



Children's Miracle Network Hospitals at Via Christi Health

APRIL 2017



### Mission Corner

Six years ago at the age of five, Alaina Woods suffered a massive seizure that no one saw coming. Her parents were aware that she had a brain malformation due to ultrasounds, but Alaina developed normally and hit all her milestones early.

"The seizure was a shock to us because we were unaware seizures were possible when the brain has not formed normally," says Alaina's mother, Sonja.

Three weeks after the first seizure, Alaina had a prolonged seizure which left the left side of her brain damaged and paralyzed the right side of her body, very



### THANK YOU iHeart Radio

The annual Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Radiothon took place on Friday, March 3, on 102.1 The Bull and B-98 FM. The radiothon raised \$40,400 to benefit Children's Miracle Network Hospitals at Via Christi Health.

Local families and children who have been helped by CMN Hospitals shared their stories with on-air talent throughout the broadcast, and enjoyed visits from Miss Kansas 2017 Kendall Shoenekase and Miss Kansas Outstanding Teen 2017 Paige Kauffman among others.

The radiothon was generously sponsored by Hatchett Hyundai & Buick GMC and Learjet Employees Care Fund.

The stations involved in the radiothon are committed to the mission of helping sick and injured children through

### Save the Date

- **May 1 - 30, Costco Fundraising Campaign**
- **June 8, Credit Union of America Golf Classic**

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### Join us elsewhere



similar to a stroke.

As a result, she has been unable to lift her right foot for more than five years. Over time she got back some of the strength in her arm. She went from being paralyzed to being able to peel a banana and give the “thumbs up!” signal after a year of rehabilitation and physical therapy.

Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals at Via Christi Health has helped the family cover the cost of night splints and other medical items Alaina has needed over the years. One of those items was a leg brace, which was recommended by Alaina’s physical therapist in Salina.

“Our therapist then told us about a device which would help stimulate the nerves in Alaina’s leg,” says Sonja. “Unfortunately, our insurance company denied coverage for it.”

Once again, CMN Hospitals stepped in and helped the family obtain the special device, called a WalkAide System which saved Alaina from needing orthopedic surgery.

The seizures went away for about a year with the help of medication, but they began to return, though smaller in size.

Last May, while suffering dozens of seizures a day and taking several medications that weren’t helping control her seizures, Alaina had a hemispherectomy. The procedure removed and disconnected the damaged

this Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals effort. One hundred percent of the dollars raised will stay in Kansas to help children in need.

Since the first radiothon held in 2001 in both Garden City and Wichita, more than \$1 million has been raised to meet the medical needs of Kansas children.



### **2017 Kansas Champion, Nate Self**

Now over 6 feet tall, 16-year-old Nate has a unique view of the world - both from a physical perspective and an intellectual one. His childlike innocence allows him to see the good in everyone and everything around him.

Nate was born with a complex and uncommon set of heart defects and a 30 percent chance of survival. His heart pumps backward. His blood is only oxygenated once, and he has loud murmurs and multiple holes in his heart chambers. Nate also suffers from a minor seizure disorder.

Though aware of his conditions, Nate seems oblivious to their constraints. He tires easily because he runs on less oxygen than everyone else,

left half of Alaina's brain.

Sadly, Alaina has lost the use of her right hand, but that doesn't stop her from playing and being a regular kid.

"Alaina's epilepsy was like a thief," Sonja says. "It was stealing our daughter's cognitive abilities, her love of being around people and family, her confidence and her joy. We will forever be indebted to her healthcare team for helping us in so many ways, but most especially curing her of epilepsy. Since her surgery she is back to her happy, outgoing self!"

To give to CMN Hospitals at Via Christi Health to help kids like Alaina, click the donate now link below.

[Donate Now](#)

but has a fighting spirit that keeps him from giving up. Nate is happiest outdoors, listening to bird songs and trying to identify the species, playing in the sandbox and making up stories.

Nate represented the state of Kansas at the recent Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Momentum conference in Orlando, Florida, where he is pictured above with his mother, Valerie and CMN Hospitals at Via Christi Health director, Kara Warkentine.

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## Caring for Kansas children for nearly 30 years

In 2015 alone, Via Christi Health had nearly 150,000 pediatric visits from patients across Kansas at our hospitals and clinics. Each of these children were impacted by our Children's Miracle Network Hospitals program. CMN Hospitals at Via Christi Health provides equipment, education, and other services to pediatric patients seen in our facilities, in addition to direct medical assistance to cover needs not covered by insurance. This assistance is available to all children served by Via Christi regardless of their illness, injury or financial status. Examples of service include assisting with medical equipment, travel assistance, lodging, therapies and more.

Patients receiving care at Via Christi hospitals and outpatient clinics are eligible for individual assistance using Children's Miracle Network Hospitals funds. You may direct any questions to Kara Warkentine by phone (316) 239-3528 or email by clicking [here](#).

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