

# ANY BABY CAN

## Express

2

Notes From  
the Executive  
Director  
Adopt-A-Doll

3

Volunteer  
Spotlight  
Reynaldo  
Finds Hope

4

You're Invited  
Fall Style Show  
& Luncheon  
Thanks!

## REYNALDO FINDS HOPE

Through Family, Faith  
And Friends Like Any Baby Can

Reynaldo was an athletic, wiry, cheerful little boy who was doing well in school and excelling in baseball, soccer and basketball. His active, happy life took a shocking turn when he was diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor in January, 2010. For the past seven months, his days have been consumed by hospitalization, surgery, medical tests and struggles that should not define the life of a nine-year-old.

His saga began last December with inexplicable vomiting and outrageous headaches. After a series of misdiagnoses and increasingly alarming symptoms, the culprit was found: a baseball-sized tumor pressing on his brain. Initially, when surgeons were unable to remove the oversized tumor, they put Reynaldo in a medically-induced coma to drain and reduce the swelling. "We needed a miracle," his mom, Araceli, said. "We prayed and prayed."

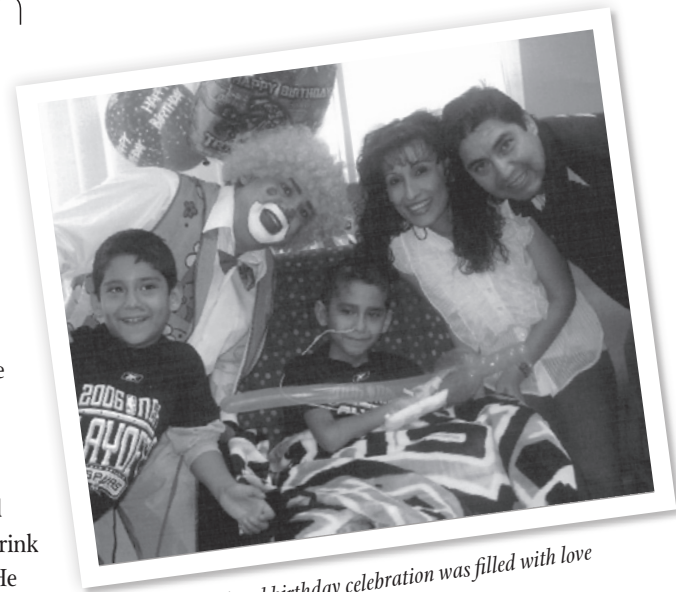
At the center of an expansive, loving and supportive family, Reynaldo had the prayers of many and after six weeks in a coma, they found their miracle. In a six-hour operation, surgeons removed 90% of the tumor, stabilized the little boy and began rehabilitation. His parents, twin brother, Elliot, and sisters Elaine and Daisy, rejoiced ... along with extended family, friends and the entire medical team.

While comatose, Reynaldo had missed his ninth birthday on January 27, and awakened like Rip Van Winkle to a world of change. Family and friends had affixed cards to the wall of his room as proof they had celebrated on his behalf. Since he missed Valentine's Day as well, they spread colorful messages of love around his room, enveloping him in paper hugs.

After rehab to build his strength and restore function, the treatment to shrink the remainder of his tumor began. He has been through radiation and continues to undergo chemotherapy.

In the meantime, his family was immersed in grief, fear and a new set of problems imposed by the loss of Araceli's income. She was forced to quit her secretarial job, thus reducing their income while the medical bills mounted. Reynaldo Sr., who is employed at SAWS, had taken family leave from work and their lives were topsy-turvy when Any Baby Can entered the scene.

ABC case manager Jennifer De La Garza has brought hope and help to the family.



*Reynaldo's belated birthday celebration was filled with love and joyful gratitude.*

She explains, "Any Baby Can has a satellite office at Christus Santa Rosa Children's Hospital and we are referred to families by social workers and nurses. We helped Reynaldo and his family with the nutritional supplements he needs to build up his weight and strength, the co-pay for a protective helmet, H-E-B gift cards for gas to relieve their transportation costs in daily runs to and from the hospital, help with utilities and co-pays for prescription medications."

*(cont'd on page 3)*



# NOTES

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### SERVING 1200 FAMILIES ... AND FEELING THE PINCH!

