses a beat. During a three-week hospital stay, she took the initiative to get homework from her middle school so she could stay on top of all her studies. Set with big dreams and a determination to beat the odds, Annelise has a bright future ahead of her.

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

CMN Hospitals funds go towards services in multidisciplinary clinics for many specialties, including cystic fibrosis, and helped create a Children's Specialty Center in Annelise's own city.

Illinois

Jordan Planitz

AGE 4
MPPH SYNDROME
ST. JOHN'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

Pediatric rehabilitation at St. John's Children's Hospital is partially funded with Children's Miracle Network Hospitals dollars and has been vital to Jordan's progress.

Jordan's mom doesn't feel angry about his rare illness; she feels honored to be his mother while he's on a short loan from heaven. Just hours after birth, Jordan went into heart failure and was diagnosed with MPPH syndrome, one of only nine cases in the world.

Missing and damaged portions of Jordan's brain have led to numerous effects—most notably seizures, hearing and vision loss, and developmental delays. Pain and suffering are all Jordan's ever known, but he loves life and is always smiling. He even achieved what doctors claimed impossible by learning how to walk and speak.

Knowing each day they have with him is a gift, Jordan's family chooses to focus on the positive and always documents a good "Memory of the Day." Though there is no cure, they find comfort in hope and faith. Having a seriously ill child changed their perspective on life and they feel they are better for knowing and loving him.

Indiana

Braden Tamosaitis

AGE 8
SPINA BIFIDA, HYDROCEPHALUS AND ARNOLD CHIARI II MALFORMATION
RILEY HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY HEALTH

When you meet Braden, you're an instant friend. Not only does this engaging child befriend everyone he encounters, he inspires them.

Braden was born with spina bifida, hydrocephalus and Arnold Chiari II malformation. Just hours after his birth, he went into his first surgery at Riley Hospital for Children. Fifteen more surgeries have followed, with Riley Hospital becoming like a second home to Braden and his family.

During his recent 37-day stay at the hospital, Braden was especially fond of having a beach ball he could bounce around his room. He thought all the kids in the hospital could benefit from having one too, so he teamed up with his family to collect and donate 700 beach balls to the hospital.

That's just one way Braden and his family celebrate and support the hospital they've grown to love. They also participate in a variety of fundraising activities and advisory boards. Braden also enjoys participating in CMN Hospitals Dance Marathons, where he's treated like a local celebrity.

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

CMN Hospitals funds provide significant and broad-based financial support to sustain and expand groundbreaking, life-saving treatment and research, facilities and accessibility for kids like Braden.

Jordyn Gourley

AGE 6
EMBROYNAL RHABDOMYOSARCOMA CANCER
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Jordyn has often been spotted in treatment rooms holding hands with other children having IV lines placed for support. Tender moments like these make you realize Jordyn's battle with embroynal rhabdomyosarcoma cancer has taught her compassion and empathy.

In 2010 doctors discovered a large tumor in Jordyn's left cheek, sinus cavity, around both optic nerves and spreading to her lungs. They immediately began an intense treatment plan. It was both impressive and heart-wrenching that 3-year-old Jordyn could hook up her own feeding tubes, administer her own meds and even inject nightly shots.

The effects from Jordyn's cancer and treatment are substantial—including burn scars from radiation, blindness, hearing loss and a malfunctioning thyroid—but she has an amazing outlook on life. Jordyn has been in complete remission for more than a year and continues to hope for clear scans that will increase the long-term survival rate for her type of cancer.

Kansas

Keith Herd

AGE 7
ATRIOVENTRICULAR SEPTAL DEFECT
ST. FRANCIS HEALTH CENTER

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

CMN Hospitals funds provided Keith's family with special equipment that allows home monitoring of oxygen and blood levels, reducing the duration and frequency of hospital visits.

When kids ask about Keith's medical alert bracelet, he tells them, "It's for my special heart." He wears it to inform responders of his atrioventricular septal defect in case of an emergency.

Keith's parents experienced a normal pregnancy and were surprised to learn their baby had a heart condition and would need a prosthetic valve and a pacemaker before he was 7 months old. Continued procedures and treatments have prevented him from attending public school, but he's progressing in homeschool and growing into an energetic, loving and resilient child.

To reduce the frequency of Keith's hospital visits, St. Francis Health Center used Children's Miracle Network Hospitals funds to provide special equipment that allows home monitoring of Keith's oxygen and blood levels. With all his spare time, Keith loves being a big brother, looks forward to riding a bike and can't wait to start golfing.

Kentucky

Harry Hilton

AGE 4
KAWASAKI DISEASE
KENTUCKY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

When doctors look at scans of Harry's heart, they see no signs that there was ever a bubble in the wall of his arteries. His parents and doctors consider this a miracle, as the small bubble could have once caused baby Harry to have a heart attack.

Harry had Kawasaki disease that went undiagnosed for more than a week until he was referred to Kentucky Children's Hospital for an accurate diagnosis and life-saving treatment. Harry's disease was especially high-risk and resulted in long hospital stays. For months after, his parents were incredibly cautious and feared that he would contract the disease again. Thankfully, their fears have not proven true.

Today Harry is kind, curious and compassionate, with a love of superheroes and music. He will require annual echocardiograms through high school and college, with an occasional angiogram.

