

Life: Miracle Mahan baby will represent Oregon at White House

■ Continued from Page 1

also get to go to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla., and appear on a 21-hour CMN international broadcast.

When White told the Mahans that Braydee had been selected to represent Oregon, they were astonished.

"We were shocked and thrilled," Kristin Mahan, 30, said. "We didn't even know it was happening."

Braydee's Surgery

Just five months into her pregnancy, during what was supposed to be a normal ultrasound, Kristin Mahan's dream came true and her worst nightmare came alive.

She discovered she would have the baby girl she and her husband had been waiting for, but that baby had developed a tumor on her chest.

"It was the daughter we always wanted but may never get," Kristin Mahan said. "We couldn't see her right lung. The tumor was pushing her heart to the right."

About one or two weeks after the tumor was discovered, Dr. David Jackson performed a prenatal surgery by sliding a needle into Kristin Mahan's belly and through the baby's chest, draining the fluid from inside the tumor.

If left untreated, the tumor, located on the lower portion of the left lung, would have grown, keeping her right lung from developing and potentially harming the growth of her heart.

The procedure allowed extra room for the right lung to develop, but the fluid began to come back within minutes after the surgery, Kristin Mahan said.

She was kept at Sacred Heart for about half an hour after the prenatal surgery because there was a risk of premature labor.

Three weeks later, about six months into the pregnancy, Kristin Mahan went back to Sacred Heart for a second prenatal surgery, but Jackson did not drain all the fluid from the tumor.

"That time, they kept me for up to an hour after the surgery because the risk of going into labor was greater," she said. "And the fluid came back after each drainage."

During the last three months of monitoring Braydee's progress, Kristin had 35 ultrasounds.

Braydee was born May 30, 1995, but Kristin held Braydee for only 10 to 15 minutes before the baby was taken to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Braydee had her third surgery two days after her birth. In this final surgery, Dr. George Foster removed the bottom portion of her left lung, removing the entire tumor, which had grown to the size of an orange.

"As her lungs were developing, it was something that grew with her lung," Kristin Mahan said. "It's one of those things that just happen."

After surgery, Braydee was kept at Sacred Heart for 10 days, and her medication occasionally relaxed her to the extent that she quit breathing a couple of times, which was normal, her mother said.

"We had to wait for her healing," she said. "She did great there and there weren't any complications."

Braydee's father, Kelly, said it was quite a bumpy ride.

"I was very happy when she was born," he said. "And even happier when she was home."

Braydee is not expected to have limitations as she gets older because her lung will expand with time.

"She doesn't have shortness of breath," Kristin Mahan said. "Most of us don't use our full lung capacity. She's just like any other one-year-old."

Braydee's Support

The 14th annual CMN Champions Across America campaign shows that children now have brighter futures thanks to treatment received at CMN affiliated hospitals, White said.

At Sacred Heart, CMN has been a fund-raising arm of the foundation for the past 10 years.

"We raise money for children's programs like the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, pediatrics and prenatal clinic," White said.

A local CMN telethon will air June 1 at 6:30 p.m. on KEZI-TV at the Sacred Heart Auditorium and will broadcast 20 minutes each hour to raise funds for CMN.

"The Children's Miracle Network pro-



Braydee Mahan and her mother Kristin pose for the camera in their living room. Braydee was chosen by the Children's Miracle Network to represent Oregon at the White House.

vides money and support for hospitals, and it draws good doctors," Braydee's father said.

"Thank God for the equipment here in our city and the knowledge of our doctors."

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