

Be a Community Champion During Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month!

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Help Us Create A More Accessible Community for Everyone!

March is dedicated to Developmental Disabilities Awareness. With your support, we are making strides in funding essential programs that support children and adults facing physical and developmental challenges. Often, insurance does not cover necessary medical equipment and upgrades as children grow.

The Special Needs Equipment Fund, managed by United Way, plays a vital role in providing durable medical equipment to children ages 0-17 in Palm Beach County. This fund fills critical gaps in the healthcare system, ensuring that children receive the equipment necessary for their safety, mobility, communication, and overall well-being.

Meet Sophie and Pietro

Sophie is a 14-year-old girl diagnosed with two rare genetic disorders that cause chronic respiratory disease, intellectual disability, and delayed development. Sophie is unable to sit or walk without supportive equipment and requires upright seating to help her breathe.

She has been using a Rifton Activity Chair at school that adjusts so that she can sit upright, reach the table, or play with toys on the floor. Her parents and physical therapist agreed that having a similar device at home would enhance Sophie's quality of life by allowing her to sit in a variety of settings throughout the house safely.

The Special Needs Equipment Fund was able to purchase the equipment for Sophie after her health insurance provider denied coverage. As a result, her safety, level of participation, and sense of inclusion in her home setting have substantially improved. Sophie is most excited that she can now get low to the floor to play with her three-year-old brother.

Pietro is a 14-year-old boy diagnosed with Cerebellar Ataxia, a disorder that causes damage to the area of the brain responsible for controlling gait and muscle coordination. Pietro enjoys being independent and does not like to receive assistance when walking.

He uses custom orthotics to assist with walking, but he has been using the same pair for many years, and after

experiencing several growth spurts, the orthotics no longer fit. Without the custom orthotics, Pietro was falling frequently at school and home because he needed this equipment to maintain his balance and alignment, provide control and stability, and prevent potential deformities. Pietro does not have health insurance coverage, and purchasing this equipment would have created financial hardship for his family.

The Special Needs Equipment Fund provided Pietro with a new set of custom orthotics. He is thrilled to be able to safely walk independently once again.

Your support can help us continue to provide life-changing equipment to children like Sophie and Pietro, whose stories underscore the profound impact of our efforts.

At United Way, we are happy to be a collective force and come together to raise awareness, break down barriers, and share the powerful stories of our neighbors. Your contribution to United Way of Palm Beach County's Community Care Fund will help us continue to create a more accessible and supportive environment for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Your generous gift today strengthens our community!

Donate Now

UnitedWayPBC.org

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