



WE LOVE WHAT WE DO

Pediatric CARE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION FOR CLIENTS OF BAYADA AND FAMILY MEMBERS



BAYADA Pediatrics Nurse Mat Gunkel, RN

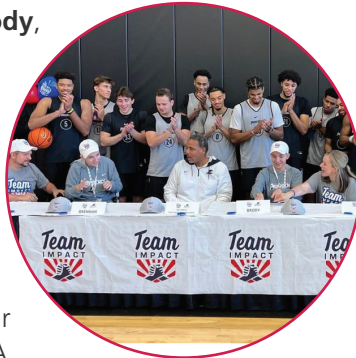
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BAYADA Clients Find Acceptance and Inclusion Through Team IMPACT



Identical twins **Brennan** and **Brody**, 14, were all smiles at a Signing Day press conference when they became honorary members of the Providence College men's basketball team, the Friars.

The coaches and players were excited to welcome their new team members, all thanks to their partnership with Team IMPACT. A national, non-profit organization, Team IMPACT matches children facing serious illness and disability with college athletic teams across the country. The relationships that develop between participating children and their college teammates focus on socialization, empowerment, and resilience. For Brennan and Brody, it was a perfect fit.



Brennan and Brody were all smiles as they signed on to become honorary members of the Providence Friars Basketball team.

According to their mom **Alli**, the boys were born with a rare genetic condition that causes epileptic seizures, limited mobility, extreme fatigue, and developmental delays, impacting temperature and blood pressure regulation. The brothers receive nutrition through a g-tube (feeding tube) and use a wheelchair and walker because they tire very quickly. They have been receiving nursing care from BAYADA for nine years.

"Developmentally, the boys are at a kindergarten level, and it can be hard to understand their speech," said Alli.

"It's hard for them to be on an inclusive sports team with kids their own age. That's why we were so thrilled to learn about Team IMPACT."

What a difference a team makes

As members of the Friars basketball team, the boys get to attend games, tour the locker room, and interact with the players. "They have a short attention span, but they sat through the entire basketball game because they were so excited!" said Alli. "For kids who really want friends and want to be included, it's so cool for them to join the team huddle and fist bump with the players."

Alli is grateful her sons are doing so well and credits their nurses with keeping them safe at home. "They each have their own nurse during the day, each go to school with a nurse, and they share a nurse during the overnight hours," she said. "They have thrived because of the fantastic team who takes phenomenal care of them."



Indeed, the nurses celebrate all the twins' victories as much as their parents. They have even accompanied them to some of the Team IMPACT activities. "The Friars gave us all team hats, including the nurses," said Alli. "It made everyone feel really special."

Team IMPACT works with children ages 5-16 who could benefit, both socially and emotionally, from the support of a team. To learn if your child is eligible for Team IMPACT, visit teamimpact.org.

Champions Among Us: **BAYADA Client Welcomes State Senator to Her Home**



Salana is a happy seven-year-old living with cerebral palsy, and she relies on care provided through North Carolina's Private Duty Nursing (PDN) program. Without it, Salana would have spent much of her life in an institution, separated from her mother, **Shatara**. Thanks to the PDN program, Shatara can remain a part of the workforce and Salana can live safely in the comfort of home.

Shatara is not only passionate about ensuring her daughter gets the nursing services she needs, but her passion for caring has also translated into a career—providing care to seniors and disabled adults as a BAYADA Home Health Aide.

The family recently hosted a legislative home visit with NC Senator Natalie Murdock to share their story and the challenges they face in accessing the care that keeps them together.

"I'm grateful for Medicaid Private Duty Nursing care," said Shatara, "Before Salana had one-on-one nursing, she was in and out of the hospital. Now I can go to work as a home health aide confident in knowing that my daughter is in good hands."

Shatara shared with Senator Murdock the ripple effect that occurs when providers struggle to recruit a nurse due to inadequate Medicaid reimbursement rates. Not only is Salana's health at risk, but Shatara is also forced to call out of work, which in turns impacts another family who relies on home care.

Salana's nurse **Jessica Britton** also joined the legislative home visit. "I've been with BAYADA for 11 years and I love what I do. Home care is a more intimate setting because you get to work one-on-one, building a bond, shared Jessica. "I'm advocating for increased funding because I could work elsewhere for more, but I don't want to break my bond with my client."

Pictured during the legislative home visit are Shatara, LPN Jessica Britton, Senator Murdock, and Salana.



Senator Murdock appreciated the opportunity to see first-hand just how significant home care is in the lives of clients like Salana, and she understood the urgency of ensuring programs like PDN are adequately funded. "As lawmakers, it is our responsibility to fund fiscally responsible programs while ensuring families get the support they need," she said. "Medicaid in-home care fits that bill!"

