


Family Stories

This FY11 Report includes updated photos and stories from three of our former Birth to Three families. We are thrilled at the opportunity to revisit these families and learn how they have grown. 



Nathan's Story

Our grandson, Nathan, became the love of our life the minute he was born. When we were told that he couldn't hear we felt helpless. Birth to Three connected our family with others who had received help for their children. They never let us down when we needed to talk to someone about Nathan and his special needs. Now, our grandson is on the path to intellectual freedom and his life will be limitless. *-- Grandma Judy and Grandpa Scott*

We could never fully put into words how Birth to Three has helped us with Nathan. They changed our lives and Nathan's future. He got his first hearing aids only four weeks after he was born! They connected us to other parents and said it was going to be OK. I never thought that my little boy would become the person he is today: athletic, scholarly, outgoing and independent. Yes, we have had some mountains to climb, but Birth to Three helped us grow and understand about hearing loss and what we needed to do. Soundbridge (our Birth to Three program) was always there when we had panic days. We were always – and still are – proactive parents.

Nathan feels that being aided so young gave him the opportunity to grow up with sounds around him, so he did not miss out on anything. School comes easy to him and his hearing aids are a "part" of him. He enjoys teaching kids in his class about his FM [hearing assistance] system and he loves the private messages his teachers send him.

My baby is now a preteen who enjoys family bike rides, traveling, school, basketball and is an overall GREAT child and son. Nathan's hearing loss does not hold him back. This year he won the President's Education Award for Academic Excellence, along with 5 of his hearing peers. WOW. Nathan has big plans for his future: become an NBA player, then a scientist and then an audiologist. He feels it would be great for children to see their doctor wear hearing aids. So do we. *-- Mom and Dad*



Alaysia's Story

Alaysia just turned eleven and what a celebration we had! Our family is very close and she picked a roller rink for her party, so we all went, including her very best friend since kindergarten, Angelica. They were wonderful to us and let Alaysia go around the rink in her wheelchair - what a thrill! We had a family reunion over the summer and went to Sesame Place in Pennsylvania together. They have lots of good fun for children in wheelchairs. Alaysia doesn't let her chair stop her from doing what she wants to do. She is very independent.

Alaysia brings out the best in everybody. She is in sixth grade now and is very popular. Her friends follow her down the hallway in her chair and everybody in school knows her. That's just the way she likes it. Her teachers and therapists say she is very smart and independent, just like at home.

When we have free time we like to go out to eat seafood, which we love. Alaysia also likes going to the movies and watching "iCarly" and "Victorious" on television. She loves listening to music by Big Time Rush, and can't get enough of WWE wrestling!

When her doctor first told us that she had cerebral palsy, it was a blow. But we never treated her like she was any different. Vicki from Birth to Three loved her so much, and we send her a special thank you! Ten years later, there's nothing I would change. Alaysia is just a gift that keeps us going every day.

Alaysia's aunt is a medical assistant, and Alaysia really loves and admires her. Alaysia says that she is going to be a medical assistant when she grows up, too. With a little help and our family's support, I know Alaysia will become anything she sets out to be!

-- Mom and Dad



Tyler's Story

Well it's been almost 5 years since Tyler left the Birth to Three System, and he continues to make wonderful progress. He now attends 2nd grade, where his favorite activities include reading and math. While Tyler continues to experience physical challenges on a daily basis, school staff have been extremely helpful through weekly physical and occupational therapy. To supplement that, Tyler has taken part in after school activities including physical and aquatic therapy, swimming lessons, and most recently has been introduced to tennis and joined the Boy Scouts. He also enjoys spending time at the various playgrounds in town, where he interacts with other children, including his younger sister, Noël. Besides reading - his favorite past time - Tyler loves chocolate and playing hockey with his Dad. He also enjoys watching his favorite team, the Chicago Blackhawks, at any opportunity. At this writing, his love of chocolate appears to have inspired him to one day become a baker. A career as a life-star helicopter pilot also interests him at this time as well. He truly has a very active imagination (as they say, the sky's the limit).

We are truly grateful for the services received from Birth to Three, as well as the current support that continues in the school system. While progress in some instances has been slow but steady, we feel so fortunate for our very special boy. At the same time, we have developed so much compassion for others afflicted with hydrocephalus. In September, we participated in Connecticut's inaugural walk to benefit hydrocephalus research, in the hopes that others will enjoy a better quality of life. Our hope is that as the years pass, Tyler will live a normal life as a productive member of the community, and will continue to support causes such as Birth to Three and the Hydrocephalus Association.

-- Mom and Dad