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Envelope Teaser: Her heart was the size of a strawberry ...

Dear Mr. Sample,

As they operated to remove her damaged heart and replace it with a donor heart, Kylie's doctors knew that as long as they did their best, baby Kylie would fight hard for her life.

The doctors also knew that friends like you would be with her every step of the way.

Kylie was born with a rare immune system disorder that caused blood clots in her brain, eyes, and in her aortic heart valve. At first, her doctors tried to replace Kylie's aortic valve, but her tiny heart had already been damaged too much.

Kylie's mother Helen was so frightened for her baby that she began to think about letting her go. Kylie had other ideas. Our doctors were amazed at the baby's will to live, and the way she kept fighting back.

But if she was to have a chance for life, she needed a heart transplant.

As you can imagine, a heart transplant is always a complicated surgery that requires the utmost skill and state-of-the-art facilities. But to transplant a heart into a seven-week-old baby – a heart the size of a strawberry – is something only the most advanced hospital can attempt.

Thanks to generous friends like you, XYZ Hospital for Children is one of those hospitals. In fact, it is Indiana's only center for children with heart defects. And thanks to you, we have this lifesaving resource close by, ready to save the lives of hundreds of Hoosier children like Kylie every year.

**I'm writing today to tell you Kylie's remarkable story and to ask you to renew your support for the XYZ Hospital for Children by making a generous gift of \$xx, \$xx, or even \$xx or more to our special Summer Appeal today. You can make your donation by going to [www.xyzhospital.org/Kylie](http://www.xyzhospital.org/Kylie), or mail your gift in the enclosed envelope.**

Your generosity today will help save the lives of children like Kylie.

After 14 hours of surgery to try to repair her heart valve, we put little Kylie on an ECMO machine. This sophisticated device can temporarily take the place of the heart and lungs for small children. Every day, Kylie fought for her life while we waited to see if a heart would become available.

For five days, Helen and other members of her family stayed by Kylie's side night and day. On the fifth day, they received the news that a heart had become available.

That good news was not without some sadness. Helen hopes someday to meet the parents of

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the baby who turned their tragedy into a blessing for Kylie. “I would hug them,” she says. “Then I would just stand there and cry. There is no language to express how grateful I feel.”

Kylie received her new heart on December 1st, 1996, a day Kylie’s family celebrates every year in honor of her heart donor. Kylie came through the surgery well, recovered quickly, and with watchful treatment by her medical team at XYZ Hospital for Children, she developed into a relatively healthy young girl.

She excelled in school, rode her bike too fast, and even learned Tae Kwon Do.

Then, a few years ago, Kylie began feeling lethargic. Tests showed she had severe blockages in her coronary arteries and that the heart she had received at seven weeks was failing. Two years ago, as a ten year old, she received a second heart transplant, this time from an adult.

“If not for XYZ Hospital for Children, which is like a second home to us, I know Kylie would not be alive today,” Helen insists. “I am so humbled by the people who donate to support the Hospital. I cannot tell you how grateful I am!”

It is because of friends like you that we can do so much for children like Kylie. We are one of only 19 hospitals in the country that performs Phase I pediatric cancer trials. Our Autism Treatment Center is one of the largest and most advanced in the country. We have the world’s largest pediatric sleep disorder center, Indiana’s largest and most comprehensive pediatric intensive care unit, and Indiana’s only pediatric burn center.

In all these and so many other ways, your generosity helps us to be ready to provide the most advanced care to Hoosier children like Kylie.

What that means is that a young girl is looking forward to a bright future. These days, Kylie says, “I feel really good physically. My heart feels just great, and I’m so grateful!”

This is why our Summer Appeal is so important – especially this year. Summer is often a very difficult time to raise money, even for an important cause like saving the lives of children. And in this current economic climate, it will be even more difficult to maintain funding support.

But the lives of children like Kylie go on, despite economic crisis. And they continue to look to us for lifesaving help. That’s why this Summer Appeal is so urgent. I hope you will send a tax-deductible gift today. We really need your help. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Signer  
Medical Director

P.S. Kylie is at the top of her class, she volunteers for Ronald McDonald House, and she sings in her church choir. Her dream is to be a forensic scientist someday. Your generosity helped to make her dreams possible. Your gift to our Summer Appeal today will do the same for another child whose life depends on `Children. And your gift this summer is more important than ever. Please go to [www.xyzhospital.org/Kylie](http://www.xyzhospital.org/Kylie) to make your donation, or mail it in the enclosed envelope. Thank you.