

# LESSONS IN GRATITUDE

Atlanta family opens its doors to children in need



The Lewis Family

By Ana Laura Araya

Imagine being a teenager in an affluent Atlanta neighborhood and having a set of loving parents whom have both worked with underprivileged and sick children. Then, imagine that your parents want you

to understand exactly how fortunate you are.

This is what life was like for Ariana, 16, and Eli, 13. Their parents, Kayla and Jeff Lewis, decided to become the host parents of Cynthia, 12, and Ever, 15, who came to Atlanta from Paraguay to receive new

prosthetic legs. Cynthia was born with a clubfoot and knees that don't bend. Ever was born with just one leg.

It all began when Kayla and Jeff decided it was time to teach their kids about sympathy, compassion and kindness. They were already familiar with Childspring International, an Atlanta-based nonprofit that has been providing medical care for thousands of children around the world. They knew that Childspring was always in need of families willing to host the children while they underwent surgeries in the United States. Both Kayla, who has a master's degree in social work, and Jeff, who works as a pediatrician, have a passion for children. They decided that this was the perfect opportunity to make a difference.

Over three weeks, the Lewis' family kindly opened their doors and their hearts. The four of them treated Cynthia and Ever as if they were a part of their family. Eli and Ariana shared their room with Ever and Cynthia and made sure to dedicate time playing sports and doing arts and crafts. Every day, Eli brushed Ever's teeth and put on his shoes. Eli and Ariana taught Ever and Cynthia how to tell time and the family bought them their first watches.

"It was so nice to provide a loving family for them while they received medical treatment and I think they felt safe with us," said Kayla.

To learn more about Childspring International, visit [childspringintl.org](http://childspringintl.org).

## Health & Wellness Briefs



The Charity Benevolent Fund Winter Harvest Festival 5K Run & 1 Mile Walk will be held Dec. 22 at Agnes Scott College's Gellerstedt Field starting at noon. The event raises money to provide blankets, heating assistance, gloves, and warm clothes to the needy. For more information and to register, visit [fundab.org](http://fundab.org).

**Piedmont Atlanta Hospital** was among 404 hospitals, 38 organ procurement organizations (OPOs), and 174 transplant programs nationwide presented with an award from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for efforts made to increase the number of organs available and transplanted. Piedmont Atlanta representatives received the department's Medal of Honor for Organ Donation for achieving and sustaining national goals for donation, including a donation rate of 75 percent or more of eligible donors at the Atlanta facility. [piedmont.org](http://piedmont.org).

**The Joint Corp** has opened its 5th chiropractic clinic in the Atlanta area in Buckhead. The clinic is owned and operated by Michael "Mici" Fluegge and Jeff McGinty and Dr. Nick Pickwell will be the clinic physician. Clinic hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. [thejoint.com](http://thejoint.com)

**Delta Community Credit Union** presented more than \$72,000 to Children's Miracle Network in November to help young patients at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA). For its fifth annual Delta Community Credit Union Tees Up "Fore" Kids Golf Tournament on September 19, the credit union again partnered with Children's Miracle Network to raise funds designated for CHOA. These funds include a match from Delta Community's Board of Directors and a \$10,000 Miracle Match from CO-OP Financial Services. Two former patients of Children's Healthcare, Eric Penland and Nate Reich, were among the 140 golfers who hit the links at Olde Atlanta Golf Club to raise money that will help fund a new Prosthetics Laboratory and Robotics Center in the hospital's Rehabilitation Services department. [DeltaCommunityCU.com](http://DeltaCommunityCU.com)

Decatur resident **Beth Borden-Goodman** was honored by the American Society of Plastic Surgeons at the organization's annual conference in New Orleans. She was selected as Patients of Courage for her charitable work following her own reconstructive surgery after breast cancer. Borden-Goodman and her alter ego, The Premiere Pink Diva, is former president of the Atlanta chapter of The Sisters Network, an African American breast cancer support organization. Her creative fundraising efforts, such as Pretty in Pink Breast Cancer Makeovers, have garnered publicity for breast cancer awareness through local and national print and television media.

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345 10th Street, NE | Atlanta, GA 30309 | 404-873-6985  
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The Children's School is a coed, independent elementary school that welcomes families of all races, faiths and cultures.