

50 + Champions
y America led by
Celebrity Champions
[would like a tour]
y W. H., & briefly
meet H. P. C. & P. M.
Could you meet to
discuss this with
Mr. Bunker

April 16, 1996



Ms. Maggie Williams
Chief of Staff, Mrs. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Maggie,

Greetings! I need to bring you up to date on our Champions Across America campaign which has grown beyond our wildest dreams.

I'm sure you remember Daniella Fortuna from Burbank. Mrs. Clinton met her while in California at our CMN affiliate, Children's Hospital Los Angeles. And, upon the invitation of Mrs. Clinton, Daniella recently traveled to Washington to tour the White House. Well, Daniella is headed back to Washington!

She has been selected as the "Champion" to represent the State of California in our Champions Across America campaign. In Washington, D.C. she will join up with 50 other Champions representing every state in the nation and the District of Columbia. I have enclosed a booklet profiling each of these courageous kids.

This group of children will be led by some of our celebrity Champions: San Francisco 49ers Quarterback Steve Young, Olympic Gold Medalist Mary Lou Retton, two-sport legend Bo Jackson, and Duke University Head Basketball Coach Mike Krzyzewski, (Coach "K").

I truly appreciate your continued efforts to help us arrange "Champions" tour(s) of the White House, (current request attached) and to explore the possibility of the kids and celebrities briefly meeting Mrs. Clinton and the President at the conclusion of the tour(s). It would be a wonderful opportunity for the children to have a fulfilling experience similar to that of Daniella. Upon your approval we will arrange media coverage through our PR firm Hill & Knowlton.

Should your schedule permit I would like to meet with you in the very near future to discuss the above. I appreciate your help, thoughts, and suggestions. I will place a personal call to you in the next couple of days.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Max".

Max Burdick
Vice President



CHAMPIONS ACROSS AMERICA
Washington D.C. Itinerary — May 31, 1996

7:00	Breakfast briefing
8:00	Potty break
8:15	Load buses to White House
9:00	Proposed arrival at White House Process group through security
9:30	Proposed White House tour Proposed event with President and Mrs. Clinton
10:45	Potty break
11:00	Load buses to Capitol Hill
11:15	Arrive Capitol Hill Process group through security Lunch with Senators, Representatives (catered by: Au Bon Pain, Mrs. Fields) Speeches, etc. Quick tour of Capitol Hill? Potty break
12:45	Load buses for Arlington National Cemetery
1:00	Arrive Arlington National Ceremony Walk to Tomb of Unknown Soldier
1:30	Ceremony at Tomb of Unknown Soldier (15 minute ceremony) — SET
2:00	Potty break
2:15	Load buses to Lincoln Memorial
2:40	Arrive Lincoln Memorial Event with Abraham Lincoln & George Washington — Distribute copies of Gettysburg Address & Constitution
3:30	Walk to Vietnam Veterans Memorial
3:45	Arrive Vietnam Veterans Memorial Event with Marine Corps Drill Team?
4:15	Potty break
4:30	Load buses to airport

Maggie,
these times are ideal,
however we are flexible.
Thanks!

Max

Champions Across America



In honor of America's real champions.



CHAMPIONS ACROSS AMERICA

We would like to introduce you to some very special people. Their photos and stories appear on the following pages. Each one of them is a champion in every sense of the word based on the opponents they have fought against—and won!

One champion has been selected from every state of the Union and the District of Columbia as a representative of all the children treated at the 160 CMN-participating hospitals throughout North America. These 51 champions will congregate in Washington, D.C., on Friday, May 31 where they will share the message that their lives—and the lives of millions of other children just like them—are better because of Children's Miracle Network and the hospitals, stations, and sponsors who make up that network. This team of champions will then fly to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, where they will launch the annual 21-hour broadcast, also called *CMN Champions*, which airs June 1-2.

As you read the stories of these incredible young champions, you will see that the care they received—and in many cases continue to receive—at CMN-participating hospitals is not limited to a specific disease, injury, or even age. For instance, you will read about Carlena Williams from Philadelphia who received counseling which helped her lead an independent, active life despite her total hearing loss. You will read stories about children with cancer, AIDS, cerebral palsy, arthritis, Downs syndrome, birth defects, and other life-challenging problems. You will rejoice in the successful deliveries of babies treated while still in the womb and in the healthy recoveries of seriously ill and injured children through the age of 18 and beyond. You will get to know children who were the victims of terrible accidents involving automobiles, trains, fires, and even lawn mowers. You will never forget the story of little Kaylin Hoffman who was accidentally run over by the van which had picked her up from preschool. Her injuries were many and severe, including tire tracks imprinted on her tiny chest. Yet, as a result of the professional and caring help she received at a CMN affiliate, she is an active, vibrant 6 year old who takes gymnastic lessons.

The common denominator in all of these stories is the high level of care and concern provided by a CMN-participating hospital. In many instances, the child was initially taken to another facility for treatment; however, in order to receive the degree of help necessary, he or she was transferred to the closest CMN-participating hospital. There are also many stories of children who received care at several CMN-participating hospitals attesting to the network aspect of the CMN name.

We hope you enjoy feeling the tenacity, spirit, courage, and will to live reflected in the photos and stories of each of these champion children. We can guarantee one thing: you'll feel a lot better about life once you spend the time getting to know these Champions Across America.

ALABAMA



► Zachary Woolley

► Age 5

► Birmingham, Alabama

► Children's Hospital of Alabama*

Cedars Sinai Hospital

In December 1995, Zachary Woolley became one of the youngest children in the United States to receive an assist dog. Zachary's new best friend, Shadow, goes everywhere with him — turning on lights, picking up items he drops and literally opening doors for him.

Born 12 weeks premature, Zachary was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and spent the first 11 weeks of his life in the

hospital. When he was 5-months-old, he began receiving physical and occupational therapy at The Children's Hospital of Alabama (TCHA). In addition to his ongoing therapy, Zachary has had numerous surgeries including eye muscle surgeries in 1992 and 1995.

Though Zachary is bound to a wheelchair, he doesn't see any limitations for himself. He loves playing with Shadow, racing in his wheelchair and playing with his trucks and cars. Zachary's cheerful personality and outgoing nature inspires those he meets to never give up.

*Denotes CMN-participating hospital



ALASKA



► Kathryn Petros

► Age 10

► Anchorage, Alaska

► Children's Hospital
Los Angeles*
Children's Hospital
at Providence*

Kathryn Petros' parents became concerned

when a pink-eye infection would not heal on their eight-year-old daughter. Then, when she began to suffer from chronic fatigue and other infections, their concern grew.

Kathryn's physician ordered a routine blood test which showed she was suffering from Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL). Kathryn was sent to Children's Hospital Los Angeles for her initial

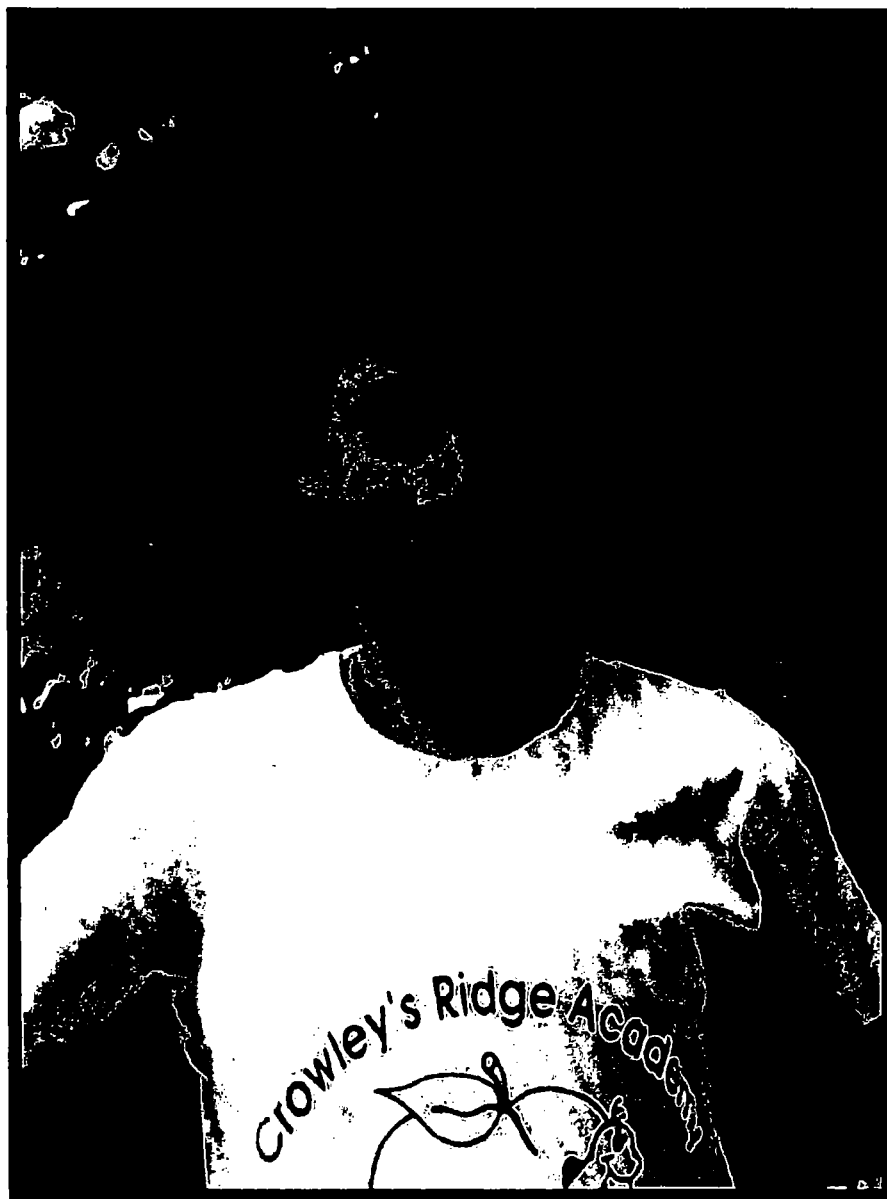
therapy but returned to Children's Hospital at Providence where she went underwent monthly chemotherapy, weekly blood tests, and regular spinal taps.

Now in complete remission, Kathryn is back playing the harp, taking tap dance lessons, and cooking. She regularly makes cookies and other baked goods for her doctors and nurses in the pediatric unit. Kathryn and her parents also actively work to educate other children about leukemia so that they understand, rather than fear, the disease and children who have it.

* Denotes CMN-participating hospital



ARKANSAS



► **William Bradley Coleman**

► **Age 6**

► **Walnut Ridge, Arkansas**

► **Arkansas Children's Hospital***

When William Coleman started kindergarten this year, it was a big day for the Coleman family, who didn't expect their newborn son to leave the hospital. William was only given a 20 percent chance of survival because of complications surrounding his premature birth. But through the use of an ECMO (Extra Corporeal

Membrane Oxygenation) machine at Arkansas Children's Hospital, William's under-developed lungs were allowed to grow at a gentler pace without the stress of having to provide his body with oxygen.

William is now perfectly healthy and happy. He loves riding his bike, playing ball and going to school.

*Denotes CMN-participating hospital



ARIZONA



▶ Erica, Nicole, Danielle and Marc Lindberg

▶ Age 9

▶ Scottsdale, Arizona

▶ Phoenix Children's Hospital*

On April 25, 1986 Erica, Nicole,

Danielle and Marc Lindberg became the first set of quadruplets in the world to be born, having been conceived using a process called low tubal transfer. Born premature, the children were the first set of quadruplets placed in Phoenix Children's Hospital Intensive Care Nursery.

The Lindberg children are now strong, healthy, and actively pursuing their interests in track, soccer and swimming. Marc, who was only one pound and 15 and 1/2 ounces at birth, loves to play basketball with his Dad, who coaches both basketball and soccer. The Lindbergs are all grateful for the specialized treatment received at Phoenix Children's Hospital.

*Denotes CMN-participating hospital



CALIFORNIA



► Daniella Fortuna

► Age 10

► Burbank, California

► Childrens Hospital Los Angeles*

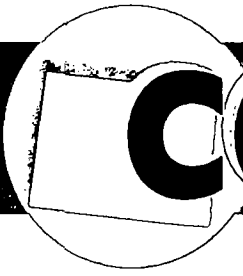
When Daniella Fortuna was born, a large, disfiguring hemangioma covered much of her face. Though most hemangiomas generally disappear over time, Daniella's continued to grow, eventually threatening her vision and breathing. Specialists at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles performed five different reconstructive surgeries on Daniella in order to remove spongy, connective tissue on her face.

While others might consider this challenge a defect, Daniella sees it as an opportunity. She is a happy, bright, extremely active child who loves spending time with her two rabbits and two cats. She loves to wear hats and has an extensive collection of them. She hopes to become an actress some day and spends her Saturdays at an acting class. Daniella recently hosted First Lady Hillary Clinton at a tour of Childrens Hospital Los Angeles. The First Lady was delighted with Daniella's personality and charm.

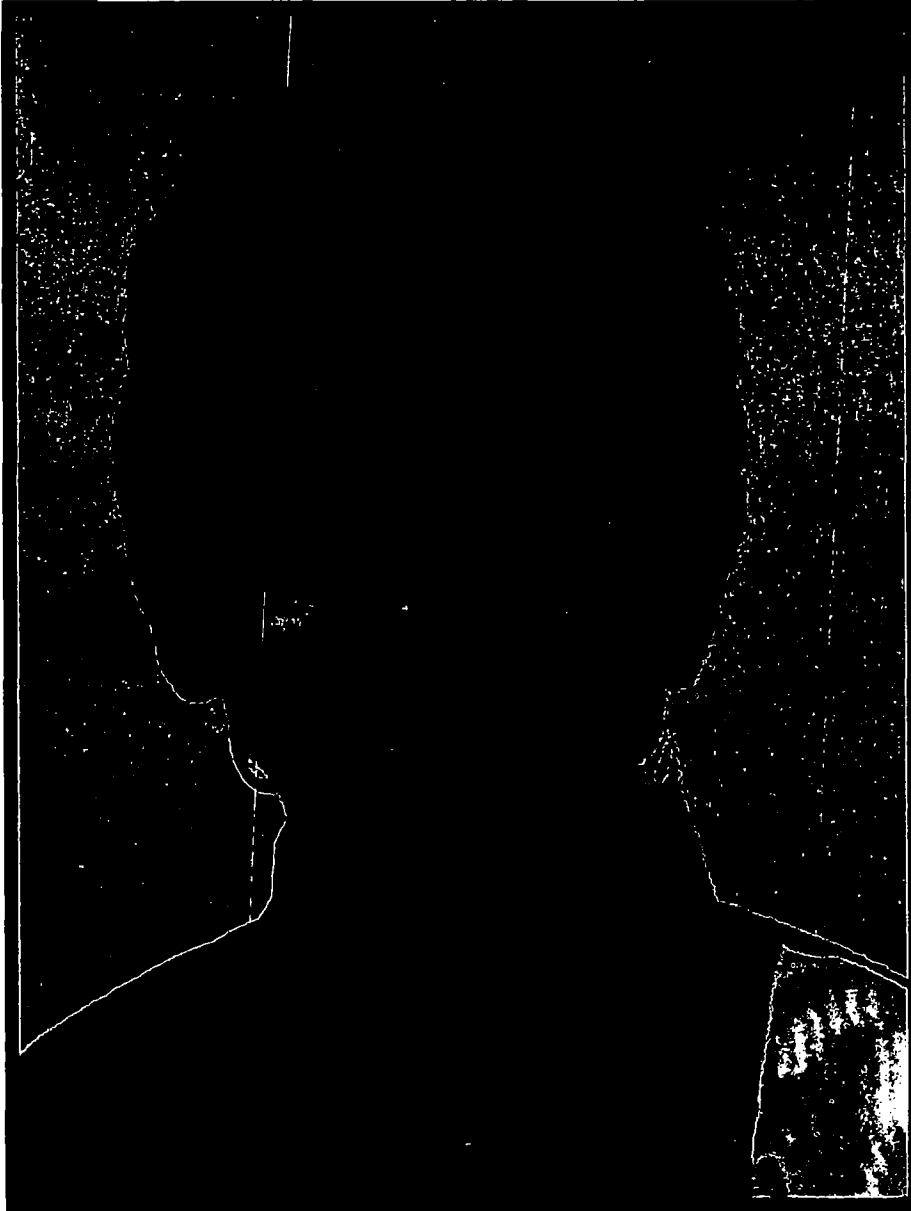
Thanks to the specialized treatment she received at CHLA, Daniella is a healthy child with a bright future.