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

Children's Miracle Network Hospitals dollars purchased the hospital's Stryker Cub Cribs that Harry slept in while being treated.

Louisiana

Joshua Black

AGE 14
SICKLE CELL ANEMIA
CHRISTUS SUTTON CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER

Joshua draws from extraordinary faith to deal with his lifelong sickle cell anemia. This chronic, oxygen-deficient blood disorder can lead to episodes of intense pain, anemia and organ damage.

Now a teenager, Joshua has yet to go a year without a hospital stay. He has undergone gallbladder removal surgery, received several blood transfusions and has been admitted to the intensive care unit five times. Joshua's an inspiration to all who encounter him. One caregiver marvels at how "he never misses an opportunity to relay his optimism in life."

Whether giving the homeless his allowance or just flashing his brilliant smile, Joshua always provides comfort to others. While his own NFL dreams are on hold, he supports his brother's love of football and is "the best big brother in the world," according to his sister.

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

Children's Miracle Network Hospitals funds were used to purchase multisensory-stimulation equipment that help relieve and distract Joshua during treatments.

Maine

Ashlynn Wescott

AGE 10
PULMONARY ATRESIA WITH VENTRICULAR SEPTAL DEFECT
THE BARBARA BUSH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

CMN Hospitals funds purchased incubators similar to ones that held Ashlynn as a newborn, and also make possible support groups for patients and families living with life-long heart conditions.

Ashlynn's nonstop energy and infectious laugh follow her wherever she goes. If she's not laughing, she's singing—even in the hospital with doctors and nurses. She exudes friendliness and is especially sensitive of other children facing injuries or illness.

Ashlynn was born with pulmonary atresia with ventricular septal defect, meaning blood from the right side of her heart couldn't get to her lungs for oxygen. She had her first open heart surgery at just 2 days old. The new valve wasn't able to grow with her, so Ashlynn had a second open-heart surgery at age 6.

Challenges that would discourage others have given Ashlynn the opportunity to shine. She's been in and out of the hospital her entire life and knows she'll require future surgery on her heart, but Ashlynn takes everything in stride and continues to dream. Singing in her school talent show every year is just the beginning of what she hopes will be a promising career someday.

Maryland

Anthony Pagan

AGE 9
ACUTE LYMPHOBLASTIC LEUKEMIA
JOHNS HOPKINS CHILDREN'S CENTER

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

CMN Hospitals funds support activities like the Big Apple Circus, which sends clowns to cheer up kids like Anthony, and other programs that help patients temporarily 'escape' whatever they are battling.

Anthony's flu-like symptoms didn't warrant great concern until he was too weak to walk up a few steps. A resulting trip to the hospital revealed his parents' worst nightmare: their 3-year-old son had leukemia.

The next three years of chemotherapy treatments included a daily dose of pills, intravenous treatments each month and spine injections every three months. There were plenty of rough days, but Anthony was always optimistic and especially enjoyed the arts and crafts, activities and visiting clowns that cheered him up thanks to Children's Miracle Network Hospitals funds.

In August 2010, Anthony's family received good news; Anthony was pronounced cancer-free and now only returns to the hospital for regular checkups. He was anxious to play all the sports previously off limits to him and today has big plans to become a famous NFL player—until he gets too old to play—at which point he'll be a doctor so he can help other kids beat cancer.

Brooke DiBona

AGE 9
ACUTE LYMPHOBLASTIC LEUKEMIA / BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT
BOSTON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Brooke spent the better part of eight months—and several major holidays—in the hospital. From Halloween to Memorial Day, the hospital staff fully embraced each special event and did their best to bring a sense of normalcy to a very un-normal situation. Still, it was difficult to convince 7-year-old Brooke that Santa would know how to find her at the hospital.

Nearly 95 percent of children diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia go into remission after standard chemotherapy, but Brooke wasn't so fortunate. Following more intense therapy and a bone marrow transplant, Brooke's new immune system began attacking her organs, causing a series of complications and difficult diagnostic tests.

The physical and emotional toll on Brooke and her family was profound, but they found ways to keep their spirits up at even the darkest times. By June 2011, Brooke's wish had finally come true—and just in time. She was in remission and could celebrate her birthday at home.

Greta Betz

AGE 6
EWING'S SARCOMA
HELEN DEVOS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

CMN Hospital funds support programs like the Pediatric Oncology Resource Team, professionals who were dedicated to working closely with Greta and her family during both inpatient and outpatient care.

As a toddler, Greta loved to play pretend. Even during hospital visits, she insisted on reversing roles with her doctors and nurses, playfully checking temperatures, a pulse or lungs after the same was done for her.

It was an extremely aggressive tumor, and one unusual for female toddlers, that forced Greta's frequent hospital stays. Few case studies were available to base a treatment plan on, but 14 rounds of chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant proved successful in reducing her tumor and preventing the spread of cancer.

Greta's fighting spirit helped her through her diagnosis with Ewing's sarcoma. Today, she is happy to be in remission and loves to be active—whether swimming, playing soccer or T-ball or planning the next family camping trip.

