

HopeNotes

imagine HOPE here.

"Whenever anyone asks me what HopeKids does for families I show them this picture and say, 'This is what they do.' There is nothing more amazing than seeing that look on your child's face."

Cassandra Lambert treasures each look of wonder she spots on her son, Johnathan. Last year, he spent 115 days in the hospital because of his mitochondrial deletion syndrome.

"Your mitochondria converts everything you eat and drink into energy," Cassandra explained. "It's like your battery. The DNA of his mitochondria is broken. All the processes [in his body] are deleting themselves."

At age 6, Johnathan recalls a time when he was able to run and play and when he could eat food. In spite of the deterioration, Johnathan remains upbeat.

"He's so big in his personality and the love he gives," Cassandra said. "There's a lot of pride in watching him as he deals with these things. He handles himself with such love and joy."

As a single mom of three, and like many parents who have a child with a life-threatening medical condition, having a job is out of the question. Along with financial stress, Cassandra felt a cloud of guilt because she has so little time with Johnathan's siblings, JJ and Lilly. Extended hospital stays mean someone else tucks the older kids in at night.

"After Johnathan was discharged from the hospital, we were finally reunited, but there was nothing to look forward to," Cassandra said. "I would save all our money in a year for a weekend camping trip. That's all we could manage."



Cassandra recalls the despair she had felt when JJ requested a birthday at Legoland. It was out the question financially. Amazingly, a Legoland event appeared on the HopeKids calendar the week of his birthday.

"It really felt like his birthday celebration," Cassandra said. "The events always seem to work out with what the kids really wanted to do."

Since joining HopeKids, the family has attended numerous events, giving them access to a wider variety of family activities than they could have dreamed. The harsh realities of Johnathan's syndrome are always there but Cassandra likens it to a long, dark tunnel.

"When I think of the hope, the hope is the bright spots along the way. I don't even know how to explain what it means for us to have things to look forward to when we used to never have anything to look forward to. It's strengthened our bond as a family, and made such a difference in everybody's outlook on life."



*The Lambert Family
(L to R): JJ, Lilly,
Cassandra, and Jonathan*



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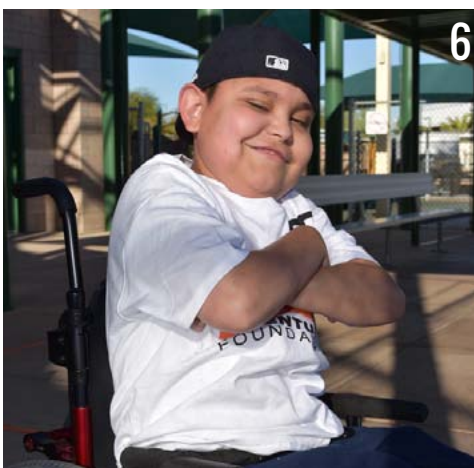
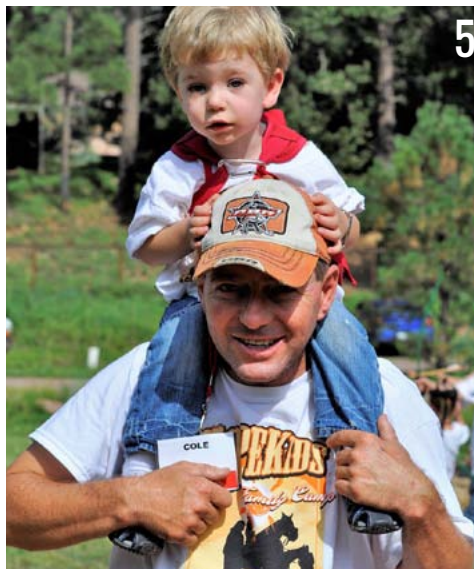
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HOPEKIDS ARIZONA PHOTO ALBUM

