

SPRING ISSUE 2021

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



Meet Taina Richards!

Talented, motivated and living life to her full potential after a below-the-knee amputation.

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For the friends of Children's Specialized Hospital Foundation



11: COVER STORY

16-year-old, **TAINA RICHARDS** learned to walk again after a below-the-knee amputation caused by a blood clotting disorder. She painted the picture she’s holding on the cover in the hospital. The waves symbolize the uncertainty she was feeling while the trident and crown represent the strength her mother brought to her.

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Your Donations at Work

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR 2021 EVENTS

6.21.21
5th Annual
OPEN
 at
 **METEDECONK NATIONAL GOLF CLUB**
www.Childrens-Specialized.org/golf

8.1.21

BETTER TOGETHER
Restaurant Week

9.19.21
WALK n' ROLL
 FOR CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL

How do you want to hear from us?

We know that you get a lot of mail—and even more emails—so we want to be sure we’re reaching you the way that works best for you. Take this quick survey to let us know what news you’re most interested in, how you’d like to receive communications and how often.

scan here to let us know
or visit <http://bit.ly/CSHF-Survey>



A Message from the Foundation President

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the tumultuous year we have all endured since the pandemic began, it is difficult for me to put into words the mix of emotions that I feel. The months have been long and trying, and like many of you, I have felt fear and anxiety, weariness and isolation and sadly, grief. But I have also witnessed a triumph of the human spirit that elevates me and gives me strength. I am in awe of the unwavering commitment our generous donors have shown, the indomitable spirit of our healthcare heroes, and most importantly, the resilience of the children and families we serve.

Guided by the expert stewardship of our volunteer Board of Trustees, our organization was undeterred by the pandemic and worked quickly to adapt to the challenges of social distancing and COVID-19 safety precautions. Amazingly, we closed the year with truly unprecedented success with total contributions over \$18,000,000. Financially, it was the best year in the Foundation's history, demonstrating the incredible dedication of our loyal donors and their staunch devotion to advancing the health and welfare of our patients. As exceptional as our fundraising has been, the needs of the hospital have never been greater—from advancements in technology to upgrades at our facilities.

As you may have read or experienced, lockdowns and remote learning have brought into clear focus the urgency and importance of continued services for children with special healthcare needs. No child recovering from severe illness or trauma or struggling with developmental or behavioral issues should have their therapies interrupted. With your help, we raised the necessary funds to ensure that key programs and services offered at our 14 sites remained available in person or virtually for all of our patients.

We are fortunate to have a 130-year history to guide us during this turbulent time. The last year has made it evident that we must remain focused on our mission and continue our work to anticipate the future needs of the children in our community. We are moving forward with plans put in place before the pandemic to open a new outpatient center in Union, NJ that will provide more children with access to care. We have worked diligently to explore new strategies and solutions and adapt to the current circumstances. We have implemented new policies and grown together as a team, even as we have been working remotely for 12 months.

So, yes, it has been a difficult year of great heartache and change, but our resilience and perseverance as an organization and a community has made us stronger and more agile.

I cannot express adequately in words how grateful we are for your generosity and thoughtfulness. We could not accomplish all that we have without your support. We thank you, and the children and families we serve thank you.

Please stay healthy and safe!

Sincerely,



“

It has been a difficult year of great heartache and change, but our resilience and perseverance as an organization and a community has made us stronger.

”

— PHILIP SALERNO III —
Foundation President & Chief Development Officer



Farewell to A Friend

A Tribute to Jim Rutherford



Jim Rutherford was a trustee, former investment committee chair, past Board Chair and chairman emeritus. More importantly he was a friend, mentor and confidant.

Jim led a full life as a dad, grandfather, successful investment manager and volunteer. He was “paying it

forward” before anyone had ever heard the term.

Over the 30 or so years I had the honor to work with and learn from Jim, he never uttered a mean or unkind word about anyone. Jim always spoke with compassion, understanding and integrity.