Lily and Kaeli Harris

AGES 8 AND 12
CEREBRAL PALSY AND FEMORAL TORSION
GILLETTE CHILDREN'S SPECIALTY HEALTHCARE

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

CMN Hospitals funds allow for a multidisciplinary team of specialists who collaborate to provide comprehensive care and keep pace with growing demand for specialized pediatric expertise.

Kaeli has been little sister Lily's best friend and biggest advocate since day one. Complications in utero left Lily without oxygen, permanently damaging her brain and resulting in a severe form of cerebral palsy that affects her ability to move and speak.

Funds provided by Children's Miracle Network Hospitals help Gillette Children's offer a multidisciplinary approach to care. Lily has truly benefitted from the collaborative effort of a team of specialists. To express her gratitude, Kaeli has raised more than $7,500 for the hospital that continues to help her sister improve.

In an unforeseen turn of events, Kaeli became a Gillette patient herself at age 10. She began tripping frequently and was diagnosed with femoral torsion, meaning her bones twist inward at the hip, causing her feet to point inward. Major corrective surgery is a possibility, but this family has complete confidence in a team they know well.

Mississippi

John Matthew Davis

AGE 9
BLUE RUBBER BLEB NEVUS SYNDROME
BATSON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Most days, it would be hard for people to guess what makes John Matthew different, what prevents him from playing little league baseball or ever trying out for the high school football team. He suffers from blue rubber bleb nevus syndrome, an extremely rare malformation of the veins that affects every organ in his body and causes swelling, intense pain, limited motion and a series of other ongoing issues.

John Matthew has already endured 20 surgeries, 30 blood transfusions and too many hospitalizations and sedations to count. He feels lucky to have a great team of doctors from not one, but two premier Children's Miracle Network Hospitals: Batson Children's Hospital and Children's Hospital Boston.

Despite the discomfort, John Matthew always wears a smile. Even those close to him have difficulty recognizing his "bad days" from his "good days." He believes every day is a miracle and has chooses to live each one to the fullest.

Dustin Reaves

AGE 14
TYPE 1 DIABETES
COXHEALTH

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

Funds from Children's Miracle Network Hospitals provided Dustin with an insulin pump that eliminates painful daily injections and helps prevent complications from type 1 diabetes.

Since Dustin's diagnosis with type 1 diabetes at age 4, he's been fascinated with the human body and medicine. Daily insulin injections and regular doctor appointments have given Dustin a unique insider's view into the medical field and shaped his desire to become a pediatric endocrinologist. Don't let his grand ambitions fool you—he insists he's just a normal teenager.

Dustin loves video games, both for the challenge and the chance to escape frustrations from his chronic condition. Life got a little better when funds from Children's Miracle Network Hospitals provided Dustin an insulin pump that eliminates painful daily injections and helps prevent complications.

Always the grateful patient and son, Dustin recently saved up to treat his mother to a manicure. When they arrived, the salon owner refused to charge them and insisted he donate his money to CMN Hospitals instead. They promptly delivered the gift to CoxHealth along with the story behind it.

Montana

Landen Phillips

AGE 11
OSTEOGENESIS IMPERFECTA AND EHLERS-DANLOS SYNDROME
SHODAIR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

Children's Miracle Network Hospitals dollars help fund Shodair's Medical Genetics Program where Landen was diagnosed.

A broken bone is a common hazard of any active childhood. But with several bones reset by the age of 3, everyone wondered why Landen's hospital visits were so frequent. Eventually, testing at Shodair's Genetics Laboratory revealed two answers: osteogenesis imperfecta, which causes brittle bones, and Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, which results in loose joints and hyper-elastic skin.

Landen's condition is very rare. In fact, he's the only known person to have both diagnoses. Fortunately, doctors predict Landen will live a full, normal life—albeit with some precautions. Protective gear is a must when riding his bike and scooter.

With hopes to become a football player, Landen's certainly planning on a bright future. Recently, he even used a 10-day hospital stay to practice his throw with staff members. Those close to him use the words "bravery" and "strength" to describe some of Landen's best attributes.

Christian Overly

AGE 13
CEREBRAL PALSY
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

CMN Hospitals donations have purchased therapy equipment for the rehabilitation department Christian has used his entire life, and also support the child life department.

A constant smile and positive outlook are two of Christian's signature traits. Born at 27 weeks gestation and with challenges during delivery, he's had a lifelong connection to Children's Hospital & Medical Center. It was there that doctors performed multiple surgeries to address his cerebral palsy, including a high-risk operation in 2007 that proved successful.

Since then, Christian has worked with the same physical therapist at Children's to rebuild muscle strength and improve motor function. Christian and his family benefit from Children's Miracle Network Hospitals funds, which help provide therapy equipment and child life services at his hospital.

Now a teenager, Christian has a long list of interests that keep him busy and smiling. He loves the outdoors, attends camps, and has spent the past six years riding horses and studying dog breeds. Christian looks forward to a future where he can work with animals, get up from his wheelchair and—like any teenager—drive a car.

Sterling Simon

AGE 17
SPINA BIFIDA OCCULTA
ST. ROSE DOMINICAN HOSPITALS

Having learned so much about life before his 18th birthday, it's no wonder Sterling now serves as a teacher. He dedicates free time to conducting a disability awareness course for teens and children, demonstrating day-to-day examples of how life's experienced in a wheelchair.

