

Miracle, age 2, Down Syndrome, heart and intestinal problems



Yasin, age 3, Short Bowel Syndrome



## Striving to Help More Families

For the first 22 years, Embrace Kids exclusively supported children with cancer and blood disorders. In the fall of 2013, Embrace Kids expanded its mission to support children with catastrophic illnesses. Embrace Kids now assists families whose children have serious health challenges such as Cystic Fibrosis, genetic disorders, severe traumas and burns. Embrace Kids has allocated \$300,000 toward the mission expansion over the past 3 years.

### Why did Embrace Kids expand our mission?

Every day, our team meets kids and families in the Children's Hospital. We realized many other families have similar challenges regarding finances, education, counseling and overall support. These families have their own hopes, struggles and dreams. We felt inspired to help these kids and families.

### Two Small and Adorable Examples

4 year old Mikayla is a great example of why we should help more patient families. When born, Mikayla was diagnosed with a neuromuscular disease that is rare and is characterized by muscle wasting. This is a terminal illness that will greatly shorten her life span. This is devastating for a family but Embrace Kids can now help them with financial assistance. Mikayla's family also attends our fun inspirational and holiday events. Most importantly, they feel supported and part of a community. That is why we feel so proud about expanding the foundation's mission – Mikayla and her family deserves it and we love having them in our lives.

6 year old Alexia is another child that Embrace Kids is passionate in helping. Alexia has been diagnosed with a rare skin disorder as well as a white matter disease – she is also disabled and unable to walk or perform normal motor functions. Due to the severity of her illness she receives chemotherapy along with other treatments once every 2-3 weeks which requires lengthy hospital stays. This has created many hardships on the family but Embrace Kids is always there for them. Alexia loves attending Embrace Kids events and always enjoys the company of her RU4Kids group. This is another example of Embrace Kids welcoming a new family into our community and supporting them at a high level.

