



WE LOVE WHAT WE DO

Pediatric

CARE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION FOR CLIENTS OF BAYADA AND FAMILY MEMBERS



BAYADA Pediatrics Nurse Mat Gunkel, RN

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Contest for Clinicians Supports Connection and our Caring Culture



For the past 25 years, BAYADA has carried on a rich tradition of celebrating caregivers and clinicians who demonstrate *compassion, excellence, and reliability* in their work through an annual, companywide contest. **This year's Contest for Clinicians is all about connecting—to our purpose, our core values, our clients, and our colleagues.**

Please join us now through November 27 and Connect4Good by recognizing your child's nurses, aides, therapists, technicians, and all the other amazing BAYADA direct care clinicians for the exceptional work they do with a contest entry and your words of gratitude. You may honor as many clinicians as you'd like as often as you'd like, provided each entry is for a distinct action. Each entry represents a separate chance for a caregiver or clinician to win the travel, dining, or shopping experience of their choosing, valued at \$100 to \$500. **Submit an entry through our Client and Community Member Contest Entry Form by visiting bhhc.co/contest or by simply calling your office.**

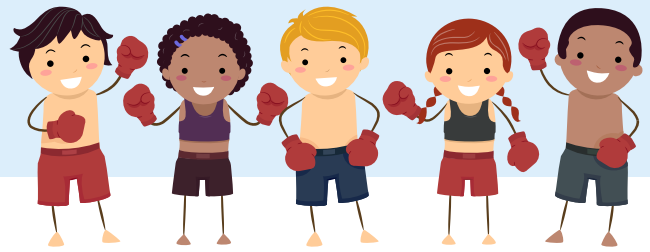
Fire Prevention

Did you know smoke alarms reduce the chances of dying in a fire by nearly 50%. Make sure your home has smoke alarms on every level, inside each sleeping room, and outside each sleeping area.

To learn more visit nfpa.org/publiceducation.



Champions Among Us: Fighting for Savannah



Kristy C. believes that caring for medically fragile children is her life's calling. Thanks to several of South Carolina's programs—including the private duty nursing (PDN) program—Kristy has been able to foster and adopt many children over the last 10 years who would otherwise not be able to grow up in a loving family setting.

One of Kristy's adopted children is **Savannah**, 4, a sweet, fun-loving little girl who lives with severe disabilities and high-acuity medical needs caused by spina bifida (a birth defect in which



BAYADA Client Savannah

the spinal column doesn't form properly, leaving part of the spinal cord and spinal nerves exposed), hydrocephalus (an abnormal buildup of fluid in the brain), and autism spectrum disorder (ASD).



A critical nursing shortage

Thanks to her in-home nurses, Savannah can remain safe at home with Kristy and four other adopted and foster children who all have complex medical needs. However, in South Carolina, inadequate state funding has made it difficult for home care agencies to recruit and retain enough nurses to care for Savannah and more than 36,000 medically fragile children across the state. This critical shortage of nurses has even forced Kristy to quit her job as a preschool teacher since she could not find enough



reliable in-home nursing coverage to care for her children at home.

"Nurses can earn more money in hospitals and facilities, which is exactly where these children should not be," said Kristy, who works with three home care agencies to try to get enough coverage to keep her children safe and healthy.

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Using her voice to make a difference

Kristy hopes that sharing her story will help SC legislators understand how increased funding for the PDN program will encourage more nurses to be attracted to home care.

"At the end of the day, it's these children who are at risk when home nursing isn't available," she said. "They are truly incredible, and I learn so much from them every day. I hope that our legislators recognize why these kids need—and deserve—to grow up in a loving home."



You can get involved in home care advocacy by attending meetings with legislators, sending emails, participating in events, or sharing your story with the media. For more information visit heartsforhomecare.com or scan the QR code.



Hearts for Home Care

A BAYADA Community Supporting Quality Care at Home

Ryan Honors His Favorite Superhero— Nurse Courtney

SUPERHERO



When it came time to choose a costume for “Dress as Your Favorite Superhero” day at her son **Ryan’s** school, **Jeanne H.** didn’t hesitate for a second. No, she wouldn’t be dressing him as Spiderman or Captain

America. Instead, Ryan, 13, came to school dressed in scrubs, a stethoscope around his neck, and an ID badge boasting the name and photo of the hero who has truly made a difference in his life—his nurse **Courtney Baez**.

Born at 24 weeks gestation, Ryan, who has cerebral palsy, spent six months in the NICU before coming home, where he started nursing care from BAYADA.

“His doctors said he would never walk, but today he uses a walker and rides an adaptive bike, which we never imagined he would do,” said Jeanne, who credits Courtney for helping with her son’s progress.

“She started taking him to preschool when he was three and has been with him at school nearly every day for 10 years.”

At school, Courtney helps with Ryan’s physical and occupational therapy, ensures he is fed through a g-tube, and provides care for the tracheostomy tube which helps him breathe.

“He is nonverbal but very expressive, and Courtney really knows what’s going on in his head,” said Jeanne. “He also uses a computerized communications device that allows him to make choices and answer questions with his eye gaze.”

Ryan is dressed as his favorite superhero, his nurse Courtney.



When he’s not in school, **Ryan** loves going to local sporting events with Jeanne, his dad **Mike**, sister **Avery**, 8, and brother **Cameron**, 4. He also co-hosted his school’s annual telethon alongside his family and Courtney, who was there to share in the excitement.

“His family is great and amazing to work with,” said Courtney, who became emotional when she saw Ryan’s superhero costume. “I love him like one of my own because we have been together for so long.”

Create an Autumn-Themed Sensory Bin



An autumn-themed sensory bin is a great way to help children who are nonverbal or have developmental or physical disabilities to develop coordination, concentration, and use multiple senses while exploring their environment. It can also help to develop fine and gross motor skills, memory, spatial awareness, and practical skills like scooping, dumping, and filling.

To create a sensory bin, start with a plastic storage tub, a cardboard box, or a cooking tray. It should be big enough for kids to manipulate the contents without spilling. *continued on page 4*





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Content in this newsletter is provided as general summary information for our clients and is not intended to take the place of personalized medical guidance. We encourage you to seek the advice of your child's physician or other qualified health care professional if you have specific questions about your child's care.

BAYADA provides skilled nursing, rehabilitative, therapeutic, hospice, habilitation, behavioral health, and assistive care services to people of all ages. Services vary by location.

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Create an Autumn-Themed Sensory Bin

Fill the container with uncooked rice then add any of the following fall-themed items to your bin:

- Apples, mini pumpkins, and pears
- Dry pasta or beans
- Corn cobs
- Gourds
- Acorns and nuts
- Pinecones
- Dried flowers
- Fallen leaves
- Pumpkin-scented play dough

You may also want to consider using smaller, plastic pumpkins, apples, and other items that can be purchased from a craft store.

Hide the objects inside the rice and encourage children to find the items and explore their shapes, colors, and textures. It's a calming, fun activity for children to enjoy with the help of their family member or their BAYADA clinician.