* Denotes CMN-participating hospital





COLORADO



- ▶ **Antonio Kaufman**
- ▶ **Age 4**
- ▶ **Colorado Springs, Colorado**
- ▶ **National Jewish Center for Immunology and Respiratory Medicine***
- Memorial Hospital**
- Penrose Hospital**

Shortly after Antonio Kaufman's first birthday, his activity level dropped, he refused to walk, and was reluctant to move at all. He was hospitalized six times in six months to determine the problem, but nothing would eliminate his stiffness, cramping and increasing pain. After extensive testing it was

discovered Antonio had systemic juvenile rheumatoid arthritis.

Antonio received immediate treatment at the National Jewish Center for Immunology and Respiratory Medicine including intramuscular injections of several medications with extensive physical and occupational therapy sessions.

Antonio is now without limitations. Though he still continues therapy, he no longer has morning stiffness, joint swelling, rash or fevers. He is a gentle and affectionate child whose charming smile, sparkling eyes, and contagious laugh belie the pain and discomfort he has already suffered.

* Denotes CMN-participating hospital



CONNECTICUT



- ▶ **Jessica Lynne Frey**
- ▶ **Age 8**
- ▶ **Milford, Connecticut**
- ▶ **Connecticut Children's Medical Center***

When Jessica Lynne Frey's parents brought her home from the hospital two-and-a-half months after her birth, they were very unsure what life would have in store for their daughter, who had just been diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Born two months premature and weighing only two pounds and three ounces, Jessica

was forced to fight for her life from its early stages.

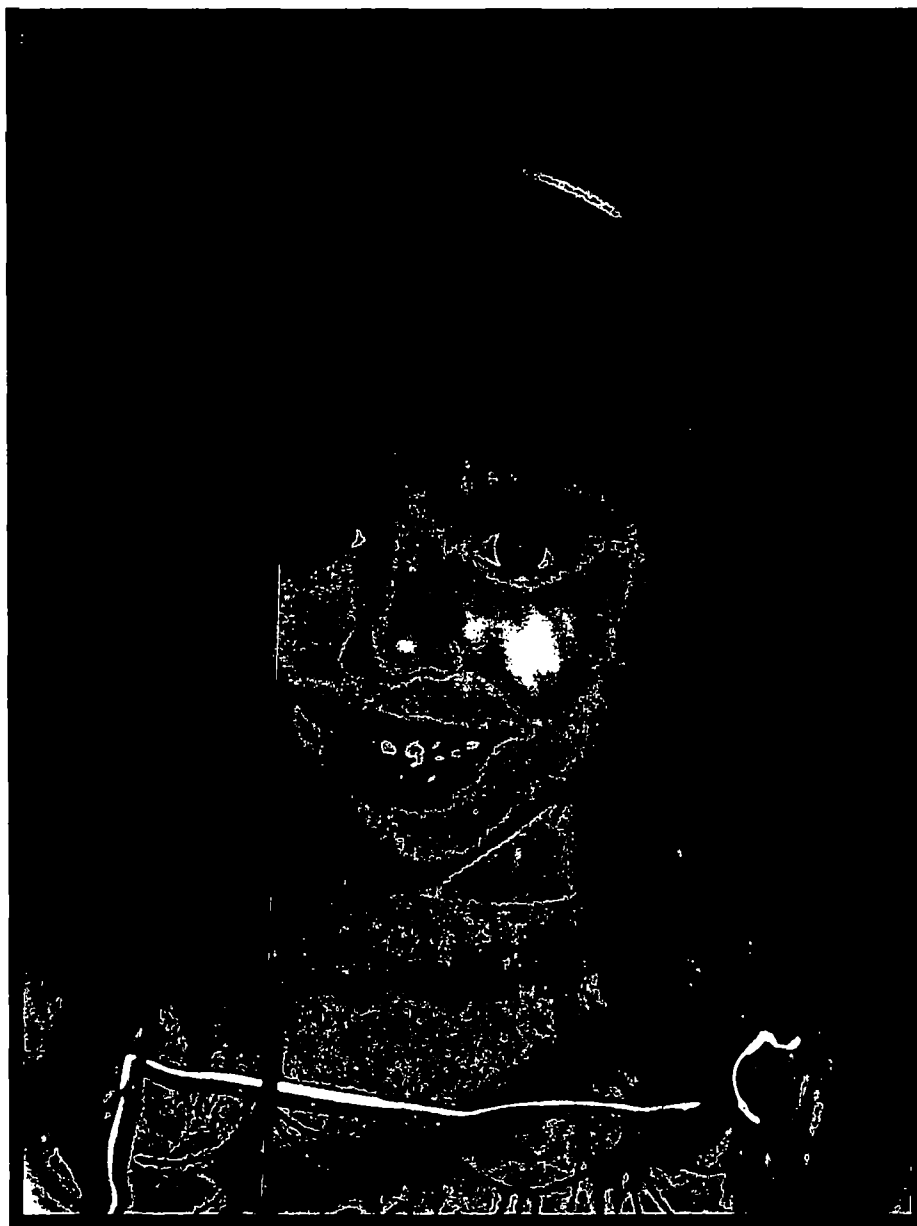
Though most people thought she wouldn't live long enough to leave the hospital, Jessica's determined attitude has allowed her to overcome every challenge she has faced since her birth. She has had rhizotomy surgery at Connecticut Children's Medical Center to relieve the tightness in her legs enabling her to walk. One year later she also had an operation to turn her right hip into place and stretch her hamstrings.

Jessica's cheerful smile and comic sense of humor have helped her triumph over her disabilities. Her disease hasn't stopped her from being a bright and talkative girl who seems to grab a hold onto everyone's heart, showing them that no obstacle in life is too big to overcome.

*Denotes CMN-participating hospital



DELAWARE



- ▶ **Gabrielle Archangelo**
- ▶ **Age 5**
- ▶ **Wilmington, Delaware**
- ▶ **St. Christopher's Hospital for Children***

In March 1991, the Archangelo family received one of the most important phone calls of their life — a call informing them that a liver had become available for their little girl who was in desperate need of one. Born one month premature, initial tests on Gabrielle showed that her liver was not functioning properly. As she grew Gabrielle experienced

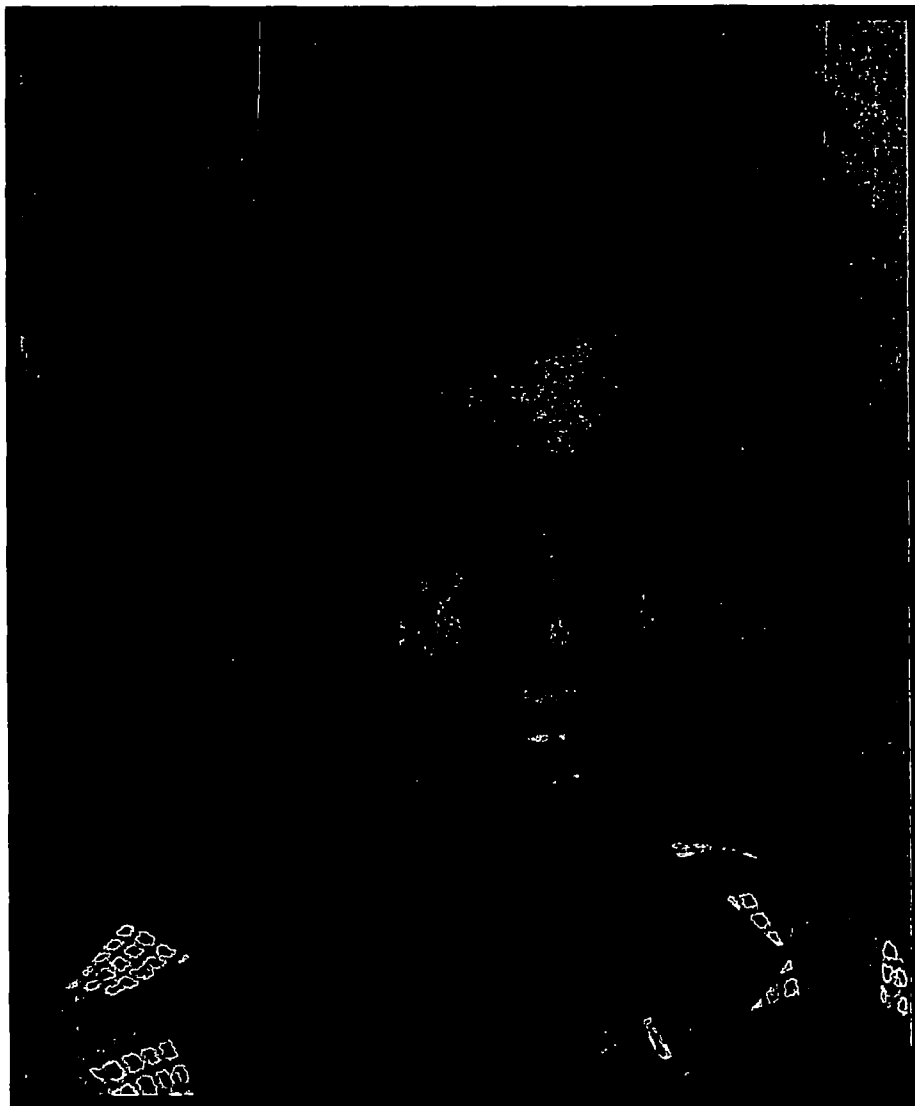
several bouts of liver failure, and doctors at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children determined the only solution was a liver transplant.

After finding a suitable donor, doctors successfully completed the surgery that enabled Gabrielle to begin her road to recovery. Today Gabrielle is healthy and active. She competed in the 1994 National Transplant Games in Atlanta and looks forward to the 1996 Games where she will compete in the bowling and swimming events.

* Denotes CMN-participating hospital



FLORIDA



- ▶ **Matthew Hurt**
- ▶ **Age 10**
- ▶ **Orlando, Florida**
- ▶ **Shands Hospital at the University of Florida*
Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children and Women**

On December 2, 1994, Matthew Hurt was sent home from school with flu-like symptoms. When his condition did not improve, his parents took him to see a doctor. Tests showed that Matthew was suffering from acute bacterial endocarditis — an inflammation of the internal lining of the heart

caused by infection. Matthew was immediately flown to Shands Hospital at the University of Florida in Gainesville where physicians specializing in pediatric cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery began treating him.

When Matthew went into congestive heart failure two days later, doctors immediately performed open heart surgery to replace his aortic valve with a donor valve. Because the heart was so severely damaged Matthew also received a pacemaker.

Despite his medical obstacles, Matthew continues to love life — spelled b-a-s-k-e-t-b-a-l-l. Though he may never help the Orlando Magic make it to the NBA finals, he has already fought the battle of his life and is winning.

*Denotes CMN-participating hospital



GEORGIA



- ▶ **Jamar Joseph**
- ▶ **Age 5**
- ▶ **Atlanta, Georgia**
- ▶ **Scottish Rite Children's Medical Center***

When Jamar Joseph's case of the "flu" continuously worsened, his local pediatrician referred him to Scottish Rite Children's Medical Center where he was diagnosed with Burkitt's lymphoma, an aggressive form of leukemia. By the time the disease was

diagnosed, it had already damaged Jamar's nervous system leaving him unable to walk.

Thanks to an intensive treatment program and the work of a pediatric rehabilitation team, Jamar's leukemia is in remission, and he is again able to run and play with his friends. His contagious smile and endless giggles have won the hearts of all who come in contact with him.

* Denotes CMN-participating hospital



HAWAII

► **Jenai
Kaeo**

► **Age 5**

► **Kailua, Hawaii**

► **Kapiolani Medical
Center for Women &
Children***

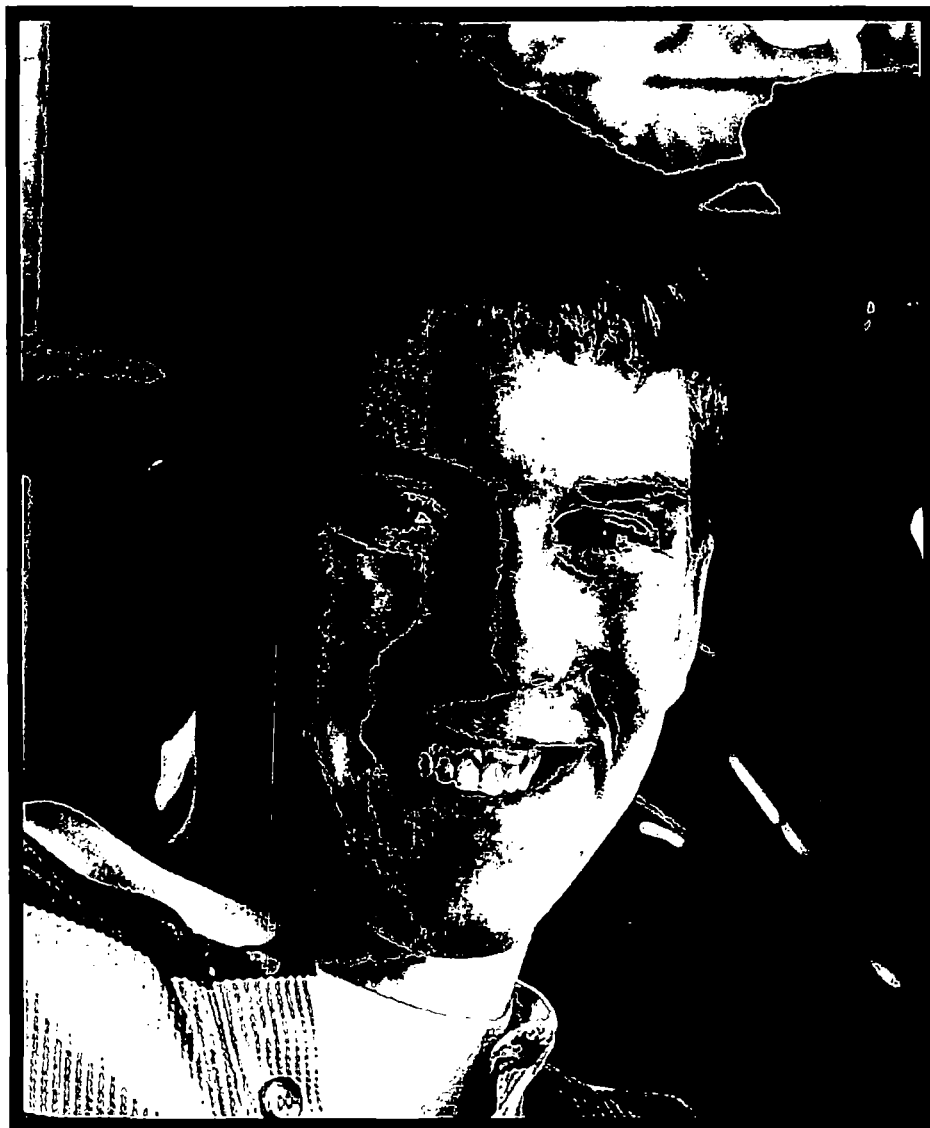
Jenai Kaeo's mother knew something was wrong when her normally energetic daughter began acting very lethargic. Her concern grew when red spots began appearing all over Jenai's body. Jenai was taken to the Kapiolani Medical Center where she was diagnosed with ALL — acute lymphocytic leukemia.

