



of South Puget Sound

REAL-LIFE STORIES AND NOTES OF APPRECIATION FROM PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN HELPED FROM THE HEARTFELT DONATIONS FROM GENEROUS PEOPLE LIKE YOU!

## Escaping the Cycle of Abuse

A Young mother, had to leave her husband due to domestic violence. She now not only had to make it on her own, where she was earning minimum wage, but had to take care of her child. She described her situation to a local charitable agency as “on the edge” and headed towards a nervous breakdown. She ended up going to school to make a better life for herself and her family. She later went back and thanked those that helped her—telling them how she never could have done it without the support of a CFC agency that not only provided her food, through a food bank, but hope. Your dollars help ensure that agencies like these are there when people have no where else to go.



### Stories of Interest

- Escaping Abuse
- Saving Chip
- Tomorrow's Doctors
- Soldier's Request
- Life Is A Miracle

## A Chip and a Prayer



The Hernandez family came home a little over a year ago, to find their beloved lab missing from their fenced yard. They searched everywhere, and they visited the shelter daily. They missed “Cooper” dearly, especially six year old Alexandria. “You have no idea how many sleepless nights we had crying over this dog,” Mrs. Hernandez said. Cooper had been microchipped, and when the family moved later in the year, they updated their address with the company. But they knew Cooper was gone. “We lost hope,” Mrs. Hernandez said. “We knew he was probably dead.” But Alexandria didn't. “Every day at dinner, she prayed for Cooper to come home,” her mother said. “For a whole year, she prayed every night for that dog.”

And then – one year and two months later – her prayers were answered. A black lab was brought to a shelter, and his microchip was traced to the Hernandez's new address. Before an hour passed, they were outside his kennel for an emotional reunion. Your support of CFC Agencies helped reunite Cooper to her 6-year old owner, and helps reunite dozens of lost pets via microchips each year.



## Creating Tomorrow's Doctors — Today

In the streets of Calcutta, India poverty is rampant and many parents and kids are illiterate and struggling to survive on a daily basis— let alone receiving an education. However, in roads are being made thanks to positive examples like Kazi.

After Kazi's father passed away, he was still able to go to school, despite financial burdens, because of sponsorships and assistance from international chari-

table agencies. Kazi moved to the head of his class, and did so well that his school ended up waiving tuition costs. Kazi



plans on becoming a doctor so he can help those who cannot afford to go to the hospital. Kazi noted "After becoming a doctor, I am determined to return to

my village and help others just as the sponsorship program helped me. I have learned from my sponsors that

people have to think and act not only for themselves but for others too."

Charitable Agencies like the one that helped Kazi provide clothing, shoes, school supplies, and pay for fees for those who need it. They also help the schools with repairs, materials, and classroom supplies

*"I Have learned from my sponsors [CFC charity] that people have to think and act not only for themselves but for others too."*

## A Soldier's Request

The family of a Fort Lewis Soldier, wrote a CFC Charitable Organization that assists our military brethren — "Our son was injured in a fire fight in Fal-lujah. When he arrived ... they [a CFC Charity] gave him a quilt. He treasured that quilt. We are sorry to



say that he did not survive. I am writing to tell you that he wished to be buried with his quilt and we honored his request. Thank you for the love you put in the quilt and the fact that you did all that work for

a stranger. We were all so touched."

The CFC of South Puget Sound has numerous Morale Welfare & Recreation programs and other charitable agencies supporting our troops that individuals can donate towards to assist a military member, their family, and to honor those that came before and come after them.

# Life Is A Miracle!

In January 1993, Eliza then 2, developed a cough that no antibiotic could cure. Pediatricians treated her symptoms to no avail. Mother's intuition told Ann that something was not right. She and her husband, Bobby, wanted answers about their little girl's health. Doctors began a series of tests, and a chest X-ray showed the entire right side of Eliza's chest was white, signaling pneumonia. A CT scan, however, revealed an enormous tumor in her chest. Eliza went to a research hospital, a CFC Charity, and was diagnosed with an extremely uncommon form of cancer, pleuropulmonary blastoma, a soft tissue tumor that the hospital had seen only once before, and for which only 30-40 cases worldwide had ever been reported. Because of the rarity of this form of cancer, no treatment protocol existed. This Charitable hospital's doctors used the hospital's extensive experience and know how to prescribe a pre-surgery treatment that would shrink the tumor. By the time Eliza entered surgery, the tumor had shrunk, and doctors removed her lung at the same time that they removed the tumor, ensuring they had gotten all of

the cancer. Due to the removal of Eliza's right lung, she developed scoliosis, a curvature of the



...because kids can't fight cancer alone.

spine. As part of her follow up care after her cancer treatment ended, doctors monitored the condition of her spine. In 2003, the research hospital's orthopedist recommended that Eliza go to a Texas hospital where an experimental procedure known as the Titanium Rib Project was being developed for children with severe scoliosis. Eliza was accepted into the project; however, the hospital advised the family that the Leatherman's **insurance could not cover the procedure** as it was classified as experimental. Also, the hospital would not allow the procedure to be performed unless insurance was available to cover it. The Leatherman's once again turned to the charity. Because Eliza's scoliosis resulted

from her cancer treatment, and even though the procedure was being performed at a different hospital, they covered the cost of the surgery without hesita-



tion. Today, Eliza is cancer free. Aside from being an above average student, she was elected her junior class president, now has her driver's license, and plays tennis and golf on her school team. Last spring, Eliza went to her first prom. According to Ann, "Every milestone in Eliza's life is a miracle. Being able to help her pick out her dress and get ready for her first prom is something that I would not have been able to do if it weren't for [this organization]." **Your Gifts make medical research and access to life-changing treatment possible for countless numbers of kids and families.**

*"Insurance could not cover the procedure... Today Eliza is cancer free"*

