



Daisy | PALMYRA

“Daisy needed to do what daisies do — grow,” shares Daisy’s mom, Leidra. Born at 27 weeks at just 2 lbs. and 8 oz., Daisy had a lot of growing to do in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Penn State Children’s Hospital. Fortunately, Daisy did not have severe breathing issues, although she did need a blood transfusion due to anemia. After 64 days of growing, Daisy went home! Over time, Daisy needed occupational therapy for a slight developmental delay, but she is otherwise a healthy and happy girl. Children’s Miracle Network has purchased NICU incubators and care items to support kids like Daisy. Now, Daisy and Leidra help other kids by making and selling jewelry for a donation to Children’s Miracle Network.



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Stella | READING

When Stella was born, a nurse spotted a defect on her back — a symptom of spina bifida, which occurs when a baby's spinal cord does not develop or close properly in the womb. She was transported by Life Lion pediatric ambulance to Penn State Children's Hospital for surgery. Soon after she went home, she was readmitted to place a shunt in her brain to drain fluid. Since birth, she has had 17 surgeries. CMN Hershey has helped Stella in many ways. Stella loves Music Therapy and the Child Life program, especially facility dog Becky. CMN also funded the ambulance and portable CT scanner Stella needed. The scanner helps kids who are too sick to leave the intensive care unit. Now that Stella has her 1st wheelchair, she loves zipping around and exploring the world around her.



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Owen PALMYRA



Owen is showing off a preemie diaper — just like the ones he needed when he was born 14 weeks early. At four months old, Owen developed necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), which severely damaged his intestines. He needed surgery to remove the damaged intestines. As a result, nutrition became a major challenge. At age four, Owen was finally healthy enough to begin solid foods and underwent intense therapy to learn how to eat, starting with just a cake sprinkle! Today, Owen enjoys all kinds of foods. Pizza is his favorite! In addition to Pediatric Intensive Care Unit equipment and programs like Child Life, Owen also benefited from a CMN-funded medical camp — he learned to ride a bike!



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Gannon

YORK HAVEN



Gannon was born 12 weeks early, weighing just 13 oz., about the size of a soda can. He was transported by pediatric ambulance to Penn State Children's Hospital where he spent 225 days battling to survive. He quickly earned the name "Warrior Gannon" as he endured many health challenges. Gannon needed a ventilator, g-tube feedings and has faced seizures, chronic lung disease and other conditions. Gannon has a smile for everyone he meets! He loves tap dancing and wearing his signature bow ties. He continues to receive ongoing treatment. Recently, he started physical therapy to build muscle strength and balance. He also learned how to eat solid food at the hospital's feeding clinic.



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Miles | PALMYRA

Miles was diagnosed at just three months old with hydrocephalus, a condition which causes a build-up of fluid on the brain. Since infancy, Miles has endured more than 30 surgeries to treat and maintain his condition. Miles is also a patient of the hospital's feeding clinic to learn how to eat different types of food. Miles visits other clinics as well including neurology, neurosurgery, ophthalmology, therapy services, orthopaedics and rehab medicine. "We couldn't be more proud of every single thing he's accomplished," says his mom, Alex. "Today, we have different battles — speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, but he's still smiling and that will always be what matters most."



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#GiftOfGrowingUp

Malaya YORK



When Malaya was born, she immediately went into cardiac arrest. After spending five days in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at York Hospital, she was transported to Penn State Children's Hospital where she spent the next ten weeks fighting for her life. Malaya was diagnosed with a rare genetic condition called MMIHS (megacystis micro-colon intestinal hypo-peristalsis syndrome). This means she has an enlarged floppy bladder, an extremely small colon and no motility in her intestines. She also receives all nutrition and medication through her blood stream using a central line. These challenges require round-the-clock care and often result in long hospitalizations. Malaya is holding a hummingbird because gifts to CMN Hershey support the Hummingbird Program, which helps to coordinate Malaya's complex care and provide social and psychological resources for her family. Despite these challenges, Malaya has no cognitive defects and is meeting new developmental milestones as she grows!



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Kennedy HARRISBURG



Kennedy was born prematurely and was later diagnosed with Chiari Malformation Type 1 (a brain malformation) and Syringomyelia (a spinal cord cyst or cavity). She has undergone several surgeries and procedures on her brain, spine and vocal cords. During her many hospital stays, Kennedy was helped by Child Life. Her mom, Jayna', adds "When a beautiful young girl comes in for brain surgery and wakes up with her hair shaved off there aren't many words that you can say to comfort her. But, when the friendly faces of the Child Life team show up with hair bows and fingernail polish and stickers and games, and I see the light in her eyes return, I know that I will forever be grateful." The Child Life team also gave Kennedy a medical doll to explain what was happening to her body. Kennedy keeps the doll on her bed as a constant reminder of her bravery.



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