Snapshots captured at September, October, and November HopeDay Events

1. HopeKid Angel enjoys MacDonald's Ranch Pumpkin Patch.
2. HopeKid Devin, and her family strike a pose at Family Portrait Day.
3. HopeKid Christian learns how to "let it roll" at the Let it Roll Bowl event.
4. HopeKid Diesel works on his creation at My Box Art Event.
5. HopeKid Cole and his dad explore Whispering Hope Ranch.
6. HopeKid Michael shows off his skills at the K2 at Bat event.
7. HopeKid Robert enjoys the ponies at Whispering Hope Ranch.
8. HopeKid Joel receives his finishers medal during the 9th annual HopeWalk on October 7 at Notre Dame Prep school. More than 600 Attendees representing 95 teams rased \$68,000 to help provide hope to families who have a child with a life-threatening medical condition.





American Woodmark Foundation

Arizona Cardinals

Arizona Coyotes

Arizona Diamondbacks

Arizona Rattlers

Arizona Roller Derby

Arizona State University

Ballet Arizona

Be Kind People Project

Bergen Family

Bob Weslowski Photography

Caitlin Werly

Celestial Nights Family Entertainment

Children's Museum of Phoenix

Christ Greenfield Church

Cindy Joiner Photography

Colten Cowell Foundation

ComiCare

CorePower Yoga

Clydesdale Manhattan

Dan Emrey

Dance Connection 2

David Ryan

Desert Stages Theatre

Don Church

DDW Partners

East Valley Children's Theatre

Embassy Suites-Tempe

Executive Council Charities

Fry's Food Store

General Mills

Gerber Injury Law

Ghostbusters

Glass Slipper Events

Grand Canyon Railway and Hotel

Grand Canyon University

Huss Brewery

Inventure Foods

Jennifer Nicole Photography

Joe Faherty Photography

Julie Lilly

K2 Adventures Foundation

Kevin Young

Lamar Advertising

Lennon Equine Therapy

Let it Roll Bowl

Live Theatre Workshop

Mark and Bev Nuessle

Mesa Community College

Microsoft Store-Chandler

Miracle League

Miss Arizona Title Holders

Musical Theatre of Anthem

My Box Art Foundation

Notre Dame Preparatory High School

Pastor Joe Eriquez

Phoenix Suns

Renaissance Hotel

Roadhouse Cinemas

Rhonda & Nenos-Build Events

Scott Bates Photography

Sea Life Aquarium

Smiles To Go Photo Booth

Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center

State 48 Theatre Company

Spotlight Youth Theatre

The Academy

The Encore Agency

Tiffanie Aylesworth Photography

Tucson Speedway

UltraStar Multi-tainment Center

Valerie Thompson-Garcia

Valley Youth Theatre

Wells Fargo Home Mortgage

Whispering Hope Ranch



MEET MATEUS

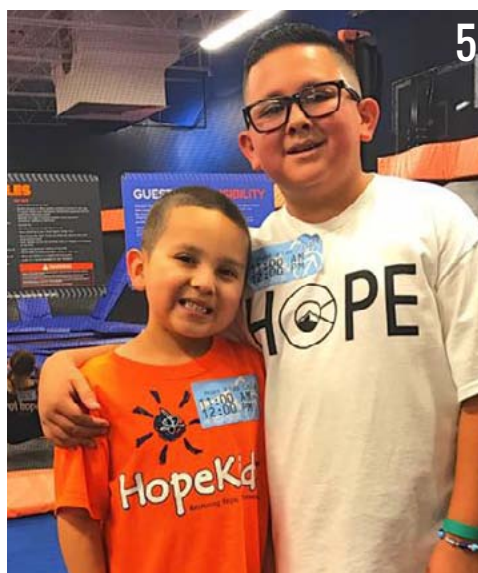
Mateus is a 7 year old boy whose happiness is contagious, and his smiles light up any room. At age 5, he was diagnosed with a genetic mutation called PIGN mutation that causes encephalopathy, quadriplegia, immune deficiency, and cerebral palsy among other conditions. Mateus loves music, going to school, and play time with his brother. He also loves being outside and going for walks to see the birds.