He led by example and others followed that lead without being asked. He was a true servant leader, always doing for others and never asking for anything for himself.

At the time of his passing, his colleagues on the Board used words like “amazing,” “great man,” “wonderful friend” and “thoughtful” to describe Jim.

Thanks to his leadership on the investment committee and as Board Chair, he left the Foundation in the best possible position as a viable and sustainable fundraising arm for Children’s Specialized.

Jim is, and will continue to be, missed for his friendship, leadership, support and sense of humor.

—Philip Salerno III
President and Chief Development Officer

Trustees Take On New Leadership Roles



Michele Hall-Duncan has served on the CSH Foundation Board of Trustees for 12 years and has been elected to the office of Vice Chair. Duncan also serves on the governance, engagement and marketing committees.

Duncan says of her experience, “I’m proud to be part of a Board that cares so deeply about improving the health and wellbeing of CSH patients and caregivers. By supporting and embracing innovative technologies and engaging our networks and community, we’ve been able to help tens of thousands of kids reach their full potential. That’s the best feeling in the world.”



Michael V. Miller has served on the Foundation Board of Trustees for five years and has been elected to the office of Secretary. Miller also serves on the planned giving Committee and chairs the governance committee.

“Since I began my tenure on the Board of Trustees, I have seen many examples of hospital staff bringing hope to families during what must be the darkest hour they have experienced,” says Miller. “I have always considered it a privilege to be a part of this tradition of compassion. Over the years I have also been privileged to learn of the commitment of the staff and the Board of Trustees to continuing our culture of excellence. This is truly an exceptional organization and I am glad to be a part of it.”



Mairead Goetz joined the Foundation Board of Trustees in 2018. This year she has agreed to chair our engagement committee. This committee provides support to each Board member so they can strengthen their role and connection to CSH and gives them the tools they need to be highly engaged with our mission.

Mairead explains “The committee strives to create a culture of inclusivity, diversity and leadership. We are always evolving to be responsive to the needs of the Foundation and the Hospital while taking care to cultivate the next generation of leadership. We had tremendous Board engagement throughout the pandemic and we are looking to learn from and build on these insights to even further enhance our Trustee experience. I am looking forward to doing great things together.”

April is All About **AUTISM ACCEPTANCE**

Children's Specialized Hospital's (CSH) programs and services for children living with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are partially funded by the generosity of our donors. Our innovative research projects, fully funded by donors, are transforming the lives of youth with ASD and their families.

Nationally, the prevalence of ASD in children is 1 in 54. Here in New Jersey, it is 1 in 32. As the largest regional provider for children with ASD, CSH is dedicated to improving the lives of children living with ASD and their families by providing comprehensive evaluations, treatment and community education. In addition, CSH is at the forefront of research for the treatment and diagnosis of ASD, conducting various clinical studies related to improving diagnosis and treatment.

Every year in April, the world unites to spread awareness, celebrate differences, and promote acceptance and inclusion. There are many ways you can get involved this month to acknowledge and support people with ASD and our vision of a world where all children can reach their full potential.

Create Social Awareness

Wear blue and share your photos with the hashtags #CSHF and #AutismAcceptance on social media. Don't forget to tag us @ChildrensSpecialized on Facebook and @ChildrensSpecNJ on Twitter and Instagram. You can also use our Facebook profile picture frames to show your support! Just visit facebook.com/profilepicframes and search for Children's Specialized.

Start a Facebook Fundraiser

Invite friends and family to join you in supporting CSH and kids living with ASD. Make sure to tell them that **100% of every donation** supports the vital programs and services that are transforming the lives of children with special healthcare needs.

Light It Up Blue

Recognize ASD and #LightItUpBlue by changing the light outside your front door to a blue bulb or shining a blue light on your home or business.

Learn More About ASD

We strive to provide tools and resources that enhance quality of life, support independence, and increase safety for children and adolescents living with ASD. Through a partnership with Kohl's Cares, we've developed ASD resources for children, adolescents, families and the community. Visit our website at bit.ly/CSH-Autism-Hub to learn more.



