

Lindsey Hales



Dear Friend of Texas Children's,

My husband, Jered, and I are one of those couples that can't wait to give each other gifts so it was no surprise that we couldn't wait to find out the sex of our baby so we could spoil him or her rotten. I secretly (or not so secretly) wanted a girl but knew I would be ecstatic about either.

Jered and I felt giddy walking into our 20-week scan. After finding out our little munchkin was a girl, we were filled with so much joy. Smiles on our faces, we finally felt the reality of parenthood setting in.

The excitement was cut short when the ultrasound technician said she had some concerns and left the room to get the doctor. Our thoughts were flooded with worst-case scenarios, as attempts to block out fear failed miserably. Jered pulled me close and said a simple prayer.

The doctor returned and told us that our baby girl, whom we named Brooklyn, had congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH). It was a potentially life-threatening condition in which her diaphragm did not develop fully and had left a small hole. Some of her intestines were in the chest cavity, crowding her lungs and causing her heart to be pushed to the other side of her body. The words sank heavily on our wounded spirits.

Our precious baby girl spent four long months in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Texas Children's Hospital. She was put on a heart/lung bypass machine for 10 days, buying some precious time for the doctors treating her. It was not a treatment, but a last resort to stabilize Brooklyn in order to perform corrective surgery. This was by far the most terrifying time of our lives.

It's funny how short 120 days seemed right after we were married and yet being in the hospital that long felt like years.

Those who are familiar with the NICU will tell you of the "roller coasters" that frequent the units. Brooklyn's journey fits this description perfectly.

Chronic lung disease, a head bleed, multiple transfusions, blood clots, chylothoraces and chest tubes were among the list of things Brooklyn had to endure. Our daughter's strength to make it through each day astounded us. She was not only a model of hope, but also a courageous survivor of the impossible.

When Brooklyn finally left Texas Children's and came home, Jered and I were clueless to say the least. A feeding tube and lovenox injections were among the many obstacles we faced after discharge from the hospital. Then slowly, she got stronger and stronger.

Right before Brooklyn was born, I became unemployed. It was unexpected and a bit alarming, but it gave me the opportunity to spend every day at Brooklyn's bedside.

To relieve some emotion, I wrote a daily blog to update family and friends. Spreading awareness about CDH and highlighting the efforts of Texas Children's Fetal Center was an incredible feeling.

Then, I was doubly blessed to take a job at Texas Children's Hospital this past May, and I continue to be in awe of the impact this hospital has on our children locally, nationally and internationally.

As a parent, I'm indebted to the incredible staff for their unending excellence in patient care. Now as a staff member myself, I am gratified to be a part of such an extraordinary institution and continue to be inspired by its guiding principles.

And that is why I am so honored to be able to share Brooklyn's story with you and highlight the important work that goes on here every day.

On behalf of all the parents whose children depend on the care provided by this very special hospital, thank you for your ongoing support. I hope you will find it in your heart to participate in the hospital's "Non-Gala" Gala for the Benefit of Sick Children.

You can be sure Brooklyn and I will.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Hales". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lindsey Hales

Brooklyn's mom



*Please remember to send
the enclosed dolls with your gift.
Our children will have fun dressing
them for the Gala and pretending they can go!*


Texas Children's
Hospital®
texaschildrens.org

*You are
cordially invited
to Texas Children's
“Non-Gala” Gala
to benefit sick children*



Dear Friend of Texas Children's,

You're invited to our "Non-Gala" Gala! We're hosting this special fundraising event to raise \$75,000 or more for the care of children with cancer, heart disease and other life-threatening conditions or injuries.

All you need to do to "attend" is respond to this invitation with a generous gift to support the extraordinary care Texas Children's provides for all our children.

That's right. You don't need to shop for new clothes, get your hair done or find a sitter. You don't even have to leave the comfort of your own home.

You just need to love children. Working together on their behalf, we can give them the best chance to get well. And that is something to dance about.

Enjoy staying home for the night!



Thank you,
Mark W. Kline

Mark W. Kline, M.D.
Physician-in-Chief

P.S. Please take a moment to read the enclosed letter from the mother of a little girl, Brooklyn, born with a life-threatening condition that was successfully treated thanks to the support of friends like you.

