

# Mother Finds Comfort at Shriners Hospitals

**L**IKE many mothers, **Julie Morris** has worried about her children's health their entire lives. And in the case of her daughter **Rowan**, she's had very good reason.

At birth, Rowan's umbilical cord wrapped tightly around her neck, and she required immediate resuscitation. Calcium deposits also built up on the outside of both kidneys, but miraculously, doctors returned her kidneys to normal with treatment.

While both of these complications were taken care of quickly after birth, another problem has proven longer-lasting. Rowan was diagnosed with Erb's palsy. Nerve damage caused Rowan's arm to remain limp with only an occasional slight movement.

As Rowan grew, her arm strength slowly returned, but at 7 months, her improvement leveled. The neurologist observing Rowan at the time painted a bleak picture. Refusing to give up hope for her daughter, Morris took her baby to Shriners Hospitals for Children -- Philadelphia.

After meeting with **Scott Kozin**, M.D. and his staff, Morris felt much more optimistic.

"They found Rowan's muscle imbalance had caused her shoulder joint to go out of position," Morris said. "It was almost a relief to me because I was doing everything in my power to make her arm better, and nothing was happening. I was exhausted!"

Dr. Kozin and Shriners Hospitals staff continued to ease Morris's worries through Rowan's journey from surgery to post-op care to physical therapy.

Shriners Hospitals for Children was there for Morris and Rowan even in the most trying times.

After a particularly demanding morning, Rowan began screaming during the therapy session. The therapist tried her best, but nothing was working. Then, Dr. Kozin entered the room.

"After suggesting a break from therapy, he addressed Rowan in the most calm and caring manner," Morris said. "He gave me a reassuring smile and entertained Rowan for a minute or two."

Before he left, the therapist asked who should conduct Rowan's home exercises.

"Oh, Mom can handle that. Mom's great," replied Dr. Kozin.

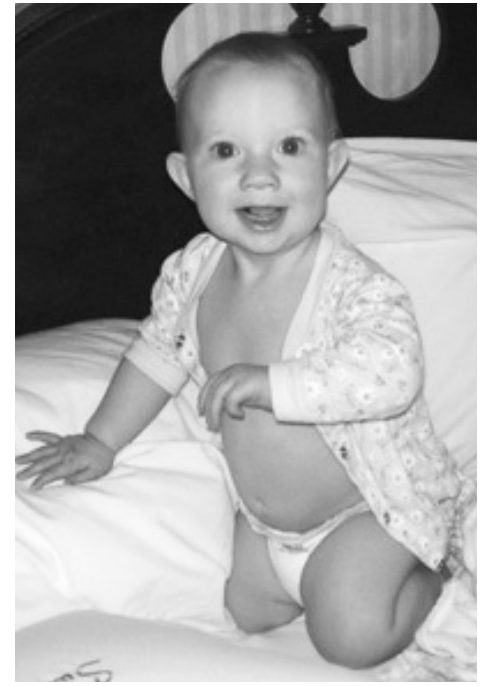
"At that point, I wasn't sure I could handle anything, but I was continually encouraged and made to feel comfortable. Their support made me stronger, too."

Today, Rowan is showing great progress. She can reach up, grasp things behind her neck and turn her palm up. She still visits Shriners Hospitals for Children for check-ups.

"Much of our gratitude goes to the Philadelphia Shriners Hospital for their continuous support. I could not have found a more caring doctor or a more agreeable medical team."



TODAY, ROWAN is an active little girl who has made huge strides in her ability to use her arm.



ROWAN, who has Erb's palsy, sustained nerve damage that has affected the function of her left arm.

