

CHILDREN IN PHILANTHROPY AWARD

Anthony Solari



Two years ago, **Anthony Solari** (now age 10) began losing his balance, developed a shaky hand and started behaving uncharacteristically. His parents took him to the Akron Children's Hospital emergency department. Just two hours after a MRI of his brain, they learned their son had a brain tumor and hydrocephalus. Anthony would need immediate surgery.

After surgery and two weeks under careful watch, Anthony was ready to come home. However, Anthony's journey was not complete. For the next several months, Anthony spent seven-plus hours a day in the Day Rehabilitation program at Akron Children's Hospital.

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While he was in therapy at ACH, Anthony's friends raised \$400 in his honor for the 2011 "Have a Heart, Do Your Part" Radiothon. He was shocked that strangers heard his story and wanted to donate money. He learned that donations provided things like stuffed animals and special rehab equipment. Anthony is the proud owner of Boo Boo, a Therapy Bear he was given in the hospital. He wanted to make sure others were able to get a special bear like his, so he decided to sign up to be a Change Bandit for the next Radiothon. Anthony was also part of the inaugural group of kids included in Akron Children's Hospital "Kids GIVE" program, a donor recognition group especially for children who have supported the hospital.

To date, Anthony has raised over \$4,500. He enjoys sharing his story to inspire others to give back to the hospital that saved his life and intends to raise money every year. Anthony truly embodies the spirit of philanthropy in his commitment to helping other young people at Akron Children's Hospital.

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