EXPANDING, IMPROVING AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The time has come for CSH to evolve once more to confront the most critical pediatric rehabilitation challenges of our time.

For 130 years, CSH has been evolving to meet the unique needs of the children and families in our care—in short, we strive to always be there when they need us. We evolved from our beginning as a rural respite for inner city children to a leader in polio care in the 1940s to presently being the nation’s leading provider of inpatient and outpatient care for children from birth to 21 years of age facing special healthcare challenges with 14 locations across New Jersey. Our amazing evolution has been possible because of the keen foresight of our leadership and the support of those in our community who believe in our vision of a world where all children can reach their full potential.

Anticipating the Needs of Children

Anticipating the future needs of children in our community has contributed to our growth and success over the years. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic affected all of our lives, we understood that we needed to expand access to care for more children to meet the rising number of behavioral health diagnoses.



We are always looking forward, anticipating the healthcare needs and challenges that lie ahead.



— WARREN E. MOORE, FACHE —

President & CEO, Children’s Specialized Hospital
Senior Vice President, Children’s Services, RWJBarnabas Health

The prevalence of behavioral health issues in children has been steadily climbing year after year. The CDC reports that one in six children between the ages of two and eight in the United States has a diagnosed mental, behavioral or developmental disorder. In 2020, CSH coordinated over 100,000 mental health visits across our 13 locations. Today, mental health issues

such as depression and anxiety among children are on the rise as a result of the pandemic.

Developing the Gold Standard

The time has come for CSH to evolve once more to confront the most critical pediatric rehabilitation challenges of our time.

The increasing number of outpatient visits, the rising rates of emotional, developmental and behavioral disorders in children and adolescents, and our mission to be the preeminent provider of specialized healthcare for infants, children and young adults prompted the decision to construct a new state-of-the-art outpatient center in Union, NJ that will open later this year.

“We are always looking forward, anticipating the healthcare needs and challenges that lie ahead. That’s why we’re thrilled by the development of our new site in Union. This site will give us the ability to schedule more outpatient appointments, connecting us with new patients and families that need us,” says Warren E. Moore, FACHE, President & CEO, Children’s Specialized Hospital and Senior Vice President, Children’s Services, RWJBarnabas Health. He continues, “The building’s proximity to major highways and bus routes also increases access to our unmatched programs and services. Our vision has always been a world where all children can reach their full potential—the development of this site is another step toward making that vision a reality.”

As the gold standard of pediatric rehabilitation centers, the new Union Outpatient Center will offer state-of-the-art technology, a full suite of therapy services and physician services such as developmental and behavioral pediatrics, neurology, orthopedics, physiatry, psychiatry and special needs primary care.





Dr. Matthew B. McDonald, III, M.D., Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer expressed how this new facility aligns with our mission, saying, “We are fully committed to improving the health of children with special healthcare needs. Our new Union facility is focused on their unique needs and will provide our beloved patients and families an amazing environment to receive expert, family-centered care.”

Our Donors Make It All Possible

The evolution of CSH has always been propelled by the generosity of our philanthropic community. With each giant leap we’ve taken in our long history, our donors have been beside us, supporting the children in their communities and helping us prepare for the future of their care.

“What greater gift can we offer families than the gift of access to life-changing care for their children?” asks Philip J. Salerno III, Children’s Specialized Hospital Foundation President and Chief Development Officer. He adds, “We are so grateful that our donors, who really become our friends and part of the hospital family, share both our vision and our commitment to serving children in need. They have been a large part of our success for the last 130 years.”

The new Union Outpatient Center is the first step of our journey to design the next generation of care for children with special healthcare needs. We are thankful to have the support of our donors and friends who make it all possible. ■

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

We Make a Greater Impact Together



Vincent Baricaua has been committed to helping the kids at CSH since he initially learned about the RE/MAX award for #1 Fundraising Office during his first year in real estate over ten years ago. Since then, his RE/MAX Our Town office has won the #1 Fundraiser award almost every year.

