



# MEET CARSON

**"CHAMPIONS ARE PEOPLE WHO DON'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER  
AND CARSON IS WIRED THAT WAY!"**

– Carson's mom, Jennifer

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# CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK HOSPITALS AT A GLANCE



## CARSON

Eight-year-old Carson has been a life-long patient at Children's Hospital Colorado.

"We call him the mayor because he knows everyone and waves to everyone," said Holly Knotowicz, speech and language pathologist at Children's Colorado.

Born at 25 weeks gestation and weighing just 1 pound 12 ounces, Carson developed a brain bleed in his first week of life. After spending 111 days in the Neonatal Intensive-Care Unit, Carson finally went home for the first time.

At 13 months old, Carson was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, a disorder affecting movement, muscle tone and posture. With intense therapy, Carson was able to learn to walk and run, however, his abnormal gait was inefficient and caused him to expend twice the energy as other kids his age.

The answer to providing Carson a better quality of life came in the form of a complicated and high-risk surgery: the selective dorsal rhizotomy. The procedure is a neuro-spinal surgery in which doctors cut specific muscle sensory nerve fibers that feed into the spinal cord in an effort to correct the debilitating spasticity experienced by cerebral palsy patients.

Carson spent six weeks as an inpatient at Children's Colorado after his surgery, participating in intensive physical and occupational therapy, making progress every day.

While it could take up to two years to fully realize the benefits of the surgery, Carson and his family are optimistic and encouraged by the increased mobility and progress that is already visible.

"We know he has the spirit of a champion and nothing will hold him back," said Carson's dad, Christopher.