

Andrew's Miracle Story

Dear _____,

Let us all cheer, because the jolly holidays are here! With fundraising, dancing, and cookies galore, we know that there must be some miracles in store. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter on behalf of Dance Marathon at Florida State University. As Seminoles, we are fortunate to have worked together the last 20 years to create miracles supporting medical research and training, both locally in the Tallahassee area for our FSU College of Medicine Pediatric Outreach Program and at our local Children's Miracle Network hospital, Shands Children's Hospital in Gainesville. The funds collected through DM at FSU have purchased indispensable medical equipment and have provided thousands of dollars in uncompensated care — all to save and improve the lives of as many children as possible. Going into our 21st year as a united Seminole nation, we are excited, passionate and ready to begin fighting for our community and our cause.

It's the happiest time of the year, and we want to give the kids a reason to cheer. This holiday season we are thankful for our community, our cause, and for readers like you, please join our family so you can make infinite miracles too. Dance Marathon at FSU is one of the largest student-run philanthropies in the Southeast. I am proud to pledge myself to stand for 20 hours the weekend of February 26 - February 28 alongside more than 1,800 of my fellow peers. During that time, I will be standing in honor of those children who can't. In our 21 years, we have brought infinite hope to local children and their families. Last year, we fundraised a remarkable \$1,100,645.52, exceeding our goal and bringing our grand total to more than \$6.5 million since 1996. I hope that you will join me in raising funds and helping me reach my personal goal of \$_____ by giving a tax-deductible donation, providing children and families invaluable hope and miracles.

For the Kids,

Twenty-six weeks is exactly half of a calendar year. It is also fourteen weeks short of the "normal" period of time for a human pregnancy. But being just 26 weeks old didn't stop Andrew Ossenbeck from deciding that it was definitely time to greet the world. Known as Braxton-Hicks contractions, false labor is a common occurrence in pregnancy. However, when the contractions didn't stop, Dr. Park decided to have an obstetrician check to make sure the baby was all right. Andrew, as it turns out, was intent on arriving early. Despite pharmaceutical therapy to stop the contractions, Dr. Park delivered Andrew on Christmas Day. With Andrew's early arrival came a host of complications. Weighing just 2.2 pounds, his lungs weren't fully formed, requiring him to be intubated. He was so small that his father, Michael Ossenbeck, could fit his wedding ring around Andrew's arm. He couldn't feed properly, his tiny heart had to be monitored, and he was anemic. Luckily for Andrew, he was born at Shands Hospital, where exceptional neonatal care was just steps away. Today, Andrew is a happy, healthy, 2-year-old boy who loves cars and playing outside. Ossenbeck, now a stay-at-home dad, says Andrew's progress is wonderful. "He reaches the important milestones in his own way and he is doing great. You would never know that he went through all that he did." The Shands Children's Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit expansion will begin in January 2016, and will almost double the size of the NICU, going from 12,600 square feet to 20,800, and from 52 beds to 68. Improvements in family privacy, sibling play space, and transitional space to help parents acclimate to the needs of their baby are all part of the expansion plan. One aspect that won't change, however, is the commitment to exceptional care.

"We always knew that everyone was in there with Andrew, doing a lot of good," Park and Ossenbeck said. "That's why this expansion project is really important."



Please detach this portion to mail with your donation. Checks should be made payable to Children's Miracle Network.

Dancer Name _____

Your Name _____ Dancer Organization _____

Your Address _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone Number _____

Amount Donated _____ I need a tax receipt letter yes no

Return Address: Children's Miracle Network PO Box 14205 Tallahassee, FL 32317
You can also donate at dmfsu.org

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