



Ayden's Story

Seven-year-old Ayden is usually an active, energetic child. In October 2020, his mother, Lorena, began noticing drastic changes in his behavior. At football practice, Ayden wandered around, not playing with the other kids. He lost 10 pounds in one week and struggled to stay awake after school. He began wetting the bed and continuously drinking water. Lorena knew something was wrong and contacted his pediatrician.

Lorena was advised to take Ayden to United Regional immediately. Tests revealed that Ayden's blood sugar levels were catastrophically high. His struggle to stay awake was an indication that he was slipping in and out of a diabetic coma. He was in ketoacidosis, a condition that develops when a lack of insulin prevents cells from getting the glucose they need. His kidneys were beginning to shut down.

At United Regional, Ayden got the help he needed. He was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes and received

insulin and fluids. Soon he began to return to his energetic self and gained weight. Ayden stayed at United Regional for a week while Diabetic Educators taught he and his family the necessary skills to manage his Diabetes at home.

Lorena is extremely grateful for the care they received. **"The nurses were very attentive and available to answer any questions we had. Ultimately, they saved my child's life. When we left, we couldn't thank them enough. They did such a great job."**

Since his initial diagnosis, Ayden has adapted to life with Type 1 Diabetes. He and his family continue to learn by attending Pediatric Diabetic Education Classes at the United Regional. During the classes, educators teach the critical role of nutrition in diabetes management, answer questions, and provide tips for Ayden to live a normal, active life.

Children's Miracle Network (CMN) has been part of Ayden's life since the moment he arrived at United Regional. CMN provided equipment that Ayden used during his week in the pediatric unit and supports his pediatric diabetes education. Over the summer Ayden will get to enjoy a fun, engaging three-week summer camp designed for kids with Diabetes – Camp Sweeney – thanks to help from Children's Miracle Network.