For the next five months, Jenai received chemotherapy and spinal taps frequently. She also underwent major surgery to remove part of her liver and all of her spleen.

Though five-year-old Jenai is now in full remission and no longer needs treatments, she keeps in close contact with other cancer kids from support groups in the community. She has resumed a normal life, doing what she loves most — going to school and watching movies.

* Denotes CMN-participating hospital





- ▶ **Chad McTavisch**
- ▶ **Age 17**
- ▶ **Parma, Idaho**
- ▶ **St. Luke's Regional Medical Center***

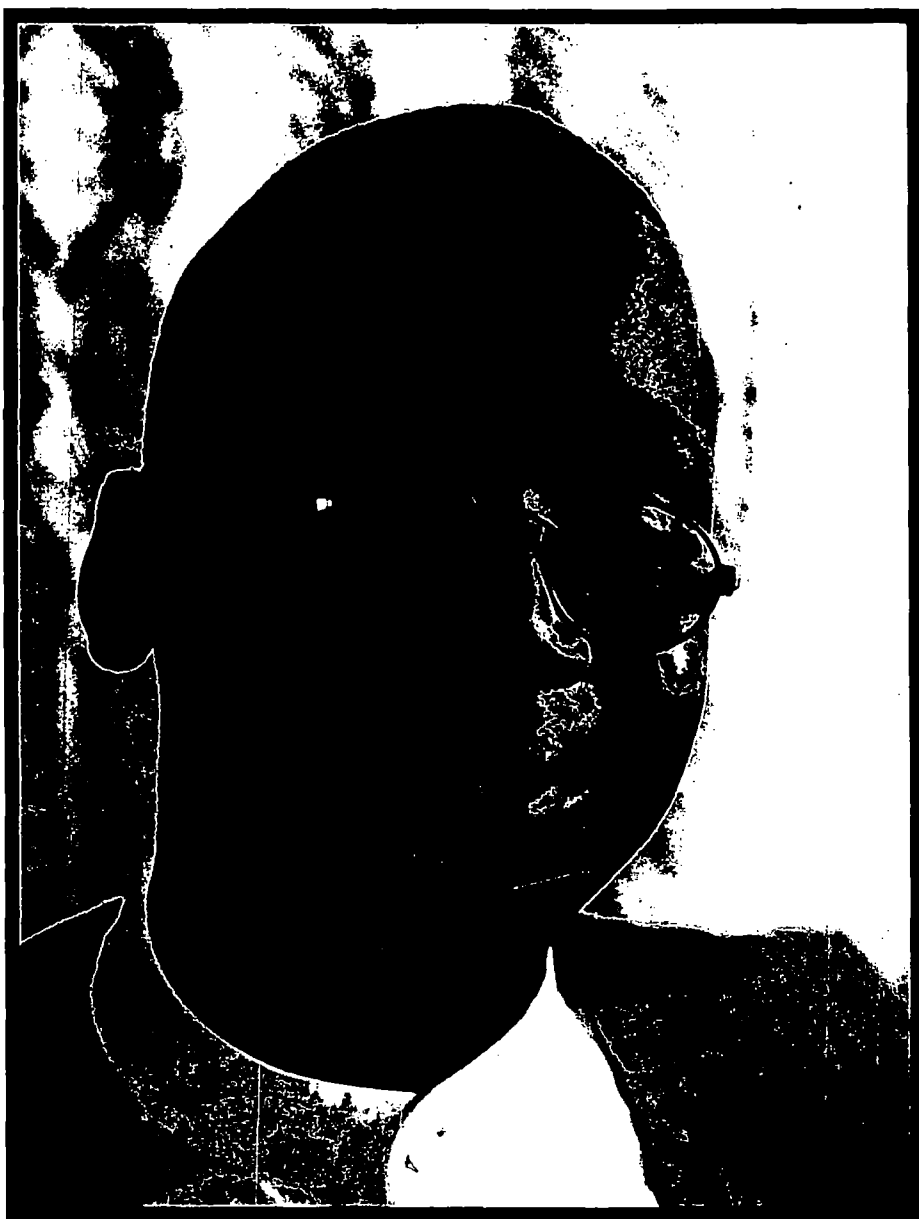
Chad McTavisch was diagnosed with acute non-lymphoblastic leukemia (ADLL) in December 1994, one of the most difficult forms of leukemia to treat. The preferred treatment for ADLL is high-dose chemotherapy and bone marrow transplant, but this treatment was not possible because a suitable donor could not be identified. Therefore, traditional chemotherapy was used to

get control of the cancer. When medical expenses for Chad's treatment became a concern, his friends at Parma High School had an idea for a fund raiser. They recruited teachers and town leaders to agree to have their heads shaved if enough money was raised for Chad, and when the dollars came pouring in from generous neighbors, off came the hair! No one had a better time at the hair-shaving party than Chad, who has a great sense of humor and who loves to tease his doctors and nurses.

Chad is currently in full remission and wasted no time returning to the the tennis, wrestling, basketball and football teams at Parma High. He looks forward to attending college next year to pursue a career in medicine.



ILLINOIS



- ▶ **Jamie Gibson**
- ▶ **Age 15**
- ▶ **Skokie, Illinois**
- ▶ **Children's Memorial Medical Center*
Montefiore Hospital**

Since his birth, Jamie Gibson has been hospitalized more than 100 times for acute pain and severe complications caused by sickle cell disease — an inherited blood disorder named for the abnormal shape of the oxygen-carrying red blood cells.

But last November Jamie entered Children's Memorial Medical

Center in Chicago with renewed hope for an end to his suffering. He underwent a bone marrow transplant to counter the life-threatening disease. Thanks to his sister, Stacey, who provided the perfect bone marrow match, Jamie's surgery was a success. Test results revealed he was cured of sickle cell disease.

Since the surgery, Jamie has had perfect attendance in school with straight A's — a contrast to past years when he would miss an average of 68 days because of his disease.

* Denotes CMN-participating hospital



INDIANA



▶ Alison Paige Whisman

▶ Age 5

▶ Noblesville, Indiana

▶ Riley Hospital for Children*

When Alison Paige Whisman

was four days old, she received the world's first twin-to-twin heart transplant; the donor being her brother, Tyler, who died at birth. Several weeks premature and weighing only four pounds, Paige would have also died had she not received her brother's heart.

Since Paige's initial discharge from Riley

Hospital for Children in May of 1990, she has returned every four to six weeks for routine check-ups. Every year, she has a heart biopsy in the winter, a heart catheterization in the spring, and an echocardiogram in between.

Every day Paige continues to enjoy the gift of life given to her by her brother. She loves playing outdoors, playing with her favorite Barbie doll, and watching Disney movies.

* Denotes CMN-participating hospital





- ▶ **Andrew Yohe**
- ▶ **Age 16**
- ▶ **Bettendorf, Iowa**
- ▶ **University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics*
Genesis Medical Center**

On his way home from school one day in September of 1994, Andy Yohe nearly lost his life in an accident involving a moving freight train.

He was immediately airlifted to the University of Iowa Hospital where he received trauma care to save his life. However Andy's injuries were so extensive that doctors were unable to save his legs. Subsequent surgeries were required to fit Andy for prostheses.

Thanks to a special orthotist who fitted first one leg above the knee and the second below the knee, Andy now walks, roller blades and climbs steps with his "new legs."

Andy continues to enjoy sports like he did before his accident. He has mastered a wheel chair which enables him to play basketball with his friends. When he isn't working on pursuing athletic achievements, he works part-time at a local prosthesis company where he has been offered a part of the business once he completes his education.

*Denotes CMN-participating hospital



KANSAS



► **Andrea Friend**

► **Age 16**

► **Clearwater, Kansas**

► **Via Christi Medical Center***

When 15-year-old Andrea Friend went to the doctor to find out why she was having pain in her left shoulder, she had no idea she would be diagnosed with cancer.

Andrea started chemotherapy treatment immediately. She received

16 treatments of chemotherapy and blood transfusions over an 11-month period.

She is now off treatments and doing well. She has monthly checkups with her doctor and has had no further recurrence. Writing poetry is therapeutic for Andrea. Here's an excerpt from one poem she wrote while recuperating.

16 Going On 104

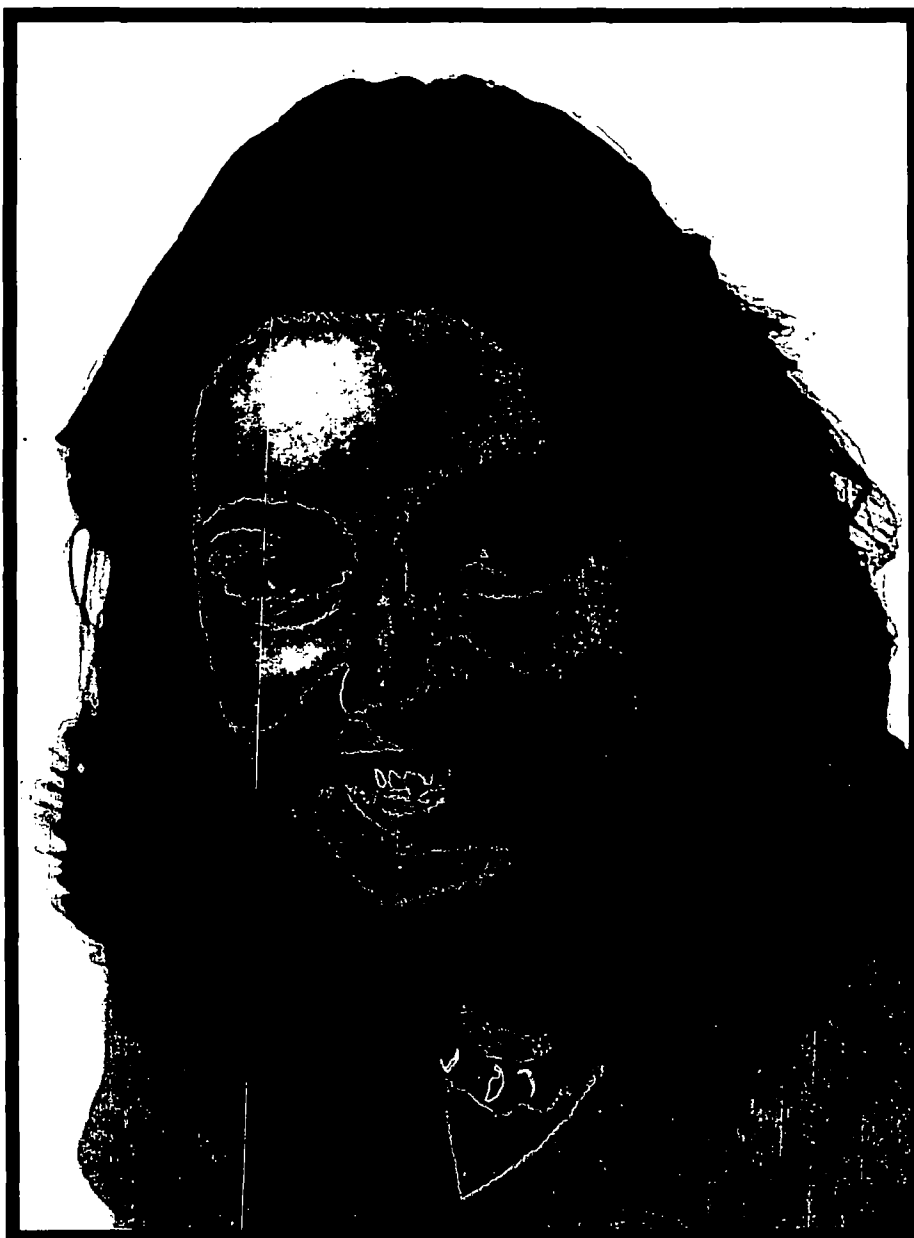
*When I heard the words, I wanted to cry.
My heart fell to my stomach, I wanted to die,
For my life would no longer soar.
I was now 16 going on 104.*

*My mind and my body ached deeply with pain.
I cried out for help, my tears fell like rain.
There were times I thought I could take no more.
I was 16, but felt 104.*

* Denotes CMN-participating hospital



KENTUCKY



- ▶ **Meredith Pritchett**
- ▶ **Age 16**
- ▶ **Lexington, Kentucky**
- ▶ **University of Kentucky Children's Hospital*
Central Baptist Hospital**

Meredith Pritchett was a

healthy, active 14-year old when diagnosed with end stage renal infection, a disease that had irreparably damaged her liver.

After being told a kidney transplant was the only way she could live a normal life, Meredith underwent the

surgery at the University of Kentucky's Children's Hospital — with her mother providing the perfectly matched kidney.

Eight months after the transplant, Meredith is back to living her full and active life. She enjoys her new driver's license, spending time with friends, shopping — but most of all — visiting with other children at the hospital who have kidney disease.

* Denotes CMN-participating hospital



LOUISIANA



- ▶ **Heather LeMay**
- ▶ **Age 5**
- ▶ **New Orleans, Louisiana**
- ▶ **Children's Hospital***

When Heather LeMay was just two-and-a-half years old, she was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis. This disease appears early in childhood and involves a disorder of the lungs and glands causing difficulty with breathing and digestion.

Heather is frequently hospitalized at Children's Hospital to treat various symptoms of her disease.

In September of 1994, a g-

tube was inserted into her stomach allowing her to receive feedings through a pump. Heather is not able to eat very much by mouth and receives the majority of her nutrition through the g-tube, which she calls her "button."

Heather has not let her disease slow her down. As an award-winning artist, her drawings have been selected for use on holiday cards and store promotions in New Orleans. Heather's favorite movie is *The Lion King* and, given the chance, she can recite and sing almost the entire movie to anyone willing to listen.

* Denotes CMN-participating hospital





- ▶ **Arian Haghkardar**
- ▶ **Age 11**
- ▶ **Bangor, Maine**
- ▶ **Eastern Maine Medical Center***
- ▶ **Wisconsin Children's Hospital***

Arian was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL) when just three years old. She was treated at Eastern Maine Medical Center (EMMC) with chemotherapy and went into remission for over three years.

Unfortunately she relapsed in 1991 and was once again treated at EMMC with the more

traditional therapies. Again, she went into remission, but this past July she relapsed for a second time. She needed a bone marrow transplant, but because Arian is of a mixed race, a donor was difficult to find. In order to help locate a proper donor, Arian monitored her own web site on the internet daily trying to locate the best possible match. She received her bone marrow transplant at Wisconsin Children's Hospital and is slowly recovering.

Regardless of Arian's health, she always loves to help other kids at the hospital who are suffering from cancer. She is very loyal to her family, friends, community and care-givers...every one who has made her progress possible.

* Denotes CMN-participating hospital



MARYLAND



- ▶ **Megan Leaf**
- ▶ **Age 15**
- ▶ **Forest Hill, Maryland**
- ▶ **Johns Hopkins Children's Center***

At age three Megan Leaf was diagnosed with a genetic disorder that causes tumors to grow throughout her body. Since her diagnosis, Megan has suffered numerous problems associated with the disease.

