

Storybook



Margy Mayfield, RN
Executive Director

"At Coastal Kids we work every day with families coping with incredible heartache. Our goal is to provide them with excellent, family-centered care, and to restore their hope - hope in healing, and even after a child's death, hope that they will one day experience joy again."

OUR MISSION

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



COASTAL KIDS
HOME CARE

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

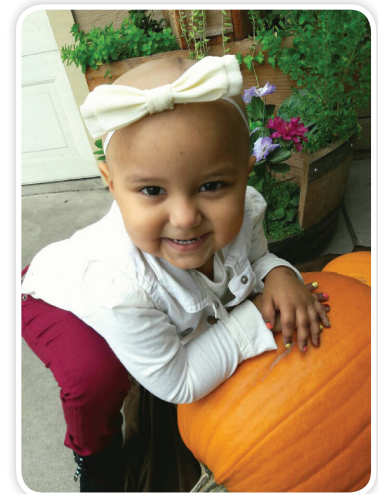
A BIG STEP FOR VALERIA

Three-year-old **Valeria** loves all things pink. She adores having her fingernails painted shades of watermelon or cotton candy and often wears a big bow. In early September, an unexpected fall from a highchair prompted her mom Yulissa to bring her to Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital emergency room. A CT scan revealed a troubling mass near her brainstem and she was quickly transferred to Stanford Children's Hospital. Emergency surgery followed and doctors diagnosed ganglioneuroblastoma, a rare type of pediatric cancer.

Little Valeria arrived home to Salinas just in time to celebrate her third birthday. That same day she was greeted by Kimberly Hell, a pediatric nurse with

Coastal Kids Home Care, who now visits twice weekly to draw blood and keep a close eye on her while she undergoes chemotherapy. "Valeria has a captivating smile and she loves to help. She "assists" me with every blood draw and is always excited to choose a Hello Kitty Band-Aid." says Nurse Kim, "At my last visit she helped me clean-up and walked all the way to the kitchen on her own."

These were big steps for Valeria, who was unable to walk following her hospital stay. As the chemotherapy takes effect, and her strength and coordination return, sweet Valeria's smiles are returning too. "She is my strong princess," says mom Yulissa, "She has been through so much and she is still so full of life." Valeria's little steps and big smiles have Yulissa hopeful for her daughter's future.



Our Heart for Kids

In Storybook, we are honored to introduce you to the precious kids we serve and this holiday season we are also excited to share the personal stories of our dedicated staff, Board of Directors and donors. This talented group of bright, big-hearted folks gives their all - and then sometimes more - to restore hope to families coping with incredible heartache.

Like us on Facebook or search for "Coastal Kids Home Care" on YouTube to meet: a pioneer in pediatric end-of-life care, a dedicated pediatrician, a mom of a child with special healthcare needs, a skilled nurse with a heart for kids and a social worker with a gift for caring for the whole family.

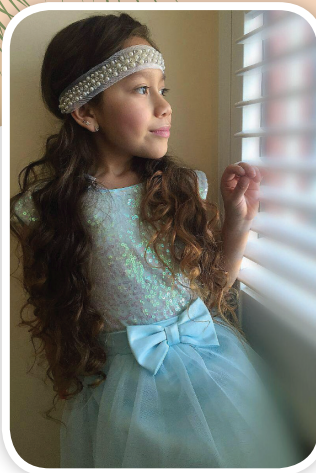


PRICILLA'S WISH

Pricilla Silva is a bright ten-year-old coping with a devastating disease. She was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis as a toddler and is all too familiar with medical procedures, medications and long hospital stays. Yet, like any other girl her age, Pricilla wants to spend as much time as she can with her friends at Paul Frank Elementary School in Salinas. As the disease progresses her daily routine of airway clearance therapies and nebulizer medications gets tougher. Recently, her vulnerability to respiratory infection has meant that Pricilla is spending three out of every four weeks in the hospital.

Many kids with life-threatening illness are wise beyond their years and Pricilla is no exception. She is clear with her Coastal Kids nurses about her wishes to be home, to be with her friends and to live each day her own way. In response, her Coastal Kids team is coordinating with her doctors at Stanford Children's Hospital to advocate for her wishes. She now has oxygen at home which allows her more independence and her team is working to get additional palliative care services in place soon.

"At Coastal Kids it is our belief that all children have dignity and, when appropriate, involving them in decision-making is an important way to honor their individuality," says Executive Director Margy Mayfield. For kids like Pricilla, the wish to "just be home" watching her favorite Nickelodeon shows and enjoying occasional days at school or long visits with friends is central to her quality of life. Our staff is coordinating closely with her doctors and parents to make Pricilla's wish come true.



DEVIN'S BABY BROTHER

Coastal Kids pediatric Nurse, Anna Linden, first met two-year-old Devin Rains just before his baby brother was due to arrive. Devin, was born with gangliosidosis, a degenerative genetic condition that results in severe developmental delays and serious medical complications, and required round the clock care. As the primary caregiver, his mom Laura was worried about who would care for the medically fragile toddler while she was in the hospital having her baby.

The Coastal Kids palliative care team stepped in and worked with mom to create a care plan for Devin. Laura's teenage sister Jenny was taught to administer g-tube feeds, gently suction his airway and how to respond if he began a seizure. Nurse Anna also scheduled twice daily nursing visits to monitor his vital signs and respond to questions his young aunt and grandmother may have about his care. On August 18, Laura went into labor and delivered a healthy baby boy, Jacob. In her absence she was confident that her two-year-old was in great hands.

"Jenny did an amazing job and Laura was so grateful," said Anna. "They are a wonderful family. Devin is such a cutie, you can tell how loved he is." Though little Devin may not be long for this world, he is truly treasured by his mom, aunt Jenny, big brother Jared and a compassionate team of nurses and therapists at Coastal Kids.



BRINGING HOPE HOME

Children of all ages thrive best in their own bedrooms, surrounded by their favorite toys and music. Already in 2016 our Clinic on Wheels has visited 567 children providing 3,372 skilled nursing and therapy visits in our four-county service area. We are grateful to bring hope home to these kids, especially during the holiday season.

SHARED HEARTACHE

Each Coastal Kid is unique and each time we care for a child at the end-of-life our hearts ache for their families. In 2016, we provided medical and comfort care for 4 children at the end-of-life and bereavement counseling for 28 family members. We are humbled to share in their sorrow and be a small beacon of hope.



FUN(D)RAISING WITH COASTAL KIDS

- ♥ Start the year out right with the **Rio Resolution Run**. Join Coastal Kids on January 1, 2017 - run a 5K, a 10K or volunteer to help sick kids!
- ♥ Honk, honk... **Touch-A-Truck** is coming to Santa Cruz County! Save the date for late April 2017. We're excited to wow the kids and kids-at-heart in Santa Cruz with this super fun event.
- ♥ Trucks, trucks and more trucks... **Monterey County's 4th Annual Touch-A-Truck** will be bigger and better than ever at the Salinas Rodeo Grounds on August 27, 2016.

MAKE A GIFT TODAY!

Your gift can help bring children home from the hospital!

Go to www.coastalkidshomecare.org and select DONATE or make a check payable to Coastal Kids Home Care, 1172 S. Main Street, #125, Salinas, CA 93901