



Miraculous Monday: The Miracle Man

Amazing things may happen at Children's every day, but today, in celebration of National Hospital Week, it's your chance to share some of those stories with your colleagues. All day, Careforce Connection will feature specially selected accounts of the miraculous everyday events that happen at Children's—from accounts of extraordinary patient care to the things your colleagues do to make life easier. If you'd like to submit your own story, email [Internal Communications](#) for consideration.

Jennifer Lehman, Business Operations Coordinator, Emergency department, sent in this story on behalf of **Amber McMillian**, Staff Nurse, Emergency department, Egleston. It speaks to the long-term affect patients have on the dedicated staff at Children's.

...

Three years ago, when I was a new nurse in the Emergency department at Egleston, I cared for a patient who presented with abdominal pain. Because he was transferred by ambulance from another hospital, his parents hadn't arrived yet. Though he was talking intermittently when I assessed him, within an hour, he became unresponsive with his vitals crashing. He was taken to a trauma room where we ended up coding him and taking him to the Pediatric ICU. As expected, I was very upset after the code blue, and I feared he was not going to make it. Like any new nurse, I afraid I had missed something while caring for him. I often wondered what happened to this child but never heard anything else. I assumed he had passed.

This past September, in the same Emergency department, I went to a room to assess a child who presented with a fever. The boy was 9 years old and had the brightest smile and a presence of something special. I asked his mother about his medical history, and she told me about his closed colostomy, his missing half of his gut and his many other medical problems. The patient himself then stated that he "almost died a few years back and everyone fixed him." He was such an absolute joy that I began calling him my "little miracle man," and he would just giggle and blush.

His mom started telling me the story of how he had almost died three years ago at Egleston. She told me about how when he left the first hospital he'd been in, he was talking, and how when she got to the Egleston Emergency department, he was in a room being resuscitated. She also remembered a nurse caring for her son who was visibly upset, something that made her know the staff was doing everything they could to take care of her baby. As she continued, the story reminded me so much of the one I remembered from three years ago. Quickly, we realized that I was the nurse who cared for her son, and he was the little boy I had often wondered about.

At the end of his visit, I was standing outside the room and he walked up to me, put his arms around me, hugged me and said, "Thank you for saving my life." It was the most emotional experience I've ever had, and I know it will be remembered as the most wonderful moment in my career.

Read more Miraculous Monday accounts:

[Miraculous Monday: An Irish Story](#), from Nancy Doelling, M.D.

[Miraculous Monday: Copeland's Party](#), from Stacey Mathis, Staff Nurse – Resource, Egleston