We love our families ... and we love every single one of our donors because you make it possible day after day for us to say, "Yes, of course we can help ..." every time a distraught family walks through our door. Saying yes and bringing comfort, hope and helpful resources to a family that is caring for a sick child is what we do, thanks to you.

This year, we expect to serve upwards of 1200 families ... versus the 900 families who came to us in need just two years ago. Another increase lies in the number of families that need some sort of financial support — from 65% two years ago to 95% today. Mostly, they need assistance with the soaring cost of prescription medications. Any Baby Can is the only agency in San Antonio that consistently provides such help. Others do so when they can, but the monies aren't always there and they often must turn sick children away.

We are committed to providing this help, as it can mean the difference between life and death, literally. Imagine such a fate for your child or grandchild and you can understand why we cannot say no. A child's asthma medicine can routinely cost \$450 a month. Growth hormones can cost \$700 for one prescription. Ostomy supplies are costly and absolutely necessary. Nutritional supplements can cost \$200 per month and although they are prescribed by a doctor, they are not covered by insurance.

A child with plagiocephaly, or flat head syndrome, needs a series of helmets to reshape his head as he grows — a treatment that costs up to \$2,000. Medicaid will not cover this expense. We will.

The majority of our families are hardworking people with private health insurance or Medicaid ... but they struggle to make ends meet when their child's illness becomes too costly to manage. In this tough economy, many parents have had their hours cut at work and we help them get back on track until they can regroup and deal with reduced incomes. We're the safety net people count on.

This economy is hurting our families and it is affecting Any Baby Can. We are serving more families with greater needs, yet much of our grass roots support is diminishing. We still have a tremendous base of individual supporters, but folks who used to give \$50 out of their paycheck now give \$25.

We need your help. Please consider a gift to Any Baby Can so we can continue to say "Yes" to all families in need. 🙏

*Dawn Dixon, Executive Director*



## ADOPT-A-DOLL LUNCHEON



### Samantha Lynn

*Samantha Lynn and her look-alike doll had a wonderful time at the ball, where they were celebrated, applauded and got a chance to show everyone how cute they are. Thanks to all who came to the luncheon, lent support and got to take a Samantha Lynn doll home to cherish.*



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Artist Uses Her Gift To Benefit Children

Carol Potter is a delightful woman who loves to ply her artistic talent to benefit others. For several years, she has generously shared her graphic design skills with Any Baby Can — designing invitations, brochures and “anything they ask me to do,” she says.

Kay Maynard, Development Director, says, “Carol is a total pleasure to work with ... and we can be demanding! We always ask her to send us a bill but she won’t. Any Baby Can is her charity of choice and she is always willing to help us with special projects.”

If you’ve seen the creative, often whimsical invitations Carol designs for the Annual Adopt-A-Doll Campaign and Fall Style Show and Luncheon fundraisers for Any Baby Can, you’ve seen her work and you can see why we treasure her.

For 13 years, Carol was a freelance graphic designer and she squeezed ABC’s work in amidst her busy schedule of projects for paying clients. Now, she is a graphic designer with H-E-B and selflessly gives us her free time.

The stories she hears and the children and families she meets are the motivating factors in her giving. “I can’t even imagine what it’s like to go through what these families go through. Any Baby Can gives them food, gas cards, moral support, prescription drug assistance and helps them find avenues for medical help. It’s a truly amazing organization.

Bless these families’ hearts,” she says.

Affiliating with Any Baby Can has opened Carol’s eyes to the needs and courage of families all around her. She says, “I have two grown children and two grandchildren and am so grateful they are healthy. But I also have several friends with special needs children, I see what they go through and I feel for them. To maintain a job, family, dealing with doctors, fear ... it’s so hard. What blows my mind is how resilient the families are. They would want their child to be healthy, of course, but regardless of the situation, they love their children. I can understand it because I know some of these children and they’re so wonderful and brave. It shreds my heart.”

In addition to the time and talent she shares with ABC, Carol volunteers at many H-E-B events, including work on a house for the Sunshine Learning Center. She also has learned that children with a disability or Down Syndrome need and deserve the same kind of loving attention as other children, and makes a practice of interacting with special needs children, to the delight of the children and their parents.