"Mateus' health condition discourages us from exposing him to "real life" without knowing there will be a structure that makes it safe and accessible for him. HopeKids is this structure! They go above and beyond to make our events inclusive, functional, and fun to every single member of our families. HopeKids helps us make family memories we would never have imagined possible. We are and will be forever grateful for all these memories we treasure and thank you from the bottom of our hearts!" - Viviane, Mateus' mom



HOPEKIDS COLORADO PHOTO ALBUM

Snapshots captured at September, October, and November HopeDay Events



1. The 2017 HopeWalk, sponsored by MGA Home Healthcare, raised over \$31,000 to help keep kids like 3-year-old Noah focused on the future.
2. It was hard to tell if Carter or his dad had more fun at our Microsoft family gaming night.
3. After months of fighting cancer, HopeKid Samuel and his family welcomed the opportunity to watch the Denver Nuggets play from a private suite donated by Kroenke Sports & Entertainment.
4. HopeKids events provide a safe, exciting environment for kids like R.J. and Rhiannon.
5. HopeKid Emilio and his brother Diego were "jumping for joy" at our private event at Sky Zone Arvada.
6. Alyssa may be the youngest of six siblings, but that didn't stop her from hitting the slopes at SNOBAHN.
7. HopeKids families spent their Saturday morning preparing meals for kids in need with Feed My Starving Children.

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8. It may be getting cold outside, but the kids couldn't get enough of the warm water at SafeSplash Swim School.
9. Zayne was not even off the golf course before she asked her mom when she could come back. Perhaps you are looking at a future LPGA player!
10. Mara shared her vocal talent with us by performing Katy Perry's song Fireworks during the 2017 Rocky Mountain Scarfest.
11. Both Carter and the kids from the Watoto African Choir have a story - both are miraculous.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR HOPE DAY PARTNERS

- ACT Colorado
- Alamo Drafthouse Cinema
- Audubon Nature Center - Chatfield
- Budweiser Events Center
- Cart Driver
- CH9 Racing
- Colorado Golf Association
- Colorado Symphony
- CYT Front Range
- DS Environmental Consulting
- Faith Lutheran Church
- Game Day Memories
- GameWorks
- Kroenke Sports & Entertainment
- Mariah Ehler Photography
- Mici Handcrafted Italian
- Microsoft Sore - Park Meadows
- Mile High United Way
- Movie Tavern - Aurora
- Mutual of Omaha Bank
- Paint the Town
- SafeSplash Swim School
- Scarman Inc.
- Seats of Dreams
- Sky Zone - Arvada & Parker
- SNOBAHN
- Vala Vincent Photography
- University of Colorado Athletics
- University of Denver Athletics



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MEET ISABELLA

Isabella is a happy, 9-year-old who always has a smile on her face. She was diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy which affects all the muscles in her body. Isabella enjoys going to all the movies and Alamo Drafthouse, but her all time favorite event has been Disney on Ice.

“HopeKids has brought joy to Isabella and our entire family.”



HOPEKIDS KANSAS CITY PHOTO ALBUM

Snapshots captured at September, October, and November HopeDay Events



1. HopeKid Blake assumed the role of co-pilot in his private flight at the Kansas City Challenge Air event.
2. Special bonding for HopeKid Riley at Heartland Therapeutic Riding.
3. HopeKids and their siblings jump for joy at Alldredge Orchards in the fall.
4. The Princess Tea Party is full of magical moments for HopeKid Isabel, and her sister, Violet.
5. The Paint Splatter Party is full of wild and crazy fun for the HopeKids and their siblings at Orange Easel Art Studio.
6. Jarot chunks his pumpkin down the hill at the inaugural Punkin Chunkin event.
7. It is a well-deserved afternoon out for HopeKid moms and dads at the Pinot's Palette Painting Party.

