

Meet Aiden

When we adopted our sons, Samson and Aiden, in 2013 and 2016, we thought adoption might be the biggest change in our family's life. It turns out, the biggest life change for our family of six came in the summer of 2016 when we combined a few doctor appointments with a family trip. Since Aiden's adoption, we searched for a medical care team that understood his disability, arthrogryposis multiplex congenita (AMC) — a congenital condition characterized by multiple joint contractures present at birth, often causing stiffness and limited mobility in multiple areas of the body. We started with our local children's hospital in Michigan and then traveled to Chicago and Detroit, trying to find doctors and therapists that would see our son as not just a diagnosis, but a two-year-old with lots of potential. Ultimately we discovered Nemours Children's Hospital and before we knew it, we had appointments set up for July 2016. We even had a personal call from a physical therapist who knows AMC inside and out. Our family was blown away by the difference in care before we even walked through the door.

The commute to Delaware had been 10 hours each way from our previous home. Then, in 2017, plans came together for us to relocate to Pennsylvania. We took the opportunity to move close to Nemours Children's for both Samson, born with club feet, and Aiden. Since then, Samson has seen Louise Reid Nichols, MD in the Orthopedics Department for periodic stretching casts. We're grateful we avoided a major surgery on both feet, which was recommended by a previous doctor. Since 2017, Aiden has had many orthopedic surgeries with Dr. Nichols, Jennifer M Ty, MD and Peter G. Gabos, MD. His operations have been on both arms and wrists, legs, hips and feet. Surgeons have used casting, Magec Rods and a spinal fusion. Lots of physical therapy and occupational therapy have helped Aiden recover and get stronger. The level of care he has received continues to amaze us.

The AMC team goes above and beyond to not only treat the medical condition, but to help make life easier for our entire family in addition to their patients. We appreciate the doctors, therapists, physician assistants, administrative assistants, casting technologists and those who check us in to say hi. We could give so many examples of how this care touches us: They organize family fun days and meet-ups, along with arranging for magic tricks before an appointment and playing video games after surgery. There is a very long list of ways that Samson and Aiden's team has become so much more than just a medical team.

Thanks to Nemours Children's, Samson can do all the things he wants to do and is active and loves all sports. Aiden loves Legos, video games and has learned to play both the keyboard and electric guitar! We are beyond grateful.

