

Greetings Lion Presidents, Officers and Members of District 4-C4.

Pease read the attached description regarding a Millbrae Lions Club project we are working on for a family in desperate need with regard to “baby Cruz”.

Please ask your club and members to visit the following GoFundMe page...your help is greatly needed and deeply appreciated:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/baby-lagomarsino>

We are also planning a soon to be determined fundraiser.

Please spread the word where ever you can.

Thanks for all you do...

From Millbrae Lion PP,
PCL PP and
Region 5 Zone 3 Chair
Paul Larson.



On June 27th, Katie and Dan (my son) welcomed their new baby boy, Cruz David Lagomarsino in Truckee, California, where they were living. Shortly after his birth, Katie and Dan learned that Cruz was born with a heart defect. This was a complete surprise to them as Katie experienced a normal, healthy pregnancy and delivery. When Baby Cruz was born, he had to be immediately airlifted on a helicopter with 6 attending physicians and nurses on board, to UC Davis children's hospital in Sacramento, where he was diagnosed with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome. In order for him to survive, Cruz had to have a cardiac catheter stent put into his PDA vessel which allowed for his body to oxygenate his blood properly. The procedure was a success.

Cruz will need two more surgeries, the Bi-Directional Glenn procedure and the Fontan procedure, to fully correct his heart defect. Both of these surgeries will be done in the next 18-24 months.

Katie and Dan are doing well under the circumstances, yet as you can imagine, costs to support their baby's health condition far exceed their health insurance coverage The helicopter ride alone totaled \$80,000.

Cruz will never be able to live in the mountains because of the high altitude, and they are living in Millbrae with me, and his care has been transferred to UCSF. Basically, they

went to the hospital to have Cruz and never set foot back into their home at Lake Tahoe.

Cruz had a catheter procedure on September 5 to test his pressures to see if he is ready for the Glenn surgery (1st open heart surgery). Unfortunately, during that surgery, he went into cardiac arrest, but he was revived, and spent two weeks in the hospital recovering. His first open heart surgery was performed on October 8 at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, and it was a success. During hospital rounds a few days later, the doctor was removing some lines from his heart and he again, went into cardiac arrest. The nurses and doctors were on it, giving him CPR and he rallied.

Dr. Reddy (heart surgeon) and his team find Cruz's case to be very difficult due to his multiple cardiac arrests. He seems to be very sensitive to any manipulation or touching of the heart which is tricky. All the doctors and nurses at UCSF have really helped Cruz a long the way get through this obstacles and also support Katie & Dan through these last few months. Cruz will undergo his second open heart surgery when he is around 2 years old.

In addition to his heart disease he was born with a condition called heterotaxy, which is generally an abnormality in which the organs develop on opposite sides the body. In his case however, his organs are in proper placement, but his spleen is missing and his intestines curve in the opposite direction of a normal person, and could possibly be an issue in the future. Thank God, so far he has had no intestinal problems. Without a spleen it is imperative that he be kept in a healthy environment which can be challenging at this time of year. Please pray for our little warrior and his mom and dad.