

# Storybook

## I'D RATHER BE HOME



Show off your commitment to excellent in-home medical care for kids by picking up a t-shirt from our online store. The "I'd Rather Be Home" campaign features this phrase in seven different languages representing the diversity of the children we care for every day. All merchandise is available in sizes ranging from infant to adult at:

[bonfire.com/store/coastal-kids-home-care/](http://bonfire.com/store/coastal-kids-home-care/)

Meet Gabriel (pictured above) and other kids featured in our "I'd Rather Be Home" campaign on Facebook and Instagram, or visit our website, for more photos and stories of our pediatric patients. #idrather-behome #coastalkidshomecare

## Fighting to Come Home



Isla Elliot gets her fighting spirit from her mom. Isla was born with CHARGE Syndrome, a rare genetic condition which impacts her ability to see, hear, eat and breathe safely. Isla's first few months were precarious. Her fragile respiratory status meant she was dependent on oxygen, a ventilator, continuous feeds, and very vulnerable to infection. With Isla requiring constant monitoring, her parents only option was long-term hospitalization in a pediatric subacute care facility. Going home without their daughter was devastating.

Yessica, Isla's mom, remembers, "I wanted to bring her home so badly. It was a crazy time. I tried to be with Isla a few hours every day, all while working and balancing care for our other daughter. My husband worked full-time too and quitting one of our jobs was impossible. I didn't know what to do, but I knew I wanted her home." Thus, began Yessica's battle. "I posted online and asked everybody for ideas on how to get Isla home."

Finally, Yessica heard about Coastal Kids Home Care from the mom of another medically fragile toddler. A month later, when she was fourteen months old, Isla finally came home with round-the-clock shift nursing through Coastal Kids. Fast forward nineteen months and Isla is crawling and pulling to stand. Today, Isla is still fighting – though surrounded by loving parents, a big sister, and dedicated nurses – her battle to learn, grow and stay healthy is a lot easier.



## OUR MISSION

Coastal Kids Home Care improves the quality of life for children healing from injury or short-term illness, coping with chronic conditions or developmental delays, and those facing the end-of-life. Our staff provides in-home nursing, specialized therapies, social services and bereavement counseling to support the whole family.



COASTAL KIDS  
HOME CARE

ph: 1.800.214 (KIDZ) 5439  
[www.coastalkidshomecare.org](http://www.coastalkidshomecare.org)

## GROWING UP WITH COASTAL KIDS

In 2008, when Jordan Salazar was in middle school, he was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL). Almost immediately he was plunged into an intense treatment regimen. He would spend five days in the hospital, and return home, and then go back two weeks later. This cycle repeated until he was referred to Coastal Kids Home Care.

Jordan recalls, "During that time, every day at home was a gift." Ultimately, Jordan lost most of his high school years to harsh treatments and painful, sometimes scary, side effects. "I remember being home, feeling really down, and Margy would show up for a blood draw. She would lighten the mood – often make me laugh. She would leave, and somehow the day ahead would look brighter."



In 2011, Jordan beat cancer. But the effects of his treatment left him with long-term impacts - including the need for bilateral hip replacements. His experience with pediatric cancer led Jordan to dedicate his life to being healthy. For the past eight years he has studied the impacts of chemotherapy on patient well-being and identified ways to help cancer survivors. "Health is so much more than just eating well and working out. Being healthy is a lifestyle. I help people transform their health--mental, physical, emotional and I love doing it."

This New Year's Day, Jordan is bringing his inspiring story and his passion for Coastal Kids Home Care to the 30th Anniversary of the Rio Grill's Resolution Run. Join us there and meet this grown up Coastal Kid!

## ELENA'S FAVORITE THING

Elena Ramirez has a favorite everything. She has a favorite toy, a favorite song and a favorite sound effect. She was also born with a favorite side. Elena has congenital muscular torticollis (CMT) which means she has a head tilt to the right side. At four months old she was referred to Coastal Kids Physical Therapist, Patricia Krall (PT, DPT, C/NDT).

"I have been seeing Elena for a little over a year now," says Trish. "We work on pulling up to stand, reaching for toys on the opposite side, and even walking!"

Trish comes once a week and uses various toys for Elena to practice stretching and movements. Trish is strategic about the placement of the toy and challenges Elena to turn towards the toy and reach for it. Gradually, Trish moves toys further so that Elena can move towards them.

"Although she is still a little behind, the gap seems to be closing each time I assess her," Trish says. "I used to see her two times a week, but now I only see her once a week. She is cruising independently and beginning to take steps with hand hold assist."

Mom also feels like Elena has come a long way. She has always been a happy and persistent baby, but together with Trish, it's clear that Elena is becoming an independent toddler.



## TOGETHER WE CAN BRING KIDS HOME

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS AND APPEALS

**Rio Grill Resolution Run**, January 1, 2020 more than 1000 people will strap on their running shoes to hit the road for the 30th anniversary race through beautiful Carmel-by-the-Sea. Join us on the course or sign up to volunteer. All proceeds support our kids.

**We Care for Rare**, February is Rare Disease month. At Coastal Kids we care for kids with rare genetic syndromes, rare congenital defects and rare childhood cancers. Follow us on social media to learn more about how you can "wear jeans for rare genes" on behalf of these special kids!

**A Home of Our Own**, Coastal Kids Home Care is growing up. This fall we were awarded a planning grant by our partner Central California Alliance for Health and look forward to identifying a new home for our dedicated staff. Watch your mailbox this spring for more information on how you can help.

**Touch-A-Truck 2020**, Our signature community event for kids and kids-at-heart will be celebrating its seventh year this September at the Salinas Rodeo Grounds. Join us as a sponsor or volunteer, bring a truck or come with your kids and grandkids to climb and explore dozens of vehicles.

Check out our website  
[www.coastalkidshomecare.org](http://www.coastalkidshomecare.org) and follow us on social media for more stories of our kids.

