

Silhouettes

Square & Compass Children's Clinic

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"Serving Tucson & Southern Arizona since 1947"



Sounds of Happiness – Aislyn

If you look up the word “happy” in the dictionary, you might just find a picture of Aislyn there. Aislyn is a very happy and active 5 year old. She is the middle child of a wonderful and loving young family, along with her two sisters of 10 and 4 years old. Aislyn is far from being shy. She loves to play with her sisters, cousins, family members, and friends of the family. She also likes to sing, dance, run, play with her Barbie dolls, watch cartoons, and play indoors and outdoors. She enjoys interacting with other children as well as with adults. In fact, she is very excited right now because she just got enrolled to start school in August.

Shortly after she was born, Aislyn's parents found out she could not hear. It was very disheartening to them. Her dad searched high and low for doctors, medical help and ways to help his little girl, only to hear the same results, that she would never be able to hear and there was nothing they could do about it. To their surprise, a family member found out through a friend about the Children's Clinics in Tucson. Dad quickly made an appointment to bring Aislyn here to be seen. When they got here, they were very disappointed to find out that she did not have AHCCCS and did not qualify. Just then one of the doctors called them to the back and said he would take a look at her, and that's when little Aislyn's world of hearing opened up for her.

Aislyn was diagnosed with congenital profound sensorineural hearing loss due to a history of Cytomegalovirus (CMV) Bilateral hearing loss. Cytomegalovirus is a common virus that infects people of all ages, however, when a baby is born with CMV it is called congenital CMV infection. Some babies never show signs or have any health problems, but there are some who may have problems that are apparent at birth or others who may develop symptoms later. Some of those problems may include hearing loss, vision loss, intellectual disability, small head size, lack of coordination, muscle weakness, or seizures. The bilateral hearing loss that Aislyn experienced made her a good candidate for a cochlear implant.

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Last October, thanks to Square & Compass, TMC, Dr. Perry and his team, and Children's Clinics, Aislyn received a cochlear implant. A cochlear implant is an external implant which makes contact with an internal implant which is surgically implanted behind the ear. Aislyn also has a tiny microphone which also connects to both implants. Dr. Perry performed the surgery and Aislyn continues to see an Audiologist and a Speech Pathologist at the Children's Clinics. She commented that one of her favorite people is Meghan, her Speech Therapist.

Aislyn has always communicated by using gestures and signs her mom taught her and some that she came up with on her own. Mom says that everything makes Aislyn happy. She says that something that makes her laugh tremendously is when her sister does something funny or when she falls or pretends to fall. Aislyn is also a very sentimental child and is very close to her family especially her sisters. When she wakes in the morning, the first thing she does is go to her sister's bed and hugs and kisses her.

Mom and Dad can't say enough about Square & Compass and the Children's Clinics. They say everyone is so nice, helpful, and giving and that they are like family. They say this is a wonderful and beautiful place. They call the Children's Clinics "A place where miracles happen". They commented that they are extremely grateful and appreciative of everyone here for what they've done for their little girl and how they are treated when they come to the clinics.



Upcoming Special Events

That time of year is just around the corner again! Every year the staff and volunteers at the Clinic work very hard to try to give our kids a memorable experience during the holidays.



The Halloween party will be on Wednesday, October 31st from 1:30pm to 4:00pm.

Everyone dresses up and the kids have an opportunity to go Trick-or-Treating all through the clinic. They can play games, work on crafts, have their faces painted and even walk through the Haunted House!



The Holiday Party is a two-day event.

This year it will be held on Wednesday & Thursday, December 12th and 13th from 9:00am to 12:00pm and from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. The children get to make crafts, play games, visit with the Disney Princesses, enjoy treats and some musical entertainment, and best of all, they get to choose a toy from Santa's Workshop!



If you would like to help make this happen, donations of all kinds are greatly appreciated. New, unwrapped toys are wonderful for Santa's Workshop. Monetary donations are also welcomed for both events. Everybody at Square & Compass, our patients, and families thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your continued support of all our endeavors and programs.

What's New at the Clinic?



After more than a year of hard work and planning, October of 2017 marked a big milestone for Children's Clinics. They launched their first Multidisciplinary Down Syndrome Clinic.

Children's Clinics now provides two Down Syndrome Clinics a month, one focusing on teen patients and the other focusing on younger children. The specialties that support the clinics are Med/Peds, Ophthalmology, an Optometrist, a Registered Dietician, Physical Therapist, Audiology, RN Care Coordinator, Medical Assistant, Social Worker, Ear/Nose/ & Throat specialist, and an Education Specialist. Multidisciplinary clinics allow for a patient to come to an appointment and be seen by several physicians and specialists. These clinics have shown to be valuable in meeting the various needs of patients. There are over 30 children currently enrolled in the Down Syndrome Clinics.

