

MISSION MOMENT: MEET TINLEY



In her early days, it was evident that Tinley would face adversities, but just by meeting this bubbly, enthusiastic, eight-year-old, you would never guess the challenges she has overcome. As an infant, she struggled to meet the expected milestones and underwent open heart surgery to have a pacemaker placed. At 15 months, Tinley's parents were referred to a neurologist who diagnosed her with periventricular leukomalacia and cerebral palsy. This meant that Tinley would face difficulties with her motor ability and would experience muscle weakness. Many specialists that evaluated Tinley saw her as only delayed and were hesitant to provide intervention because she did not show severe signs of cerebral palsy. It was not until she was four years old that Tinley began receiving needed physical, occupational, and speech therapy treatment at MCRC to address her muscle spasticity and feeding challenges. Tinley began seeing her speech therapist, Caetyn, to find feeding solutions after suffering seizures from malnutrition. She also began physical therapy with Brooke, to treat her tone, muscle strength, gait, and core stability. The two, a dynamic duo, have found therapeutic solutions to combat the spasticity in her muscles. "She has worked very hard on that, she has taken the challenge. Not only has she done well in physical therapy, but she has also been in therapeutic dance and a group for toe-walking which all address her tone. She has had a lot of issues with tripping and falling and she has overcome that with the help of therapy," said Brooke. This past summer, Tinley underwent a surgery called Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy to reduce spasticity in her legs and trunk. Though intensive, the surgery has proven to release the tension in her muscles and she is working toward relearning movements in physical therapy with Brooke and Jami. Brooke shared, "The surgery has taken away most of her abnormal muscle tone. She was used to the spasticity for movement, but now she must re-learn how to use her muscles, specifically in her legs and her trunk. She has always had some weakness in her arms and her shoulders as well, and we are also continuing to work on that as the whole."



For many children with cerebral palsy completing normal activities can be challenging and tiring. However, Tinley has taken the challenge of working hard to meet her goals and continues to amaze everyone around her. Her mom, Sarah, says, "She's a lot more confident now, sometimes she would be embarrassed to do things that were competitive at school, but now she feels up to the challenge. Brooke has been amazing, she's always willing to be there for us, and she's also willing to put Tinley in her place." Tinley has been involved in the Unlimited Dance Company at MCRC for four years and hopes to get back to dancing soon after she's received the clearance from her doctor. We are so proud of Tinley's hard work, and we cannot wait to see what is in store for her future!

"Being around other kids, she had felt like an outcast, but now she's included at MCRC. She has much more confidence because of her time here." - Sarah, Tinley's mom

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MCRC MISSION MOMENTS!

HIPPO PLAY DAY 2022



Our annual Hippo Play Day was held on October 1st this year with 37 participants. This anticipated event allows family and friends an inside look at what skills their child has accomplished within the hippotherapy program over the year. It is an excitement-filled morning, as loved ones gather along the pastures at Meadowlark stables to watch each child engage in activities such as the ring tree, ball toss, a trail ride while sitting side saddle, and much more! This program provides a method for physical, occupational, and speech therapy utilizing 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 volunteers and donors. The event ended with a delicious lunch served by the R.C. Bennet group and members of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 19 of Midland. We are grateful to all who made this event a success this year.



DORISE WATSON

FROM THE HEART

There is much to be learned about volunteerism from Dorise Watson as she has been devoted to the mission of our center for 22 years. In her time as a volunteer at MCRC, she has become integral to who we are and exudes the caring personality needed to convey our mission. Through her many years of dedication, Dorise has served on the board of directors, in our equine program, and now holds a coveted place on our board of governors. When asked about her favorite part of volunteering at MCRC, she said, "Watching the children change and progress from being frightened to get on the horse, to loving to ride. It is really special to work with the children and I have a love for horses, so I think the two together are the reason I keep volunteering." Because of her constant commitment to the mission and children of MCRC, she has touched many lives. "Dorise is loyal to our mission here at MCRC and is the type of volunteer we all wish we were. Consistent and steadfast, so much so that she's likely to outlast all the rest at the rate she's going," said Gwen Salcido, Community Relations Coordinator. Thank you, Dorise, for your commitment to MCRC!



MAHJONG FOR MCRC

The inaugural Mahjong for MCRC was held on November 17th at The Racquet Club of Midland. The venue was a vision come to life transformed by red lanterns, florals, and vibrant Mahjong sets. The intimate evening for 80 attendees featured Asian cuisine, a Mahjong tournament, and raffle drawings.

We are thrilled to bring Mahjong in a fundraising format to Midland, and we look forward to hosting this event on a larger scale in 2023. If you are interested in supporting future events, please visit our website or contact Cecelia Goebel, Development Director, at cgoebel@midlandchildrens.org



Mahjong for MCRC Committee: pictured left to right: Jenny Ware, Lauren Dietrich, Jennissa Anwar, Cecelia Goebel, Kristin Cantrell.



AQUATIC THERAPY CENTER UPDATE

At the end of 2021, the community came together to participate in our capital campaign for a new Aquatic Therapy Center. After reaching our fundraising goal, we have been eager to see the progress begin on this project. Though there have been some common delays, we are excited to announce that construction is underway! Following the approval of our city permits, demolition quickly began on our old pool in October. This is a highly anticipated project for our staff, parents, volunteers, board members, and especially for the children that will be treated in the new Aquatic Therapy Center. Aquatic therapy uses the unique properties of water to enhance treatments for patients with a variety of diagnoses. Aquatic therapy also provides opportunities for movement the patient may otherwise be unable to perform in the clinic setting.

MCRC has offered aquatic therapy since 1978 when our last pool was completed. After serving the community for 43 years, it was deemed inoperable in 2020 due to an irreparable leak. The new design will add an enclosed building with accessible parking, consistent water quality, attached bathrooms, non-slip decking, and engaging aquatic features. The estimated duration of this project is eight months, therefore, our tentative completion date will be in the summer of 2023. Thank you for going under the sea with MCRC, we are excited to provide this state-of-the-art pool for aquatic therapy in the Permian Basin.



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