


HEROES OF HOPE

YOUR IMPACT ON THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AT THE CHILDREN'S CENTER

APRIL 2020



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and knew immediately this was
the place for our family.”**



Ronald Sr. & Tonya's Story

"We have six children all together. When our oldest four started to grow up and leave our house, we had Ronald Jr., and then his baby sister. We were very experienced parents and thought we knew what we were doing. But Ronald Jr. wasn't meeting developmental milestones. We weren't bonding with him naturally. He would scream excessively and only my wife could console him. This left me feeling frustrated and alone. It was breaking my heart to not be able to communicate with my son," Ronald Sr. shared.

Tonya continued, "When Ronald Jr. was two and a half he was diagnosed with Autism. When we got the diagnosis I felt so relieved. It may sound weird but we finally knew what was going on with Ronald Jr. and could start taking steps to help him. We found The Children's Center and knew immediately this was the place for our family. The Children's Center is family-centered. You get help for your child and you also get the training and education you need for when you go home at the end of the day. As soon as we walked in the door, Ronald Jr. took to his behavior technician who has such a comforting and calm presence.

We are two years into Ronald Jr.'s treatment here. When we started services, he was nonverbal. Now he is talking all the time and knows how to ask for what he wants. We completed the intensive potty training program and he was potty trained in just two weeks. Ronald is interacting and playing with his baby sister. He has become an adventurous eater. He impresses us every day with his problem-solving skills.

The most uncertain part is his future. What will it be like when he becomes a teenager? An adult? We really don't know what is going to happen a year or two from now, but we know we have help. We know we have The Children's Center to help guide us through whatever comes our way."

How COVID-19 is Affecting Service to Our Children and Families

We care deeply about our children and families. And we know you do too. We're worried about children who are being further traumatized by a viral enemy they can't see, let alone understand. An enemy that can prevent them from healing what hurts them. COVID-19 is an enemy that's keeping our children from receiving life-changing treatment at The Children's Center.

Here's our challenge: We can no longer serve children and families the same way we did before. We can't sit down with each child in-person, face-to-face. We can't hold their hand when they're in pain. And, if that isn't enough, the loss in Medicaid reimbursements is yet another devastating financial setback on top of an

You Make Autism Treatments Possible

Imagine your child having a disorder that will stay with him or her forever. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) doesn't go away, and we take that to heart. Without proper treatment, ASD can cause significant issues for children as they age. The good thing is, through intensive behavioral therapy, children may significantly improve their cognitive and language skills. These skill improvements create lifelong changes for children and their families that give them an opportunity to succeed.

Because of you, our children with ASD are improving every day.

One of the ways you are helping children is by supporting our Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) program. ABA is an evidence-based way of teaching children essential skills that are key to their growth: from communication to social play



skills, toilet training and addressing picky eating behaviors, ABA creates sustainable change in the lives of the families we serve.

YOU MAKE ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE:

- Children in the program receive one-on-one behavioral therapy at a rate of 15 to 30 hours per week to address their individual treatment goals.
- Behavioral Analysts work closely with each family to help each parent learn strategies to engage their child at home and in the community, and to troubleshoot behavioral challenges that arise.
- Language development assistance is available using the evidence-based Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS). This methodology, in which children exchange pictures with others, helps students learn to communicate their wants and needs calmly.

Due to your committed support, our staff are able to provide thorough 1:1 treatment to children with ASD and other developmental disorders.

Thank you for giving them promising futures.

annihilating blow caused by COVID-19. We can't sustain these losses for very long.

You can help our children and families today by investing in new methods and techniques we need to empower our now remote-workforce to create new pathways to help our children heal, grow, and thrive.

Your compassionate support is needed now more than ever before. Please give as generously as you are able. Will you help support our children and families during these frightening and stressful times?





Wish List Donations Suspended

Due to COVID-19 we are not able to take any wish list item donations at this time. Our families' needs are only increasing as schools remained closed and COVID-19 continues to shut down more and more businesses.

PLEASE CONSIDER a financial donation to ensure we can continue to provide essential mental and behavioral therapy, remotely, to children and families in need.

Believing is Everything

Ronald Sr. and Tonya felt helpless. As seasoned parents, they assumed they'd be able to connect with their newest son, Ronald Jr., and yet nothing they tried was working. Then they came to The Children's Center. **The Children's Center believed in Ronald Jr., and got him and his parents the support and treatment they needed to grow and build a promising future.** By joining our monthly giving program, Believers, you can show families like Ronald Jr.'s that you believe in their potential.

Sign up to be a Believer today.

TheChildrensCenter.com/believers