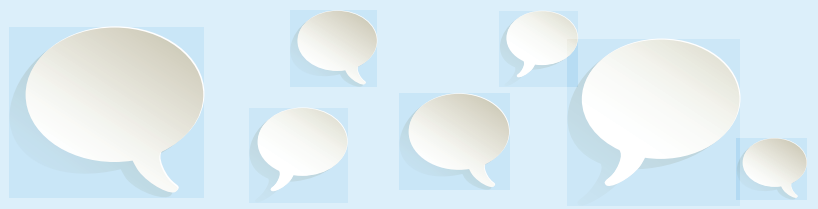


Share your story

There are many ways to participate in home care advocacy. If you have minimal time, consider sending a pre-written email or postcard to your local legislators. To become more involved, you can attend meetings with legislators, participate in events, and/or share your story with the media.

For more information visit [heartsforhomecare.com](https://www.heartsforhomecare.com) or scan this QR code with your smartphone camera.

Your Voice Makes a Difference



At BAYADA, we believe our clients come first. We strive to provide the very best services to your child with the highest professional, ethical, and safety standards. That's why we encourage you to take a few moments to participate in the Client Experience Survey.

To conduct the survey, BAYADA partners with Home Care Pulse, a trusted and experienced third-party satisfaction research firm.

Survey participants are chosen at random. If you are selected, you will be asked to complete the survey by either text or email. Additionally, you may be invited to give us your feedback 30 days after starting services, then every six months afterward.

In the survey, you'll have a chance to share how satisfied you are with BAYADA's reliability; the expertise, knowledge, and friendliness of your child's caregivers and clinicians; office staff communications; and the impact

of BAYADA services on your child's daily life. You'll also have the chance to recognize your child's caregivers and clinicians who have made a positive difference.

Honest feedback regarding your care helps us strengthen areas that are working well and implement strategies for improvement with the goal to continuously exceed your expectations.

Thank you for allowing BAYADA the privilege to provide your child's care. If you have any questions about the Client Experience Survey, please reach out to your client services manager, clinical manager, or office director.

Special Needs Resources to Help Plan Your Next Family Vacation



A family vacation may not happen very often for parents of children with special needs. However, if you want to plan a relaxing week at the beach, visit relatives in a distant city, or experience theme park magic, there are many travel resources available to help. The benefits for your whole family could be well worth the effort.



Below are some travel resources to help you plan:

- **Planning a Family Vacation with a Special Needs Child:** bit.ly/SpecialVacation

This article includes planning tips, special needs travel agencies and resources, and details on destinations that go the extra mile.

- **The Ultimate Guide to Air Travel with a Disability:** <http://bit.ly/AirDisability>

This article includes information on travelling with a wheelchair, bathroom access, service animals, planning ahead, and contact information for most major airlines.

- **Air Travel Tips for Families with Developmentally Disabled Kids:** bit.ly/AirplaneTips

This article includes air travel tips and resources for children with autism and other developmental disabilities.

- **Special Needs Travel Mom:** specialneedstravelmom.com

This blog shares personal experiences, destinations, and travel advice to plan the perfect trip for your child with special needs.



Wherever you go, whatever you do on your family vacation, what you'll remember most is how it felt to be in a different place, having new experiences, and making happy memories with your loved ones. **Bon voyage!**



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Content in this newsletter is provided as general summary information for our clients and is not intended to take the place of personalized medical guidance. We encourage you to seek the advice of your physician or other qualified health care professional if you have specific questions about your care.

BAYADA provides skilled nursing, rehabilitative, therapeutic, hospice, habilitation, behavioral health, and assistive care services to people of all ages. Services vary by location.

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Share Your *CARE Connection* Feedback You could win a thermal tumbler

Please take a few moments to share your honest feedback about the *CARE Connection* newsletter. Your input will be used to improve this publication by including content that is the most informative and valuable for you and your family.

The BAYADA Pediatric *CARE Connection* newsletter is mailed to all clients ages 18 and under and their families, four times a year. An online version is also sent via email to all pediatric clients with an email address on file.

By completing this brief survey, you will be automatically entered into a raffle to win one of five, 24 oz., Bubba Envy stainless steel thermal tumblers with vacuum insulation, a push-on lid, a soft straw, and a silicone base. Five winners will be chosen at random.

All clients and their family members are welcome to participate in the survey.

If you choose to provide your contact information for a chance to win, rest assured that your survey answers will remain separate and anonymous.

Visit bit.ly/Ped-Survey or scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to take the brief survey.

Thank you for your valuable feedback! It really matters to us.