Her philosophy: “I try to help others who don’t have what I am lucky enough to have.” And we are ever so grateful. 🙏



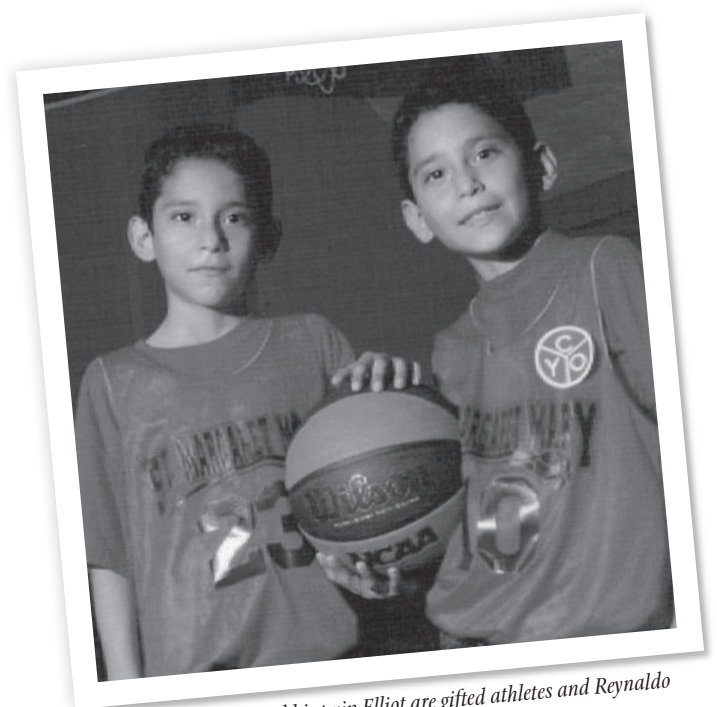
*Carol Potter graciously gives her time and artistic talent to Any Baby Can to help the children and families we serve.*

# REYNALDO FINDS HOPE

*(cont’d from cover)*

Araceli says the family is very grateful for the help and for the moral support that is ongoing. “It’s so important to know that Any Baby Can is always there for us. They are such a blessing. Jennifer checks on us and serves as an additional support system. Even the girls in the (ABC) office are concerned about my baby’s health. They pray for us and we really appreciate everything.”

As treatment continues and the family gets into a rhythm with the daily care, his mom sees improvement as she watches him play sports with his siblings and cousins ... while wearing his helmet, of course. Her dream echoes that of all who have met and cheered for this brave and personable little boy: “I hope and believe he will go back to just like he was before,” she says. Amen, we say. 🙏



*Reynaldo (right), and his twin Elliot are gifted athletes and Reynaldo can't wait to get back in the game.*

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

We hope you'll join your Any Baby Can friends and support these fall 2010 events that will benefit our clients. Not only that, but we promise you'll have fun! Check our website at [anybabycansa.org](http://anybabycansa.org) for updates and call us at 210-227-0170 if you'd like more information.

**September 25, 2010**  
NORTHWEST ROTARY CLUB  
7TH ANNUAL  
ART WITH A HEART AUCTION  
Oak Hills Country Club

**September 28, 2010**  
FALL STYLE SHOW & LUNCHEON  
Marriott Rivercenter

**October 16, 2010**  
ALFRED'S 50-MILE RUN  
Palo Duro Canyon

**October 16, 2010**  
JARED MICHAELS TOURNAMENT  
Dominion Country Club  
[www.jaredmichaels.com](http://www.jaredmichaels.com)

## FABULOUS FROCKS.

Frilly fun. Flavorful feasting.

The 16th Annual Fall Style Show and Luncheon to benefit Any Baby Can at the Marriott Rivercenter promises all that and more on September 28! You'll meet up with old friends, make new friends and preview fabulous fall fashions from Julian Gold on a bevy of high fashion models.

And your support benefits Any Baby Can. Tickets are \$75 for individuals, and corporate tables also are available. If you've never joined ABC for this spectacular event before, we hope you'll invite a friend and start a lovely new tradition. For tickets and information, call 210-227-0170 or visit [anybabycansa.org](http://anybabycansa.org).



Wendy Hammond, far left, and Michelle Dodier of Sonterra Country Club, present a \$10,000 check to Dr. Gregory Hudspeth, President, ABC Board of Directors. Any Baby Can is grateful for the annual gift from the Sonterra Member/Guest Tournament.

**THANKS!**