



I love Children's.  
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and the parents as well.



# A Home for a Hero

Anaiah Rucker, 9, has been hailed as a hero since saving her sister's life in February. As their mother Andrea Taylor watched from the front porch, Anaiah and 5-year-old Camry crossed a street to wait for the school bus, but the girls didn't see a truck headed in their direction until it was too late. Anaiah had just enough time to push her sister to safety, but she wasn't so lucky herself. The truck hit her, breaking her neck and both of her legs, and damaging her spleen and one kidney.

"She was too young to get hit like I was," Anaiah said of Camry. "I just love her so much."

Anaiah was rushed to Children's at Egleston, where doctors stabilized her and later had to remove one kidney and amputate the lower half of her left leg. When Anaiah moved to the rehabilitation unit at Children's at Scottish Rite, she began intensive physical therapy and her doctors fit her for a custom prosthetic leg.

Six weeks after her accident, Anaiah returned to her hometown, but not to her home. That house could not be made accessible for someone with a wheelchair or a prosthetic leg. So the family moved into a rented house, paid for by a community fundraiser. But there was a bigger plan in the works.

Community members told Anaiah's story to producers of the popular TV show *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*. The producers decided to build Anaiah a home, with the help of more than 1,000 volunteers. Colleen Coulter-O'Berry, physical therapist; Rebecca Hernandez, orthotist and prothesist; and Dr. Joshua Vova, physiatrist, are among the Children's employees who volunteered and offered suggestions to the designers to make the home customized for Anaiah. The episode featuring Anaiah's home aired Oct. 9.

"I am grateful there are such loving people to come out and build Anaiah a home where she will be safe and happy," her mother Andrea said. "Children's staff members were wonderful to volunteer and tell the builders what Anaiah needs. I love Children's. Everyone really cares about the children—and the parents as well."

Although Anaiah will face challenges, life at home will be easier thanks to her new ADA-accessible house—and her future is bright with promise. She will be awarded a four-year, \$140,000 scholarship to Berry College in North Georgia. She wants to be an orthopaedist or prosthetist and help other kids who are amputees. ©