Throughout our long history, we have had the privilege of being awestruck by our donors and volunteers who

seem to have an unstoppable passion for helping the kids at CSH. Time and time again they have proven that you don't have to possess great means to make a great impact. Incredible feats of generosity are possible through creativity, kindness and the power of the community working together.

Baricaua is one of these exceptional people who goes above and beyond to make a difference. He started his fundraising efforts through RE/MAX, a Children's Miracle Network Hospitals (CMNH) partner since 1992, with the Raising the Stakes for a Miracle Gala which has raised over \$417,000 in the last ten years. Today he volunteers as a member of the CSH Foundation Board of Trustees.

Foundation President and Chief Development Officer, Philip J. Salerno III, speaks fondly of Baricaua saying, "We have always been fortunate to have a generous family of donors who believe in our mission. Once in a while, though, you meet someone who brings a high degree of energy and creativity to their efforts and they simply cannot be stopped. Vin is that person whose commitment to our patients is limitless."

Baricaua did not raise this money alone. He understands that there is strength in numbers and that by motivating others, he can make a greater impact. He spreads his passion about helping the kids at CSH to everyone he meets—family, friends, colleagues, and even strangers. "Anyone can make

an impact with a single act of kindness, but when individuals join together, they can make a gigantic difference," explains Baricaua.

Part of his success can be attributed to the culture of giving he has created in his workplace. The RE/MAX Our Town team is all-in when it comes to helping the patients and families at CSH. In addition to the annual gala, they participate in our annual Walk n' Roll and in the RE/MAX Miracle Homes program, donating a portion of the proceeds from sales. Their dedication shone bright when a gala was not a possibility in 2020. The team ran a mega raffle that included four luxury prizes—including a car—and raised more than \$47,000 for CSH!

“

Anyone can make an impact with a single act of kindness. But when individuals join together, they can make a gigantic difference!

”

— VINCENT BARICAUA —
RE/MAX BROKERAGE OWNER

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

This year, Baricaua has made a pledge to raise \$500,000 for the new Union Outpatient Center. He plans to rally the community around our mission and expand his fundraising efforts to reach more people and raise more money than ever before.

Baricaua's commitment to raising funds for CSH may have started as a desire to win an award, but it has grown into a need to help families. "To me, it's spiritual," he says. "It's growth and contribution. It's giving kids a fighting chance. It's helping families who are praying to God for a miracle. I want to help families make those miracles happen." ■

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Children's Specialized Hospital Foundation is proud to acknowledge the generous support of our donors. We are pleased to recognize the following donors who supported us with major gifts between July 1, 2020 and January 31, 2021.

Visionary Society (\$500,000+)

- Anonymous
- Vincent Baricau's Raising the Stakes for a Miracle
- Costco Wholesale Corp.
- Estate of Alfred A. Moser

Benefactor Society (\$250,000+)

- Estate of Evemarie C. Gilfillan
- Harold B. & Dorothy A. Snyder Foundation
- Louise Washington Charitable Remainder UniTrust

Leadership Society (\$100,000+)

- Extra Life
- Johnson & Johnson Consumer Products Company
- PSEG Foundation
- Virginia Ohmeis UniTrust
- RE/MAX

Humanitarian Society (\$50,000+)

- Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas A. Boccella
- Sandria DeSapio
- Edward J. McKenna
- Merck Company Foundation
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael V. Miller
- Panda Express Restaurants
- Rite Aid Corporation Foundation
- Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Skurbe
- Speedway

- Leslie Taylor
- Wawa
- The Willits Foundation

Founder Society (\$25,000+)

