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Children's Specialized Hospital Patients Share Their Remarkable Recoveries with Supporters at the 5th Annual Open

JACKSON, NJ – On Monday, June 21, 2021, Children's Specialized Hospital Foundation hosted their Fifth Annual Open at Metedeunk National Golf Club in Jackson with over 160 supporters in attendance. The event raised a record-breaking \$260,000 for Children's Specialized Hospital and the life-changing care it provides to children in New Jersey and beyond.

“We are so happy that we were able to gather for our 5th Annual Open this year and very grateful to everyone who came out and helped us break a fundraising record for this event”, said Philip Salerno III, President & Chief Development Officer of the Children's Specialized Hospital Foundation. “After a year filled with disruption and uncertainty, seeing everyone together again was truly heartwarming.”

Among the many guests, Children's Specialized Hospital patients, Carly Decker and Leah Hansen, shared their miraculous stories of rehabilitation and recovery and were met with standing ovations from the crowd.

Carly suffered from severe B12 deficiency almost three years ago due to nitric oxide exposure from volcanic hot springs after a family vacation to Iceland. She was unable to feel below the waist and could not walk. After eight weeks at Children's Specialized Hospital, Carly walked out of the building on her own. Today she attends Montclair State and hopes to become a physical therapist so she can help kids like her.

Leah Hansen was playing with her sister when she began to experience tingling in her fingers. By the time she arrived at the hospital she was having difficulty breathing on her own. Leah was diagnosed with a rare spinal cord stroke and began intensive inpatient rehabilitation to regain strength and learn to walk again at Children's Specialized Hospital. Today, Leah is doing things that she never thought possible such as running track and riding a bike.

Seven-year-old Luca Damas, who is also a patient at the hospital helped to pull raffle tickets at the end of the event.

Golfers included representatives from many New Jersey businesses who are long-time supporters of the hospital and truly believe in the vision of creating a world where all children can reach their full potential. Top sponsors of the event included Rendina Health Care Real Estate, Hammond Contracting, Michael Riesz & Co., Langan Engineering and Environmental Services, Breaker Electric, Highland Associates, Alan and Penny Blake, and PSE&G.

About Children's Specialized Hospital Foundation

100% of every donation to Children's Specialized Hospital (CSH) Foundation supports the life-changing care at Children's Specialized Hospital that is transforming the lives of children with special healthcare needs in New Jersey and beyond. The CSH Foundation receives philanthropic support from those who share our mission and commitment to ensuring that all children with special healthcare needs receive the specialized care they need to reach their full potential. To help or learn more, visit www.childrens-specialized.org/donate.

About Children's Specialized Hospital

Children's Specialized Hospital, an RWJBarnabas Health Facility, is the nation's leading provider of inpatient and outpatient care for children and young adults from birth to 21 years of age facing special healthcare challenges – from chronic illnesses and complex physical disabilities like brain and spinal cord injuries, to a full scope of developmental, behavioral, and mental health concerns.. At 14 different New Jersey locations, our pediatric specialists partner with families to make our many innovative therapies and medical treatments more personalized and effective so each child can reach their full potential. For more information, visit rwjbh.org/childrensspecialized or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Linked In](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

Children's Specialized Hospital is a proud member of [Children's Miracle Network Hospitals](#).

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