The Southern Arizona Network for Down Syndrome (SANDS) and the Family Advisory Board (FAB) are very involved in the success of the Down Syndrome Clinic. FAB is a group of committed parents and advocates who work in partnership with Children's Clinics to generate ideas about initiatives that would improve their service to the community and provide feedback regarding the overall experience of the patients and families. Dr. David Crawford, who is a Med/Peds Physician in the Primary Care Department at Children's Clinics, will be chairing the Down Syndrome Clinic. His wife, Adrienne, who is a SANDS Representative and a FAB Team Member, will be speaking to the parents. Southern Arizona Network for Down Syndrome will have representatives at each clinic.

Dr. Crawford and Adrienne have three beautiful children, Bentley age 9, Clayton age 8, and Lillian (Lily) age 6. Bentley has Down Syndrome so they feel a common bond with families of children with Down Syndrome. As a mother, Adrienne feels she knows the challenges of multiple appointments, physicians who don't always communicate, and the desire to have the best possible care for her son. Her husband's and her desire is for other families to have the same opportunities and quality of care that they want for their son. She added that when she was asked to be the parent representative for SANDS (Southern Arizona Network for Down Syndrome) she immediately said "Yes!" and went right to work to make sure she would have information that could be useful to families.



Bentley, the Crawford's eldest son, is an extremely kind, active, and inquisitive 9-year old with Down Syndrome. He takes gymnastics, plays soccer, and loves riding his tandem with his family. His family likes camping and traveling. Bentley is always up for an adventure. When he visits the clinic, he loves to watch movies in the lobby and visit his dad's office. The staff is always happy to see him and his siblings. Adrienne says her son "is extremely witty and loves to make people laugh. He has a special zest for life and knows how to make the fullest of any occasion."

Both Adrienne and Dr. Crawford agree that the Down Syndrome Clinic is a success when the families are satisfied with their care. Families are extremely appreciative of the clinic and many have been left in tears from the professional and loving care they have received. Adrienne mentioned that for some families, the clinic is a blessing - a blessing she feels honored to be a part of. She added that she hopes that our families continue to be satisfied with their experience here, and that judging by the smiles, gentle care of the professionals, and the love and commitment that fills the clinic each and every day - she'd say they are on the right track.

THANK YOU!

As supporters of Square & Compass Children's Clinic **you** play a significant role in improving the health and lives of **thousands** of children.

In 2017, there were over **33,000** patient visits in the following clinics:

Audiology	Occupational Therapy
Baclophen Pump	Ophthalmology
Behavioral Health	Optometry
Cardiology	Oral-Maxillary
Cerebral Palsy	Orthodontia
Dental	Orthopedics
Dermatology	Osteogenesis Imperfecta
Developmental Pediatrics	Pediatric Palliative Care
Down Syndrome	Pediatric Surgery
Endocrinology	Pediatrics
Ear, Nose, & Throat	Physical Therapy
Feeding	Plastic Surgery
Gastroenterology	Primary Care
Genetics	Rheumatology
Metabolic	Sickle Cell
Myelomeningocele (Child & Teen)	Sleep Disorders
Nephrology	Spasticity
Neuro-surgery	Speech Therapy
Neuro-epilepsy	Spinal Cord
Neurocutaneous	Upper Extremity
Neurology	Urology
Neuromuscular	Wheelchair
Nutrition	

In addition, we support Children's Clinics' ancillary services for patients and their families:

Child Life Specialist	Patient & Family Services
Educational Support	
On-site Radiology & Lab	Pet Therapy
	RN Coordinators

A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

We are sincerely grateful to - YOU - our loyal donors for making it possible for us to serve children like Aislyn and Bentley. It's only with your help that Square & Compass is able to continue to provide medical equipment, services, and supplies to patients and families who find it hard to meet some of the expenses related to treating children with complex medical conditions.

Please consider contributing to the clinic's special Holiday events mentioned inside this issue so that, with your help, we can make the Holidays special for the children we serve. Also, you can help lessen the financial burden on these families by making a tax-deductible donation to the Square & Compass Children's Clinic today. Another way to help is by making a bequest to Square & Compass Children's Clinic in your will so that together we can continue to provide aid to children for many more years to come. We greatly appreciate your support. It makes our mission possible and allows us to continue to assist children in our community.

With Gratitude,

Amy Burke
Executive Director

Square & Compass Children's Clinic, Inc.



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