## Giant Card Brings Smiles to Philadelphia Shriners Hospital

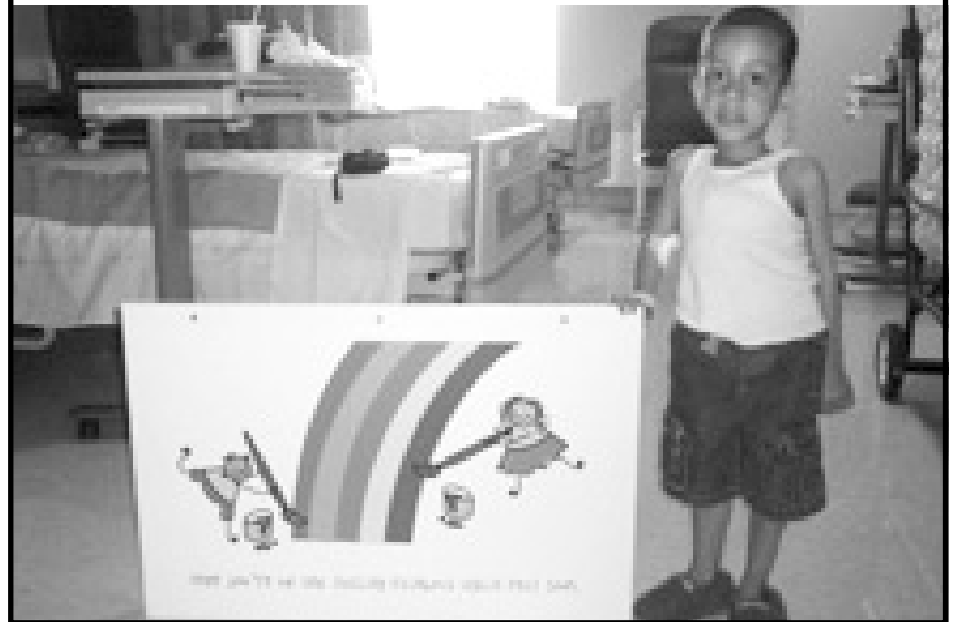
**R**ECENTLY, the kids at the Philadelphia Shriners Hospital received a flood of get well wishes from Shriners Hospitals supporters around the country.

In April, we asked our supporters to electronically "sign" a giant get well card for kids at one of our hospitals. Our goal was to have 1,000 people sign the card -- and we were overwhelmed by the response we received. Nearly 2,500 caring people signed the card!

The giant card, which read "We hope you're up and chasing rainbows again real soon," was delivered to the Philadelphia Shriners Hospital in late June and was received with many, many smiles!

Thank you for showing our kids how much they mean to you! Your support and encouragement are helping kids defy the odds and overcome unimaginable obstacles.

We hope to give you the opportunity to do something similar for more children in our hospitals very soon.



## Anna Defies the Odds with Shriners Hospitals

**H**AVE you ever heard of a child who actually wanted to clean her room? Well, meet 20-year-old **Anna**. When she was younger, she desperately wanted to do the chores that most kids hate.

"I guess when you can't do something, it just makes you want to do it even more," said Anna, who needed her mom's help with many chores because she couldn't physically do them.

Anna, a native of Poland, was born without arms and received many different opinions from doctors about what they could do to help. When she was 8 years old, her mother heard about Shriners Hospitals for Children and decided to bring her to the Chicago hospital for a consultation.

She began receiving medical treatment, and after several trips back and forth to the hospital, Anna and her mother decided to permanently move to the U.S.

Although she was given the option, Anna has never wanted to be fitted with prosthetic arms. She felt they would be too heavy and decided early on that she would instead learn to do things with her legs, toes and feet. She has also been treated for a leg-length discrepancy and scoliosis during her time at Shriners Hospitals, and she has endured 16 surgeries to resolve her orthopaedic difficulties.

Despite these incredible obstacles, Anna enjoys hobbies such as drawing, dancing, making friendship bracelets and origami. In 2007, she graduated in the top 10 percent of her class at Elmwood Park High School. She now attends DePaul University in Chicago.

Anna is a great advocate of Shriners Hospitals for Children and volunteers for the health care system in her spare time. Her activities include helping the staff with administrative tasks, such as creating computer databases and putting together hospital mailings.

In the past year, Anna has been involved with the new Shriners Hospitals advertising campaign, which highlights patients who display tremendous courage and determination in spite of their difficulties.



Despite her physical challenges, Anna enjoys life to the fullest. She attends DePaul University in Chicago and names drawing and making friendship bracelets among her favorite activities.

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