



Bailey's

Bailey Hunsberger was a miracle child long before she arrived at Riley in January 2005. Little did anyone know how many more miracles would soon occur.

Born with severe defects in her heart, Bailey underwent two open-heart surgeries before her fourth birthday. As she grew, her heart could not keep up; by age 12, its left ventricle was too small to work effectively.

“She had a significant amount of heart failure, and it was accelerating,” said Dr. Mark W. Turrentine, surgical director of the Riley Heart Center. “The only option left was surgery.”

Bailey's situation called for a team of specialists. Fortunately, Riley has one of the best in the country.

Rare, pioneering treatment

“She has a unique set of problems,” said Dr. Robert K. Darragh, director of fetal cardiology. “We researched and debated what we can do for months, having long conversations with her family.”

Bailey needed a third surgery, this time to remove scar tissue in her heart; if it didn't work, she would need a transplant. As the Riley team discussed their options, the most promising also presented the biggest challenge.

A 15-ounce mechanical pump called the Berlin Heart – developed in Germany – could allow Bailey's

Documentary captures a fight for life

When Dr. Elaine Cox shared Bailey Hunsberger's story with her brother, this dynamic duo went into action. Buddy McAtee is vice president of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway; Dr. Cox is an infectious disease specialist at Riley Hospital. With the full support of IMS President and CEO Tony George (also a member of the Riley Children's Foundation board), McAtee and Dr. Cox spearheaded the documentary of Bailey's experience. Narrated by actor Patrick Dempsey, “Heart to Heart” tells of this young girl's fight for life and the critical need for pediatric medical research. See clips from the film at baileysheart.com. RM

heart

Riley specialists went to extraordinary lengths to buy time for Bailey Hunsberger

heart and lungs a chance to rest and heal until she was strong enough for a transplant. The ventricular assist device, or VAD, restores normal blood flow by acting as the heart's main pumping chamber.

The device, however, wasn't approved for use in the United States.

Fortunately for Bailey, the Riley team had the experience and skill to qualify for a special exemption by the FDA. Bailey and her family agreed to the extraordinary procedure.

"I'm incredibly proud of her for being brave, because she's the bravest person – child or adult – that I know," said her mom, Angie McGraw. "Kids are so innocent, and they don't deserve a lot of what they get."



During her 172-day stay, Bailey Hunsberger, 12, became something of a celebrity and attracted others: F-16 Air Force pilots, Indy 500 drivers and one of her idols, Grey's Anatomy actor Patrick Dempsey.

Riley surgeons would open Bailey's chest, remove the scar tissue in her heart and attach the device. The pumping chamber would stay outside her body, where she could watch her blood moving to and from her heart.

It could take weeks, maybe months, for Bailey to recover enough to make a transplant viable. Meanwhile, every available donor heart turned out not to be an appropriate match.

Unexpected twist in recuperation

Bailey had spent more than 160 consecutive days at Riley when Dr. Turrentine called her family together to deliver news no one expected to hear: Bailey's heart and lungs remarkably had healed enough to take her name off the transplant list. A few days later, the Riley team removed the mechanical device – and Bailey's heart began functioning on its own.

After nearly six months on the brink of heart failure, Bailey could go home. Now, two years later, she's still going strong.

"Bailey is one of a kind," said Dr. John W. Brown, the Harris B Shumacker Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Riley. "She's charting new territory. She'll help us write the textbooks."

"We'll be forever grateful," Angie said. "There were no guarantees

going into this, of any kind. It just gives me chills to think about how many kids this might help."

For an explanatory video of Bailey's condition and the Berlin Heart, visit baileysheart.com. ^{RM}

 **Submit your Riley story online at RileyKids.org**



Grandma and Grandpa express gratitude for Bailey's life

Bailey Hunsberger's grandparents, Richard and Mary Wooten, were treated to a 50th anniversary celebration by their daughters this fall. In lieu of gifts, they asked for contributions to the hospital that saved their granddaughter's life. Bailey and her grandpa have a special connection: He was a Riley Hospital patient more than 60 years ago when he contracted polio at age 13. He remembers Riley as fondly as Bailey does. Guests gave \$1,100 in the couple's honor. ^{RM}