- Ace Hardware
- American Pile and Foundation LLC
- Autoland
- The Alan J. and Pendryl G. Blake Fund
- Burns & McDonnell Engineering Co.
- Leona L. Deliberato
- Ferreira Trucking Company, Inc.
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- Katherine F. Van Allen
- Blanche M. and George L. Watts Mountainside Community Foundation
- Wakefern Food Corporation

Cornerstone Society (\$10,000+)

- Angelo Fiorito Trust
- Anonymous
- William Arnold
- Beacon Wealth Solutions
- Beasley Give Hope Radiothon

- The Carian Group Corporation
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- Dr. Heinz K. Hofmeister
- The Jessica Foundation
- Matrix NAC
- McPhee Electric
- Northern Elite Noreen Cacchione Memorial
- OceanFirst Foundation
- Estate of Howard F. Prass
- Anita J. Siegel
- Thomas Sivak
- Standish Foundation
- Toyota Dealer Match Program
- Union Foundation
- The Eleanor Upton Charitable Foundation
- Mr. & Mrs. Frank E. Walsh
- Young Management & Consulting



100% OF EVERY DONATION

SUPPORTS THE VITAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
THAT ARE TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF KIDS
WITH SPECIAL HEALTHCARE NEEDS

MAKE A BIGGER IMPACT WITH A MONTHLY GIFT!



scan to
give now

<http://bit.ly/cshf-news>

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

Eliminating the Fear of Going Home

Life can be very different for families after leaving CSH. Children are often discharged with complex and intimidating medical equipment they need to breathe, eat or move at home. The Patient and Family Nurse Educator (PFNE) program provides direct hands-on education for patients and families on the successful use of equipment so they can safely and confidently go home from the hospital. This program is vital to the health of so many medically fragile children but, unfortunately, it is not covered by insurance.

Thanks to the support of our generous donors, CSH is able to employ a full-time PFNE who provides instruction to families on a variety of topics including tracheostomy care, medications, gastrostomy care, ostomy care, ventilator management, catheterization and central line care. Over 400 patients at our New Brunswick inpatient hospital received these critical training sessions in 2020.

Michelle Donnelly, BSN, RN, describes her role as PFNE as “an integral part of many patients’ pathways to a safe discharge home.” When Donnelly is not directly educating parents, caregivers and patients, she is creating plans for future education sessions with an interdisciplinary team. She communicates daily with social workers, medical and therapy staff, bedside nurses, pharmacists and respiratory therapists to ensure that the education the family needs is completed in a timely manner. This line of communication paired with the education sessions creates a seamless transition from CSH to home care that lowers the chance of readmission, improves safety at home, and provides a level of confidence



that makes the adjustment easier for patients and their families.

Patients and caregivers describe the education they receive as one of the most valuable parts of the hospital experience. Donnelly explains, “Many parents express fear when their child is admitted to CSH—afraid of the new, increased medical needs and their ability to manage their child’s care.” She continues, “Families are also at different points in their acceptance of their child’s new needs. I am able to meet them at their comfort level and work with them to increase their skills and confidence.”

One 13-year-old patient diagnosed with Transverse Myelitis, a rare neuroimmune disorder that attacks the

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Many parents express fear when their child is admitted to CSH—afraid of the new, increased medical needs and their ability to manage their child’s care.

”

— MICHELLE DONNELLY —
RN, BSN
Patient & Family Nurse Educator

central nervous system, was discharged from CSH with a catheter. Her mother expressed her thanks for the training Donnelly provided saying, "If Michelle wasn't here to help us, I don't think my daughter would have ever felt comfortable enough to 'cath' herself." She continues, "If she hadn't learned, the responsibility would have fallen on me and it would have eventually affected my mental health."

Another parent expressed nervousness about performing tracheostomy care at home. By the end of one session with Donnelly, he was able to perform the proper steps for suctioning the tracheostomy and had an understanding of emergency management. The next day, his wife expressed her thanks to Donnelly, exclaiming, "I'm so excited! I never thought he was going to be able to do it!"