As a preschooler, difficulties with her vision led to the discovery of tumors on her optic nerve, which took the sight from her right eye. At 13, doctors

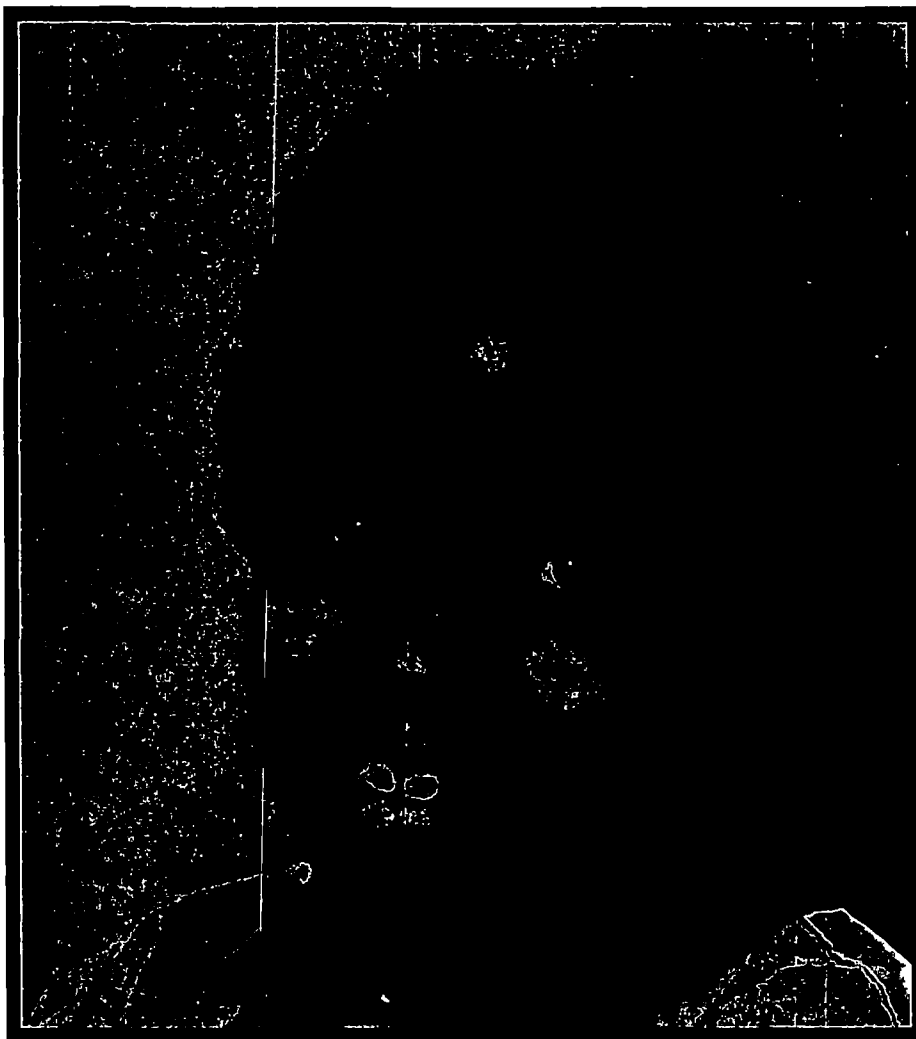
at Johns Hopkins Children's Center found and removed a benign tumor near her brain stem. Because the problems are ongoing, Megan still sees specialists for yearly checkups.

But Megan's own health problems are only half the story. Having experienced lengthy hospital visits herself, Megan set out to brighten the hospital stays of other patients. In 1992 she formed Love Box Limited. Every month she delivers to the children "Love Boxes," containing a stuffed animal, a coloring book, crayons and a toy. Though Megan's intent was certainly not to win recognition, she was given the "Outstanding Volunteer Award" by the Governor of Maryland.

* Denotes CMN-participating hospital



MICHIGAN



- ▶ **Samson Davis**
- ▶ **Age 8**
- ▶ **Muskego, Michigan**
- ▶ **DeVos Children's Hospital at Butterworth* Hackely Hospital Mary Free Bed**

Samson Davis was critically injured the evening of December 21, 1995, when he was struck by a van while stepping off a curb on his way to choir practice. Samson was rushed to a nearby hospital where it was discovered he had received a life-threatening head injury which caused

him to lapse into a coma, along with sustaining a broken jaw and broken wrist.

Samson was stabilized and then flown to DeVos Children's Hospital at Butterworth by helicopter where a team of experts quickly concentrated on reducing the swelling of his brain, which could cause permanent damage or death. He remained critical for several days. Then, on Christmas Day, a professional basketball team visited Samson's room. He surprised everyone by opening his eyes and making an effort to respond to their questions. Samson made slow but steady progress the following week as the focus now turned to his other injuries — such as wiring his jaw shut — and rehabilitative care.

Samson can now talk and eat normally and shows no signs that he will suffer long-term effects of the accident. Samson obviously loves basketball, as well as football, and looks forward to singing in the choir once again.

* Denotes CMN-participating hospital





MINNESOTA



- ▶ **Nicole Anderson**
- ▶ **Age 13**
- ▶ **Maple Grove, Minnesota**
- ▶ **Gillette Children's Hospital***
MeritCare Foundation*

In June 1995 Nicole Anderson was involved in a serious motor vehicle accident where she sustained a traumatic brain injury. While she was still in a coma, doctors at CMN-affiliate MeritCare Foundation in Fargo, North Dakota deemed necessary Nicole's transfer to Gillette Children's

Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota, also a CMN-affiliate.

While there she underwent intensive physical, occupational and speech therapy. Thanks to the treatment she received, "Nikki" is mobile with the help of a walker.

Though still not 100 percent, each day she makes remarkable progress in her speech, balance and walking. Her brush with death has left her energized and full of life. Since her discharge from Gillette, Nikki takes every opportunity to ride her horses and play with her cat and two dogs.

* Denotes CMN-participating hospital





MISSISSIPPI



- ▶ **Kyle Jones**
- ▶ **Age 8**
- ▶ **Quitman, Mississippi**
- ▶ **Children's Hospital at the University of Mississippi Medical Center***

On February 26, 1995, Kyle Jones, his little brother Blake and their mother, Angie, were involved in a car accident. The accident claimed Angie's life and Kyle sustained a severe closed head injury — a skull fracture of the left parietal bone accompanied by hemorrhaging. Blake was left unscathed.

Kyle received immediate treatment in both the pediatric and surgical

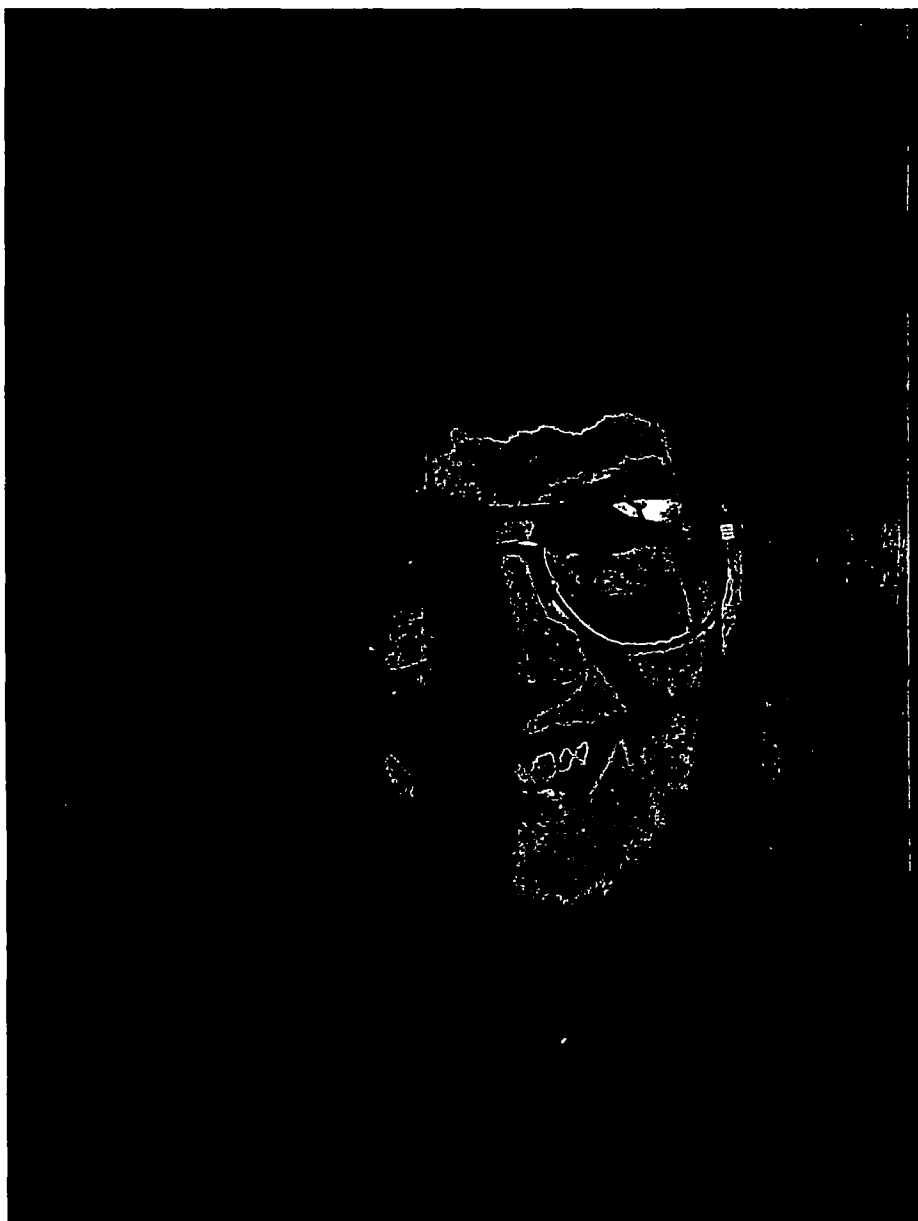
intensive care units at Children's Hospital at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. His injury was so severe, doctors gave Kyle's father, Richard, little hope for the boy's survival. As is often the case, just when it seemed things could get no worse, Kyle began to improve.

After 26 days, Kyle was stable enough to be moved to UMC's Children's Rehabilitation Center. Kyle remained in rehab until April 28, receiving daily sessions with physical, speech, occupational and recreational therapists and educators. Kyle's first move in physical therapy came after his third session when he gave a kick — in honor of his favorite action heroes, the Power Rangers. Undaunted, Kyle is determined to win what some thought was an impossible battle.

* Denotes CMN-participating hospital



MISSOURI



- ▶ **Jon Matthew Penprase**
- ▶ **Age 12**
- ▶ **Springfield, Missouri**
- ▶ **Cox Health Systems***

Matt Penprase was admitted to Cox

Health Systems hospital with a headache that lasted five days. An emergency spinal tap and CT scan revealed meningitis — a dangerous swelling of the membranes that cover the brain. Doctors immediately performed two craniotomies to drain the accumulated fluid and then a third to remove fluid in the frontal area of his brain.

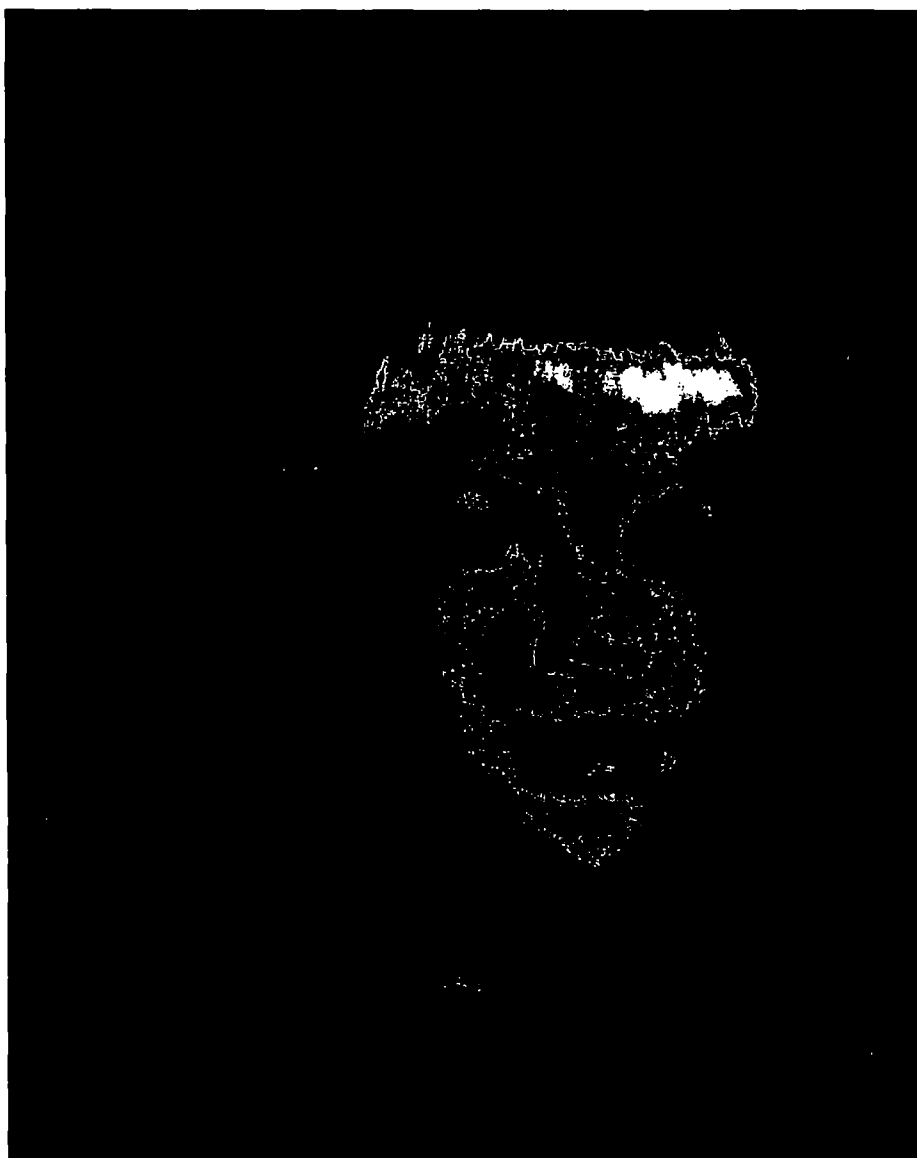
Though Matt's chances of survival were considered slim, he fought his way back. As in most such cases, survival is only half the story. Matt was subsequently moved into rehabilitation where he received speech therapy and physical therapy to help regain speech and movement lost to the meningitis.

Though Matt's recovery is incomplete, his goal is to return to his YMCA basketball team. Based on Matt's winning attitude, full recovery seems only a matter of time.

*Denotes CMN-participating hospital



MONTANA



- ▶ **Ethan Long**
- ▶ **Age 7**
- ▶ **Kalispell, Montana**
- ▶ **Children's Hospital and Medical Center of Seattle***

On April 19, 1989, the Long family was blessed with the birth of their fourth son Ethan. But their joy was abbreviated by the news that Ethan had serious heart problems. Early the next morning the family flew to Seattle and Children's Hospital, where Ethan was diagnosed with aortic

stenosis. At just one week old, Ethan had his first surgery.

Two weeks later he received another surgery to open up his valve. Though doctors were cautious about Ethan's chances of survival, he recovered. Another surgery followed 18 months later to replace his aortic valve with a small valve the FDA had then just approved for clinical trials.

Now, thanks to the treatment he received, Ethan is enjoying his first year of school. He loves playing outdoors, as well as watching movies and playing his Nintendo games.

* Denotes CMN-participating hospital



NEBRASKA



- ▶ **Annie O'Donnell**
- ▶ **Age 14**
- ▶ **Omaha, Nebraska**
- ▶ **Children's Hospital***

Annie O'Donnell was born with multiple congenital conditions involving the heart, gastrointestinal tract, trachea, bones in the back, and kidneys. Within the first three hours of Annie's life, she was transported to Children's Hospital for an emergency tracheostomy to create an opening to her windpipe which allowed her to breathe.

