



# Guest Spotlight

## Josiah

**Age:** 8

**Transplant:** Kidney & Liver

**Hospital:** Texas Children's Hospital

**Hometown:** Lytle, TX

**Caregivers:** Mom & Dad

**Transplant Journey:** Josiah was diagnosed with ARPKD (Autosomal Recessive Polycystic Kidney Disease) at birth and his parents were told he would need a transplant eventually as the disease would progress until his kidneys and liver would fail completely. It wasn't until he turned 4 years old that his health really started to decline, and they started talking about transplant with his doctors. They transferred his care over to Texas Children's Hospital (TCH) because their national ranking and experience with dual-organ transplants. His medical team at TCH was able to get him stronger for transplant and kept him stable for two years until the time that he was listed at 6 years old in August of 2023 for both a kidney and liver. Five days later, they got the call of a potential match and, two days after that, on August 28, Josiah received his transplant. After some complications post-op, Josiah was finally discharged 36 days after surgery in October. Since then, his parents shared he's thriving, "special thanks to our donor and their gift of life."

**What is the first thing you wanted to do after receiving your transplant?** Josiah wanted to eat everything and try new foods, play with his toys and spend time with his sister and family, who he missed so much. He loves spending time with family and friends, having movie nights or watching shows about his favorite superhero Spider-Man, playing games at the arcade and enjoys playing soccer with his friends.

**What is something so special about Josiah that y'all just love about him? And what does he love to do for fun?** He has been our inspiration through this entire journey, he's such a brave, resilient boy who never gives up and keeps on fighting, no matter how hard the fight has gotten, he always keeps a big smile on his face and prays his way through the hard times.

**What are the hopes for Josiah?** Our hope for Josiah is to live a long, happy, and healthy life. For him to get older and share his testimony with others--that there is always light at the end of the tunnel. We hope for him to share his faith and strength through it all.

**What would you say to your donor?** It's hard to put into words how thankful we are for their selfless gift, but we hope that they can find some peace and comfort in knowing that they changed Josiah's life and given him a second chance at life, and he'll never take it for granted.

**What would you say to someone who is considering becoming an organ donor?** We say to do it. After seeing the amazing gift our son got from a complete stranger and the feeling it brought us and seeing the transformation it gave him, is a feeling that will never grow old. A decision like that impacts not only the recipient but their families. It gives them a new level of hope. After being on the side that received that hope, we feel it's our duty to return that when given the opportunity.

**What was your favorite thing to do at Nora's Home?** Josiah's favorite thing to do at Nora's was play games, watch tv, and he also really loved the arts and crafts area! He could spend all day there coloring and drawing!

**What would you say to the supporters of Noras' Home?** We would say that we are all one big family. The people/families we met throughout our journey from Noras were truly supportive and loving. They definitely gave us a sense of comfort. It's a great place to be when times feel hard because everyone is just so friendly and welcoming to one another. It was our home away from home!