When asked about her favorite part of the job, Donnelly replies, "It is the greatest feeling when a patient or caregiver completes a task independently or for the first time after weeks of education sessions. I feel so proud of them."

This is just one of many instances where your support makes all the difference. Donations to the Foundation support this program and others like it that are vital to our patients' health. We presented this program to the Johnson & Johnson Foundation who recognized its importance and began directing funds to support it. The \$60,000 grant that they awarded us covered more than half the cost of the program last year. ■

HOSPITAL NEWS

Improving the Quality of Life for Children Living with Autism

CSH RUCARES is a first-of-its-kind center dedicated to research, education and services for children and adults living with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in New Jersey. This collaborative effort between CSH and Rutgers University and Rutgers University Center for Autism Research, Education, and Services (RUCARES) at the Brain Health Institute provides the opportunity to partner on care and research for those living with ASD and significantly challenging behaviors throughout their lifespan.

The CSH RUCARES Severe Behavior Program provides specialized services to children and adolescents living with ASD and other developmental disabilities who display dangerous behavior such as self-injury, aggression, property destruction and pica. The program works to improve the quality of life for children with severe behavior disorders and their families by providing the most advanced and comprehensive treatment services, developing and refining effective treatments through clinical research, and administering training for effective treatment technologies.

Dr. Matthew McDonald Expands His Role

We would like to congratulate Dr. Matthew B. McDonald on his new expanded role at CSH and RWJBH. While maintaining his current responsibilities as Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, he will be taking on a more extensive role within CSH and the RWJBH system. Dr. McDonald will help guide the execution of pediatric strategy including program development at CSH and ambulatory growth for RWJBH Children's Services. Additionally, he will continue to lead the RWJBH Pediatric Quality Council overseeing quality and safety for RWJBH Children's Services and will chair the RWJBH Delegated Credentialing Board (CRPN) through the next stages of success.



Attitude is Everything

A painter, singer and writer, Taina Richards was born to be different! When Taina was 12, she started feeling a constant numbness in her left leg. After visiting the doctor, she was diagnosed with Antiphospholipid syndrome (APS), an autoimmune disorder in which the immune system mistakenly creates antibodies that make the blood much more likely to clot. She was prescribed a blood thinner to manage her condition and reduce the risk of new clots forming.

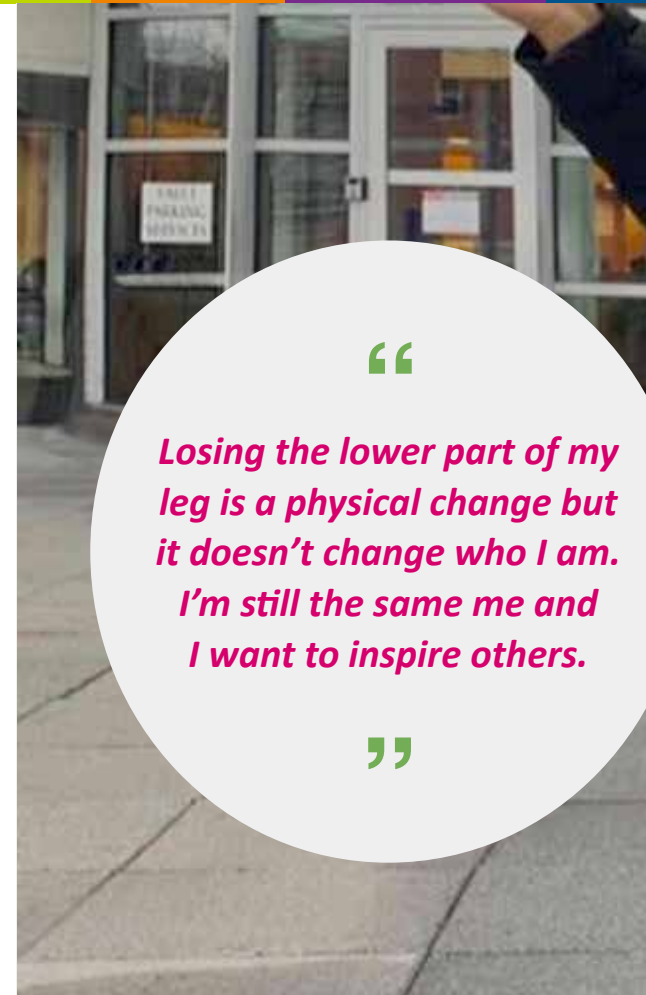
The blood thinner kept the APS at bay for a while, but towards the end of 2019, now 15 years old, Taina began to feel pain and a tingling sensation in her left leg that extended into her foot and toes. Her mother, who is a nurse, suspected the pain to be blood clots and immediately took her to the emergency room. The doctors confirmed her mother's fear that the blood thinner was no longer breaking down her clots and the blood flow to her lower leg and foot was severely restricted.