Since that first surgery, Annie has triumphed

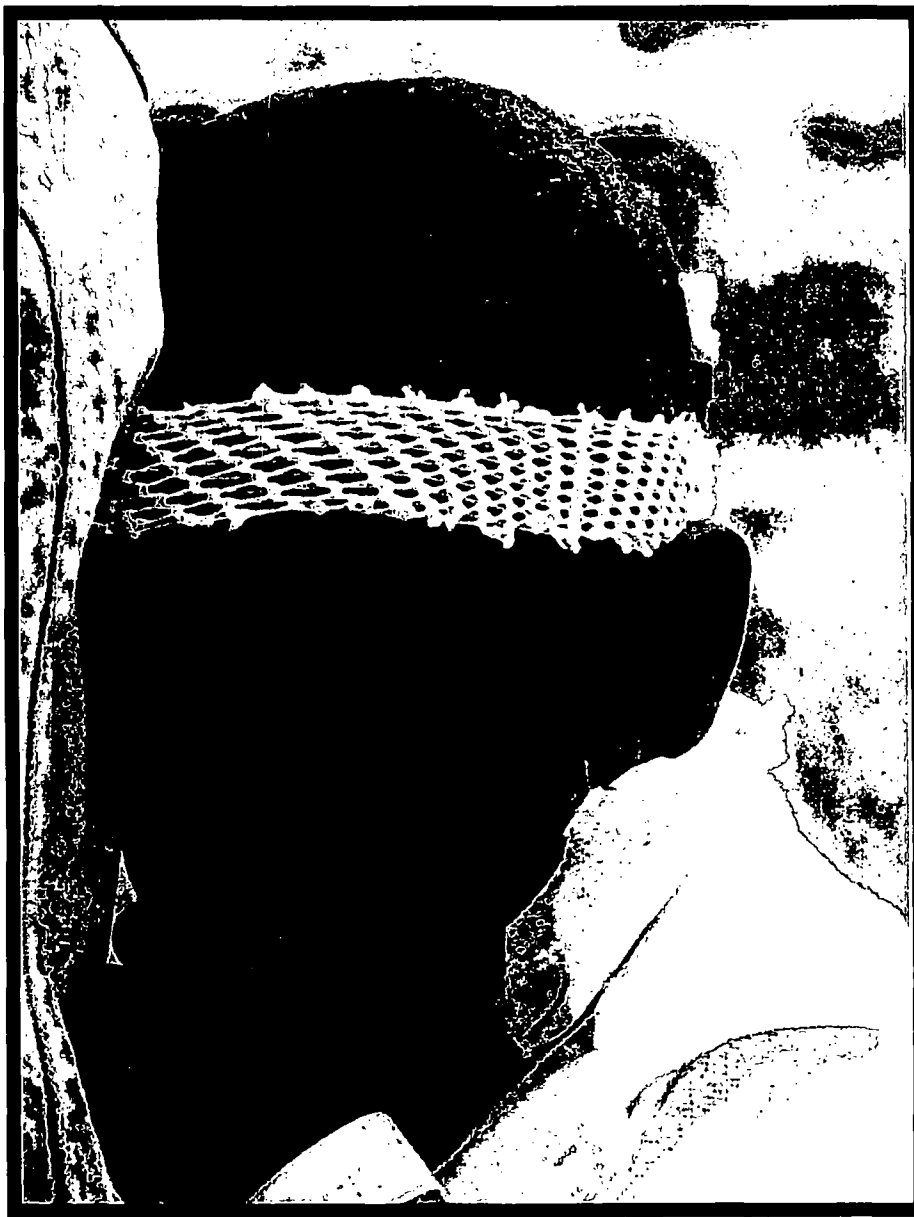
through 32 subsequent surgeries to correct the abnormalities associated with her congenital condition. Each stage along the way has been a milestone in itself. Annie's family heard her first words when she was age five, following the removal of the tracheostomy. Gradually as her medical condition stabilized, Annie no longer required the assistance of the machines which helped her to breathe, and she began to live life as a normal, active youngster.

Now a teenager, Annie loves to play basketball and golf, talk on the phone with friends, and play with her kittens. She is a charter member of the new Children's Hospital teen volunteer program serving as an inspiration to hospitalized youngsters who may be facing what Annie has already overcome.

*Denotes CMN-participating hospital



NEVADA



- ▶ **Michael Dowling**
- ▶ **Age 8**
- ▶ **Las Vegas, Nevada**
- ▶ **University Medical Center of Southern Nevada***

Shortly after Michael Dowling's birth, he was hospitalized a number of times with infections that proved difficult to eradicate. After initial treatment Michael left the hospital. But his story doesn't end there. Doctors subsequently discovered that Michael was HIV positive.

HIV requires ongoing care and Michael was no exception. His initial

diagnosis workup was completed at University Medical Center, and through the years he has been hospitalized to treat various infections. Though Michael now has an active case of AIDS, he is an otherwise thriving, healthy and active child.

Michael and his adoptive mother, Diane Dowling, take every opportunity to educate individuals and the community about HIV and AIDS. When not carrying the crusade further, Michael loves playing baseball, karate classes, and spending time with his dog, Lacy Hart.

* Denotes CMN-participating hospital



NEW JERSEY



► **Brittany Taylor Sauerwald**

► **Age 6**

► **North Arlington, New Jersey**

► **Children's Hospital of New Jersey***

On July 3, 1992 Brittany Sauerwald was standing on a chair, posing for a picture. She fell to the floor — her head striking a plastic replica of the Statue of Liberty. A sharp four inch piece of plastic lodged itself into the center of her brain. Besides the trauma, the injury caused a major blood clot.

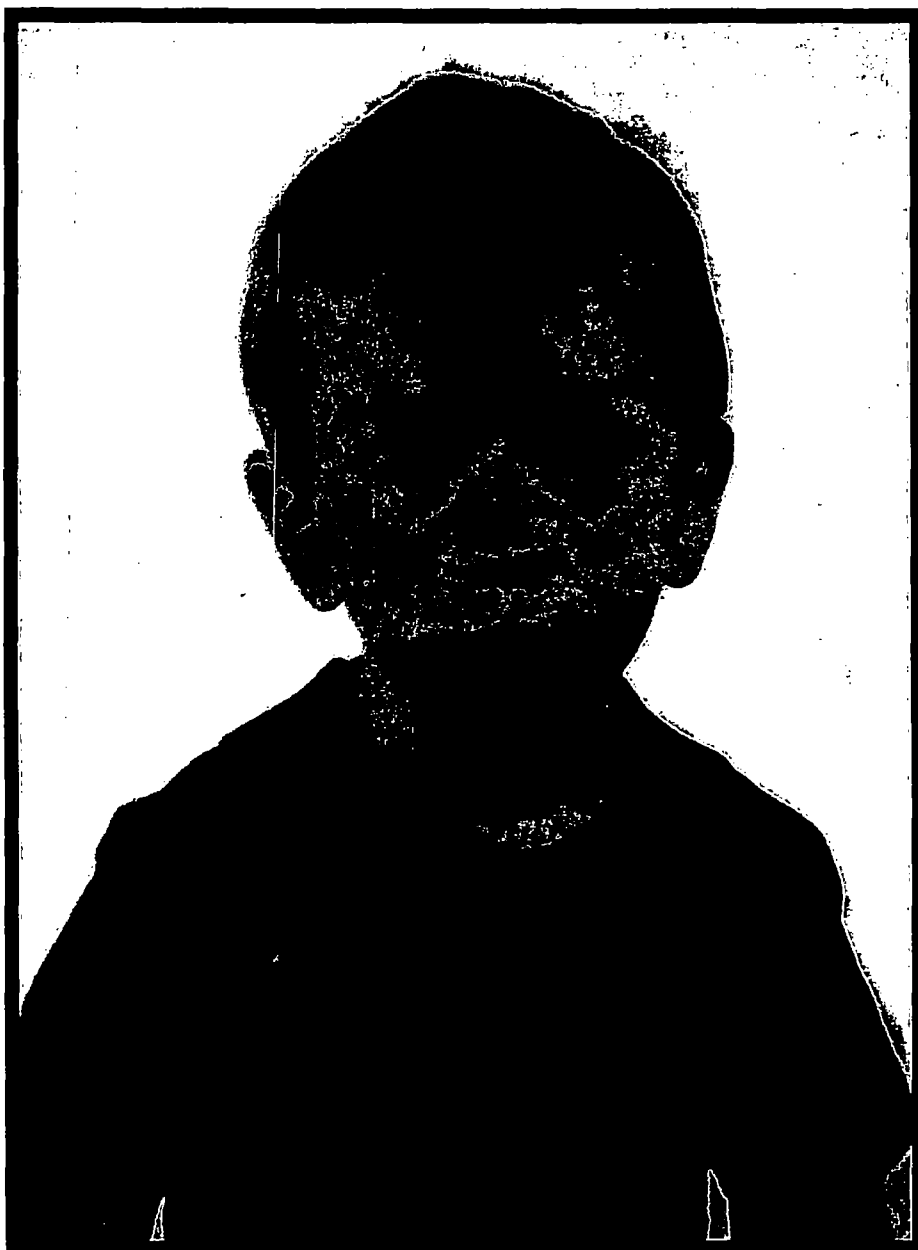
Brittany received emergency treatment at another hospital before being transferred to Children's Hospital of New Jersey for long-term care.

Thanks to the specialized treatment she received, Brittany is now a beautiful, active, independent kindergartner. She enjoys life and, inspired by her experience, wants to one day be a brain surgeon.

* Denotes CMN-participating hospital



NEW HAMPSHIRE



- ▶ **Andy Norcross**
- ▶ **Age 2**
- ▶ **Tamworth, New Hampshire**
- ▶ **Maine Medical Center***

When Andy Norcross was born, the medical team at Maine Medical Center assisting with the delivery knew something was wrong. Tests confirmed that Andy had a hole in his heart.

At just three days old, Andy underwent major, open-heart

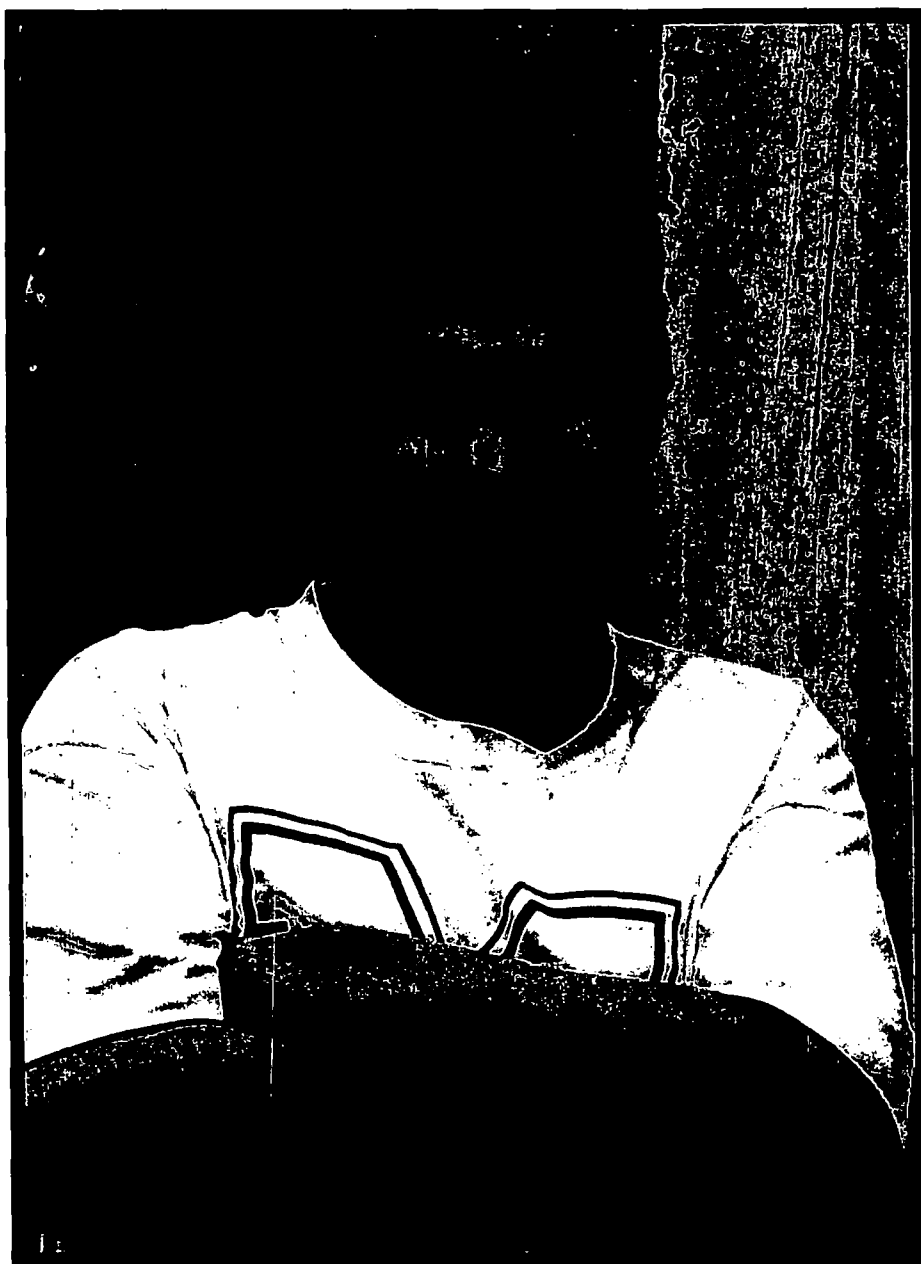
surgery where doctors repaired this defect which, left untreated, would have caused the tiny baby not to thrive.

Andy has now fully recovered and is an active two-year old. Even when he exhibits characteristics which give the terrible twos their name, his parents appreciate Andy's energy and potential for a healthy life.

* Denotes CMN-participating hospital



NEW MEXICO



► Willie Jacquez

Age 19

► Las Cruces, New Mexico

► Memorial Medical Center*

University of New Mexico Hospital

Willie Jacquez was born with a severe congenital heart defect.

Three weeks after Willie was born, it was determined he was also a Downs syndrome infant.

