

# Brooke

“ I still cry when I think about that moment something inside me said I had to bring her to Valley Children's. ”

– Faith Faria, Brooke's mom

To a 3-year-old, the drive to Disneyland lasts far longer than the trip back. But with 11 potty stops between Anaheim and Hanford, Brooke Faria and her family make slow progress home.

“She'd been sick all through 2010,” says Faith, Brooke's mom. “We'd been to walk-in clinics and her pediatrician's office so many times, but no one ever tested her urine.”

By January 2011, Brooke's illness was taking its toll. “Her fever comes back and I'm in tears; I'd already missed a ton of work,” says Faith. “My husband, Larry, goes to her pediatrician and suggests testing for a urinary tract infection. It's positive.”

Two days into antibiotics, Brooke's symptoms persist. “She can't even stand up straight,” says Faith. “I know in my gut something is seriously wrong.” Faith's voice breaks. “I tell Larry, ‘we're taking her to Valley Children's.’”

The Farias make the short drive from Hanford to the emergency department at Valley Children's Hospital, where tests confirm Faith's fears. A severe kidney infection spread to Brooke's bloodstream causing sepsis, a potentially fatal whole-body inflammation. Faith nods. “The doctor says, ‘you're not going anywhere,’ and put her on IV antibiotics.” Further tests reveal a large abscess on her right kidney.

During Brooke's 18-day stay, her abscess resolves without surgery. “Urinary reflux caused the whole thing,” says Faith. “I knew I'd get answers here.” Brooke receives follow-up care from the pediatric urology practice at Valley Children's Hospital. “She lost only 10 percent of kidney function.” Faith shakes her head in awe and gratitude. “Valley Children's is the best of the best.”

Now age 7, Brooke enjoys singing, dancing and competing with her swim team. “She's doing great,” says Faith – especially since winning her trophy for earning the most points on her team all season.

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