Taina spent the next two months in the hospital as doctors tried to remove the blood clots in her leg through surgery but had no success. A few days after surgery, Taina was in excruciating pain and her foot began changing color. She was transferred to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, NJ where they attempted to dissolve the rest of the clot with medicine and several rounds of plasmapheresis (or plasma exchange). When it became evident that the surgery and subsequent treatments were not working to increase blood flow, Taina and her mom were faced with the realization that her leg would need to be amputated below the knee.

After a successful surgery, Taina was transferred to CSH in New Brunswick where she stayed for 34 days and began her inpatient therapy. Just being at CSH made both Taina and her mother feel more confident because they knew they were in the best place for physical rehabilitation and occupational therapy. Looking back on her arrival at CSH, Taina says, "At first I thought that I was going to be the only kid my age. Once I saw that there were other kids that have disabilities there and I met my therapist, I knew that everything was going to be okay."

Taina describes learning to walk again as the biggest obstacle she had to overcome. "Before I received my prosthesis, I had to learn how to get up the stairs with one leg and I thought I would never be able

TAINA RICHARDS



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Losing the lower part of my leg is a physical change but it doesn't change who I am. I'm still the same me and I want to inspire others.
”

to do that," she says. She learned in stages, first moving with a walker, then crutches, a wheelchair, and finally, walking with a prosthetic leg. Taina and her family credit the child life team and therapists at CSH for her success. Because of them, she felt fully prepared for life after CSH and had the confidence she needed to get around on one leg independently until her prosthesis was ready. Her mother expressed gratitude to Taina's physical therapist, Marissa Corveleyn, and occupational therapist, Megan Buckley, saying, "Taina's therapists helped her every step of the way. They pushed her just enough and were patient with her in those moments that she was in pain and needed extra encouragement."

Diving for rings in pool therapy and playing skip bow in recreational therapy were Taina's favorite activities because she was able to get stronger and have fun at the same time. With her hard



Big smiles after participating in a dance marathon!

work and the help of her doctors and therapists, Taina was able to meet her goal of being discharged on the date she had previously chosen. She continues working on building her strength through outpatient therapy at our Mountainside facility twice per week.

continued →

“
Taina is a brave young woman who showed a maturity beyond her years. She was motivated and took charge of her own care so she could get walking again and get back to living her life.
”

— DR. MICHELE FANTASIA, M.D. —
PEDIATRIC PHYSIATRIST

What is so exceptional about Taina is her contagiously positive attitude that prevailed throughout this life-changing experience. She says, "Losing the lower part of my leg is a physical change, but it doesn't change who I am. I'm still the same me. Of course it has been stressful at times, but I have an incredible support system in my family and friends. When I get down, they help me pull myself right back up." She continues, "I want to be an inspiration to others. You never know what you are capable of until you have to do it. I hope that sharing my story will let other kids know they're not alone."

