

## MEET: MAKENNA!

When Makenna's parents first heard the words "Spina Bifida" during pregnancy, they were uncertain of the future their unborn daughter might have. The heartbroken family was soon told that their daughter might never sit independently or walk. Makenna experienced the delay of early milestones like rolling over and crawling, but when Makenna came to MCRC in April of 2018 at six months old, she was determined to meet these goals. "When doctors gave us a grim diagnosis, MCRC gave us hope," said Melissa, Makenna's mom.

Soon after her first physical therapy visit, Makenna began making progress, meeting each milestone and gaining strength and confidence along the way. The bright-eyed six-month-old began utilizing a stander to assist with leg strength and hippotherapy to develop her core muscles.

**"Where we once saw a diagnosis, we now see Makenna and all that she will accomplish." -Melissa Tagle**

In July of 2020, Melissa was faced with a devastating breast cancer diagnosis. After receiving the news, Melissa's main concern became how her daughter's therapy sessions would continue. Melissa worried that Makenna might miss these opportunities. However, the staff and therapists rallied around the Tagle family to ensure that Makenna could continue making progress towards her goals. "MCRC provided stability for our family during this period of uncertainty. When our other medical resources became distant and far away, MCRC remained. The center has become a second family to us."

As Makenna began to meet milestones of standing and assisted walking, her family and staff began to witness growth in her self-confidence. Today she is an energetic three-year-old who is defying all odds and giving her mom a reason to continue her fight. Her physical therapist Kelsey says, "Her smile is a gift of hope to everyone she meets." The pair can often be found participating in Hippotherapy or splashing in the pool. Both methods have been strong motivators for Makenna. She is currently working towards new goals of taking steps independently with a walker. Melissa said Kelsey is dedicated to her daughter's success. "It is rare to have an advocate that sticks by you like Kelsey does!" Our staff can't wait to see how the mother-daughter duo will continue to defy the odds.



Photo by: Cameron Greer

**"It is a joy to see all that children accomplish during their time at the center. Watching them meet their goals is the greatest reward." -Executive Director Kristal Kidd, M.P.T.**

Midland  
**CHILDREN'S**  
rehabilitation center

802 Ventura Ave  
Midland, TX 79705

Phone: 432.498.2053  
Fax: 432.682.4478  
[www.MidlandChildrens.org](http://www.MidlandChildrens.org)

Like us on Facebook!  
Follow us on Instagram!  
Donate through our website.

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
MIDLAND, TX 79711  
PERMIT NO. 73

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



**PUMPJACK**  
PARADISE

**4 • 10 • 21**

The Montie Watson Memorial Golf Tournament will be held at Midland County Club with party to follow at the new Grove of Centennial Park. This year's event will feature various local vendors and we hope you will consider supporting MCRC as we in return support local!

To attend, visit [www.midlandchildrens.org/pumpjackparadise2021](http://www.midlandchildrens.org/pumpjackparadise2021)