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**Chapter Eleven  
Ten Months Old,  
Spoon Feeding, Off CPAP**

♥ August 19, 2005 at 09:15 AM CDT

Friday Report...

Good day and weekend to all of you. I've posted three new pictures that you can't miss. Blake has been doing very well with his nasal canula trials this week. Today Blake will go 4 hours this morning, and 4 hours tonight with only oxygen supplied at his nose. Mommy is very proud of her little boy. This week also started a new experience for Blake. Blake is learning to eat from a spoon! Little steps mind you...a little half-spoon of apple sauce or pears here and there. As he is doing his trial, he can practice, that's if he is awake. So far he has gotten just a few small tastes. Whew-weeee!

Each and everyday Blake is doing little things that reveal to us that he is getting stronger and feeling good to be alive. He's pulling his legs up to his chest almost and loves to shake his keys and kick his playboard. Most of all he likes cuddling with Mommy.

Kimberly, Blake, and I are so touched by all the support from Blake's Buddies. Thank you all. Special thanks go to Sherie and Juan Salas who kindly took weekend time to help do some yard work for us last weekend. This really helped and was a great surprise to me as I came home Monday night from work. Thank you both...

Also, thank you all who are working so hard on the planning for our Austin Benefit coming at the end of September. Special thanks to Becky Kramr and Michelle Van Essen who are very busy with their own families...but still find time for Blake's Buddies. And thanks to the rest of our family for all the little projects, visits, and countless pick-me ups. Words are not enough...we love you all!

We also wanted to wish all the kids heading back to school a wonderful start to the school year! Grow smarter each day...and be especially kind to your teachers.

Here's to a good weekend...Daddy turns 35 tomorrow, and looks forward to some father-son/mommy time.

Over & Out!

*Daddy Chad*

♥ **August 28, 2005 at 09:27 PM CDT**

Aunt Becky here--It's Sunday night and I hope you all are rested and ready to start another week.

Look forward to next weekend and a three day break!! Blake sure is picking up speed. He's been doing 12 hour canula trials since Thursday and is on schedule to add 4 more hours tomorrow. Keep him in your prayers as he takes another step toward freedom!!

I just wanted to put up a quick reminder that Blake's Austin benefit is right around the corner-- September 24. The golf tournament is planned and ready to go-- we still have plenty of spots available. But hurry the deadline is fast approaching (Sept. 7th) For the evening, we've planned a delicious Italian feast to accompany our silent auction. Blake's Buddies have been working overtime to collect some really GREAT items for the auction. So make plans to attend and bring your checkbook!!

For golf or ticket information, please contact me.  
We're looking forward to seeing you in Austin!

Signing off-  
*Aunt Becky*

♥ **September 02, 2005 at 10:48 AM CDT**

TGI-LDW (Labor Day Weekend),

Good Friday to you all,  
Blake continues to do well with the nasal canula trials, he's up to 20 hours a day now. Before too long, he will be ready to go the entire 24 hours, and hopefully say goodbye to the CPAP. Nose-Blower, as Mommy calls it...Blake will not miss that pressure blowing in his nose at all. We are hopeful that Blake is ready to move on to another chapter in his improving health. Though we are being cautious in sharing any plans, we have to say that the 'H' word is being talked about a little. One day at a time still...

We also wanted to share with everyone that their time and support for Blake will be helping others. With so many families facing such devastating loss due to hurricane Katrina, our hearts are urged to share our blessings and support. Blake's Buddies has contributed 10% of the earnings from the Santa Fe Benefit to the Red Cross and Relief Aid for those relocating to Houston. We wanted you all to know that your generous gifts are helping others. Please include those in need in your daily prayers, and if possible send food or support their way.

We count our blessings and look forward to the coming weekend as we will be celebrating Kimberly's birthday. Sept. 6th is Kim's birthday and I thank God that he has watched over her and our family this past year. I love you, Honey! You are a wonderful wife and mommy.

Enjoy the weekend everyone, and make sure to take time to appreciate your families. Be safe!

♥ **September 09, 2005 at 09:02 AM CDT**

Short Week, Good!

It's Friday already...and I know everyone here in Austin is excited about the weekend with UT's big game against Ohio State. Mommy will have Blake dressed in his UT gear Saturday, and we'll try to listen to the game on our radio in the room. Blake says 'mmmmplattfff', translated 'Go Horns!'

Blake continues to have another good week. The doctors wanted to get an echo. to check his heart functions as they have once a month for the past months. After reviewing it, the whole team will coordinate the plan for the next weeks. We're hopeful to hear promising plans to bring our little boy home within the next month. Mommy is very anxious to hear she can start planning and packing. We'll keep it on the down-low for now...but it sure is good to be daydreaming about getting Blake and Mommy out of the hospital and back home. We'll keep you posted. These are all good things to continue praying for. Your prayers are working!