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“In the all consuming world that is my child’s health issues, what a wonderful experience to take a moment to get pampered as a family. My daughter’s health needs come first, and we lose track of the pleasures of things like a nice haircut. What a treat for Mom to get a real cut, and have someone nurturing to take the time to give my disabled child a beautiful and functional style!”

- Andi, Charlotte’s mom



HopeKids Haircuts Event

Seven professional hair stylists donated their morning and shared their talents with our HopeKids families at our first HopeKids haircut event. More than 40 children and adults received free haircuts on Saturday, October 28, 2017 - and some of the girls were given some fancy hairdos!

- Allredge Orchards
- American Royal
- Arvest Bank Theatre at The Midland
- Beehive Studios
- Bella Grotto
- Bibbidi KC
- Breakout KC
- Built Interior Construction
- Canine Solutions
- Challenge Air
- Christine Deeths
- Heartland Therapeutic Riding
- Heritage Biologics
- Janie Jones Photography
- Kansas City Chiefs
- Kansas City Royals
- Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts
- Kristina Carlson Photography
- LEGOLAND Discovery Center
- Lunar Bowl
- Merlin's Magic Wand USA
- Mesner Puppet Theater
- Microsoft Store-Oak Park Mall
- Noah's Bandage Project
- Paul Mitchell The School
- Pets for Life
- Pinot's Palette-Olathe
- Polsinelli
- Reames Photography
- Orange Easel School of Art
- Studio 925
- Salon Ji
- SEA LIFE Aquarium
- Sky Zone Kansas City
- The Gardens at Barry Road
- TopGolf
- Beth & Shawn Walker
- Judy Yi



MEET TYLER

Tyler is an animal lover and outdoor enthusiast who also loves LEGOs, swimming, karate, and playing games. Tyler was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia in May 2015 and had a bone marrow transplant in January 2016. He has been in remission for almost two years and looks forward to any HopeKids event where his new friend Matt attends!

"The bills that accumulate from prescriptions, procedures, and hospital stays can create a huge financial burden for cancer families. It is so nice to have HopeKids offering us free activities that can cheer up our kiddos and provide us with safe, fun environments for them. We feel very blessed to be a part of this amazing organization." - Tina, Tyler's mom





HOPEKIDS MINNESOTA PHOTO ALBUM

Snapshots captured at September, October, and November HopeDay Events

1. HopeKid Anders rock climbs at Vertical Endeavors in St. Paul.
2. HopeKid Evan is a super hero in his new cape while inpatient at Children's St. Paul.
3. HopeKid Kate enjoys Spookley the Square Pumpkin at Stages Theatre.
4. HopeKid Lydia and HopeKid Jackson are best buds during the PHS Fall Festival.
5. HopeKid Olivia poses with Goldy at the Gopher Hockey game.
6. HopeKid Sam cooks way cool food at the Way Cool Cooking School.
7. Nothing says fall like the corn pit at Dehn's Pumpkins in Dayton, MN.

Photos continued on page 3

8. Tristan meets the cast of *Singing in the Rain* at University of Northwestern St. Paul.
9. Zip lining at Kerfoot Canopy Tours was above and beyond our expectations.
10. HopeKids families had a wonderful time exploring the Minnetonka Orchards HopeCommunity event.
11. HopeKids imagined hope during the Imagine Dragons concert in our HopeSuite at Xcel Energy Center.
12. HopeKid Caleb and his family enjoy a Wild Game in the HopeSuite at Xcel Energy Center.

