

MIDLAND CHILDREN'S REHABILITATION CENTER

2021
NOV

MEET ANGEL!

Prior to a life-altering accident, Angel was an energetic 5-year-old determined to keep up with his siblings. Angel loved sports, taking risks, and keeping his mom eagerly anticipating his next move. While on a road trip, the family was in a car accident that resulted in Angel being ejected from the vehicle. He suffered a traumatic brain injury and had to have his skull reconstructed with the support of 10 titanium plates. Due to the severe swelling of the brain and numerous fractures, doctors told the family there was only a 50% chance the child would ever walk again. Angel spent 2 months recovering in a hospital across the state.

Angel began receiving occupational, physical, and hippotherapy almost immediately at the center. Lost and uncertain, MCRC was a beacon of hope for his family. Speaking about their early days of therapy, Angel's mom Anna said, "MCRC helped guide me as a mom with his daily care. I was anxious about his daily needs and his new future, but the therapists gave me peace."

Anna noted that she can still remember the day they began to see progress. Sitting in their living room, the five-year-old began to crawl towards mom. This monumental milestone, indicated that the journey to recovery was just beginning and that Angel, who was bound to a wheelchair was just getting started.

Watching him today, you might never realize the extent of his journey. Angel battled the significant loss of hand strength and struggles with visual perception. His therapists worked with Angel to re-learn tasks like self-care, independent dressing and even walking. Staff celebrated alongside him as he learned to put on his own shirt, secure buttons, and even tie his shoes. "These sessions provided us with hope that although different, he would live a normal life," said Anna.

Throughout his 4 years at the center, Angel has taken his first independent steps, mastered self-care tasks, and graduated from both hippotherapy and occupational therapy. Today the 9-year-old walks independently, attends school in a traditional classroom setting, and recently celebrated making the honor-roll at his elementary.
CONTINUED INSIDE...



"He is a walking miracle! I can't wait to see all that Angel accomplishes in the future," said Occupational Therapist, Susan Byerly.

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MCRC MISSION MOMENTS!

HIPPO PLAY DAY



Hippo Play Day was held October 2nd. This event provides opportunities for children to show the unique skills gained during hippotherapy sessions throughout the year. Parents, friends, and family line the pasture fence to watch these children participate in activities like navigating a ring tree, riding quadruped, jousting, sitting side saddle, and much more!

Many of the children served within our programs desire to participate in extra-curricular activities. This program provides opportunities for children to engage in an age-typical activity while allowing parents to celebrate accomplishments as well! We are so grateful for the dedicated volunteers who made this event possible!

FROM THE HEART

What began as a friendship formed between R.C. Bennett and former Executive Director Jim Crawford, through small talk at a café, created a legacy of philanthropy. Nearly 30 years ago, Mr. Bennett, along with his cook team made up of many Midland friends, began providing lunch for the families and participants of Hippo Play Day. Sadly, Mr. Bennett passed away eight years ago and many of the original contributors followed, but his daughters felt compelled to honor his dedication to MCRC by continuing to organize the lunch for our families. Although many members of the cooking team have changed over the years, the tradition continues and has grown to include the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 19 of Midland and Clay Bomer/Dynasty Wireline Services, LLC. The famous Bennett Group burgers are a favorite of families around the Center! We are so grateful for the many years of service and dedication to our organization!



CONTINUED FROM FRONT...



You can now find Angel running out of the center doors to keep up with his younger sister. "Therapy gave him the best gift. Not only did he learn to walk and care for himself, he also can keep up with his siblings, something that he missed because of the accident," said Anna. Angel is quickly meeting his therapeutic goals within the other disciplines and his graduation from the other two programs is soon approaching.

When asked, each of his therapists mentioned Angel's sweet spirit. "He is always a bright spot in my day. Always willing to help and even in his journey, always taking the time to ask how I am," said physical therapist Kathleen Sparks. It was this positive attitude and drive to succeed that provided avenues for a remarkable transformation.

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT



Dean Rucker began serving as a board member in the late 1990's. As a Vice President, President, and now on the Board of Governors, Dean has created a legacy of service to the center. He recently began volunteering in the hippotherapy program where he became a perfect fit. When asked what continues to bring him back, he said, "working with the wonderful staff of the Center and with the children is a wellspring of joy."

Candy Bejarano has been volunteering in our dance program for 6 years. As a favorite amongst the tiny dancers, she has continued to return for each of the spring and winter seasons. Jessica Neves, Lead Dance Therapist shared, "it's obvious that she loves the kids, and they adore her in return. We couldn't do what we do without incredible volunteers like her!" We are blessed to have her as both an employee and volunteer!

CHRISTMAS CARD SALES

These cards are designed by the children we serve and 100% of the proceeds will benefit them. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to support the center and spread holiday cheer! This year's designs are featured below. Personalization is available for orders of 100 or more. If interested in ordering, please contact cgoebel@midlandchildrens.org.

DESIGN 1: CHRISTMAS TRUCK



Artwork by Xya, Age 8

DESIGN 2: CHRISTMAS TREE



Artwork by Jenia, Age 7

COST:

- 25 for \$50
- 50 for \$100
- 100 for \$200
- 150 for \$260
- 200 for \$350
- 250 for \$400

For larger quantities, please contact the center.

Midland
CHILDREN'S
rehabilitation center

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