

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2021 | 8:00-8:45 PM
JOIN US LIVE ONLINE AT CRESCENTCOVE.ORG/LIVEGALA



# MAKING MOMENTS COUNT FOR KIDS & FAMILIES

# **OUR MISSION**

Crescent Cove offers care and support to children and young adults with a shortened life-expectancy, and their families who love them.

### **OUR HOME**

The Crescent Cove Respite & Hospice Home for Kids is a vibrant and joyful home-away-from home for kids with life-threatening conditions, where each moment is embraced and celebrated. Crescent Cove provides much-needed respite care, giving families a break from continuous caregiving while their children receive individualized care and enjoy fun and therapeutic activities. Crescent Cove also provides compassionate end-of-life care, providing a comforting and sacred place for families to feel supported during this time of transition for their child.

# **OUR NEED**

All services and stays provided at Crescent Cove are at no out-of-pocket cost to families, thanks to donors and friends. The Home and all it offers to the amazing kids we serve is only possible with the help and generosity of our community.

## **OUR TEAM**

It takes many dedicated individuals to make our mission possible. Meet our staff, members of our board of directors, and our volunteers at CrescentCove.org.

"Let's make every moment count and help those who have a greater need than our own." -Harmon Killebrew

RESPITE & HOSPICE HOME FOR KIDS
4201 58TH AVE N, BROOKLYN CENTER, MN 55429



#### **WATCH THE PROGRAM**

View our live program from 8-8:45 pm CST at CrescentCove.org/LiveGala.

Consider logging on early (password is in your email) to ensure your connection is ready to go at 8 pm when we will join you **LIVE from Target Field!** 

### **MAKE A GIFT**

There are multiple ways you can support Crescent Cove by making a gift to the 9th annual Gala.

- Make a gift online at CrescentCove.org/Gala anytime before Monday, February 1.
- Complete the Gala gift form and mail it to us by February 15.
- Call us at 952.426.4711 between 7:30-9:00 pm on January 30 to talk to members of our team to make a gift or pledge over the phone.



# **BID ON AUCTION ITEMS**

Our auction launches online at CrescentCove.org/Gala on January 25 and will close at 9:30 pm CST on Saturday, January 30. There are many unique items on which to bid, including one-of-a-kind experiences and purchasing items to support our Home!

# Presented by







# MAKING MOMENTS COUNT FOR KIDS & FAMILIES

# **2020 AT A GLANCE**

Throughout 2020, Crescent Cove provided a safe haven for children with life-threatening conditions, and a lifeline for parents. Through hard work and the generosity of our donors, our doors remained open when families needed us. Help us continue and expand our mission in 2021!



256
FAMILIES
SERVED



609 NIGHTS OF RESPITE



NIGHTS OF END-OF-LIFE CARE



56 NEW FAMILIES ENROLLED



36
FIRST TIME
RESPITE STAYS

#### **DEMOGRAPHICS OF ENROLLED KIDS**



For the safety of our kids, families, staff and volunteers, access to our Home was limited to essential workers for much of 2020. We worked creatively to continue bringing integrative therapies to our kids, in person or virtually, when possible.









# All-Stars\* KARTER

Karter was born in 2016 via emergency C-section following a spontaneous, fetal maternal hemorrhage, and as a result, suffered a massive brain injury. After four days in the NICU, the doctors gave his parents, Tiffany and Kole, no other choice but to remove life support. They said his brain injury was too severe to have any quality of life – that he would never be able to suck, swallow, breathe, see, hear, walk, or talk on his own. To everyone's surprise, Karter continued to fight for his life, and is thriving and progressing at his own rate.

His injury has left him with several challenges. Karter is globally delayed, but doesn't let labels define him. "He has the sweetest, silliest personality and most infectious smile," says Tiffany. "And, most importantly, he brings us joy, gratitude, and perspective of what's important."



From the moment their crisis began, they were asked by several people, "Are you taking care of yourself?" For Tiffany, that question was about as complex as they come. "Some days I would have paid millions for someone to give me a moment to breathe," says Tiffany. "But in the beginning, that wasn't an option. In order for me to truly engage in self-care I needed to have people who could take care of a child with a severe brain injury who was g-tube dependent, non-mobile, non-verbal, and has seizures."

During the early stages of their journey, Crescent Cove was not yet open. Thankfully Crescent Cove is now part of Tiffany and Kole's self-care plan, providing the family with much-needed respite care. "Having Crescent Cove as a physical place to go during those initial days would have been game-changing. The support, love, and skill found at Crescent Cove is unmatched."











# All-Stars\* MALIKYE

In a blink of an eye. That's how fast our children change, but Malikye changed in ways his mother never anticipated.

