

MAY 2025

# TALES FROM THE POND

LILY'S PAD NEWSLETTER



## MOVE AND GROOVE DAY!

Tambourines, line dancing and xylophones all found their way into the plans for the day at our most recent monthly theme party!



Big thanks to volunteer, Miss Judy, for coming in to show our families some line dancing moves and to Storybook Entertainment for loaning us their musical instruments.



Back from college for the summer, Mr. Zach popped in to lead the kids in finding their rhythm. Instruments proved to be a popular item that day, leading us to explore some music therapy options for future play sessions!

Lunch was pizza and salad and all kiddos got to take home a mini karaoke machine so that they could continue grooving long after the party was over!



We couldn't create these events without our sponsors. Thank you to **Tempe Diablos Charities** and to **ANArtist** for their sponsorship this month. It was a groovy day!



May wouldn't be May without a celebration for our Mamas! Both of our play sessions on May 10<sup>th</sup> featured special gifts and treats for our everyday heroes...the moms who do it ALL!

Big thanks to **AC Pro** for their sponsorship which allowed us to shower these special ladies with love!





# MEET ZYA!



Zya's journey started in November of 2024 when she was originally misdiagnosed with osteomyelitis (a bone infection) because she had suddenly stopped walking. After she wasn't getting better, she returned to the hospital and was diagnosed with B Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. After not making remission in the expected time frame, she was moved to the high risk treatment plan.

When Zya was diagnosed, so much of her world changed. Her family had to put a stop to so many things she loved - school, dance and trips to play places. Her mom says it was heartbreaking to see her miss out on the simple joys of being a child.

We asked Mom to share about their experience at Lily's Pad. "Lily's Pad has given that joy back to her - and to us. It's a place where Zya can simply be a 2 year old again, laughing, exploring and playing in a space that's safe and welcoming. For our family, it has brought back a sense of normalcy we weren't sure we would ever find again. It's more than a play center - it's a community. The warmth and care we feel every time we walk through the doors is beyond words. Zya lights up when she's there and she lovingly refers to Miss Michelle as her "Grandma". The entire staff is kind, compassionate and truly exceptional. We are so grateful to have Lily's Pad in our lives during such a challenging time. We couldn't ask for a better place for Zya to grow, play and feel safe."



Zya loves running and dressing up as a princess. She is in her Elsa era at the moment although she occasionally switches to Moana. If you ask her, her favorite foods are cheese pizza and Taco Bell. We love when Zya walks through the doors of Lily's Pad! And even though Miss Michelle is her favorite, she usually motions for all of us to "come on" and play with her. We are so glad we can be her safe space while she goes through this journey.



## WELCOME MIA!



Mia will be joining us this summer as our Director's Assistant. She is working towards her bachelor's degree in communication and hopes to continue her education to become a Child Life Specialist in the future.

Mia has experienced many of the same challenges as our kiddos, spending her entire childhood in and out of the hospital due to a rare bone marrow failure syndrome called Diamond Blackfan Anemia which resulted in her body not producing any red blood cells. She was fortunate enough to receive a bone marrow transplant in 2023 and is now considered cured! Learn more about her amazing journey [HERE!](#) We are so excited to have Mia as a part of the Lily's Pad team!



**TIME**  
spent playing with  
**CHILDREN**  
is never wasted!



## UNLOCK THE MATCH!

On August 1<sup>st</sup>, Lily's Pad will turn 2! Two years of love, laughter and the healing gift of PLAY!

As a birthday gift, a very generous donor team has put up at a **\$10,000 MATCH CHALLENGE!** If we can raise \$10,000 by our birthday party on August 5<sup>th</sup>, the donors will match that with an additional \$10,000!

This will be a **\$20,000 birthday gift** for Lily's Pad and much needed summer operational funds for our facility! If you would like to donate to help us "unlock the match", please click [HERE!](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**August 5th - Lily's Pad 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday Party and Open House from 4- 7 pm**

All are invited to come and celebrate our 2<sup>nd</sup> year of play and tour our facility. Light refreshments will be served as well.

**October 1 - 31 - October Virtual Challenge**