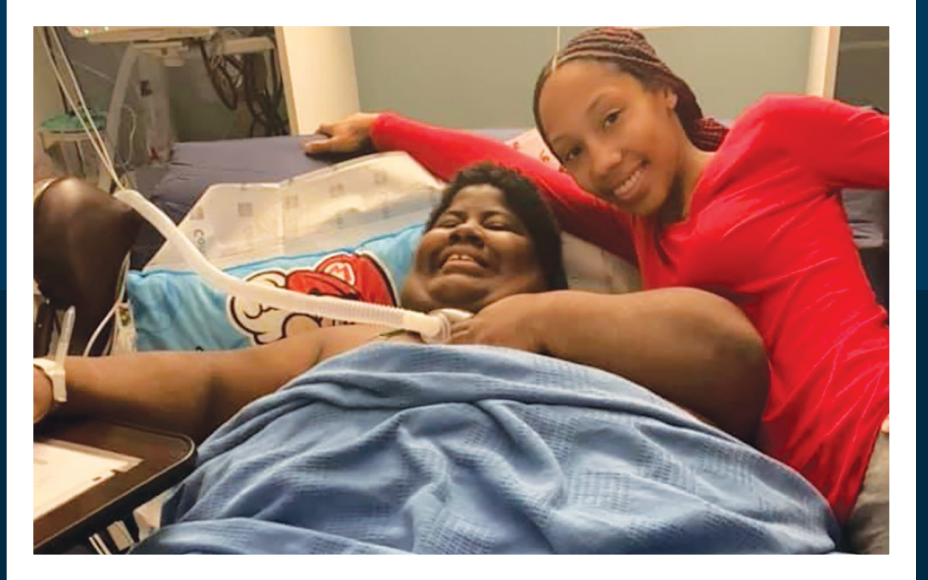


NEXUS CHAMPION

CARESE GOODLOE



“Nexus is the best thing that happened to him. They saved his life.”

Carese was admitted to Nexus Children’s Hospital with a diagnosis of Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS), a rare genetic disorder. He also had other life-threatening issues, including respiratory challenges and type 2 diabetes.

“He became very sick about four months prior to going to Nexus,” shared Tina Maloy, Carese’s mother. “While he was in the hospital and rehabilitation center, Carese gained over 100 pounds since they didn’t know much about him. They gave him a lot of calories he shouldn’t have had because he has Prader-Willi Syndrome.”

Carese explained, “The main reason I went to Nexus was to lose weight. I couldn’t walk, be with my family, or go on outings. I could only stay in bed. But at Nexus I was able to lose weight and do different activities like arts and crafts, games, and playing on the swing outside.”

In Nexus Children’s Hospital’s Changes Health & Wellness program, Carese lost 205 pounds. He shared participating in occupational and physical therapy helped him regain strength. Carese said, “I’ve done great! I exercised, stayed on a schedule, and only ate certain foods that were good for me.”

“Nexus is the best thing that happened to him. They saved his life,” said Tina. “It was hard getting Carese there, but once he was in therapy, he could stand on his feet and move again. Now he’s even running and jumping.”

In addition to learning healthy habits and losing weight, Carese was able to reduce his dependence on insulin. He also received respiratory therapy, that helped wean him off oxygen. He explained, “Because I was able to manage my weight and keep up with my therapies, I was able to breath on my own again.”

Being in the program with other kids with PWS was also a very valuable experience. Tina explained, “Before Nexus, Carese never saw anyone like him before. He thought he was the only one like this. Now he knows he’s not alone, and he’s able to go to the activity room with other patients.”

Carese and his family have set many goals for him to achieve after discharging. While he explained the experience has been amazing, Carese can’t wait to get home and be with his friends and family. They’re looking forward to him being able to take advantage of resources at a nearby PWS group home, where he’ll be able to continue making progress and enjoy activities, like going to work.

“I’m happy Carese was able to be at Nexus and I’m also excited for what the group home has to offer,” said Tina. “He’ll be able to do normal things other people do, without me having to worry about him.”

One of Carese’s therapists, Nathan Chantra, shared the following after reflecting on Carese’s progress: “Through consistent guidance, leadership, and encouragement, Carese was able to continuously make significant breakthroughs. Having experienced challenges not only physically but emotionally as well, Carese has shown that he is now equipped with the skills and knowledge to continue his progress. He also has the confidence to set and pursue new goals.”

NEXUS

CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL
MENDING MINDS.

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