



# Clinic for Special Children®

535 Bunker Hill Road, PO Box 128, Strasburg, PA 17579 T 717.687.9407 F 717.687.9237

November 2021

Dear Friend,

Martha and Malvern Zimmerman couldn't find answers to the health challenges faced by their son, Oakley. Despite a flurry of visits to local physicians and emergency rooms in Oakley's first year of life, the Zimmermans still didn't have answers for how to provide relief for their son. When a family member recommended they contact the Clinic for Special Children, Martha initially felt hesitant. Oakley was meeting all of his developmental milestones. Was the Clinic really the right place for him? Despite her doubts, she called the Clinic and her concerns for her son's health were met with compassion and action.

Dr. Grace Loudon Meier, Oakley's physician, spent time researching Oakley's symptoms before his family even began their two-hour trek to CSC. Genetic testing for Martha and Malvern revealed that Oakley had mevalonate kinase deficiency (MKD), a rare condition that causes Oakley's immune system to flare and his temperature to quickly spike. Dr. Meier learned that the condition can be easily managed with monthly anti-inflammatory injections, and this treatment worked well for Oakley. Within a few months, Oakley's health improved dramatically thanks to the collaboration between Dr. Meier and the Clinic's Laboratory team.

The care Oakley receives every month embodies the core values of the Clinic for Special Children: compassion coupled with personalized, cutting-edge clinical care supported by genetic research and testing. Finding answers for tricky diagnoses like Oakley's requires a team of nurses, doctors, genetic counselors, and scientists committed to working together. At the center of this equation is a person who needs care and compassion. At the Clinic, relationships are just as important as knowledge.

**You have supported our work in the past, perhaps through attending one of our six auctions or our annual Clinic for Special Children 5k, or through making a direct donation.** We are grateful for your gift, which ensures patients like Oakley have access to high quality care regardless of their ability to pay. Only 10% of our \$5M budget comes from patient fees, and philanthropy is critical to our ability to offer cutting-edge clinical care at an affordable rate for patients and their families.

**Will you consider a gift to the Clinic's 2021 year-end appeal so that we can ensure patients like Oakley can get the answers and care they need, regardless of their ability to pay? Thanks to a generous matching gift from an anonymous donor, the first \$7,000 donated will be matched dollar-for-dollar.**

Thank you for your consideration and your continued support.

Sincerely,

Herman Bontrager  
Chair, Board of Directors