

SUMMER 2023

DEA AND ZENDAYA'S STORY

by Dea Kuiper

Zendaya is a 5-year-old girl who was born prematurely and with cerebral palsy, but is now able to walk. She has microcephaly and requires extra feedings via her G tube. Because both her mother and grandmother are unable to provide the care she needs, Zendaya is in the loving care of her great-grandmother. I have been involved with Zendaya for 3 years now and, although her great-grandmothers' resources are very limited, and her own health is not the best, there is never a shortage of love and care for this little girl.

A few months ago, I became aware that Zendaya was sleeping on a small mattress on the floor of her great-grandmothers' bedroom, or, at times, shared the bed with her. Her great-grandmother didn't have the money to buy her a bed of her own and was too shy to ask for help. Together with Sam Gallup, my supervisor, we asked the Foundation for a twin bed and new bedding.

We threw a surprise party for Zendaya not too long ago. You had to see her happy face when she walked into the bedroom and saw her new bed, all done up and decorated with balloons. It melts



my heart when I think back on that happy afternoon and the big hugs received by her great-grandmother.

I have been a pediatric homecare nurse with Nascentia for 20 years. To be able to something extras for families that are in need thanks to the Foundation makes this such a wonderful job.



FOUNDATION CHAMPION

Andrea Obit
Clinical Supervisor



Starting out, I always had a passion for the geriatric population. When I went to school for my bachelor's degree we had a six-week rotation in home health care. I was instantly in love with everything a nurse can achieve in home care. I quickly learned that there was a big need for home health care nurses due to the rapidly aging population.

I came to Nascentia about 5 years ago, and have been able to do even more for my patients through the generosity of our Foundation. Since advancing my career path and becoming the clinical supervisor for the chronic care team, I have been involved in getting many requests through the Foundation. This includes simple things that some patients can't afford because of their very limited fixed income. Our patients have received microwaves, air conditioners, and a Purwick system that insurance does not pay for. I was also able to help a patient get tube feedings she needed while the insurance was on hold for a month due to changes.

I love that the Foundation gets staff and community personally involved in their accomplishments. I am a big supporter of the Raise the Glass event and enjoy creating the themed baskets for the event. The Foundation allows us to help out patients in a way that no one else can.

A NOTE FROM OUR FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR

by Rachel Galusha

Thanks to everyone's involvement to make this year's Raise A Glass a success, year to date we are currently at \$86,025, which is nearly \$20,000 ahead of where we were same time last year!



If anyone does business with a company that you would like us to contact for an in-kind gift (donated item) or sponsorship, please reach out to Rebecca Lerman and/or Collen Prossner.

A BIG THANK YOU to Amy Davis and staff of Nascentia for working so hard to put together the baskets for the upcoming Raise a Glass event. We appreciate their dedication to this endeavor as the baskets are a big hit with guests and generate significant dollars toward the support of our Raise A Glass recipients.

For those of you who serve on the Governing Board and on the Foundation Board, please consider placing an ad in our Raise a Glass booklet. It is a good way to help us generate dollars for those who need our assistance.

We look forward to seeing many of you there!



**2023 Raise a Glass
Sunday, Sept. 17, 1-4**

Timber Banks Golf Club, Baldwinsville



How can you help our annual Raise a Glass fundraiser be a success?

1. Buy tickets to attend! Tickets are \$35 for employees, and \$50 for guests. Buy online at nascentiahealth.org/raiseaglass.
2. Contribute to your department basket. Our employee-created raffle baskets are the most popular items at our event because of the amazing job everyone does putting such great baskets together. Any amount you can chip in to your department's basket is appreciated!
3. Reach out to your connections to ask if they would consider being an event sponsor or donating an item for our silent auction. Gift cards or products from local businesses are always a hit.
4. Volunteer to help set up and run the event.
5. Like and share our Raise a Glass posts on social media.

How can you help the Foundation?

There are many ways you can contribute to the Nascentia Health Charitable Foundation.

- » Donate online at nascentiahealth.org/foundation
- » Check by mail
- » Honor & memorial gifts—Make a difference in the name of someone important to you!
- » Planned giving—Make a lasting impact on the services that Nascentia Health provides to the community by including a charitable bequest in your will

Colleen Prossner and Rebecca Lerman attending one of the many community outreach events, sharing the mission of Nascentia Health's Charitable Foundation



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