



## About Our Kids

### Aijalon Hayes, 4 years old

During Aijalon's C-Section birth, complications caused his brain to be deprived of oxygen for a period. Because of this, he developed multiple medical issues. After spending three months in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, he finally was able to go home.

Since August 2006, Aijalon and his mother have received support and assistance from Community PedsCare.



Aijalon is limited in his abilities, but he is able to communicate his needs. Recently his doctor discovered he was extremely nearsighted. After getting eye glasses, Aijalon now looks directly at his mother whenever she is nearby.

Aijalon is much loved, with his mother making every effort to ensure that he has a good quality of life.

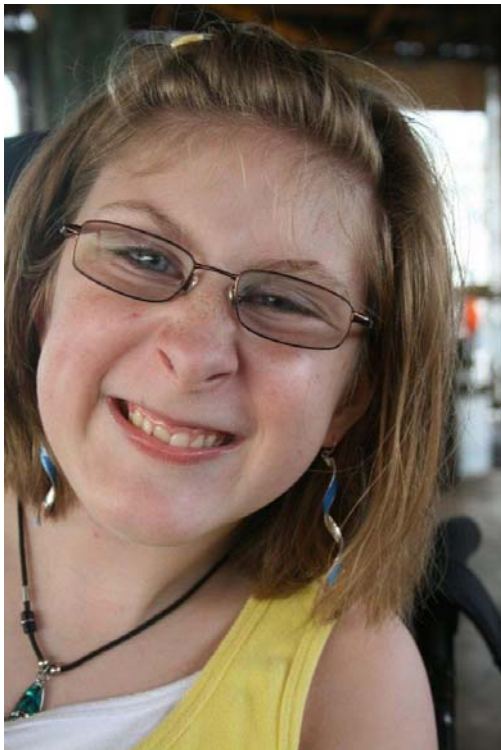
*Community PedsCare is a pediatric palliative and hospice program for children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions. A program of Community Hospice of Northeast Florida in collaboration with Wolfson Children's Hospital, Nemours Children's Clinic and the University of Florida-Jacksonville, Community PedsCare offers support, comfort and care to these children and their families.*

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### Laura Monger, 12 years old



Laura was born with spina bifida and hydrocephalus, and sees a multitude of physicians for her medically complex condition. She has had two to three surgeries a year since she was born, with at least five life-threatening surgeries performed in her young life. Laura's last major surgery involved spinal fusion at her neck area, and she also has had many urological surgeries.

Laura is dependent on others for help with all activities. She rides around in her "power chair" with her best friend, Selena, her golden-doodle service dog, at her side.

Her mother describes Laura as a princess who is "into" cute boys and would love to go with them to the movies and McDonalds. She loves being told how pretty she is! Laura enjoys music, especially Miley Cyrus and Hannah Montana, playing board and card games, fishing and participating at social events.

Laura has recently been able to attend a special recreational rehab activity – swimming with the dolphins in the Florida Keys – where she had a wonderful time. Some day she looks forward to going to high school.

Laura has been with Community PedsCare since 2002. She and her brother Alex, who is also in the program, have received supportive care services over the years. Through the many difficult times the children and their parents have experienced, Community PedsCare has been present, walking through situations with them.

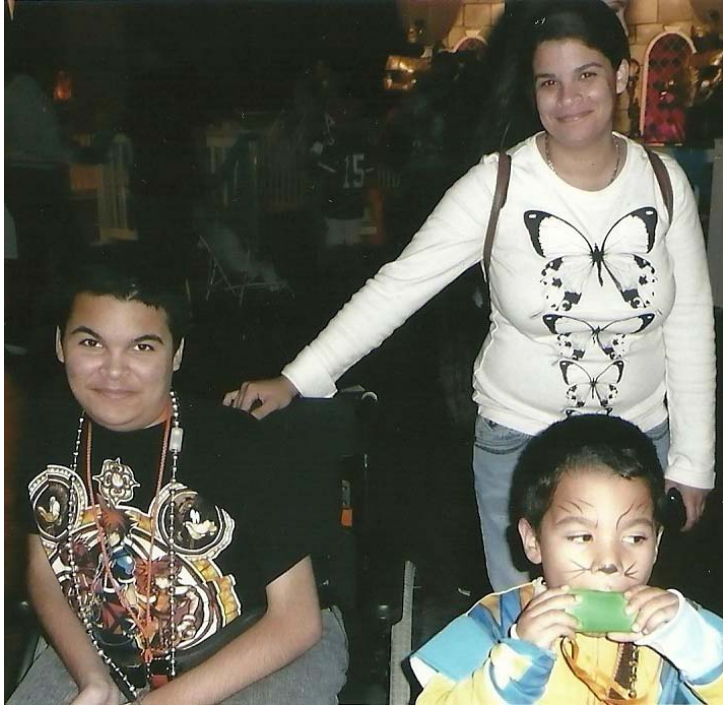
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### Luis Martinez, 17 years old



Luis was born in Puerto Rico. When he was a year old, he was diagnosed with a genetic muscle disease known as Spinal Muscular Atrophy. This disease causes weakness and muscle deterioration in the arms and legs of babies and children.

In 2003, his family moved to Florida to have access to better medical care for Luis. In October 2007, he was enrolled in the Community PedsCare program. Over the years as his condition worsened, Luis required more frequent hospitalizations and medical treatments. Community PedsCare works with Luis and his family, offering support and advocacy.

Like every teenager, Luis enjoys spending time on his computer and talking with friends on the phone. He is working to be able to do more things himself, and is able to get around in his motorized wheelchair.

Luis recently transferred to a new high school, and is making plans for his future. He has good potential for success!

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