

Hope is transformational

Matthew Tejada was born in May 2022 with Wolf-Hirschhorn Syndrome and faced a tough start from the very beginning. He was placed in UCLA Hospital's NICU after his birth due to his small size and was additionally diagnosed with retinoblastoma, a cancer of the eye.

His family lived in Santa Maria and couldn't be with him because his mother Yazmin, a survivor of the same cancer and partially blind, relied on her husband for transportation. While her husband was working full time to support the family, Yazmin could only watch Matthew through the NICU's cameras, and her emotional distress felt overwhelming. They were quickly introduced to TBCF which offered support and information.

When Matthew was about 6 weeks old, he came home briefly, but they soon learned that he needed additional laser treatments every 2 weeks at Children's Hospital of San Francisco. Just before the first treatment their car broke down, and repair costs were over \$4,000, a seemingly impossible sum. Thankfully, TBCF granted the Tejada family \$5,000, allowing them to get a reliable vehicle for the treatments. The Tejada family had HOPE again.

The family would drive up to San Francisco regularly for Matthew's treatments and TBCF assisted with gas and hotel gift cards, totaling over \$2,850 in gift cards to ease the burden.

In January 2023, Matthew underwent 6 rounds of chemotherapy, causing some developmental delays. TBCF assured them of their future support, covering neuropsychological tests and 1:1 tutoring for Matthew when the time comes.

"He's so behind in his growth, but he is growing. He is smiling, he hears our voices, he's playing with his feet, he'll follow us with his eyes, and touches our face when we hold him close. He's rolling over so much. He is so strong," shares Yazmin.

MATTHEW KEEPS FIGHTING. HE'S FACING ONGOING TREATMENTS AND WILL BE CONSTANTLY MONITORED. HIS FAMILY'S RESILIENCE INSPIRES HOPE.

Your support made all the difference in Matthew's life, and now you can provide even greater hope for children this holiday season.



Please use this code or the envelope enclosed to give a gift of HOPE to families like the Tejedas.

