

Nyala is beating the odds

When Nyala Reynolds was born nine years ago with Trisomy 18, a life-threatening chromosomal disorder, there were only questions for her parents Shannon and Hasahnn. How long would their daughter live? What would that life look like? Trisomy 18, also known as Edwards Syndrome, is an abnormality in a certain part of the body due to a chromosomal disorder — thus being born is incompatible with life. Babies typically die in vitro or shortly after birth — yet Nyala is now nine years of age.

Shannon and her husband, Hasahnn, knew there was an issue prior to Nyala's birth — they were even urged by a doctor to get an abortion but Shannon, who is a faith-based person, refused. Shannon was in her late 30's when she found out that their baby had Trisomy 18 and she had coincidentally just seen an article about it. Initially, she said it was devastating when a doctor told her she needed to abort immediately, but she relied on her faith to make her decision.

Though it was emotionally devastating, she felt it was her journey to go through. She says she had amazing physicians at Bon Secours St. Francis Medical Center, so much so that she made the decision to move back to the area. Shannon said that she enjoys every day with Nyala and is thankful for her family's support and the support of Noah's Children.

Shannon says, "Noah's Children was with us from the moment she was born. The caregivers have no idea of the impact they have on families. Their support looks like Parents Nights Out because they know we need a break. They host events where we can gather with other families and their special babies. They've prepared care packages for Nyala's hospital stays, and there's always someone willing to go with us to appointments to make sure we are comfortable."



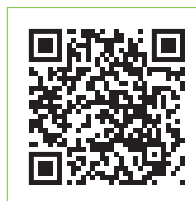
2023 IMPACT REPORT

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"Noah's Children has allowed us to have an amazing quality of life with our daughter," Shannon says. "They have given us support, tools, education, love and a space to communicate with other families going through what we are going through."

While their life with Nyala is still quite uncertain from a health perspective, Shannon knows that no matter what, Noah's Children will be there every step of the way.

"Every day she is alive is a blessing. We are never out the woods. She gives me life every single day."



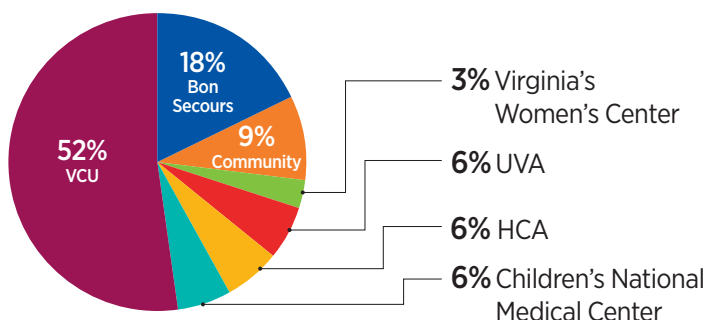
Scan the QR code to view a
video about Nyala's journey.

Commitment to excellence

With the support of our generous donors, Noah's Children was able to add the following in 2023:

- A second nurse practitioner and a fourth full-time nurse was hired.
- A grant was received for counseling, birthday club, bereavement support for first year-bereaved families, and sibling support services.
- Nurses attended the Virginia Nurses Association Spring Conference. The conference discussed best practices to achieve health equity. A discussion included the challenges that the nursing workforce, organizational leaders, nursing educators, and policymakers must overcome to prepare the future nursing workforce for society's health needs.
- Three staff members attended the Good Grief Conference to educate and equip staff working with families experiencing grief-related crises, chronic or life-changing situations, and end-of-life bereavement issues.
- Three members attended a Palliative Care Symposium designed for interprofessional team members working with patients who have life-limiting illnesses and/or need palliative care.

2023 referral sources



1501 Maple Avenue, Suite 105 | Richmond, VA 23226

noahschildren.org

804-287-7686

Donations can be mailed to:
 Bon Secours Richmond Health Care Foundation
 5855 Bremono Road, Suite 100 | Richmond, VA 23226

Donate online: givebsmh.org/Richmond
 Select "Noah's Children."

Questions? Call 804-287-7700

By the numbers | 2023



40,276

miles driven for home visits and family support services



\$95,000

supported social events and programs for Noah's Children families



224

individuals received Thanksgiving meals serving 37 families



778

music therapy hours



\$6,200

provided for clothing and school supplies to 59 school-aged patients and siblings



\$31,000

provided to families for funeral assistance



\$12,017

supported inpatient (hospital boxes), crisis/emergency, perinatal and hospice support



\$62,000

provided families with financial assistance to help with bills and other expenses



225

individuals received Christmas gifts serving 54 families through our holiday adoption program



96

Easter baskets for patients and siblings



1,404

volunteer hours (includes 153 hours for the Kids Helping Kids program)



\$30,000

provided in meal support for 43 families (178 individuals monthly) (2,136 individuals yearly)