SPECIAL THANKS
TO OUR
HOPE DAY PARTNERS

- Minnesota Lynx
- Game Day Memories
- Tickets for Kids
- Minnesota Twins
- University of Northwestern Theatre
- Hennepin Theatre Trust
- Stages Theatre
- Minnesota Wild
- Sever's Corn Maze
- Gopher Athletics
- KTIS
- Northrop Auditorium
- Sky Zone
- Microsoft - MOA Store
- Minnesota Timberwolves
- Tradition Capital Bank
- Vertical Endeavors
- GameWorks
- City of New Brighton
- Mann Theatres
- Pediatric Home Service



MEET CHRISTIAN

Christian is a very happy and active 7-year-old, who was born prematurely at 24 weeks gestation. He was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at birth and had his first major seizure with convulsions in December 2015. Christian's nickname is "Braveheart" because of his time in NICU when his vital signs would drop extremely low but his heartbeat remained strong.

"HopeKids has benefited our family in many ways such as being able to meet and share with other families who live and have a similar lifestyle as ours and understanding the challenges that we face.

We benefited from networking with other HopeKids families on shared information for medical providers, therapists, healthcare, schools and more." - Theresa, Christian's mom



HOPEKIDS NORTH TEXAS PHOTO ALBUM

Snapshots captured at September, October, and November HopeDay Events



1. Calan and Lawson enjoy the HopeFlick at Alamo Drafthouse Cinema.
2. Dallas Stars player, Antoine Roussel, handed HopeKid Caleb a puck pre-game.
3. HopeCrew members help sell 50/50 raffle tickets to raise money for HopeKids at "Hockey Fights Cancer" night at the Dallas Stars game.
4. Hildebrand family enjoys an old fashioned photo booth at our first movie under the stars.
5. HopeKid Alijah and his siblings received free bikes from the Keller Police Department at a Spokes 4 Hope event.
6. HopeKid Daylen meets Darth Vader at our family picnic.
7. HopeKid Tyus takes over controls in a flight simulator at our event with CAE.

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8. Sanaa dances with Keller police officer at the Fairytale Ball.
9. Texans Credit Union hosted a private trick or treat event for 100 HopeKids family members.

"Your organization provides an extremely vital service to those families, and we are happy to play a role in your success and to contribute to giving HOPE!" - Kim Rodriguez, Committee Chair for Gensler Clay Shoot to benefit HopeKids

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR HOPE DAY PARTNERS

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| ShangriLlama | Texas Ballet Theater |
| Lone Star Brahmas | Dallas Mavericks Foundation |
| The Little Gym | Bricks & Minifigs |
| Merlin's Magic Wand | Artisan Center Theater |
| Museum of Biblical Art | Racers for Christ |
| CycleBar Southlake | Nasher Sculpture Center |
| Cloth & Glaze | State Fair of Texas |
| Microsoft - Frisco | Arlington Parks and Recreation |
| Texas Rangers | CAE |
| Microsoft - Dallas | Noah's Fort Worth |
| AT&T Performing Arts Center | Texans Credit Union |
| Hayward Baker | Spokes 4 Hope |
| Grapevine Convention & Visitors Bureau | Pieces of Me |
| Paws for Reflection Ranch | RDO Equipment Company |
| Dallas Stars Foundation | Allied Integrated Marketing Board & Brush Colleyville |
| Building Smiles Foundation | Dance Institute of Dallas |
| Alamo Drafthouse Cinemas | United Special Sportsman Alliance |
| Spaghetti Warehouse | Gensler |
| North Texas Escape Rooms | Helping on Horseback |
| Noah's Las Colinas | Texas Legends |
| Milestone Church | Taste Buds Kitchen |
| Minis and Friends North Texas | American Airlines Center |
| Dallas Children's Theater | |



"Being a part of this is an answer to my prayers, because my family needs to interact and engage with other families who "understand" what we go through. We have wonderful family and friends who love and support us unconditionally, but sometimes they just don't get it - and HopeKids does!" - Kristi, Don's mom



MEET ZAE'QUAN

Zae'Quan is an easy-going 12-year-old who loves football, basketball, and video games. He was diagnosed with sickle cell disease and has been attending HopeKids events since 2015.

"HopeKids is definitely a blessing to our family! We've had the opportunity to attend fun events but also met families who are faced with similar challenges."

- LaTanda, Zae'Quan's mom