



## Already a Miracle

By Sarah Baum, Kind at Heart

### **W**esley, Age 6

When asked what Wesley thinks of his new ramp, his mom shared that she will often find his Power Wheels Jeep parked at the top of the ramp by their front door. A little boy, often anxious and unsteady, is obviously enjoying life a little more fully because of a ramp that gives him permission to safely access his “daredevil side.”

When we received a phone call from Circle of Life Hospice recently, we had no idea the request that was about to be made or the kind of story that God was inviting us to participate in. The hospice team had been working hard to secure the resources this

family needed, and we weren’t about to turn them away (even if they lived outside our normal service radius).

Wesley was diagnosed with Hunter Syndrome (MPS, Type 2) at age four--an extremely rare, inherited genetic disorder caused by a missing or malfunctioning enzyme. Unfortunately, there is no cure for Hunter syndrome, only management of symptoms and complications.

Needless to say, a parent shouldn’t have to hear the words “terminal” when it comes to their child.

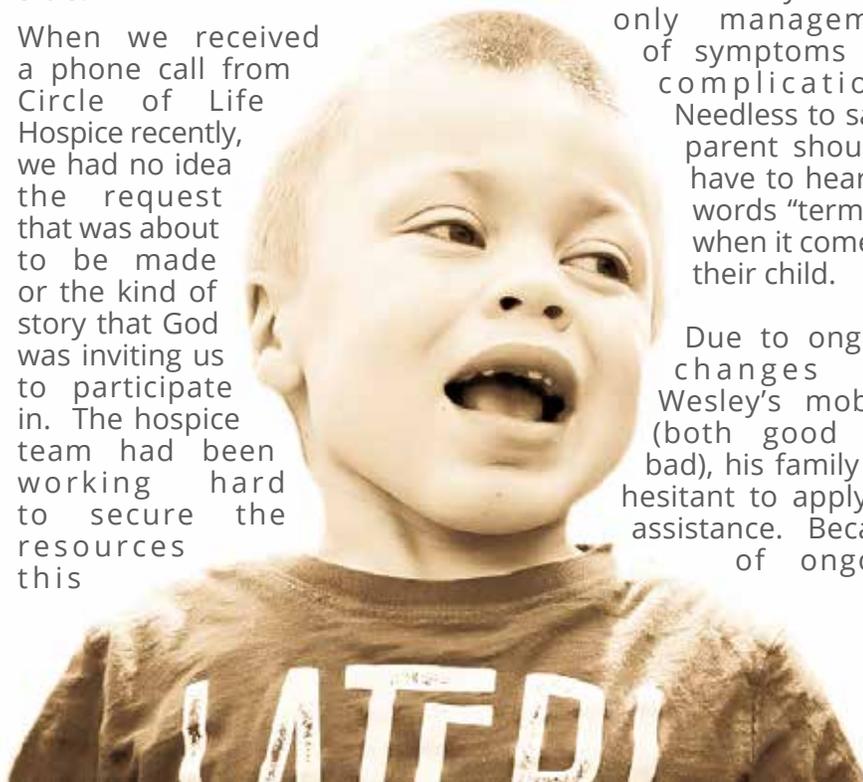
Due to ongoing changes in Wesley’s mobility (both good and bad), his family was hesitant to apply for assistance. Because of ongoing

pain and balance issues, however, they decided to trust the Lord’s timing and provision “because we don’t know what winter holds.”

And as the Lord so often does, He stirred in the hearts of several individuals to provide financially for this need. From the Circle of Life Ladies’ Auxilliary to a Kind at Heart client with a few extra dollars in his pocket, Wesley’s ramp was fully funded! That’s the Kingdom at work . . . that’s His people being the Church!

“He is going to change the world,” said a family friend upon holding Wesley in her arms soon after he was born. Now six years old, young Wesley is most definitely living out that calling and is inspiring others to be warriors for a condition that many of us have never heard of . . . until now.

*If you would like to learn more about Wesley and/or Hunter Syndrome, you should check out his Facebook page, “Wesley’s MPS Warriors” or visit the National MPS Society website at [www.mpssociety.org](http://www.mpssociety.org).*





# the cost nobody counts

by Wayne Thomas, Founder & Director

## Mary never made it home from rehab.

At 79 years old and dependent on a walker, she was in need of minor modifications within her home to ensure safe navigation. Unfortunately, these needs were not fully realized by her family until a small trip hazard resulted in a fall, a broken hip, and out-of-home care . . .and later, her life.