Katheryn gave birth to a healthy baby boy who grew into a strong-willed, athletic, artistic child with a smile that lit up any room. But something changed in Malikye around his 11th birthday. The strong, active boy started stumbling and falling down. It soon progressed to foot pain, and several months later his hand was affected.

The following months brought an exhausting search for answers with countless medical appointments, and a series of discouraging moments when yet another of Malikye's abilities slipped away. "He started to lose his speech - not all at once, but a little bit at a time," says Katheryn. "And he loved basketball but he couldn't run and jump anymore."

By the time Malikye was diagnosed with Machado-Joseph Disease, he was rapidly deteriorating. "Once it started, it didn't stop and it was like, every month he was losing something."

His doctor predicted he would survive another year or two, but two months later Malikye was struggling to breathe. Supported by a breathing machine, and with talk of a ventilator, Katheryn knew in her heart it was time for hospice care. When Katheryn and Malikye heard about Crescent Cove, they knew that was where they needed to be.

Malikye was running out of time, but coming to Crescent Cove gave Katheryn a chance to slip out of the caregiver role, and just focus on being Malikye's mom. "Once we got to Crescent Cove, he had completely accepted that this was the place where he was going to die. That first day he looked at me and said 'this place is paradise."

Malikye's final days were filled with an outdoor family concert, basketball, video games, popsicles, and quiet moments with his mother, 23-year-old sister and 3-year-old brother. "We were surrounded by love and he felt that. He felt special and cared for."

The summer after 7th grade, just before his 13th birthday, Malikye took his last breath at Crescent Cove, leaving his mother, family and friends with profound grief. But in that grief was a light, an appreciation for the new family they found at Crescent Cove, and the comfort of knowing they made every last moment count.

"Without Crescent Cove, I would've been at home trying to care for him. I would've been his caregiver and not his mother. They turned the worst time of our lives into something so special and gave me time with my son where I could just focus on loving him. They are angels."



#### **FERAS**

Everyone has their happy place. For Feras, it's Crescent Cove, a place his mom Heba describes as heaven on earth. Feras was four months old when doctors diagnosed him with Lowe Syndrome, a rare multisystem disorder that affects the eyes, the central nervous system, and the kidneys. He's now an energetic and loving 12-year-old who gives the best hugs. A happy kid by nature, his joy reaches a whole new level when he stays at Crescent Cove. "They're like family, they really care and love him," says Heba. As a single mom raising Feras and his older sister, Heba didn't think she'd ever get a break. But in 2018, she learned about Crescent Cove, and the family of three spent their first night at the Home together. "It was comfortable, cozy, it felt safe, anything that I would want to feel when I was at home." Since that first night, Feras has been back to visit several times, delighting the staff with his snuggles and radiant smile. It's a place Heba hopes will always be available for families like hers. "Feras has a long journey ahead of him. I'll always need the support. I don't know what I'd do with my life if we didn't have Crescent Cove. It's my child's second home."

#### **ISABEL**

Parents Amy and Pete have spent every day of the last 17 years advocating for their daughter, Isabel. "I do everything in my power to keep her healthy and out of the hospital," says Amy. With several life-limiting diagnoses, Isabel has been homebound since fifth grade to keep her safe. School, family vacations, and trips to the store are all too risky for her fragile immune system. Operating within those limitations, Amy and Pete work hard to make life amazing for Isabel. The 17-year-old has a funny personality and a tenacious spirit, and knows exactly what she likes and wants. Isabel's long list of diagnoses requires medications 5-8 times a day, and therapies and treatments every few hours to help with severe respiratory issues. This constant care makes respite for Amy and Pete crucial, and they have leaned on Crescent Cove for much-needed breaks. "Leaving her at Crescent Cove means I can take a step back and breathe. Our life is high-stress and I'm on edge all the time, but when Isabel is at Crescent Cove I can actually relax. Words can't even describe how good that feels to be so relaxed and know she's being so well taken care of."

## **SALIM**

Salim is a brave little guy with several diagnoses, but his primary, most debilitating condition is called Recessive Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa, or EB. Salim's body doesn't produce any collagen 7, so his skin blisters with the slightest touch. He has open wounds all over his body, is in bandages neck to toe, and endures a painful bath and bandage change almost daily. EB also affects him internally. Before going to Crescent Cove, Salim's mom Laura wasn't sure how she would ever be able to trust anyone with her fragile son. But after making the trip from North Carolina, she realized Crescent Cove was different. "For the very first time, I felt like I could let down my guard. I knew without a doubt that my boy was not only safe, but was loved and adored and having the time of his life. He spent an entire week with staff, nurses, CNAs and volunteers who spent hours playing with him, singing with him, arranging fun activities, and finding people to take him on boat rides. He spent more time laughing that week than doing anything else."









-PRESENTING \$25,000 —

MINNESOTA





**COMMUNITY \$10,000** -





**VILLAGE \$5,000** 









KIN \$2,500 -



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