

Miracles in the Making

Fall 2021



Celebrating 36 Years of Miracles



Our generous community helped us raise more than \$1 million for local kids

Thanks to Children's Miracle Network Hospitals' longtime television partner, WITN, which produces the annual Celebration Broadcast, this year's Miracle Children were able to share their heartwarming stories of complex illnesses and traumatic injuries and the quality medical care they received from James and Connie Maynard Children's Hospital at Vidant Medical Center. Your generous contributions helped us celebrate 36 years by raising \$1,082,064 for sick and injured children in eastern North Carolina.

The theme of this year's Children's Miracle Network Hospitals campaign has been "Change Kids' Health, Change the Future" which shows how important donations are in helping shape a healthier tomorrow for patients served at Maynard Children's Hospital.

The yearly event, held June 6, featured contributions from long-time supporters from across eastern North Carolina including Speedway, Walmart/Sam's Clubs, and Jersey Mike's Subs. The Celebration Broadcast featured guests and sponsors who have contributed during the past year, as well as callers who pledged their support. The largest donor to this year's campaign came from Speedway, which raised \$178,990 in their sixth year of partnership with Maynard Children's Hospital.

"Caring individuals, community groups, businesses and others show how much they care about children by providing generous contributions to Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. In eastern North Carolina, this generosity enables the Maynard Children's Hospital, located in Greenville and serving 29 counties, to see beyond obvious treatment and save more lives," said Bill Mitchum, chair, Vidant Health Foundation Board of Trustees. "The care and high-quality treatment received here will continue into the future through this year's amazing donors."

Meet Our Miracles

2021 Miracle Children

Emma Lewis, 2

Emma came into this world at just 24-weeks-old weighing one pound, six ounces. A child that small is considered a micro-preemie. Being born so early comes with numerous challenges including premature lungs. For that, Emma had to be intubated during her early weeks to help her breathe. Eventually, she ended up having a tracheotomy tube placed that would allow her to breathe while away from the hospital. Emma spent more than 220 days at Maynard Children's Hospital. In July 2021, Emma had airway reconstructive surgery which will allow her the ability to speak.



Monai Walker, 16

Monai was having a lot of unusual back pain and nausea that eventually led to a trip to Maynard Children's Hospital. She underwent numerous tests and scans and finally heard the news that no one ever wants to hear - she had cancer. Monai was diagnosed with a rare cancer called Rhabdomyosarcoma. She started undergoing treatment for her cancer which included chemotherapy and radiation. Monai always has a positive attitude and a smile on her face no matter if she's feeling sick or nauseous. Monai is still receiving treatment to fight her cancer but is making great progress towards remission.



Audrey Gil, 11

Audrey was 10-years-old when she was hit by a pickup truck and thrown 30-40 feet across the street. She suffered a serious brain injury and was put into a medically-induced coma. Her mom and dad were told that her chances of survival were 50/50. Lucky to be alive, and after a month in the hospital, Audrey was on the road to recovery. The whole time, she never stopped being herself. After months of physical therapy and learning how to walk, talk, read and write again, Audrey is back home and doing well.

Stephen Wheeler, 2

Stephen was born on July 4, 2019 as a healthy 8-pound baby boy. Ten days later, his color was off and he was breathing really hard. Stephen was taken to the local emergency room, where doctors ordered a chest x-ray and his family was told he would have to be airlifted to Maynard Children's Hospital. Once he arrived, Stephen was diagnosed with viral meningitis. Doctors say the virus went straight to his heart and attacked it. That led to myocarditis and dilated cardiomyopathy, which caused Stephen's heart to become enlarged and not pump properly. Day by day, Stephen continued to improve. After 41 days in the hospital and many answered prayers, he was finally able to go home. Today, Stephen is 2-years-old and is off of all his medicine, and he has a healthy, functioning heart.



Ryan Leevandiver, 3

Ryan was two-months-old when a fever wouldn't go away. He ended up at Maynard Children's Hospital where doctors diagnosed Ryan with Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis, a condition where the liver and spleen enlarge significantly. Ryan's immune system was attacking itself, and his antibodies weren't working. His white blood cells were so low he couldn't fight off any kind of infections. Ryan has had several treatments that include blood transfusions and a bone marrow transplant. Today, Ryan is a very energetic 3-year-old and loves playing ball and with his truck.

Inspiring hope for the future.

More than 38 million children participate in sports each year in the United States. One in three children who plays a team sport is injured seriously enough to miss practice or games. In North Carolina, approximately 200 children die from accidental injuries and another 45,000 visit a doctor's office for treatment of injuries.

Athletes for Hope aims to bring athletes together, to educate, inspire, and empower them to channel their energy for a common goal: to make a difference in the world through sports philanthropy. Miracle Moments is an expansion of Athletes for Hope's existing hospital visit program. With the support of Children's Miracle Network, Athletes for Hope athletes are virtually connected to children in hospitals nationwide allowing them to spread joy through various types of opportunities. Working with CMN offers Athletes for Hope to make an unprecedented level of impact in the lives of children in the communities where athlete's live and play.



Recently, some patients at Maynard Children's Hospital had the incredible opportunity to attend a meet and greet with Perris Benegas, a BMX freestyle cyclist who competed in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Perris and the East Carolina Injury Prevention Program (ECIPP) - Sports Safety teamed up to educate about the importance of safety while playing sports. ECIPP is devoted to preventing sports injuries by providing injury prevention education to students and the community at large. The program touches over 2,800 students, parents, and coaches in the community every year. Your donations help provide program supplies, educational materials and guest speakers in eastern North Carolina.



A special thank you to those who supported our program in 2021

at the level of \$1,000 and above:

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94.3 The Game
96.3 The Talk
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**Change Kids' Health.
Change the Future.**

Help kids get the care they need.



Child Life makes a difference one smile at a time

For patients and families at Maynard Children's Hospital, there are good days and bad days. Hospitalization can cause many different emotions for children and teens. A program called 'Child Life' is all about making life in the hospital a little easier. Many of the funds raised by Children's Miracle Network are used to support Child Life programs and services.

As an integral part of the health care team, working alongside the medical care from clinicians, Child Life Specialists focus on the mental, emotional and social needs of patients. The Child Life Specialist team aims to normalize the hospital environment and help decrease stress and anxiety of a hospital stay for patients and their families through information, guidance, support and play. They help patients cope with the challenges of hospitalization, illness, injury and disability by providing emotional support, procedure preparation, and developmentally appropriate information regarding diagnosis and medical terminology they can understand.

Christy Denius, Child Life Assistant Manager, says, "What we try to do is take that burden off of families and take that burden off of patients to know that there's somebody here that they can just talk to. They might just need a hug for the day. We can put our arms around them and say it's going to be okay."



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Thank you!

Equipment Plus Total Solutions and East Carolina Tractor & Fleet for raising \$17,780 for kids in eastern North Carolina!



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