**Caden’s Heart**

***A New Start***

When her son Caden went on the transplant waiting list for a new heart, Traci thought the wait would be no more than a few months. But seven months later, the family had not received the call. After another two months of waiting, Caden was admitted to a Nashville hospital—90 minutes from his home—to continue his wait.

Caden’s need for a transplant had come up suddenly after he developed restrictive cardiomyopathy, a condition where the heart cannot pump with enough strength. This abnormal heart function can affect the lungs, liver and other body systems. Traci was told that Caden’s condition was a “one-in-a-million” variation of the disease.

Though Traci was already a registered organ and tissue donor before Caden’s transplant because “it seemed like a good thing to do,” she never knew how it would come to affect her life and the life of her young son.

After a seemingly endless 13 months, the lifesaving call finally came for Caden. Though their wait had been long, the transplant took place quickly. Traci recalls,

“The call came at noon, and by 3 o’clock, Caden was in surgery.”

After surgery, Caden’s new heart beat strongly, and his life could truly begin.

*\*Story provided courtesy of Kentucky Circuit’s Court Clerks Trust for Life*