



Ryan Haynes

“When you first find out you are pregnant with a child, you pray that child is healthy and has ten fingers and ten toes. When you find out there is something wrong with your child, you just pray your child has a chance.”

– Lisa Haynes

Ryan was born on eight weeks earlier than expected; weighing just under three pounds. His small body was so contracted that his legs and feet were positioned around his ears, his feet were turned upside down, his knees pointed in the opposite direction of normal and his arms were bent at every joint, tucked into his chest. In addition, he suffered from a dislocated right hip and clubfeet.

Ryan was born with arthrogryposis – a defect that doesn’t allow the joints to move as they should. Ryan likes to say that he is “not as bendy” as other kids.

It was clear from the moment that Ryan was born that he would have a tough road ahead of him. In Ryan’s first seven weeks of life, his arms and legs were cast weekly to reposition and straighten them. These casts were tiny to fit Ryan’s small limbs, which were the size of an adult finger.

Ryan’s young life consisted of surgeries and long recoveries in which he was immobilized in casts. He continued to make progress and was beginning to walk with the help of a walker and braces. Unfortunately, Ryan’s feet started turning back in to their original position, inward and down, so that he was walking on the tops of his feet rather than the bottoms.

Ryan’s family made an appointment at The Center for Gait and Movement Analysis at The Children’s Hospital. A team of specialists analyzed Ryan’s walk using state-of-the-art computer and video technology. They found that at the very least, Ryan’s feet would require more surgery, which might not even solve the problem. And at the very worst, his feet might need to be amputated. Then an orthopaedic surgeon at Children’s offered a solution, an experimental new device: Taylor Spatial frames. These frames worked to correct Ryan’s feet by stretching them into the correct position. The entire procedure included fourteen days in the hospital, five weeks at home, and seven weeks in a cast. The procedure was a success and months later Ryan was able to walk on his “new feet.”

Ryan is a happy little boy who loves to read, sing, dance and play on the playground with his brothers and friends. He still wears his braces to support his ankles and feet, but he can walk independently and even participates in Tae Kwon Do—something his parents never imagined was possible. Ryan is truly a miracle.