At six months of age, he underwent corrective surgery for a club foot. At age one he had lung surgery, and at age two he had open heart surgery. Just this past year, Willie was

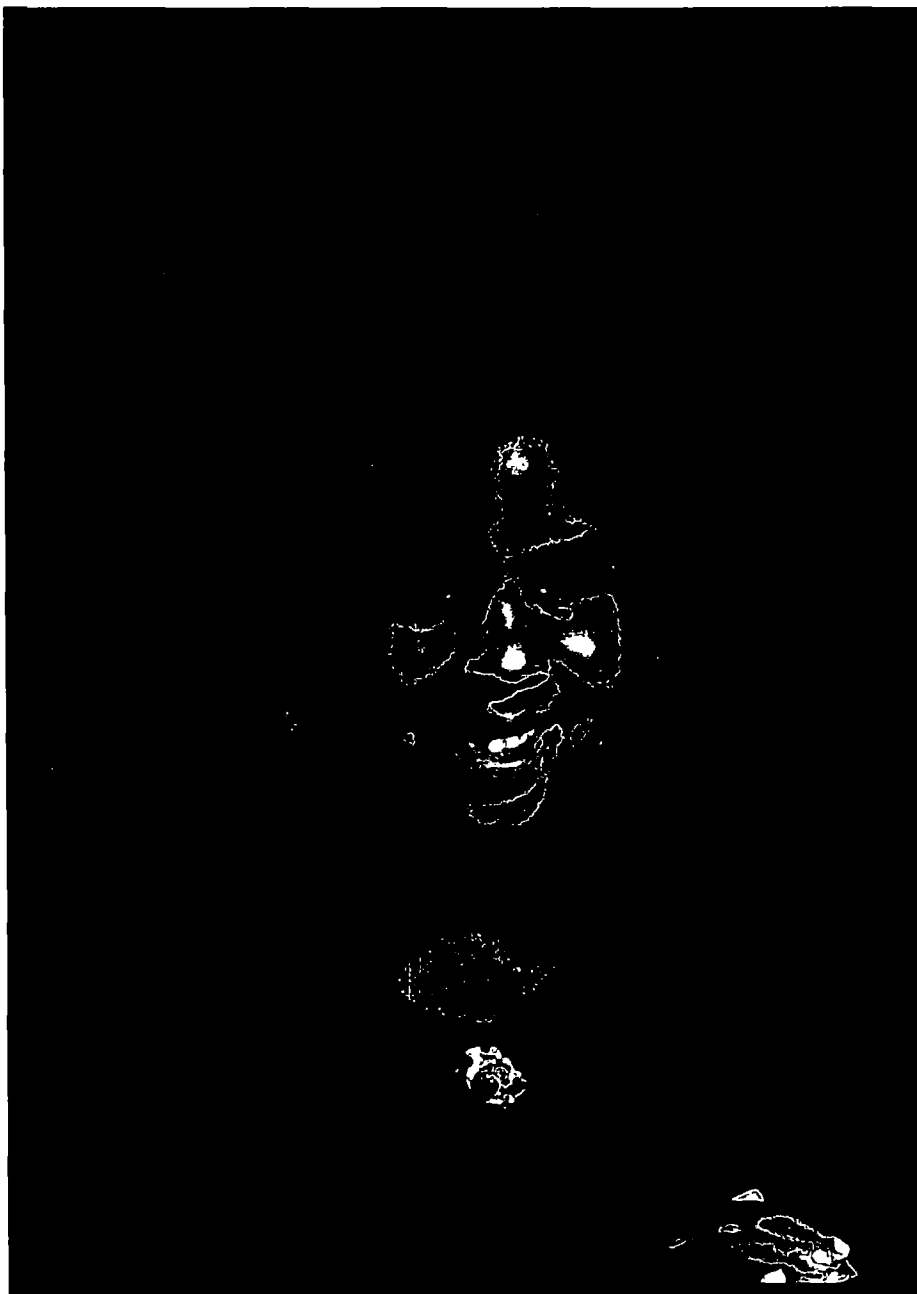
diagnosed with diabetes. He also suffers from frequent seizures.

Yet, despite these seemingly insurmountable odds, Willie is a winner! He participates in Special Olympics in basketball and bowling and recently won a gold medal in pool hockey. He enjoys fishing and camping with his family. When Willie is not outdoors, he is attending school or selling his wood carvings at a country store where he works.

*Denotes CMN-participating hospital



NEW YORK



▶ Evita Spencer

▶ Age 5

▶ Saratoga Springs, New York

▶ Children's Hospital at Albany Medical Center*

Evita Spencer went to the doctor for an agonizing, yet seemingly innocuous leg pain in September 1994. The diagnosis was acute myelocytic leukemia — cancer.

Three days after the diagnosis, doctors at the Children's Hospital at Albany Medical Center implanted a Hickman catheter, a

semi-permanent tube which makes possible continuous infusion chemotherapy.

Though Evita is still scheduled for more chemotherapy, she enjoys playing with her older brother, playing dress up and dancing.

* Denotes CMN-participating hospital



NORTH CAROLINA



► Allison Blair Williams

► Age 9

► Oxford, North Carolina

► Duke Children's Hospital*

Allison Blair Williams was born with an unusual combination of birth defects. Missing both thumbs and the radius bone in her right arm, she also was born with severely clubbed hands, completely deaf, and with a malformation of her right ear.

As a young child, Allison underwent many corrective surgeries at Duke Children's Hospital. Her right arm was in a cast the first

year of her life. When she was four surgeons created opposable "thumbs" from her index fingers. Thanks to those surgeries Allison can now tie her shoes, cut her food and fasten buttons on her clothes. Doctors also performed a cochlear implant when Allison was four, allowing her to experience hearing for the first time.

Now Allison sings in the choir and performs in dance and handbell groups. With her huge smile and cheerful manner, Allison particularly enjoys being a normal fourth grader.

*Denotes CMN-participating hospital



NORTH DAKOTA



- ▶ **Nathan Cwikla**
- ▶ **Age 9**
- ▶ **West Fargo, North Dakota**
- ▶ **MeritCare Children's Hospital***

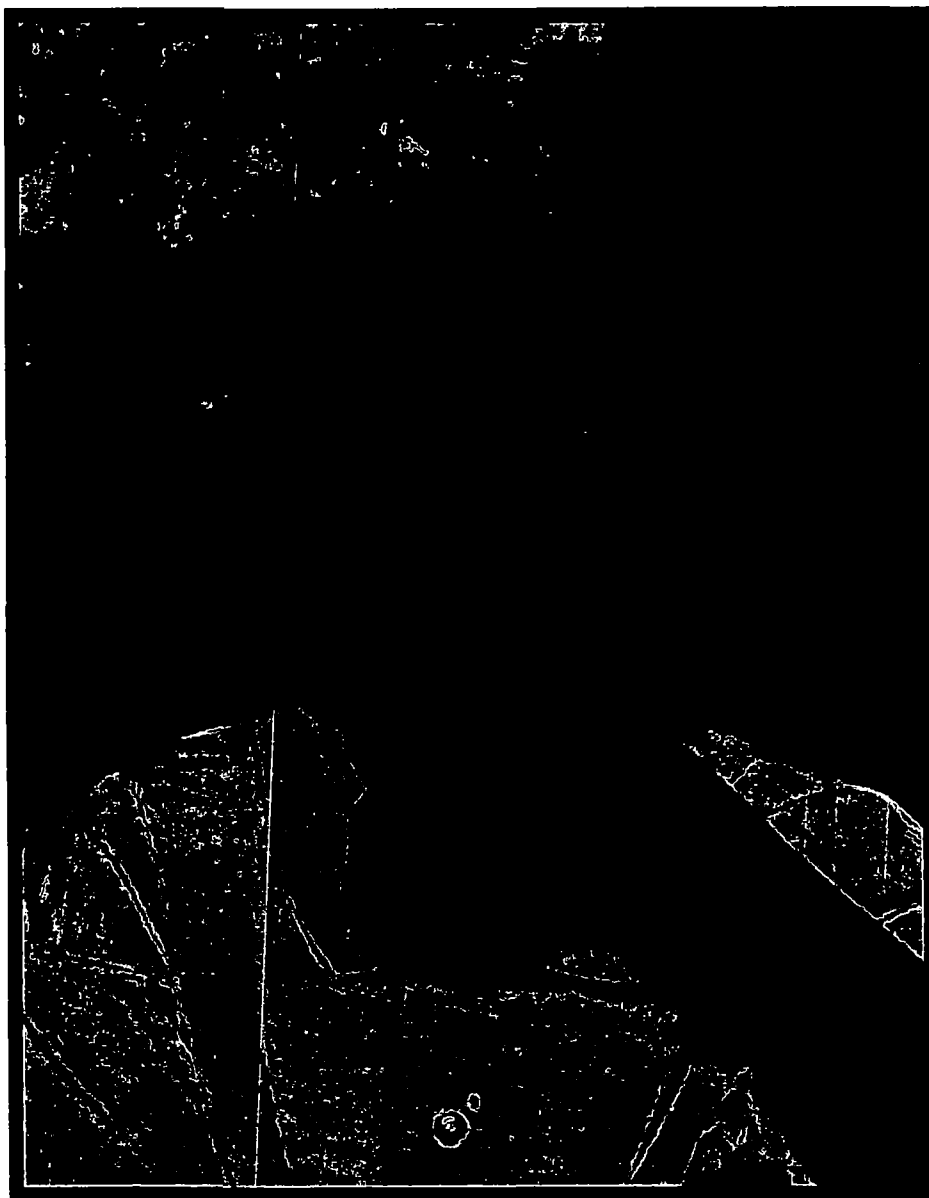
For 21 days Nathan Cwikla was in intensive care at MeritCare Children's Hospital on high levels of oxygen. He was fighting against systemic lupus, a disease that was attacking his lungs, kidneys and liver. While at the hospital, Nathan received a kidney biopsy, bone marrow tests and blood transfusions.

Though Nathan is on high doses of prednisone and chemotherapy drugs, his lupus is in check and he is feeling great. His positive attitude and his ability to accept things as they come have made a difference in how his family has dealt with Nathan's disease. During the tough times, it was often Nathan buoying up their spirits instead of the other way around.

Nathan loves to go camping and fishing with his family in the summer and enjoys playing in the snow in the winter.

*Denotes CMN-participating hospital





► **DeArron Burrage**

► **Age 14**

► **Dayton, Ohio**

► **The Children's Medical Center of Ohio***

Though DeArron Burrage was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis when he was three months old, he hopes to represent the United States in boxing in the 2000 Olympics.

After having lung surgery just after his first birthday, DeArron has continued treatment at The Children's Medical Center of Ohio to manage his disease.

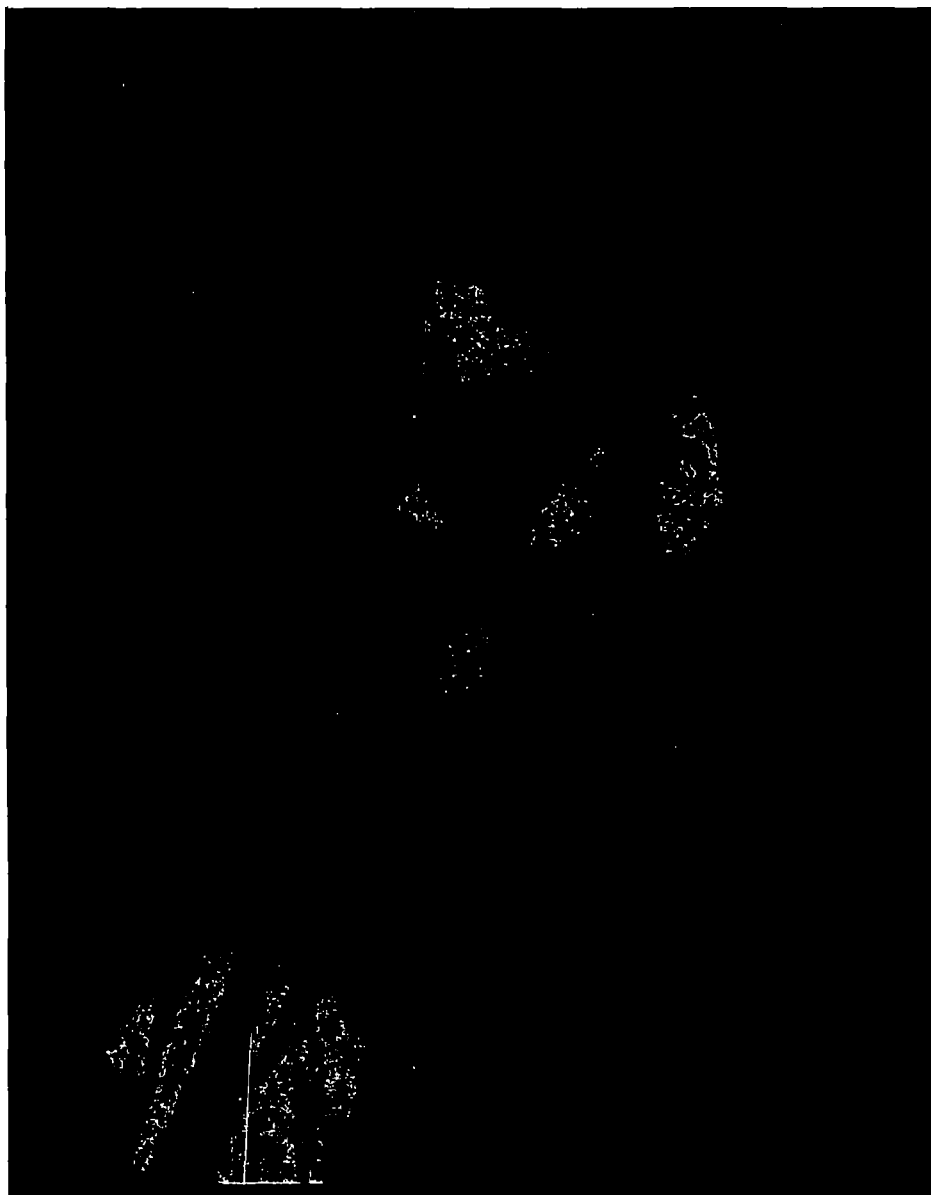
Beyond having two breathing treatments per day and taking enzymes with his meals, DeArron's condition is stable, enabling him to focus on his athletic and academic accomplishments rather than his limitations.

Presently DeArron holds more than 20 boxing titles including the national Silver Glove Championship. DeArron is also a model student and a member of the National Honor Society. He aspires to go to college to study architecture. His courage and humility are an inspiration to other patients fighting the same battle against cystic fibrosis.

*Denotes CMN-participating hospital



OKLAHOMA



- ▶ **Patrick Ingle**
- ▶ **Age 16**
- ▶ **Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**
- ▶ **St. Christopher's Hospital for Children*
Children's Hospital of Oklahoma*
Wilmington Medical Center**

Patrick Ingle was born with Drash syndrome, an unusual combination of cancer, kidney failure and other associated problems.

At age two he had a tumor removed and, at age three, he was hospitalized for five months while he underwent radiation therapy. At age six, Patrick received a kidney transplant, which failed in

1994. He has been on dialysis since that time and is waiting for a new kidney.

However, neither Patrick's disease nor the treatment have stopped him from being a typical teenager. An active Boy Scout, Patrick has earned the rank of Eagle Scout, which he obtained in part by planning, directing, and helping construct 16 lapboards for Children's Hospital of Oklahoma. He has also earned four Eagle Palms and is a member of the Order of the Arrow, an organization which studies Indian lore. A highlight for Patrick was attending the 1993 BSA National Jamboree in Virginia.

*Denotes CMN-participating hospital



OREGON



► **Braydee Mahan**

► **Age 1**

► **Eugene, Oregon**

► **Sacred Heart Medical Center***

During a routine ultrasound, Kristin

Mahan's obstetrician at Sacred Heart Medical Center discovered a cyst — already the size of an orange — growing in her baby's chest. Doctors knew that if they did not remove the cyst, the lungs would not develop and the baby would be stillborn.