With his first surgery at 6 months old, Sterling has received at least four procedures at his member CMN Hospital. All have been related to his diagnosis of end stage renal failure and ongoing need for dialysis. With loss of function in both kidneys, Sterling will require a transplant to one day live dialysis-free.

Sterling plans to continue his love of teaching and leadership, with future hopes to educate on the effects of bullying in all forms. Until then, he'll continue on with his trademark "glass half full" perspective, great sense of humor and sincere love of all things Disney.

Alex Anderson

AGE 12
ACUTE LYMPHOBLASTIC LEUKEMIA
THE BARBARA BUSH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

Children's Miracle Network Hospitals funds support the pediatric oncology clinic where Alex was treated.

Hockey isn't just a sport for Alex. He's been on the ice for almost as long as he could walk, honing his puck-throwing skills since age 4. In a strange twist of fate, hockey also proved to be a lifesaver. In 2008, Alex sprained his wrist after a fall on the ice. Spiraling arm pain over the next month led doctors to a leukemia diagnosis.

Alex spent the next three years receiving chemotherapy. It didn't take long for him to befriend the nurses and adjust to a new medical routine. Alex even played hockey all throughout treatment, which kept his body flexible and tendons loose.

As mom attests, Alex's love of hockey is only matched by his love of others—hence, he feels protective of kids going through difficult health challenges. Now in remission, Alex is spending more time on the ice while fervently following his favorite team, the Washington Capitals.

New Jersey

Bryce Patrick

AGE 10
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY
CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

Children's Miracle Network Hospitals helped fund various medical devices used during Bryce's recovery.

Bryce came to know the halls of Children's Specialized Hospital after a year-plus treatment for a developmental disorder. His family couldn't imagine how much they'd rely on the hospital until November 25, 2011, when a reckless SUV driver struck Bryce and dragged him 60 feet.

Bryce's injuries were severe. A crushed skull, broken limbs, spinal damage and a weeklong coma left him fighting for his life. After several surgeries, Bryce returned to his member hospital—this time as a patient in the cognitive rehabilitation program. Working five days each week, Bryce eventually relearned all of his basic skills.

A year ago, Bryce couldn't recognize letters, numbers or even hold a pencil. Now, he's doing long division and writing in cursive. He continues to fight everyday with a winning smile. Bryce's mom is thankful he was able to "find his voice" again and remarks: "He just continues to fight harder and always with a big, captivating smile and bright outlook. He is my own superhero!"

New Mexico

Saray Gonzales

AGE 13
HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA
UNM CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

During treatment, Saray benefited from the Child Life services that provided a fun and safe getaway during treatment. It was all made possible thanks to Children's Miracle Network Hospitals funds.

Saray doesn't expect anyone's sympathy, and she's got plenty of strength and persistence to face her trials. Diagnosed in 2012 with Hodgkin's lymphoma, Saray is determined to beat the tumor she's named "Devlin."

And so far, things are looking up. After six rounds of chemotherapy and 30 days of radiation treatments, Saray is currently in remission, with everyone keeping a close eye on blood counts and committing to a positive outlook. As her family attests, they are united by the hope of an excellent prognosis and have deep faith to weather whatever life tosses their way.

Aside from defeating Devlin, Saray is described as "spunky and sweet," with a love for volleyball, theatre acting and playing piano. She's also single-handedly raised hundreds of dollars for kids in need.

New York

Molly Guarton

AGE 12
ACUTE LYMPHOBLASTIC LEUKEMIA
STEVEN & ALEXANDRA COHEN CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER

Get ready for an earful when you ask Molly about her interests and hobbies. She's a star student who sings in the school choir, loves to read, studies several dance styles, plays piano and basketball, and takes on theatrical lead roles at day camp. Her future goals are just as varied as her weekly schedule.

Described as dedicated, quick-witted and funny, Molly's trademark resiliency was tested early on. At just 2 years old, she was diagnosed with high-risk B lymphoblastic leukemia. She powered through four different types of chemotherapy that spanned two and a half years. The aggressive treatments took an understandable toll, but Molly rebounded to become a girl who never takes a day for granted.

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

Molly benefitted from child life services that provide comfort, support and education during treatment. These services exist thanks in part to donated funds from CMN Hospitals.

North Carolina

Liberty Barnum

AGE 9
SPINAL CORD INJURY
LEVINE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

Children's Miracle Network Hospitals helped fund Libby's helicopter services, respiratory equipment and the rehabilitation floor that enabled Libby to pull through.

Second grade isn't typically thought of as a life-changing time. But a couple weeks into the school year, "Libby" was struck by a car while crossing the street. She was airlifted to Levine Children's Hospital with fractures throughout her body and a long road to recovery ahead.

Once stabilized, occupational and physical therapy helped Libby adapt to her "new normal," and she achieved several recovery milestones once able to sit up. By Thanksgiving her neck and spine were stabilized, she was breathing and eating on her own, and gaining upper body strength with the use of a wheelchair. Wherever she goes, Libby is known for her smile and laugh.

Libby continues to make strides in her recovery and hopes to swim one day soon. As for future aspirations, she's split between becoming a lawyer or a police officer.

Jared Heuer

AGE 9
ACCIDENT TRAUMA
SANFORD CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

Children's Miracle Network Hospitals provide funds to maintain the Child Life program and also purchase specialized life-saving equipment throughout the hospital.

