

# Children's Miracle Network Hospitals

# Miracle

# Minutes

Children's  
Miracle Network  
Hospitals

# Hope for Robyn

At 14 months of age, Robyn underwent her first open heart surgery. Three surgeries followed to remove her extra fingers and one to replace her knees. She will have another open heart surgery at age 5.

When Leeanna and Robert Clark, of Joplin, discovered their unborn baby girl would need neonatal intensive care at birth, they knew they wanted to deliver at Freeman Hospital West. Confident their new daughter would receive excellent care in the Freeman Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), Leeanna found great comfort in knowing this would allow her to stay close to their baby.

Robyn Clark came into the world full term, but with a heart defect that caused low oxygen saturation. She had three extra fingers, no knuckles, no cartilage in her knees, and other problems. At three months of age, Robyn received a diagnosis of Ellis-van Creveld syndrome. A rare, hereditary condition characterized by short ribs, short limbs, dysplastic teeth and nails, growth retardation, and congenital heart defects, Ellis-van Creveld syndrome affects less than one in 10 million births. At the time of her diagnosis in 2007, Robyn became one of only 150 known children with the condition.

"We were lucky to have our family with us when she had her first open heart surgery. We didn't know what to expect. When they took her to the operating room she was crying. I wanted to go with her," says Leeanna.

Robyn's surgeries take place in Kansas City and she routinely sees a specialist in Springfield. Children's Miracle Network Hospitals helps the Clarks with transportation assistance when needed. According to Leeanna, "CMN has always been there to help us whenever we've needed them—even if it's just a shoulder to cry on."

Because of your support Freeman Health System, a Children's Miracle Network Hospital, has a state-of-the-art NICU enabling precious families like the Clarks to stay close to their ill babies. And families can continue to get the medical treatment they need so their child can lead a healthy, normal life.

At 3 ½, Robyn is like most kids her age. She plays with puzzles, loves Sponge Bob Square Pants, and likes to give hugs.

While Robyn's struggles are far from over, this bright, articulate little girl has access to the best medical treatment available. Isn't that what we want for all our children?





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Give a \$10 donation today by texting "JOPLIN" to 90999.

## Making miracles happen...**every day**

Last fiscal year (April 2010 – March 2011) your local Children's Miracle Network Hospital provided financial assistance to nearly 1,000 sick, injured, or prematurely born children in our area.

In order to ensure children in our communities received the best medical care possible, we provided **\$63,940 for gas and lodging**. Families drove almost **137,000 miles** to see pediatric specialists, and stayed more than **3,500 nights** in Ronald McDonald Houses or hotels all over the country.

### In addition, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals provided:

- ▶ \$1.3 million to expand Freeman Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and provide the most technically advanced equipment available
- ▶ Approximately \$8,000 for prescription medicine and medical equipment
- ▶ 83 safe cribs and 219 safe car seats for at-risk infants
- ▶ Pediatric immobilizers and inflatable child restraint seats for area ambulances

**With your support we will continue to make sure our children have the medicine and medical equipment they need and have access to the best medical care possible...every day.**

**To help make miracles happen for our kids visit [cmnmiracles.org](http://cmnmiracles.org) and donate today.**