

MEET AAMYIAH!

First graders are often known for their playful sense of humor and energetic personalities. Prior to her accident, the same could be said for Aamyiah. During Labor Day weekend festivities, Aamyiah's world came to a screeching halt when she was involved in a tragic ATV rollover accident. The 6-year-old fractured the temporal and frontal bones in her skull and was on life support for 5 days. The days were long and many wondered if Aamyiah would survive. She proved to be a fighter during the most crucial period, and has remained fighting ever since.

Only two months after the accident, Aamyiah was released from the hospital and into the care of staff at MCRC. Our team immediately began planning for her arrival. The accident had caused issues with extensive swelling, facial nerve damage, vision impairments and issues with communication and mobility. After learning the expected outcomes, the future seemed daunting; however, her family was encouraged by the hope provided by staff at the center.

Despite the drastic changes to her everyday life, Aamyiah remained positive about what she could accomplish, never saying no to a challenge. Her bright spirit and desire to return to normal activities were the perfect recipe for success. Aamyiah's team of therapists worked together to come up with a collaborative treatment plan. She began weekly therapy sessions of speech, occupational, and physical therapy and made rapid improvements in each, making her one of the quickest recoveries from a Traumatic Brain Injury that our therapists have ever seen. Her therapists focused their efforts on the paralysis of the right side of the body, as this affected her speech, ability to swallow and issues with balance and coordination. During her initial evaluation, Aamyiah was unable to clear her mouth while eating, trace a line, scan a room, or even walk for extended periods independently. The unusual challenges required unique treatments.

Her speech therapist, Juliana began using a treatment called e-stim therapy to allow muscles in her cheeks to wake up. This improved the symmetry in her face and gave her the skills needed to eat independently without concern. Juliana remembers how excited Aamyiah was to reach this goal, as her favorite foods were no longer an obstacle. The pair worked on her ability to orient herself in conversations, recall information, and regain executive functioning skills. These treatment goals differ from what many expect speech therapy to be; however, our therapists specialize in a variety of conditions to ensure that we are treating the child as a whole. **CONTINUED INSIDE...**



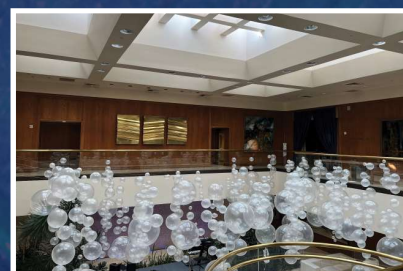
“MCRC became a safety net for her. With the bonds she formed, she knew she could try anything!” -Violeta, Aamyiah's mom

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STEERS AND STARS



Steers and Stars 2022 Committee



Pictured left to right:

Casey Yates, Claire Ramirez, Taylor King, Jenny Ware, Cecelia Goebel, Courtney Midkiff, Megan Hohenberger, Billie Van't Hof, Michelle Harris and Haley Edwards.

Not pictured: Amanda Perry



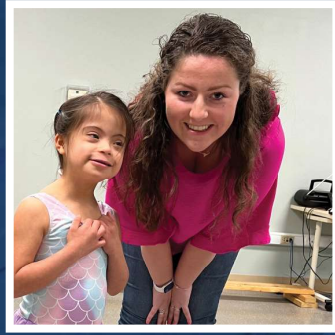
The 10th Biennial Steers and Stars was presented by ConocoPhillips and held February 26th at The Petroleum Club of Midland. The venue became an underwater paradise through the use of decor, menu selections, and throughout the program. The longstanding fundraiser was well supported by the community and set records of attendees and funds raised.

The night featured dinner, a program, and live and silent auctions. Live auction items included unique packages such as a VIP trip to Disney World and dinner and golfing with Flecha Tequila founder Aron Marquez and PGA Golfer Abraham Ancer.

We would like to thank the generous underwriters, sponsors, and committee members for making this event a huge success! We appreciate all you do to make our mission possible.

If you are interested in attending a future event, please visit our website, contact Cecelia at 432-498-2053 or by email at cgoebel@midlandchildrens.org

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT



Finlee Dietrich began serving as a volunteer in our Unlimited Dance Program beginning in 2018. Her vibrant personality is a perfect match to teach the tiniest of dancers. The 17-year-old never misses a dance class, recital, or any opportunity to help, all while going to school full-time. Gwen Salcido our Volunteer Coordinator shared, "Finlee goes above and beyond to accommodate the needs of our dancers, sharing her passion for dance and ensuring that no one is ever left out or behind."

FROM THE HEART

The Dean family has been a tremendous advocate of MCRC for decades, serving as general board members, volunteers, and in the unique role of Medical Director. 22 years later after his father retired from the role, John Dean became the 4th Medical Director in MCRC history. Our organization has relied on Dr. Dean for the past 19 years to navigate unprecedented challenges like expansion of the center, the COVID-19 pandemic, and setting a guide for our future. His wisdom and passion for the center are unmatched and we are so grateful for all that he has done for our staff and the families we serve. He will soon step back from this role, but his legacy will remain as a treasured part of the center.



CONTINUED FROM FRONT...



Her occupational therapist, Emilie, implemented fun strategies like using I spy books and arts and crafts. She made quick progress in recovering her handwriting skills and improving her ability to navigate the double vision caused by the injury. Similarly, in PT she worked alongside her therapist Jami to regain her balance, prevent any additional falls and to navigate the visual challenges that affected typical play. These accomplishments allowed Amyiah to return to school, something she dearly missed! Only six short months after her first therapy session Amyiah showed everyone just how far she had come, by celebrating a triple graduation day!

For many children with traumatic brain injuries, the recovery can be a difficult and devastating journey. Amyiah however, was determined and has regained many of her pre-accident abilities. These accomplishments are a testament to Amyiah's hard work, the specialized care of her therapists, and the miracle that the 6-year-old is! We are so proud of Amyiah and can't wait to see all that she does next!

Midland
CHILDREN'S
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UPCOMING EVENTS

TRAIL & RIDING SHOW
APRIL 23RD

SPRING DANCE RECITAL
May 10TH