

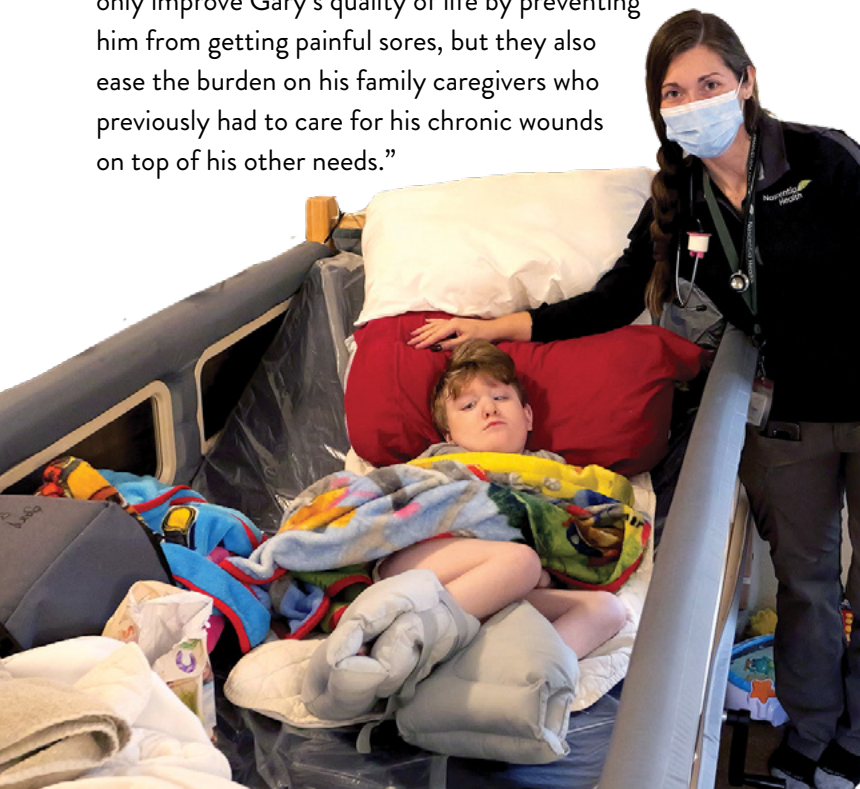
WINTER 2023

MARGARET AND GARY'S PATIENT STORY

This year, the Foundation chose one of our pediatric patient families to receive holiday gifts from Nascentia. We purchased a holiday dinner and a few meaningful gifts for both parents, our patient, and his sister.



Our patient, Gary, is a 5-year-old with quadriplegic cerebral palsy, developmental delays, and seizures. He is medically fragile and uses a gastrostomy tube for all feedings. His family is low income and Gary is completely dependent on caregivers for every need. His cerebral palsy is spastic and he rubs his feet and legs together chronically, causing the skin to break down and lead to open wounds. The Foundation purchased special pressure-relieving booties that are comfortable for him to wear around the clock and protect his skin from the friction that damages his skin. Since getting the boots, his existing wounds and raw skin have healed and the boots are preventing new injuries from occurring. His Nascentia nurse, Margaret Narolis, says, "the booties not only improve Gary's quality of life by preventing him from getting painful sores, but they also ease the burden on his family caregivers who previously had to care for his chronic wounds on top of his other needs."



FOUNDATION CHAMPION

Samantha Gallup,
*Clinical Supervisor—
Pediatrics*



Back in 2012, I was a bright-eyed nursing student who got the opportunity to shadow a VNA nurse in the middle of a snow storm. It was my pediatric clinical experience, and even though I was just there to observe, I made my way up icy driveways carrying bags of baby equipment and nursing bags for my preceptor, and even finished the day with a patient visit...in a barn. By the end of the day, wet and a mess, I asked how I could work as a home care nurse one day. And now I'm here at Nascentia as the pediatric supervisor!

I've been an active member of the foundation committee since joining the leadership team and my favorite time of year is the holiday season. Starting in November 1, I'm helping with decorations, working on holiday family recommendations, and preparing the holiday giving ornaments. These ornaments are chosen by the gracious staff at Nascentia, who purchase a gift for an active Nascentia pediatric patient. The pediatric team hosts a at the "Holiday Wrapping Party" at a colleague's home, spending the evening sorting, wrapping and really getting into the holiday spirit.

Syracuse is ranked 10th nationally for families living below \$35,000/annually. For children, that can mean lack of clothing, food, basic hygiene essentials, and even the joy of a holiday dinner or waking up to presents under the tree. If giving is the true meaning of the season, I'm blessed to work for an organization that believes in such altruism and philanthropy for our community.



HOLIDAY GIVING

Thank you to everyone who purchased gifts through our giving tree, helped with our wrapping parties, and delivered gifts to make the holiday bright for these kids! Because of your generosity, we were able to give back to dozens of kids and their families.



Our pediatric team spent a night wrapping presents for the kids they care for. (back row: Mikaylea Recore, Dea Kuiper, Kara Foti, JP Fried; front row: Anne Fitzgerald, Jessie Karst, Cathy Cater, Lee Aldrich, Margaret Narolis.)

A Heartwarming Holiday Story

by Rebecca Lerman, Philanthropy Administrator

I was at Marty's Barn Cellar in Elbridge buying a wooden toy box for our family holiday giving and mentioned to the staff that I was from the Nascentia Health Charitable Foundation. I told them we had a little girl asking for a toy box for Christmas and I remembered going to Marty's buying wonderful furniture for

my kids when they were little. I asked if they were able to do any kind of discount for a nonprofit. Marty's gave their standard 10% off, and the two employees decided to chip in personally, giving \$150 toward the cost of the toy box! With the money we saved, I was able to buy the family four winter coats.



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