Most of Jared's free time is spent in one place: the great outdoors. From hunting, fishing and four-wheeling to playing baseball and football, Jared's prone to stirring up some dust in his wake. In October 2012, Jared was forced indoors when a serious ATV accident collapsed and severely bruised both of his lungs and broke eight ribs.

After being rushed to Sanford Children's Hospital, Jared was placed on an oscillatory ventilator for the next four days—a crucial piece of equipment purchased with CMN Hospitals funds. With 11 days on ventilators and round-the-clock supervision, Jared began to breathe on his own, allowing his lungs to start repairing themselves.

Following a two-and-a-half week hospital stay, Jared was allowed to return home and is now at the tail end of a full recovery. Besides the traceable scars on his chest, no one would know that Jared's life once hung in the balance.

Ohio

Zion and Zhania Coleman

AGES 12 AND 8
SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND CARDIOMYOPATHY
CINCINNATI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER

This brother-and-sister duo share a love of video games, sweet treats and summer vacations. They're also bonded by a truly unique medical story. Over a period of a few weeks in 2012, they became the first children with sickle cell disease to receive successful and life-saving heart transplants.

Thanks to the expert care and research at the hospital's Heart Institute, Zion and Zhania are doing well and receive checkups and blood transfusions once a month. The hospital staff asserts that many of the life-saving developments and intervention devices wouldn't be possible without donated funds, like those delivered by Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

For all they have in common, Zion and Zhania have some pretty distinct interests. Zhania's noted for being a "girlie girl" with a style all her own and a love of clothes making. Zion's a math and science brain pondering two future careers: a football coach or a heart surgeon.

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

Many of the life-saving developments and intervention devices used to treat Zion and Zhania wouldn't be possible without donated funds, like those delivered by Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

Jonathan Fussell

AGE 17
CONGENITAL HEART DEFECTS AND HEART TRANSPLANTS
THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AT SAINT FRANCIS

Inside Jonathan's large 6-foot, 3-inch frame beats his third heart.

The heart Jonathan was born with didn't work right, and at just 9 months old he had his first heart transplant. Fifteen years later he experienced sudden cardiac arrest, and just four weeks later he received heart number three.

Between his transplants were frequent visits to The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis, where he dealt with a multitude of complications related to his heart condition. He's also been diagnosed with insulin-dependent diabetes and his kidneys have been damaged from the medications he'll have to take for the rest of his life.

It's not been an easy road for Jonathan and his family. But you'd never guess it when you meet this quick-witted, mega-watt smile teenager.

Jonathan's visit to China as a student ambassador this summer is proof to himself and the world that transplant recipients can live full, healthy and productive lives.

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

CMN Hospitals funds help purchase equipment that benefits kids like Tony, and also help cover the cost of care for underinsured families.

Tony Signorelli

AGE 14
DANDY-WALKER SYNDROME AND LIDDLE'S SYNDROME
OHSU DOERNBECHER CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Bacon Boy. That's the nickname Tony earned from his caregivers at OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital. Bacon is Tony's recovery snack of choice after an operation and he's eaten a lot of it—he's had 50 surgeries since he was born.

Tony was born with Dandy-Walker syndrome and Liddle's syndrome, both of which are extremely rare. Dandy-Walker syndrome is a congenital brain malformation that causes intracranial pressure. Liddle's syndrome involves abnormal kidney function when too much sodium is reabsorbed and too much potassium is lost.

Despite 50 surgeries and countless hospital visits, you'll never catch Tony feeling sorry for himself. He's a wonderful example for kids with lifelong illnesses and faces each new challenge with positivity and determination.

Tony also has some unique passions. He's a huge "I Love Lucy" fan and owns almost every season on DVD. He's also designed a pair of bright, crimson red Nike shoes with a sparkly gold swoosh, the proceeds of which benefit Tony's hospital.

Ashlyn Maas

AGE 9
SLEDDING ACCIDENT
JANET WEIS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AT GEISINGER

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

CMN Hospitals provides funds for medical equipment to help doctors treat children like Ashlyn—including monitors, ventilators and medication pumps—as well as items like recliners in patient rooms.

Just one week before Christmas, Ashlyn did what any 5-year-old would do with a snowy day and a hill: go sledding. Unfortunately, Ashlyn's sled veered off-course and she collided with a fallen tree.

A branch—about 6 inches long and the diameter of a dime—punctured her eyelid and lodged in her eye socket. Ashlyn was rushed to her local hospital where a CT scan showed the branch had punctured her brain. With her life now in danger, she was transported by medical helicopter to Janet Weis Children's Hospital at Geisinger for more specialized treatment.

A series of operations on both her brain and her eye began as soon as she arrived. She spent the next 12 hours on a respirator, but soon amazed everyone with her rapid progression and high spirits, despite being temporarily blinded because of the swelling.

Recovery continued to go well and she returned home five days after surgery—just in time to open her presents on Christmas morning.

