



Welcome to Play for a Heart

Your team name is
TEAM NOAH

Your team is named after a
little boy named **Noah**.
Here is his story:

Noah was born here in Littleton on October 21, 2006. Two weeks later however, he developed a persistent, dry cough. On November 11th, Steph took him to his Pediatrician for diagnosis. With all the advances in modern medicine, Dr. Josepher heard a sound from Noah's heart that prompted him to send Steph and Noah to the Emergency room at Sky Ridge...on a Sunday for an X-ray. The only words Steph had to go on would put any parent in panic mode; 'There's something wrong with his heart and I need an X-ray to verify'. Steph, a cardiac nurse, talked to our pediatrician over the phone from the ER at Sky Ridge while holding up the X-ray saying nothing while tears rolled down her face. Noah's dad, Chris, sat there in agony clueless to the conversation that seemed to last eternity. She hung up the phone and said he has an enlarged heart with fluid and left-to-right shunting. The world around us instantly became a dim blur as we collapsed in the waiting room sobbing.

We followed this with an appointment with a Cardiologist for an Echo three days later where our worst fear was confirmed- he had a large hole between his ventricles (VSD), but also a small hole between his two atriums (PFO). We were told then that it is possible they could close on their own or get smaller, but he needed to gain some weight and allow his lungs to develop more. Medication was prescribed to combat the congestive heart failure (CHF) and a dangerous winter virus (RSV).

The waiting ended on December 14 when his Cardiologist recommended surgery and scheduled it for January 9th. The hole between Noah's ventricles was too large for it to be patched via catheter so open heart surgery was required. A Cortex patch was used to cover the VSD and the PFO was sutured shut. Remarkably, he was off the ventilator on January 10th and we came home on the 15th. With the surgery behind us we then began to track post-op milestones; one week, one month, two months, three months...one year, two years.

Noah is now approaching his 3rd birthday in October and is a rambunctious little kid with only a scar as the reminder of what we went through. He loves playing with cars, bubbles, and Elmo and when the weather cooperates- going on walks with his parents and older brother Kayleb. The medical staff of the Heart Institute at Children's Hospital along with the support of its Welcome Program will forever hold a special place in our hearts.