

You deserve
Good things!



Kid Hero

Proof that it only takes one person to make a difference

“Our challenges can turn into blessings for others!”

Ella Casano has always hated the IV treatments she needs to help control her immune disorder, so she came up with an invention to turn something scary into a reason to smile for thousands of kids!

Cringing, 7-year-old Ella Casano gazed at the needle piercing her skin, her eyes tracing the long, skinny tube snaking up to an IV bag filled with medication hanging on a pole. Having just been diagnosed with an immune disorder, Ella underwent infusions every eight weeks. And at every treatment, she couldn't stop looking up at the bag with a knot in her belly. *All that medicine is going inside of me?* she worried. And looking around at the other children, she saw the same anxious expression on their faces.

By fifth grade, Ella had become a pro at getting infusions, yet she still cringed at the sight of the IV bag. So when a class assignment required students to come up with an invention to solve a problem unique to

them, Ella immediately got an idea: “I want to design a way to hide a scary IV bag with something more friendly looking,” Ella exclaimed to her parents.

After brainstorming, Ella got a stuffed animal from her room, cut it open and removed the stuffing. A nurse, her mom had the feeling Ella was on to something, so she ordered an IV pole and bag and some mesh. After some experimentation, the first “Medi Teddy” was born.

The smiling teddy bear fits over IV and feeding tube bags, to conceal the contents from the patient, but it has a see-through mesh back so doctors and nurses can monitor the fluid in the bag. Feeling proud, Ella entered her Medi Teddy in the Connecticut Invention Convention, where it was so well-received that she advanced to the regional and state level of the competition.

“I want to turn this into a real business so I can help other kids like me,” Ella announced.

Over the next couple of years, with her mom's help, Ella got a patent and established her business as a not-for-profit

Ella still uses her own Medi Teddy to make her frequent IV treatments easier

“It feels great to help others!” says Ella, who invented teddy bear covers for IV bags



organization (Medi-Teddy.org). And after raising \$24,000 with a GoFundMe, she began shipping Medi Teddys to kids, foundations and hospitals.

Soon, joyful messages began rolling in. One grateful mom wrote: *I just wanted to say how amazing you are! My son is 13 and has to have IVs. Seeing all those IVs is scary for me, so it's got to be worse for a child. I just wanted to tell you “well done” for helping all those kids while dealing with illness yourself.* Another shared: *Medi Teddy helps provide a little comfort—that's so important!*

Today, Ella, now 13, has donated more than 1,000 bears, easing the fears of as many kids. And her own Medi Teddy, named Baily, still provides comfort when she goes for her infusions. “I have a favorite saying,” Ella smiles. “It says, ‘She believed she could, so she did.’ I'd love to encourage others to turn a struggle into a blessing for someone else. It makes *you* feel better!” —Diane Nichols



Has a person or animal come to your rescue? Share your own story with us, and we'll pay you \$250 if we publish it! Know of a hero? Send it to us! If you're the first to share it and we publish it, we'll pay you \$100! Email your story with your name and phone number to: WWFeatures@WomansWorldMag.com. Or mail to: Everyday Hero, *Woman's World*, 270 Sylvan Ave., Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632.

We pay \$250!

Something good will happen today!

Times may be hard right now, but every new day brings you new blessings. Something you can savor, treasure or celebrate. Something you can make peace with or something to reach for. Something you can remember fondly or look forward to. Something that makes your life what it is: *beautiful!*

WW

Love & Laughter



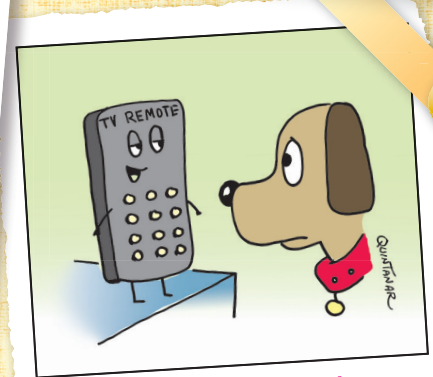
Soakin' up the sun!

Submitted by
Mary DeMarco, NY



Overall adorable!

Jace, 2,
submitted by
Grandmother
Pamela Carr, VA



"Get real—I'm man's best friend"



POSITIVE THINKING:

Getting through the painted tunnel



Lucky number 7!

Olive, 7 months,
submitted by
family friend
Ophelia Gary, SC

My sister and I were shopping at T.J. Maxx, when I came across an adorable denim coat in my size hung haphazardly over the rack. I tried it on and called my sister over to ask her opinion. We were both admiring the jacket when a woman came up behind me and said, "Excuse me, I believe that's mine." Turns out, I had accidentally snagged her jacket while she was trying on coats of her own! Boy, was my face red! —N.G., Erie, PA

Was my face red!

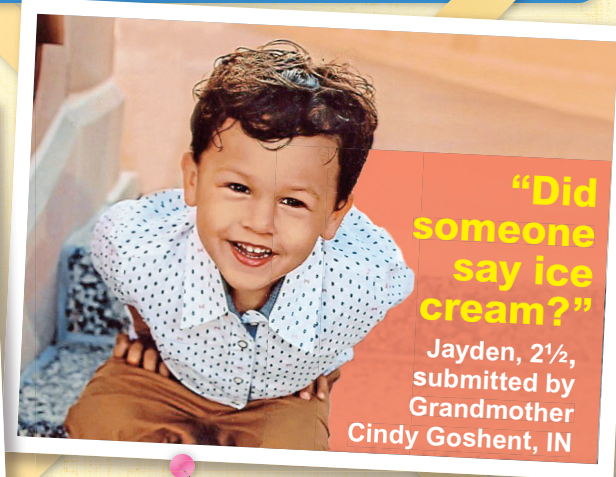
"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow"

—Audrey Hepburn



Pretty as a peony!

Madison,
1 week,
submitted by
Great-Aunt
Melissa
Hutchens, NC



"Did someone say ice cream?"

Jayden, 2½,
submitted by
Grandmother
Cindy Goshent, IN

Send us your favorite photos of your cutest "babies."

Please include name and age of child or pet, your name, address, phone number and relationship to the child or breed of pet. We pay \$50 for each photo that we use. Send to: Love & Laughter, *Woman's World*, 270 Sylvan Avenue, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632 or email to LoveAndLaughter@WomansWorldMag.com. (Unfortunately, due to volume, we can't return any photos.)

We pay \$50!