Also anxious in the planning stage is all the work going into the Austin Benefit coming Sept. 24th. As you check out the latest photos, see the invitation that has been circling. You are all invited to the golf scramble and dinner event. The deadline for reservations has been extended until Sept. 16th. We will need to give the golf course and caterers a firm number of participants by the 16th. We appreciate everyone's involvement. So check your calendars, hopefully you can join us.

With this...Kimberly, Blake, and I want to share our appreciation for the many hours of time all the Blake's Buddies have invested in this event. We are blessed with wonderful family and friends. Thank you all!

So here's to a good weekend!  
'Hook-Em Horns'

*Daddy Chad*

♥ **September 10, 2005 at 02:01 PM CDT**

Mommy here,

I just wanted to let you know that this morning Blake had his 1st stroller ride OUTSIDE! He has never been outside. He enjoyed it!! He munched on 'Larry the Lizard and his fingers. We will have pictures to post next week. Blake finally slept most of the night and he was ready to play this morning with nurse Lori. The past 3 weeks Blake has had his nights and days mixed up. I hope this is the beginning of being awake during the day. Mommy needs sleep at night.

We are trying to work on the skill of eating from the spoon. He is doing best with rice cereal. I did sneak a little green beans in the cereal for the 1st time yesterday. He seemed to enjoy the taste. I wanted to share one of my moments with Blake with you. Last week as I was holding him he reached up and found my face. He likes to pull my nose and hair. I like when he finds my necklace and plays with it. I'm sure he will learn to pull it off. It's the little things with our son that are so magical!

We hope to be coming home soon!!

Love you all,

*Kimberly :)*



♥ September 11, 2005 at 08:08 PM CDT

Just a note from a very happy Grandma Johnson on Grandparents Day.

Ron and I are just home from a visit to Blake, Kimberly and Chad in Houston. We were presented with the vision and the reality of Blake in his stroller with mommy and daddy on an outing. The reason it was a vision is that I have often visualized little scenes in my mind about Blake with his mommy and daddy.

These are the scenes that I am praying will come to reality. I could fill a book with the lifetime scenes I hold for this precious family. One of the scenes I have created for almost a year now is to see Chad and Kim taking Blake for a ride in his stroller. Today, this miracle vision came true!!! Ron and I were seated in the waiting area just outside the doors to the NICU. The door swung open and there came Kim and Chad with Blake in his stroller out into the hallway as a surprise for us. All were grinning and the vision was complete.

Tears of joy flooded my eyes and I knew the joy that fulfilled prayer brings. The reality of Blake being "outside" the NICU, happily kicking legs and swinging arms with the happiest of all grandparents on their knees in joy to touch his fingers and toes. Also, to see the relief and joy glowing from Chad and Kim. A day never to be forgotten for these grandparents! I am so very thankful to God for this day.

On this special Grandparents Day, I am making a request for all the Blake Carepage's friends. This next week, on the 16th, Blake will be eleven months old. Blake is doing so very well with his progress. We are so thankful for these successes. I am asking for all of you to join me with

united magnified prayers of thanksgiving throughout this entire week for the blessings of God in Blake's triumphs.

Let's pour out the love in our hearts together that we see Blake's health issues continue to improve. Thank you for all the prayers from your children for Blake. I know of many, many children that are praying for Blake and feel that these prayers have special significance in his progress. Share my thankfulness to God as I witness the joy that has been bestowed on Blake and his parents. Thank you for your participation in Blake's miracle prayers.

Praise to God for Blake's miracles,  
*Grandma Johnson*

♥ September 13, 2005 at 03:37 PM CDT

The 'PLAN' for Blake???????

***PRAYERS NEEDED*** Blake was presented to the cardiovascular surgery team yesterday. They decided that Blake needs a cardiac catheterization to look with dye at the holes in his ventricles and at the flow going through the pulmonary artery band.

***By the echocardiogram on Friday it seems the holes are starting to close, but the cardiac cath will be the determination!***

It is truly amazing if the holes are closing, because the doctors didn't believe the larger holes would close on their own. This is truly a gift from

God and all your prayers if this is true. Please begin to specifically pray that the holes are closing.

We also need you to pray that Blake will be able to come off the ventilator after the heart cath. Blake will need to be on the ventilator for the procedure. Most of the time patients are intubated and EXTUBATED in the cath lab. Please PRAY this will be the case for Blake. Blake is on the list for this week, but we do not have a day or time yet. As I find out I will notify you.

Thank you so much for your prayers. We truly couldn't get through this without you.

Love,  
*Kimberly :)*

