

To the feeding team at CHOC, thank you so much for getting my son to a place where he is (we are) free of the feeding tube! He is now taking 4 varieties of juices/supplements when only a month ago, he would drink nothing but water. More importantly, it seems that each day he is needing less encouragement and intervention with respect to trying new foods. On a deeper level, it has been an amazing transition to engage more with my son during meal times which, in turn, has enabled me to feel more like a mother and less like a nurse simply filling a feeding bag. I was gently led to this place with the support of all members of your team.

To **Robyn, Kris and Suelynn** who managed the pre-admit and discharge while sorting through insurance mazes and roadblocks: Because all of the behind-the-scenes logistics were tended to, this program finally became a reality. Thank you.

To **Leigh** who met all of our needs before and during our stay: Every time you asked if we had everything we needed, we felt extremely cared for. To **Jessica** who decorated our room and arranged for breaks: Thank you for making our stay personal and manageable.

To **Jamie, Jen, Melissa, and Sarah** who gave me the daily words of encouragement and gentle constructive criticism: To be greeted each day with such genuine smiles and contagious enthusiasm made the seemingly endless trips to the basement for mealtimes much easier. Your devotion to your jobs and endless reservoirs of patience is so admirable.

To **Jill** who tirelessly measured calories and percentages and goals in order to prove to me that Owen was holding his own: This gave me the piece of mind to trust in the process.

To **Dr. Cindy Kim** whom I bared my soul to (sometimes through tears): Your reassurance to me that you had seen and heard all of these emotions expressed before really helped me after "hitting the wall." Also, thank you for helping me to prepare for what was and is coming next.

And finally to **Dr. Katz** who lent your expertise accompanied by a strong hug and encouraging word: Your "little pushes" got us to a wonderful and incredibly "normal" place.

To each and every one of you: Thank you for believing in my son and his capabilities. While I understand that there is much work yet to be done, I also know that I am not doing it alone. I am working hard to pick my battles and yes, I hear each and every one of your voices telling me to do just that.

This program was intensive; that is true without a doubt. I feel that he and I were tested: physically, emotionally, and relationally. But we have come through this experience much stronger than we were before. Each part of our day when we sit together for a meal instead of putting on a video and plugging into the pump is a testament to the strength of your program. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share in a ritual that many families take for granted. I look forward to the future with hope and excitement for continued progress. You are all so incredibly good at what you do; each and every one of you exceeds your job descriptions beyond belief. Your support, compassion, and vested interest in my family is what makes all of our accomplishments possible. Words cannot adequately convey my many thanks.

Much love and blessings,

Grateful CHOC Parents