María Vázquez

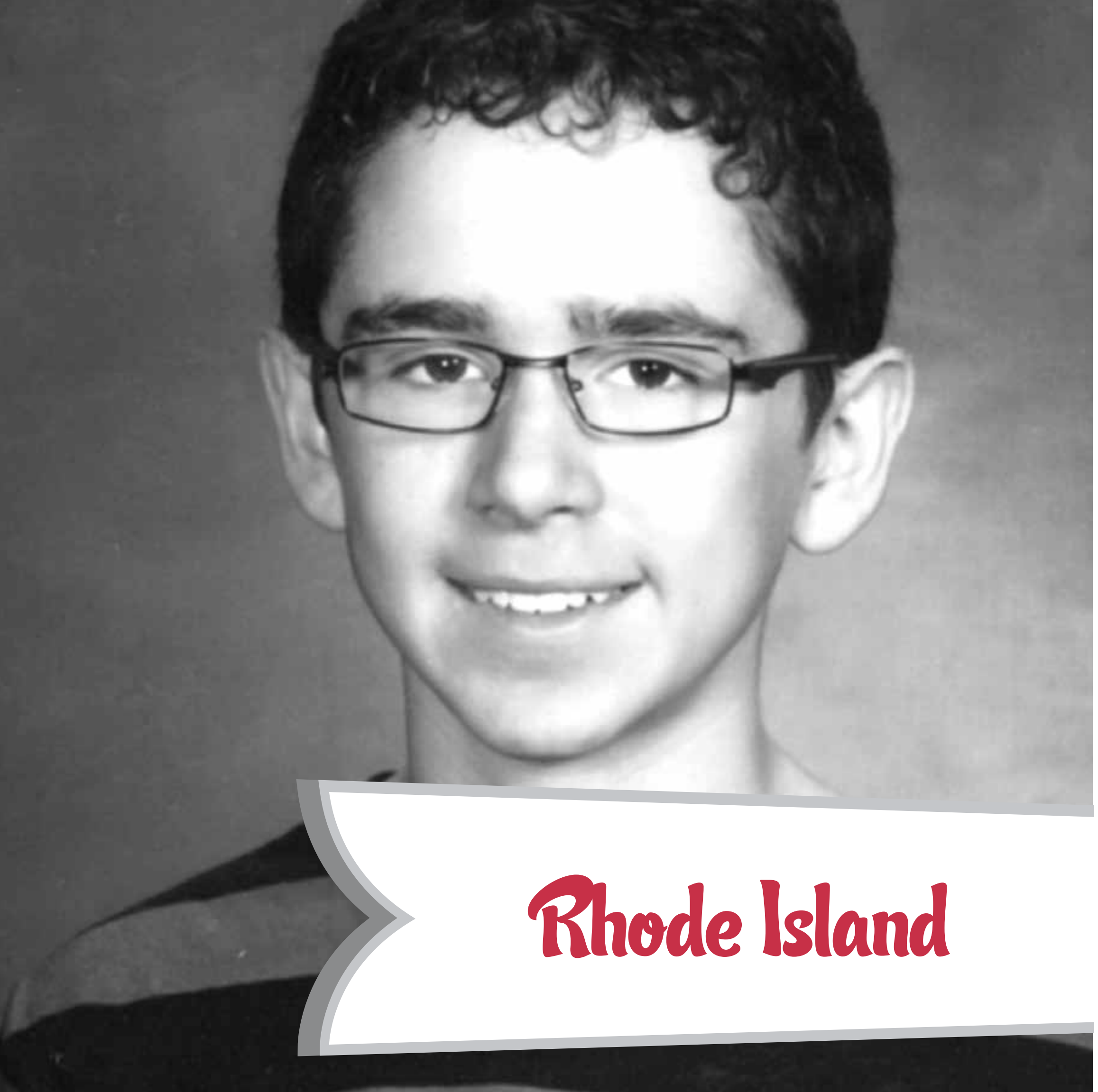
AGE 5
ACUTE LYMPHOBLASTIC LEUKEMIA
SAN JORGE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

It wasn't unusual to find 2-year-old María strolling down her hospital halls in a tutu or dressed as a Disney princess. And to much attention: she's a magnetic spirit with a love of all things pink, glittered and emblazoned with Strawberry Shortcake.

What started out as a routine checkup in 2011 led to concerning lab results and a referral to San Jorge Children's Hospital. It was there that doctors discovered leukemia, and a two-year treatment plan with chemotherapy began immediately. Today, María has a good prognosis to match her passionate smile and the bright life inside her.

Maria's family has been through a lot of challenges, but found help through San Jorge Children's Foundation and their dedicated case analyst. Today, the family serves as mentors and spokespeople for the important work of their hospital. They attest that Maria's health scare has made them an even stronger team.

Rhode Island



Nick Friend

AGE 15
ASTHMA
HASBRO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

Children's Miracle Network Hospitals dollars covered Nick's transportation costs to the Draw A Breath asthma camp.

Though Nick has dealt with chronic asthma since age 5, his participation in Hasbro Children's Hospital's Draw A Breath program has made him a happy—camper, literally. Nick recently attended a special camp program alongside other asthmatic pre-teens, where he learned about proactively managing asthma.

Extensive testing at Hasbro Children's Asthma and Allergy Clinic showed that Nick's asthma presents itself differently than "typical" cases. His attacks start with coughing and tightening of the chest, and can quickly develop into full-on wheezing. These valuable findings led to a tailored and effective asthma action plan. Happily, 2012 was the first year he wasn't at the hospital in between regular annual check-ups.

