

MIDLAND CHILDREN'S REHABILITATION CENTER

2023
NOV

Meet Rob Dolan!

In a lot of ways, Rob Dolan is your average 13-year-old kid...a teenager navigating the halls of junior high and a sports fan keeping up with his favorite collegiate team (Texas Tech Red Raiders!) He loves 3D printing, baking, cooking, traveling, and ALL things Marvel. He is a gamer, a taekwondo student, and the football manager at his school. But unlike most 13-year-old kids, Rob is also a cancer warrior.

In the spring of 2021, Rob was diagnosed with medulloblastoma, a cancerous brain tumor that starts in the lower back part of the brain. Primarily a childhood disease, this type of cancer is rare and affects only 350-500 children and adults in the U.S. each year. It is, however, the most common type of cancerous brain tumor affecting children.

In addition to having surgery to remove the tumor and receiving nine cycles of chemotherapy, Rob also received 30 proton therapy treatments (a form of radiation treatment used to destroy tumor cells) on his brain and spine. All of this treatment was done within the course of one year. After the removal of his tumor, Rob developed posterior fossa syndrome which greatly affected his muscle coordination, balance, and fine motor skills. He started coming to therapy at MCRC at this point, receiving both physical and occupational therapy and later participating in the taekwondo and therapeutic riding programs.

In the past two years, the staff have witnessed remarkable advancements in various aspects of his physical development. When Rob first started coming to MCRC, he was very unsteady with walking and was not able to do any running, jumping, or hopping. His endurance was very low and he needed frequent rest breaks. Post-surgery, he couldn't even walk. Now he is running, jumping, earning new stripes and belts in Taekwondo, and mastering horsemanship in Therapeutic Riding.

His occupational therapist, Elizabeth, said, "Rob has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to enhancing his strength, balance, coordination, visual motor integration, and manual dexterity. Rob's dedication to his therapeutic journey has been truly inspiring as he continuously pushes himself beyond his limits, always striving for more. His determination to excel, not only in therapy but in all aspects of life, is truly commendable."

Throughout his cancer battle, Rob displayed SO much heart, resilience, and positivity, and he made an impact on everyone he encountered. He loves Jesus and he loves his family, and this shines

through in his life in so many ways. After completing his treatment in the fall of 2022, Rob decided he wanted to be a pediatric oncologist just like the doctors who took care of him.

Rob and his family are fierce advocates for kids with cancer and doing what they can to raise awareness about childhood cancer and raise funds for pediatric cancer research.

On September 12, 2022, Rob — accompanied by a light saber (in true Rob fashion) — rang the bell at Covenant Children's in Lubbock. He has been in remission for a little over a year and he is absolutely thriving. His mom, Mara, said, "The bonds Rob has made with Kelsey, Laura, Elizabeth, Gwen, and so many others are priceless. He has had a team that has rallied around him, encouraged him, pushed him, and wanted nothing more than to see him succeed. His therapists at MCRC are just as invaluable as the neurosurgeon and oncologist who saved his life. I hope more members of our community will find time to volunteer at MCRC. Our community has been blessed with an amazing facility that advocates for so many kids!"

Rob has touched many hearts throughout this journey and we can't wait to see what he accomplishes next. We are so proud of this cancer warrior!



When I grow up, I want to be a
Pediatric Oncologist
— Rob (Age 11)

Covenant
Children's

"We are so grateful for every milestone that Rob reaches." Mara Dolan (Mom)

VISIT MIDLANDCHILDRENS.ORG FOR
MORE MCRC MISSION MOMENTS!

TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN

Benefiting Midland Children's Rehabilitation Center

We were so excited to bring back one of our favorite events, "Take the Money and Run!" Held on September 28th in our very own backyard at MCRC, this Formula 1 Racing-themed evening consisted of delicious BBQ catered by The Half Acre, live entertainment by Straight Tequila Night out of Dallas, and a lot of racing by attendees to snag the raffle prize of their choosing! This year's grand prize was a trip for (2) guests to Las Vegas for the Formula One Grand Prix. Congrats to Blake Rasmussen for winning the grand prize trip!

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. We would also like to recognize the following couples for serving on the 2023 "Take the Money and Run!" committee: Emilie & Taylor Billingsley, Lauren & Michael Dietrich, Lauren & Patrick Godwin, Kate & Neel Huey, Claire & Martin Ramirez, Kate & Jere Thompson, and Jenny & Wesley Ware.



Thank you to our Underwriters:



HIPPOTHERAPY PLAY DAY

Our annual Hippotherapy Play Day was held on October 7th at the Meadowlark Barn and included 24 participants, seven therapy horses, and a lot of volunteers! This long-standing, special event allows family and friends an inside look at what skills their child has accomplished within the hippotherapy program at MCRC. It is an excitement-filled morning as guests gather to watch each child engage in a variety of tasks such as the ring tree, ball toss, sitting side saddle, and more. Many of these skills have been long-term goals of each participant and these kiddos did such a phenomenal job showcasing these milestones. We are so proud of the hard work and dedication of these children, their families, and their therapists!

The event concluded with a delicious lunch provided by the Bennett family and members of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 19. We would also like to acknowledge The United Way of Midland for their continued support of our hippotherapy programs, as well as Shipley's Donuts, Admiral Permian Resources, and Roland Real Estate for supporting this year's Play Day.

Hippotherapy – or "therapy on horseback" – is a physical, occupational, and speech-language therapy tool that provides children with disabilities a combination of movement and sensory stimulation that enables improved function. Hippotherapy utilizes the natural gait and movement of the horse to provide motor and sensory input. We are pleased to be able to offer this form of therapy at MCRC, made possible by the dedication of our many volunteers and donors.



2023 ANNUAL GIFT

Wow! What a year we have had at Midland Children's Rehabilitation Center! From the completion of our long-awaited F. Marie Hall Aquatic Therapy Center to bringing back a favorite event, "Take the Money and Run!", our MCRC staff, volunteers, and donors have been busy fulfilling our mission in 2023.

As you consider your year-end giving for 2023, we humbly ask you to keep in mind Midland Children's Rehabilitation Center. As of September 31st, MCRC has fulfilled...



Your generosity has helped us reach these amazing goals and your year-end gift will allow us to continue our work in 2024. Please use the enclosed envelope to send in your annual donation or scan the QR code below.

Your **gift** will help us continue to offer the following services at NO COST to our families:



- Speech Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Aquatic Therapy
- Dyslexia Tutoring
- Physical Therapy
- Hippotherapy
- Dance Classes
- Taekwondo Classes

Thank you so much for your continued support.
We look forward to sharing our successes in 2024!

Scan here to make your annual gift!



GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

Three years after our old pool was deemed inoperable, construction of our new state-of-the-art pool is finally complete! On September 18, 2023, MCRC held a Grand Opening celebration for the new F. Marie Hall Aquatic Therapy Center. Because of our gracious community, MCRC will be able to make a big SPLASH for the children of MCRC and provide aquatic therapy locally at little or no cost to our families for many years to come.

Our new Aquatic Therapy Center includes the following features:

- An enclosed building with accessible parking
- Access to consistent water quality and temperatures
- Attached bathrooms
- Intercom system for safety protocols
- Deeper water for kids of all ages
- A non-slip decking around the pool
- Engaging tile and island features to enhance therapy services

Thank you to all of the donors who made this possible!



Midland
CHILDREN'S
rehabilitation center

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Save the Date!

**STEERS
STARS**  **2024**

Presented By  **ConocoPhillips**

Saturday, February 24
The Petroleum Club of Midland