

MISSION MOMENT: MEET SEBASTIAN

MID-YEAR REPORT

It is understood that a baby's first cry is a sign of healthy lungs and breathing, but the room was silent as Sebastian came into the world. Sebastian was diagnosed with unexplained bilateral vocal cord paralysis. He was physically unable to breathe, produce sounds or receive nourishment on his own and there were no answers for why this occurred. He spent most of his early days fighting to breathe until his parents-to-be made the decision for him to receive a tracheal tube through tracheostomy surgery. At just two months old, it was evident that Sebastian was a resilient little boy when he showcased a big smile for his nurses following surgery. Shortly after moving to Midland from California, Sebastian became a part of the MCRC family to begin adjusting to his tracheal tube through physical and speech therapy.



When they came to MCRC there was finally a sense of hope after his foster parents, Sal and Angie were told that if the trach tube could not be removed by five years old, it would be a permanent need for Sebastian. Alongside his medical needs, his foster parents were also pursuing adoption so that Sebastian could have the best possible outcome. The goal for Sebastian's therapy sessions became evident, working hard so that he could increase in strength, communication, and oral eating. Though he was delayed, Sebastian made quick progress in physical therapy with Kelsey by increasing his muscle strength and walking. Sebastian began working with his speech therapist, Jennifer, to find solutions to begin oral feeding and communication. Initially, these goals were accomplished through functional play using gestures and signs for expressive language. In addition, Jennifer began helping Sebastian to tolerate a Passy-Muir Speaking Valve. The one-way valve opened to let air in through the tracheostomy when Sebastian took a breath in and the valve closed during expiration, causing the air to follow the normal route and permitting speech through the vocal cords. With continuous work and sessions over the past two years, Jennifer was hopeful that the trach removal was a possibility due to his excellent toleration of the Passy Muir Valve. This huge milestone became a reality just before Sebastian's third birthday. Removal of the trach tube was a huge relief to his parents who shared that this was a big event for them! They were so accustomed to making sure he was okay, and now he can be like other little boys his age. "He can just be a kid, he is free, he can be a three-year-old now," Sal shared.

Sebastian's parents shared that he can now communicate his feelings through his own voice. They feel that he has truly become more trusting, social, and open to others because of his time at MCRC. Before, he would be fearful of more needles and tests with nurses, but now he knows he is safe here. They are also happy to announce that their last procedure in the adoption process is finalized and they are finally able to share Sebastian's story. This resilient three-year-old is now on the road to graduation and making more and more progress with enjoying new foods and using new words daily! His parents and speech therapist are hopeful that he will continue making progress in therapy so that he can attend school without delay. We cannot wait to see what is next in Sebastian's journey!



"He really enjoys being here, the staff has been awesome with him. It became a safe place for him, it gave him hope." -Sal, Sebastian's dad

TRAIL AND RIDING SHOW

After taking two years off, we were happy to see the fourth annual MCRC Trail and Riding Show's return. This show allows our riders to showcase their skills attained through therapeutic riding to their families and friends. The skills learned in this program are valuable in teaching children better functional skills for their independence by caring for and managing the horse on their own.

The show included 23 participants from beginners to advanced riders. "We are so proud of all of our riders. We are so thankful to all of our volunteers that make this event possible, as well as the donors that provided meals for all of the families and staff in attendance," Laura Buzbee, Equine Director shared. The fun evening ended with a delicious spread from our friends at the Midland Meat Company.



UNLIMITED DANCE COMPANY SPRING RECITAL



The Unlimited Dance Company has been providing a fun, inclusive, and therapeutic extracurricular program for the children at MCRC since 1994. Children of different abilities are able to participate in this program led by therapists to work toward therapeutic goals while expressing themselves through the movement in dance. In the last year, our dance program has expanded to include a martial arts program for those interested.

MCRC welcomed back a full in-person recital in May, featuring songs from Broadway musicals like *The Phantom of the Opera*, *The Lion King*, *West Side Story*, *The Greatest Showman*, and *Hamilton*. Hannah and Aloura led the show with a special performance that was initially choreographed laying down on the mat to allow more freedom of movement. Working on the mat also gives tactile feedback to help them feel where their bodies are in the space. A video of their original choreography was played simultaneously to show their abilities on and off the stage.

There were five acts that included a total of 16 dancers and four martial artists who showcased their talent and progress made through this program to their families, friends and MCRC staff.

COMMUNITY IMPACT



8,496 TREATMENT
SESSIONS PROVIDED

428
CHILDREN
SERVED

24
ORTHOPEDIC
CLINIC VISITS
PROVIDED

6
PROFESSIONAL
STUDENTS
HOSTED

157 GRADUATIONS
CELEBRATED



658
DYSLEXIA
TUTORING
SESSIONS

327 INDIVIDUAL
DONORS



1,605 VOLUNTEER
HOURS DEDICATED

165
EVALUATIONS
COMPLETED

237 EQUINE SESSIONS



FINANCIAL UPDATE

64%



The operating budget for 2022 is approximately \$2.6 million. In the last six months, we have received 64% of our projected income which is approximately \$1.7 million. Our biennial fundraiser, Steers and Stars was a great help toward our financial goal this year. We are grateful for the continued support we have received from the community, our donors, and parents this year. It is with your support that we are able to change the lives of the children in our community without the need to bill their families. Our directors are anticipating that we will serve around 500 children this year, to continue our mission we will actively pursue the remaining amount.

FROM THE HEART

For the past five years, Amy Lawler has wholeheartedly dedicated her time and efforts to the children and the scope of MCRC. She has served as Board President, Treasurer, on countless board committees, and on our Strategic Planning Committee which focuses on creating a vision for daily operations and growth at the center. Amy has served as a volunteer for our dance program for three years and stepped in as lead instructor this past session. "Amy has been a tremendous volunteer at MCRC. She has worn many hats and has excelled at them all! Amy has a true servant's heart and has an obvious passion for serving the kids that come here. I am grateful that she has shared her precious time and many talents with us," Executive Director, Kristal Kidd shared. It is evident that Amy has a heart for the children and families we serve. We are thankful to have Amy as a member of the MCRC family!

AMY LAWLER



<COMPANY NAME>
<SALUTATION>
<ADDRESS>
<CITY>, <STATE> <ZIP>

STAY CONNECTED



- FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!
- BECOME A VOLUNTEER!
- CONSIDER BECOMING A MONTHLY SUPPORTER

UPCOMING EVENTS:

HIPPOTHERAPPY PLAY DAY - OCTOBER 1ST

- SUPPORT MCRC ON AMAZONSMILE
- Tap the main menu then settings. Tap on 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to find Midland Children's Rehabilitation Center and turn on AmazonSmile on your phone!