



Kite Tales

PROTECTING THE MOST PRECIOUS GIFT OF ALL • SUMMER 2011

Meet Kosair Kid Clayton Freiberger



Profile:
Dr. Melissa
Currie, M.D.



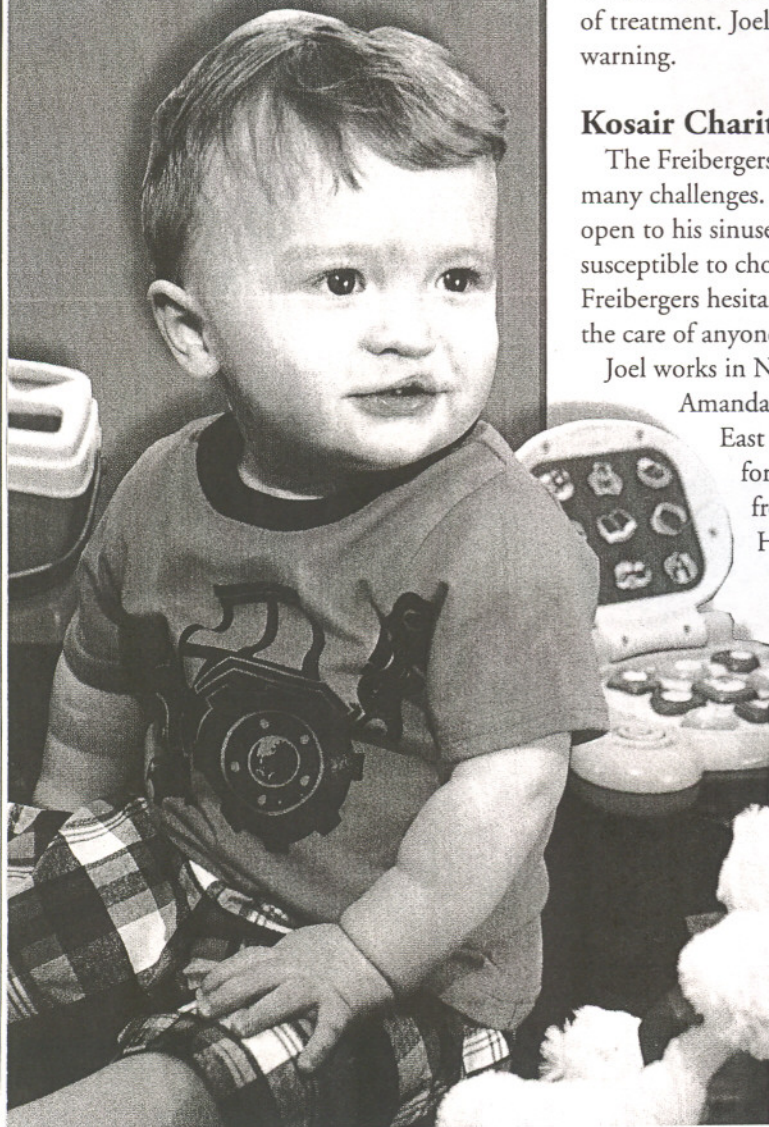
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Kosair Kid

Meet Clayton Freiberger



Joel and Amanda Freiberger, like most people, did not know about Kosair Charities until something changed in their lives.

When the Freibergers' second son, Clayton, was born in March 2010, their joy was tempered by some unexpected news: Clayton had a unilateral complete cleft lip and palate. Those conditions are often noticed on an ultrasound at 20 weeks, but in this case, that didn't happen.

"The doctors think he may have been covering his face with his hand, and that's why it wasn't noticed," Amanda says.

Knowing about such medical conditions in advance is helpful to parents. They can prepare emotionally and work with doctors to set out a course of treatment. Joel and Amanda had no warning.

Kosair Charities Helps Out

The Freibergers were dealing with many challenges. Clayton's palate was open to his sinuses, making him more susceptible to choking; this made the Freibergers hesitant to leave Clayton in the care of anyone.

Joel works in New Albany, Ind., and Amanda works in Louisville's East End, which makes for a lengthy commute from their home in Harrison County, Ind.

They juggled work schedules so one of them could be with Clayton at all times.

"When Clayton was born, we were going to see a specialist one or two times a week," Joel says. "We both missed a lot of



work at first." Friends, family and co-workers set up a fund, but the medical bills grew. The couple had not heard about Kosair Charities until a friend of the family, a Shriner, suggested they reach out to Kosair Charities. Within weeks, Kosair Charities stepped in to help Clayton.

Firsthand Experience

Clayton has had surgeries to repair his lip and palate, and although there will be ongoing treatments, his surgeon, Dr. Mark Chariker, says Clayton has turned the corner. Clayton is also being treated for his hearing issues, and doctors are optimistic about his outcome.

Clayton is starting to pull up and stand, and he's a happy baby who enjoys playing with his 3-year-old brother, Wyatt.

"Kosair Charities has been a great help," Joel says. "It's been a huge relief knowing you have someone willing to help. I never knew what Kosair Charities did, or what the money went for."

He says he'll make sure his own charitable giving is directed toward Kosair Charities. In 2010, Kosair Charities helped over 300 Kosair Kids like Clayton through the Special Kids Fund.

"Knowing they're helping people the way they're helping us makes it easier to support them," Joel says. "When you're taking care of babies, it's a whole different feeling."