

# Storybook



Margy Mayfield, RN  
Executive Director

“Every holiday season, we work extra hard to bring children home from the hospital so they can be surrounded by the love of their family and friends. Actually, bringing kids home...that’s our aim every day of the year.”

## OUR MISSION

Coastal Kids Home Care works to improve the quality of life for children healing from traumatic injury or short-term illness, chronic serious conditions, developmental problems, or at the end of life. Our professional staff provides in-home pediatric medical care, specialized therapies, and social services to assist the entire family.



COASTAL KIDS  
HOME CARE

ph: 1.800.214 (KIDZ) 5439  
www.coastalkidshomecare.org

## A NEW KIDNEY FOR ABIGAIL



Once upon a time, there was a beautiful little girl named Abigail Hollcraft who had a very fragile body, indeed. When she was just days old she was diagnosed with Renal Failure, and since, underwent many, many hospitalizations.

Wee Abby first arrived home at five and a half months old, and Coastal Kids’ nurse Donna Tremontozzi and Physical Therapist Nan Farrell, were ready to greet her. Donna assisted Abby’s mom Rebekah with her Central Line (long fine catheter inserted into a vein

close to the heart used to deliver fluids and drugs), drew lab samples for Abby’s doctors as prescribed, and helped Rebekah to provide the peritoneal dialysis (10-12 hour) procedures Abby received nightly for two years. Nan addressed Abby’s developmental delays...a side effect of her fragile state and frequent hospitalization. You can’t even imagine what Abby and her family endured, until she finally received a new kidney from her dad John on June 23, 2015.

Today, Abby’s medical condition is stable and she no longer requires home nursing. However, Nan continues to address developmental concerns. Mom reports, “Nan has helped Abby to walk when we were uncertain if she ever would, she has helped her to gain self-confidence and become more independent.” In fact, we hear that Abby herself now says “I do it” for almost everything. Although she is still catching up on gross motor skills, with her focused determination and miraculous health, we know there is no limit to what Abby can do.

### HOME, SWEET HOME



For a child, there’s no better place than home, especially when they aren’t feeling well. So to have a nurse visit versus taking a trip to the hospital...well there is no comparison.

And so far in 2015, our Clinic on Wheels programs have helped keep 587 kids at home, making 4,069 house calls across four counties (that’s 7,000 square miles!).

### THE VIGILS WE SHARED...



with families will never be forgotten. We were deeply privileged to be present and provide medical

and comfort care for 11 children who died at home this year. These children’s faces and indelible spirits will forever be with us.

## AARYA'S NOBLE SOUL

When **AARYA UPSANI** was born on August 24th, she weighed one pound, three ounces, slightly more than a grapefruit.

At twenty-four weeks gestation, Aarya's life was precarious from the get-go. But thanks to the specialists at Stanford Children's Hospital, and Aarya's incredible will, the baby survived a cardiac surgery, and numerous setbacks during her initial six-month hospitalization. "It felt like we were never going to get home," said Aarya's mom, Mugdha.



Once Aarya was discharged from the hospital, Coastal Kids' nurse, Jessica Hodges visited the family's home weekly to teach Mugdha how to use the oxygen equipment Aarya needed to breathe, as well as how to manage the NG feeding tube she required to receive optimum nourishment. "I was in awe of how well Mugdha handled learning all the medical care for her first child," said Jessica.

Now at fourteen months old, Aarya is progressing well. She is less dependent on oxygen and is able to eat normally. Although she does not walk or crawl yet, she is gaining strength every day—learning to use a spoon to feed herself and to sit independently.

Coastal Kids' Occupational Therapist Judy Marshall works with Aarya on her developmental skills and feeding therapy. According to Judy, Aarya's name literally means noble soul and she certainly lives up to it. She is a strong and cheerful spirit who loves to play and explore. "She's feisty," says Judy. "Her spunk and curious nature prove she's a warrior. I feel blessed to work with her and her family."



## A ROUND OF APPLAUSE...

for our Touch-A-Truck event sponsors, vehicle operators, volunteers, and happy visitors. We raised nearly **\$28,000** to support pediatric home care for struggling families. Thank you everyone... you rate a standing ovation!



## PLEASE GIVE!

**Your gift can help bring children home from the hospital!**

Go to [www.coastalkidshomecare.org](http://www.coastalkidshomecare.org) and select "Donate" OR make a check payable to Coastal Kids Home Care, 1172 S. Main Street, #125, Salinas, CA 93901. The kiddies will thank you.

## RUN FOR LOVE



### 26th Annual Rio Grill Resolution Run to Benefit Coastal Kids

Our wonderful friends at the Rio Grill in Carmel have acknowledged the importance of Coastal Kids' work by naming us beneficiary of the 26th Annual Rio Grill Resolution Run. On January 1st, 2016, runners will take their marks at 9:00 a.m. and run 5K and 10K courses starting at the Rio Grill in the Crossroads Shopping Village and ending at the Carmel Mission Basilica on Rio Road. It's a family-fun event you won't want to miss and an opportunity to start the New Year out right.

#### Coastal Kids is sending out BIG wishes for:

- ♥ generous sponsors to make our goal of raising \$50,000 by the end of race day (*every dollar makes a difference*)
- ♥ runners for both 5K and 10K courses (*all are welcome...bring your whole family*)
- ♥ volunteers to support runners on race day (*to register, dispense water, cheer, and generally fawn over all courageous runners*)

For more information on running the race, volunteering on the course or sponsorship opportunities please visit the website at [www.riogrillresolutionrun.com](http://www.riogrillresolutionrun.com) or email [coastalkidshomecare@gmail.com](mailto:coastalkidshomecare@gmail.com).

Whether you are a sponsor, a runner, or a volunteer, you send a powerful message of love and support to children battling serious illness and disability...and the families who care for them. Run for love...you won't regret it.

## SIGN UP FOR STORYBOOK

Our Spring 2016 issue will warm your heart. Sign up on our website and get an infusion of love.

Coastal Kids is a 501c3 non-profit organization #20-2549984. Contributions are deductible to the full extent of the law.