

Delilah was born on December 18, 2007 to parents Janet Hernandez and Enrique Rodriquez.

The name Delilah is Hebrew in origin and has many meanings but the ones that best describe her are affectionate and delicate, like a blooming flower. She is, indeed a beauty and is an engaging little one who is currently receiving both occupational therapy and physical therapy from the Elks. She also receives speech therapy from her school district, instruction from a special ed teacher and a vision specialist from Fresno County.

Delilah had a very stormy birth. She was born at 35 weeks gestation with a multitude of medical complications: gastroschisis, cholactasis,



enlarged liver, hypertension, urinary reflux and feeding problems. She remained at Children's Hospital for five months, undergoing surgical correction of her gastroschisis, received her nutrition intravenously for several months until she underwent another surgery to place a gastrostomy tube for her feeding.

Delilah's medical records state that at about three months of age, she had a respiratory arrest causing neurologic impairment. Medically, she is followed by multiple specialists in Gastroenterology, Renal, Pediatrics, Ophthalmology, and Rehab. She was most recently seen by Dr. Joseph Capell, who diagnosed her with choreoathetoid cerebral palsy, which is a type of CP characterized by extreme uncontrolled movements of the body,

including all extremities.

Delilah lives with both parents and maternal grandparents and family. She started her physical therapy with the Elks Major Project in February 2010 when she was two years old. She had eight therapy sessions at Children's Hospital in Fresno prior to starting weekly physical therapy in her home. Transportation to and from her home to Fresno was difficult for this young family to manage as Dad would have to take time off from work to drive Delilah and her mom to therapy. Mom had never learned to drive a car and relied on others for transportation.



Delilah receives weekly physical therapy visits from Kris Bratton. On the first visit with Kris, Delilah was able to roll from stomach to back and back to stomach. When placed in sitting she could maintain her balance for very brief periods of time, but would lose her balance and fall over frequently. She could not get into a sitting position independently nor could she crawl, pull up to a standing position or walk.



Delilah's muscles were very weak

and control was very poor. She was very dependent on others for mobility and was carried or placed in a stroller and pushed from place to place. Delilah and her family worked very hard and consistently in following her home exercise program and goals began to be achieved.

In November 2010 her new pink walker was delivered. She was able to stand in the walker immediately but her control of her feet and ankles was very poor. Short braces were requested by her therapist and prescribed by her physician. In January 2011 she received her braces and was able to stand. The braces controlled the excessive motion at her ankles. Delilah began to take a few steps with her walker for the first time totally independent.



A wheelchair was also requested and prescribed by her physician so that she could learn mobility for use in school and her community. Her new pink wheelchair arrived the last week of January 2011 and she was excited

about her new found mobility. She is learning to maneuver her chair and go where she wants to when she wants. She now has many choices for mobility and with continued therapy from the Elks Major Project, she continues to conquer the obstacles placed before her.

Delilah is also followed for weekly occupational therapy. Currently we are working on adapting her wheelchair to meet her need to use her arms functionally in fine-motor activities and spoon feeding. While she receives most of her nutrition through her G-tube, she is slowly learning to eat by mouth, and has made some progress in that she is tolerating more solids. She loves junk food such as licking Doritos. She is able to drink liquids from a cup with handles, but has a ways to go for independence.



As an occupational therapist, one of the most positive aspects I see with Delilah is her uncanny persistence. In spite of her motor disorder, she tries and tries and tries. This in large part, with very loving and committed parents and family involvement, will contribute to her on-going progress and independence.

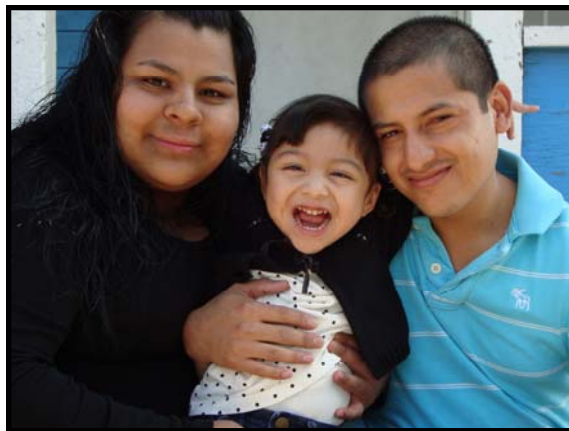
Delilah has about five spoken words, but essentially communicates through her eye gaze and other gestures. She also signs a few words. She is a bright child who knows what she wants, communicates her wants, and is persis-

tent to succeed, even with a few naughty behaviors.

It is her parents wish that Delilah attend her local school with other typical children. Because of your donations, Delilah, her family and your California-Hawaii Elks Major Project therapists can all continue to work hard to make this possible, as she continues to “blossom” into a fine young lady, whose life has no boundaries.



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Mom ~ Delilah ~ Dad

2011 Theme Child



Delilah

May 21, 2011

California-Hawaii Elks
Major Project, Inc.