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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Girl has a Bright Future thanks to Family and Children's Hospital Central California

Pediatric Orthopedic and Plastic Surgeons Correct Numerous Birth Defects

Ripon, CA – Chloe Denlinger has lots of reasons to be excited about the upcoming Color the Skies hot air balloon festival. Five-year old Chloe's story started at a small orphanage in Brazil, continues with a local Modesto area family, and culminates with the gifted team of surgeons at Children's Hospital Central California. As one of the two balloon marshals at this year's festival, Chloe is asking the community to support Children's Hospital Central California.

The third annual Color the Skies balloon festival will held at Ripon Sports Park Saturday and Sunday August 30th & 31st to allow local children to have access to world-class care. "This is the only north valley fund raiser for Children's Hospital Central California and all of our proceeds benefit the hospital directly" explains Jessica Coleman, Director of Color the Skies. "We invite families to come out, have a wonderful day and support our local children's hospital."

Chloe's condition was caused by an ectopic pregnancy, a condition in which an embryo grows outside of the uterus, usually in the Fallopian tube. In Chloe's case, she grew in her biological mother's abdominal cavity—an extremely rare situation that can be life threatening to both mother and child. In most cases, the fetus does not survive. She made it nearly full term, though she was born with a variety of birth defects including a misshapen head, overlapping fingers, malformed feet, a protruding ear, and a lump on her shoulder.

Francina and Darin Denlinger of Modesto adopted Chloe from the Brazilian orphanage when she was eight months old. No strangers to adopting abroad, the Denlingers had already welcomed three other children—two from India and one from Hong Kong—into their family. They also have three biological children. Francina and Darin were informed about Chloe's special needs, but it didn't faze them.

“Once we knew about her, we knew whatever it was, we were taking her,” says Francina.

Chloe didn’t have much time to get settled into her new Modesto home with her six brothers and sisters. Just as quickly as she had arrived, she was off to Children’s Hospital Central California. There, a group of physicians, including plastic surgeon Dr. Peter Witt and orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Joseph Gerardi, did a complete work-up to determine her course of treatment.

A series of surgeries were needed to correct Chloe’s birth defects—one for her feet to help her walk, one to remove the growth on her shoulder, one to fix her overlapping toes and fingers. They even created a new ear for Chloe.

To those who saw Chloe before she came to Children’s, the transformation is simply mind-blowing.

“She is a completely different child,” says Francina. “Even Dr. Witt said he’s never seen anything like it. It’s a miracle, it really is.”

And it’s all thanks to Dr. Witt, Dr. Gerardi, and the staff at Children’s Hospital.

“They are patient, they are understanding, I have no complaints,” adds Mom. “We’ve been to facilities in the Bay Area, but Children’s is so much easier to get to. Plus, it’s a gorgeous facility. Gorgeous.”

Chloe will continue to be seen at both Children’s Hospital and at the hospital’s Modesto Pediatric Subspecialty Center. More surgeries may be in her future. But for now, she’s just a singing, dancing, ball of energy, fitting right in with the Denlinger clan of nine.

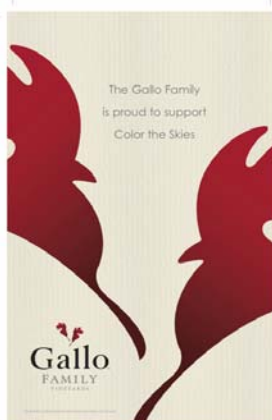
Join this fun, family-oriented event and benefit the largest Children’s Hospital in Central California. Attendance is free, parking is a \$5 donation, and 100% of the proceeds benefit Children’s Hospital Central California.

Schedule for the third annual Color the Skies hot air balloon festival

August 30&31, 2008

5:00 am – 11:00 am

Ripon Sports Park



Pancake breakfast begins at 5:00 am and is served throughout the morning.

Hot air balloons launch at 7:00 am

Runs begin at 7:30 am

Performances every half an hour

About Color the Skies

Color the Skies is a non-profit organization that gives 100% of its proceeds to Children's Hospital Central California. The third annual Color The Skies Hot Air Balloon Festival including the Rise.Shine.Give run, 1 mile / 5k and Children's Fun Run, Corvette Car Show, pancake breakfast, competitions, games, and food vendors is being held at Ripon Sports Park on Jack Tone and River Road. From a barbershop quartet to clown shows and tethered hot air balloon rides for children for \$5, Color The Skies is sure to bring a smile to everyone's face!

Children's Hospital Central California

Children's Hospital Central California is a 297-bed pediatric medical center just north of Fresno on the San Joaquin River bluffs. Established in 1952, Children's moved from its central Fresno location in 1998 into a pristine facility sitting on a beautiful 50-acre campus. With more than 500 doctors practicing in more than 40 pediatric specialties and subspecialties, Children's Hospital prides itself on excellent outcomes and family-centered care.

One of the ten largest hospitals of its kind, Children's serves kids in a 45,000 square-mile region that stretches from Stockton to Bakersfield and the Sierra Nevada to the Pacific Ocean.

Children's Hospital is a world-class medical facility like none other in the region. The Hospital is continually recognized for quality patient outcomes, high patient satisfaction scores and nursing care excellence. In 2004, the Hospital became the first children's hospital in California to receive the Magnet Nursing Services Award from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. The Magnet Award is given to less than 3 percent of all hospitals in the country.

For a complete listing of specialties and services visit Children's online at www.childrenscentralcal.org.

