



# Welcome to Play for a Heart

Your team name is  
**TEAM RACHEL**

Your team is named after a  
little girl named **Rachel**.  
Here is her story:

Born at 5 1/2 lbs, Rachel was declared "a healthy little peanut" at birth by her doctor. Two days later a very observant night nurse noticed that Rachel's breathing rate was a bit fast. After multiple tests were performed, it was discovered that Rachel had been born with heart defects; she had several large holes in her heart that were causing her heart to overwork and not letting her get enough oxygen. Although surgery was inevitable, the doctors wanted to wait as long as they could to allow her to grow and get stronger. The doctors placed her on oxygen and she came home. Finally at 10 weeks old Rachel's little body could not wait any longer. Rachel underwent open heart surgery and her holes were patched and stitched. Thankfully, the surgery resolved her pulmonary hypertension, averting the need for lung transplant. By five months of age, Rachel was finally off of full time oxygen and has only needed it periodically since then.

Rachel is now almost 4 years old and has a great future ahead of her. Although she is on daily medicine for her lungs, she is still incredibly active. She loves to play tennis, go swimming, and ride her bike. She is also a huge Rockies fan and tells us that she is going to play for the Rockies when she grows up.

We are eternally grateful for the wonderful care Rachel has received by the Children's Hospital doctors and nurses.