When he's not taking advanced academic courses, running the Breeze Against Wheeze 5K race or sporting his Kenpo Karate black belt, Nick can be found watching NASCAR and ESPN with his dad.

South Carolina

Morgan Porter

AGE 5
IDIOPATHIC DILATED CARDIOMYOPATHY
MUSC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

CMN Hospitals funds have been used to purchase multiple life-saving machines like the EMCO machine that sustained Morgan. Previously, funds were used help create the department of pediatric cardiology.

Morgan's parents thought she had the stomach flu when they took her to the doctor. They were shocked to learn her organs were shutting down to protect her heart. She was diagnosed with idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy (a failing heart) and her condition degraded quickly with no warning.

After being admitted to MUSC Children's Hospital and initial treatments proved futile, she was put on a heart/lung bypass machine (ECMO). Within hours, doctors determined a heart transplant was her only chance for survival. Until a heart became available (typically a very long wait), Morgan was temporarily put on a Berlin Heart. Unlike ECMO, the Berlin Heart let Morgan eat, walk and breathe on her own.

Soon Morgan was cruising around the hospital charming everyone she encountered. After nearly six months of waiting, "Princess Morgan's" heart finally arrived. By then she'd charmed the entire community, with everyone celebrating this little girl's new opportunity at life.

South Dakota

Owen Salway

AGE 7
PREMATURE BIRTH, PULMONARY VALVE STENOSIS,
ANGELMAN SYNDROME
RAPID CITY REGIONAL HOSPITAL

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

CMN Hospitals funds provide respirators, isolates, monitors and other specialized equipment for premature infants like Owen.

On July 30, 2006, Rapid City Regional Hospital hosted their annual “duck race” to benefit Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals. Little did attendees know the money they were raising would be needed for a baby boy being born that same day, just a few miles away.

Owen arrived 12 weeks premature with a heart valve disorder that disrupted blood flow to his lungs. CMN Hospitals helped fund equipment and tiny instruments designed for premature infants like Owen, as well as a trip to Omaha where, at 2 months old, he underwent a procedure to widen his heart valve. At 5 years old, Owen was diagnosed with Angelman syndrome, a neurogenetic disorder that affects his speech, movement and development.

Against all odds, Owen always has a smile on his face and happily cruises through life in his orange wheelchair. He loves listening to music, laughing and clapping, and brings joy to all who meet him.

Greer Cofield

AGE 6
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY
T.C. THOMPSON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AT ERLANGER

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

The dedicated pediatric CT scanner used to analyze Greer's head injuries was purchased with Children's Miracle Network Hospitals funds, as was her private PICU hospital room.

Following a traumatic brain injury in October 2012, Greer is "back in the saddle." This vibrant and fun-loving force of nature is horseback riding once again, showing no fear of the animal that sent her to her hospital unconscious via emergency helicopter, with a forehead-to-ear laceration and the right side of her face crushed.

Undergoing reconstructive surgery the next day, Greer made a remarkable recovery and was released a mere 10 days later with near-normal abilities to walk, talk and function. Greer's neurosurgeon expects her to make a full recovery within a year. She participates in riding lessons on a weekly basis, wearing a special caged helmet for added safety.

Greer's parents are grateful for the excellent care their daughter received—especially the pediatric intensive care unit, where she was nicknamed "Little Cowgirl."

Texas

Briggs Berry

AGE 17
X-LINKED HYPER IGM SYNDROME
COOK CHILDREN'S

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

CMN Hospitals donations are used for the direct care and treatment of their patients as well as Cook Children's Home Health that Briggs uses regularly.

Ask Briggs how Cook Children's helps him, and he'll tell you they provide his body with an immune system. An unusual gene mutation of T and B cells means that Briggs is prone to a range of life-threatening viral and fungal infections that a normal body would fight off.

And he's experienced some close calls. Two serious infections left Briggs in the hospital for a total of five months. Today, Briggs receives monthly IV treatments that keep his body functioning.

Briggs' time at the hospital goes beyond his needed treatments. He is active on several of his hospital's boards and advisory groups, and currently serves as vice president of his hospital's Youth Advisory Council. When not advocating for sick kids, Briggs can be found at least four times a week on the golf course, and tees off for his high school's varsity team.

Emma Watson

AGE 9
LANGERHANS CELL HISTIOCYTOSIS AND TWO LIVER TRANSPLANTS
PRIMARY CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

CMN Hospitals funds support a 90-year tradition of providing medical care without regard to a patient's ability to pay, as well as pediatric research, equipment, toys, craft supplies and support programs.

Emma's incredibly polite, even when her limits are tested during the toughest of medical challenges. Throughout the first six years of her life, she fought the rare disease Langerhans cell histiocytosis (LCH) and underwent two liver transplants. Yet she never forgot to tell her doctors, nurses and caregivers "thank you" and hasn't stopped since.

Gracious Emma began intense chemotherapy for LCH at just 4 months old. Two years later, her disease went into remission, but her liver didn't fare so well. At age 6, she received a transplant from her father. Due to a rare blood clotting disorder, this transplant and a following did not take. But after a life-saving 10-hour surgery to remove the artery clot and an astounding 20 additional surgeries, Emma returned home.

