

# Beyond the Balloon

Bringing hope to new heights | Spring 2026

## Introducing the 2026 Miracle Children & Teen



### Fendi, 6

Treated for Asthma

Fendi was diagnosed with asthma as a one-year-old. In September, she had to go home early from school one day and told her mom she needed to go to the hospital. Fendi was flown to Maynard Children's Hospital and immediately started having trouble breathing and was put on a ventilator and diagnosed with

pneumonia. After about 30 minutes of the ventilator not working, Fendi was also put on ECMO to allow her heart and lungs to rest. After being on ECMO for nine days, she was finally stable and spent some time in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) before being discharged to go home. Today, Fendi is healthy and continues to navigate life with asthma.



### Millie, 7 months

Treated for Prematurity

Millie was born at just 25 weeks weighting less than two pounds. She was taken to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) right after birth. Since she was so premature, Millie's skin was see-through and she was tiny enough that a finger could be wrapped around her leg. Millie

received several blood transfusions throughout her 104-day NICU stay. When she was discharged, she only required home oxygen which is a huge accomplishment for a micropremie. Today, Millie no longer requires home oxygen and is a healthy baby!



### Preston, 4

Treated for B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

Five days before his 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday, Preston was admitted to the ED because of lingering bruising that began spreading all over his body. Immediately, blood work showed he had leukemia. Preston received multiple chemotherapy treatments,

lumbar punctures and blood transfusions. Treatment seemed to be normal until he contracted a bacterial infection and had to be transferred to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). A few days before his 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday, Preston was cannulated to ECMO to help his heart and lungs heal. After countless treatments, Preston is finally cancer free!



### Rawlings, 1

Treated for Septic Shock Secondary to Bloodstream Infection and Hyperinsulinism

Rawlings was born a healthy baby girl. At just 13 days old, she was admitted back to the hospital to the pediatrics floor for increased congestion, shallow breathing and feeding difficulty. Shortly after, she was transferred to the Pediatric

Intensive Care Unit (PICU) in septic shock with low platelets and elevated liver enzymes. Rawlings spent 27 days in the PICU before heading home. Today, she and her family consider the PICU care team part of their family because of the care they received.

Rawlings is now a happy, healthy one-year-old who loves the ECU Pirates and Sam, the facility dog at Maynard Children's Hospital.

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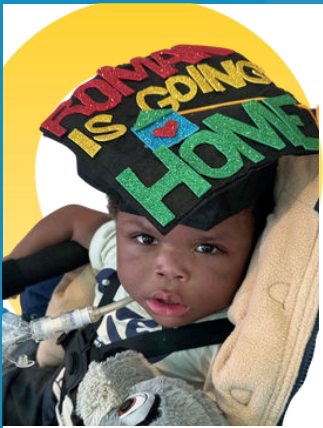


## Stella, 14

Treated for Trauma

In June 2025, Stella was involved in an accident when the ATV she was riding on rolled over and landed on her foot severely injuring muscle, tendons and bone. Stella was immediately transported to Maynard Children's Hospital where she underwent surgery to clean the wound and remove dead,

damaged or infected tissue. She then underwent several other surgeries to close the wound and to receive a skin graft. After two weeks in the hospital, Stella was discharged and was able to go home. She required several rounds of physical therapy to be able to regain use of her foot. Today, Stella is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, became homecoming queen and loves playing softball!



## Roman, 3

Treated for Prematurity and Chronic Lung Disease

Roman was born at just 25 weeks and spent the first 21 months of his life in the hospital throughout the Neonatal and Pediatric Intensive Care Units. Being so premature, he had chronic lung disease and was very sick while hospitalized. Roman had to have a trach tube inserted and

was put on a ventilator to help him breathe. He also had to have a g-tube placed to help him eat and get the nutrients he needed to grow. After spending a year in the PICU, Roman was discharged right before his second Christmas. Today, he no longer requires the ventilator and is working on feeding.



## Wyatt, 8

Treated for B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

In September 2024, Wyatt was diagnosed with leukemia. Treatment started with a bone marrow biopsy, lumbar punctures and a central line placement. Wyatt also underwent several inpatient and outpatient chemotherapy infusions. As part of his treatment, Wyatt had to wear a

continuous infusion chemotherapy pump for 31 days at a time for multiple cycles. During this time, multiple visits to the hospital were required to access his port. Today, Wyatt is cancer free and is currently in the maintenance phase of his chemotherapy treatment.

# Evolving Together

New look, same purpose.



**Children's  
Miracle Network**

In January, Children's Miracle Network introduced a refreshed brand that keeps impact at the heart of everything we do. Our mission remains the same, **bringing people together to raise money for children's healthcare in our local community.** Wherever you see the balloon, you will find people uniting in support of *all* kids.

*All* kids deserve a childhood – a chance to laugh, explore and play. *All* kids deserve a chance to have a future filled with **hope, optimism and opportunity.** *All* kids deserve healthcare close to home – one that gives them the best chance possible for a **healthy, happy life full of possibility.**



## 29 years of Music for Miracles

Listeners from all over eastern North Carolina phoned in their support for children and raised \$121,890 during the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Music for Miracles Radiothon on 107.9 WNCT and all Inner Banks Media stations. Since its inception in 1998, the radiothon has now raised over \$4.1 million, directly enhancing James and Connie Maynard Children's Hospital's programs and services. All funds raised through Children's Miracle Network events like the radiothon are allocated entirely to supporting programs and

services at Maynard Children's Hospital. These contributions help procure life-saving medical equipment, enhance educational opportunities for patients and staff, provide comforting resources for children and develop new, state-of-the-art facilities. This year's radiothon included a \$20,000 match from Craig Goess and Greenville Toyota and a \$10,000 match from Electric Cooperatives of Eastern North Carolina.

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## Elevating to New Heights

In February, EastCare and ECU Health unveiled North Carolina's first pediatric dedicated medical transport helicopter. This helicopter carries specialized neonatal and pediatric equipment – including ventilators designed for the smallest patients – and features a spacious, child friendly interior. Much of the equipment in the aircraft was funded by generous CMN donors. The environment allows clinical teams to deliver both intensive medical treatment and developmentally supportive care in a space where children can feel safe and comforted.



Children's Miracle Network  
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**Tune in to WITN as  
we celebrate the  
41st annual  
Celebration  
Broadcast**

**Friday, May 29  
8 to 11:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, May 31  
6 to 11:00 a.m.**

**WITN**  
**FIRST ALERT**



**Graylon**

Treated for  
Osteosarcoma

**Sam**

Maynard Canine  
Crew Facility Dog



**Children's  
Miracle Network.**

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