"NON-GALA" GALA INVITATION

Toss the black tie
it's no formal affair

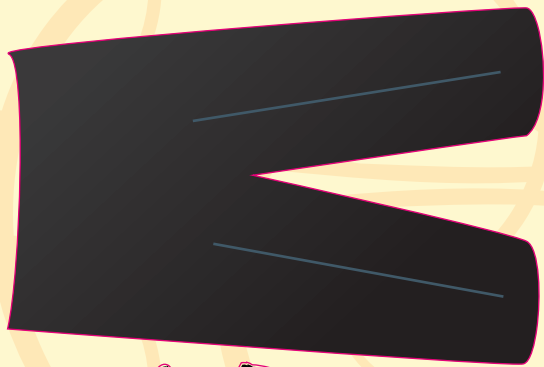
Stay right where you are
in your casual wear!

Save the money you'd spend
on new duds and hair-do,

And send these paper dolls
instead to represent you.

And while the money you'll save
is certainly swell,

Please use it instead to help
sick children get well.



boutonniere



puppy slippers



tuxedo

pj. pants



pj. top



pocket square



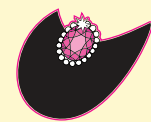
fancy shoes



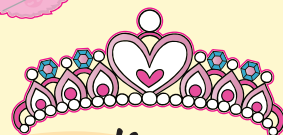
pj. pants



bunny slippers



fancy shoes



tiara



pj. top

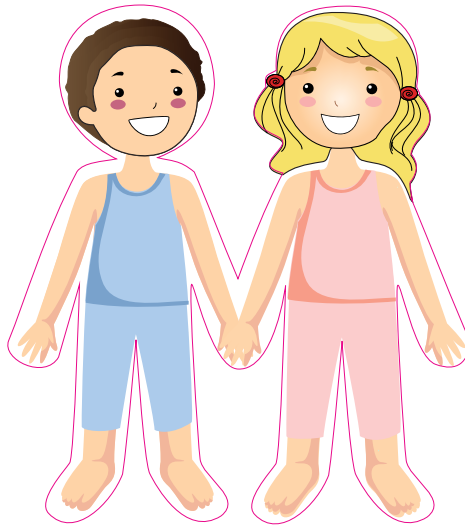


wrist corsage



pretty dress





**A paper girl and a paper boy
have been sent to you
as a dress-up toy.**

**It's a special occasion
to have some fun,
so dress and show them
to everyone.**

From _____

Signature

Brighten a child's stay in the hospital by returning the enclosed dress up paper dolls with your gift of support. Thank you for all that you do to help heal sick children.



*John F. Sample
Infogroup
200 Pemberwick Rd.
Greenwich, CT 06830*

Your Invitation is Enclosed

No Ink Area


No Ink Area

No Ink Area

Bleed

Rsvp

*Mr. John G. Sample
Infogroup
200 Pemberwick Road
Greenwich, CT 06830*


**Texas Children's
Hospital**
P.O. Box 2165
Houston, TX 77252-2165
www.texaschildrens.org/givenow

I graciously accept your invitation to support Texas Children's Hospital's "Non-Gala" Gala to Benefit Sick Children. In lieu of actually attending I'm sending the money I've saved and the darling paper dolls for the children to enjoy at their imaginary gala.

Please use my gift to help give seriously ill children the very best care they can receive.

\$100 \$75 \$50 \$25

Please find my special gift of \$_____, because this is a very special event.
(Make checks payable to Texas Children's Hospital or see reverse to enter credit card information.)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX X

Credit Card Information:

- I am authorizing a donation of \$ _____ using my credit card:
 MasterCard Visa AMEX Discover

NAME ON CARD _____

CARD NUMBER _____

EXPIRES (mm/yy) _____ SIGNATURE _____

You Can Make a Monthly Donation:

Give the gift of health and hope year round by making monthly gifts to Texas Children's Hospital. Monthly contributions add up quickly to provide the very best care to every sick and injured child who comes through our doors. By checking the box for monthly giving, you can make a big impact on the lives of the many children we care for.

- By checking this box, I am authorizing Texas Children's Hospital to debit my credit card in the amount of \$_____ (\$10 minimum) on the 20th of each month as detailed in the section above.

Please send me information about:

- making a gift of stock.
 making a gift through my estate that will continue my annual support.

HOME PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

If you need additional information or would like your name taken off our list, please call 832-824-2945.

THANK YOU
from the boys & girls at Texas Children's Hospital



Postage
Required.
Post Office will
Not deliver
Without proper
Postage.



**Texas Children's
Hospital®**

TEXAS CHILDRENS HOSPITAL
PO BOX 2165
HOUSTON TX 77252-2165

TCH0413-RE-2



Please remember to include your reply form so that we can promptly update your record.