Today, Emma is looking to the future with big plans to become the first rapper/country music singer.

Victoria Reed

AGE 9
CLEFT LIP AND PALATE
VERMONT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AT FLETCHER ALLEN HEALTH CARE

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

Some Children's Miracle Network Hospitals dollars go towards distraction toys that children like Victoria are able to use during painful treatments.

Victoria's life began as a beautiful baby with a cleft lip and palate, a defect that affects one in 600 children. It rendered her unable to eat and in need of expert care. She received the first of many surgeries at three months old.

At last count, Victoria has undergone 10 surgeries coupled with speech therapy. Her ability to rebound and face challenges head-on is just one trait that makes her so unique.

Victoria is an upbeat, enthusiastic girl with fiery red hair and a fun sense of humor. A favorite at the hospital's "Big Change Roundup" campaign, she is rarely seen without a smile on her face. She loves to dance, sing, play with her brother and give back to her community.

Virginia

Hunter Jarman

AGE 13
EHLERS DANLOS SYNDROME, OCULAR ALBINISM, SCOLIOSIS,
ASTHMA, MITRAL VALVE INSUFFICIENCY
CENTRA LYNCHBURG GENERAL HOSPITAL

Saying “thank you” is a habit some children struggle to adopt. But Hunter has mastered it, along with the ability to take on anything his doctors ask of him, even when he knows pain may ensue.

The quiet and kind teenager has spent more than his fair share of time in hospitals, enduring everything from echo-cardiograms to surgeries for his numerous conditions. Yet he exudes a gentleness and gratitude rarely seen in others his age.

Hunter’s older siblings call him their hero and are in awe of his bravery. His teachers are charmed by his ability to make them laugh. Instead of being angry with the challenges he faces, he is thankful for all who support him. Hunter truly is the “young gentleman” everyone wants to be around, and in his presence, you’d never know he was sick.

Washington

Masin Hawkins

AGE 17
CARDIOMYOPATHY
PROVIDENCE SACRED HEART CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

"Everything is going to be all right," are the words Masin used to assure his family when he was diagnosed with cardiomyopathy at 14 years old. Masin was playing football with friends when he began to feel dizzy. It's the last thing he remembers before a school nurse administered CPR on him and he was whisked away in an ambulance.

After medication failed to stabilize his heart, doctors determined Masin needed a heart transplant. Three long months later, Masin's new heart was in place and, to his family's relief, working fine.

These days, Masin is able to enjoy his favorite activities like dirt bike riding, snowboarding and basketball. He also continues to play video games, which helped him cope during his 98-day stay at Providence Sacred Heart Children's Hospital. And despite being a tough teenager, Masin has a soft spot in his heart for other sick and injured children.

CMN HOSPITALS FUNDS IN ACTION

CMN Hospitals funds helped purchase specialized equipment for the surgical suites and the Child Life Department which Masin benefitted from during his 98-day stay.

West Virginia

Jordan Beland

AGE 13
PULMONARY ATRESIA, HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Jordan has already experienced his share of curveballs. Mere hours after birth he was flown to West Virginia University Children's Hospital because his pulmonary valve wasn't opening, preventing the development of the right ventricle. Immediate heart surgery was necessary and another would follow in a year's time. His parents were told Jordan could have developmental delays and would not likely play sports.

The surgeries were successful and five years later, Jordan started playing baseball, football and basketball. Life was good until Jordan was struck by another medical crisis, this one as scary as the first: a rare form of Hodgkin's lymphoma that would require three months of chemotherapy.

Jordan, then 12 years old, once again put on his game face and began treatment in July 2012. Five months later, a PET scan revealed his cancer was in remission; this year, he's back in cleats.

Wisconsin

Jordan Amble

AGE 5
VEIN OF GALEN MALFORMATION
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF WISCONSIN

Jordan was born with severe heart failure. She was immediately rushed to Children's Hospital of Wisconsin where she spent the first few days of her life in the neonatal intensive care unit.

Soon after, she was diagnosed with vein of Galen malformation, which can cause blood to rush almost directly to the heart, overwhelming it and potentially leading to congestive heart failure. Surgery became inevitable and was scheduled once Jordan weighed 9 pounds.

At 2-and-a-half months old, Jordan endured her first of five brain surgeries. She will need several more, but her family finds solace in knowing that each will be performed at the hospital they now consider a second home.

Today, Jordan is full of energy and loves to be in the spotlight. She enjoys dancing, attends preschool and charms everyone she meets.

Wyoming

Madison Berg

AGE 12
EPILEPSY
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL COLORADO

In many ways, Madison is a typical girl who enjoys roller skating, swimming, riding horses, and being a fantastic big sister. She also lives with epilepsy, which is often a challenge, but has led her to her new calling as an advocate.

Epilepsy can have a variety of symptoms that makes diagnosis a bit of a challenge. Finding information on Madison's nocturnal seizures type wasn't easy, but Children's Hospital Colorado stepped in and provided her with the care and support she and her family needed. Now she is passionate about educating people on epilepsy.

These days Madison can't get enough of life. Her happy-go-lucky spirit makes her a delightful activist, eager to share her story and to help others who are also living with the brain disorder. She even raises money for children to attend a camp for kids with epilepsy.