

Sponsor a Patient Story

In an effort to increase awareness about Seattle Children's Heart Center, Global is offering a special opportunity to **Sponsor a Patient Story**. These displays represent individual children and their stories from the Heart Center. Story sponsorships are \$1,500 and are tax deductible. For more information please contact Cynthia Powell, Event Coordinator, cpowell@gdiving.com.



Marques Mar 10 years Old

Like any parents, Marji and Murray Mar were delighted at the birth of their second child, Marques. Except for a slight heart murmur, he seemed the picture of health. But at 4 days old, little Marques became sluggish, and his temperature dropped to an alarming 92 degrees. His pediatrician took one look at the infant and called 911.

Luckily for Marques, he was rushed to Children's Hospital. Pediatric cardiologists worked together to diagnose the problem — a severe heart defect. With two holes and incompletely formed valves, Marques' tiny heart was failing. "We were so overwhelmed that first day," says Marques' dad. "The staff in the Infant Intensive Care Unit treated us as if he was the only patient there."

When Marques was just 12 days old, Children's cardiac surgeons performed open heart surgery to close the holes in his heart. After five weeks in the hospital, Murray and Marji were finally able to take Marques home to his big sister, Marissa. But those were anxious times — Marques' fragile heart was always on the brink of failing. He could only be fed through a tube in his nose, and he was so vulnerable to infection that his family couldn't have visitors at home.

A year later, surgeons replaced Marques' heart valve with a prosthesis and installed a pacemaker. Over the years, Marques had several more hospitalizations, many clinic visits and countless physical and occupational therapy sessions. Today, Marques is an active, happy 10-year-old. He's still on daily medication and still a frequent visitor to Children's Heart Center, "but you wouldn't guess he has a heart defect," says Marji.

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