

From the Desk of ...  
**MACON**



My name is Macon. I am 8 years old. I am writing you a letter today because Duke Children's gave me a future!

I have Loeys-Dietz syndrome. Most people have never heard of it, not even doctors. I'm really lucky that I go to Duke Children's because the doctors here know what I need to live a long, healthy life. No other hospital could help me as much as Duke Children's does.

My parents didn't know I had Loeys-Dietz syndrome for a long time. Then my dad got really sick and had to go to the hospital. He had a really bad problem with his heart and almost died.

We found out he has Loeys-Dietz syndrome and I do too. The heart doctors at Duke saved my dad. And my doctors told my mom that as long as I have the right tests and medicine, they can keep my heart safe.



People with my condition used to only live to be around 26 years old. But the doctors at Duke are doing research and learning new things about Loeys-Dietz syndrome so that kids like me can live a long time.

My parents told me that you like to help Duke Children's take better care of kids with all kinds of health conditions. I think that is really nice of you!

I like to help kids at the hospital too. Stuffed animals always help me feel safe. That's why I raised money with a lemonade stand to give stuffed animals to other kids in the hospital.

I have a lot of big dreams for the future. When I am older, I want to be a scientist who studies space. Thanks to people like you who help Duke Children's, I get to grow up and do all the things I want to do someday.

Your Friend,



**Macon**

P.S. Don't forget to send a gift to help more kids at Duke Children's! You are making our lives better. We really appreciate your help!