## THE COST

Here are a few staggering statistics: When someone over the age of 65 is injured due to a fall, there is a 50% chance they will die. And for the 50% who survive, their quality of life declines rapidly. The financial cost to care for a person after a serious event such as this is also overwhelmingly high. Potentially, taxpayers could pay more than \$200,000 per person, per year (due to surgeries, rehabilitation, and skilled nursing care). This begs the question, "What about the cost of prevention?"

## WHY WE EXIST

One of the most critical services we provide as a ministry is creating a pro-active plan to prevent falls and ensuring proper home maintenance. A \$40 hand rail, a \$1500 ramp, a \$3 light bulb. These "quality of

life improvements" are, quite literally, life-saving. When you prevent a home from falling down around a person, that is life-giving. You may have heard the saying, "There's no place like home," but you have no idea what that really means until a life-altering injury makes home an impossibility. We must help our neighbors maintain their independence, dignity, and relationships!

## THE HIDDEN SOLUTION

As we come into our 10th year of ministry, we can confidently say we have a life-saving and life-giving solution to rising health care costs for the aging. The answer is simple: "HELP PEOPLE LIVE AT HOME AS LONG AS POSSIBLE." As we strive to be a clearing house that motivates our community -- family, church, and marketplace -- to do just that, we are sure that helping the aged live at home will impact generations both now and down the road.

## THE REWARDS

When we serve our community in love, the greatest reward by far is "relationship." It is through this "pouring out" that we are able to prevent some of the "deadliest" things of all . . .loneliness and isolation. After all, encouragement impacts the course of history for the benefit of mankind. After all, relationship is where "man" meets "Kingdom!"



Thank you to everyone who supported the recent "Ramp It Up" Campaign at our local Siloam Springs Rib Crib. Through the purchase of pinups and social media shares, we were able to raise both funds and awareness for the Kind at Heart mission. All in all, we raised approximately \$1200 for ministry programs and grew our social media presence significantly. Thank you!



(PICTURED RIGHT): Bekah holds up her \$1 donation pinup, as part of the recent "Ramp It Up" campaign at the Siloam Springs Rib Crib BBQ.

MAY 2017

## Honor Banquet

Every year we set aside a special time to honor the legacies of those we serve and those who have passed. This year our theme was Psalm 119:105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet . . ." We were delighted to have twenty-five honorees in attendance.

JULY 2017

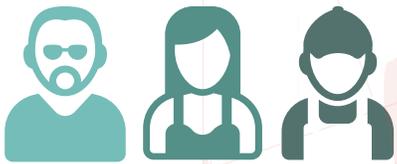
## New Online Presence

This summer we launched a new Kind at Heart website and have been working to expand our online presence through social media and increased digital communications. Be sure to "LIKE" our Facebook page for ministry updates and opportunities for involvement!

NOVEMBER 2018

## 10th Anniversary

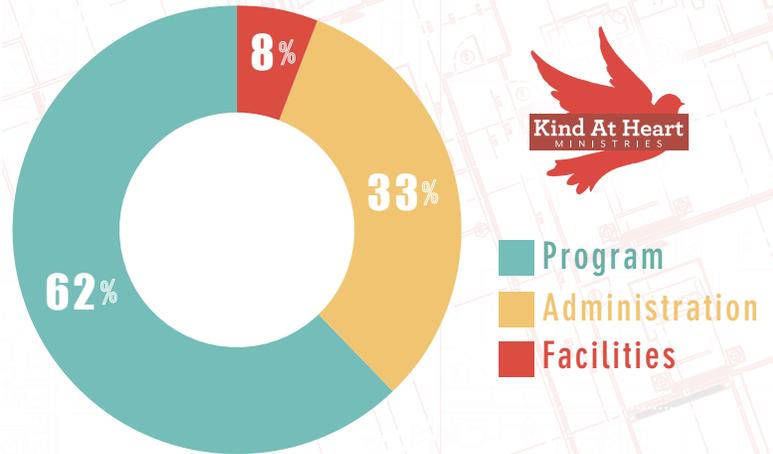
We are excited to be entering into our 10th year of "officially" serving the aging population of Siloam Springs (and beyond). November 17th, 2018 will mark 10-years of service, and we look forward to participating in the Lord's work for many more years to come.



