



## Zawadi Says, "Thank You!"

### You Helped a Tanzanian Girl Stand Tall on Her Own Two Feet

To meet Zawadi Rajabu, 6, is to experience gratitude through the eyes of a child. She greets you with a warm hug, a bright smile, and an emphatic, "Thank you!" Before you can grasp why you deserve such adoration, you catch a mischievous glint in her eye. "No catch me!" she taunts, running in the opposite direction. Another game of tag has begun, and — just like that — *you're it*.

It's an idyllic scene, but Zawadi's story doesn't begin here. Before she could even dream of chasing about in sparkly sneakers, Zawadi needed feet on which to stand.

#### Her Community Believed She Was Cursed

Zawadi was born with two clubfeet in an impoverished village outside Arusha, Tanzania. Her community saw the disability as a curse, and local children threw stones at her.

Zawadi's father abandoned the family the day she was born, leaving her mother to care for three children alone. "Zawadi would have no future if something happened to me," says Zawadi's mother, Sofia, through an interpreter.

#### Few Could Help Her

Zawadi's fate changed when missionaries Tom and Polly Wiley spotted her. "She had huge brown eyes and a penetrating look," Tom Wiley recalls. "We knew we had to help her."

The Wileys discovered that Zawadi's case was too severe for treatment in Tanzania. She

needed a surgeon trained in the Ilizarov method — a complex technique for reshaping bones, developed by Gavriil Ilizarov, M.D., in a remote Siberian hospital. It was a tall order, to be sure.

But a Google search quickly uncovered one of the few surgeons in the world who could help Zawadi: Mark Dahl, M.D., pediatric orthopaedic surgeon at Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare. In fact, Dahl trained in Siberia with Ilizarov himself.

#### "My Daughter Has a Future!"

Within weeks, Zawadi flew to St. Paul for a treatment that Dahl had performed thousands of times, but on only a few children with Zawadi's condition. During a five-hour surgery, Dahl

*Zawadi continued on Page 4*

*Because  
of You!*

**Zawadi wears  
sparkly new shoes**  
Page 1

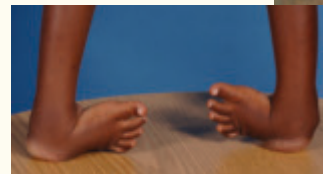
**Douglas can visit  
an imaging center  
without crying**  
Page 2

**Katie's memory  
continues to inspire**  
Page 2

**Grace can say,  
"I love you!"**  
Page 3

*Without treatment in  
Tanzania, Zawadi (right)  
learned to walk on the  
rough calluses that  
formed where her  
feet should be.*

*But today, Zawadi  
(above) is shopping for  
her first pairs of shoes!  
Wal-Mart helped her find  
shoes that fit around her  
braces, which will keep  
her feet straight while  
she grows.*





A Word From Our President . . .  
*Margaret Perryman*

## What's So Special About Specialty Care?

"Specialty health care" is a phrase we often use at Gillette, but what does it really mean? You might say that we focus on the hard stuff — some of the most uncommon diagnoses and complex treatments in medicine. Just read the real-life stories in this issue of *Connections*, and I think you'll understand what's so special about the care we provide.

For example: *Who has one of the world's few surgeons skilled in the rare orthopaedic treatments pioneered by Gavriil Ilizarov in Siberia?* We do.

*Who has the technology to help a child break free from silence, expressing something as simple as, "I'm thirsty," or as profound as, "I love you"?* We do.

*Who has the vision to build new and innovative services, when it becomes clear that other options in the community are woefully inadequate?* We do.

*And who makes it all possible?* You do.

Like all things rare and precious, specialty care for children at the margins of modern medicine is expensive. And because nearly half of our patients rely on Medicaid — a program that falls far short of reimbursing costs — we face a financial gap that only generous friends like you can fill.

It should come as no surprise that, without you, Zawadi might never have donned her first pair of shoes. Without you, Grace might never have told her mom that her favorite color is red. And without you, kids might never have had on-site imaging tests without pain and fear.

The truth is that you're among an exceptional group of people committed to ensuring that all children receive the best that medicine and technology can provide — regardless of the complexity of their disabilities or the financial resources at their command.

We do a lot of special things at Gillette. Perhaps the most important, though, is to say, "Thank you" to people like you, who make it all possible.

Thank you.

