

Make Christmas easier for sick kids and their families!



**CANBERRA
HOSPITAL
FOUNDATION**

ABN 59 634 785 345

SHOPFRONT

Canberra Hospital,
Level 2, Building 3
Yamba Drive,
Garran ACT 2605

CORRESPONDENCE

PO Box 11,
Woden ACT 2606
T: 02 5124 3542
E: hello@chfoundation.org.au

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Will you help make Christmas easier for sick kids and their families?

Dear Friend,

The birth of a baby is supposed to be filled with joy.

But for Melissa and John, it brought fear.

Their daughter Marcella (Marcie) was diagnosed with talipes (club foot) when Melissa was 22 weeks pregnant. The journey ahead was tough, full of surgeries, plaster casts, and endless hospital visits.

Nobody wants to be in hospital for Christmas, especially not children.



At six months old, Marcie was in a 'bar and boots' for three months, only coming out for bath time.

Will you help make Christmas easier for sick kids and their families? Your gift today will bring hospital-level care into their homes, making it easier for families to stay together.

Marcie's first treatment was a plaster cast from toe to hip. She was only a day old.

"Every week brought a new plaster," says her mum Melissa. "By five weeks old, Marcie had her first surgery. It was overwhelming. I couldn't go into theatre with her - John had to do it!"

"It was a lot, especially with your first baby," Melissa remembers. "Driving hours each week to the hospital for treatment was exhausting."

For months at a time, after plaster and surgery, Marcie wore a device called a "bar and boots," which kept her tiny feet pointed outward.

It was uncomfortable and confining, but it was necessary to help correct her condition. As she got older, she often had to endure full-length plaster casts to stretch her tendons, which meant she was confined to a wheelchair.

As Marcie grew, so did the challenges. *"As she got older, when she was in plaster we had to carry her everywhere,"* Melissa recalls. *"We needed a wheelchair and ramps just to get her in and out of the house. It wasn't easy."*

Through it all, small acts of kindness made a difference. *"Marcie loved the paw print pattern on her plaster,"* Melissa says. *"It seems like a small thing, but it brought her comfort when she needed it most."*

This Christmas, you can bring that same comfort to other children.

We're asking for your help to support the **Child and Adolescent Hospital in the Home** program. This service allows sick kids to get hospital-level care at home. It means fewer hospital visits and more time with family.

Will you make a special gift today? Your generosity will help provide the extra touches that make a tough time a little easier for a sick child.

That's what you do for children like Marcie when you give a Christmas donation.

You transform what can be a scary, stressful time into moments of comfort and even joy.

It's not just toys and plaster prints. It's a range of essential items that help bring hospital-level care into a child's home.

In the past, your donations have provided comforting distraction toys and therapeutic tools that ease the stress of medical procedures.

Your gift this Christmas will help fund:

- **\$100** toward supplying scales for accurate health assessments, giving families the reassurance they need when their child is receiving care at home.
- **\$50** toward providing saturation monitors, measuring oxygen levels safely and painlessly. These monitors help parents breathe a little easier, knowing their child is being well cared for.
- **\$25** toward funding distraction toys, a relief for kids facing frightening treatments, turning moments of fear into moments of calm.

Marcie knows how much these small comforts mean. *"Any bit of kindness, a game or a fun plaster pattern made all the difference,"* she says. *"The physiotherapists were amazing. They explained everything and cheered me on."*

That's how your gifts help families like Marcie's and make hospital care at home possible.

Melissa is grateful for the support they received. *"The physiotherapists didn't just care for Marcie,"* she says. *"They supported our family too, especially when things were tough."*

As a thank you, we've included a paw print sticker. Marcie loved this pattern on her plaster. It brought her comfort. We hope this sticker reminds you of the mark your gift leaves on a child's life.

Today, Marcie is thriving. She's riding her bike, dancing, and has been discharged from care after nearly 17 years.

This Christmas, please help another family find hope. Your gift will bring care and comfort to children who need it most.

Yours with gratitude,



Helen Falla
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. I know budgets are tight right now, but if you can give a little this Christmas, it will make a huge difference. Every gift, big or small, brings comfort and joy to sick kids. Thank you for your kindness, it really will make a huge difference to the hospital experience for a young person like Marcie.



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