In a desperate attempt to save her baby,

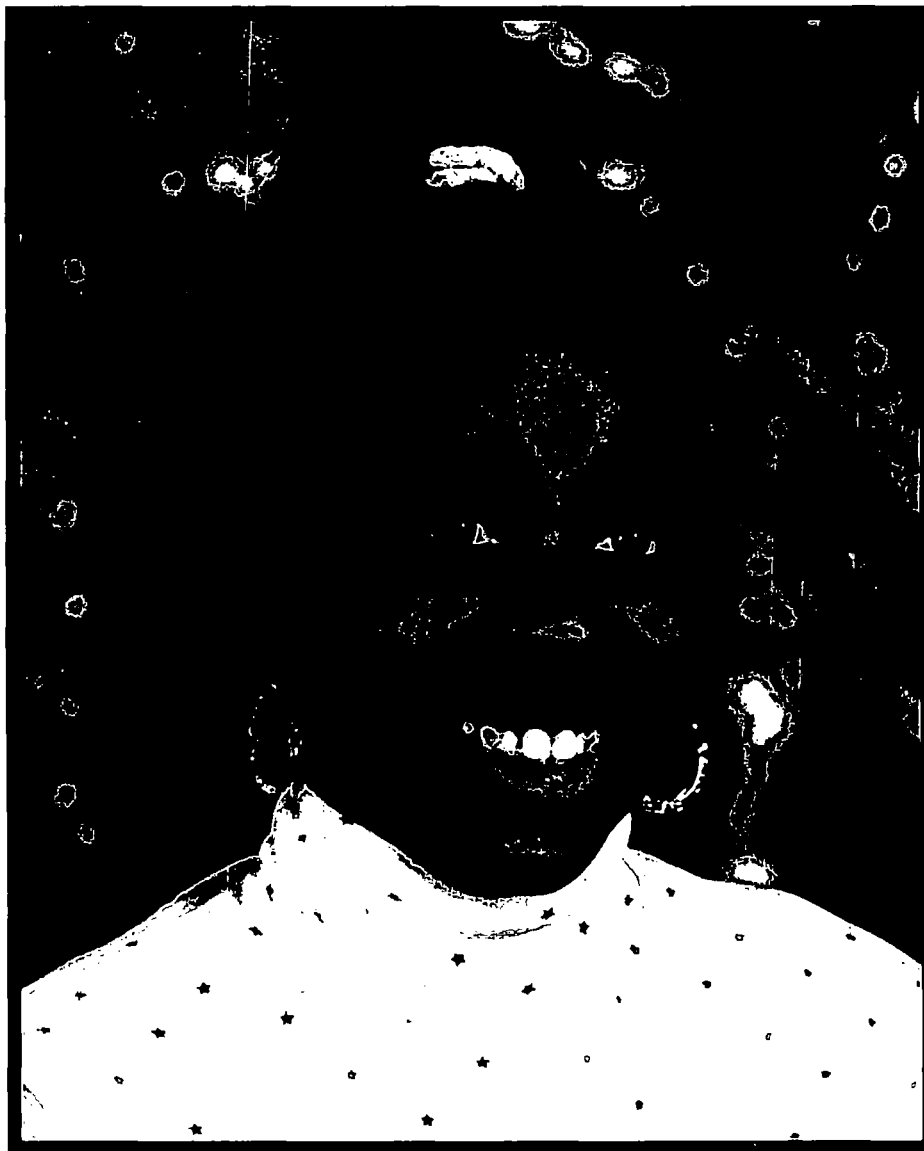
Kristin chose to have fetal surgery. Doctors advanced a needle through the womb into the center of the fluid-filled cyst. After three treatments the cyst was gone. Braydee Mahan was born full term, completely healthy.

Braydee is a completely normal, healthy, incredibly cute 1-year-old — so says Kristin.

*Denotes CMN-participating hospital



PENNSYLVANIA



► **Carlena Williams**

► **Age 11**

► **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

► **Philadelphia Child Guidance Center***

Imagine living in a world without sound. From the time Carlena Williams was 10 months old, she has been completely deaf — unable to hear or express herself through speech and sound; unable to obtain basic information about the world; unable to hear her parents say “I love you.”

When Carlena came to the Philadelphia Child Guidance Center (PCGC) in 1991, she was a very frightened child who followed

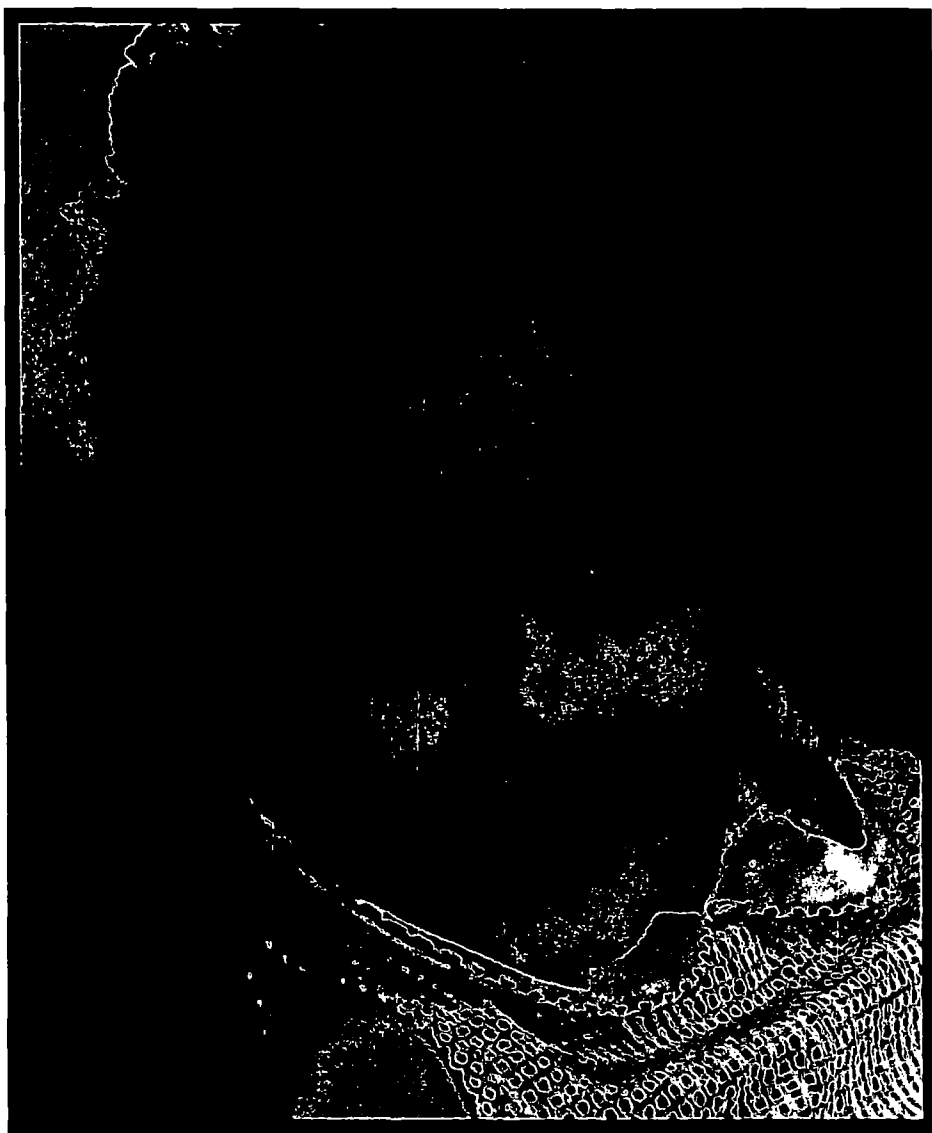
her mother everywhere. She was unable to sleep alone and could not perform routine tasks such as bathing or dressing without her mother's help. Therapy taught Carlena the strength to conquer her fears. She gradually became more independent and is now a very happy, secure, and active young lady. Not only does she take responsibility for her self care, but she helps her mother with household chores such as preparing family meals and the laundry.

Carlena's transformation is evident — especially to herself. At the end of her treatment, she requested that her name be changed from Missy, her birth name, to Carlena. She explained that Missy was a frightened, insecure little child; Carlena was a mature girl who looked forward to a happy and fulfilled life.

*Denotes CMN-participating hospital



SOUTH CAROLINA



- ▶ **Kaylin Hoffman**
- ▶ **Age 5**
- ▶ **Rock Hill, South Carolina**
- ▶ **Medical University of South Carolina Children's Hospital***

On April 12, 1995, Kaylin Hoffman accidentally fell out of the van that had picked her up from pre-school — and was slowly dragged until the van came to a stop right on top of her. She was immediately rushed to the Greenville Memorial Hospital where doctors discovered she had suffered massive trauma to her chest and abdomen including a

ruptured spleen, collapsed lungs, liver laceration, pelvic fracture, and torn rectum. She was also bleeding internally.

Kaylin was placed on the heart/lung machine (ECMO) shortly after her arrival and remained on the machine for eight days before her lungs were well enough for her to go back on conventional ventilation. After 10 different surgeries and six weeks in the hospital, Kaylin was able to go home.

Though she still has abdominal injuries that have resulted in a colostomy, she lives a normal life where she attends school and even takes gymnastics. The only thing that separates her from other 5-year olds is that when she hears an ambulance ... she stops and prays.

* Denotes CMN-participating hospital



SOUTH DAKOTA



► **Kimberly Kay Bose**

► **Age 9**

► **Sioux Falls, South Dakota**

► **South Dakota Children's Hospital*
University of Minnesota Hospital
Murray Count Memorial Hospital**

In Kimberly Kay Bose's short life, she had been hospitalized for surgical or medical reasons more than 65 times. She was born with an elevated bilirubin level or jaundice — which is not uncommon and not usually life-threatening. However, when the problem did not go away, additional tests

were made and Kimberly was diagnosed with a condition known as biliary atresia, which would require a liver transplant in order for her to survive.

Kimberly received a new liver shortly after her third birthday and since then has been fighting a constant battle against the possible rejection of her new organ. Recently, Kimberly was diagnosed with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, a crippling disease which causes severe pain and threatens to blind her if not closely monitored.

Despite this new challenge, Kimberly always maintains a positive attitude. She loves to play with her dogs, read books and sing country music; but, most important, she spends her time lighting up the lives of others with her bright smile and infectious laughter.

*Denotes CMN-participating hospital



TENNESSEE



► **Brittany
Morgan Rogers**

► **Age 3**

► **Knoxville, Tennessee**

► **East Tennessee
Children's Hospital*
Holston Valley
Hospital***

On May 23, 1995,
the unthinkable
happened.

Brittany Rogers' leg was caught under the blade of a riding lawn mower severing her toes, fracturing her ankle, and mutilating the muscles on her lower leg and knee.

Paramedics at the scene thought Brittany's leg would have to be amputated so they made the decision to air lift her

to East Tennessee Children's Hospital. Forty-three days later, after numerous surgeries and intense battles against rare infections that threatened not only her leg but her life, Brittany left the hospital with both legs.

Today Brittany is a typical, energetic little girl who enjoys running, jumping and skipping on her two strong legs. She loves singing, shopping and participating in her child Bible class; but most of all she enjoys watching ER and playing doctor.

*Denotes CMN-participating hospital





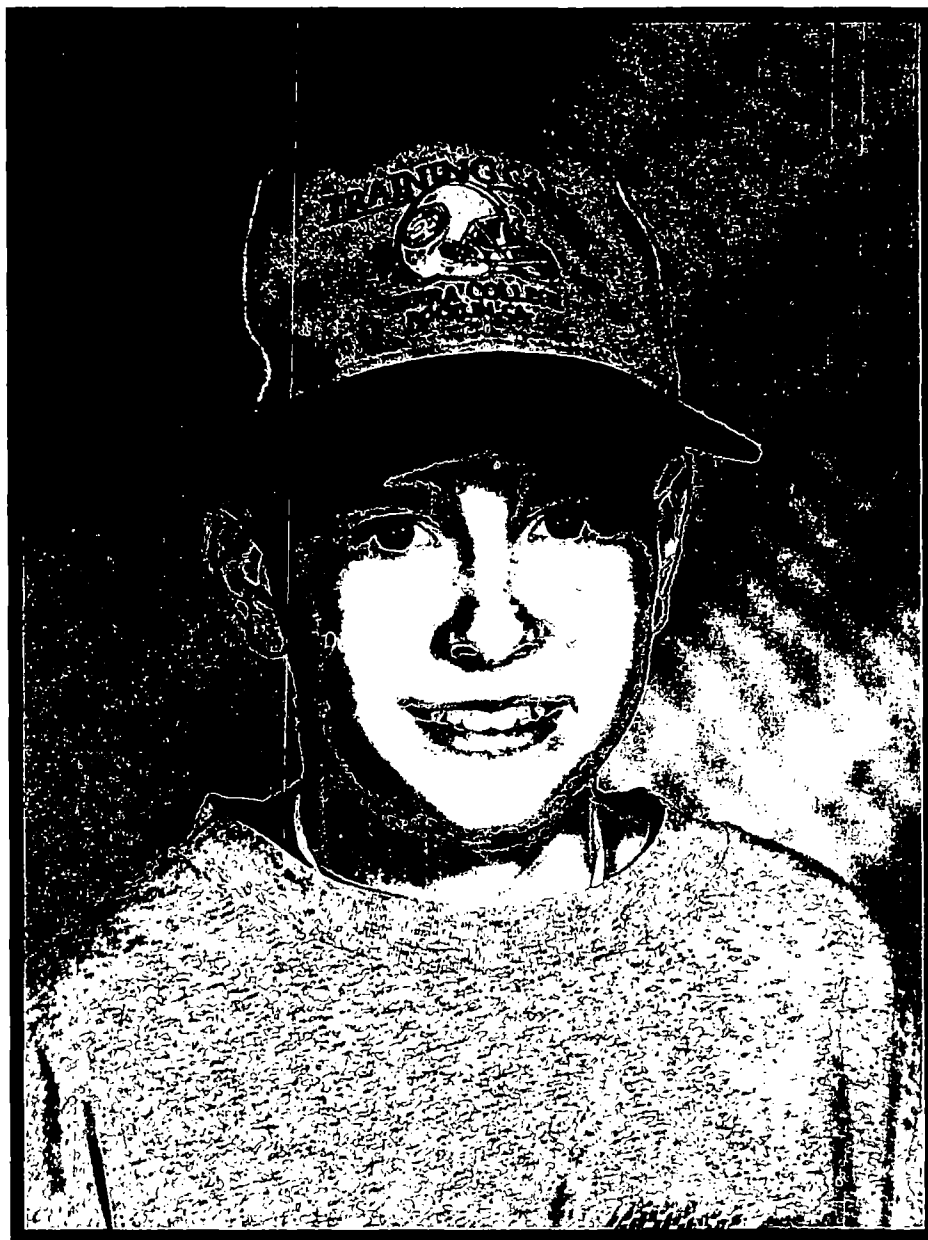
- ▶ **Cody Edmonson**
- ▶ **Age 13**
- ▶ **Arp, Texas**
- ▶ **Mother Frances Hospital*
Dallas Rehabilitation**

In a tragic accident during a calf-roping competition near Lindale, Texas, Cody Edmonson nearly lost his life. While making his first-ever attempt to rope a calf, Cody's horse spooked throwing him to the ground. With his foot entangled in the rope, Cody was dragged around the arena while his head smashed against fence posts and his mouth and nose filled with dirt.

When Cody arrived at the hospital, his family was told he wouldn't make it through the night — but this was one tough little cowboy. After months of physical and occupational therapy at Mother Frances Hospital, Cody leads a normal life. Although his gait and speech are marked by the accident, Cody doesn't let that stop him. He loves participating in sports and pursues them all in season. Even better, he's back in the saddle again and made it to the state calf-roping competition last year.