## Why We Give

# Our Children Inspired Us!

The Duvalls and the Kennedys knew what Gillette's Advanced Imaging Center would mean to children who have disabilities. In fact, their own children inspired them to help make the new center a reality.

## We Wanted Douglas to Feel Safe

**"I want people to know that their gifts matter to children like my son."**

Douglas Duvall, 9, used to cry at the mere sight of a radiology suite. Douglas requires a special tube to deliver medicines and nutrition into his small intestine. Before having surgery to place the tube permanently, Douglas frequently endured invasive X-ray procedures. At the time, Gillette didn't have advanced imaging services. "At other facilities, every visit was traumatizing," says Douglas' mom, Heather Duvall. "But without his medicines, Douglas would have seizures."



When Duvall learned that Gillette planned to build an Advanced Imaging Center, she immediately made a donation. Upon touring the new center, she learned about Gillette's positive-distraction technology, which comforts children with music, lighting and video images. "Douglas never cried during our visit!" she says. "I want people to know that their gifts matter to children like my son."

## We Honored Our Daughter, Katie



Within hours of her birth in 1995, Katie Kennedy was **"An on-site center is an amazing gift."**

diagnosed with microcephaly. A stroke before birth caused the condition, which results in significant neurological impairments. Given Katie's medical challenges and limited life expectancy, parents

Kevin and Cindy Kennedy created The Sunshine Foundation to serve as her legacy. "The song, *You Are My Sunshine*, made Katie smile even during the most difficult hospitalizations," says Cindy Kennedy.

Katie died in February 2006, surrounded by her family. The Sunshine Foundation recently gave \$17,000 to support Gillette's Advanced Imaging Center. "Traveling to off-site centers can be difficult for children and taxing for caretakers," Kennedy says. "An on-site center is an amazing gift. We hope our donation inspires others to give."

### Tell Us Your Story!

What inspires you to support children who have disabilities? Please e-mail us at [foundation@gillettechildrens.com](mailto:foundation@gillettechildrens.com). We might share your story in *Connections*.

*We Need Your Help Today!*

**Thanks to friends like you, our Advanced Imaging Center is meeting a vital need. But we still need to raise more than \$3 million for the new center. To ensure that kids continue to have on-site imaging tests without fear, we invite you to make a gift today.**

# You Helped Give Grace a Voice!

## Mom Hears "I Love You!" for the First Time

Imagine going through childhood unable to ask questions, whisper secrets — even tell people your name. Until this spring, life without words was Grace Wright's reality. The lively 4-year-old was born with cerebral palsy, a form of brain damage that affects her ability to speak.

"We relied on rudimentary sign language and pictures to communicate," says Grace's mom, Linda Wright. "Conversations were a guessing game."

### Grace's Voice — and Personality — Emerge

Grace understands language, but she couldn't express herself before coming to Gillette. Here, she tried using an augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) device. It shows pictures that represent words and phrases. When Grace touches the screen, the device "speaks" the corresponding word for her. "I learned that Grace's favorite color is red and she loves pancakes!" exclaims Wright.

### Grace Inspires Mom During Cancer Battle

Shortly after Grace received her device, her mom was diagnosed with cancer and her dad lost his job to staffing cuts. Although Grace qualifies for Medicaid, her family faces limited insurance options. Wright, who also cares for two other sons with special needs, is undergoing chemotherapy. Amidst these challenges, Wright's bright light is Grace's new voice. "I never thought I'd hear my daughter say, 'I love you,'" she says. "My dream came true."

### Help Us Help Families in Need

Your gifts to Gillette support state-of-the-art technology so children, like Grace, can express themselves. They also help us bring Gillette services within easy reach of struggling families. Most of all, they make life fuller — and a little brighter — for the Wrights and families just like them.



*Grace says "hello" using her new device. Children's Miracle Network sponsors help Gillette purchase communication devices for patients to test at home. Each device costs at least \$8,000.*

## Brighten a Child's Holiday

*For children who are hospitalized over the holidays,  
small gifts can bring immense joy and a sense of normalcy.*

Sarah Speer still remembers how such generosity touched her life, when her brother's battle with muscular dystrophy forced her family to spend Christmas at Gillette.

"You'd think it would have been an awful Christmas," she recalls, "but the volunteers, donors and staff made it so special for the kids. There were toys, visitors and activities. It's still my favorite Christmas memory."

Speer — who works as a marketing specialist at Mid-Minnesota Federal Credit Union — now supports Gillette by raising money through Credit Unions for Kids. "My brother's experience at Gillette inspired me to give back," she says.