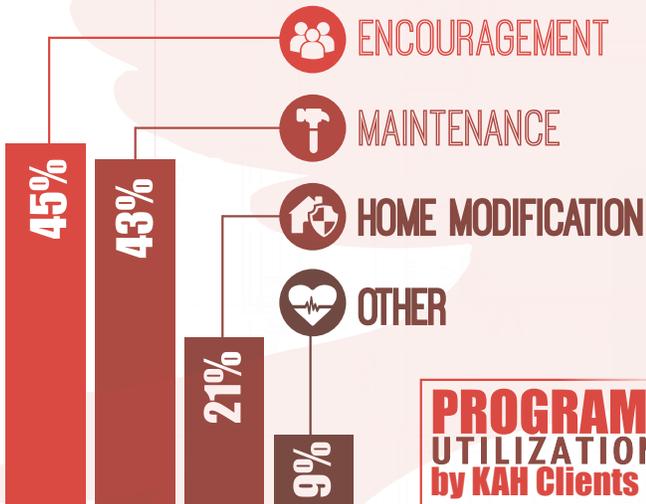
# 3500 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Volunteers enable us to accomplish our mission of bringing honor and dignity to the aging in our Siloam Springs community.

## 2017 MINISTRY BUDGET



- Program
- Administration
- Facilities

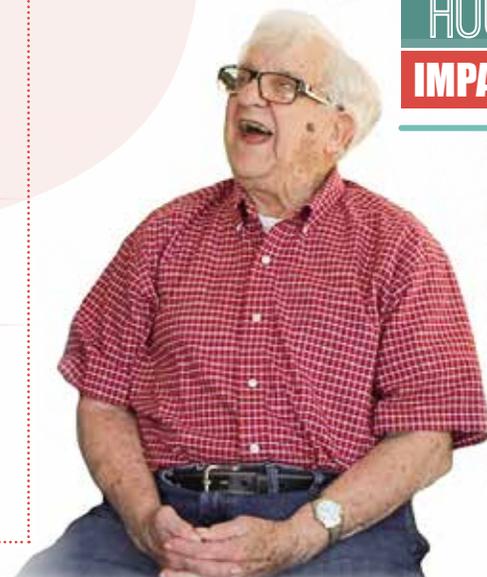


### PROGRAM UTILIZATION by KAH Clients

While the Home Modification Program is the primary "entry point" for new clients, other ministry programs support our mission of helping our "neighbors" stay in their homes longer.



So far in 2017, we have stood on the doorsteps of 161 different homes, with the primary goal to make them safe and accessible places to live.





**SHIRLEY**

**Farmer**

**1938-2017**

**BOB**

**Coe**

**1921-2017**

**PATSY**

**Spencer**

**1939-2017**

**DAN**

**Webb**

**1937-2017**



## "Jesus, bless Mamo"

### THE GIFTS OF INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIP

Myles loves to ring Del Jean's doorbell and knock, knock, knock until she comes to the door. I'm pretty sure it's because he knows that love and friendship is on the other side. And he's not the only one.

Del Jean beams when she opens the door and finds her newly formed "family" on the other side of the threshold. She used to get a lot more visitors, but with the recent deaths of both her next door neighbor and her best friend of 70+ years, there's a few more empty spaces in her life than she'd care to admit.

Renee and Del Jean visit together as Myles plays happily in her front yard, bringing his mom small and constant gifts of grass, sticks, and rocks. Most times they all meet at the local playground, where his mom Renee and Del Jean can visit freely while Myles plays. That's not to say that a determined 88-year old doesn't make her way to the top of the playground structure to join in on a little

adventure now and again. (Of course, she's the same 88-year old we have to tell to stay off her roof to clean her gutters!). She's that kind of grandma that takes joy in a little one.

On one of their recent visits together, Del Jean gifted Myles with a small, white teddy bear that had been perched on the back of her couch and had grabbed his attention. His mom reports that he carries that soft, little bear all throughout their house . . . a constant companion and reminder of "Mamo," their family's special name for "Grandma."

Perhaps the greatest gift of all, however, is the display of faith that is exchanged between the two separated by 86 years of life. A little boy of few words is brought within reach of his special grandma, reaches out to lay his hand on her shoulder, and repeats three words as his mom leads him: "Jesus, bless Mamo."

I can think of no better prayer to speak over those in our midst.