



Mya's Story

It has been almost a year since the inaugural "Myles for Mya" 5k took place, and what a difference a year makes! At this time last year, Mya Lacey Kendrick was fighting for her life and waiting for something that no baby should ever have to wait for - a new heart. Now she's a smiling, content, and happy one year old girl with a perfect new heart! Mya was born on March 12, 2010 and her parents knew at her 20 week ultrasound that she was going to be a very special child. Doctors noticed that Mya had a complex heart defect and began to plan for a 3 stage heart correction surgery when she was born. The first procedure would be scheduled when Mya was only a week old. During her first surgery, it became very apparent that the only thing that could save Mya would be a complete heart transplant – something no parent could ever be prepared to hear. After 8 very long weeks of waiting, the Kendrick family finally got the call they had been waiting for. On May 25th 2010, Mya went into surgery with a broken and damaged heart, and at 2PM that same day, she had a new shot at life – a brand new, perfect heart. As much as the Kendricks rejoiced in the gift of life that was given to their daughter, they also had the sobering realization that this precious gift came at a price - the Kendricks celebrated life, while another family grieved a loss.

After spending nearly her first 9 months of life in a hospital bed and under intense medication and pain, on December 6, 2010, Mya was able to finally come home. Mya would not be here today without the gift a special donor family gave to her. This is a family the Kendricks may never know, but they shared the most amazing gift possible – the gift of life. Mya's story is simply amazing and the Kendricks never imagined how greatly they would be blessed by organ donation. Mya was quickly losing her shot at life, and today is able to live a full and happy life thanks to God's handiwork and miracles.

On May 28th 2011, we will celebrate Mya's one year "Heart Birthday", we will celebrate the gift of life, and reflect on those that have given life through organ donation. The Second Annual "Myles for Mya" 5K will raise funds for organ and tissue donation and create awareness about how you can become involved. Every day, 18 people die while waiting for an organ to be available, and with your help, we want to take that number down to zero. To read more about Mya and her journey, please join her "Fan Page" and visit www.carepages.com keyword MorganandLora. To read more about the Ohio Donor registry and Donate Life Ohio visit www.DonateLifeOhio.org. To read more about the hospital and physicians that helped give Mya a new shot at life, visit www.cincinnatichildrens.org. 100% of race proceeds will go towards these non-profit organizations and to create awareness about organ and tissue donation.