*If you'd like to donate items from our wish list, e-mail [foundation@gillettechildrens.com](mailto:foundation@gillettechildrens.com) or call Andrew Olsen at 651-229-1766. Your generosity will brighten a child's day!*

### Our Wish List

- Rattles
- Teethers
- PlayDoh toys
- Coloring books
- Crayons
- Stickers
- Matchbox cars
- Etch-a-Sketch toys
- Nail polish
- CDs and DVDs
- Nintendo Wii
- Board games



# Make the Connection! Make a Difference

When you support Gillette, you provide world-class medical care for children who have disabilities. And showing your support has never been easier!

## What You Can Do Today

- Sign up for our e-newsletter at [www.gillettechildrens.org/newsletter](http://www.gillettechildrens.org/newsletter).
- Donate today at [www.gillettechildrens.org/donate](http://www.gillettechildrens.org/donate).
- Become a Guardian Angel monthly supporter by visiting [www.gillettechildrens.org/guardianangels](http://www.gillettechildrens.org/guardianangels).
- Ask your employer to match gifts you make to Gillette. To see if your employer already matches gifts, visit [www.matchinggifts.com/gillettechildrens](http://www.matchinggifts.com/gillettechildrens).
- Recycle electronics at [gillette.myboneyard.com](http://gillette.myboneyard.com), and the value of your used electronics will be donated to Gillette.

*Just in Time  
for the Holidays!*

Supporting Gillette is as easy as shopping for holiday gifts!

- Find the perfect gift at [www.giftback.com/gillette](http://www.giftback.com/gillette), and 10 percent of every purchase is donated to Gillette.
- Better yet, make your purchases with a Gillette credit card. Sign up at [www.gillettechildrens.org/creditcard](http://www.gillettechildrens.org/creditcard). Gillette receives \$50 the first time you use your card and 0.3 percent of every purchase made — all at no additional cost to you!



*Connections* is a quarterly publication of Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare. Direct comments and questions to Andrew Olsen at 651-229-1766 or [foundation@gillettechildrens.com](mailto:foundation@gillettechildrens.com).



## Thank You Wal-Mart!

### Zawadi Loves Her New Shoes

Wal-Mart in Maple Grove — a Children's Miracle Network sponsor — couldn't let Zawadi return to Tanzania without some new shoes. When store co-manager Mike Peckis presented a pair with pink sparkles, Zawadi's eyes lit up. "Yes!" she exclaimed. Peckis (pictured here with Zawadi and shoe department manager Joann Hogan) was just as

enthusiastic. "I have goose bumps," he says. "The spirit of the kids we help is phenomenal."

*Zawadi continued from Page 1*

attached steel rings with struts, called fixators, to the bones in her feet and legs. Zawadi's mother then tightened the struts several times a day, slowly reshaping Zawadi's feet.

After two months of sometimes painful daily adjustments, Zawadi's feet were straight. "I never dreamed she could walk like every other child," says Zawadi's mother. "My daughter has a future!"

### You Reach the World — and Your Neighborhood

Zawadi returned to Tanzania in September — with a new lease on life that you made possible. By supporting Gillette, you're providing world-class medical treatment to children for whom Gillette might be the only option. So when Zawadi says, "Thank you," we couldn't agree more.

*Thanks for a Great Day!*

## You Helped Families Facing Disabilities Forge New Connections

Thanks to these generous sponsors, Gillette children and families recently enjoyed a day at Como Zoo filled with food, fun, prizes and — best of all — new connections!

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Checkers</li> <li>■ Chipotle Mexican Grill</li> <li>■ Costco</li> <li>■ Dairy Queen</li> <li>■ Great Clips</li> <li>■ IHOP</li> <li>■ Marriott City Center</li> <li>■ Marriott Depot</li> <li>■ Miss Minnesota</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Muller Family Theatres</li> <li>■ Panda Express</li> <li>■ Speedway/SuperAmerica</li> <li>■ State Farm Agent Heather Brooks Stafani</li> <li>■ State Farm Agent Yvonne Peterson</li> <li>■ Strategic Fundraising, Inc.</li> <li>■ Tamarack Habilitation Technologies</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Trader Joe's</li> <li>■ TurnKey Direct Marketing</li> <li>■ Wal-Mart</li> <li>■ Wells Fargo Private Client Group</li> </ul> |
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### A Special Thanks to Momtalk.com



### Meagher & Geer

