



Helping  
Children and  
Families  
Shape their  
Future one  
Day at a Time

November, 2023

## Meet Santiago & Family

Dear [Name],

### **Developmental disabilities and disorders affect nearly one in six children in the U.S.**

As a parent, when you discover that your child has a developmental disability, you face the uncertainty of not knowing what the future may hold. But, with the right resources and support, you can encourage your child in writing the story of their dreams and help them shape a future that is filled with endless possibilities.

Since 1929, The Children's Center (TCC) has built bridges to bright futures for more than 3,000 children and families in Wayne County each year. TCC is a leading resource for children facing developmental disabilities and disorders, encouraging children's developmental growth and success.

**Rosalia has experienced this kind of support first-hand.** As a family of six, her household is filled with personalities of distinct characteristics and traits. Her youngest children Santiago and Angela are seven-year-old fraternal twins. Angela takes after her mother and displays a sense of care and compassion for others. Santiago, on the other hand, has taken a bit more time to hit key milestones and express himself and his needs. Despite their differences, the twins are incredibly close, and Angela often looks out for her brother, Santiago.

Santiago's mom Rosalia grew to notice the frustrations that he was facing in his day-to-day life, compared to his siblings. Santiago would often become discouraged when trying to communicate with others, realizing he was being misunderstood. This frustration led to frequent outbursts and difficulty in forming a bond to his siblings.

**Rosalia wanted to support Santiago but found herself unable to do so in the ways he needed.** She began to feel disempowered and hopeless. Rosalia stated, "I wanted to help Santiago, but I didn't know where to start. I was ashamed of my parenting and embarrassed of my child's constant tantrums. I was struggling with his behavior."

More than **3,000**  
children receive  
services annually.



“I wanted to help Santiago, but I didn’t know where to start.”

~ Santiago’s mom, Rosalia



The Children’s Center wasn’t the first place that treated Santiago but it’s the first place that has made a significant impact on both him and his family.

Rosalia sought treatment for Santiago at a hospital prior to TCC. **To enhance his behavioral growth and development, TCC was considered the best resource for her family.** Upon an initial assessment, an evaluation helped Santiago’s family discover that he is affected by an Intellectual Disability, Language Disorder, and Adjustment Disorder. TCC provided information, resources and a holistic treatment plan which continues to assist the family in communicating more effectively with Santiago and supporting him in the ways he needs most.

As the family’s first and primary language is Spanish, a translator is used throughout clinical services and when coordinating support for the family. Santiago’s translator stated, “It amazes me seeing Santiago reach new milestones over the past two years. And to see Rosalia find a sense of relief from the exhaustion she faced prior to understanding his needs is incredible. I have watched them grow as a family. The need from our community is high and Santiago is an inspiration to us all.”

Santiago has achieved many victories, from reducing daily outbursts, speaking 3-word sentences, to becoming potty trained. **Santiago has opened new doors to opportunity and is building the future he deserves.**

TCC has worked with Rosalia to create a supportive home environment and discover new ways to help

“I am thankful to TCC staff but also to our clinician and support coordinator that have helped me tremendously in shaping Santiago’s life. If it wasn’t for them, he wouldn’t be where he is today.”

~ Santiago’s mom, Rosalia

her son. She stated, “The best advice I can give to parents is to be patient and have perseverance with your children. It might be a difficult routine, but you get to witness the change little by little. TCC has not only helped Santiago, but they have helped our entire family.”

**Santiago and his family are just one example of how TCC builds bridges full of hope.** The need continues to grow, and we need your support in turning struggles into triumphs, tears into laughter, and fears into courage. Your donation provides the tools and resources that families and children need to navigate a diagnosis and shape their own futures.

*Nicole Wells Stallworth*

**Nicole Wells Stallworth**  
President & CEO

**P.S.** To read more about Santiago’s story, please go to:  
[TheChildrensCenter.com/ChangeAChildsLife/Santiago](https://TheChildrensCenter.com/ChangeAChildsLife/Santiago)