* Denotes CMN-participating hospital





► **Thomas Beckstead**

► **Age 13**

► **Salt Lake City, Utah**

► **Primary Children's Medical Center***

Thomas Beckstead had his life saved

by both his sister and twin brother. Because he has aplastic anemia, a disease that depletes his red and white blood cell counts, Thomas has had three bone marrow transplants at Primary Children's Medical Center. His twin brother

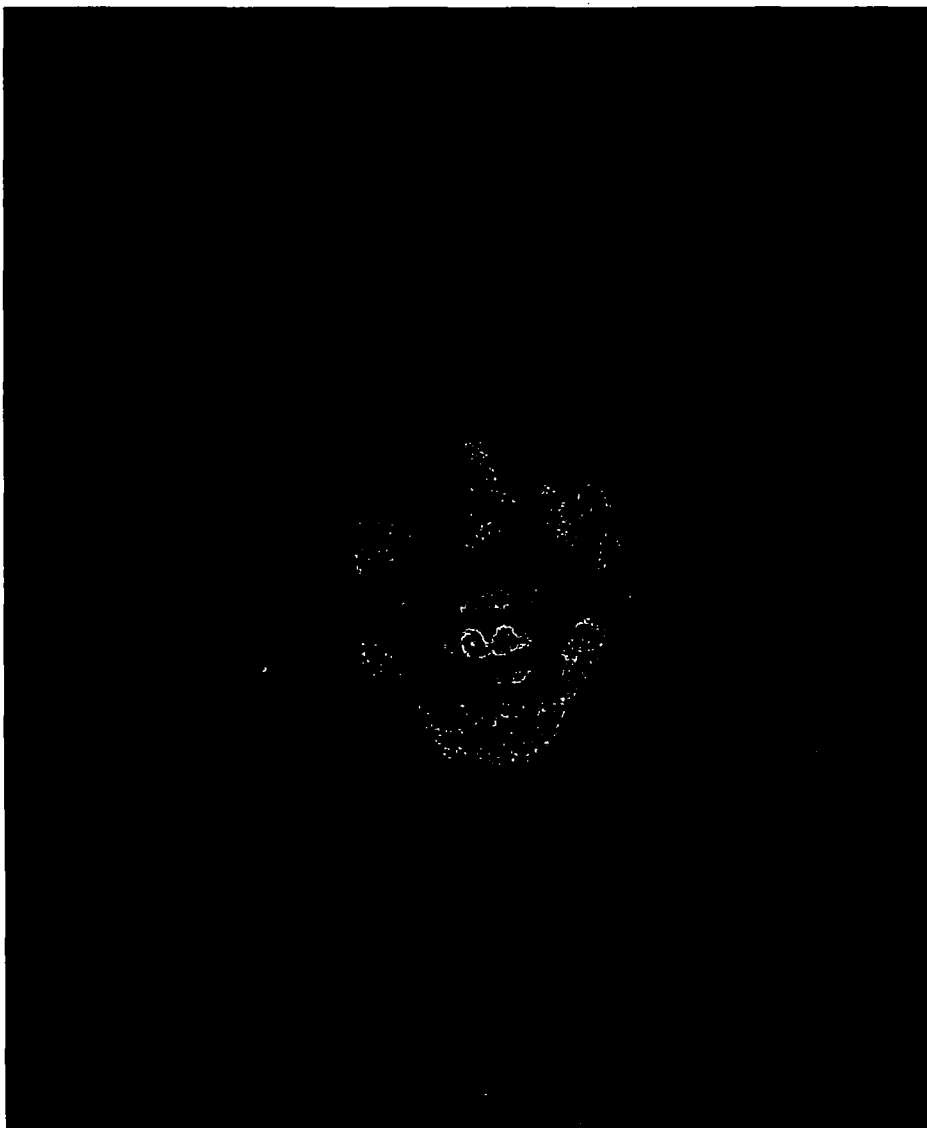
was the donor for two of the transplants; and, when both those failed, his sister became the donor for his third transplant.

After a successful but painful surgery, Thomas started school again and is doing well. Thomas' great smile and attitude have helped him face his challenges.

*Denotes CMN-participating hospital



VERMONT



▶ **Stephanie Needham**

▶ **Age 11**

▶ **Middlebury, Vermont**

▶ **Fletcher Allen
HealthCare*
Porter Hospital**

One January morning last year, Stephanie

Needham was in the living room warming herself near the family's wood stove. She heard a "whooshing" noise and realized immediately that her shirt had ignited. She ran outdoors to throw herself into the snow. Stephanie's brother Jamie, heard her screams and ran outside. He continued

rolling Stephi in the snow until the flames were completely smothered then carried his sister back into the house and applied cold washcloths to her back. He rushed her to a nearby hospital where it was discovered she had suffered third degree burns over 20 percent of her body.

Stephi was hospitalized for a total of four weeks. One week after the accident, she received skin graft surgeries on her back, arms, buttocks, and thigh, all of which were very successful.

She will continue to wear pressure garments for the next year, but it hasn't slowed Stephanie down at all. Just 10 weeks after the accident, Stephi performed four routines at her dance recital. The "stop, drop, and roll" technique she learned in school and safety precautions taught by her parents regarding their wood stove are credited with saving Stephanie's life.

*Denotes CMN-participating hospital



VIRGINIA



▶ Joshua Lee Sundquist

▶ Age 11

▶ Harrisonburg, Virginia

▶ University of Virginia Children's Medical Center*

After being diagnosed in 1994 at the University of Virginia Children's Medical Center with Ewing's sarcoma, a disease where malignant tumors develop in the bone marrow, Joshua Sundquist underwent extensive chemotherapy treatment. However when the treatment was

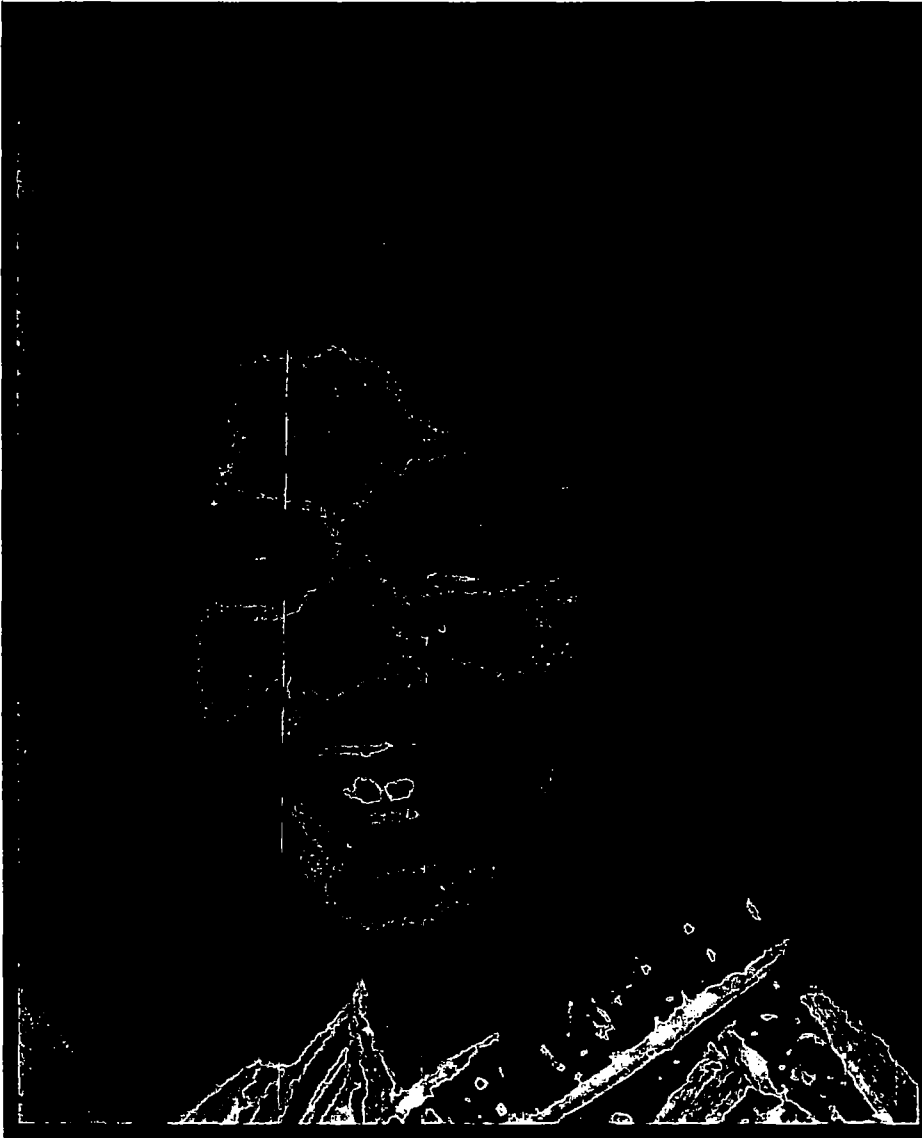
unsuccessful, it was determined that Joshua would need to have his left leg amputated in order to save his life.

Though some children would be traumatized by the experience, shortly after Joshua was discharged from the hospital for his leg amputation, he went to a neighbor's home and jumped on their trampoline. He constantly works very hard to prove he is just as normal as anyone who has both legs. Throughout his illness, Joshua has exhibited courage and strength under the most adverse of situations and is a polite, courteous young man with many talents.

*Denotes CMN-participating hospital



WASHINGTON



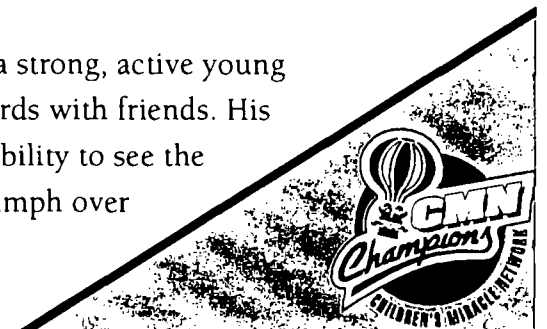
- ▶ **Jacob Hansen**
- ▶ **Age 13**
- ▶ **Lake Stevens, Washington**
- ▶ **Children's Hospital and Medical Center***

In July of 1994, when Jacob Hansen went to the doctor because of flu-like symptoms, he was diagnosed with myocarditis — a disease where a virus enters the heart causing irreversible damage. Though medication temporarily helped, further tests revealed he was in heart failure.

Immediately after the diagnosis, Jacob went to Children's Hospital to receive a heart transplant. He stayed at the hospital for 53 days so the doctors could make sure his body would not reject his new heart and to keep a watch on his weakened immune system.

Despite the medical challenges Jacob has faced, he is a strong, active young man who loves playing basketball and trading baseball cards with friends. His incessantly positive attitude, concern for his family, and ability to see the bright spots in a dark situation have enabled Jacob to triumph over his disease.

*Denotes CMN-participating hospital



WASHINGTON, DC



▶ Patricia "Patty" Grindheim

▶ Age 13

▶ Washington, D.C.

▶ Children's National Medical Center*
St. Mary's Hospital
Medical Colleges of Virginia

When Patty Grindheim's ankle became sore, she assumed it was from breaking boards in tae kwon do. Instead a cancerous tumor was found growing within her foot. When chemotherapy proved unsuccessful, doctors at Children's National Medical Center performed a procedure with

the intent of saving Patty's foot. However the cancer was already so extensive, they had no choice but to amputate her leg below the knee.

Patty is currently seen in the outpatient clinic every three months. Her progress has been excellent, and she is very comfortable with her prosthesis — even to the extent of playing competitive volleyball. She is a friendly, out-going, energetic young woman with a marvelous sense of humor. Her large, stuffed animal collection includes the famous "Bear" who accompanied her every time to the hospital and served as friend, comforter, and pillow when needed.

* Denotes CMN-participating hospital



WEST VIRGINIA



- ▶ **Daniel Fawcett**
- ▶ **Age 3**
- ▶ **Grafton, West Virginia**
- ▶ **West Virginia University Children's Hospital***

Born 12 weeks premature, Daniel Fawcett suffered intense medical problems including respiratory distress syndrome and a severe brain hemorrhage.

Daniel went to West Virginia University Children's Hospital where he received ventilator and nutritional

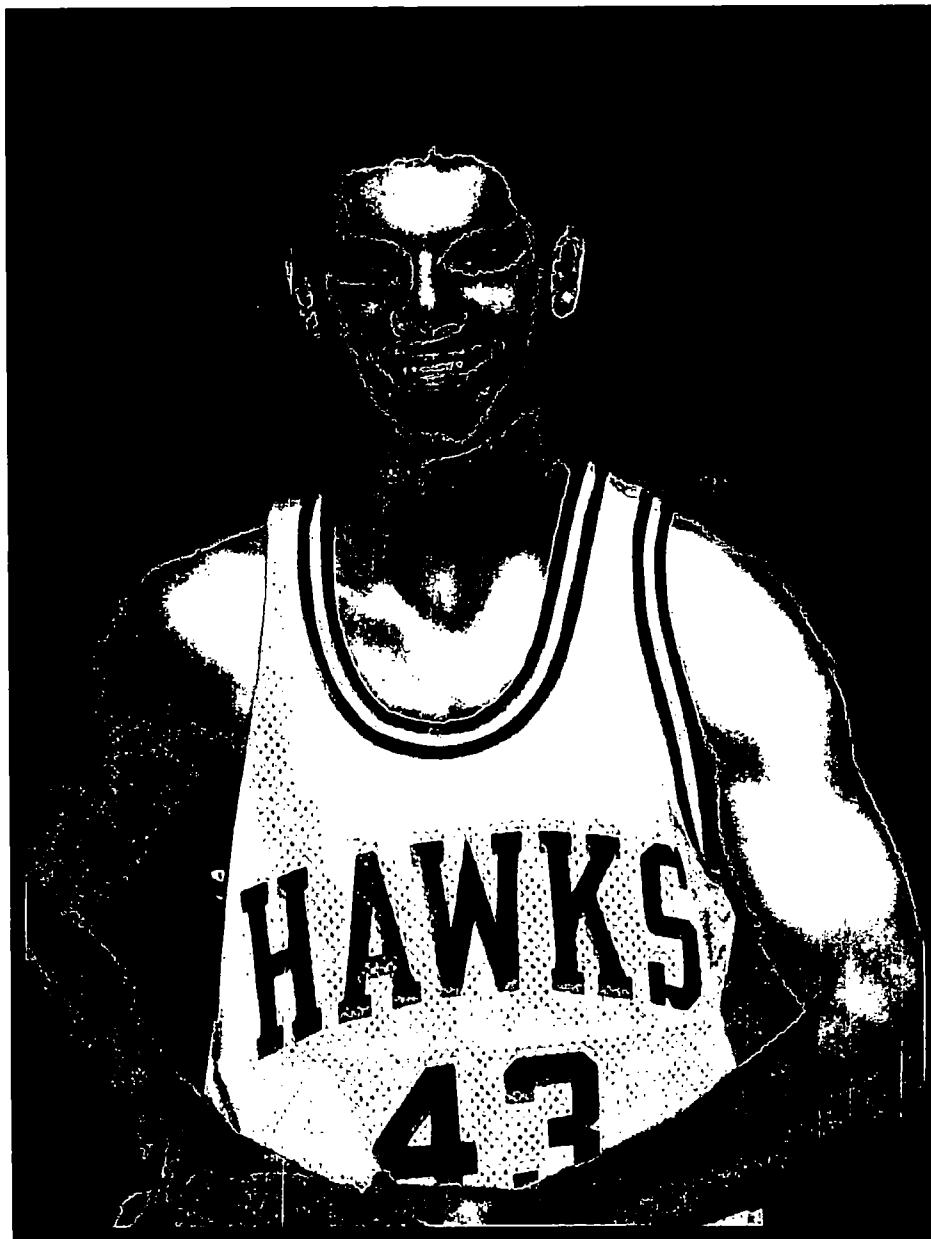
support, as well as corrective surgery for paralysis of his legs. He now has excellent verbal and motor ability and strong social skills.

Despite the trauma he has gone through in his short three years, Daniel is a delightful child with great potential for success in life.

*Denotes CMN-participating hospital



WISCONSIN



► **Nick
Olszewski**

► **Age 16**

► **Little Chute,
Wisconsin**

► **Children's Hospital of
Wisconsin***

Since his birth, Nick Olszewski has undergone 46 surgeries in efforts to correct the numerous birth defects which were a result of his premature birth. His most recent surgeries last fall were to correct his spinal cord and to stop his spinal fluid from leaking.

Despite these medical challenges, Nick is an avid sports nut who plays high school football, basketball and baseball. Beyond his love for sports, Nick is an honor student who plans on pursuing a career in broadcast journalism and theater. He continues to amaze everyone by overcoming tremendous obstacles to reach his personal goals.

* Denotes CMN-participating hospital



WYOMING



- ▶ **Melissa Lyon**
- ▶ **Age 8**
- ▶ **Evanston, Wyoming**
- ▶ **Primary Children's Medical Center***

Melissa Lyon has spent most of her

life battling cystic fibrosis, a common hereditary disease that appears in early childhood. But despite having a weak respiratory system and other problems caused by her disease, Melissa continues to enjoy life.

When she isn't receiving inhale treatments at Primary

Children's Medical Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, Melissa loves riding horses and just being outdoors. She also enjoys cross country skiing and playing with her two dogs and five cats.

Though the disease continues to challenge Melissa, she is doing a great job maintaining a positive attitude in her fight against cystic fibrosis.

*Denotes CMN-participating hospital

