

2012

New heart provides second chance

by Justin Phelps, Mid-America Transplant Services

Before Chase Reid was born, his mother Na'Tasha knew her little boy had a long road ahead. But after many surgeries, a new heart gave Chase the Gift of Life and a second chance. At 24 weeks gestation, Chase was diagnosed with Tricuspid Atresia, a heart defect present at birth in which one of the valves does not form between the two chambers in the heart.

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– Na'Tasha Reid

Chase's surgeries began at 8 days old. He had five heart procedures and was added to the transplant list in January of 2010. Five months later, on June 17, 2010, his family received a call about his new heart. "Transplant has changed our lives tremendously, because without it, Chase would not be here today," Na'Tasha says.

Chase had a setback two months after he received his transplant when he suffered from a bleed on the brain, also known as a wet stroke. He shows signs of residual side effects from the stroke with slight paralysis on the right side of his face and limited usage of his right arm and hand. "Because of his year-long stay in the hospital, Chase is not yet walking or crawling," Na'Tasha says. "Nonetheless, he is a thriving 2-year-old child."

Chase enjoys music and therapy sessions. He went to the zoo recently and especially liked the penguins. "Without a transplant, he would have been very limited with outdoor activities," Na'Tasha says. "After the transplant, he has no limits. He has a full range of activities like every other child."

Today, Na'Tasha volunteers for Mid-America Transplant Services with Chase in spreading the message of organ and tissue donation. In 2012, they attended several registry drives, school presentations, church presentations, spoke with KSDK-TV for a live on-air interview, and Na'Tasha addressed the crowd at the Missouri Black Expo in St. Louis in August.

"Na'Tasha is a highly engaged and dedicated advocate of organ and tissue donation," said Christie Judd, MTS's Community Relations Coordinator. "Her gratitude for what Chase received endures. She hasn't forgotten the gift he received, and she lives every day remembering. When she's called upon, she's always excited to share the message. She's amazing."

Chase and Na'Tasha Reid