Dr. Michele Fantasia, M.D., Pediatric Physiatrist, was part of Taina's care team and marveled at her resiliency. "As can be expected, every patient experiences a level of reactive depression after an amputation, but Taina adopted a positive attitude very quickly." She continues, "Taina is a brave young woman who showed a maturity beyond her years. She was motivated and took charge of her own care so she could get walking again and get back to living her life."

Taina doesn't like the word "dreams" because she believes anything is possible. Instead, she prefers to focus on "goals." She is back to doing the things that she loves most—spending time with family and friends, meeting new people, painting, singing and writing. Her goals include passing all of her classes at the performing arts high school she attends and going to college this fall. Taina aspires to become a clinical psychologist so she can help people facing



life-changing or traumatic events. Inspired by her own experience and the support she received from the staff at CSH, Taina would love to work at CSH one day so she can offer the same comforting support to patients that she received.

When asked what advice she would give to other patients and families, Taina responds, "Remain positive and when life gives you lemons make lemonade. Talk to people about how you feel, try to join a social group with parents and children who are going through similar things." ■

LET KINDNESS BE YOUR LEGACY.

A planned gift through your will
or trust makes it possible.

Contact Elena Herskowitz at (908) 301-5462
or eherskowitz@childrens-specialized.org
to leave your mark on the future.



learn more ↗

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO **MAKE MIRACLES**



Since 1983, often by raising \$1 at a time, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals (CMNH) has funded major programs, projects, research and equipment purchases for the kids treated at their 171 partner hospitals across North

America—including CSH. Every year, CMNH celebrates local childrens hospitals and their strong, courageous patients during Children's Hospitals Week. This week is a time to highlight the importance of childrens hospitals and to celebrate the miracles that our donors are creating for kids every day.

Be a Part of Children's Hospitals Week April 19-25

Shop the CSH Store!

Pick up our new "This Shirt Makes Miracles" tee or any other item to show your support! Visit <https://bit.ly/SHOPCSH>



Host a Facebook Fundraiser

Wear a Bandage

Take a bandaid from your medicine cabinet and write the name of a child in your life with special healthcare needs or why you support CSH on it. Snap a selfie, share and tag @ChildrensSpecialized on Facebook or @ChildrensSpecNJ on Instagram and Twitter using the hashtag #ChildrensHospitalsWeek.



<https://bit.ly/SHOPCSH>

Upcoming Campaigns

April 1-30

Visit your local participating **Ace Hardware Retailers** for your spring gardening needs and round up your change for the kids at CSH.



April 12-May 31

Make a donation at checkout when you visit your local **Wawa** to change the future for kids at CSH.



May 1-31

Purchase a miracle balloon at your local **Costco** to support the kids at CSH.



June 28 - July 25

When you visit your local **Walmart** or **Sam's Club** this summer, you can support our patients by making a donation at checkout.



Leah Hansen
CSH Patient
2021 CMNH New Jersey
Champion Child

Leah shows her strength with a bandaid promoting awareness for childrens hospitals. Leah had a spinal cord stroke at eight years old that left her paralyzed and unable to breathe on her own. Today, Leah is back on the softball field with her friends and re-learned to ride her bike during quarantine in 2020!

Read her full story here: <http://bit.ly/CSHChamp2021>



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OUR MISSION

Children's Specialized Hospital Foundation's mission is to inspire and secure philanthropic support for Children's Specialized Hospital, the preeminent provider of specialized healthcare for children and adolescents facing special health challenges—from chronic illnesses and complex physical disabilities like brain and spinal cord injuries to a full scope of developmental, behavioral and mental health concerns.

Our award-winning doctors, researchers and pediatric specialists work with patients and families in pursuit of the vision of a world where all children can reach their full potential. Children's Specialized Hospital depends on the generosity of donors to discover innovative ways to help more children break barriers and transform their lives.

100% of every donation supports the vital programs and services that are transforming the lives of kids with special healthcare needs.

To learn more about Children's Specialized Hospital Foundation

VISIT:

www.childrens-specialized.org/giving

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foundation@childrens-specialized.org

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